

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 6

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009

This Week in Highlands

• FILL OUT **REC PARK SURVEY** ON PAGE 11.

• The Bascom is offering a host of art classes for preschoolers to pre-teens from now through the end of the school year. For more information, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 0#.

• Friends of Panthertown work days, last Thursday of every month (time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

• Collections for men and women overseas at Chestnut Hill Retirement community. Call (828) 787-2114.

• Raffle of handcrafted Stiefel Botanical Book to Benefit The Bascom. To purchase a raffle ticket, call 526-4949, ext. 8#.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

Mon. & Wed.

• Middle School students After School Program from 3-5 p.m. at the Rec Park.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

Mondays

• Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.

Thursdays

• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

2nd & 4th Fridays

• Community Drum Circle at the Highlands Rec Park, from 6-7:30 p.m. Call 421-0551.

Thursday, Feb. 5

• The Macon County Soccer Club registration for the Spring soccer season from 6-8 p.m. at the Highlands Recreation Park. Call Michelle Thornton at 828-349-4939.

Saturday, Feb. 7

• Nantahala Hiking will take a strenuous 10.4 mile hike on the Chunky Girl Trail. Call leader Bill Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations.




Wednesday, Feb. 11

• Town Board meeting at the Community Building at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 12

• Open House Night at Creative Images at Falls on Main from 5:30-7:30. Finger foods, punch, prizes and a 35% OFF SALE on all products and a 50% OFF JEWELRY SALE.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
45 / 30F	49 / 29F	51 / 34F

Mother Nature & technology duke it out

Around 4 a.m. Wednesday morning, citizens on the Highlands Plateau awoke to silence, darkness and bitter cold. Not an electric heater creaked, an appliance hummed or a DVD player flickered. The power had gone out.

During the early morning of Feb. 4, unrelenting winter weather buffeted the plateau with roaring

winds, subzero temperatures that turned all moisture to ice and a dusting of snow, but that's not what caused the outage. It was a faulty piece of equipment inside the Duke Power substation at Mirror Lake Road and U.S. 64 west.

Town crews were awakened around 4 a.m. when the call went out and by 9 a.m., once the bad piece

of equipment was replaced with a backup piece, slowly the lines on the Highlands grid were turned on.

"We're turning the system back on one line at a time and trying not to overload it," said Town Engineer Lamar Nix. "With everyone having heaters and hot water heaters on,

• See MOTHER NATURE page 19

The old Pierson Inn to rise again



In classic OEI form, the old Pierson Inn on South Street is being renovated to its prior glory. The inn existed as an inn in some form from 1889-1993 according to Ran Shaffner's "Heart of the Blue Ridge." The Old Edwards Hospitality Group hasn't named it yet, "but is considering incorporating the Pierson name," said Richard Delaney, CEO. It will be a 4-room cottage perfect for a family gathering or small group, he said. The gardens will be landscaped to the same level as the other OEI properties. They are currently planting perimeter trees for privacy. "All of us at Old Edwards are very excited about reviving such a historic building in Highlands and opening the doors of the Old Pierson Inn to the public once again," said Delaney. The project goes before the Zoning Board on Wednesday, Feb. 11.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Highlands School report card a good one

As of Jan. 29, the NC School Report became available to the public and though only considered a "snapshot," Highlands School fared very well compared to other schools in the Macon County and

the state.

Highlands School had 399 students in 2007-2008 compared to the average number of students in schools with similar grade ranges at the district or state levels. Those

were 265 district wide and 289 state wide

The average number of students enrolled in the typical K-8 classroom in Highlands School

• See REPORT CARD page 13

• Inside •

Letters	2
Obituary	3
Wooldridge	4
Salzarulo	5
On Turtle Pond	6
His & Hers	7
Conservative POV	8
Spiritually Speaking	9
Coach's Corner	12
Events	16
Classifieds	18
Police & Fire	21
Town Board Agenda	23

Town's worksession touches every base

The Highlands Town Board held its first-ever worksession last week at The Mountain Learning Center to take a comprehensive look at everything concerning the town now and what's likely to be of concern in the future.

No decisions were made, just groundwork laid, but Town Manager Jim Fatland presented an agenda that outlined items to both initiate discussion and to inform.

Facilitators, Bill Gibson and Tom Tyre from the Southwest Commission kept board members and staff on task allowing for enough discussion per topic during the seven-hour retreat.

Several times, both men told the board how lucky they were to have a certified engineer on staff in Lamar Nix, because with his expertise exact information concerning project stats and costs are available to the board at all times which inevitably saves the town time and money and will ultimately put Highlands ahead for grants and perhaps the federal government's stimulus package.

"Without an engineer on staff, most municipalities are always 'facing a crisis' said Tyre. "Whereas you are constantly planning rather than

• See WORKSESSION page 10

* THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Remember that Highlands' bears are wild creatures, not 'zoo' animals

Dear Editor,

A fed bear is a dead bear. Matt Eberz has missed the boat on the bear issue as evidenced in his column "Another POV" in the Jan. 29 issue of this paper. It is attitudes like his that lead to dangerous and dead bears.

The Little Bear Pen mamma bear is raising a generation of cubs that know how to feed themselves from human trash. This is even more true now that such trash is available to the bears even in winter months.

The trash habit of bears creates a dangerous situation, as the lady who was bitten by (most likely) this bear now knows. The town has been warned and yet continues to allow people in this neighborhood to leave trash within the reach of the bears. The neighbors then "gleefully" watch from their cars and somehow impute a "gentleness to them that [says] there is nothing to fear." WRONG.

This is a perfect example, not of "unspoiled forests and mountains" and "living in harmony" with "magnificent creatures," but of succumbing to the citified, storybook personification of wild animals.

We recently traveled in big bear country and learned convincingly that most bear problems are created by people. (The poisoning incident is sad, but it is isolated and was an unintended consequence of a separate criminal act.) Bears became dangerous in Yellowstone and Glacier primarily because they lost their fear and raised generations of cubs whose first thought of food was the trash. Quite a few people were killed as a consequence.

Today the rangers take the bear situation very seriously. Campgrounds have bear boxes and impose fines for their disregard. Towns require bear-proof dumpsters and cans.

Of course, everyone respects the grizzly. But interestingly, most injuries to people are caused by black bears. Why? Perhaps because they remind us of our childhood teddy bears and seem, from the safety of our cars, somehow gentle. But the very fact that these Highlands bears did not run off when they spotted Matt's car shows that they are quite accustomed to, and not afraid of, people. It was probably this same group of bears that was on the porch of a friend of mine recently and could not be scared off with the usual banging of pots and flashing of porch lights.

A mamma with three cubs at your

back door is a dangerous thing. These bears are going to hurt someone and will end up being destroyed if the neighbors do not take great care about securing their trash and birdfeed. They are not gentle. It will be a sad day in Highlands if it is a visiting grandchild who finds this out.

Dinah Davis
Highlands

Observations on 'The WASP State'

Dear Editor,

In the autumn of my years, I find that one of my life's small pleasures is reading the Highlands' Newspaper, while taking a cup of my favorite Lapsang tea. While some articles are thought-provoking, some funny and some very informative, I nearly choked while reading Ms. Brugger's "The WASP State" in the Jan. 29 issue.

Now I'm sure that Ms. Brugger is a very nice lady, but bandying around the acronym WASP is clearly, emotive and very negative. While I admit I don't know much about anything, I always understood that contempt based on a person's ethnicity,

skin color or religion was deemed somewhat reprehensible, if not bigoted. I mean we are referring to White Anglo Saxon Protestants are we not? This nasty little acronym identifies the skin color, race and religion of a group of people while at the same time linking them to a predatory stinging insect. If that is the case, could it be that the acronym WASP is bordering on; dare I say it; Hate Speech? No, it couldn't be. Maybe I'm just being too sensitive. So let us examine the article and play the acronym game.

Ms. Brugger further gives us a brief synopsis of U.S. history in which our White Anglo Saxon Protestant forebears deprived the Native Americans of their land, while still finding time to make life miserable for peoples of other nationalities and ethnic origin. Not making excuses, but had she considered that perhaps my Anglo Saxon forebears learned this dastardly skill from their Norman conquerors? After all, being put into an iron collar, called a serf and told to do this and that, or else get maimed or gelded, must have been very traumatic. This must have been "The MANGE State," Mailed Arrogant Normans Gelding Englishmen.

Back to U.S. history, I agree with Ms. Brugger on the point that the Native Americans were treated very badly. But let's not be too tree-huggy here. Let's be realistic for a moment. Many of the Native American In-

dians were not the innocent "philosophers of the plains" they have been cracked up to be. Tribal rivalry, looting and unjustified acts of violence were the daily norm, just like my old school, in fact. Stories of attacks on settlers and on the wagon trains that brought those settlers to new land are rife. Maybe we could call this "The NASTY State," Native Americans Slaughtering Trespassing Yankees.

I further learned, from her article, that Ms. Brugger has a problem with Israel being referred to as a "Jewish State." She wants us to believe that this is the core of the average Israeli's problems. Problems like having a Quassam rocket come through your dining room window on Bridge Night. Or having a series of bombs go off in your neighborhood. (I can personally attest to the latter as being highly unsettling). Sad to say, we live in an age where it is normal to take the blame away from where it truly lies. After all we have code expressions like "gun violence" and "road rage" where the focus is taken off those who commit the act, blaming instead an inanimate object. Here is a prime example of this blame shifting. Ms. Brugger wants to shift the blame for these attacks, away from the terrorists and place them squarely in the lap of the victims. Perhaps this then is "The ABJECT State," Actually Believing Jewish Existence Causes Terrorism.

Seriously though, continuing this same thought process and we crack open a history book or two; we can pretty much find out where to point the finger of blame for Israel's woes. The Romans for instance, wasn't it they, who in a fit of pique, decided to rename Judea: Palestina? Arthur Balfour the British politician is also culpable. After all it was he who, in 1917, favored of the creation of a national home for the Jewish people. Again, those perfidious British pop up in 1948, allowing Israel to declare independence before the end of their Mandate. Oh and I almost forgot, and I know it's heresy to criticize the United Nations, but you cannot ignore their clumsy "Palestine Partition plan in Resolution 181. This then must be "The PITTABLE State," Piqued Italians Tampering Internationals And Britons Leaving Early.

My Lapsang is now cold but I'll soldier on for another paragraph or two. Why did Ms. Brugger, have to bring Jimmy Carter into the picture, referring to his book "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid?" After all, this is the man who consulted his ten-year-old daughter Amy, on matters of foreign policy and nuclear arms control. So much criti-

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper.

Please email letters by Monday at 5 p.m.

There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands' Newspaper

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Member N.C. Press Association

FREE every Thursday; circulation 5,000; 100+ distribution points

Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 526-0782



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Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com

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• See LETTERS page 16

• OBITUARY •

Butler Sterling Harkins

Butler Sterling Harkins, 98, passed peacefully in his home in Oxnard, California on January 10, 2009.

He was born in Kansas on October 1, 1910, and raised in Nebraska. At a very early age he knew the life of the farm was not for him and so clamored to be allowed to attend school at the age of four. He was five when he decided to be a doctor or teacher, the latter of which he became by the age of 17, teaching in a one-room school in Kansas. At this time he was attending Peru State Teachers College.

After graduating he felt the call of the West and moved to California. He said he knew immediately when he smelled the ocean, the orange blossoms and the celery fields that this was his paradise on earth.

He lived in California the rest of his life, summering in later years in Highlands, North Carolina.

He received his master's degree in education from the University of Southern California and began his 50-year teaching career in Oxnard.

He was principal of Ramona School when World War II broke out, at which time he joined the Navy and served in the South Solomon Islands and Guadalcanal.

While in the Navy, he published his book "Booted Thru Boot Camp," poems of humor and pathos illustrated by one of the Walt Disney artists.

When he retired from the service, he opened Oxnard's first bookstore, The Book Haven, and resumed teaching at Oxnard High School District where he taught many subjects, including creative writing and American literature. He's been listed in "Who's Who in California" and was cited by the California State Assembly for Outstanding Service in the Field of Education.

He also received recognition for his volunteer work with the Community Concert Association and for his vision and efforts in the construction of Oxnard's cultural center, the Oxnard Auditorium.

Shortly after he enlisted in the Navy, he met his bride, Bess Hines, who grew up in Highlands and was known in later years as the "Poet Laureate of Highlands."

Love of poetry, specifically nature poetry, drew them together initially and was a shared devotion throughout their 42-year marriage.

They met in 1944 at a California Chaparral Poets meeting at which Robert Service was the guest speaker. On this occasion one



of Bess's poems was read and Butler said, "I want to meet the woman who wrote this."

Seven dates later they were married and hitchhiked to Sequoia National Park for their honeymoon. The milkman delivered them from the base of the mountain to their final destination in the park. From this point on, this beautiful place was frequented yearly by the family – Butler, Bess and their two daughters,

Estelle and Sarah – and ultimately inspired their collaboration, a book of poetry entitled "Sequoia Bound."

Butler originated the poetic form he entitled Harquain, but his real love was the Japanese form Haiku, of which he wrote hundreds. His books include "Leaves of the Ginkgo," "Maple Leaf Moments," "Leaves of Autumn," "Leaves of Aloneness," an ancestral study, "The Harkins Clan," and his children's book "Swing Down, Sandman."

The following is an example of his Haiku: The cold wintry moon; The emptiness of the house; The voice of the clock.

During his lifetime, it was written of him, "Having personal charm and a boundless interest in living, he lights up whatever place he happens to be in."

This proved to be true to the end of his life as he retained joy in small things and a willing, contagious sense of humor.

He will continue to uplift and inspire all who read his poetry and remember his ready laughter.

Butler is survived by his daughters, Sarah Harkins of Highlands and Estelle Harkins of Oxnard.

A memorial gathering will be announced in the summer in Highlands.

Some time during the day someone said, "It takes a village." And indeed it does take a village to plan, prepare and present La Noche Navidena year after year.

Over 500 men, women, and children celebrated an early Christmas on Dec. 20 at Highlands Rec Park.

A volunteer, you were critical in creating the magic — the miracles — of Christmas.

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• THANK YOU •

Thank you, La Noche Navidena Angels

Center wish to extend to each individual sincere thanks for whatever contribution you made: a dedicated member of the La Noche Navidena planning committee; a member of Highlands Country Club who donated a memorable gift; a member of Mountain Garden Club who donated a memorable gift; a local business that donated much-needed winter clothing; a publishing company that donated wonderful children's books; one who wrapped the

many gifts for Santa to share; one who twice transported bags and boxes of gifts; the artisan who designed and expertly cut out the nativity set; an artist who painted the extraordinarily beautiful nativity set; a staff member at the Rec Park who set up tables and chairs; a decorator who turned the gym into a winter wonderland; the local garden center that delivered and picked up the beautiful live trees; a greeter who ex-

• See THANK YOU page 21

• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Having fun with poppycock!

Highlands' 2008 quote of the year award goes to... "Let's just say we've been very fortunate in this town to have as our administrator, Richard Betz. He's been with the town for more than 25 years in various positions and for many years has been our administrator. He's performed his duties far beyond the call of duty. There's no one who has served the town of Highlands better or more

proficient than Richard. It's been my great honor and pleasure to have worked with him for the past three years. The board has great respect for him and wishes him the best in his change of activities. Now get the hell out." (OK, OK, I made up the last sentence.)

Ta Da! You've just read poppycock. Hold it, that's not my poppycock; it's the mayor's poppycock. Don't try to hang that

on me! This is what poppycockers say to someone just before they give them the boot.

No, no, no, poppycock is not a bad word so take your hand off the phone. In fact, I, Fred Cleaver Wooldridge Jr., am the czar of poppycock. Actually, the mayor and I are probably the two biggest poppycockers in Highlands.

Oops, I just admitted my middle name is Cleaver. Let's back up a sec. Do not, I repeat, do not make fun of me about this name. Like my wearing white dresses as an infant, I'm very sensitive.

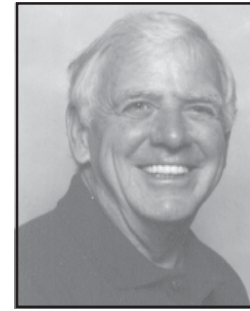
I got the Cleaver handle from my Ma's side who named me after a distant relative named Colonel William Cleaver who was not a poppycocker. He fought and served with a British traitor named George Washington in Pennsylvania during the American Revolution, one of the few wars this country actually won.

For those who attended school after they stopped teaching American history, allow me to inform you that George Washington was our first president and was dubbed *Father of Our Country*. He was not a poppycocker. He once said, "I cannot tell a lie." I know, I know, it's hard to believe this country ever had a politician who said, "I cannot tell a lie" ...and actually meant it. Hey, I'm not poppycocking.

Isn't poppycock a fun word? It's different than "misspoke" which means you've been caught in a bald-faced, dastardly, sinful, sniper-fire lie with no way out. It's kinda like "busted!" Poppycock means you're just full of BS...like me. All politicians and satire writers are poppycockers. It's not a bad thing...well, maybe a little.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines poppycock as empty talk...or writing nonsense. Ta Da again! I even have a book out subtitled "The official book of nonsense." I write poppycock in hopes of making people smile...sometimes even laugh. Politicians, on the other hand, are not funny. They have attended poppycock school and are waaay more sinister and convincing than li'l ole me.

During our national elections, poppycock filled the airways of America. Are you sitting down? Politicians sometimes say things they don't mean. DUH to you if you're feeling a little duped right now. They're at their worse during elections. Remember, when a politician speaks, the only thing you can be sure of is



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email: askfredanything@aol.com

that his vocal cords are functioning.

I have great tolerance and respect for Highlands' politicians because; well...they aren't pure politicians, except when it comes to poppycock. Here's an example. Instead of saying an employee has been fired, Highlands' poppycockers say he has "changed activities." Is that a fun phrase, or what? "Changed activities" means you were working and now you're not.

And instead of telling a fired employee he better leave town to find work, poppycockers say, "He'll have an exciting career in real estate." That's poppycocking at its best.

Selling real estate in Highlands in the dead of winter in the middle of a deep recession that's heading for a depression is as exciting as listening to a watershed lecture at 3 a.m. Remember, when it's in their best interest, poppycockers can and will put a happy face on everything.

I have been accused of being a Betz fan. NOT! I hardly know the guy. Besides, I would never say all those flowery things about him before giving him the boot. It's not my style. When I fired a police officer, he knew exactly why. But politicians feel they have to spread a little poppycock around before giving someone the shaft. The only reason I spoke for Betz is because I'm impressed he's been able to survive many political regimes over two decades of Highlands' nasty politics while keeping the place running pretty darn good. Tough act to follow, don't ja think?

Now don't get down on our mayor. He's a swell guy and is only doing his job as head poppycocker for our town. He's a schmoozer who schmoozes well.

Hey, sometimes even fired employees use poppycock by saying stupid things like, "I'm leaving for family reasons." (Where is Gantenbein, anyway?) Just once, can a fired employee say, "I'm leaving 'cause I got canned and the commissioners are all jerks." No poppycockin' there. That's better than saying "I'll truly miss the place." Hey, I got dumped from the Highlander newspaper and I don't miss the place.

Finally, allow me to take a poppycock survey. Raise your hand if you believed what you heard our presidential candidates say during the election. (Pause, while I count.) Wow, never mind, I can't count that high. Maybe they should consider attending poppycock school?

P.S. - If you can't find my column next week it's because I "changed activities."

• HIGHLANDS FINE DINING •



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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

The future is hard to see

What will happen to our country is anybody's guess. I talked with a friend this weekend, a 61-year-old banker who recently lost his job. To make matters much worse, his retirement savings have evaporated as the value of his former employer's stock has fallen from \$80 a share to \$8. He spends his days on line searching for affordable health insurance, and perhaps a job. He described the current recession as an "economic 9/11" and predicted that the country would undergo permanent changes as a result.

There were five of us, ranging in age from the mid-50s to the upper60s. Three of us are still employed. We all agreed on one thing. This recession feels different from any we have experienced in our lifetimes. Will the changes be profound and lasting? Maybe so.

My parents and their generation were shaped by the Great Depression. We, the children of the children of the Great Depression were marked as well. We learned to be thrifty and to pay in cash. We were taught to do without if having something required going into debt. Gradually, through the decades, we forgot the lessons of our parents, learned to be comfortable with credit cards and funny mortgages.

My initial response was that the belt tightening was a temporary phenomenon, that in a few months we would be back at Circuit City, buying 60" flat-screen TVs. Oh. Circuit City has ceased to exist. Well, we can still run down to Wachovia and take out a loan. You say that Wachovia was bought out by Wells Fargo, and that its employees and retirees lost as much of their savings as my banker friend.

There is more hardship to come. More retailers, banks, and manufacturers will bite the dust. Their employees and investors will feel the pain. They, too, will lose their jobs and their retirement savings. Maybe we'll start living within our means. Perhaps the obscene executive compensations of recent decades will fall in line with the rest of the world. Maybe Americans will start working hard again. Those of us who still have jobs should be grateful. Two of our nurses were complaining about being over-worked. I reminded them that we were fortunate that we hadn't been forced to reduce staff.

Neither of my grandfathers lost his job in the Depression. I remember stories of unemployed men coming to the back door for food. They were never turned away. The other day I saw a guy sitting on the side of the road in Dillard. His sign read, "Work for



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email:
hsalzarulo@aol.com

food." His dog and the sum of his worldly possessions were at his side. I found myself wondering how close we were to 1930.

We have lost the sense of community, the willingness to feed the hobo at the back door. Banks petition the government for hundreds of billions of dollars and reward CEOs of failing enterprises with billions in bonuses. Auto executives descend on Washington requesting tens of billions in bailout money for

their faltering industry. They literally descended from the sky, the president of each of the "Big Three" arriving in his private jet.

I have no idea if we can relearn the lesson of thrift or the nobility of hard work. The sense of responsibility to our neighbors may have been lost forever. Corporate greed may be permanent, only occasionally tempered by government and an angry population. I think my friend was right, that the sobering effects of this economic 9/11 may be with us for a generation or more. Restraint might well produce a leaner, greener, kinder society, or we may just be poorer. We're not going to become a third-world nation, a prediction a friend recently offered. My answer to him was that he hadn't been in the third world. We might never again reign supreme in the family of nations. Our empire may well be in permanent decline. These are questions that none of us can answer. It is quite possible that in the wake of this economic carnage, our nation may regain its footing and forge ahead as before.

Some of us have surely changed forever. My friend, a 75-year-old retired surgeon who lost his life savings and my banker friend are among them. Those of us who still have jobs, at least those in my little circle, have decided that retirement is no longer in our plans. We've simply surrendered the dream of a pleasant, secure retirement. We will work as long as our health permits and our companies survive. After lives of hard work, we can no longer afford retirement, or at least believe that we cannot afford it. And even if we could, like our depression-era parents, we have lost confidence in the stability in financial system. We'll never again trust the stock market, or our ability to make a fresh start.

In public, we pretend that we had no desire to retire anyway, that it is our jobs that define us. In private, we're more honest. We aren't going to risk our future and our families' future to anyone but ourselves. So, yeah, we're different. And if enough of us have changed, the country will have changed with us.

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Too big to jail

Amidst all the talk of bailouts for the financial world, have you heard anything about investigations? Has there been any talk about setting up a com-

mission or a special prosecutor to investigate whether there was any deliberate criminal behavior behind the financial meltdown? Hasn't the implication been that all of this was no one's fault, that there

was no criminal activity at all, just "irrational exuberance?"

For my husband the breaking point came when Bernie Madoff was allowed to stay out of jail while awaiting trial, because, the appellate judge ruled, the prosecutor did not prove he was a danger to the community. "Not a danger!" Arthur cried, "How can someone who has stolen \$50 billion *not* be a danger to society? Evidently he is too big to jail."

According to Newsweek writer Michael Hirsh, there is criminal behavior galore behind our current crisis: "To a far greater extent than the public realizes, fraudulently inflated home values, wholly invented incomes and other illegal schemes figured in a huge percentage of subprime loans that were turned into securities during the boom — possibly at least 50% nationwide, according to county and state officials as well as real-estate experts interviewed around the country. Some experts, like Anthony Accetta, a former federal prosecutor in New York, contend that many big Wall Street players know far more than they are admitting about the extent of this fraud."

Hirsh says that in the spring of 2008 FBI Director Robert Mueller claimed there were 35 task forces at work and 19 Wall Street firms being investigated, but in October, when Hirsh's article was published, the FBI was declining all interview requests on the subject. Why the change? Hirsh speculates: "One reason, no doubt, is that the Bush administration is deeply concerned about causing more giant firms and hedge funds to collapse. Their principals have become, in a sense, too big to jail."

There it was again, the phrase "too big to jail." In America we like to think of ourselves as a classless society where everyone is equal under the law. Unfortunately, that is an illusion. The rich and the powerful are not treated the same as the rest of us. Folksinger Phil Ochs wrote "And a rich man never died upon the chair" in his song "Iron Lady" about the electric chair.

Without investigation of the crimes responsible for the financial crisis we will have more crises just like this one. In the early 1930s the Senate Banking and Currency Committee investigated what had led to the stock market crash of 1929. The committee hearings, led by council Ferdinand Pecora, documented the abuses of the financial industries and paved the way for reform legislation.

Financial titans aren't the only ones "too big to jail" in our society. Politicians fit in that category too.

In 1974 Richard Nixon was pardoned



Katie Brugger
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by his successor and allowed to fly away to California rather than stand trial for obstructing justice. The whole nation sighed in relief and went back to their lives, but was that really the best thing for the nation as a whole? Did we insure that no future president would abuse the office?

During Reagan's presidency, the Iran-Contra scheme violated the Constitution, and there were grounds for impeachment of Reagan and prosecution of Vice-President GHW Bush. But the Democrats were afraid to start impeachment proceedings so soon after Watergate ("too destabilizing for the country") so Reagan and Bush went unpunished.

We'll skip over the absolutely ludicrous impeachment of Bill Clinton for lying about sex that was based on pure partisan vindictiveness.

Currently, there are very serious charges leveled at the George W Bush administration for multiple crimes, and once again many people, President Obama among them, are urging that they be forgotten. You may be sure that the last thing I want is to hear anything more about former President Bush or to see the limited time and resources of the federal government be diverted from the tasks at hand. However, I believe that there is a vital issue here that we ignore at our peril.

What we saw during the GW Bush administration is the belief that there are people, at minimum the President, who are above the law. This is a fundamental attack on one of the most basic principles of our democracy — that no one is above the law — and must not be ignored.

Of the many things that were outrageous under Bush, one of the most egregious were his "signing statements," where he would sign a bill from Congress and then declare his intention to ignore it. In other words, he and his administration did not need to obey the law. (See my article "What President Bush Has Taken From Me" June 2008)

House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers, (D, Michigan) has released "Reining in the Imperial Presidency," a 486-page report detailing abuses of the Bush administration and recommending steps to address them, including a special investigative commission. In an op-ed in the Washington Post Conyers wrote, "Arthur Schlesinger Jr. popularized the term 'imperial presidency' in the 1970s to describe an executive who had assumed

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• HIS & HERS •

The Swiss cheese theory

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

When you come down to it, there's a lot that can be explained by Swiss cheese. Learning to trust after heartache and keeping the mind alive are just two examples. So is a drawer filled with socks.

Do you know people who refuse to commit to a new relationship after having their heart broken? They stick their chins out, and explain their position by saying, "I was hurt once." Once? Are you kidding me? Once? Life is about getting hurt, being disappointed, and then picking yourself up, and getting on with life.

There are people who have the worst hands that life can deal – betrayal, illness, disaster – and against all odds, they pick themselves up, and get on with their lives. For years, this has intrigued me. How can you account for the way people deal with the hardships that life invariably churns out? Swiss cheese, that's my explanation.

Some people see their hearts as a huge chunk of cheese. Each hardship, disappointment, discouragement takes a little chunk out of their hearts. The more they let people and events get to them, the more they feel diminished. The only way they can protect themselves is to harden their hearts and keep everyone out.

On the other hand, you have people who feel that without others, their lives are incomplete. These are the kind of people who feel that their hearts are full of holes, and only by giving of themselves can they heal the emptiness and loneliness in their lives. Each time they fall in love, they plug up a hole. Each time they chose to do good over evil, they plug up a hole. Each time they go out of their way to put someone else's happiness and wellbeing over their own, they plug up a hole – often without knowing it. The main difficulty is figuring out just what kind of cheese fan you are.

I just spent two weeks in my old home town of Waynesboro, VA. My Mom just had her second cataract surgery, and I hung out for a while to make sure she had the best chance to heal from the operation. Don't get me wrong. I enjoy hanging out with Maman. Even if she weren't my mother, I'd want to be around her. She's smart. She's funny. She is remarkably tolerant of my eccentricities.

We were riding in the elevator one day, and saw that there was going to be a presentation about recognizing the signs of



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Alzheimer's and dementia. You don't have to hang out around older people long to realize how this is an issue that haunts them. Every time they forget their keys, or find themselves in a room, and can't remember why they went there, they fear the shadow of serious mental disability coming into their lives.

I thought I'd have to persuade Maman to attend the lecture, but she beat me to it. We agree to attend, each hoping we'd hear facts that would put our minds at ease. Of course, it being the two of us, the dialog had to be a little quirky. "What do you think the lecture will be like? Do you think they'll give us a quiz or something?" said Maman. "Nah, I don't think so," I replied. "Hey, maybe they'll show a porn film, and ask if it rings any bells with anyone," I suggested. "Oh, you're terrible!" chuckled Maman, who knows by now when I'm pulling her leg.

The discussion was interesting and instructive. It put a lot of our worries to rest. Misplacing your keys? Not a biggie. Putting your keys in the refrigerator? Not good. Not good at all. We were encouraged with the little tips to make life easier and less stressful. Always put your keys, wallet and handbag in the same place. It cuts down on stress and saves you the annoyance of having to comb your house frantically when you're rushing out the door.

Do crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, Sudoku, and other games that keep the grey cells engaged and involved. Make a regular date to watch "Jeopardy." Watch PBS, and programs like the History Channel or Discovery. Go to concerts; visit museums. One lady sighed, and said: "I just don't have any room in my head for new information!" But that's seldom the case.

"If you don't use it, you lose it!" applies to both your body and your mind. That big hunk of Swiss cheese you're carrying around in your head has plenty of holes to be plugged up with knowledge – both trivial and profound. Bored people become boring people. Don't be one. Oh, and just for the record, they didn't show us any racy movies. Honest.

Years ago, I was hanging out with friends around Valentine's Day. The discussion centered on the question: "What's the nicest thing your partner has ever done for you?" Most of the answers were standard

fare, but the one which really intrigued me was from my friends Eddie and Emma. He smiled lovingly at her, and replied, "The socks. Definitely the socks." I knew there was a story behind that one. Later on, I cornered Eddie, and asked for all the details.

It seems that when Eddie and Emma got together, he was really rather a slob. His shirts were covered in stains, and most were missing buttons. His jackets were just as bad. But worst of all were his socks.

• See HIS & HERS page 11

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

The snow job continues

I was really going to give the global warming thing a rest, hoping the momentum had finally turned against Gore's hocus-pocus, and then reality set in. I had TV news on in the background when the messiah started giving a speech. Before I could switch the channel, he had already given his routine opening, reminding us that he had inherited a financial mess. He

then he immediately launched into his best Gore impersonation, telling the world that global warming is a fact and the threat must be dealt with now. The last I heard was "it will create millions of jobs."

It's not that I don't trust his concern over global warming, however a reader forwarded information to me put out by the Institute for Liberty that led me to believe

that his priorities are skewed. Perhaps the hoopla surrounding his inauguration obscured the fact that, due to the huge turnout to witness the event and surrounding celebrations, the carbon footprint of your environmentally sensitive president is estimated to have created more than a half-billion pounds of CO2 into your atmosphere. "It would take the average U.S. household 57,598 years to produce a carbon footprint equal to that of the new president's house-warming party."

How's this for delicious irony. From Drudge (last week), "Al Gore is scheduled before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday morning to once again testify on the 'urgent need' to combat global warming. But Mother Nature seems ready to freeze the proceedings. A 'Winter Storm Watch' has been posted for the nation's capitol and there is a potential for significant snow...sleet... or ice accumulations." Safe travel is doubtful. Priceless.

Meanwhile, the Senate confirmed Timothy Geithner as Secretary of the Treasury, overlooking the fact that, among other sins, he is a tax cheat. Geithner clearly lied in his confirmation hearings about his failure to pay income taxes for several years.

He paid two years worth when his vetting disclosed his failure to pony up but refused to pay prior two years levy because the statute of limitations had run out.

Classy.

As Secretary of the Treasury, Geithner would have dominion over the IRS. Now, he says he just didn't know his income from working at the World Bank was taxable. His employer, as a matter of policy, gives frequent directives as to the taxability of their employees' income. Either he can't read, is painfully ignorant or he is a crook. I'm betting on door number three. An audit also disclosed he tried to claim sizable deductions that were clearly ineligible, and he also employed an illegal alien as a housekeeper. Other than that, he has a sterling character.

So why was he confirmed as Secretary of the Treasury? Because we need his genius to get us out of our economic woes. WHAT? As president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, he managed the Bear Stearns debacle, the Lehman Brothers debacle, the AIG bailout debacle and was instrumental in advising then Sec. Hank Paulson on the \$700 billion financial bailout debacle. Oh, we need his genius all right. He's a tax cheat and a crook. Nothing better. If you or I pulled that stuff, they'd put us away for a good while.

Evidently tax evasion is a litmus test to



Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged. Email
swansonson@dnet.net

serve in Obama's cabinet. Daschle, the South Dakota Democrat chosen to lead Obama's health reform efforts, recently filed amended tax returns to report \$128,000 in back taxes and \$12,000 in interest. Of course there were no penalties since he is a "chosen one." I never liked the little weeny when he was in the Senate and I like him less now.

Daschle has not yet been confirmed at the time of this writing but the lack of inter-

est in integrity by the Dems lead one to believe that he will. I'm sure some rationale will be put forward claiming his brilliance is necessary in our time of need. He's a tax cheat and a crook (sound familiar?) but I'll bet he'll be a good little Obama soldier.

So, if tax evaders are not your style, how about avowed Socialists? According to the Washington Times, "Until last week, Carol M. Browner, Obama's pick as global warming czar, was listed as one of 14 leaders of a socialist group's Commission for a Sustainable World Society, which calls for 'global governance' and says rich countries must shrink their economies to address climate change."

"Socialist International, an umbrella group for many of the world's social democratic political parties says it supports socialism and is harshly critical of U. S. policies."

Don't say I didn't warn you.

... SPIRITUALLY continued from page 9

Home Repair, and I can get you some people to help you!" He said, "You know Paul, I do appreciate that but I have been doing this for about two years and I would appreciate you not saying anything to anyone because I would rather just do the work than talk about it." He repaired over 40 homes in that community when I was there, without a lot of fanfare. He just did it.

We often search for the right words to say, when we should be searching for the right action. Don't just tell someone you love him or her; show him or her. Don't just tell someone you are thinking about him or her; help him or her or visit him or her. There are those times we worry way too much about the right words and saying them correctly. Let your actions speak.

This little preacher needs to remember that lesson because I have worried way too much about words and not enough about actions. Wouldn't it be great if people said this about us - "He or she preached a sermon everyday, without saying a word!"

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Some rambling thoughts from a little preacher...



Pastor Paul Christy

Highlands United Methodist Church

This past Sunday, I subjected my congregation to a sermon that I later wanted to apologize for because I don't think I ever made the point that I needed or wanted to make. Have you ever wanted to communicate something to another person and the more you talk, the worse you seem to be confusing the person you are talking to? So when a preacher and your sermon confuses the people you are talking to, it is not a good thing. But in spite of that confusing, misguided sermon, the good people of my church came out at 12 p.m. and shook my hand and smiled and said "see you next week." And I thought, "Really?" Now you may ask yourself why all this talk of lack of communication this week. You see I think there are those times when we think we need to say the right words, but it is our actions that speak, not our words. I want to share a story with you that I think illustrates the point.

Several years ago, I was serving a church in another town and we talked a lot about helping others. There was a soup kitchen that served meals to the needy, there was a medical clinic that gave care to those who could not afford medical care, and there were places that people could go to get clothes and household items that they needed for free. This community really tried to reach out to those who were in need, and I was proud to say that we had a lot of our church members who helped make all those ministries possible. The newspaper talked about those helping ministries and everyone seemed to be satisfied that as a community we were doing all we needed to do to help others.

We talked a lot about the many ways that that community was reaching out to others, and we talked a good game. In fact, there were people who came to see what we were doing from all over the state because they had heard all that was happening. We talked some more, and we explained how we were doing all this good for others.

Then, one Saturday right after a meeting with a bunch of people who wanted to learn about starting a similar mission in their community, I saw one of my church members at a home in the wrong part of town working on a house. I thought to myself, what is he doing here?

The next day Sunday morning, I got to him right before Sunday School and I told him that I saw his truck at this house and he said; "Yeah, that was my truck there, I was putting a new bathroom in that house for an elderly lady who really needed it."

I said, "Well who were you working for, what ministry?" He said this, "I don't know that it was any ministry in particular, I guess I was just working for God." I said to him, "You know we can start a new ministry in

• See SPIRITUALLY page 8

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting - 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

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Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

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Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Office - 526-2320

Sunday: Holy Communion - 11 a.m.

(Highlands Community Center on. U.S. 64 next to the ballfield in Highlands)

Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m. at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Prayer - 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service - 1st & 3rd Sunday - 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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Pastor Gary Hewins

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

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10:45am Worship; 6pm High School Group

Tuesdays: 10am Women's Bible Study; 2nd, 4th, & 5th Tuesdays Young Mom's Bible Study

Wed.: 5pm Dinner; 6pm AWANA, Youth Activities

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan - Rector: 526-2968

Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.

Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

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Wednesdays: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids - 6 p.m.; Prayer - 6:15 p.m.; Choir - 7:30 p.m.

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Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

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Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers

Choir - 7

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy

526-3376

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5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 - children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 - Adult choir

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Thurs: 12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

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On Thursday, Jan. 29, Highlands Town Board sequestered itself at The Mountain Learning Center to plan for both the immediate and future needs of Highlands. Present were the commissioners and staff personnel. The worksession was orchestrated by Southwest Commission facilitators Bill Gibson and Tom Tyre. Town Manager Jim Fatland guided the board through a comprehensive agenda that dealt with everything from Town Board proceedings, capital improvements, general fund projects, equipment replacement, financing, personnel, finance and accounting and more.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

... WORKSESSION from page 1

reacting.”

Town Board Meetings

Fatland opened the meeting with “housekeeping” issues concerning board meetings – mainly suggesting the use of a recording secretary like during the planning and zoning board meetings; the use of a consent agenda for routine and non-controversial items similar to the Macon County Commission and the school board; and distributing the agenda and backup materials prior to the Town Board meeting so the press and the board have time to digest it.

Update on Duke Power

Duke Power negotiations were discussed next since the town’s arrangement with Duke is set to end February 2010 with a new contract and new wholesale rates to begin March 1, 2010.

“We haven’t started negotiations yet, but the talk is they want a 20-year contract and want to bill monthly with the potential of rates changing monthly,” said Fatland. “We know rates are going to increase to the town, which means they will increase for the public. We may want to think about stepping up the rates in advance of this going into affect, perhaps at the start of the new fiscal year, so we don’t hit customers with a huge increase all at once,” he said.

Before automatically resigning with Duke Power, Commissioner Hank Ross suggested looking into other wholesale electric suppliers like Progress Energy, the N.C. Municipal Power Agency, TVA and Haywood Electric and others.

Nix said the physical connectivity is the only problem. “Physical arrangements will usually involve getting power

• See WORKSESSION page 11

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• New This Year - 2009 HIGHLANDS MAP Picture Sponsor Ads - \$1,250 per/year

• New This Year

2009 Internet Referrals - \$600 per/year per catagory - Lodging, Dining, Realty (now separated out)

... WORKSESSION continued from page 10

from someone else and then there are transmission fees for transmitting from another's lines. There may be the need for some physical changes and then we would have to get into the 'construction' business," he said.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said the town had a terrific deal for 20 years but now that has changed. "We may need to look around because we are no longer under the radar with Duke Power. Before, no one could touch the deal we had with them. But that's changed."

Update on Harris Lake Sewer Project

Nix reported that the project is 10%-15% complete, aiming for 15,000 feet of gravity line extending sewer service to new customers when finished. The job is supposed to be complete by July 13, 2009 and will cost the contractor \$250 a day each day it runs past the deadline.

Capital Improvement Programs

Over the last few weeks, Fatland has been discussing the importance of having capital improvement projects "shovel ready" to take advantage of the federal government's stim-

ulus package which is focusing on infrastructure.

Representative Shuler has asked that a list of projects be submitted to him by February 16.

High on the town's list are funding water/sewer extension projects, the purchasing of emergency generators for the water pumping stations, dredging Lake Sequoyah, and improvement plans for the water plant.

Not all those projects are expected to be funded by the stimulus package – but water/sewer extensions and dredging of lakes, are for sure.

As per the master sewer plan, the town hopes to extend sewer to the north side of Mirror Lake, the unsewered areas of Lake Sequoyah, and the homes on Hickory Hill, Cobb, Chowan, and others in that area.

"Shuler said each congressman and senator wants his or her district to make as many projects 'shovel ready' so it's important to prioritize projects and have designs done," said Fatland. He said if designs are ready by

• See WORKSESSION page 15

... BRUGGER continued from page 6

more power than the Constitution allows and circumvented the checks and balances fundamental to our three-branch system of government. Until recently, the Nixon administration seemed to represent a singular embodiment of the idea. Unfortunately, it is clear that the threat of the imperial presidency lives on and, indeed, reached new heights under George W. Bush." The whole report is at: www.judiciary.house.gov.

Retired Maj. Gen. Anthony Taguba, who led the Army investigation into the detainee abuse at Abu Ghraib, has accused the Bush administration of war crimes and is calling for accountability. "There is no longer any doubt as to whether the current administration has committed war crimes," Taguba wrote last year. "The only question that remains to be answered is whether those who ordered the use of torture will be held to account." (See *Harper's Magazine*, December 2008, "Justice After Bush," by Scott Horton)

The American Revolution was fought to free us of tyranny, which is defined as a form of government in which the ruler is not restricted by a constitution or laws. Now we are allowing tyranny to creep in and if we care about liberty we must do the unpleasant work of repudiating it.

Thomas Jefferson is reputed to have said, "Every generation needs its own revolution," and maybe it's been too long since we the people declared our power.

• All of Katie Brugger's columns are available on her website: www.kathleenbrugger.com

... HIS & HERS continued from page 7

"They were like Swiss cheese," Emma recalled with a grin. "I divided them up between the emmentals and the gruyères, you know, depending on the size of the holes."

Emma, a master of organization as well as compassion, started on her own personal campaign to get rid of the "holey" socks. Every few weeks, she would single out one particularly egregious pair of socks, and sneak them out of the house. She searched high and low until she found a pair of socks which resembled the sartorially offensive pair, and then tucked the replacements in the drawer, but only after washing the newness out of them. She never said a word to Eddie about this, and he never mentioned it to her, either. This went on for over a year, until Eddie's sock drawer was a joy to behold. "That's just the way she is," beamed Eddie. "She just jumps in there, and gets things done – quietly and efficiently. She has brought order and sanity to my life. I couldn't live without her."

So, here's my take on the Swiss cheese theory of life. It's kind of like the glass half full or half empty. It's all about attitude, and leaving yourself open to life. Oh, and by the way – I almost forgot. Don't forget to eat the cheese. It tastes great, too.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. Michelle is currently working on John's sock drawer, with moderate success.

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___ Racquet Ball Court

___ Volley Ball Court

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___ Pool Table

___ Skating area (roller blade, in-line)

___ Climbing Wall

Other _____

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Scouting a week out



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

7:14 – Two more threes from UNC and sweatin' Gary Williams takes a timeout. I repeat...Maryland is horrible.

6:35 – Dave Neal (!) abuses Hansbrough again in the post...followed by another UNC three. Even the announc-

ers are noting how Maryland is attacking Hansbrough on the offensive end and scoring, but UNC's three point shooting is so hot right now it doesn't matter. As I say this, Ellington hits another three.

1:37 – Hansbrough flops egregiously, and shockingly gets the call. No one talk to me about Duke flopping (which they do) when one of the strongest players in college hoops takes a dive on a guard to draw a foul.

Halftime Thoughts – UNC leads 60-44

Well, we knew Maryland was horrible, and we knew UNC could score, but this is a pretty tremendous offensive performance by the Heels in the first half. However, they better tighten up the defense if they want to compete for a national title. Duke held Maryland to 20 points in the first half, and UNC has given up more than double that. Conversely, Duke only had 45 at the half against Maryland, while UNC has scored an incredible 60 points.

Detour here to the Ohio State-Purdue game which is in overtime. Ohio State ends up pulling this one out-good win for the Buckeyes, although Purdue was playing without Big 10 player of the year candidate Robbie Hummel.

16:14 – 2nd Half – Roy Williams has obviously told UNC to take it inside, because the Heels have only attempted one three in the second half. Maryland continues to be horrible...it's amazing how far they have fallen since their 2002 national title.

15:41 – 2nd Half – Here is one of UNC's dirty little secret...they only have two points from their bench right now, and their rotation has basically been shortened to seven players. It's possible that fatigue could be a factor late in the season, much in the way that it has been for Duke the last two years.

15:10 – 2nd Half – If it were possible for me to love a UNC player, Ed Davis would be high on my list. The kid plays great defense and will be a star next year for North Carolina. Immediately after typing this, Dave Neal again beats Hansbrough and draws a foul. Neal then draws a charge, and the North Carolina crowd awakens from their nap to boo him. It's amazing how a jersey can change the way a crowd feels about a guy. North Carolina fans love their spastic white guy, but hate all opposing spastic white guys. Duke fans love their cocky, arrogant guard but hate yours.

12:03 – 2nd Half – Ed Davis just picks up a crappy 4th foul after 3 Maryland offensive rebounds...the UNC crowd boos halfheartedly.

11:17 – 2nd Half – Hansbrough refuses to pass out of another doubleteam. Would it be non-PC if I started calling him the "White Hole?"

10:05 – 2nd Half –Deon Thompson with a flush off of an alley oop after a spectacular block by Danny Green. Green is probably the best NBA prospect on North Carolina, and I could see him being a late first round pick and having a big impact on a good NBA team.

9:39 – 2nd Half – Hansbrough shoves two Terps out of the way to get an offensive rebound, misses the layup and is bailed out by the officials. If I seem a little bit bitter that Hansbrough is going to break JJ Redick's record, I am. It's not that I like Redick all that much either, it's just that I'm sure I feel the same way about Hansbrough that UNC fans felt about Redick. Just an aside about Hansbrough here. I love the guy, but I really feel that when players stay for 4 years, it gives us a chance to pick them apart that much more. Redick was exposed as a jump shooter after 4 years, and we have seen Hansbrough's poor defense become exposed over 4 years in the ACC as well.

5:00 — 2nd Half -- Ellington with 34 points, UNC has 16 three pointers in the game, and its obvious that they are not having any trouble on the offensive end.

Let's hope that we don't have any more violence in the last five minutes, we don't need another NC State incident. A dominating win for North Carolina, and an all around terrific performance from the trio of Ellington, Danny Green and Ty Lawson.

We're live at Casa de Potts for a play by play of Maryland and North Carolina. It's always good to check out the enemy before a battle, and so tonight I am going to do a little scouting of the Heels before next week's showdown in Durham.

15:00 – UNC looks like they are going to shoot the ball well, which is bad news for Maryland. Just a quick note-Maryland is horrible. However, I bet they score more than 20 this half against the Heels.

9:55 – in the first half-Lawson has just hit two threes in a row and UNC has hit for six already. They are very tough to beat when they shoot the ball like this.

8:30 – Sam Perki...er Ed Davis just got three offensive rebounds on one play before finally scoring. This just in...Danny Green got rejected by a Korean-I don't think that I have ever typed that before.

(Commercial Break) Clyde Drexler still picks the old man over the other guys in those Alltel Commercials.



Both the boys and girls beat Swain last Friday. Right, cheerleaders Carolyn Hornsby, flyer, and Katie Durham, Shelby Johnson and Bevan Schiffel as bases at Friday's game. Left, Sarah Power goes for a basket at the Swain game. Thursday, Feb. 5, Highlands travels to Hiawassee Dam to play a makeup game; Friday, Feb. 6, it's Senior Night at home against Rabun Gap and Monday there's a makeup game against Hendersonville at home.

Photos by Debbie Hornsby

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL NEWS •

Carla Harris, Middle School Resource Teacher, accompanied students to the media center to see the new selection of books.



Books bought with grant money now in

Highlands School Media Specialist Carol Bowen is pulling out all the stops to keep the Highlands School Media Center stocked with the latest and greatest for students and staff.

In 2007 she applied for the \$10,000 grant from the Library Services Technology Act. The money was spent during the 2007/2008 school year.

The \$10,000 grant was stretched when the Highlands School PTO and Highlands Rotary Club both donated matching funds to increase the total to \$12,500.

The grant targeted the 700s [Arts and Recreation] and 900s [History and Geography] areas of the Dewey Decimal system.

Some 637 new books were added to the collection and more than 400 current books were weeded out because of physical condition, outdated copyright, or inaccurate/out-of-date information.

"We have just finished processing and getting the books ready for circulation," said Bowen.

Anyone wishing to support the Highlands School Media Center are encouraged to contact Bowen at carol.bowen@mcsk-12.org.



Perfect Attendance 3rd Six Weeks 2008-2009

GB – J. Chalker

Jeslyn Head
Kedra McCall
Jonathan Miller
Dillon Schmitt

K – J. McClellan

William Creswell
Diane Dallman
Joana Jimenez
Emily Knutelsky
Olivia Lewis
Giovanna Patino
Logan Petrone
Savannah
Shaheen

1st – D. Sizemore

Matthew Campbell
Jessica Campbell
Lydia Clark
Camren Dalton
Colby Harris
Pablo Jimenez
Emily Leonard
Freda Olalde
Emma Weller

2nd – C. Cox

Grace Crowe
Bety Garcia
Katie McCall
Samuel Cole

Schmitt

2nd – M. Miller

Jake Billingsley
Reynita Contreras
Mattson Gates

Joey Harris

Hannah Holt
Luke Nix

3rd – C. Murphy

Brittany Chastain
Manuel Contreras
Tiffany Preda
Trinity Dendy

3rd – A. Coppage

Madison Dalton
Zachary De La Cruz
Olivia Diamond
Kimberly Feria
Jose Jimenez
Alexandria Preda
Cole Satterwhite

4th – D. West

Kelsie Billingsley
Emily Crowe
Ryan Houser
Tucker Johnson
Emily Mathis
Benjamin Miller
Kaitlin Moss

John Murphy

Adam Schiffli
Jamie Walsh
Gabriel Webb
Jackson Vroon

4th – B.

Iannacone
Eden Ingate
Danielle Mathis

5th – T. Hedden

Remy Adrian
Courtney Henry
Sierra Nylund
Carson Pair
Ali Mae Walsh
Colin Weller
Dylan Vinson

5th – J. Archer

Kyle Gabbard
Marcus Maybin
Carrie McClure
Carter Potts
Sergio Romero

6th – V. Taliaferro

Valarie Billingsley
Veronica Garcia
Kenan Lewis
David Stephens
Kassie Vinson

7th – M. Lane

Emily Dorsey
Brianna Marshall
Jessie Palmer
Brittney Webb

8th – S. Massey

Brett Palmer
Cristell Ruiz-Frias
Felipe' Ruiz-Frias
Troy Vinson

9th Grade

Kaitlin Lewis
Emily Munger

10th Grade

Jose Feria
Amy Fogle
Elizabeth Gordon
Ben Kennedy
Bevan Schiffli

11th Grade

Aaron Burton
Eli Dryman
Rachael Hedden
Charles Pair
Olen Schiffli

12th Grade

Caden Brown
Alex Hedden

... REPORT CARD continued from page 1

was 22 in Kindergarten, 21 in 1st Grade, 17 in 2nd Grade, 19 in 3rd Grade, 15 in 4th Grade, 25 in 5th Grade, 16 in 6th Grade, 11 in 7th Grade and 17 in 8th Grade. These figures are per classroom.

The average course size for high school classes were 17 for English I, 16 for Algebra I, 17 for Algebra II, 20 for Geometry, 12, for Biology, 11 for Chemistry and 9 for Physical Science.

The percentage of students' scores at or above grade level for each grade level's ABCs end-of-grade tests were: in 3rd grade reading 68.3% and greater than 95% in math; in 4th grade reading 56.3% and 68.8% in math; in 5th grade reading, 80.8% in reading and 73.1% in math; in 6th grade reading, 70.6% and 82.4% in math; in 7th grade, 51.9% in reading and 59.3% in math; in 8th grade reading, 72.7% and 81.8% in math. Overall 66.5% were above grade level in reading and 78.4% were above grade level in math.

Except for 4th grade reading and math,

and 7th grade math, Highlands School students above grade percentiles were higher than both district and state levels. District wide 4th grade reading was 81.3% and state was 59.2% and math was 76.4% district wide and 72.8% statewide compared to Highlands 56.3% and 68.8%, respectively. For 7th grade math, district figures were 61.2% and state figures were 67.3% compared to Highlands' 59.3%.

At the high school level, students scores for at or above grade level in math were lower than both district and state scores in Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry. Highlands Algebra I score was 66.7% compared to district and state at 77.9% and 69%, respectively. For Algebra II it was 63.2% compared to 68.7% and 67.2%, respectively. For Geometry it was 40% compared to 74.2% and 67.9%, respectively.

In English, Biology, Chemistry, Civics & Economics and U.S. History Highlands

• See REPORT CARD page 16

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Club performs weekly service projects in Highlands

On Friday, Jan. 20, members of The Girls' Clubhouse worked at the Highlands Emergency Council on Poplar Street, packing boxes of food for the families which the council serves each week. Upstairs the girls worked organizing the clothes, shoes and toys donated to the organization. Recipients can rummage through donations to find articles they can use. To find out more about the Emergency Council, call 526-4357. Above from left are Veronica Garcia, Ivy Satterwhite, McKinley Mosely, Elizabeth Houston, Grace Brassard and Meredith Garren. The girls are in the sixth grade at Highlands School.

Photos by Supervisor Kim Lewicki



Above, Ivy, Meredith and McKinley work organizing toys.

WCU to host 'Buying a home in today's market'

Western Carolina University will host "Buying a Home in Today's Market," presented by Western Carolina Properties and Macon Bank, at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17, in Room 143 of the Cordelia Camp Building.

The workshop is designed to help area residents understand the current housing and lending markets.

Participants will learn about the availability of loans, how much to borrow to buy a home, programs for first-time homebuyers and other information about purchasing a home in the current economic situation.

"There are a variety of loan programs currently available to assist most buyers with

their real estate purchase," said Rick Kirkpatrick, vice president of Macon Bank. "It is important to understand the process and qualifications for these different programs in order to find the most appropriate option."

Participants also will learn what questions to ask a real estate agent or lenders in order to make informed decisions about home ownership.

The program is free, but preregistration is required. Online registration is available at <http://learn.wcu.edu> or by calling Susan Fouts, WCU's director of continuing education, at (828) 928-4968 or (828) 227-3688.

... WORKSESSION continued from page 11

April 24 there's a good chance the money will be earmarked, and though it will come to Highlands through the Army Corps of Engineers, there's a good chance it will come.

He said the federal government wants to use organizations that are currently in existence, hence the Army Corps of Engineers.

Even if Highlands doesn't get everything on its "wish list" there are zero percent, 20-year loans available as well as grant money for infrastructure projects, he said.

Nix also discussed upgrades to the town water lines, specifically on Big Bearpen, Split Rail, Mirror Lake and along N.C. 28.

"Basically, the town's system is in good shape, but some improvements are necessary and should probably be done over the next five years," he said.

Improvements mostly involve increased water flow via larger pipes – changing old two-inch pipes to four- and six-inch pipes.

Radio read water and Electric Fund Projects

Fatland suggested the town change its meter system to radio read meters to both save the town manhours and to ensure accurate readings by eliminating human error.

"Right now we have two meter readers which could be decreased to one so we could move one person to another department. The radio readers cut read time to 1/10 to 1/12 the time and will actually add information to the read because it is more accurate," he said.

He and Nix said the radio water meters detect leaks in buildings and in the town's system which will cut down on water consumption saving consumers money.

"This will help customers locate and fix leaks in their homes and enable us to fix leaks in the town's system," said Nix.

Fatland said when the town of Tryon switched to radio read meters, he eliminated 48% loss of water in the system. He said the additional cost to consumers to offset the town's cost to install the new meters would be minimal – about \$1.60 per month.

The town has about 2,500 water customers and 3,000 electric customers. The radio read electric meters are so sensitive they pick up the electric flow from the light on the VCR or DVD player. This will likely mean electric bills will be higher; bad for the customer; good for the town.

Commissioner Patterson said people may want to adjust by installing a multi-strip "on-off" switch.

GIS Technician Matt Shuler updated the board on the pole replacement plan. He said he's in the process of mapping the last 700 poles of the 2,800 in the plant with 15% of them changed out and 287 left to change. He said Northland has been very cooperative, as has Verizon except that it takes them longer to get things done.

Stormwater

The stormwater ordinance and stormwater projects were up next. Zoning Director Joe Cooley and Nix said the stormwater ordinance is basically ready to go and has been sent to Town Attorney Bill Coward for review. However, it's not ready for inclusion

in the Unified Development Code now in progress because including it would take drastic re-writing rather than melding into the UDO as is the case with the town's other ordinances – land use, subdivision and zoning.

Since the Stormwater Ordinance would mostly affect developers, Commissioner Ross urged the board to get the ordinance in affect as soon as possible. "This would protect the environment and could be a revenue source to the town, as well," he said.

Fatland said impact fees could be assessed once a stormwater ordinance is in affect. "The town could generate \$400,000 a year with a \$10 fee or \$250,000 with a \$6 fee."

Raising the Harris Lake Bridge was also discussed to alleviate flooding in the area and fell under the "stormwater projects" category. Nix encouraged it be done and said town crews could do it to address, 1-, 2-, 5-, and 10-year floods.

General Fund Projects

The ABC store in relation to freeing up space for the Police Department was discussed at length. Fatland said the ABC board hasn't signed a lease yet with Margaret O'Donnell of Highlands Plaza but that a project engineer has been hired to help design the space – said to be between 4,800 and 6,000 sq. ft. depending on the final lease.

The Police Department could then move into the 3,000 sq. ft. vacated by the ABC store which Fatland said could happen within three months.

He said there were USDA grants available for both Town Hall and Police Department facilities. The board agreed the Town Hall plan had to be redone due to the economy and the fact that the Police Department no longer needs to occupy the Town Hall space. In both cases, Fatland said the town should go as "green" as possible because it's a plus when it comes to certain funding.

Police Chief Bill Harrell said the renovated ABC store would be adequate for his department for the next 20 years.

A town-wide security system was also discussed, so all town buildings and facilities – including the sewer and water plants could be monitored via video.

Shuler, who has become the town's IT guy in addition to the GIS Technician, suggested changing the town's cell phone provider to AT&T to enable better coverage and to save the town money – about \$200 a month.

Equipment Replacement and Financing

Fatland said he is going over all the town's equipment and vehicles to ensure everything is kept up to date while being fiscally responsible. He also discussed funding policies to reflect a pay-as-you-go mentality, the use of capital reserves, grants, federal stimulus funds and loans. He said there are lots of options for the town.

Solid Waste

Fatland said there is a trend in North Carolina to make solid waste departments self-sufficient like electric and water depart-

ments. "The idea is to take Solid Waste out of the General Fund and make it operate like an Enterprise Fund," he said. "This means increasing user fees to maintain the department."

He also discussed initiating a town run curb-side recycle program like the one being run by Benjamin Wood who charges \$15 month to pick up recyclables.

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf said the town should wait and see how Wood's enterprise goes before the town takes it on.

Personnel Administration & Employee Benefits

Fatland stressed the importance of an updated employee handbook which in the long run will lower the town's insurance rates. He suggested involving employees in each department to go over the current manual page by page to revamp it. He thinks the project can be completed by June.

Employees have requested health savings accounts be set up to help with potential medical bills. He said the medical insurance plan the town offers employees gives the town a competitive edge and should be maintained if possible.

Commissioner Amy Patterson asked that the Town Hall stay open during lunch so citizens can conduct business during their lunch hours. Fatland said he would discuss staggering lunch hours.

Fatland suggested not purchasing new equipment or hiring any full time employees at this time, but rather to use part-time people where needed, specifically a part-time CPA and IT person to alleviate Shuler of that job so he can concentrate on the GIS job he was hired to do.

Recreation

Recreation Director Selwyn Chalker said the trend in North Carolina was to move away from providing programs for citizens but to "rather supply specified facilities," he said. (See Survey on page 11).

The use of grant money was discussed to upgrade the Rec Park facilities, perhaps incorporate new items – like an indoor, year-round swimming pool. Fatland said grant money was available through PARTF and other sources.

Commissioners DeWolf stressed the need for a master plan for the Rec Park so it will accommodate needs and wants of the citizens into the future. "We need to have some idea about what we want to do with this property," he said. "What year-round activities are wanted and what facilities are needed to accommodate them? Those are answers to questions we need."

Other Items

Commissioner Hank Ross said the recently completed parking study has put Main Street streetscape plans on hold until the configuration of parking spaces is finalized.

Commissioners agreed that the public restrooms by the Town Hall needed a serious overhaul to include a baby-changing station.

Police Chief Harrell suggested keeping dogs off Main Street during Halloween due to dog fights and biting that occurred this year.

– Kim Lewicki

Does your New Year resolution list look like this?

- Lose weight✓
- Quit smoking✓
- Attend church✓
- Work hard✓
- Oil Change✓
- New Tires✓
- Don't procrastinate✓

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Heart of the High Country
available at the Hudson
Library and Movie Stop



Northland Cable Television

... REPORT CARDS continued from page 13

scored higher than both district and state levels. In Physical Science Highlands had higher percentages than other schools in the district but a bit lower than statewide percentages. In Physical Science Highlands percentage was 57.9 compared to 49.2 in the district and 58.4 in the state.

Each year, schools in North Carolina may receive several designations based on their performance on the state's ABCs tests. These designations are awarded on the basis of the percentage of students performing at grade level and on whether students have learned as much as they are expected to learn in one year.

Highlands School rated as a "School of Progress" where at least 60% of the students are at grade level which means the school earned expected growth. North Carolina has set target goals that schools must meet to make Adequate yearly Progress (AYP) as mandated by the Federal "No Child Left Behind Act. Highlands met 13 out of the 13 AYP targets.

Highlands School teachers were also rated.

In the 2007-2008 school year, there were

33 classroom teachers of which 100% are fully licensed, so 98% of Highlands School classes are taught by "highly qualified teachers." 24% of Highlands School teachers have advanced degrees, five who were Nationally Board Certified (there are more now).

As to teaching experience, 67% have taught 10 years or more, 24% have taught 6-10 years and 9% have taught 0-3 years. The teacher turnover rate at Highlands School is the same as the state at 12%. District wise it's 14%. Highlands has the highest number of 10+ year teachers compared to the district and the state.

The report card includes information about school and student performance, class sizes, attendance, school safety, instructional resources, and teacher quality. Report card data will be available for each school, for each school district and for the state's education system as a whole.

"The Macon County School System continues to perform at or around the state average in most academic areas," said Macon County School Superintendent Dan Brig-

• See REPORT CARD page 19

... LETTERS continued from page 2

cism has been written about this gentleman's doings and un-doings that it may not be long before we hear about the dedication of The Carter Library of Global Follies. Using this man's book as a source for unbiased reference is akin to looking to Hollywood for historical accuracy. Grinding right along then we arrive then at "The ASPHYXIA State," Anti-Semitic Political Hack Yarling Xenophobia In Arabia.

In the conclusion of her article, Ms Brugger quotes from part of President Obama's inaugural speech where he said "...we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass...that the line

of tribe shall soon dissolve."

What a pity Ms. Brugger did not believe in these words. If she had, she would not have written an article focusing on the negative aspects of a particular race of people. We should never close the door on history, but equally, we should never sully ourselves in the gutter of "the old hatreds," by using a pejorative acronym like WASP. For when we do, we end up with "The BACTERIAL State," Bigoted Article Condoning Terroristic Enterprises Rich In Artistic License.

**Bernie Coulson
Highlands**

Fred's words appreciated by firefighters nationwide

Dear Editor,

Please allow my familiarity as I read your column in Highlands Newspaper each week via the internet. It is one of the highlights of my week and usually I chuckle and go on but today I must thank you for your column in the Jan. 29 issue entitled "Are firefighters crazy, or what?"

Yes we are a different breed, but so are all emergency services personnel.

I retired last year after 35 years as a volunteer firefighter in a small southern Tennessee town. I know and appreciate the work the men at the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department perform. I can only imagine the difficulties they encounter in the mountain terrain of those beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.

You are exactly right about the lack of recognition they receive for their hours of training and service. Properly implemented, a full-time fire department can pay dividends in reduced fire losses and reduced insurance premiums to any town but particularly an area such as Highlands with its high-value homes.

Thanks for recognizing these public servants. I too, have firefighter sons who are paramedic and EMT trained. They would do nothing else.

**Walter Sloan
Fayetteville, TN**

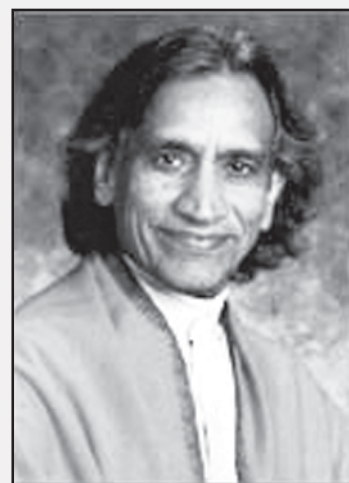
P.S. - No firefighter in his right mind would strap on a badge and gun and walk up on a car with tinted windows on a dark street. We think cops are nuts.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Rare opportunity to spend an evening with a yogi

Yogi Amrit Desai, internationally renowned yoga master, lecturer and author, will give a lecture and Yoga Nidra experience on Sunday, February 8 at 5:30, at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library, 249 Frank Allen Road in Cashiers.

Yogi Desai founded the Kripalu Yoga Center in Lennox, Massachusetts, the largest such center in the US, and the Amrit Yoga Institute in Salt Springs, Fla. He has received numerous honors and awards internationally, including from the World Religious Parliament in New Delhi. He is the author of numerous books, including his collection of poetry.



Yogi Amrit Desai

His presence in Cashiers is a rare opportunity to learn directly from a true master of yoga. He shares his wisdom with warmth and humor. An evening with Gurudev, as he is fondly known, is truly an experience. Even those who have never attended a yoga class or considered meditation are touched by his calm and peaceful presence, and by his profound teachings.

For registration, please contact April Harrison, at 828-743-1124, or email adhnc@yahoo.com. The cost for the lecture is \$35. Gurudev's books and CDs will be available and may also be purchased at

Soul Journey after Feb 8.

On-going Events

• The Bascom is offering a host of art classes for preschoolers to pre-teens from now through the end of the school year. For more information, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 0#.

• Friends of Panthertown work days, last Thursday of every month (time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

• Collections for men and women overseas at Chestnut Hill Retirement community. A wide variety of items currently is needed, including books and magazines, CDs and DVDs, and small pocket books, which fit neatly in the BDUs (Battle Dress Uniforms). The drop point for all items will be under the flagpole at the Chestnut Hill Clubhouse on Clubhouse Trail. For any questions, or to schedule a drop-off call (828) 787-2114.

• Refuge Youth meets every Sun. night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God. If you are in grades 6th-12th then this is the place to be! The church is located at 6201 Highlands Rd. next to Exxon. For more info call youth ministers Matt and Candace Woodroof at 828-369-7540 ext 203.

• Raffle of handcrafted Stiefel Botanical Book to Benefit The Bascom. To purchase a raffle ticket, call 526-4949, ext. 8#.

• Yoga at the Rec Park, 7:30 a.m Monday and Wednesdays. Call 526-4340 for information.

• Yoga in the bottom floor of Jane Woodruff Building. 10:30 a.m. Thursdays. Call 526-4340.

• NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

• "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodruff

room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

Mon. & Wed.

• Pilates Classes Level 1 of Jane Woodruff at the hospital at 4 p.m. \$10 per class. Call 526-5852.

• Middle School students After School Program from 3-5 p.m. at the Rec Park. For more information please call 828.526.3556.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

Wed., & Fri.

• Open AA meeting noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Tues. & Thurs.

• Dance Aerobics with Susan, 8:30 a.m. at the Rec Park.

First Mondays

• Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

Mondays

• Open AA meeting, 8 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

• Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.

Tuesdays

• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.

• Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.

Wednesdays

• Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club meets at the Highlands Conference Center at 7:30 a.m.

• Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

Every Third Wednesday

• See EVENTS page 17

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

• Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Thursdays

• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

1st & 3rd Thursdays

• The local affiliate of NAMI NC (National Alliance on Mental Illness), NAMI Appalachian South, meets from 7-9 p.m. at the Family Restoration Center, 1095 Wiley Brown Road, Franklin. NAMI offers peer support, education, and advocacy for individuals suffering from serious mental illness and their families and loved ones. Contact Ann Nandrea 369-7385, Carole Light 524-9769 or Mary Ann Widenhouse 524-1355 for more information.

Thursdays & Fridays

• Live music at The Rib Shack from 7-10 p.m.
2nd & 4th Fridays
 • Community Drum Circle at the Highlands Rec Park, from 6-7:30 p.m. come experience a fun family friendly drum circle. All ages are encouraged to attend this free event. All experience levels welcomed. Celebrate community with facilitated interactive rhythmic dialogue. Bring your own drum or percussion instrument. Some extra drums and percussion will be supplied. For more information call 421-0551.

Thursday, Feb. 5

• A meeting will be held today at the Macon County Public Library beginning at 5:30 p.m. to begin planning and organization for the Quilt Trails project in Macon County. Barbara Webster, executive director of Quilt Trails of Western North Carolina, will give an informative and interesting presentation about the economic impact this project has had in other Western North Carolina counties. Anyone interested in this project is invited to attend this important and informative meeting. For more information call Linda Harbuck at 524-3161 or Deb Thompson-Heatherly at 349-8912

• NC Cooperative Extension will hold a class on "Growing Shiitake Mushrooms" from 9 am to 1 pm at the Macon County Environmental Resource Center. Pre-registration is required. There is a \$10 materials fee due at registration. Each participant should bring two hardwood logs (oak is preferred), 4 to 6 inches in diameter and 3 to 4 feet long. This will be a hands-on workshop. A classroom session will explain Shiitake growing and participants will then drill their logs and inoculate them with Shiitake mushroom "seed." Participants will leave the class with two inoculated Shiitake logs and the ability to inoculate more. The program is geared toward those who want to grow shiitake as a serious hobby or small sideline business. Most of the program will be outside, so dress warmly. If you have an extra log to donate, we would like to build a Shiitake demonstration area at the Environmental Resource Center. Please register at the Macon County Cooperative Extension Center by Friday, January 30. Call 349-2046 if you have any questions.

• Carole Light, PhD, will be presenting a program "Concerns and Beliefs about Money and Their Effect on our Mental Health." Money is a great source of conflict for many people and in many relationships. This program is not about how to manage money. Carole will explore some of the things that shape our attitudes and reactions to money issues, and help us gain insight into why we behave and react the way we

do. A support group meeting will follow at 8 p.m. Please invite family and friends, as this is open to the public and should be of interest to anyone. This will be held at The Children's Home, 827 Wiley Brown Road. Turn off Hwy. 441 onto Dowdle Mtn. Road at the traffic light (Near Texaco Station) Turn right for short distance and then turn right on first black top road (Wiley Brown). This is narrow, crooked road so be careful!. About 1/2 mile, you will see a sign "Children's Home" on your right and large building a bit off the road.

• "Sleepless in Seattle," 1993 rated PG, features Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. In the story, the son of a recently widowed man calls a radio talk show in an attempt to find his father a partner. There is a very romantic ending on the top of the Empire State Building. The movies will be shown in the Library Meeting Room at 7 p.m. The movies and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated. Movies are among the many services provided to the community by the Friends of the Library.

• The Macon County Soccer Club (<http://www.maconsoccer.net>) will begin accepting registrations for the Spring soccer season on Saturday, from 6-8 p.m. at the Macon County Community Building in Franklin and the Highlands Recreation Park. Parents are encouraged to print out the registration form online and bring it with them to the registration. Children age 4 and up are welcome and will be placed on teams according to age. The registration fee is \$45 for players returning from the fall season and \$55 for new registrations. The registration fee covers uniform (jersey, shorts and socks), state registration and referee fees. A \$5 discount is available for siblings. All new players must provide a photocopy of their birth certificate at the time of registration. The deadline for registering for the Spring season is February 21st. Registrations received after February 21st will incur a \$10 late fee and players will be placed on a wait list. Every effort will be made to place late registrants on a team. However, we cannot guarantee placement on a team before the first game. For more information visit <http://www.maconsoccer.net> or call Michelle Thornton at 828-349-4939.

Friday, Feb. 6

• High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building from 7-9 p.m. Rudy Saunders from Monroe, GA will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-349-4187, 706-782-0943, or www.highmountainsquares.org

Saturday, Feb. 7

• NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB will take a strenuous 10.4 mile hike on the Chunky Girl Trail with elevation gain of 921 feet in a steady climb to the Appalachian Trail. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m. Drive 34 miles round trip. Call leader Bill Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sundays, Feb. 8 & 15

• Cullasaja Assembly of God's youth ministry, "Refuge Youth" will be a doing a, "Relationship Series" Sunday night Feb. 8 and the 15 starting at 6:30 pm. This is for students in grades 6th-12th. This will be a fun series with awesome games, gives aways and great food! Topics to be covered will be from Relationships with God, each other and dating. This will change

your life. Call or email Youth Pastors Matt and Candace Woodroof with any questions at 828-369-7540 ext. 203, mwoodroof@agchurches.org. Cullasaja Assembly is located at 6201 Highlands Rd. next to Exxon. www.cullasajaag.org

Sunday, Feb. 8

A lecture and Yoga Nidra meditation experience with Yogi Desai at the Albert Carolton - Cashiers Community Library, Grouse Point Road, Cashiers at 5:30 p.m. Lecture and yoga Nidra Mediation Experience - \$35 for registration and information, please contact April Harrison, (929-743-1124) or email adhnc@yahoo.com. There will be a Yoga session for those who would like to participate at 4 p.m., prior to the lecture. This yoga experience is free and suitable for beginners.

Thursday, Feb. 12

• Open House Night at Creative Images at Falls on Main from 5:30-7:30. Featuring finger foods, punch, door prizes and a 35% OFF SALE on all products and a 50% OFF JEWELRY SALE.

• The League of Women Voters of Macon County will sponsor a program featuring R.E.A.C.H. director, Ann VanHarlingen. Van Harlingen will discuss their programs and facilities relating to domestic violence — Resources, Education, Assistance, Counseling, and Healing. R.E.A.C.H. has been serving our community since 1980. Learn how you can help — volunteers give more than 8500 hours per year! The program will be held at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. Lunch is available by reservation — call 524-5192. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

• The February meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. Drive around to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday at the Blue Ridge School at 6 p.m. November through March and 7 p.m. April through October. Listen to WHLC (104.5 FM) at 5 p.m. for cancellation due to weather.

• Becky Lipkin, well known local herbalist, will present a program at the Jackson County Public Library entitled "Create a Cupid's Cupboard" on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Becky will show participants how to make a variety of unique and personal bath and body herbal products. Participants will make and take home a variety of passion products including massage and body oils, along with bath and foot soaks. Many luscious recipes will be included in handout information. This program is free. For further information, please contact Edith Peden at 586-2016.

Saturday, Feb. 14

• NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB will take a 6-8 mile moderate hike with a gradual elevation change of 800 feet in Panthertown Valley, passing several waterfalls and climbing Little Green Mountain. Meet at the Wachovia Bank in Cashiers (in back) at 8:30 a.m. Bring water, a lunch, and wear sturdy shoes. Drive 14 miles round trip. Call leader Walter Taylor, 743-6977, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB will take an easy-to-moderate 5-mile hike from Park Creek to Park Ridge, returning to Standing Indian Campground. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (across from Burger King) at 9:30 a.m. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy shoes. Drive 25 miles round trip. Call leader Gail

Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, Feb. 15

• NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB will take a 2.5 easy hike on the in the winding stair area on a Forest Service road returning on the Appalachian Trail past a small waterfall. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza at 2 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell at 369-6820 for reservations. Visitors and children over 10 are welcome, but no pets please.

Monday, Feb. 16

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association will be a 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Tuesday & Wednesday, Feb. 17-18

• Servsafe Training, 8:39 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the NC Cooperative Extension Center on 193 Thomas Heights Road in Franklin. Cost is \$115 and includes lunch. Registration and payment deadline is January 31, 2009. Please call 349-2046 for an application or with any questions.

Thursday, Feb. 19

• "Roxanne," 1987 rated PG, is based on the play, "Cyrano de Bergerac." Steve Martin plays the long-nosed C. D. Bales. The beautiful Roxanne (Daryl Hannah) falls for his personality, but another man's looks. The film is as funny as it is romantic. The movies will be shown in the Library Meeting Room at 7 p.m.

• See EVENTS page 22

Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

Feb. 6-12

THE PINK PANTHER 2

rated PG

Friday: (4:10), 7, 9:10

Sat & Sun: (2), (4:10), 7, 9:10

Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7

VALKYRIE

rated PG-13

Friday: (4:20), 7:10, 9:20

Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20

Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:10

TAKEN

rated PG-13

Friday: (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:10

GRAN TORINO

rated R

Friday: 7:05, 9:20

Sat & Sun: 7:05, 9:20

Mon – Thurs: 7:05

HOTEL FOR DOGS

rated PG

Friday: (4:20)

Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:20)

Mon – Thurs: (4:20)

\$5. for 20 words weekly

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828-526-0782

HELP WANTED

PART-TIME CLEANERS needed to clean banks in the Cashiers-Highlands area. Call 828-691-6353. 2/12

Laundry/Housekeeping Attendant: needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. PRN, day shift positions available. Position requires weekend rotation and holidays. Salary based on experience. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

MLT or MT needed in the laboratory at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Second and third shifts available with an occasional weekend and holiday rotation. Registry of ASCP or equivalent is required. Must be able to work alone. 3-5 years experience as a generalist with blood banking is preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RNs at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Full, Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA OR CNA II at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. PRN positions are available. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

FOR RENT AND SALE – 2/2 condo, LR, DR, Sun room, W/D. Walk to town. Available year round. Call 828-421-2144

ONE BEDROOM/ONE BATH partially furnished apartment, 6 miles from Highlands. No smoking/no pets. \$450/mo (negotiable) 828-787-1515

TWO-BED, ONE BATH CABIN AT LAUREL FALLS. Minutes from hospital and a few minutes from town. Fully furnished. \$850 a month. Please call 787-2423. st. 1/22

APARTMENT FOR RENT in Scaly Mountain. 2 bed, 1 bath, unfurnished, no pets, no smoking, \$500 a month includes utilities. Call Becky @ Cabe Realty 828-526-2475. 2/12

2 BED, 1 BATH HOME FOR RENT in Scaly Mountain. Furnished or unfurnished, no pets, no smoking. \$750 per month plus security deposit and utilities. Call Ann @ Cabe Realty 828-525-2475. 2/12

LEASE HOUSE WITH OPTION AVAILABLE. Remodeled. Between Highlands and Cashiers. 3 bed, 3 1/2 bath and bonus room. No smoking. \$900 a month. Call 828-371-1609 or 828-743-1108 2/26

HOUSE FOR RENT, YEAR-ROUND, walk to town. 3/3, oil heat, hardwood floors, small pets ok. \$1,275 includes electric. 526-5558.

HOUSE FOR RENT AND SALE – 3/2 w/ office, great roommate plan 1600 sq. ft., gated community, Scaly Mt. half way between Highlands and Clayton, access to 17 acre lake and hiking from 424 sq ft porch or watch sun rise from 424 sq. ft. deck. \$1,200/mo plus utilities. Internet and satellite available. No children, pets, or ATVs; house actively being shown for sale during rental. Call Pat 828-243-9646 re rent or Becky 828-526-2475 re sale. pscherrer@mindspring.com

DOWNTOWN APARTMENT RENTAL – One bedroom (Queen), one bath, vaulted ceiling in great room, heat and air with gas fireplace. Fully furnished with W/D, cozy and comfortable. Reduced to \$650 a month plus utilities. Call 526-4983 or 421-3614.

1 BED, 1 BATH and small room with bunk beds on Lake Sequoyah. Furnished, two boats. \$800 a month including utilities except phone. No pets, no smoking. Call Tony at 828-332-7830.

SAPPHIRE NC – 2 Story 3Bed/3 Bath, Yr round views, 2 decks, remodeled, Furnished, 2 car garage. Available yearly or seasonal. 561-626-9556

2 BED, 2 BA, COTTAGE – W/D, 2 miles from town off Cashiers Road. Garage/basement, covered deck. \$925 a month. Call 864-944-1175.

FURNISHED 3BD/2BATH HOUSE IN MIRROR LAKE area available for 6-12 month lease \$1200+ utilities. Call 770-977-5692.

3BR, 2BA COTTAGE NEAR MIRROR LAKE – In town. \$1250 per month. Very clean. 770-977-5692.

ON MIRROR LAKE – Charming 3 bed, 2 bath. Huge sunroom, stone fireplace, 3 decks, canoe, furnished. Available Nov-May. \$1,500 a month plus utilities. Call 770-435-0678.

COTTAGE FOR RENT – 1BR, 1BA in town @ Chestnut Cottages. Private, screen porch, Heat/AC, FP, extra sleeping loft, furnished or unfurnished. 6 month lease - \$750. monthly plus utilities. Call 526-1684.

VACATION RENTAL

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB – Sorry, golf and club privileges not available. \$2,495 a week. Call 912-230-7202.

THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE – Fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, No min. Call 828-342-2302.

ITEMS FOR SALE

CAMPER SHELL - from Boondocks in Hendersonville. Fits Toyota short bed. White. \$350. Call 828-743-9254.

HONEY FOR SALE – Blue Valley honey, perfect amber color, 3/4 lb. bears, \$5 each. work in town. Call Bruce at 526-9021.

LARGE CABINET ENTERTAINMENT CENTER from Dutchman's Design. Black/distressed. Very Nice. Sacrifice at \$400. Call 828-200-0737.

GE PROFILE WHITE COUNTERTOP GAS RANGE WITH DOWNDRAFT. Like new. \$185 Call 787-2232.

KOLCRAFT JEEP WAGONEER TANDEM DOUBLE STROLLER. Used rarely. Basically brand new. \$100 or OBO. Call 526-2536.

125-GALLON ALL-GLASS AQUARIUM - over 6 feet in length, was a salt-water shark-only tank. Comes with Eheim Pro series-2 external canister filter, and optional mahogany base. Will settle for \$500; base, extras and help moving it are optional but free. Call cell 828-342-2809

DRY, HARDWOOD, FIREWOOD – Priced to Sell! Call 828-526-4946 or 828-200-0268.

SMALL EMERALD AND GOLD RING. Originally \$300 Asking \$175. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m.

BABY LOCK SERGER MACHINE with extra spools of thread. \$200.00 828-631-2675 after 5:00 p.m. Sylva area.

REDUCED! 52" BIG-SCREEN TV RCA Home-Theater edition, with guide-plus gold. Moving and its too big to take. \$375 or OBO; this TV is in great condition and has a perfect picture, purchased at Circuit-city. Allows for 480P HD through Direct-tv. Call cell: 828-342-2809

YARD MACHINE LEAF MULCHER – purchased at Lowes. Used only a few times \$350. 526-

5056.

SIX CEDAR ADIRONDACK CHAIRS – custom made. \$100 each or all for \$500. Call 526-3824.

LENOX CHINA "AUTUMN" PATTERN – \$125 for 5-piece place setting or sell by the piece at 20% below store prices. Call 526-0498

3-PIECE BEDROOM SET – Oak veneer. one dresser, one desk, one chest. \$300. Call 526-5772.

STONE AVAILABLE – Assorted. 14 pallets. \$200 per pallet. Call 526-9532

MARTIN-C-1740 UNVENTED GAS HEATER – with oxygen depleting sensing system. BTU 40,000. H. 14 24 3/4 W. 25" D. 13". Fan blower-model B35. \$125. Call 526-5640.

BEAUTIFUL, KNOTTY PINE WOOD ENTERTAINMENT CENTER WITH POCKET DOORS. Will hold up to a 31" TV. \$100. Call 369-5863.

ANTIQUE WOODEN ROCKING CHAIR FROM LATE 1800'S. Fully refinished. \$100. Call 369-5863.

AVON CAPE COD RED GLASS – 8 piece place setting. 64 pieces. \$385. Also, accessory pieces available. Call 828-524-3614.

DESK (LARGE) WITH MATCHING CREDENZA, oak, leather chair. \$850. Call 743-6869.

4 BOARD PINE DINING TABLE - \$300. Early American New England spinning wheel - \$225. 526-2671

GOLF CLUBS CLASSIC – SET OF MacGregor Tourney 9 irons (2-9 P.W.) 1980. Persimmon Drivers, new. \$50. Used \$25. Also miscellaneous items cheap. Call 706-746-3046. (Sky Valley).

MR. HEATER – 75,000 BTU. Forced Air Heater. Like New. \$110. Call 526-3206.

TABLE SAW – 9" with 4" Joiner. All one stand. \$75. Call 526-3206.

PFALTZGRAFF "HEIRLOOM" DISHES. Complete service for 8 plus numerous serving pieces, extras and accessories. Too much to list. \$300 Call (828) 631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

JESSICA MCCLINTOCK VICTORIAN STYLE WEDDING DRESS. Very unique. Size 11/12. \$200. Call (828) 631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

MAN'S FORMAL (MID-LENGTH) WESTERN STYLE BLACK COAT. Size 46. Worn once. Bought at Stages West in Pigeon Forge. \$150. Call (828) 631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

8 SOLID OAK, LADDERBACK dining room chairs with woven seats. \$800 for set. Call 526-3048.

TWO LOW-BACK SOUTHWESTERN-LOOKING UPHOLSTERED CHAIRS. \$400. Call 526-5056.

RED WICKER CHAISE LOUNGE WITH PAD. \$250. Call 526-5056.

5-PC BEDROOM SET C.1920 Bed/Chest of Drawers/Vanity-stlye Dresser/Stool/Mirror. Rosewood inlay. Original brass hardware. Good condition. \$995. 828-200-1160 or highlandsnative@yahoo.com

CRAFTSMAN 10" RADIAL ARM SAW WITH STAND. Old but used very little. Excellent working condition. \$150. 828/787-2177.

HEWLETT PACKARD 15" CRT MONITOR in good working condition with all connection cord in-

• CLASSIFIEDS •

cluded. "FREE." Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

COLONIAL GLASS – set of 12 Sherbet Goblets, and dessert plates. \$35. Call 526-4063.

WATER PURIFYING CHLORINATOR PUMP with large heavy duty plastic holding tank. Was \$75. Now \$50. Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

PLASTIC OUTDOOR TABLE: Hunter green 36"x36" in like new condition. \$10. Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

DECK CHAIR WITH MATCHING FOOT RESTS – \$20. Call 526-5367.

DRESSING MIRROR – \$5. Call 526-5367.
STEEL TYPEWRITER TABLE – \$5. Call 526-5367.

TWO TWIN CREAM COLORED BED-SPREADS – \$6 each. Call 526-5367.

3-TIERED GLASS CORNER SHELF \$10. Call 526-5367.

TWO ELECTRIC WATER COOLERS for sale. Approximately 38" tall x 12" square. Put bottled water on top. \$50 each. OBO. Call 526-3262

FREE BRICK FRONT FOR BUILT-IN FIRE-PLACE. W-68", H-52" Call: 828-349-3320

LENOX SPICE JARS, full set mint condition, original price \$45 each. Also jewelry call 369-0498. 7-9 p.m.

GEISHA GIRL NIPPON TEAPOT, rattan bails handle circa 1891-1921, Creamer/Covered Sugar Set, Tea set/ rice bowls 369-0498 7-9 p.m.

JEEP RIMS – 17-inch aluminum factory rims off 2005 Jeep Liberty 4x4. Brand new! Complete set of 4 \$800. Valued at \$265 each. Call 706-982-2254.

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MISC. ITEMS – Various proof coin sets, old 78 LP, Old Walt Disney movies (never opened); Girls' bicycle; Collectible Basketball Cards (never opened). Call 526-9123.

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Cooley attends county work session



Highlands Town Planner and Zoning Administrator Joe Cooley joined Macon County Commissioners, the county planning staff and board at its retreat on Friday, Jan. 30 at the Mill Creek Country Club in Franklin. Cooley explained how the Macon County Building Department and the Town of Highlands cooperate on construction inspections and explained how Highlands is preparing the Unified Development Ordinance as a means to updating Highlands' comprehensive plan in the next year or so.

... REPORT CARD continued from page 16

man. "We have continuing challenges ahead of us to effectively meet the changing demands of dual accountability models. As we review the 2007-08 District Report Card, several areas demonstrating improvement emerge such as the four-year cohort graduation rate, reduction of the dropout rate, gateway science and overall math achievement in grades 3-8."

Brigman said the school board has established priorities for the current academic year to address key areas for improvement including reading, chemistry, physical science, physics and US History.

"Attendance continues to be an addition-

al area of concern throughout the school district as we reach out in partnership to parents, guardians and community members to ensure every student attends school every day. Working together, we will successfully reach all required benchmarks under *No Child Left Behind* and the North Carolina ABCs accountability models," he said.

For additional information regarding the Macon County School district report card and local improvement efforts, please contact Central Services or your child's school. The NC School Report Card website is <http://www.ncreportcards.org/src/>

– Kim Lewicki

... MOTHER NATURE continued from page 1

we're having to be careful about overloads."

The town's electric system is divided into two circuits – but it was the circuit along the perimeter of the Franklin Road north to the end of town that was hit hardest, said Nix.

Crews worked into the afternoon, slowly reactivating lines but every now and then the power flicked off and then on again.

"We are fortunate to have our own electric utility department to restore power," said Town Manager Jim Fatland. "Special thanks to our crew who have braved the elements so the town can be up and running again."

Nix said though the outage wasn't technically weather induced, Duke won't know for sure what caused the piece of equipment to malfunction. It could have been due to cold temperatures or an overload. No one knows at this time. "They will have to investigate that," said Nix.

Since Highlands retransmits its power from Duke Power, the town is often held hostage when something goes wrong on

Duke's end.

Due to the cold and icy roads, school was called off in Macon County and the Highlands Town Board cancelled its Wednesday night meeting, rescheduling it for Wed., Feb. 11, at 7 p.m. at the Community Building.

"Since the Zoning Board is meeting at Town Hall at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 11th and the meeting had been previously noticed it can't be moved to another location," said Town Manager Jim Fatland.

With modern comforts, it's easy to become complacent in the winter, even in 2009 in the mountains. "But it's important to always be prepared for things like this to happen in this kind of weather and always have a backup plan," said Nix.

Backup plans might include firewood, kerosene heaters and generators. Highlands' Newspaper got a chance to use its backup generator system. The computers, real-time weather and webcam all remained up and running.

– Kim Lewicki

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• SERVICE DIRECTORY •

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Anyone interested in working in New Orleans with the Highlands United Methodist Church March 27 to April 2 should call Robbie Forrester at 342-1627 for details.

• POLICE & FIRE •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for Jan. 16-26. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 16

• At 9:10 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Azalea Circle where at breaking and entering had occurred. Nothing was amiss.

Jan. 21

• At 8:52 p.m., officers responded to a call of drunk and disorderly conduct by a guest at the Hampton Inn.

Jan. 26

• At 3:50 p.m., officers on patrol smelled burning marijuana coming from the path between Fifth Street and the Hudson Library. When they entered the path four people, three of the juveniles, ran from the scene dropping a cell phone and a Russian nesting doll. Inside the doll was what appeared to be marijuana remnants and ashes. Later arrested, was Parker Ross Schultz, 19, in the vicinity of...on the Verandah for resisting, delaying and obstructing arrest. He was released on an unsecured \$500 bond. His court hearing is set for Feb. 26 at 9 a.m.

Jan. 30

• At 11:45 a.m., officers assisted ATF in its investigation of eight sticks of dynamite taken from Larry Rogers Construction Company.

• During the week, officers issued 10 citations.

Other Police News:

Dave Jellison, formerly a part-time employee at the Rec Park, now mans the desk at the police department so there is a person there at all times. Town Manager Jim Fatland said the transfer enables the Police Department to remain open to the public while officers are on patrol. "Since both the Recreation and Police Departments are funded by the General Fund, we can improve service without a budget increase," he said.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Jan. 27-Feb. 4.

Jan. 27

• The dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident on N.C. 28 south. The injured person was taken to the hospital.

Jan. 28

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at the Rec Park where a man had fallen during a basketball game. He was taken to the hospital.

Jan. 30

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hemlock Drive. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Jan. 31

• The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Kinridge Lane set off by burning food.

• The dept. responded to a possible brush fire near Bust Your Butt Falls. It was a campfire.

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clubhouse Trail. The victim was transferred to the hospital.

... THANK YOU from page 3

tended a warm welcome to each guest; a counter who kept numbers of age groups to facilitate next year's shopping; a local business that donated nativity supplies; the photographer who recorded each child's visit with Santa; the company who supplied the food; the chef who purchased and prepared food for the dinner; the team who cooked the delicious meal; one who donated and delivered three beautiful, delicious cakes; the sound technician allowing us to hear the music and program; the secretary who typed the program; a server giving each individual a comfortable seat, beverage, and dessert; an elf who assisted Santa with gifts; Santa himself who graciously held and spoke with each child; a dancer who provided great entertainment; a choir member who delighted the audience with Christmas music; a helper who dismantled and stored tables and stacked and stored chairs; a helper who cleaned the floor, leaving it spotless.; one who laboriously cleaned the kitchen and dining room; one who dismantled nativity scene and other decorations; the generous person who donated \$1,300 to help defray costs of the party; the media that featured articles on our event.

The staff of the International Friendship Center

• FUN & GAMES •

Hex-a-Ku[©] 2009

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

OBJECT:

A mystery word or phrase using all different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words will appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different mystery word or phrase (no spaces). Assign different letters to each square of each column and row.

How to Solve:

Determine the different letters among those given. Write in the mystery word using the clue and these letters. Other small words will appear in the puzzle. As in conventional crossword puzzles, a list of meanings for these Across/Down words is given and number positions shown. Doing them will speed up your solution to the puzzle. Using your powers of induction, inference and insight, place missing letters in blank squares according to the rules noted above. Focus your attention where the least number of letters are needed to complete a row or column.

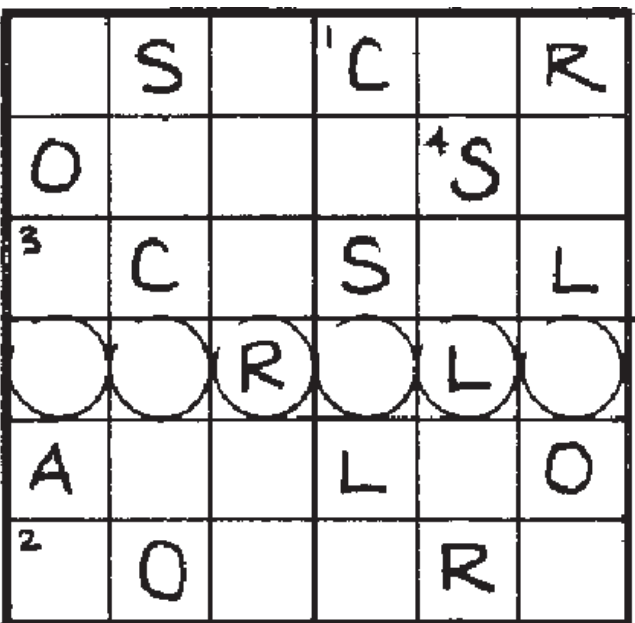
Mystery Word
Christmas Songs (6)

Across

1. Auto (3)
2. Pertaining t the sun (6)

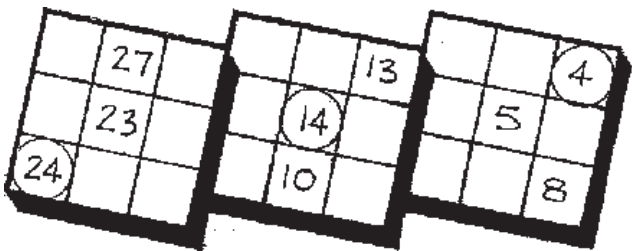
Down

3. Rado Corp. of America (3)
4. Old man sun (3)



PseudoCube[©]

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#BZ2F Level of Difficulty - Moderate

THE SETUP:

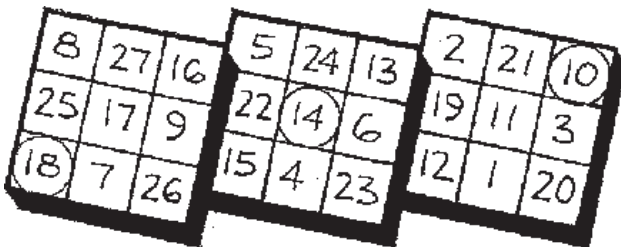
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through the center number of the middle layer. Each diagonal contains 3 numbers equalling the total of the three center numbers. One of the diagonals is shown with circles.

THE CHALLENGE:

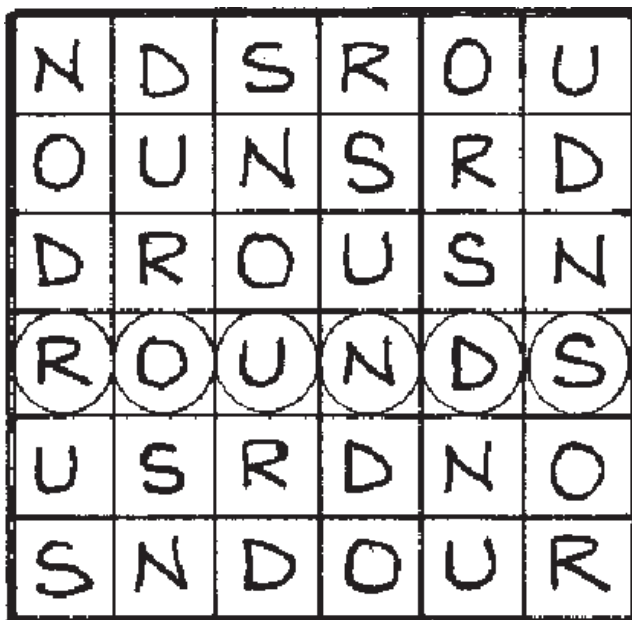
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

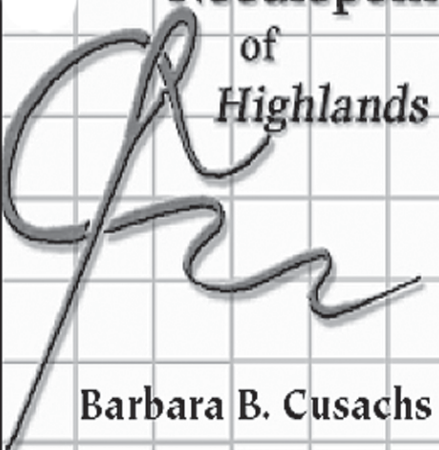
Solution to #DZ2F in Jan 29 issue



Solution to Jan. 29 Hex-a-Ku



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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

The movies and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated. Movies are among the many services provided to the community by the Friends of the Library.

Friday, Feb. 20

• The community is invited to a "Retirement Party for Richard P. Betz," Friday, from 5-9 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center

Saturday, Feb. 21

• Benefit for Red Potts at the Highlands Rec Park Saturday from 5-9 p.m. Food – Raffle – Auction and Cake Auction. Entertainment by the Dendy Family and the Oliver Rice and The Blue Ridge Mountain Band.

• The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center Annual Chili Cook-Off sponsored by the Laurel Magazine, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Call 828-526-5841

• NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB will take a moderate 5-6 mile hike to Rock Gorge and Big Bend falls on the Chattooga River with an elevation change of 300 feet. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:45 a.m. or at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 10 a.m. Drive 45 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader: Call Virginia Talbot for reservations, 526-4904. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.



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**Benefit
for
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at the
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Park
February 21
from
5-9 p.m.**

Food – Raffle – Auction and
Cake Auction

Entertainment by the
Dendy Family
and the
Oliver Rice and The Blue Ridge
Mountain Band

Wine, dine and solve the crime, Feb. 6 & 7 at PAC



Ronnie Spilton, Dean Zuch, Jim Gordon, Stuart Armor, Virginia Talbot and Mary Adair Leslie prepare for the upcoming "Final Reunion" Dinner Theater being presented by the Highlands Cashiers Players Friday and Saturday, February 6th & 7th at the Performing Arts Center (PAC) in Highlands. "Final Reunion" is directed by Jody Read, founder of Carolina Murder Mysteries. The fun starts at 6:30 pm, for more information and tickets please call: 828-526-8084. Wine, dine and solve the crime!

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Town Board Agenda – Wednesday, Feb. 11 – 7 p.m. at the Community Building

Approve minutes of January 21 and January 29, 2009

Public Comments

Reports

1. Mayor
2. Committees
3. Town Attorney
4. Engineer/Public Services Administrator
5. Police Chief
6. Recreation Director
7. Planner/Zoning Administrator
8. Treasurer Report for Month Ended January 31, 2009
9. Monthly Calendar

10. Grant Status Report

11. Town Manager

Old Business

New Business

1. Annual Audit Contract for Year Ended June 30, 2009
2. FY10 Budget Calendar
3. Emergency Action Plan for Houston Dam
4. Resolutions Authorizing Applications for Federal Funds
5. Request to Close Pine Street for Chamber Music Concert
6. Application for Preliminary and Final Plat Filed by Linda Parrish

2009 HIGHLANDS MAP

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Sliding Rock

Sliding Rock

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Bridal Veil Falls

Nick's

Exxon

Wright Sq. Country Club Prop.

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11 Lakeside
12 Library Club
13 Log Cabin
14 Madison's
15 Mica's
16 Nick's
17 Oak St. Cafe
18

DINING

19 Paoletti's
20 Pescado's
21 Pizza Place
22 Rib Shack
23 Skyline Lodge
24 SportsPage
25 SweetTreats
26 Subway
27 Wendy's
28 Wild Thyme
29 Wolfgang's
30 Bryson's
31 Dusty's
32 Mtn. Fresh
33 Rosewood
34 Whole Health
35 Wine & Cheese

MARKETS

LODGING

1 Chandler Inn
2 Half Mile Farm
3 Hampton Inn
4 High Hampton
5 Highlands Inn
6 Highlands Suites
7 Laurelwood
8 Main St. Inn
9 Millstone Inn
10 Mirror Lake
11 Mt High Lodge
12 Old Edwards
13 The Lodge
14 Skyline Lodge
15 OPEN
16 OPEN
17 Cashiers Resort
18 Chambers
19 Highlands Rent.
20 Prestige

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3 Basketcase
4 Bear Mt. Outf.
5 Bird Barn
6 Bryant Art
7 Cabin Casuals
8 OPEN
9 Christmas Shop
10 Cyrano's
11 Drakes Diamonds
12 Dry Sink
13 Dutchman's
14 Guritz Antq.
15 Hen House
16 Highland Hiker
17 JacksonMadeleine
18 Katy's on Main

SHOPPING

19 McCulley's
20 Nancy's Fancy
21 Needle Point
22 Peak Experience
23 Radio Shack
24 Rarities
25 Scudders Antq.
26 OPEN
27 Stone Lantern
28 Summer House
29 T.A. Anderson
30 Tin Roof
31 OPEN
32 Twigs
33 Village Kids
34 Vivace
35 Wholesale Down

REALTY

1 Blackrock
2 Blair Realty
3 Buyer's Realty
4 Cabe Realty
5 Century 21
6 Chambers
7 Coldwell Banker
8 Country Club
9 Cullasaja
10 Futural
11 Green Mtn.
12 Harry Norman
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14 Marty Jones
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