

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 4

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009

This Week in Highlands

Mon. & Wed.

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

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.

Thursdays

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

Sunday, Jan. 25

• Audition Notice for "Rumors" by Neil Simon Directed by Donna Cochran at the PAC, Highlands. Call backs if necessary: Monday, January 26 at PAC. Parts for 5 men and 5 women. Call: Donna Cochran 526-2080.

• First Presbyterian Church old-fashioned hymn-sing at 4 p.m. from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal.

Monday, Jan. 26

• Margie Shambaugh will speak to the Art League of Highlands Monday on volunteering at the nonprofit art center. The lecture is a luncheon meeting at Peggy Woodruff's home at noon.

Beginning Tuesday, Jan. 27

• There will be a 10-week Beth Moore Bible Study, "Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman," in the Highlands School Media Center at 3:45 pm. The cost is \$16. Call facilitator Carol Bowen at 526-5168 to reserve a book.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

• Nancy Reeder will perform *The Resilient Moon* on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the PAC. Through poetry, folklore, and women's experiences, Nancy fuses together a storytelling concert that explores the feminine. Admission is free. Call 369-1927 for more information.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

• Storyteller Elizabeth Ellis will hold a storytelling workshop in Highlands focusing on taking memories to story. The cost is \$30. Time is from 9 am until 1 pm. Place TBA. Please call Nancy at 369-1927 for more information.

Thursday, Jan. 29

• Volunteers needed to maintain trails in Panthertown Valley. Contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext. 258).

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
48 / 30F	42 / 32F	36 / 27F

There's still hope for Riverwalk

Riverwalk may be down but it's not out...at least not yet.

"We're still marketing Riverwalk and will present all offers to the Riverwalk developers until the property is auctioned on the courthouse steps," said Judy Michaud of Meadows Mountain Realty which represents the property.

Macon Bank has just completed the foreclosure hearing on Riv-

erwalk. The foreclosure sale will take place next unless the borrowers bring the debt current or find a buyer prior to the sale.

"If Macon Bank becomes the owner, we will immediately market the property," said president of Macon Bank Roger Plemens.

Available are 62 residential lots and four newly constructed homes in the gated community along the

Cullasaja River in Highlands.

"The developers did a good job on the development. All the infrastructure is in for the development which makes it immediately marketable," said Plemens. "Highlands is still a very desirable market and we have not seen large loss of value in properties in that area. Two lots in Riverwalk sold in the \$360,000

• See RIVERWALK page 3

Town to tap federal stimulus package

Town Manager Jim Fatland isn't wasting any time getting in line for President Obama's much talked about multi-billion dollar stimulus package.

"The most efficient way to distribute federal funding is through existing federal programs," said Fatland at the January, 21 Town Board meeting. "Projects that are within 120 days of construction will be considered for federal funding."

Fatland reported that traditionally, Congress responds to economic recessions – which economists claim the U.S. entered into in December 2007 – by passing legislation to stimulate the economy. "That's why the House, Senate and President Obama are considering the stimulus package," he said.

Currently in Highlands there are six projects that meet the 120-day criteria.

Big Creek Arm of Lake Sequoyah Dredging for \$2 million; Emergency Generators for Water Pumping Stations for \$208,000; Radio Read Meters for Electric and Water whose cost is yet to be determined; Sewer Lines for \$9.4 million; Water Line Replacement for \$193,650; and Police Station Renovations whose cost is yet to be de-

• See FEDERAL page 20



Chris Metrick was named "Outstanding Fireman of the Year" at Saturday night's annual Fire & Rescue banquet. Chief Manley said the honor is given to the firefighter who has shown the most effort over the year.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Firemen honored at banquet

At the annual Highlands Fire & Rescue Awards Banquet Saturday night, the department recognized its own for a job well done in 2008.

Captain James "Popcorn" Manley opened the ceremony thanking his crew of 29 for its dedication throughout the year and he thanked the wives of department members for their never-ending support and patience. "Our wives

put up with a lot from us," he said.

Every year one member is named Outstanding Fireman of the Year. This year it was Chris Metrick. Manley said he demonstrated the extra effort and dedication to training needed for the job.

Perfect Drill Attendance certificates were awarded Roger Lee Wil-

• See FIREMEN page 2

• Inside •	
MileStones	2
Inauguration Story	3
Obituary	3
Wooldridge	4
Salzarulo	5
On Turtle Pond	6
His & Hers	7
Conservative POV	8
Spiritually Speaking	9
Cooking	10
Events	17
Classifieds	18
Police & Fire	21

Chestnut Hill down but not out

Last Thursday, residents of Chestnut Hill Retirement Community were introduced to the new management team which will see them down the foreclosure road ahead.

Renaissance Senior Communications has been named "the Manager" by the receiver, Michael F. Flanagan, LLC, while the real estate of the community goes through the foreclosure process.

"Renaissance will manage the day-to-day operations of Chestnut Hill and comes with extensive experience managing facilities experiencing clinical or financial distress," reads the letter presented to residents.

Despite the scary "foreclosure" word, resident Bill Bathurst, who is something of a resident representative, said Renaissance "is the best management team he's ever seen on the property."

"I'm very optimistic and I hope they stay on. This represents good change and represents fresh thinking and fresh management," he said.

This change follows a series of "changes" that have plagued the complex since its start.

What happened?

In December 2006, Sunwest Management, bought Chestnut Hill

• See CHESTNUT page 4

* THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

Like father, like son

Critics have already vocalized displeasure with Obama's policies, even before he is inaugurated. Complaints include his huge deficit spending plans, as well as some cabinet choices coming from the Clinton era. Before we lynch our new President, it is most important to reflect on the situation he is inheriting, and what recent history has shown in similar circumstances.

Our country needs to be employed, as unemployed people do not produce, do not spend, and unfortunately have more difficulty paying off credit card and mortgage debt. While there are many critics of the Clinton administration, the Bureau of Labor Statistics documents that over 21 million net private jobs were created during his 8-year stint. Under G W Bush, we added 2.8 million jobs up to 2008. In 2008, we lost 2.6 million jobs, essentially wiping out any job gains during his administration. While Republicans are often considered friends of big business, G W Bush will be the first president since the Depression to leave office with the stock market lower than when he took office.

Governments cannot continue to spend more than they take in, as is true with any individual, household or company. It is not sustainable. The government has one unique weapon the rest of us don't have, which is printing more money. Regardless, following the huge deficits of World War II, every President, Republican and Democrat, worked at reducing the federal deficit as a portion of our total GDP. That is, until Reagan took office, and the deficit skyrocketed again. G H W Bush followed the same pattern, spending more than we took in. Under the Clinton administration, fiscal responsibility took hold again, and by the time he left office, he took us from a deficit of \$290 billion to a surplus of \$237 billion. It took G W Bush only one year to wipe out any surplus and once again spend us into a huge hole even further seven years running. Our estimated deficit in 2008 is \$482 billion, and with clever government accounting, that does not even include \$80 billion for the war. Let's not blame the President entirely, but he also had a Republican controlled congress through most of his term.

Like father like son, the Bush's don't have a good employment and spending record. By the time G H W Bush left

office, we had a recession, a huge deficit, and unemployment in 1992 was 7.5%.

G W Bush took us from a budget surplus to the largest deficits in history, and unemployment went from 4.0% in 2000 to 7.2% in December 2008, and sadly will continue the downward trend until we can turn around this sinking economy.

Meanwhile, during recessions, particularly one as deep as we are facing, it is not the time to focus on balancing the budget. That was a huge mistake made during the Depression that prolonged the Depression. It's just a shame we are starting with such a big deficit already from the Bush legacy as we work on this economic recovery. But we need to give our new President a chance to fix this sinking ship before we put nails in his coffin.

Personally, I am glad he is bringing back some experienced people from the Clinton era who presided over a fairly healthy economic recovery from the previous Bush mess.

Don Twardowski
Franklin

... FIREMEN continued from page 1

son and Nick McCall. In 17 years, Wilson has never missed a meeting; this is the first year he's had a contender.

Jimmy Petrone only missed two drills, Chris and Lenny Metrick missed four, Bobby Lewis missed one drill since he joined June 3 and Gary Ammons, who retired last year, has only missed one drill since he rejoined the department on Sept. 2.

Four members were honored for 20 years of service – Ricky Bryson, James Ramey, John Shearl and Terry Watson. Jimmy Tate and Ryan Gearhart were recognized for 10 years of service and Buddy Miller was recognized for five years of service.

Four men who have retired from the department were recognized – James Ramey, who served as First Lt. retired with 20 years of service; John Shearl, who served as a medical responder and completed numerous fire and rescue courses during his career, served for 20 years; John McCall was recognized for serving another two years after retiring at 20 years for a total of 22 years of service; and Tim Alexander, who was Fireman of the Year in 2001, retired with 27 years of service.

Bob Houston, who has served the department in some capacity for 45 years and who is currently one of the department's two part-time employees, was honored with a plaque and words of appreciation from Chief Manley. Houston is a part-time office assistant and is responsible for the department's bookkeeping and record keeping.

The other part-time employee is fireman and Macon County EMS employee Robbie Forrester who is responsible for fire programs, fire safety classes, training, maintenance and other duties.

Officers for 2009 were recognized as

were the men who rotated off the officer roll.

Chief Manley, Asst. Chief Ricky Bryson, Captain Roger Lee Wilson, who replaced Robbie Forrester who served for two years, First Lt., Trevor Gibson, who replaced James Ramey who served for one year, Second Lt. Lenny Metrick, Rescue Capt. Jimmy Tate, Rescue Lt., Eric Pierson, Treasurer Terry Watson and Secretary Wayne Henry.

Also present were Mayor Don Mullen and Town Commissioner Buz Dotson. Mayor Mullen said the Town Board and the citizens of Highlands were proud of the department and could rest assured they are well taken care of throughout the year. "I can't tell you the number of stories I've been told praising the job you do," he said. "You work so hard to take care of us here on the Highlands Plateau and we appreciate it."

The banquet was held at the Community Building and catered by Bobby and Kristin Lewis of The Sports Page.

Annual Report

This year Jackson County property owners in the Highlands Fire District paid \$6,408,000 for protection inside the town limits. The department continues to bill Jackson County for protection the department gives outside the town limits, but so far Jackson County hasn't been forthcoming.

Highlands Falls Country Club paid \$3,214 for its Jackson County property owners' protection. The Cullasaja Club paid \$4,356 and Wildcat Ridge area property owners paid \$1,100. These assessments pay for coverage in Jackson County through June 30.

Thanks to a change in the North Carolina Department of Insurance guidelines, the department's mutual aid calls to other departments decreased from 73 in 2007 to 32 in 2008.

In previous years, Highlands Fire & Rescue responded to numerous calls from the

• See FIREMEN page 12

• MILESTONES •

Lewicki on Dean's List at Johnson & Wales

Rachel Lewicki, who earned a B.S. in Psychology from ASU Dec. 2007, is attending Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte earning a culinary degree. In a letter from Dean Tarun Malik she was commended for being placed on the Dean's List for the Fall 2008 semester.

Keener continues to excell at ASU

Once again, Darin Keener made the Dean's List at Appalachian State University – this time for the Fall 2008 semester.

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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• OBITUARY •

James M. Strahan, Jr.

Jim was born in Norfolk, Nebraska on June 2, 1926 and raised on the Strahan Ranch, Wayne County, Nebraska, where he developed his love for hunting and outdoor life. He attended the local schools and was an All-State Football and Basketball player.

He served in the U. S. Navy in World War II and the Korean conflict. Jim attended the University of Nebraska and was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity where he played Varsity Football, Basketball and Golf. Upon graduation he moved to St. Petersburg to pursue a golf career. He worked at the Sunset Golf Club, Congress Lake Club, Canton, Ohio and Palma Ceia Golf & Country Club as a teaching professional.

Jim began working for Guardian Life Insurance Company in May of 1953 which was founded by his father in law, Thomas Jasper Miles. Jim was a member of The President Council Million Dollar Roundtable and had many honors in the insurance business. He continued to be active in business life until his death. He was former member of Merry-makers, Ye Krewe of Gasparilla, Exchange Club and was a member of Palma Ceia Golf Club for the past 56 years.

He was instrumental in founding the Florida Golf Association along with George Phelps and others. He could be found on the golf course almost everyday until his recent illness.

He is preceded in death by his parents, James M. and Paula Strahan and son, Thomas Miles Strahan.

He is survived by his wife, Suzanne, children Patricia Miles Strahan Thornton and James Michael Strahan 111, grandchildren, Richard L. Errington and Heather Tschonna Satterwhite of Highlands, NC, James Michael Strahan 1V of Gainesville, FL and Paige Miles Strahan of Highlands, NC., Thomas Jasper Miles Strahan of Tampa and Taryn Michelle Roberts of Oxford, MS.

In addition, he is survived by three great-grandchildren: Ivy Nicole Satterwhite, Seth Miles Satterwhite and Cole Jasper Satterwhite of Highlands, NC and constant canine companions Ruby and Sam.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Blount and Curry, and funeral services to be held at Bayshore Baptist Church of Tampa on Thursday, January 22.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to the WNC Make A Wish Foundation, 1293 Hendersonville Road, #1, Asheville, NC 28803 in honor of great-grandson, Seth Satterwhite

... RIVERWALK continued from page 1

range just six or seven months ago. We feel we are in a pretty good position as to loan-to-value on the property and see no significant financial impact to the bank."

After a foreclosure is filed it takes about 30 days for the action to be finalized at which point the property is auctioned off at the Macon County courthouse. Even after an auction there is a 10-day upset period during which someone can out bid the final auction price.

Sources say Riverwalk developers do not intend to file bankruptcy because "that would tie up potential transactions for a long time" which would mean neither Macon Bank or anyone else would benefit.

Macon Bank holds the first and second mortgage on remaining cottage lots and lots along the Cullasaja River. In addition, it holds the mortgage on four cottages.

All told there are five foreclosures – the first and second mortgage that go together and the four cottage foreclosures. The vacant lots will be auctioned separately from the four cottages.

One of the five cottages, owned by Bank of Barneswell, GA, is not part of the foreclosure proceedings. Nor are the two lots that sold along the river.

An investor in the Riverwalk development, Brooks Pennington, holds a third

mortgage on the property which will "go out the window" if and when the property is auctioned unless he comes up with a bid high enough to satisfy the first and second mortgage. "That's the only way he can protect his \$3 million investment," said one source. Pennington isn't part of the development team.

Of the original \$12,398,475 mortgaged by Macon Bank, \$1.6 million has been repaid.

Though Macon Bank technically "called in the first and second mortgages" all the river lots and the five cottages will continue to be available for sale and are still listed on MLS.

"We are still actively working the property," said Michaud. "We will continue to take offers to the owners of Riverwalk."

All zoning and density requirements currently on the property still stand and always will, said Michaud. "In other words, no one can buy the property and build a mobile home park."

She also said all environmental issues associated with the property in its early days have been rectified.

Riverwalk developers are Bill Turrentine of Marietta, GA, and Don Chandler of Atlanta.

•See RIVERWALK page 11



Highlands School was given 22 tickets for the inauguration thanks to the offices of Heath Shuler (D-11th district) and Richard Burr (R-US Senate). Students drew names for the tickets, and those whose name was drawn were allowed a closer look at the festivities from the mall (although still a considerable distance away).

Highlands School was part of history-making inauguration

By Ryan Potts

This weekend, Highlands High School students and six chaperones were not only a witness to history in Washington DC, they were a part of history as they joined an estimated three million people in the District of Columbia to celebrate the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

The trip was the culmination of 14 months of planning, finding chaperones and making tour arrangements. The majority of the legwork for this trip was done by

Highlands Civics teacher Chris Green, who also accompanied the group on its journey.

While there were many other school groups that made up a large part of the three million people who attended the inauguration, Highlands is the only school in the area to attend the ceremony.

The trip also gained some local media attention, as Fox 5 out of Greenville, SC sent cameras to record the students departure as well as some of their activities in Washington. Highlands School was also featured on the

•See inauguration page 19



Early Monday morning, four Highlander students had the honor of participating in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier located in Arlington Cemetery. Josh De La Cruz, Marlee McCall, Robbie Vanderbilt and Amy Fogle took the wreath to the tomb that honors soldiers known "Only to God" on behalf of Highlands School.

Photos by Ryan Potts

... CHESTNUT continued from page 1

from the previous owner, Steven D. Bell, who had purchased the property from Banyan Senior Services.

To secure the \$14.5 million loan with Palmetto Bank, Sunwest mortgaged all its assets, including real estate, while one member of the team even mortgaged some personal property.

In July 2008, Palmetto stopped receiving payments from Sunwest.

On Nov. 17, 2008, the bank filed suit against Sunwest. Pending the outcome of

the suit, Palmetto asked the court to appoint Michael Flanagan, LLC, as receiver for the operating company of Chestnut Hill – called Highlands Senior Living, LLC – which is also owned by Sunwest.

On Nov. 18, 2008, Sunwest was removed and replaced with Renaissance Senior Communications.

On Dec. 1, 2008, Palmetto began foreclosure proceedings against Sunwest and hopes to auction the real estate later this month to repay the loan.

Inadequate marketing of the housing units, apartments and assisted living accommodations likely contributed to Sunwest's inability to "grow" the property.

"The operator was apparently in financial distress and without the resources to continue to provide services," reads the letter to residents. "The monthly expenses and debt service of Chestnut Hill were about twice its monthly income."

Now it's Flanagan's job to safeguard the assets of Chestnut Hill and to maintain their value so they can be sold to repay the bank

and entice a new owner.

Dotty Guenther, who is well-liked by the residents and has represented Chestnut Hill well during this latest go around, will be staying on at Chestnut Hill as its Executive Director, as are all but one other employee.

"I'm looking forward to a new owner and I'm very hopeful," said Guenther.

Until Chestnut Hill stops losing money, Palmetto Bank is advancing money under a loan agreement with Sunwest to pay Flana-

• See CHESTNUT page 5

• HIGHLANDS FINE DINING •

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

What's in your bra?

The first in a series of, tacky, sexual enlightenment lectures.

No, no, no, this is not going to be real, real, real tacky... just real tacky. After all, what's in your bra is a question every Victoria Secrets' designer wants to know. Take your hand off the phone, relax and be enlightened.

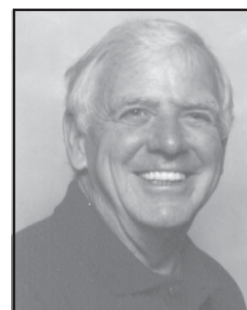
First, for me to better enlighten you, let me tell you about Thomas Jefferson, slave owner extraordinaire. With about 400 slaves working on his plantation, Thomas was in a real "pickle" when John Adams asked him to write our declaration. I'm sure he was squirming in his seat when he wrote the concept "All men are created equal" while being served tea by one of his slaves.

All men are not created equal and you can take that to the bank, not that you would ever wanna take anything to a bank. Don't take my word for it. Stop any woman on the street who has slept around a bit and ask her if all men are created equal.

Allow me to suggest all women are not created equal either. If they were, Victoria Secrets would only design one kind of bra and that would be it. No big study needed here although if there ever is one, I volunteer to be on the team. It's a visual thing. Women are simply not equal.

Back in my high school days and over 20 years before Victoria Secrets existed, girls attending school dances would pad their bras with tissues; lots of tissues. I knew this because the same girls I saw in class day in and day out were showing up at dances wearing low cut dresses exposing 38 D bras and wearing Marilyn Monroe wigs. DUH! Is there a detective that can solve this mystery?

After a couple of jitterbug dances, the floor would be covered with tissues and all the girl's chests would have deflated, except for Maggie. Ole Maggie was the real McCoy. That's right; Maggie McCoy's slow dance card was full three days before the shindig even started. And it seemed as if all the short guys



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

were signed up first. Women are not created equal.

And little Ernie McAfee would rush out on the floor between dances and pick up the fallen tissues for his collection. If he knew what bra they fell from, he would label them. I wonder what prison Ernie's in these days.

When I was a teenager, seeing a bare breast in a girly magazine was considered hard core porn and a big no-no. Finding one of those magazines was difficult so I was left with looking through National

Geographic magazines for primitive black women with bones pierced through their nipples. (Ouch!)

Most of those women had navels between their breasts but I didn't care. It was a bare breast, I was 14 and more lustful than Jimmy Carter in a cotton field on a Saturday night. In those days, I could become sexually aroused reading Macbeth.

I hope you're not offended by this report on sexual inequality. Part of my job as an investigative reporter is to "do tacky" and keep you abreast of what's going on.

And here's another tacky news flash. In sinful South Florida, where anything goes, a motorcycle club decided to raise money for disadvantaged children by motorcycling through town displaying one bare breast for every \$100 the club collected. I am not making this up. It was a huge success and on parade day, the motorcycle club barely had enough hot babe riders to drop their tops and fling their bras. The disadvantaged children loved the toys even though they weren't allowed to see the parade. Kinda gives new meaning to the "Toys for Tots" program, doesn't it?

Maybe Highlands should consider something like this for its Christmas parade...nah, the roar of the motorcycles would scare the camels.

So that's about the size of it. Next, if I still have a job, I'll be reporting on the inflatable male appendage explosion of the 70s. Don't miss it.

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

'Hail to the Chief'

When Barack Obama became the 44th president of the United States, he inherited a mess. It is a mystery that anyone has the self confidence, or is self delusional to believe that he can handle the job. I hope that Obama has the right stuff. I believe that he does. We are all dependent on him now, those who supported his candidacy, those who voted for Senator McCain, and a surprisingly small number who simply voted against President Obama.



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

own problems, allow other nations to deal with theirs, and assist only when others ask for our help and when it is our interest and within our finite resources to render assistance? Can we free ourselves of the idea that we must export our beliefs and our form of government to others, whether they want it or not? A nation, like a person, is more likely to emulate a hero than a bully.

Only time will tell where Barack Obama wants to lead us and how conditions will limit

Racism is alive in America, although not nearly as healthy as I would have guessed. In the wake of his historic victory, I encountered several people who clearly hoped that he would fail. A colleague commented, "I hope that boy knows what he's getting himself into." Another offered the hope that President Obama could avoid assassination, although I couldn't escape the feeling that he relished the idea.

It is amazing that anyone would welcome a failed Obama presidency. Our national problems are staggering, and if Obama fails, we fail. We are plagued with a severe economic recession. Who could wish it to continue for another four years?

We are in a morass in the Middle East. Does anyone want us to have combat troops deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan in 2012? We no longer enjoy near universal respect from the world community. Our traditional allies no longer see us as the world's moral leader, but as a bully nation, using its military might to impose our will on unwilling populations.

We support democratic elections unless the results displease us. In those cases we are likely to attempt to destabilize democratically elected governments. It sometimes seems that only newly independent Eastern European nations and unemployed Mexicans still admire America.

We will soon see if Obama's rhetoric can be translated into effective leadership to battle the nation's ills. It is possible our problems are insoluble, that no leader can restore us to the glory we once enjoyed. I'm too much of an optimist to believe that, but I wonder if we can harness the energy that was once an American birthright and start making stuff again.

Will American industry restore American jobs, and are American workers willing to work as hard as their foreign competitors? Is the desire to maximize profits by outsourcing manufacturing to low-paid foreign workers now an inescapable fact of life? Are corporate greed and corporate myopia permanent fixtures?

Are we willing to concentrate on our

his ability to transform his vision to reality. For the moment it is enough to celebrate the truly historic event that has taken place and to recognize that America has gone a long way to erase the stains of slavery and segregation.

Obama's election is an example of the hope and dream of America. It represents a reaffirmation of principles enumerated in the Declaration of Independence. It is a statement to the world that the American dream is alive and that the American experiment continues to evolve, that while we have made mistakes, we remain the best country and most generous people on earth.

Barack Obama is a president who can lead America, inspire our allies, and weaken our enemies, for it is our ideals, not our missiles, that may yet lead to world peace and tolerance. "Hail to the Chief."

... CHESTNUT continued from page 4

gan and the other expenses of operating the facility such as payroll, utilities and delinquent obligations like unpaid property taxes.

Though nothing is for certain, there's a chance Palmetto Bank will buy the real estate at the foreclosure later this month and sell the real and personal property to a third party to repay the loan.

"At that point, the property would be under new management unrelated to the bank," reads the letter. "However, until the bank locates a buyer, it will operate the facility through Flanagan."

On every resident's mind is "Will costs increase and are we safe?"

Officials say no decision has been made about increases, but Chestnut Hill is spending more to operate the community and to deliver services than what it receives.

Residents of Chestnut Hill pay a monthly fee which covers everything except phone service. Included is 30 meals a month, housekeeping, caretaking, cable and more if needed — like personal hygiene and medicine administration, both for an extra fee.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness in the United States.

January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month and ophthalmologists and optometrists and the Macon County Public Health Center urge all Macon County residents to make sure they get an eye exam in 2009.

Glaucoma is often called "the sneak thief of sight" — because it can strike without symptoms and is one of the leading causes of blindness in the United States. Glaucoma is an eye disease in which the internal pressure in your eyes increases enough to damage nerve fibers in your optic nerve leading to vision loss and blindness. Like many diseases, some factors can increase the risk of developing glaucoma, such as age, race or genetics.

Glaucoma usually affects one in 200 people by age 50, but as many as one in 10 people by age 80. The risk is also much higher among African Americans over age 40 and ones with a family history of glaucoma.

Local optometrist and chair of the Macon County Board of Health, Dr. Ronald Campbell, O.D. explained that "elevated eye pressure can be treated with eye drops either once or twice a day; however, sometimes laser or glaucoma surgery are needed to lower

the pressure even more." Dr. Campbell said, "All these treatments tend to be very successful."

Glaucoma begins by attacking your peripheral vision, typically causing objects to appear less clearly. At first it is possible to compensate by squinting or turning the head to focus better. These changes may seem minor, but glaucoma can accelerate quickly, causing eyesight to rapidly deteriorate.

According to the National Eye Institute, more than 3 million Americans have glaucoma, but only half of them actually know it. A quick trip to an optometrist where the health of your eyes and vision will be evaluated can be "sight-saving." Glaucoma cannot be prevented, but if diagnosed and treated early, it can be controlled. Regular eye examinations and eye pressure screenings are the best way to diagnose Glaucoma in its earliest stages.

So start off the New Year right! Take better care of yourself and set up an appointment for an eye exam. For more information about glaucoma, call the Macon County Public Health Center's health education section at 349-2438 or visit www.glaucomafoundation.org

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

We are one people

At approximately 8:15 p.m. on Sunday I knew the column I had written for this week's paper, which I had already finished, was going to have to wait

another week. I had just turned on the television 10 minutes before, to watch the Obama inaugural celebration at the Lincoln Memorial, and I was already

crying, watching Garth Brooks sing.

I didn't want to watch this concert. We have had our TV turned off since last June, except for a period of time just before the election; I watched the presidential debates and election night. Last Friday we switched it on again so we could watch the inauguration. I was deeply cynical about Sunday's program. I thought this would be a schmaltzy boring show, but my husband Arthur wanted to watch so I decided to check it out.

We turned it on at about the halfway point. A woman I didn't know (Renee Fleming) was singing a song I didn't know with the Navy Glee Club, then an announcer's voice boomed out introducing two people walking towards podiums and I thought, "Just what I expected, this is going to be American pops meets Oscar night."

But the two people talked about Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt preserving some of our great national treasures, and I started listening. Then a man walked onstage with a guitar. It was Garth Brooks singing "American Pie" and within seconds the tears started to flow and I didn't stop for an hour.

I dimly knew from looking at the computer screen when Arthur was checking out the TV schedule online that this program was called "We Are One," but that message was instantly clear to me as Garth Brooks began that song — a country star singing a pop song of my generation, then moving straight into the Isley Brothers' soul classic "Shout" — this program was a message to the nation, an encapsulation of what this moment in history is all about. President Obama was saying to us: First there must be healing of the divisions that have torn us apart. Then we can move forward as one people.

It was a message of transcendence. Maybe more than anything else, the program said this to me: we are a meritocracy. One song would be sung by multiple voices, male, female, black, white, a harmony of our nation's musical talent.

The interludes between the music consisted of (mostly) actors speaking the words of some of our greatest Americans including presidents both Democrat and Republican.

As the tears streamed down my face I felt so good, so happy, so optimistic about the future.

I sometimes think my conservative readers don't believe that I really love this country. If you knew the fervor I felt for our country when I was a teenager it might surprise you. I can remember at times it was so strong it was even a little



Katie Brugger
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embarrassing. I was proud that I was a citizen of this nation that was a republic of the people, by the people, for the people. I felt privileged to be part of this grand noble experiment of people governing themselves without a king or dictator.

I was saddened as I grew older and came to realize that this ideal of government by the people has been so imperfectly realized, and have

felt increasingly hopeless that we would ever achieve true democracy, true equality.

Sunday night I felt the stirrings of renewal in my faith in this country. What brought tears to my eyes is the beauty of a nation based not on shared ethnicity or religion, but solely on ideas. That we, with all our differences, can stand together as one people united by philosophical principles of freedom and equality and opportunity.

This program was about uniting us as a people around these great founding principles. It spotlighted workers, soldiers, the environment, artists, and civil rights. It promoted inclusiveness, love, responsibility, and service. And it said: the future is up to us — that is the magic of our republic, it is made by ordinary people like you and me.

One song that was included was always a favorite of mine: Bill Withers' "Lean on Me." For me it speaks of the socialism I wrote about last week ("Self-Destruct Mechanism"), where we help each other because we realize our lives are intertwined: "So just call on me brother, when you need a hand/We all need somebody to lean on/I just might have a problem that you'd understand/We all need somebody to lean on. Lean on me when you're not strong/And I'll be your friend/I'll help you carry on/For it won't be long/Till I'm gonna need/Somebody to lean on."

I had a few criticisms. I was shocked and disappointed that there wasn't a traditional spiritual sung by an awesome black choir. I wished that they had included some ordinary people in the line-up of speakers, not just celebrities. It could have been a little less polished.

The second to last song, the one that came directly after Obama spoke, was Pete Seeger leading the crowd in singing Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land."

What a beautiful vision: This is *our* country; with all of our marvelous diversity we are one people because we have transcendent ideals that bind us together in love and service to one another.

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

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• HIS & HERS •

Warming up

While a number of people are currently "chilling out" all over the United States, I am doing just the opposite, and warming up. No, I haven't bailed out because of the cold. Maman just had her second cataract surgery, and I'm the official seeing-eye daughter. My primary function is to look stern at regular intervals, and produce the dreaded eye drops – 11 per day in the operated eye. Honestly, Maman is a trooper, but by evening, I'll admit that we sometimes call it a day, and skip the last few drops. My feeling is that every drop we get in is a bonus, and leave it at that.

It's odd how protective my brother and I have become of my mother as she gets older. The difficulty lies in realizing that she is still perfectly capable of making most of her own decisions, and letting her do just that. Perhaps the hardest thing for me is to watch her doing things – sometimes slowly and even painfully – and realize that I have to stand by and let her do them. Otherwise, she will lose the ability to do anything at all, and that's not the direction to go.

The surgery was less frightening than the last time. After all, we knew the routine – no food or liquids after midnight, show up at the ambulatory patient entrance, check in, fill out the forms, and most of all, wait, wait, wait. The hospital staff was kind and helpful, but there is a lot of hanging around, simply waiting for the previous surgery to be completed and the doctor to become available.

This time, I was parked in the waiting room while they prepared my mother for surgery. It's a good thing, too. Last time, it took four tries to get a line into her arm, as she's so tiny – 100 pounds, soaking wet. (Let me hasten to insert a comment here – I take after my 6'3" father, who was a big guy. When we go into Talbots, my mother and I split up – she takes off for the Petites and I head off for Womens.) Each time the nurse tried in vain to find a vein (ouch!), my mother let out a yelp, and I could feel the tension in my arms as I suppressed the urge to punch someone.

For this surgery, I was stuck in the Waiting Room for the most part, a fascinating place if you are a keen observer of human nature. Whole families were camped out in a number of comfortable chairs and sofas, sometimes even spilling out onto the floors. A refreshment station at



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John Armor**
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the end of the room provided coffee and fruit punch, as well as peanut butter crackers, which I imagine are a no-no now, with the recent salmonella outbreak tracked to peanut butter products.

I was briefly allowed in to see my mother, who still manages a certain amount of Parisian chic, even wearing a hairnet and hospital gown (why

didn't I inherit this gene?). Then she was whisked away for her eye surgery, and I was back with my nose in a whodunit. Someday, I really should figure out why my reading material leans so heavily toward investigations of murder and mayhem.

Finally, Maman was out of surgery and we were headed back to Summit Square. The eye patch added a rakish air - arriving too late, alas, for Talk Like a Pirate Day (yes, there is one, check it out on the Internet). We took it easy for the rest of the day. Maman was even well enough to go to dinner in the dining room, sporting a pair of oversized sunglasses, and looking rather like a movie star incognito.

Still, it's hard to sleep looking like Long John Silver, and neither one of us had an easy night. We were looking forward to getting that patch off, and getting the all clear from Dr. Gillespie, her eye doctor. So many people at Summit Square go to him that he has been elevated to pop star status, and Gillespie appointments are rather like Elvis sightings.

It's always hard for me to sit back and watch while Maman reads the eye chart. I keep wanting to whisper, "Mommy, it's a B, not an E!" Honestly, overprotection is wanting to help your mother cheat on the eye test.

Maman got her patch off, and we got the all clear, heading back home to start the tedious ritual of the eye drops. I'm happy to do them, but it's hard to do something to a loved one that hurts them. It made me realize how difficult it must be for husbands and wives to care for a sick spouse. Day after day, inflicting pain must be so devastating, and surely takes its toll on the caregiver.

So, here I am, hanging out for a while in Waynesboro, while John cools his heels (and everything else!) in Highlands. Our house has no central heating, and warmth is provided by two stone fireplaces, a bunch of log-burning Franklin stoves,

some space heaters, and of course, our two cats. Here at Summit Square, I just walk over, and turn the dial when it gets a bit chilly. I'm getting spoiled! The Highlands way seems so complicated; the Waynesboro way seems almost too easy.

The television is an endless stream of comments about the upcoming inauguration. Here at Summit Square, the residents will be watching on a nice, large-screen television. I imagine the comments from the watchers will be mixed. Most of

the residents here did not vote for Obama, and many have serious concerns about the direction the country will take under his presidency.

We planned to hang out here, and watch with everyone else. These are exciting times. I'm feeling particularly lucky. The plane that crashed into the Hudson last week was my old standby when John and I were still dating. I'd hop

• See HIS & HERS page 8

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

What's mine is mine and what's yours is mine

The government cannot give anyone anything that it does not first take from someone else." Who said that anyway? I'm not sure, but I am sure that Gerald Ford said "A government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take it from you." Pithy. Who knew the president the media loved to denigrate had such a profound grasp on reality?

We find ourselves somewhere in between the two statements. It's too late to whine about it. The people have spoken and it is what it is. President Obama is the man, Speaker Pelosi is the woman and Harry Reid is ... I don't know. I do know that we have reached the tipping point that de Tocqueville saw as the end of us – "The American Republic will endure until the

day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money."

So what does it feel like to live in a Socialist society? Most of you all under 60 will doubtless find out in the next 20 years, 40 years tops. I can't answer from personal experience however I did live in South Florida for 25 years and saw dozens if not hundreds of news reports of flimsy rafts, leaky overcrowded boats and inner tubes loaded with Cubans risking their lives to escape the glorious Republic of Cuba.

Socialists advocate the creation of an egalitarian society (political, social and economic equality), in which wealth and power are distributed evenly. To achieve this, obviously, the haves must give up some of what they have so that it can be given to the have-nots. Who orchestrates

this transfer, you ask? Why, the government, of course. And we all know how efficiently the government handles wealth and property.

I suppose the socialist theory has a certain appeal to those who are on the receiving end of such unmerited goodies and don't know they cost them their freedom. The biggest threat to the free market economy that has prospered for us since our beginning used to be the government taking over the healthcare system. While this is certainly still on Obama's radar, the activities of recent months put our entire economic system on the block.

With the recent bailouts, and with those to come, the government has and will continue to take "a piece of the action" from businesses they "help." They will insist on having representatives on the boards of directors. They will be involved in determining executive compensation and dividend policies. In time, labor unions will be revived, and will play an increasing part in management policy and decisions.

Cuba's plight is a matured story. The U. S. assisted Cuba in its liberation from Spain in 1902. U. S. businesses invested in Cuba's economy and, along with a strong economic injection from tourism, a healthy middle-class developed and things were pretty good in Cuba.

Fidel Castro, and his small band of malcontents managed a successful takeover of U. S. businesses and installed a socialist society. The U. S. threw up an economic embargo and Russia stepped in to help Cuba's economy, now starting the inevitable downside. With the collapse of the USSR, assistance to Cuba declined and additional misery ensued.

A more current example of evolving socialism is Venezuela, where Hugo Chavez is desperately trying to get the people to allow him another term as president since a term limit would end his reign before he could complete his social reform.

His opponents are calling his re-election proposals "anti-democratic, unconstitutional and against the national interest."

Chavez' answer is to order them tear gassed and beaten – "the government cannot look weak."

So now we have an ultra liberal president, an ultra liberal House Speaker, a liberal Senate majority leader and many far-left members of the new cabinet and presidential advisory committees, not to mention liberal committee heads.

No checks, no balance; a liberal press



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

to add to the tsunami – can full-blown socialism be far behind?

Just in case you doubt the politicians have the clout to pull it off, remember Obama's campaign rhetoric about the need for a domestic police force "at least as large and well funded as our present military?" What do you suppose he had in mind when that was proposed?

The country wanted change - we'll get change all right. \$150 million for his inauguration vs. \$40 million for Bush's? Mmmm. Just imagine the party when he is ultimately declared the deity. They'll have to exhume Samuel Goldwyn to orchestrate that one. And the people will wonder why so much is being spent while they go hungry.

... HIS & HERS continued from page 7

on the US Airway plane at LaGuardia, and fly to Charlotte. Then, I'd take the puddle jumper from Charlotte to Asheville. If it had been a few years ago, I might have had to test my wing walking skills, not to mention my Red Cross Lifeguard Training. Fortunately, those commuting days are over, and I'm not risking life and limb to go see John and the cats.

Last night, another invitation came in which we are seriously considering. The Democratic Party is having an Inauguration Party tomorrow, and we're invited. Folks are going to be watching on a large TV screen. Both my mother and I are registered Independents, not Democrats. Just for the record, my father was a dyed-in-the-wool Republican, so political discussions at home ranged from lively to heated, depending on the issue. We're considering our viewing options, delighted to have the choice. One thing may sway our decision. The Democrats are providing food.

• 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 considering amending the comment "Home is where the heart is" to read "Home is where there is no ice on the inside of the windows."

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Community Bible Church welcomes Senior Pastor, Gary Hewins



Gary and Angie Hewins

Gary Hewins felt God call him to the ministry at the age of 25 years. After attending the University of Georgia and graduating from Georgia State University, Gary joined the pastoral staff of Mount Paran Church of God in Atlanta, GA. While at Mount Paran, Gary lead Church Programs to a new level.

Beginning with the Youth and Christian Education, Gary used his innate enthusiasm to build disciples for the future. He implemented evangelism that stretched to guest services and assisted new members in assimilating into the church, helping them discover and use their God given gifts in service within their own church. God's hand blessed Gary in his ability to recruit and train volunteers to serve God within the Church.

Missions is deeply embedded in Gary's heart. He has overseen and provided direction for missionaries on five different continents, as well as leading short term mission teams in training and mobilization. Gary has provided pastoral instruction and support in numerous Third World Nations.

He, and his wife, Angie, also frequently lead Christian tours to the Holy Land, as well as to Italy. In addition to implementing an accountable stewardship ministry at Mt. Paran, Gary was also responsible for the direction and oversight of all Church Ministries. Gary was a key force in the preaching and teaching ministry and is known for providing spiritual nourishment to those whom God calls him to minister. Gary leaves Mount Paran as their Assistant Pastor to come along side Community Bible

Church and bless them with the gifts and talents that God has given to him.

Gary and Angie have been married for 16 years and have four children. Angie leaves Mt. Paran as their Director of Childhood Ministry and in her spare time enjoys gourmet cooking. Gary enjoys golfing and basketball, having played for the University of Georgia. The Hewins children are gifted in music and drama and were a part of Mt. Paran's highly acclaimed Praise Band. As a family, the Hewins love to travel and relax by playing board games. They are looking forward to becoming a part of the Highlands/Cashiers community.

Pastor Hewins' first service at Community Bible Church will be held Sunday, January 25 at 10:45 am. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. The community is invited to attend. Call the church office at 526-4685 for further details.

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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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
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Sundays: 9:30am Sunday School for all ages;
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
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School – 9:30
a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 10:55 a.m.; Sun.School – 9:30 &
9:45.

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

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers
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5 p.m. Youth Group
Wed: Supper; 6; 6:15 – children, youth, & adults
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Thurs: 12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

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290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
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• COOKING ON THE PLATEAU •

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Brat Super Party Sub

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Grill/Bake: 35 minutes

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Sauce

1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream

1/2 medium cucumber, peeled, seeded,
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2 cloves garlic, minced

2 teaspoons chopped fresh parsley

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon cracked black pepper,

optional Sub

1 package (19.76 ounces) Johnsonville

Original Bratwurst

1 loaf (1 pound) French bread

1 small onion, thinly sliced

1 medium tomato, thinly sliced

In a bowl, combine sauce ingredients.

Cover and refrigerate until serving.

Grill brats according to package
directions. When cool enough to handle,
cut into 1/4-inch bias slices. Slice bread
lengthwise and transfer to baking sheet.
Arrange brat slices on bread bottom. Bake
at 350° F for 10 minutes or until bread is
lightly browned. Remove from oven. Top
with sauce, onion and tomato. Cut sub and
serve.

Cheesy Cheddar Roll-Ups

Prep: 20 minutes

Bake: 15 minutes

6 servings

1 small onion, thinly sliced

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 tube (8 ounces) refrigerated crescent
rolls

2 tablespoons coarse ground mustard

1 package (16 ounces) Johnsonville
Beddar with Cheddar Sausage

In a skillet, sauté onion in oil until
light golden brown; cool slightly. Unroll
crescent dough and separate into triangles
(bake or discard two extra triangles). Spread
each with mustard and top with onions.
Place one sausage on wide end of each
triangle; roll up. Place on ungreased baking
sheet. Bake at 350° F for 15 to 18 minutes
or until golden brown and crispy.

Cheesy Game Time Sausage Dip

Total Prep: 25 minutes

Yield: 6 cups

1 package (16 ounces) Johnsonville
Italian All Natural Ground Sausage

2 pounds Velveeta processed cheese,
cubed

1 jar (16 ounces) chunky salsa

1 tablespoon fennel seed, crushed

2 teaspoons garlic powder

1 teaspoon anise seed, crushed

1/4 teaspoon dried basil

Garlic toast

In a skillet, cook and crumble sausage
until no longer pink; drain. Place cheese in
a large microwave-safe bowl. Microwave
on high for 6 minutes or until melted,
stirring every 2 minutes. Stir in salsa,
seasonings and sausage. Microwave 2
minutes longer or until heated through.
Serve with garlic toast.

To serve in a bread bowl, cut off the top
of a round loaf of bread; carefully hollow
out bottom, leaving a 1-inch shell. Cube
removed bread. Spoon cheese dip into
bread shell. Serve with bread cubes.



Brat Super Party Sub

• Courtesy of Family Features

... RIVERWALK continued from page 3

Other foreclosures involving Macon Bank

Titan builders in Franklin, has been in bankruptcy for some time and Macon Bank holds the paper on that development, too.

A judge recently denied Titan's bankruptcy request so Macon Bank is moving forward to liquidate those holdings.

"As we received relief from stay from the bankruptcy on the properties, we started the foreclosure process," said Plemens. "We took title to 14 lots in Sunset Mountain on July 21, 2008 and sold the property on Sept. 19, 2008. We also foreclosed on three houses that were not complete. We have elected to complete the houses before we market them. They are nearing completion. The final Titan property foreclosure should take place in the next few weeks."

Plemens said if Macon Bank is the high bidder on the Titan property, it will immediately begin to market it. The collateral is a 63-acre farm with three dwellings on it. "This is a beautiful piece of property and there should be no issues selling it in a reasonable time

period," he said.

Plemens blames the construction slowdown for both Riverwalk and Titan woes.

"With the slowdown, borrowers whose income is directly tied to real estate sales and construction, real estate agents, builders, and developers are affected the most. Many borrowers in these lines of work are struggling right now," he said.

Comparative Sales Data from Jan. 1-September 30, 2008 Year to Date 2008 Number of Homes Sold

County	2008	2007	Change
Buncombe	1,332	1,837	-27.5%
Cherokee	291	447	-34.8%
Haywood	280	406	-31%
Henderson	656	945	-30.6%
N. Jackson	148	195	-24.1%
Macon-Franklin	253	451	-44%
Polk	54	88	-38.6%
Transylvania	127	220	-42.3%
Total	3,141	4,589	-31.5%

In Highlands in 2008, there were 97 sales compared to 165 sales in 2007, a decrease of 41%.

The slowdown in the Florida and Atlanta markets has had a great impact on Western North Carolina, said Plemens.

Comparative Data on Building Permits Issued Jan 1-Sept. 30, 2008

County	2008	2007	%Change
Macon	203	296	-31.4%
Jackson	233	372	-37.4%
Buncombe	774	1,403	-44.8%
Haywood	195	358	-45.5%
Henderson	358	986	-63.7%
Polk	75	125	-40%
Transylvania	124	183	-32.2%

Though Macon Bank is holding millions in bad paper, Plemens said the bank is solid.

"When many banks were losing money last year we had net income of \$7 million. Because we are a mutual institution, all of that \$7 million went straight to capital which makes us a stronger bank. We have been very

profitable over the last several years building an excellent capital position. We have over \$30 million in excess capital above the regulatory guidelines for a well-capitalized bank, the FDIC's highest rating," he said. "In addition, to adding \$7 million to capital last year, we increased our allowance for loan losses by 38% in the event we do have some losses.

Plemens said it will likely take 18-24 months before the area sees any significant economic turnaround. "During this time earnings will be depressed compared to recent years, but Macon Bank is in an excellent capital position that allows us to weather this economic downturn."

Plemens said despite the turn of events, it has \$1 billion in assets and has always had conservative underwriting standards.

"The issues we are dealing with here are based on the economic downturn and not relaxed underwriting standards. Unfortunately, good people through no fault of their own have been caught in a bad economy."

— Kim Lewicki

... CHESTNUT continued from page 1

Residents who live in houses put money down — like a down-payment — in the vicinity of \$200,000 and agreed to pay a monthly fee in the range of \$3,300 upwards depending on the size of the house.

Residents who live in the independent apartments pay a monthly fee in the vicinity of \$2,600 a month on a month-to-month basis.

Residents in the assisted living facility also pay month-to-month upwards of \$4,000 a month depending on services rendered and how much individual care is needed.

"In the short-term, the monthly service charge may increase modestly to a level that will at least pay monthly operating expenses, unless cost-cutting measures can reduce expenses sufficiently without unduly affecting the quality of services to residents," reads the letter.

"However in the long term, the cost to residents may increase because no subsequent buyer can provide services and pay back a loan to buy the facility unless it increases fees to pay costs and deliver a small profit to the buyer. That increase amount will be decided by the buyer."

Though not the norm, just recently, two apartments were "sold" like the houses — that is a down payment was given with a monthly payment to follow.

Repayment of a percentage of down-payments — also known as entrance fees — to their heirs upon their deaths is what many residents in the homes are worried about.

Currently, Highlands Senior Living LLC (Chestnut Hill) — part of Sunwest Management — doesn't have money to refund entrance fees to residents' heirs.

Upon entrance into Chestnut Hill, a down-payment was taken with the promise

to return a percentage of it to heirs depending on individual contracts.

Just recently, Sunwest could only return \$8,000 in entrance fees to Flanagan because no reserve or escrow accounts belonging to Sunwest or Highlands Senior Living have available funds.

Except for fees from four new residents, who bought in after Sunwest took over in December 2006, no entrance fee money exists.

Evidently, Sunwest assumed refund obligations after its purchase but didn't receive any money from the previous owner to pay back old entrance fees.

This specific issue is being looked into by independent counsel.

Once a new owner buys Chestnut Hill, residents will need to sign new contracts with the new owner to stay. It's possible, new contracts will include higher monthly fees to provide services, to maintain the facility and to service the debt.

However, it's also possible the new owner will decide to charge less to existing residents to maintain occupancy levels.

"This will be a business decision for the new owner," reads the letter.

"Fresh marketing" may involve renting some houses that now stand empty on a month-to-month basis rather than requiring an entrance fee as before — but there is no final word on that at this time.

Residents or their representatives should contact Palmetto Bank's counsel, Neale T. Johnson, Smith Moore Leatherwood, LLP at 336-378-5319 or fax to 336-433-7442.

Questions relating to past practices or entrance fee refunds should be directed to Sunwest Management.

— Kim Lewicki



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... FIRE & RESCUE continued from page 2

Cashiers-Glenville Fire Department and others – many of which are cancelled en route. Now the department is required to respond only to mutual aid calls that involve a structure fire.

Also down this year were fire alarm calls – 69 compared to last year’s 85. This is due to the fees assessed by the department for responding to repetitive false alarms at residences.

After the first false alarm in a year, homeowners are charged \$250 per every false alarm thereafter.

Over the past year, two members retired, two members resigned and five members joined. There is one position open on the force.

In 2008 the department responded to 62 calls fire and related calls inside the town limits and 144 calls outside the town limits. Estimated fire loss inside the town limits was zero; outside the town limits it was \$670,000.

Fire & Related Calls included:

Fire alarms, 69; mutual aid to other departments, 32; wrecks with hazardous conditions, 56; investigations, 18; structure fires including chimneys, 17; brush and woods fires, 12; and vehicle fires, 2.

Rescue and First-responder calls totaled 68 calls inside the town limits and 110 calls outside the town limits for a total of 178 calls


– an increase of 18 calls over 2007.

Specifically they included: first-responders to assist EMS, 157; wrecks other than fire calls, 8; falls, injuries of hikers and construction workers, 4; miscellaneous, 4; search for missing person, 3; dive team, 1; and plane crash, 1.

Major Equipment Purchases & Improvements

New tanker fire truck, \$148,000; balance due on new rescue truck, \$20,861; new roof on department building, \$10,389; radio equipment, \$4,060; uniforms and turnout suits, \$3,915; laptop computer and update fire program, \$1,495; all purpose rescue saw,

• See FIREMEN page 13



Highlands-Cashiers HOSPITAL

The offices of the following physicians and providers are now located in the Jane Woodruff Clinic.

Surgeons & Specialists

Suite 301

Mountain Medical & Surgical Group. . . . (828) 526-2371

Richard F. Carter, MD, FACP
F. Augustus Dozier, MD, FACS
William J. Noell, Jr., MD, FACS
Herbert K. Plauché, MD, FAAOS

Primary Care Physicians

Suite 304

John F. Baumrucker, MD. (828) 526-1700
J. Scott Baker, MD (828) 526-1700
Debra A. Wagner, MD. (828) 787-2430

Visiting Physicians & Providers

Suite 304

Harold “Hal” Alpert, MD (828) 526-1700
WNC Hearing Services (800) 456-6666
Charles C. Thomas, MD. (800) 322-2461

For the latest, most up-to-date information on physicians and services, visit us on the web at highlandscashiershospital.org



Retirees this year are from left John Shearl, 20 years; James Ramey, 20 years; John McCall, 22 years (not pictured) and Tim Alexander, 27 years. Each man received a plaque and a watch.



After 17 years of being the sole recipient of the “Perfect Attendance Award” at the annual Fire & Rescue Banquet, this year Roger Lee Wilson shared the limelight with Nick McCall. Pictured from left is Chief James Manley, McCall and Wilson.

... FIREMEN continued from page 12

\$1,338; fire equipment, \$1,303; pick-up truck cover, \$1,237; gas heater for the locker room, \$1,020; thermal imaging camera, \$930; printer/copier/fax machine, \$930; 2 GPS instruments, \$830.

Training & Manhours

18 firemen completed a total of 11 area fire and rescue schools at several different community colleges for a total of 443 hours. For local training/meetings 1,469 man-hours and 2,204 man-hours were spent on fire, rescue and first-responder calls. These hours don't include travel time to schools, meet-

ings and calls.

In addition, the department held open house celebrating 55 years of service; assisted with trick-or-treating; stood by and assisted during the fireworks display; participated in the Christmas Parade; assisted with SOAR; assisted with the Christmas lighting ceremony; participated in a disaster drill at the hospital; conducted several tours of the fire station with safety demonstrations; and conducted several fire safety classes at the Highlands School.

— Kim Lewicki



Commissioner Buz Dotson and Mayor Don Mullen attended the ceremony Saturday night. Pictured with them is Chief James Manley.



Service pins and certificates were presented to (front from left: Buddy Miller for 5 years; John Shearl for 20 years; Jimmy Tate for 10 years; (back from left) Terry Watson for 20 years; James Ramey for 20 years; Ricky Bryson for 20 years. Also pictured is Tim Alexander who retired after 27 years of service. Not pictured is Ryan Gearhart who has been on the department for 10 years.



Newly elected "Officers for 2009" are from left front, Terry Watson, Treasurer, Lenny Metrick, 2nd. Lt., Roger Lee Wilson, Captain, James Manley, Chief. From left back are: Trevor Gibson, 1st. Lt.; Jim Tate, Rescue Captain; Eric Pierson, Rescue Lt.; and Ricky Bryson, Assistant Chief.



Bob Houston, who has served the department in some capacity non stop for 45 years, received a plaque of appreciation from Chief James Manley.

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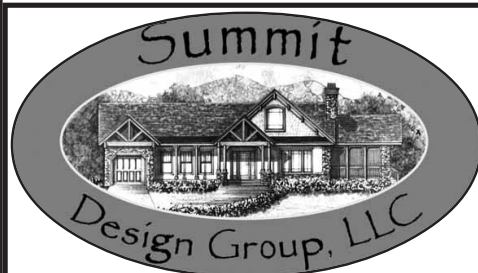
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• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

Winter roads, a new president and upcoming performances

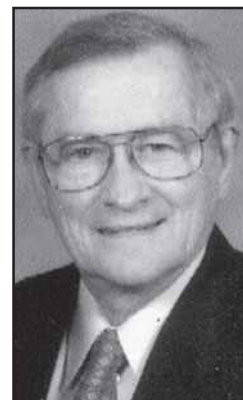
There has been much concern over the care of our roads during icy conditions so far this winter. Among other problems the budget of NCDOT in Macon County for this year has been cut from 13 million to 10 million and just the cost of salt has tripled in the past year.

I have talked to the DOT manager for our area and he assures me that the main roads are their priority. US 64 between Highlands and the Jackson County line has been particularly dangerous with many accidents on that road. The manager assured me he would look into this and try to improve the situation. It behooves us all to call both our police department and the dispatcher (9-1-1) if you see problems so they can relay the problem to the highway patrol and DOT.

Unfortunately, the secondary roads also are not getting the attention they need this winter. That is a real concern, and I addressed these concerns to both our State Senator John Snow and the DOT.

It is certainly great to see The Bascom art center campus making fast progress and planning a spring opening. This is going to be one of the best attractions in Highlands once it is completed. Great art teaching and exhibits on and within this beautiful campus with its grand entrance from US 64 will be enjoyed by people from all over the south. There will be nothing in western North Carolina to compare to this incredible facility. We all look forward to it and compliment their staff, board, volunteers and workers on a job well done.

We certainly are all distressed to hear about the foreclosure of the Riverwalk development in Highlands. Those folk have had difficulty from the very beginning, having to put large amounts of money for erosion control as demanded by both the town and the state, and this was not a good beginning. But just as they got that all straightened out, the economy tanked, credit evaporated and few people were buying. A combination of events did them in. It



Mayor Don Mullen

is certainly our hope that this property will ultimately be utilized and will become a pleasant area for people to live.

As we have gone through this week, most of us look forward with great hope for this new beginning in our country with the inauguration of a new President and the beginning of a new administration in Washington. Certainly change is in the air. Our

country is at its lowest point economically certainly in my memory. At this point we do not need to look backwards at what could have been done but must begin to look forward positively knowing that we have come out of recessions in the past and we will come out of this major downturn.

Let us all hope and pray that the new administration and congress can come together, stop the partisan bickering and do the right things. Consumer confidence needs a big boost, and the new administration must start off in a sprint to get the job done. Whether Republican or Democrat we must all work together, even on the local and state levels, to instill the confidence which is needed to come out of this situation in flying colors.

On a lighter note, the Highlands Cashiers Players rendition of "An American Daughter" will be performed for two weeks beginning February 26 at the Performing Arts Center. It certainly looks like they have another great cast, and we all look forward to seeing that performance over that two weekend period. Lots of time and work are necessary to put together a play like that. We all appreciate this theater group for keeping us in good entertainment during the winters in Highlands.

And do not forget the Highlands Cashiers Players mystery presentation, first performed down in Sapphire Valley on January 30th and 31st. "Final Reunion" which will also be held at the PAC Feb 6 and 7, and will be presented as a Carolina Murder Mystery Dinner Theater. Sounds exciting enough to keep us warm for the winter. Let's all support our theater performances.

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Volunteers make a difference through Hospital's gift shop

Although it isn't very big in terms of square footage, the gift shop at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital returns big dividends.

In the nearly 16 years since it opened (when the new hospital opened in 1993), the gift shop has generated tens of thousands of dollars for operations and much needed equipment, thanks to the dozens of volunteers who keep the doors open, and an attractive selection of merchandise — everything from greeting cards to fashions — on the crowded, but carefully arranged shelves.

"Over the years, the gift shop has probably raised well over \$100,000 for the hospital. That's quite an accomplishment, since it has all been done with volunteers and without any money for fixtures, stock, or expenses from the hospital," observed hospital President and CEO Ken Shull. "Even in the context of the hundreds of volunteers who have served the hospital over the years, the dedication of the gift shop folks is exceptional."

In large part, the gift shop is the product of energy and determination of Joanna Baumrucker, wife of long-time area family physician John Baumrucker, MD. Her flair for buying and merchandising has made the hospital's gift shop a shopping destination in its own right, not just an afterthought for family members and friends of patients. From travelling to the wholesale Atlanta Gift Mart, or perusing merchandise catalogs, to organizing the shop's famous holiday 50-percent off sales, Joanna's gift for retailing is one of the reasons the shop has been so successful for a decade and a half.

Another reason is volunteers such as Elaine Reynolds, of Highlands, who has worked the shop since the day it opened. In addition to working her own shift at the "register," (actually a vintage metal cash box), Elaine also coordinates the other volunteers. Currently, those volunteers include Evelyn Byrnes, Debbie Coffeen, Corinne Cooper, Barbara Cusachs, Mary Ann Creswell, Polly Dean, Melba Egan, Marci Henderson, Gay Kattel, Sally Maloney, Kathie Marsh, Jody Read, Mary Ann Ray, Ann Schneider, Linda Shearon, Gay Spencer, Polly Touzalin, and Judy Williams.

However, Elaine says more volunteers are needed, especially during the winter, when some stalwarts are away. There's a special need for folks willing to fill in when others can't make in, she says. "We can always use more volunteers," says Elaine. "For one thing, none of us are getting any younger."

And never one to miss an opportunity, Joanna says she'd like to see some new volunteers willing to work weekends, particularly Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon.

"I love to have the gift shop open on the weekends. Every time I happen to be here on a Saturday unpacking merchandise, I always



Hospital Gift Shop Volunteer Ann Schneider helps customer Etrulia McConnell of Lake Toxaway find just the right gift for a family member.

have people coming by to shop," she says. "That represents that much more we can give to the hospital."

Open to the public Monday through Friday, the gift shop stocks a variety of merchandise that appeals not only to patients, family members, and visitors, but also to regular shoppers — particularly to hospital staffers. Many a birthday, Christmas, for graduation gifts has come from the shop's shelves. Shoppers can find a diverse selection of stuffed animals (a major favorite), jewelry, watches, special bath and body items, seasonal decorations, sweaters, ladies jackets, candles, and a host of other items — even candy and snacks.

In addition to purchasing equipment, such as surgical instruments for the hospital's operating room or carts for the dietary department, proceeds from the gift shop support the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation in other ways. Unrestricted contributions have frequently been made in honor of an employee or group of employees, mothers of hospital employees, and gift shop volunteers who have passed away during the year.

"The level of dedication of all the volunteers who make the gift shop what it is has always set the gold standard for unselfish service to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. If it were not for the hundreds of people who volunteered at the hospital in some fashion, going back more than half a century — from those who served on the board, to the ladies of the Auxiliary, to those who put up mail, to those who work in various departments and at the Eckerd Living Center — this hospital would not be here," said Shull. "Highlands-Cash-

iers Hospital is a reflection of the extraordinary spirit of service that abounds in our communities."

To volunteer at the gift shop call Elaine Reynolds at (828) 526-3997.

Learn to grow Shiitake mushrooms

NC Cooperative Extension will hold a class on "Growing Shiitake Mushrooms" from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 5 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.

Does your New Year resolution list look like this?

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Attend church✓
Work hard✓
Oil Change✓
New Tires✓
Don't procrastinate✓

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Northland Cable Television

• BUSINESS NEWS •

2009 marks the 10th anniversary of Highlands Historical Society

In 2009 the Highlands Historical Society will become ten-years-old. Throughout the year, the Society will be celebrating its progress. At a meeting of the Society's board of directors recently, members were reminded of the progress that has been made and were challenged to keep the momentum going.

In 1999 Dennis DeWolf and Ran Shaffner suggested to other residents of Highlands that the Highlands Historical Preservation Society, which had become inactive, be reorganized. This was done, and arrangements were made for the Old Jail to be used as a repository for historical documents and artifacts. Shortly thereafter the oldest residence in town, now known as the "Prince House," was made available to the Society for \$275,000. A down-payment of \$25,000 was made, and a mortgage obtained for the remainder of the purchase price. Several public-spirited citizens agreed to co-sign the mortgage.

The house was given a coat of paint, a new roof and other repairs, and chestnut paneling was added to two of the rooms. Before the Prince House had been completely restored and furnished, the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation offered the original Hudson Library building to the Historical Society, on condition that it be moved off the property of the church, which was ready to begin an expansion program. Donations were quickly solicited for the cost of moving the building. The old library sat while funds were raised for the installation of concrete walls and floor as a foundation that now houses a temperature- and humidity-controlled area for historical archives. Funds were solicited from foundations, governmental agencies and individuals



Four new members of the board of directors of the Highlands Historical Society are welcomed by HHS president, Elaine Whitehurst. Left to right: Wiley Sloan, Susie Deville Schiffli, Jeannie Chambers, Allen "Buck" Trott, and Whitehurst. The group is pictured in front of a display of historic household items in the Highlands Historical Museum.

Photo by Melody Spurney

and the archives was equipped with archival shelving, boxes and computer equipment.

Once the old library structure was placed on the concrete foundation, architect Dennis DeWolf directed modifi-

cations to be made to the interior of the library to make it suitable for displays of historical objects and pictures. Several contractors were involved in the work, most notably Tommy Chambers who specializes in the restoration of old buildings. Ran Shaffner, assisted by Sue Potts, went to work receiving and cataloguing documents and artifacts. Jim Whitehurst and other volunteers, including some members of the Highlands Rotary Club, performed such tasks as replacing deteriorated acoustical tiles with beaded boards; sanding and painting walls and floors, and reglazing windows.

In 2007 the Historical Society was given one of the few remaining cottages from the tuberculosis sanatorium operated in Highlands by Dr. Mary Lapham in the early 1900's. More funds were raised and the so-called "Bug Hill Cottage" was restored to look like the ones pictured in Shaffner's book on the history of Highlands, "Heart of the Blue Ridge - Highlands, North Carolina."

During its tenth year of existence, the Historical Society will continue to provide its traditional educational fundraisers: Walk in the Park, Tour of Historic Homes, and Christmas Showhouse. Hopes are high that it will receive enough donations to pay off the \$20,000.00 balance remaining on the mortgage, and to enhance the landscaping. The Museum and Prince House will be open to visitors Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., from Memorial Day through the end of October. Anyone interested in becoming trained as a Museum docent should call 787-1050.

Leadership Highlands members learn about county's human services

The 2008/2009 Leadership Highlands class kicked off the New Year with their Third Focus Day on January 9, 2009. The Old Edwards Inn and Spa graciously allowed the class to meet in the Williams Board Room where the topic of Health and Human Services was discussed. The presenting group chose to focus in on the topic of narcotics and the services available to combat the negative effects. Guest speakers included Sheriff Robert Holland, Macon County Sheriff, and D. Wesley Price, Supervisor of Child Protection Services for Macon County DSS.

Sheriff Holland educated the class on different drugs, focusing in on methamphetamines. He also explained the programs within the Sheriff's Department and the local Police Departments used to track down and punish those who use and are involved in the selling or making of narcotics. Among these are the Substance Abuse Task Force and Crime Stoppers, the completely anonymous telephone number that the public can call to report any information they may have, 1-866-374-TIPS.

During the second part of the day, Wesley Price covered the dangers of children living in environments where drugs are made, used and sold, and the impacts it has on the children, mentally, emotionally and physically. Mr. Price also discussed the protocol for removing a child from the home and the steps they take to ensure the safety and well being of the child.

• Leadership Highlands began in 1999 as a partnership between the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, the Peggy



Crosby Center, and Center for Life Enrichment. The program is designed to identify existing and emerging leaders from various segments of the community who have a sincere commitment to remain in the Highlands area. Leadership Highlands provides a comprehensive program for selected participants to gain the skills and knowledge to become a community leader.

The new class is selected in June and has their opening retreat in September. Classes meet for one full day a month from November through April. Class members receive leadership skills training by faculty members from Western Carolina University and discuss salient topics such as health care, government, cultural arts, the environment and others. For more information, contact Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

Food drive for Pantry on



The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary has started a monthly food drive for the Food Pantry. Rotarian Debbie Grossman, owner of Fressers Eatery, is shown here with some of the staples that the food Pantry donates weekly to families in the community. The staples include vegetable oil, sugar, rice, beans and canned fruit. The Food Pantry is run by the Highlands United Methodist Church in conjunction with the International Friendship Center. Donations are always needed. Drop off points include Fressers Eatery, the IFC office at the Peggy Crosby Center and the Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Baptist and Community Bible Churches. The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets every Wednesday morning at 7:30 am at the Highlands Community Center. Visitors are welcome.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

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.

HCP to present 'Carolina Murder Mystery' Feb 6-7



Virginia Talbot and Stuart Armor rehearse for the upcoming Highlands Cashiers Players Dinner Theater production of a Carolina Murder Mystery: "Final Reunion." "Final Reunion" will be presented at PAC on Friday and Saturday, February 6 & 7. Wine, Dine and Solve the Crime, fun begins at 6:30pm. For more information and tickets please call: 828.526.8084. "Final Reunion" is directed by Jody Read and is fundraiser for HCP.

• 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

• 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.

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

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

Thursdays & Fridays

• Live music at The Rib Shack from 7-10 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 22

• "The English Patient" (1996), directed by Anthony Minghella and based on the novel by Michael Ondaatje, is set in the last days of World War II in an Italian monastery. The nurse Hana (Juliette Binoche) is caring for a badly burned man thought to be English. The mystery of the man is revealed in flash backs. He is the Hungarian Count Laszio de Almsy (Ralph Fiennes) who meets an English woman (Kristin Scott Thomas) in Cairo. The story is about how they fall in love and how he became "the English patient." The movie won nine Oscars and is in the Library Meeting Room, hosted by the Friends of the Albert Carlton - Cashiers Community Library.

• See EVENTS page 22

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

Playing
Jan. 23-29

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON

rated PG-13

Friday: 7

Sat & Sun: 7

Mon - Thurs: 7

INKHEART

rated PG

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

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

Mon - Thurs: (4:20), 7:10

GRANT TORINO

rated R

Friday: (4:30), 7:00, 9:30

Sat & Sun: (2:00), (4:30), 7:00, 9:30

Mon - Thurs: (4:30), 7:00

HOTEL FOR DOGS

rated PG

Friday: (4:10), 7:05, 9:10

Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:10), 7:05, 9:10

Mon - Thurs: (4:10), 7:05

BRIDE WARS

rated PG

Friday: (4:15)

Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:15)

Mon - Thurs: (4:15)

\$5. for 20 words weekly

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LOST PET

BLACK MALE KITTEN, 8 months old. Fixed. Name is Einstein. Last seen near Wolfgangs Restaurant. Reward offered. Call 828-200-0711.

PUPPIES

FREE PUPPIES to a good home. Lab mix. 1st shots already given. 2 females 6 males. Mostly black a few of them have some white paws. Born Nov 17th. Call 526-2787 or 421-3969 if no answer leave message and we will return your call. Pictures available on request.

HELP WANTED

Part-time cleaners needed to clean banks in the Cashiers-Highlands area. Call 828-691-6353. 2/12

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

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

TWO BED ON 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. \$1,000 a month. Call 828-371-1609 or 828-743-1108 1/29

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. psherrer@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. \$1,000 a month including utilities except phone. 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

HONEY FOR SALE - Blue Valley honey, perfect amber color, 3/4 lb. bears, \$5 each. work in town. Call Bruce at 526-0921.

GENERAL ELECTRIC GAS STOVE - Four burner, White, 30-inch slide in insert. New condition, never used. \$100. Call 706-746-2129 Rabun Gap, Ga.

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

HEALTHRIDER N35 RECUMBENT BIKE - Five programmed workouts, heart rate indicator. \$150. After 6 p.m. call 787-1264.

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.

ANTIQUÉ 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. Per-simmon 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

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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 included. "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 FIREPLACE. 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.

THREE "HOUSE OF DENMARK" BOOK-CASES – walnut, 3' x 6', containing TV, tape player, turn table, radio/CD. Sold as an entertainment unit including 2 Advent speakers. \$550. Call 526-9273.

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.

MASSEY FERGUSON DIESEL DELUXE 35 WITH POWER STEERING. Completely rebuilt, repainted, new tires. Includes scrape blade, and an 8,000 lbs. tandem axle trailer. Sharp Package! \$6,000. Call (828)526-1684 and leave message.

ANTIQUE CHERRY DINING TABLE – drop-leaf. rope carved legs. Seats 4-10 people. \$1,500 obo 828-787-1515

CUSTOM DECK SET – Painted aluminum Love seat & club chair with laminated waverly cushions. \$125. Call 526-1078.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

HONDA CIVIC HYBRID 2004 – 1 owner, no accidents, approx. 66,500 miles, 42 MPG. Ask-

ing \$10,000 OBO. 828-526-4160 or 706-746-4441. 1/8

1999 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER – Auto, 4x4, black, sport package. Sunroof, CD, new tires. Great condition. \$5,500. Call 828-342-6640. 1/29

1997 FORD F250 CREW CAB – 4WD. 75,000 original miles. 460 8 CY, 5 SP, Short WB, Black, one owner. 35" tires. 3" lift. \$8,500 or OBO. Call 526-3824.

1984 JEEP CJ7 – Rebuilt 304. 10,000 miles. 8 CY, 4 SP, 4WD, Front Bush Guard. 35" tires. 6" lift. Headers. Good condition. \$8,500. OBO. Call 526-3824.

02 DUTCHMEN 27' LITE TRAVEL TRAILER. – Slidout. Queen MBR, sleeps 6. \$12,000. OBO. Call 526-3824.

15-FT. DUAL AXLE TRAILER FOR HAULING TRACTORS – Worth \$750. OBO. Call 526-3824.

SERVICES

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WILL BABY SIT IN YOUR HOME. Have own transportation. Call Carly at 526-3824 or 828-200-9010.

HANDYMAN SPECIAL – Repairs and Remodeling, Electrical and Plumbing, Carpentry and more. Low prices. For free estimate call 828-342-7864.

RELIABLE CHILD CARE IN MY HOME – Minutes from Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Daily/Weekly. 12 years experience, referemces and Early Childhood credentials. \$5 per hour for first child, \$10 a day for second sibling. Call 743-2672.

CUSTOM TILE AND SLATE INSTALLATION. 526-4889. 1/21

HOUSEKEEPING – Saturday and Sunday mornings. Call Kim at 828-482-2105.

LANDSCAPE CLEANUP – leafs, gutters and more. Call Juan at 200-9249 or 526-8525.

COMPLETE LAWN SERVICE – All Levels of Lawn Care at Competitive Rates. Design, Installation, & Maintenance. No Job Too Small or Too Large. 30 Years Experience. For Free Quotes, References, or Scheduling, Please Call: 526-1684.

CLOCK REPAIR – Antique or modern, complicated antique clocks are my specialty. Experienced and dependable with housecalls available. Call 706.754.9631 or visit my website at www.olderclockrepair.com. Joseph McGahee, Clockmaker.

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HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID TREATMENT & FERTILIZATION – Great Results by J&J Lawn and Landscaping services. NC Licensed Applicator, Highlands, NC 828-526-2251.

J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES – total lawn care and landscaping company. 20 years serving Highlands area. 828-526-2251.

HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE – Atlanta Airport Shuttle. Drive - Away - Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.

... INAUGURATION continued from page 3

Monday morning broadcast of Fox 5, as the studio called and spoke with chaperones each hour to update the progress of the group.

The 48 students that attended the inauguration ranged from ages 15-18 and from a variety of grade levels. While the cost of the trip was paid for by the student's families, it was hotel inclusive and also covered tour costs and part of the students' meals as well.

Highlands School was given 22 tickets for the inauguration thanks to the offices of Heath Shuler (D-11th district) and Richard Burr (R-US Senate). Students drew names for the tickets, and those whose name was drawn were allowed a closer look (although still a considerable distance away) at the festivities.

Students who did not receive tickets were still able to view the inauguration on a screen that was set up in the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian, adjacent to the National Wall in downtown Washington.

While the inauguration ceremony formed the centerpiece for the students visit to the nation's capitol, it was not the only activity that the young Highlanders experienced in Washington.

Early Monday morning, four Highlander students had the honor of participating in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier located in Arlington Cemetery. Josh De La Cruz, Marlee McCall, Robbie Vanderbilt and Amy Fogle took the wreath to the tomb that honors soldiers known "Only to God" on behalf of Highlands School. The soft snowfall at Arlington provided the proper ambience for what was a somber morning for the students.

After touring many of the monuments and memorials located throughout Washington on Monday, the students were ready to experience history on Tuesday. On Tuesday morning, Highlands School students were met with bitter cold, long walks and the largest crowd in Washington DC history as they braved the elements to witness history in the making.

Chance meetings with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Tom Brokaw provided a good start to what proved to be a long day full of splendor, excitement and frustration all wrapped into one frenzied package.

Students who did not draw one of the 22 tickets were still able to view the inauguration on a screen that was set up in the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian, adjacent to the National Wall in downtown Washington.

Photo by Ryan Potts

Students were able to watch the inauguration and witness the peaceful transfer of power from one person and one party to another in what is currently the most successful democracy in history, as well as be a part of what was an unbelievable crowd.

On Wednesday, the Highlanders stopped at Mount Vernon to tour the grounds of our first President's home before making the 12-hour drive back to Highlands.

Overall, students were appreciative of the experience, but were also thankful to be headed home.

Chaperone Chris Green was pleased with the outcome of the trip, and felt that things went as well as could be hoped for with such a momentous occasion.

"This trip took a lot of planning," said Green, "but the kids were great and I hope that they can look back on this in the future and see just how fortunate they were to be a part of this historic event."

Also pleased with the results of the trip was Highlands Principal Brian Jetter, who said "This particular inauguration has meaning on many levels. At its foundation, these students will see our government at its finest — the peaceful transition of leadership in, arguably, the most powerful country in the world. On another level, these students are seeing history in the making, and by being there, are participating in history itself. Learning by doing is the best kind of learning."

While there were some frustrations involved with the trip such as traffic, lines and general fatigue, the trip was well worth it for students who will one day read about this inauguration in history books.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about the event was the genuine excitement and goodwill showed by the majority of the people in what was by far the largest crowd in inaugural history.

As President Obama stated in his inaugural address, this could be a moment that defines a generation, particularly for those Highlanders that will be able to tell their children and grandchildren about the time that they witnessed history.

While only time can tell us what the Obama administration will bring, one thing remains certain, Highlands school students will have witnessed those potential changes from the very beginning.



... FEDERAL from page 1

terminated.

At Wednesday night's meeting, commissioners unanimously approved three resolutions authorizing application for federal funding and will discuss a fourth at its Jan. 29 retreat.

Fatland said previous stimulus bills have proven effective if legislation is enacted soon after the recession is identified; if funds are spent quickly while unemployment is high and new jobs are created; and if funds are spent before the economy recovers.

Lake Sequoyah Dredging

Altamont Environmental, Inc., completed a Sedimentation Evaluation and Repair Estimate for the Big Creek Arm of Lake Sequoyah this past March and this fiscal year the town began putting aside \$150,000 for the project. The estimated cost is \$2 million.

The resolution says that the town will request 75% from

the federal government — \$1.5 million — with a town match of 25% or \$500,000.

Emergency Generators for Water Pumping Station

The town is also requesting funding for six water pumping stations — Little Bear Pen, HCC Moorewood Circle, Satulah, HCC Tower Site, Ravenel and Holt Knob. The 75% amount is \$156,000 with the 25% balance of \$208,000 coming from the town. By law sewer systems have to have back-up generators and Town Engineer Lamar Nix said it's just a matter of time before the same is required at water pumping stations. "I'd rather be proactive on this," he said.

Big Bear Pen Water Improvement

The existing water system on Center Drive and Margaret's Lane of Big Bear Pen are shallow and freeze in extremely cold weather, interrupting services to residents and jeopardizing sufficient water flow for fire protection.

The total cost is \$195,000 with 75% of that or \$146,250 coming from the stimulus package and 25% or \$48,750 coming from the town.

Other grants

The board voted 4 to 1 to apply for three, state-funded grant programs for the Police Department. Commissioner Buz Dotson voted against the motion.

The first grant is to buy a speed trailer for \$8,160 with 75% coming from the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program at \$6,120 and 25% or \$2,040 coming from the town. Currently, Highlands shares one with the county and Franklin.

The second grant is to buy modern equipment for fingerprinting from crime scenes. The cost is \$5,190 with 75% or \$3,892.50 coming via the grant and 25% or \$1,297.50 from the town.

The third grant is to buy an imager. The cost is \$18,950. The grant would cover 75% or \$14,212.50 with the town committing 25% or \$4,737.50.

The total local cost for the three police department grants is \$8,075 which represents 25% of the total cost," said Fatland. "Sufficient funds are included in the 2009-2010 Police Department budget."

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for Jan. 12-15. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 12

- Officers were flagged down by a resident at the Farmers Market and asked for a ride home.
- At 10:45 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Wahoo Trail about a domestic disturbance.

Jan. 14

- At 8:35 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 west and Raoul was cited for driving without registration or proof of financial responsibility.

Jan. 15

- At 2 p.m., officers were called to Wahoo Trail on a domestic disturbance.
- During the week, officers responded to 3 alarm activations and issued 3 warnings.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Jan. 13-18.

Jan. 13

- The dept. responded to a call of an accident on U.S. 64 east near the Jackson County line but it was unfounded.

Jan. 14

- The dept. responded to a call of a roll-over accident on Whiteside Cove Road. It was unfounded.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Mirror Lake Road. EMS transported the victim to the hospital.

Jan. 15

- The dept. conducted a search for a Alzheimer patient who wandered away from the Eckerd Living Center. She was found inside the main part of the hospital.

Jan. 16

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Hickory Lane. It was false.
- The dept. was first-responder to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence but the call was a mistake.

Jan. 17

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Carl Chastain Lane. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- Twice on Jan. 17, the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hickory Lane. Both times they were false. Chief Manley later visited the home to see if the faulty alarm system could be fixed.

Jan. 18

- The dept. responded to an accident on N.C. 106 south. there were no injuries.

• FUN & GAMES •

Sudo-Grams© 2008

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. In addition, various cells (six, eight or nine) in the puzzle layout have the same different letters (this is like Sudoku but uses letters instead of numbers).

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 line, column or cell.

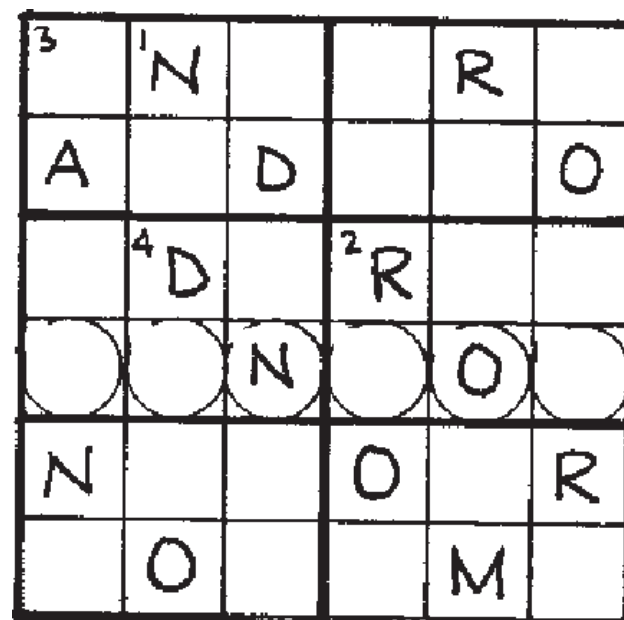
Mystery Word By chance (6)

Across

1. Negative (2)
2. Moved quickly (3)

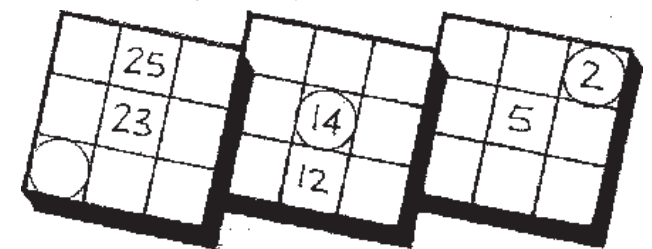
Down

3. Chinese communist leader (3)
4. To hold back water (3)



PseudoCube©

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#BZ1F Level of Difficulty - Difficult

THE SETUP:

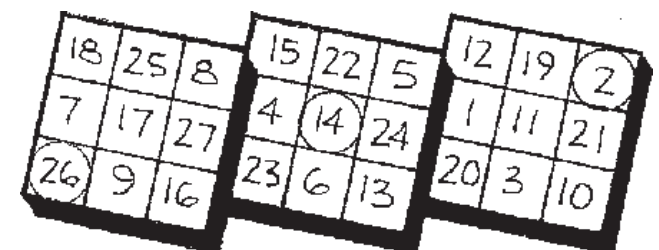
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

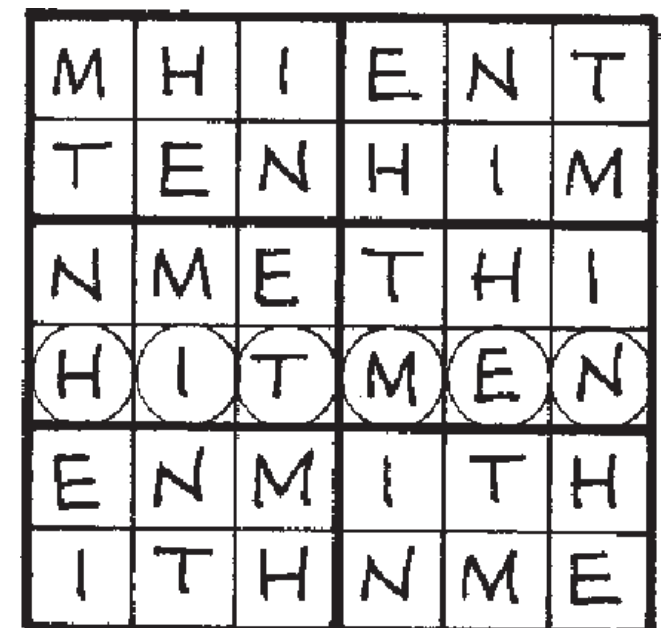
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

Solution to #DZ1F in Jan 15 issue



Solution to Jan. 15 Sudo-Gram



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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Saturday, Jan. 24

- The Church Communication Network (CCN) and First Christian Church of Franklin brings Managing Your Money to Franklin on Saturday from 11:30 to 3:30. People across North America will crowd auditoriums, church sanctuaries and halls to learn to walk steadily amid the financial chaos of today's economy! Managing Your Money gives people the practical tools and strategies vital to establishing and maintaining financial health. LIVE via satellite on CCN. First Christian Church is located at 156 Bellevue Park Rd. in Franklin, just past the intersection of U.S. 441 Bypass and Highlands Rd. For information and directions, please call the church office at 828-524-6840 or visit the church website at <http://www.fccfranklin.org>.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile from Sloan Bridge to Upper Whitewater Falls. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 14 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 742-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome, but no pets please.

- Blood Drive at the Otto Community Building. Contact Phyllis Castle at 524-9307 for an appointment.

Sunday, Jan. 25



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- Dinner Settings

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- Audition Notice for "Rumors" by Neil Simon Directed by Donna Cochran at the Performing Arts Center, Highlands. Call Backs if necessary: Monday, January 26, 2009 at PAC. Parts for 5 men and 5 women. Performances Dates: May 7-10 & 14-17, 2009. Scripts at the Highlands and Cashiers libraries for reading. For more information call: Donna Cochran, 828-526-2080.

- First Presbyterian Church old-fashioned hymn-sing at 4 p.m. from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. Song leader will be Stell Huie and Angie Jenkins will play the piano.

- The Macon County Soccer Club (<http://www.maconsoccer.net>) will host an Entry Level Grade 08 Referee Certification Clinic on Sunday from 9 am to 6 pm. Both sessions must be attended and no late arrivals or early departures are permitted. George Gately with the NC Soccer Referees Association will be conducting the clinic. The cost for the clinic is \$67.00 and payment is due January 18 at registration (checks payable to NCSRA). Lunch will be available for \$5 (or bring your own). Must be 14 years or older by January 25th. Please enroll online. For more information visit <http://www.ncsra.org/> or call Tony Esterwood at 828-524-1928.

Monday, Jan. 26

- Margie Shambaugh, volunteer coordinator at The Bascom, will speak to the Art League of Highlands Monday, Jan. 26, on volunteering at the nonprofit art center. The lecture will be held at a luncheon meeting at Peggy Woodruff's home at noon. All Art League members are welcome to attend.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 27

- There will be a 10-week Beth Moore Bible Study, "Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman," in the Highlands School Media Center at 3:45 pm. Going up against heavyweights bent on her destruction, Esther trusted God and landed a blow that saved her people. The Old Testament story of Esther is a profile in courage and contains many modern parallels for today's woman. The cost for each member book is \$16. Carol Bowen is the facilitator. Contact her at 526-5168 to reserve a book.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

- Nancy Reeder will be performing *The Resilient Moon* on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center. Through poetry, folklore, and women's experiences, Nancy fuses together a storytelling concert that explores the feminine. Admission is free. PAC is located at 507 Chestnut St. Highlands. Call 369-1927 for more information.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

- Storyteller Elizabeth Ellis will hold a storytelling workshop in Highlands focusing on taking memories to story. Elizabeth, a nationally acclaimed storyteller, who often graces the stage at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, TN, has been telling stories for over 40 years. The workshop will guide participants through the process of taking personal memories and putting them into a form suitable for telling a story. Whether you want to shape memories into story for writing or telling, this workshop will provide guidance. The cost is \$30. Time is from 9 am until 1 pm. Place TBA. Please call Nancy at 369-1927 for more information.

HCP's 'American Daughter' opens Feb. 26



The Highlands Cashiers Players announces the cast of "An American Daughter" by Wendy Wasserstein. The cast includes: (seated) Virginia Talbot and Dean Zuch, Stevyn William Amari, Chad Lucas, Carla Gates, Kirk Howard, Marlene Alvarez, Marjorie Fielding. Not pictured: Sandi Trevathan. "An American Daughter" opens Thursday, February 26 and runs, the 27th, 28th and March 1 and continues the next weekend, March 6th, 7th, and 8th. All performances will be at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. Evening performances begin at 7:30pm and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 pm. "An American Daughter" is a political satire and contains adult language.

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Internet Links Start @ \$750. Per Calendar Year - w/Link & Picture \$950

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Real-Time Weather & WebCam Banner Ads - 1st Place \$2,500, 2nd \$1,500, 3rd, \$1,000 Per Calendar Year

All Internet Banner Ad Links Also Include Directory Catagory Links On www.HighlandsInfo.com

• **New This Year** - Ads on back of 2009 HIGHLANDS MAP page – \$1,250 per/year
(1/2 price in Jan. ONLY if a map dot is also purchased)

• **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

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Gem Mine
Bust Your Butt Falls

Cullasaja Falls

Scaly Mtn
Fire Mtn
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Highlands Cove Golf & Resort

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Dry Falls

Iron Bridge

Giant Poplar

Whiteside Mtn.

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Whitewater Falls

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Hwy 28s

Hwy 107s

Hwy 64e

10 Miles

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1 Bucks
2 Cyprus
3 Don Leon
4 Fireside
5 Four Sisters
6 Fressers
7 Golden China
8 High Country
9 Highlands Deli
10 Kelsey Place
11 Lakeside
12 Library Club
13 Log Cabin
14 Madison's
15 Mica's
16 Nick's
17 Oak St. Cafe
18 On Verandah

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

34 Whole Health Market

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

RENTALS

17 Cashiers Resort
18 Chambers
19 Highlands Rent.
20 Prestige

SHOPPING

1 Acorns
2 AnnaWear
3 Basketcase
4 Bear Mt. Outf.
5 Bird Barn
6 Bryant Art
7 Cabin Casuals
8 Christmas Tree
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 Toy Store
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
13 John Schiffl
14 Marty Jones
15 McKee Prop.
16 Meadows Mtn.
17 Mtn. View
18 Parks Realty
19 Preferred Prop
20 Prestige
21 Signature

Performing Arts Center
Community Players

Paoletti's

Bird Barn
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Wolfgang's

Marathon Gas

Fibber Magee's

Mt Findings

Ice Cream

SweetTreats

Signature

Brick Oven

MovieStop

Harry Norman

Wayah Insurance

Wild Thyme

Carolina Way

ATM

Macon Bank

CK Swan Schmitt

Mill Creek Gallery

Highlands Inn

Drug Store

Old Edwards Inn & Spa

Acorns

Mtn. Fresh Gourmet Wines & Cheeses

Falls On Main Bird Barn

Episcopal Library

Presbyterian

Child Care

The Lodge

Rib Shack

Cleaners

Northland Cable TV

Highlands School K-12

PlayHouse

Police

ABC

Rest Rooms

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Town Hall

Bear Mt Outfitters

Scudders Antiques

Bucks

Ice Cream

Mirror Lake Antiques

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