

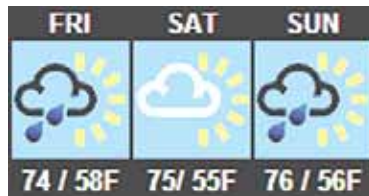
Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 24

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, June 11, 2009



This Week in Highlands

Thursday-Friday, June 11-12
 • Pottery workshop at The Bascom from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 526-4949.
Thursday, June 11
 • The story of Nance Dude at PAC at 7:30 p.m. Call 526-9047 for tickets.
 • Taize services at 5:30 pm, at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church.
 • A book signing featuring master ceramic artist Mark Hewitt will be 5-7 p.m. at The Bascom.
 • The Zahner Series welcomes author John Yow 7 pm at the Nature Center.
Saturday, June 13
 • A pottery-making bonanza 9 a.m. to noon at The Bascom. Call 526-4949.
 • A free World Wide Knit celebration 2 to 4 p.m. on the terrace at The Bascom. Bring chair and yarn or fiber project. Call 526-4949.
 • John Collette Fine Arts will host a gala to benefit the H-C Chamber Music Festival from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. 381 Main Street.
 • Highlands Greenway Annual Meeting and Picnic at 5 p.m. at the picnic shelter at the south end of the Recreation Park.
Sunday-Friday, June 14-19
 • Vacation Bible School at Clear Creek Baptist Church from 7 – 9 p.m. nightly. All ages are invited, including adults.
Sunday, June 14
 • A Courtyard Poetry Reading at Summit One Gallery on S. 2nd Street from 2-4 p.m.
 • Christ Anglican Church Annual Welcome Back Picnic at The Summer Chapel, Whiteside Cove Road. Arrive by 12:30, service begins at 1 p.m. with a picnic to follow.
Monday – Wednesday, June 15-17
 • Community Bible Church's summer ARTS camp is for children. 9am – noon. Call 526-4685.
Tuesday, June 16
 • "Junior Ecologists" day camp at the Nature Center. June 16-19, 10 am – 4 pm daily. Call 526-2623.
 • The Highlands Audubon Society field trip. Meet at the public parking area next to the Town Hall at 7:30 a.m. Call Brock Hutchins at 828-787-1387.

Thursday, June 18 – Sunday, July 5
 • At Highlands Playhouse, The Taffetas, Tues.-Sun, 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday. Call 526-2695.

2009-'10 budget calls for no tax increase

Town Hall to open at 462 Dillard Road, Monday, June 15

The Town Board met for its first budget worksession Wednesday, to go over the 2009-2010 budget proposed by Town Manager Jim Fatland.

No action can be taken in a worksession, but suggested amendments could be made at the regular June 17 Town Board meeting.

Fatland told the board he based the proposed budget – both expenditures and revenues – on the outcome of January's retreat "which set the stage for an aggressive agenda to address several planning issues."

One major change, based on ongoing Finance and Public Works committee meetings, is to phase out the town's practice of transferring

Electric Fund Reserves to offset Water Fund Operations over the next three years and work on making the Water Fund a true enterprise fund to enable the department to stand on its own.

Under that scenario, water rates would increase by \$4 a month.

• See BUDGET page 9

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– Highlands School Class of 2009 –



Graduation is Saturday, June 13 in the new gym at Highlands School. See the special pull-out section on pages 16-17.

Highlands on front burner at county meeting

Macon County Commissioners figure they're doing something right – only one person showed up for the public hearing on the proposed FY 2009-2010 budget.

Likewise, no one spoke about

the modifications to the flood ordinance during its public hearing, either, on Monday, June 8.

The board has had a number of budget worksessions over the past several weeks to both tweak and

discuss additions not in the budget proposed by County Manager Jack Horton.

Horton said changes to the budget that came out of the worksessions – at which formal deci-

sions can't be decided — will be available in written form prior to the June 23 commission meeting.

County Planner Jack Morgan

• See HIGHLANDS page 3

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

• LETTERS •

State budget cuts will seriously impact Macon County Schools

Superintendent asks citizens to contact representatives

Dr. Dan Brigman, Superintendent

With the downturn in the economy and millions of dollars in reductions from state funding for school districts across the state, Macon County Public Schools faces the formidable challenge of doing more for a lot less money. The yearlong budget process has been especially difficult due to funding uncertainties from federal, state and local funding sources. Due to all of the unknowns, this has been the most challenging budget process I have encountered in the seven years I've served as an administrator at the district level, five as superintendent. Our declining financial circumstances have been a tremendous challenge for our schools and the district this year as we have been forced to make unexpected reversions to the state out of this year's funding. In total, our school system had to revert \$297,060 back to the state between December 2008 and May 2009. We now stand by while our governor and other state-level leaders face the very complex task of preparing the budget for the new fiscal year.

Some of our leading challenges we now face include the numerous uncertainties with the state budget, along with the strings that are attached to the federal stimulus funds.

I have met on several occasions with our County Manager and Commissioners this spring in an attempt to develop a budget suitable for our local revenue base. Added to the challenges of meeting the budget shortfall is the continued use of our undesignated reserves for reoccurring expenses, including salaries for employees.

Based on the proposed House of Representative's plan, the number of state-paid certified teaching positions allocated to Macon County would be reduced by 23. Included in the initial House proposal is a reduction in funding for teacher assistants of \$432,746. This dollar reduction would result in the loss of approximately 15 teacher assistant positions. With all the impending state funding cuts, particularly if the House proposal becomes a reality, County Commissioners were informed last Wednesday during a budget work session that Macon County Public Schools could see a tremendous shortfall from state funding, particularly in certified and non-certified positions. In addition, non-instructional support would be reduced by one position, eight months of assistant principal employ-

ment would be lost, and there would be other reductions across state funding categories. We have very little control over what happens at the state level, but we will continue to do everything within our capability to utilize all available resources while being as creative as we can to cover classroom requirements.

Up until this point, we have been very fortunate to avoid layoffs within our district; however, most individuals understand that the potential is coming pending the outcome of our state budget. To prepare locally for the funding shortfalls, we have already reduced the number of positions within our school system by one principal allocation, two assistant principal positions, and six certified teaching positions following retirements and resignations. Additional cuts were made across the board, some more painful than others, in order to meet the projected shortfall in local, state and federal funds. Cuts in travel, workshop expenses and supplies are often much easier to address than having to lose teaching positions or educational programs.

Budget cuts also cost instructional equipment, instructional supplies, class-

• See FORUM page 3

In defense of Fred

Dear Editor

I just read Michelle Mead-Armor's impassioned defense of France in response to Fred Wooldridge's column in the May 28 issue entitled "Fu Ku."

It seems to me she left out a few things. She neglected to mention the Jews that French collaborators rounded up for the Nazi's. But that was a long time ago.

But she missed some more recent events as well. It is hard to remember everything.

She neglected to mention that France installed a nuclear reactor in Iraq knowing full well what Saddam intended to do with it. But hey money was involved. And she neglected to mention that France joined

with Russia in knowingly flaunting the UN oil for food program. Perhaps the French have trouble identifying foodstuffs.

And she neglected to mention that our wonderful NATO ally refused permission for our pilots to fly over the graves in Normandy when we struck Libya after Libya killed hundreds of women and children when they bombed a plane over Scotland.

I have no doubt that Ms. Mead-Armor intended to include those items. I guess space was at a premium. Please tell Fred to keep writing.

Mike Nims
Cashiers

Shame on you, Highlands' Newspaper

Dear Editor,

In your paper last week you had a photograph entitled "Fallen soldiers remembered" and right under that was a letter from Mark Lassiter who was complaining about something your columnist Don Swanson had written. He was going on about how bad we became under the Bush-Cheney era; about the 4,000 dead US servicemen and scores of thousands of dead Iraqi civilians; how the Bush administration has left us broke and how Bin Laden and his group is still free and so on.

But what about how broke we now are

due to THIS administration? What about the scores of thousands of Iraqis killed under Saddam? As for torture, why wasn't there as much stink made when Daniel Pearl was forced to speak into a camera before he was beheaded? How we get information that protects our soldiers and our people should not be something we broadcast all over the world.

It is a shame that this letter was printed right under a piece to honor our fallen soldiers! Stand at a graveside and watch a wife or mother receive the flag that was draped over their loved one's coffin, or look on a mother's face when she is told that her son or daughter will not be coming home ever again, or stand beside a friend as he or she dies to protect the rights and freedoms of those who would complain about how their government protects them, or about how their government protects its soldiers!

I have a question for those who think we treat those who would do us harm too harshly. How many people have died from waterboarding? How many have survived a beheading?

I have listened to people complain about the murders that take place around the globe by the leaders of a country and they want to know why no one can take that leader out of power. Well Saddam was one such leader — killing his own people. But when a chance was taken to remove him, suddenly it is not what people want? It does not matter to me how we got there, we are there, so why not leave it better than we found it? Now that we are there, why not make the best of what we can?

Johnny Owens
Highlands

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.

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• See LETTERS page 6

... FORUM continued from page 2

room furniture and materials, instructional technology, as well as staff development.

Simply put, there are three main funding sources for the school system: state, local and federal money. About 71 percent of the funding comes from the state, and mostly funds salaries, and instructional supplies and materials. Unfortunately, these funding cuts have a direct impact on students. With the House of Representatives proposed 7.5 percent funding cuts to school transportation departments, there is a strong likelihood of longer bus routes and fewer bus stops because of consolidation of pickup points. Worse case scenario, school officials may even have to park school buses occasionally, making transportation to and from school the responsibility of parents.

Many individuals have responded to the news regarding the budget proposals of the NC House and Senate by contacting your legislators to express your concerns and ideas. Thank you for taking time to do that. Your views mean a great deal to legislators who are wrestling with very difficult choices this year. When Gov. Perdue and the Senate presented their budgets for the 2009-11 biennium, the State's revenue forecast projected a very large shortfall (estimated to be \$1.4 billion). By the time the House began deliberations on its budget, the revenue forecast was worse. Today, the state's revenue forecast projects a pending deficit of \$4.6 billion, and House leadership is identifying \$1 billion in cuts to public school funds (plus additional reductions of up to \$467 million to be covered by federal recovery/stabilization funds). Other parts of state government also will be cut to fill this gap between spending needs and expected tax revenues. In FY 2008-09, public school funding accounts for 38 percent of the State's General Fund, or a total of \$7.98 billion. Ninety percent of public school funding is spent on salaries and benefits. Here's where the money comes from to support public schools:

- General Fund Appropriations: \$7,816,143,933
- Class Size Reduction – Lottery: \$99,399,385
- More at Four – Lottery: \$84,635,709
- Average Daily Membership Fund Corporate Taxes: \$60,500,000
- Civil Fines and Forfeitures: \$138,362,790
- (School Technology \$18 million and State Public School Fund \$120.3 million)
- Sales Tax: \$46,300,000
- Total State Education Budget: \$8,245,341,827

Note: Lottery funds also support capital projects and scholarships. 2.24 percent of the public schools' operating budget is supported by the lottery.

• See FORUM page 8

• ENGAGEMENT •

Porter and Bowers to wed

Mr. and Mrs. Joel Porter, of Highlands, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Emily Porter, to Calab Bowers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bowers, of Franklin. Calab and Emily are planning their wedding for October 24th at First Baptist Church of Highlands.



... HIGHLANDS continued from page 1

was on hand to explain the amendment to the flood ordinance which commissioners have said all along is an "evolving ordinance."

"We said there would be on-going changes and this is one of them," said Commission Chair Ronnie Beale.

Section F – Floodways and non-encroachment areas – had to be amended to include allowable encroachments in the floodways like bridge crossings and sewer and utility line crossings, said Morgan, which as written wouldn't be allowed.

"We have to allow for those sorts of things," he said.

So now the ordinance reads: No encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements and other developments shall be permitted provided that it is demonstrated that the proposed encroachment wouldn't result in any increase of flood levels during the occurrence of the base flood based on hydrologic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice and presented to the Floodplain Administrator prior to issuance of floodplain development permit or, a Conditional Letter of Map Revision has been approved by FEMA. A Letter of map Revision must also be obtained upon completion of the proposed encroachment.

Morgan said it's important to remember the amendment affects the floodway, not the floodplain. The floodway is the area closer to the river.

The board voted unanimously to accept

the amendment.

During Evelyn Southard's Finance presentation, in which budget amendments are traditionally made, discussion ensued about using fund balance money to finance improvements at Highlands School – as previously decided by the board.

Commissioner Bob Simpson suggested that \$275,000 of the \$513,019 allotted for Highlands from the fund balance to pay for the new bathrooms, lighting and the soccer field, be withheld pending the outcome of the final state budget.

"Have any of you seen the email Superintendent Dan Brigman sent out?" he asked. "It says that 26 state-paid teachers in Macon County will be laid off and if that's the case, we may have to step up to the plate and fund those positions ourselves," he said. (See Brigman's message, page 2.)

However, Chairman Beale said no one knows for sure what the state will do. "We don't know if they will cut any teachers and the soccer field in Highlands is something the community deserves," he said. "This has been in the works for years now."

Simpson clarified that he didn't said to withhold the funds forever, just until the state discloses its final budget so the county knows exactly how Macon County schools are affected.

Beale said the bids for the soccer field are to be opened Friday at 3 p.m. and when accepted, the work is to take place while

• See HIGHLANDS page 6

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Buy a gun, the Democrats are here!

Hey, I'm only kidding. Put away the tar bucket and relax. If you're a regular reader, you know I make fun of everything. Since the Democrats are in power, it's their turn in the barrel. Live with it. Also, as our country becomes more polarized each day, I realize making fun of Democrats has more risk than making fun of France.

Squirreled away in this column is a whole bunch of truth about people and their firearms. Read it and be very, very afraid. If you already own a gun, be even more afraid.

Firearm sales have doubled and, in some areas of our country, tripled. I'm not surprised. Are more people taking up hunting? Is there a surge in gun collecting? Or is everyone buying a gun for the purpose of killing another human being? I'm sorry to say it's the latter. That's why everyone should be very, very afraid. There's nothing more scary or dangerous than an untrained amateur with a gun. As a police officer, I was more fearful of the armed and frightened housewife who thought she heard a noise than the person who made the noise.

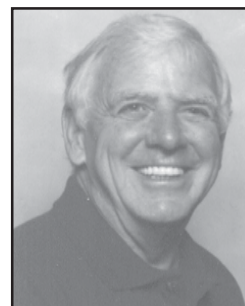
People are buying guns because they're afraid. They think, because of hard times, people will start to get crazy and do drastic things when they become desperate, like break into their homes, or worse, rob them. They're right. Crime always increases during hard times. Not only that, people are afraid our Congress will soon restrict the sale and ownership of firearms. They're right again.

I carried a gun on my hip or had one squirreled away on my person most of my adult life. Now, I'm done. I'm fortunate to have never killed anyone, but that's only because I missed the bad guys during three major shootouts and I was a SWAT officer. That's only one of the reasons to be afraid.

There are only a handful of well trained and disciplined people, like police officers and combat soldiers, who can kill a human and not be affected. Most major police departments require an officer who has killed someone visit the departmental shrink several times before being released back to the street. Sometimes the officer is suspended with pay because of the mental trauma.

So while you're buying that gun, remember it could become an instrument of your own demise. And if you're fortunate enough to live through a shootout and kill someone, remember what follows.

I know you must be wondering why, in three gun battles, a highly trained SWAT



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!

email:

askfredanything@aol.com

officer couldn't hit his target. I always scored expert at the firing range. But during my three shootouts, I was not on a SWAT mission, but working undercover narcotic assignments. I had to run, duck and fire my weapon while adrenaline poured through my body.

On two occasions it was dark and, unlike the target at the range, my target was human and was running, ducking and shooting back. The "shooting back" part is real important. My weapon had a

two-inch barrel and my target wouldn't stay still. I would have been better off throwing the gun at him than trying to shoot him. Unless your pistol has a twelve-inch barrel, you're probably going to miss. Be very, very afraid, especially if the burglar in your house has a gun. You might be inviting your own death.

If you would like to risk ruining the remainder of your life, kill another human being. It happens! My son, his wife and five children live in an upscale community in Palm Beach County called Wellington. Just a stone's throw from their home, an armed burglar broke into a home in the dead of night, causing the owner to kill him. Although the owner was totally justified in the killing, he'll be traumatized by this event for the rest of his life. I happen to know the man isn't doing well with his psychological sessions. He'll probably be a mental mess for a long time. Now, he wishes he had hid and let the burglar take what he wanted.

Because of the Wellington incident, my son is out shopping for his first firearm. With five children in his house, he never wanted one, but now fear has driven him to this point.

Here was my recommendation. "Buy a Remington pump shotgun with a metal, collapsible stock and keep it locked in a gun box bolted to the wall studs in your bedroom closet. Make sure the barrel is no more than 20-inches in length. Load the shotgun with double-O-buck but leave the chamber empty. In the unlikely chance you have an intruder, there's nothing more chilling for a burglar to hear than a round being jacked into your weapon's chamber. Unless he's stupid, he'll run. Prior to locking up the gun, hopefully forever, take your wife to the Everglades and have her fire a box of ammo to get the feel of the weapon.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld once said, "Going to war without France is like going deer hunting without your accordion." I would like to add that while shooting it out with a seasoned criminal, you're better off throwing your accordion at him than trying to shoot him.

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

To the class of 2009....

I was not invited to deliver the graduation at Highlands School, but if I had been, this is the address I would have delivered.

Graduates of the Class of 2009, parents, teachers, administrators, and school board members. I hope I got everybody. Wouldn't you really rather be somewhere else? You might have read my undelivered speech last year, as juniors, but I doubt it. Juniors don't read much and rarely pry into the business of seniors.

I could tell you to save the world, and if you somehow managed it, I'd lie and say I knew you "When."

It's unlikely that a single individual, or single class for that matter, would have much luck at changing the world.

Once in a while, a rare individual with an extraordinary blend of talent, dedication, perseverance, and luck manages to make a difference. Jesus and Mohamed are two examples that come to mind. For all their efforts, the jury is still out on whether they changed the world for better or worse.

My friend, Paul Farmer, is trying to change the world. He has marginally improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in Haiti and Africa. He has had a smaller, but measurable impact in Mexico, Peru, and Siberia. If you're looking for inspiration, read Paul's biography, "Mountains beyond Mountains" by Tracey Kidder. It is required reading for freshmen at the University of South Carolina and was suggested reading for the entire city of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

So my first piece of advice tonight is to read it. If you read it this summer, your life will be a little different by fall, a change that may persist forever. You'll learn that the world need not continue on it's present destructive course, and you'll feel differently about the poor, the sick, and the disenfranchised. You'll learn that when dealing with people who own no shoes, lending a hand is more effective than advising them to pull themselves up by their boot straps.

If you want to change the world, more power to you. If you go it alone, you are almost certainly doomed to fail. Instead, help someone like Paul who has a good head, a good heart, and a head start. Saving the world need not be a full time occupation. I had a friend, a Haitian-



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

American pediatrician, who spent her vacation working in a rural hospital in Haiti instead of SCUBA diving in Cancun. Many people in Highlands help out in Bolivia and Haiti. At the very least, you'll learn that not every one in the world or in America has had the opportunities that you take for granted, and despite the ranting of conservative commentators, may not be so quick to blame them for their poverty.

Few of you will want to save the world. Many of you wish to pursue your education, get a job, and raise a family. We all know that now is not a good time to be looking for work, but we are confident that good times will return.

Your task is to be ready to handle the jobs that will drive our economy in the future.

My grandfather, an Italian immigrant, had faith in America. He left Italy with an eight grade education, found a job working for the Pennsylvania Railroad, brought his fiancée from the old country and started a family. Although Italians were limited to menial jobs and Mafia careers, he believed in the future. He managed to send each of his six sons to college. When America changed, they were prepared.

One of the smartest men I ever knew was Maurice Clemons, a black man who was my boss for three summers while I was in college. Maurice had two sons, but in 1960, decided against sending them to college because there were few open jobs to African-Americans. Despite his brilliance, he lacked the faith in America that made it possible for my Dad and uncles to succeed.

Prepare yourselves for tomorrow's world, because the world changes with dizzying speed. Above all, realize that at this moment you have accomplished very little. You have done little more than put one foot in front of the other for 12 years. There is so much to be done, so much to be experienced. Never stop growing. Never stop striving. Plants and people wither and die when they stop producing. Take pleasure but not complacency in your successes.

Have a wonderful night and a great summer, and above all, please select a designated driver. Thank you and God bless.

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... LETTERS continued from page 2

Let's not pick on Fred

Dear Editor,

I found the recent criticism of Fred Wooldridge quite unfair. I'm one of those who well remembers Fred's wonderful observations about the antics of OEI in its attempt to take over the town (before the thumbscrews were put on Fred...mind you I'm not trying to start something anew. I had a killer breakfast at Madison's this morning.)

Fred's wonderful travelogue about "Dubie do Dubai" had me trying to sell off my 201K. Then I started thinking about trying to have a cold one in a Muslim country. Iced tea under the moon on a balmy 110-degree evening just doesn't cut it.

I am however, a little piqued at Fred for picking on our mayor. Don is as honest as the

day is long. I offered to pay him \$20 if he'd let me vote for him at the next election. He turned me down flat. Then he reminded me that I don't even live in the town.

I have also enjoyed Fred's comments about the Pine Street Park. I am, however, puzzled that neither Fred nor the Pros and Cons have come to the obvious conclusion as I have. We build a three-level parking garage on the spot. After all, we do have a new firetruck that can reach the top level. We could call it the Pine Street Parking Garage. On the ground level we could have regular parking. On the second ditto. The third we could cover with a green indoor/outdoor carpet, put a big blue spot in the middle with a recycle waterfall at each end (Go Green!) some trees in a pot and we have the park again.

If we ever do need the space, we just roll up the carpet and drag everything to one of the empty local mini-malls and bingo, we have the park again.

However, Fred has blown a couple. Remember he does have a problem with higher math, but what can you expect from a retired Miami Beach cop?

Also, he has been wrong (so far) about the terrorist attack that was to come after President Obama's election.

All in all, Fred's a good guy and fun to read, so come on folks, let's not pick on him anymore.

By the way, how many Pollocks does it take to change a light bulb? Oops, I mean Parisians.

Bob Tietze, Highlands

Conard arrested for statutory rape

The Macon County Sheriff's Office arrested Scott Huston Conard on June 9, 2009 for one count of Statutory Rape of a person who is 13-, 14-, or 15- years-old and one count of Statutory Sex Offense of a person who is 13-, 14-, or 15- years-old. Both charges are class B1 felonies with minimum sentences of 144 months in prison. Conard, 25, is a resident of Highlands.

The investigation began on June 8 with a missing persons report regarding the 13-year-old victim. Patrol Officers found Conard and the victim after midnight on June 9 and contacted the victim's custodians who requested that the victim be transported to Angel Medical Center. No criminal allegations were made at the time and Conard was allowed to leave the scene.

Criminal allegations were reported by the victim to medical personnel a short time later and Patrol Officers contacted the on-call Investigator who responded to Angel at approximately 2 a.m. Conard was contacted by officers and voluntarily agreed to come to the Sheriff's Office to be interviewed regarding the allegations. Conard was later taken into custody and served with the two warrants at approximately 5:30 a.m. The magistrate set a \$50,000 secured bond.

The investigation continued throughout the day and included additional interviews and a search at Franklin Memorial Park. Investigators also executed a search warrant in Highlands and seized additional evidence. The Franklin Police Department assisted with the investigation.

On Wednesday June 10, additional charges of First Degree Kidnapping, a class C felony, and Abduction of Children, a class F felony, were served on Conard and an additional \$50,000 secured bond was set. Conard is scheduled for a probable cause hearing in Macon County District Court on June 18.

... HIGHLANDS from 3

school is out this summer and he wasn't willing to wait on the state, regardless.

Commissioner Bobby Kuppers, though a teacher and one of the 26 whose salary is paid by the state, said he was against Simpson's suggestion for two reasons.

"First, I don't think we should set a precedent of paying for reoccurring expenses from the fund balance. We have agreed not to do that and I don't think we should change now.

"Second, paying for those teachers is the state's responsibility, not ours. That burden is on the state. Our job is to fund capital expenses."

Commissioner Brian McClellan agreed. "The county can't step in and take care of every position the state wants to cut. Once we start that, they'll expect us to do it all the time," he said.

Simpson said classrooms are more important than ballfields.

In the end the vote to transfer \$513,019 from the fund balance to fund Highlands School projects was 4-1 with Simpson voting no. - Kim Lewicki

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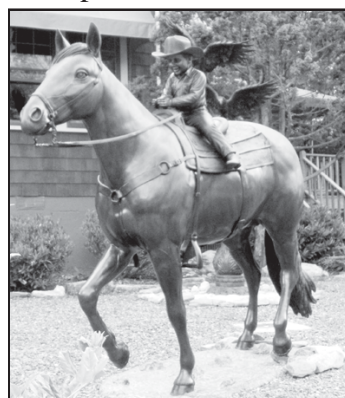
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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Social darwinism

Last week I interviewed Dr. Jim Costa, the Director of the Highlands Biological Station, about his new book, "The Annotated Origin: A Facsimile of the First Edition of On the Origin of Species." I did some reading in preparation for the interview, including a *New York Review of Books* article that mentioned his book (favorably): "Why Darwin?" by Richard C. Lewontin, May 28, 2009.

A passage from that article caught my eye: "While the nineteenth-century theory that some rose and some fell in society depending on their personal strengths and weaknesses is often referred to as 'social Darwinism,' we would be much more in agreement with historical causation were we to call Darwinism 'Biological Competitive Capitalism.' The perceived structure of the competitive economy provided the metaphors on which evolutionary theory was built. One can hardly imagine anything that would have better justified the established social and economic theories of the Industrial Revolution than the claim that our very biological natures are examples of basic laws of political economy."

Dr. Costa explained to me that the phrase "survival of the fittest" was not Darwin's, but was coined by an English philosopher, Herbert Spencer, in the decade prior to the publication of "Origin of Species."

To be honest, this floored me. I have always presumed that Darwin had originated this concept and that it had been used by the capitalists, not the other way around.

The scientific weight behind Darwin's work has made the arguments of social Darwinism more acceptable — how can you argue that competition is bad when it is the foundational driving force of evolution — so this question of how evolution really works has great relevance to how we envision society.

Before I go any further I want to make it very clear that all of the opinions being expressed in this article are mine, not those of Dr. Costa.

Dr. Costa had more surprises in store for me. The "destructive" aspect of competition winnowing out the weak and leaving the fit is an aspect of Darwin's theory that we are all familiar with, he said, but Darwin elucidated another mechanism for natural selection. This has the name of "niche partitioning," and it means, Dr. Costa said, a "division of labor," whereby organisms find a way to share an ecosystem



Katie Brugger
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without directly competing with each other. For example, a famous study was done of warblers that have divided up the space of a tree; some live in the top of the canopy while others live in the lower regions. Competition drives this mechanism, but the result is an increase in diversity of creatures that thrive by not directly competing with

each other.

He also mentioned additional mechanisms for evolution that work through cooperation. These are called mutualism and symbiosis; in these situations mutual assistance results in the greater survival of both parties.

Mutualism examples are easy to find: a large percentage of herbivores, like cows, have mutualistic intestinal bacteria that help them digest plant matter. The bacteria benefit because the cows bring the food to them, the cows benefit because their food is partly digested for them. Most land plants rely on mutualisms with mycorrhizal fungi growing on their roots.

Every creature on earth with cells that include nuclei — that's basically everything except bacteria — are the products of symbiotic evolution. All animal cells contain mitochondria which have been shown to be descendants of bacteria; they still have a semi-autonomous life inside our cells, with their own DNA. They are our cell's energy factories.

Social Darwinism was a powerful movement in the late 19th Century, arguing that biology was destiny and that a broad spectrum of socially undesirable traits, ranging from 'pauperism' to mental illness, resulted from heredity. Rich people were successful because they were superior. Poor people were failures because they were inferior. Thus social policies to help the poor were a waste of time.

Adherents insisted that European civilization was dominant in the world because the white race was superior. Subjugation of the lesser races was just and right.

Eugenics arose from this philosophy, devoted to improving the human race by getting rid of the "unfit." It was a short step to Hitler.

Charles Darwin, according to Dr. Costa, found all of these ideas abhorrent.

You may be thinking, that's all in the past. Not true — look at the recent success of "The Bell Curve: Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life," by Richard

See BRUGGER page 9

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... FORUM continued from page 3

There will be larger class sizes if the state passes the proposed budget to add two students per classroom, which will result in the reduction of the number of teachers and teacher assistants in North Carolina schools. Reduced funding may also force a reduction in electives for high school students and enhancement classes like Spanish, art and music for elementary students.

About 22 percent of funding comes locally from the Macon County taxes. It provides money for operating expenditures such as utilities for school buildings and educational enhancements not possible through state funds (such as lowering class size by hiring additional teachers) and educational materials. Local funds also supplement areas such as helping to recruit and retain quality teachers. Approximately seven percent of funding comes from the fed-

eral level, which covers Exceptional Children's programs and programs for at-risk students.

When reviewing the proposed budget needs with commissioners last week, I attempted to explain that the stimulus money will not be the saving grace for school systems as promised. There is a great deal of misunderstanding around these funds and how much help we will see as a result. Most individuals see the federal stimulus money as this great white horse that is going to ride in and save us, but that is not going to occur. There are too many strings attached and too many parameters on how you can spend the stimulus and stabilization dollars. These dollars will not fill the holes that are going to be created in every situation. State officials hope to approve their 2009-10 budgets by July 15, 2009, while the County Commissioners hope to finalize their budgets by June 15, 2009. The reductions in educational funding resulting in loss of teachers and support staff, larger classrooms and reduced educational materials and supplies could set the education of Macon County students back decades, cutting deep into the resources needed to move forward.

The time is critical for stakeholders to express support for education throughout the district and state by contacting state legislators. State level officials need your input as they prepare one of the most difficult budgets since the 1930s. For more information regarding state budget cuts, go to: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org>.

Please feel free to contact our state legislators directly by email, Senator John Snow at Johnsn@ncleg.net, Representative Phil Haire at Phillip.Haire@ncleg.net, and Representative Roger West at Roger.West@ncleg.net.

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... BRUGGER continued from page 7

Herrnstein and Charles Murray, which argued that racial differences in intelligence could be genetically based. (Dr. Richard Nisbett, a professor of psychology at the University of Michigan, argues in his recent book, "Intelligence and How to Get It" that what we think of as intelligence is

... BUDGET continued from page 1

The proposed budget also reflects the fact that the Public Works Committee met with staff and a consulting engineer on a proposed plan to sewer the town within five years.

"Sound financial planning requires that the Town Board and staff look beyond immediate budget issues and assess the impact of current decisions on future budgets," said Fatland in his report. "Infrastructure planning is essential as is how it will be paid for. Staff has aggressively and will continue to pursue grant funding to lower the financial impact of water, sewer, stormwater and parks and recreation infrastructure costs. However, a long-term budget plan is necessary to address the high cost of infrastructure."

Instead of lumping everything into the General Fund, Fatland suggests establishing separate funds including Special Revenue Funds for Parks and Recreation and the Fire Department and establishing Enterprise Funds for Sanitation and Stormwater.

Expanding Enterprise and Revenue Funds will help the town better track money coming in and going out for specific tasks.

In addition, he suggests no new full-time personnel; no General Fund tax increase; the \$4 per month increase for water but no change in the monthly minimum sewer charge; adopting the approved Fire Department tax from .008 to .009 which was approved by both the county and the town; reducing overtime in the Streets and Sanitation Depts.; and no Cost of Living Increase for town employees.

A separate planning division budget is proposed for planning, zoning and economic development with monies proposed to complete the Unified Development Code, the parking study and a contribution to the Macon County Economic Development committee. Costs associated with the Small Town Main Street Application are also included. This program could entitle Highlands to extra money from the federal government, said Fatland.

Included is a major equipment and vehicle replacement schedule over the next five years. Fatland said with new equipment coming in, the morale of town employees has increased greatly.

All in all, the composition of the proposed budget translates into more transparency.

A public hearing and adoption of the budget is set for a special Town Board meeting on June 24.

— Kim Lewicki

quite malleable and owes little or nothing to genetics.)

And I think many in our culture still believe that the rich and powerful deserve what they have, that their success is because they are more fit (in the social-Darwin sense) than the rest of us.

How much of our thinking about our interactions with each other, both in our individual development and in the larger sense of our economics, has been warped by this pseudo-scientific thinking that competition is the sole basis for life?

Lynn Margulis, who is famous for her work on the theory of symbiotic evolution, contends that the notion of evolution driven by competition is incomplete. She

claims that evolution is strongly based on co-operation, interaction, and mutual dependence among organisms. She has said, "Life did not take over the globe by combat, but by networking." (see "Symbiotic Planet: a new look at evolution," 576.8 M at the Hudson Library).

What would it mean to our political, social, educational, and economic systems, if we turned our science from portraying nature as competitive warfare to cooperative interdependence?

If you'd like to hear some of this information directly from Dr. Costa, you can see the interview on Heart of the High Country show #606. He is also teaching a Center for Life Enrichment Course on June

22 called "The Nature of Human Nature."

While I was working on this article my brother, an avid scuba diver and photographer, sent me some photos from his recent trip to the Philippines. As I watched the slide show I thought, "What an amazing illustration of the diversity of life that evolution has wrought on this planet." Some of his photos are quite marvelous; if you'd like to see them, go to flickr.com/photos/ronbrugger, then on the right side click where it says Philippines.

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

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• HIS & HERS •

Close shaves and progress

by John Armor

I was shaving Friday morning in a small, unaccommodating, shared bathroom when a stranger walked in. He said hello, I said hello, and I felt like Cary Grant, shaving in the bathroom of the train station in Chicago, in North by Northwest.

Well, he wasn't a complete stranger. I knew he was a member of the Class of 1964 from Yale University, since we were up for our 45th Reunion (yes, we are older'n dirt). Anyway, he noticed my faceful of shaving cream and said, "Still doing it the old-fashioned way?" I replied, "It lets me see where I'm going." He said, "It's too early in the morning for philosophy."

I thought about what he said and realized he was right. Not about it being too early in the morning, but about it being philosophy.

Shaving with a brush and a blade razor is a satisfying activity. At the beginning, you know clearly what you need to do. In the midst of the process, you always know where you stand. And at the end, you know when you are finished. Those three qualities make it the similar to assembling a piece of furniture that comes with instructions, putting a child through college and graduate school, and thermonuclear war.

Now, let's consider some human activities which do not offer such clarity in the beginning, middle and end. Try teaching morals to an adolescent male. It can be done before the adolescent gets to that point. There are many instances of adolescents learning morals the hard way, after they become adolescents. But by and large the learning curve shuts down during adolescence.

For the next example, I'll just state the words and you can fill in the explanation why this activity is very hard to plan, and very hard to have its progress measured. Courtship and marriage.

It was a pleasure to see how many of my classmates were still with their "starter wives." They had married well, weathered the storms, and now were living out Robert Burns' couplet, "Grow old along with me, The best is yet to be." In that enterprise, everyone knows what the end point is. Most of us even take vows to go there, in front of God and everybody. But we fail along the way.

But what does all of this, beginning with shaving the old-fashioned way, have to do with the usual subject of politics? I



Michelle Mead-Armor & John Armor

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was getting to that.

The stimulus plans and the bailout plans passed by Congress, and others coming down the pike to be passed shortly, have three short-comings compared to shaving. First is the lack of clear, stated goals. Stimulating the economy is not a goal, but a wish. If the economy is to grow, specific segments of the economy which are capable of growing in this

environment, must be stimulated. Stimulation directed at buggy whip factories, or a more recent idea, at newspapers, is going to fail and waste the money spent there, because the industry itself is dying.

Second, there are no measures of progress in these bills. This is not a new error on the part of Congress and Administrations. For almost a century, Congress has been passing bills whose titles said they would "reform" whatever. Not only do such bills lack measures of accomplishment for their alleged purposes, Congress has a distressing habit of rejecting such measures in bills, and of dismantling outside measures that might prove, or disprove, the effectiveness of the bill.

However, the new "reform" bills going through Congress are different from prior time- and money-wasting bills because the new ones are in the trillions. These involve a century's worth of debt, not merely a few year's worth of debt. National bankruptcy, not national belt-tightening, will be the consequence of failure. That makes it rather more important today to have actual measures of progress, or the lack of progress.

To talk about "jobs saved" is to deal in imaginary numbers. If we are down by ten million more unemployed people, a spokesman could argue that if we hadn't "saved" five million jobs, we'd be down fifteen million. Why not claim ten million saved? It is still fictitious.

When will we know we have reached the end? When America has a healthy economy again, with about 95% of all who want a job, having one. The danger is that like badly made and badly tended marriages, we will all wind up in economic divorce court long before we see a glimpse of such success,

• About the Author: John Armor practiced law in the Supreme Court for 33 years. He now lives on the Eastern Continental Divide in the Blue Ridge of North Carolina. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The mystery of God



Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church

When I think of the mystery of God, I am easily overwhelmed. I think it was Saint Thomas Aquinas who said that any statement about God can be easily contradicted. God is so far beyond our understanding. God is infinite; we are finite, limited. So anything I can say about God will not be entirely true. But I won't let this hinder me from saying some things about God. Though none of us are capable of understanding God completely, we can know some things about Him.

In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses tells the Israelites how majestic God is and yet how close. They had experienced great signs and wonders – all the plagues in Egypt before they were freed from slavery, the parting of the Red Sea, God speaking to them from the pillar of fire. Though glorious beyond their imagining, God intervenes in the history of this group of people. And not just then. Throughout the Old Testament, we see God intervening in human history, establishing covenants with his people and calling them back from the slavery sin imposes to the following God's will. They as we come to know God by what God does.

This God is uniquely described by Christians as Trinity – in the one God there are three distinct persons. God, who is love itself, is a relationship between the three persons of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Though one, God is not alone. In God love is shared – Father to Son, Son to Father and the Holy Spirit that is the love shared between Father and Son. Through the Christian initiation of baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we enter into a loving relationship with the triune God.

- with the Father, who is not a distant person that just creates and then leaves creation to fend for itself. The Christian image of God the Father is a person who is intimately involved in creation. I like to think about God the Father as being close to us, he is ready in an instant to respond to us when we call out.

- and with the Son, who is the Word that shows us the Father. His life of self-sacrificing love shows us how to live.
- and with the Spirit, who empowers us to live the Christian life.

In the letter to the Romans, Saint Paul speaks of this relationship with God as adoption. We become the adopted children of God, calling out to God with the word "Abba." It is a word like that of a small child, calling out to its daddy. This God, though majestic and awesome, is the God who wants us to be as close to him and a child to its daddy.

So don't let the incomprehensibility of God prevent you from being in relationship with God. Accept the Father's support, the Son's example of complete self-giving and the Spirit's power. Experience the love of the Trinity.

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

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Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

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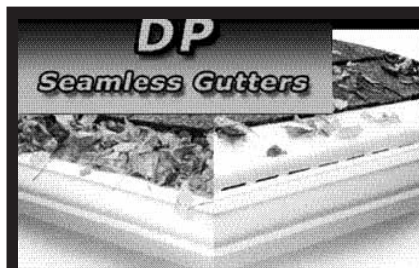
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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Don't send your refugees here

I must admit I'm bummed. My beloved Miami Hurricane baseball team was eliminated from the NCAA playoffs – by the Gators of all people. Oh, the humiliation. Furthermore, the Braves are mediocre in general and can't hit a lick in particular. Football is months away. To make matters worse, the fan email is not particularly comforting.

Something about being predictable and being obsessed with beating up on Obama and his cast of characters. I admit I have been sort of a Johnny-One-Note on the subject, but they are such a deserving target.

So what to write about? I'm purposely starting this before President Obama gives his Cairo speech to the Muslims so I won't be tempted to fall prey to the opportunity to comment on it. OK then, what? I've worn out Al Gore and his global warming shtick to a fare-thee-well. I'm even boring myself on that one. The Hall of Shame girls remaining remarkably well behaved and provide little in the way of salacious gossip. No help there.

Desperate times being what they are, I decided to write on the first thing that came into my mind. While waiting for something to appear on the radar, the phone rang. It was a good friend calling from California and – Eureka – that's it! I'll write about California.

It's no big scoop that the Golden State (how ironic is that?) is in serious financial trouble. It really should come as a no surprise, considering the loony tunes they send to Washington. Before we consider the parade of dandies governing all of us, let's take a look at the Governorator.

When Schwarzenegger (he's going to be Arnold from now on) burst on the scene, I was pretty impressed. Firstly, he was an Austrian, generally a strong-minded group. Secondly, he had a life-plan to become wealthy through his penchant for bodybuilding. He won the Mr. Universe title at 22 and went on to be named Mr. Universe seven times. Where the story gets quirky is when this conservative Republican married Maria Shriver, niece of John F. Kennedy. Since then, his mind has gotten pretty mushy. I think she puts fu fu dust in his yogurt.

Arnold is unquestionably a charismatic and popular guy. While California went blue for president in 2004 and 2008, he won the governorship in 2004 (recall election) and 2006 by impressive margins. Unfortunately, their legislature is also solidly Democrat and presents a huge challenge to Arnold in solv-



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

ing California's problems.

The current issues are largely due to rapid population growth in general, that put a serious strain on infrastructure, and explosive immigration by Mexicans and Central Americans specifically, that put pressure of dramatic proportions on schools, hospitals, jails and other services. Add to that the liberal approach to welfare matters combined with the bursting dot.com bubble and the devastating effect of the collapse in

housing and you have a perfect storm in the making.

The current status of California finances is dire at the moment with a \$21 billion budget deficit. Several debt funding propositions were recently voted down. Arnold's embarrassing attempt to court Obama for bailout money is somewhere in the works, I think. They have the highest sales tax in the country, one of the highest state income taxes and a property tax that is tough to understand and tougher to pay.

While I can't find definitive proof, I understand there is an exodus of citizens who either can't find reemployment, have lost their homes, can't bear the tax burden or some combination thereof.

So who gives a rip about California's problems? They are in a world of their own, aren't they?

From WorldPress; "There's an old saying that says, 'So goes California goes the nation'.

"California has become a preview of where America is going under Obama. An insane political class has decided that you can spend your way out of debt. But California can't borrow money anymore. They destroyed their credit, their bonds are poorly rated and they can't print money like the Obama administration has.

"Democrats everywhere should look to California and see the nation's future writ large in stark detail. They should witness how ineffectual and toxic their policies are in the long term. If they are smart, they'll start voting against Obama's many frivolous bills before it's too late. Of course knowing them they're likely to bail out California which will be another nightmare for the state.

"Taking money from the Obama administration is like borrowing from the mob. Once you do business with them, they think they own you. Ask the auto and banking industries."

Couldn't have said it better myself.

• COACH'S CORNER •

Eleanor Rigby has nothing on Pirate fans

Eleanor Rigby was famously alone in the famous song by the lads from Liverpool, but one has to wonder if she felt as alone as fans of the Pittsburgh Pirates after the latest trade from the Pirate front office. Last week the Bucs sent all-star CF (and only productive member of the lineup) Nate McClouth to the Atlanta Braves for a trio of low-ceiling minor leaguers in an attempt to "build their talent base." For long suffering Pirate fans such as myself and others, it is awfully lonely right now to cheer for a once-proud franchise that has suffered through 16 straight losing seasons.

Keep in mind that Pittsburgh has been supposedly building talent for years in a manner that suspiciously looks like dumping salary. Throughout the past 16, losing, seasons, Pittsburgh has been little more than a minor league farm organization for teams such as the Yankees, Red Sox and even the Braves. Pirate players such as Brian Giles, Mike Gonzales, Jason Bay, Tim Wakefield and now McClouth have gone on to become productive members of other organizations. And while some may say that Pittsburgh is a small market franchise, they are still twice the size of Milwaukee and yet spend over 30 million less on payroll than the Brewers.

Despite major disparities in payroll from the so-called "large market teams," cities such as Tampa Bay, Oakland, Miami and Denver have seen their squads go deep in the playoffs by building their farm system through smart trades and using young star power. McClouth was trumpeted



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

as one of the Pirates young stars and was called by General Manager Neal Huntington as part of the "core" of the team.

While it makes sense to trade a player at his highest value, this normally occurs with players who are at the end of their contract and will not re-sign with Pittsburgh. McClouth had just been signed to an extension, and at 1.5 million per year with incentives was relatively cheap.

By trading McClouth for three prospects, none of which are a sure thing-Pirate management did little to prove that they are heading in the right direction after years of futility.

The positive out of this comes for fans of the Atlanta Braves, who got a steal in this deal despite going three for one in the trade. With McClouth they get a proven major league CF with some pop and a flair for the dramatic.

McClouth also has good speed on the basepaths, and has always provided a positive presence in the clubhouse.

In fact, McClouth was so beloved in the Pirate clubhouse that reliever Jesse Chavez lit a candle in his memory and 1B Adam Laroche was very vocal with his disappointment at the loss of McClouth.

As Atlanta looks to challenge for yet another Eastern division title, they will need McClouth to produce for them in CF the way that he did in Pittsburgh. Unfortunately for the few Pirate fans left, we will once again be reduced to rooting for McClouth (just like we did for Jason Bay last season) rather than supporting our own franchise.

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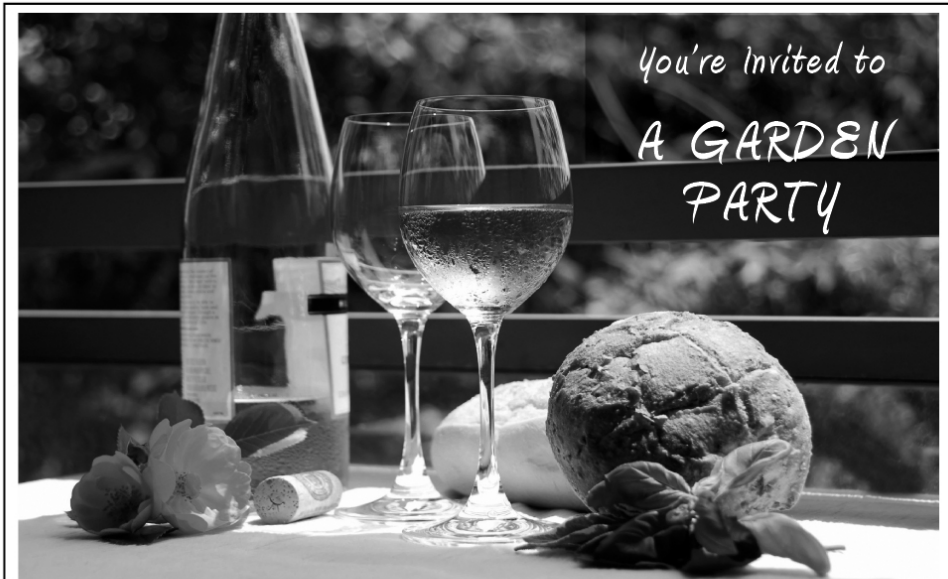
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• HOSPITAL NEWS •

Challenge gift launches hospital campaign for new C-Arm

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is kicking off its campaign to raise approximately \$110,000 to replace a crucial piece of diagnostic equipment used for everything from repairing broken bones in the emergency room to complex surgical procedures.

That capital campaign received a jump start from Highlands seasonal residents Mr. and Mrs. Horst Winkler, who recently made a significant challenge gift. In fact, that challenge has already been matched by several other donors, and the hospital is nearly one third of the way toward reaching its goal.

"Horst and his wife are long-time, generous supporters of the hospital, and we are especially pleased that they have come forward to help launch this important capital campaign for equipment that has become an essential tool for our orthopedic surgeon, our general surgeons, and also our anesthesiologists, who use it heavily for interventional pain management," said Earle Mauldin, chairman of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation. "We hope others in our communities will now come forward to help with their donations to this effort."

The hospital's current C-Arm unit, donated 1998 by a patient, is already past its effective product life and reliability has begun to suffer, says Laura Ammons, manager of the hospital's Radiology Department. "New parts are no longer being manufactured for this model, and we have been relying on refurbished used parts for the last couple of years. It really needs to be replaced."

"A modern, reliable C-Arm unit is absolutely crucial to our orthopedic program at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital," adds or-

thopedic surgeon Herbert K. Plauché, MD, FAAOS, who relocated his practice to Highlands shortly after the current C-Arm unit was purchased. "If we don't get a more reliable unit, we are

going to have to stop doing certain procedures, fixation of many types of fractures, especially hips. That's going to be serious, since I see quite a few of patients who need this kind of surgery."

Plauché also uses the C-Arm to set broken bones in the ER because it allows him to see a real-time image that lets him know if the fracture is properly aligned, without having to move the patient (from the ER into radiology) and wait on conventional x-rays to be taken.

In fact, it was Plauché and the orthopedics program at the hospital that spurred the Winkler's

gift.

"I am so happy we have people like Dr. Plauché and such a great little hospital as this right here in our community," Winkler said recently. "I'm very thankful for this hospital, and I want to do what I can to support it."

While orthopedics is perhaps one of the heaviest users of the C-Arm, it also has a variety of other uses.

Essentially a portable fluoroscopy machine, the C-Arm gets its name because of its large arm shaped like the letter "C." On one end of the arm is a tube that emits X-rays. On the other end is a receptor, which is a type of camera that produces a video-like, moving image of whatever is going on inside the body. The design allows the machine to be wheeled right up to the procedure table. It uses a relatively low dose of radiation.

Since it provides a "real time" image, it's frequently used to place intravenous



Highlands resident Horst Winkler (L) and local orthopedic surgeon Herbert K. Plauché, MD, FAAOS, (R) are shown with the hospital's current mobile fluoroscopy unit. The C-Arm, as it is commonly called, is essential for a number of surgical and interventional pain procedures performed routinely at the hospital, but it is now past its effective operational life and needs to be replaced. A campaign is now under way, kicked off by a generous matching gift from Mr. Winkler, to raise funds to purchase a new unit.

• HOSPITAL NEWS •

Hospital to offer weekly tours

Like a behind-the-scenes peek at what goes on at your local hospital? Now's your chance.

Twice per week Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will be providing small group tours to interested area residents. Beginning June 16, tours will be held every Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 4:30 p.m.

"It's a chance to see what happens every day at the hospital – without getting a bill," said Skip Taylor, director of Community Relations at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. "Folks who are new to the area, or even people who have been here all their lives but who may not have had the need to visit the hospital lately, are welcome to come see what we have to offer and glimpse how things are done. All of us at the hospital are very proud of the facilities we have, and of what we do here."

Taylor said the hospital is asking those who would like to take the tour, which is free, to please call at least a day ahead to reserve a spot. Those interested should call the Foundation Office, which will be handling the scheduling, at 526-1435 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 and 4:30 p.m. Or they can RVSP by email at info@hchospital.org.

"I think people who may not be familiar with the hospital will be very surprised to find out all that we offer here and just what wonderful facilities we have," observed hospital President and CEO Ken Shull. "Thanks to the generosity of area residents, this hospital is a very special place. We enjoying showing it off."

Separate tours of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center are also available by appointment. Anyone interested in visiting there should call 526-1304.

Highlands health screening is full

Slots still open for July 11 Cashiers-area screening

All 150 slots for this season's free health screening for residents in Highlands, Scaly Mountain and Sky Valley zip codes have already been filled, despite the fact that the event is still three weeks away.

Sponsored by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, the Highlands-area screening is scheduled for Saturday, June 27 at the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus. It will begin at 7:15 a.m., and due to budget cutbacks, it is the only public screening being done by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital this year in Macon County.

A second community health screening for residents with zip codes for Cashiers, Glenville, Sapphire, and Yellow/Cullowhee Mountain area will be held July 11 at Blue

Ridge School. Registration is already open for that screening as well.

Even though the Highlands-area screening is already full, residents here can put their names on a waiting list in case of cancellations here. They can also have their names placed on a waiting list for the Cashiers-area screening, should that event not be filled by residents from the Cashiers, Glenville, Sapphire, and Yellow/Cullowhee Mountain areas. Those wishing to add their name to the waiting list for either screening should call (828) 526-1435.

Part of the funding for this year's Highlands-area screening is being provided by the Cullasaja Women's Outreach Program.

... CAMPAIGN continued from page 14

catheters or arterial lines. General Surgeon Billy Noell, MD, FASC, says one of the most common uses of the C-Arm in his specialty is for placing ports for chemotherapy and for cholangiograms, which involve injecting contrast dye into the gallbladder and bile duct system to check for stones.

In addition, the C-Arm is heavily used by local anesthesiologists Mark Shoptaugh, MD, and Dave Register, MD, when performing epidural steroid injections for patients with chronic neck and back pain. Shoptaugh says it's time the hospital replaced its current unit.

"We've had few problems performing cases with the existing C-Arm, and there's

much better technology out there that would allow us better visualization," he said. "Getting a new unit is, in my opinion, a matter of urgency."

Shoptaugh also pointed out that a new C-Arm will get even heavier use if the hospital is eventually successful in recruiting other specialists, such as a part-time urologist to the area.

Anyone interested in learning how they might help in the effort to purchase a new C-Arm can call the hospital's Foundation office at (828) 526-1435 during regular business hours.

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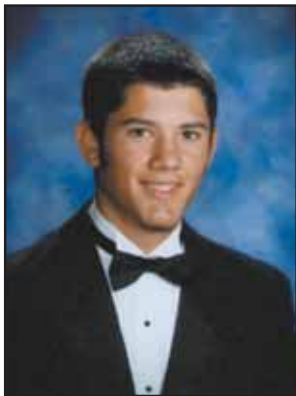


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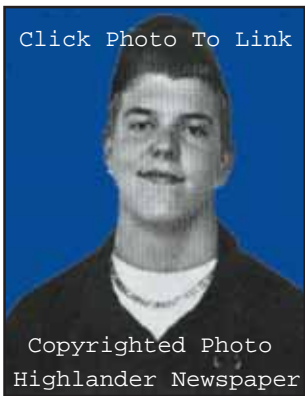
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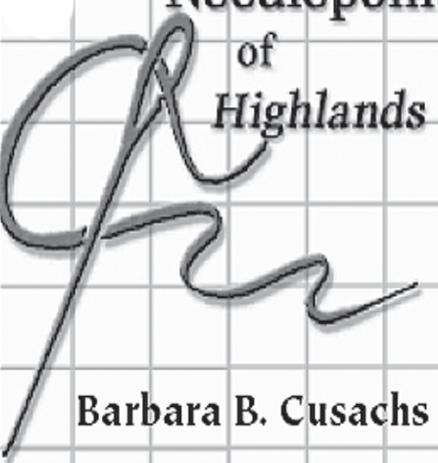
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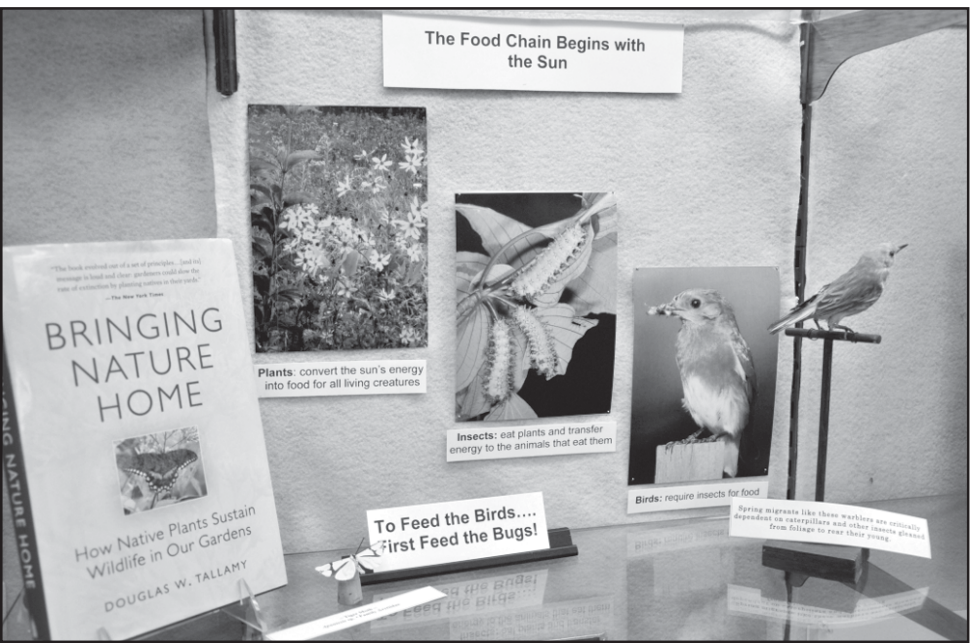
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**Display at the Hudson Library
illustrates the web of life**

By Katie Brugger

Many of our local birds are in trouble, and you can help! A fascinating display at the Hudson Library shows how: the food web that connects the plants blooming in our front yards to the birds singing in our trees.

Our native plants, insects, and birds have all coevolved and depend on each other for survival. Many birds depend on a high-protein insect diet, especially when feeding their young. Most insects depend on plants for food.

Loss of habitat from development and agriculture decreases insects' preferred plants. People plant non-native species in their gardens which are not edible to native insects, and use pesticides to prevent insects from feeding on their plants.

As a consequence of this decrease in na-

tive plants and insects, many birds, even "common" species, are in dramatic decline while other species face imminent extinction.

Native plants have been shown to support three times as many native insects as alien plants, and as many as thirty times the insects most often used for feeding baby birds. So to feed the birds, first you must feed the bugs!

We can all make a difference in preserving our beautiful mountain ecosystem. What we put in and what we take out of our gardens can make an important contribution to preserving our shared environment.

The display is a joint effort of the Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau, the local chapter of the Audubon Society, and the Highlands Biological Station. Jim Costa, the Director of the Highlands Biological Station and an entomologist, brought some interesting specimens from the Highlands Nature Center of some of our native insects—the Luna moth and the Eastern Hercules Beetle are must-sees.

In addition, the library staff has put together a collection of books, many of which can be checked out, on gardening with native plants and field guides to insects and birds.

This display was inspired by a talk given by Doug Tallamy, Chair of the Department of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, at last year's Native Plant Conference. He has written a book entitled "Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in our Gardens," and will be giving a lecture on this topic on June 25 as part of the Zahner Lecture Series (at the Highlands Nature Center, 7 pm, free).

The display will be up through June 30 at the Hudson Library, located at 554 Main Street, open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please call the library at (828) 526-3031.

• INVESTING IN THE FUTURE •

Town Scholarships help students reach goals by earning college degrees

The town's annual Scholarship Golf Tournament takes place Monday, Aug. 17 at the Cullasaja Club. To register for the affair, please call David Cull at the club at 526-3531. Proceeds from the tournament go toward building the town scholarship fund whose interest earned is distributed in the form of scholarships to Highlands School students headed for college.

The is one of the few scholarships available to students anywhere that is renewable so students can reap each year as long as they are still enrolled in college.

The committee in charge of fundraising is changing things up a bit in the future and hopes to have enough money by 2013, to give each graduate (today's rising 9th graders) their freshman year tuition at a public NC institution.

Talk is also underway to make scholarship distributions more equitable. The Scholarship Committee will meet this fall to revise the application as well as establish more clear criteria for awarding scholarships.

Rachel Lewicki, HS Class of 2004, has been a recipient of Town Scholarship funds since she graduated from Highlands School. This has helped her earn two degrees – one from Appalachian State University and one from Johnson & Wales University.



Rachel Lewicki, HS Class of 2004, is a chef from Johnson & Wales and is doing her required co-op at The Log Cabin Restaurant. Here she is working at The Bascom's Collective Spirits wine tasting.

For students who must rely on scholarships, grants and student loans, every dollar is appreciated and sought after – especially after their freshman year in college.

To donate to the Highlands School Scholarship, call 526-2118.

Since interest returns were down this year, only \$36,774.38 was available for distribution, but still the Scholarship Committee awarded \$36,700 to the Class of 2009 graduating seniors and previous graduates who are continuing their education.

ucation.

The Scholarship Fund Balance is \$785,486.02. The more it grows, the more the scholarship program grows. Please respond when asked whether to volunteer or donate to this worthy cause.

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Highlands, 348 S. 5th Street, Highlands, NC. Attention: Melody Mendez, Executive Director, Fax 828-526-0066. St. 5/21

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY in Highlands is hiring for a full time grill/deli position in our new open kitchen. Must have previous experience. Email jobs@MGro.com or call 828.526.2400

HIRING FOR TWO NEW RESTAURANTS – Back of the house and front of the house needed. Call 526-3380 or 342-5174..

DIETARY AIDE needed the in Nutritional Services department at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. PRN position available. Must have dietary experience. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply

online at www.hchospital.org.

MLT or MT needed in the laboratory at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Third shift, full time/36 hours per week with occasional weekend and holiday rotations. Registry of ASCP or equivalent required. Must be able to work alone. 3-5 years experience as a generalist with blood banking experience preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 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 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

UNIT CLERK/C.N.A II needed in the Acute Department at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Current licensure, knowledge of medical terminology and computer experience required. Part time/24 hours per week. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RN needed in the Emergency Room at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full Time position available. ER experience required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 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 828-526-1376 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.

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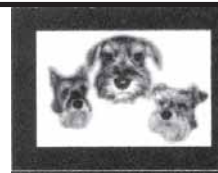
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Dotson - 526-5587. st. 5/21

TWO-BEDROOM. 1 BATH HOME. Close to Hospital. Please Call for more Info. 526-9348.

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ONE BEDROOM GARAGE APARTMENT – Walk to Town. sparsely furnished, year round for responsible single or couple. \$550 plus utilities. 526-5558.

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APARTMENT FOR RENT – 1 bed, 1 bath, living area, kitchen and utility room. \$650/month. \$300 security deposit. First and last month rent. Rent includes utilities, (electric, water, heat, local phone) One year lease. Prefer non-smoker. No pets. Unfurnished. Good for 1-2 people. Call 526-9494.

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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WATER PURIFYING CHLORINATOR PUMP with large heavy duty plastic hold-

ing tank. Was \$75. Now \$50. Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

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.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

SCOOTER 2007 YAMAHA VINO 125 -- Never used. 15 miles logged. Mid-life crisis purchase. \$2,200, helmet included. Call 828-526-0844.

1997 DODGE VAN V3500 - 12-ft. open space. Electrician shelving including. 114,000 miles. \$4,000. Call 706-490-7036 6/26

1989 MERCEDES 560 SL - Black, gray leather only 72,000 miles. Excellent condition. \$15,000. Call 770-827-0450. 7/9

SERVICES

HORSE BOARDING - 10 min. from Highlands. Full Care. Barn, wash stall, arena and trails. Owner & Caretaker live on site. Call 828-713-6101. St. 5/28.

CLOCK REPAIR - Antique or modern, complicated antique clocks are my specialty. Experienced, dependable and courteous with housecalls available in the Highlands area. Call 706-754-9631. Joseph McGahee. Clockmaker. www.oldclockrepair.com. 9/1

GRAPHIC DESIGNER - Identity, branding, print, packaging, advertising and environmental design. Coroflot.com/mackeydj. mackeydj@gmail.com 513-256-4975.

DEPENDABLE LOVING PET SITTER - for all types of pets! Houseitting and landscaping services also available. Call 443-315-9547.

RON'S HYDRO-SEEDING - Small Job Specilist. Call 828-524-3976. 4/23

MILT'S LAWN SERVICE - lawn mowing & weed eating, yard cleaning & light hauling. Call Milton at 828-421-7919 or Bill at 828-524-8659. 5/21

24-HOUR CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE - 16 years experience. Will travel to accommodate. \$2,800 monthly, negotiable. Call Clare Myers 828-349-3479 or 828-342-1603.5/28

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, references and Early Childhood credentials.

\$5 per hour for first child, \$10 a day for second sibling. Call 743-2672.

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

FIREWOOD "Nature Dried" Call 526-2251.

HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADEL GID 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.

TREE SERVICE - Complete Tree Removal, Trimming, Stump Grinding, Lot Clearing, Under Brushing, and Hemlock treatment and fertilization for "Woolly Adelgid." 828-526-2251

LANDSCAPING - Complete Landscaping Company, Design, Installation and Maintenance. Also featuring Plants, Trees, Hardscapes, Water Features, Rockwork, Fencing, Drainage, Erosion Control and RR-Tie work. 828-526-2251

Turn your GOLD into GREEN!

at Head Innovations
GOLD Party!
Tuesday, June 23
from 1-6 p.m.

Atlanta Jeweler Jonathan
Shapero will be on site for
one day.

He pays the highest prices
for precious metals.

2250 Dillard Road
828-787-2343



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Installation & On Site
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M-F 10-5 & SAT 10-2**

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at the Beautiful Falls on Main
(828)-526-3350**

Channel 14
Highlands' own TV channel!

**Heart of the High
Country**

weekly show about Highlands

**Mountain Home
Showcase**

home tours, design tips, and
cooking classes

**Visitor Information
Program**

hosted by Blackberry Bear

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



Northland Cable Television

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin, NC
524-3076
June 12-18

IMAGINE THAT

rated PG-13

Mon-Fri: 4:20, 7:10, 9:20
Sat-Sun: 2:10, 4:20, 7:10, 9:20

LAND OF THE LOST

rated PG-13

Mon-Fri: 4:15, 7, 9:15
Sat-Sun: 2, 4:15, 7, 9:15

UP

rated PG

Mon-Fri: 4:10, 7:05, 9:10
Sat-Sun: 2:05, 4:10, 7:05, 9:10

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2

rated PG

Mon-Fri: 4:20, 7:15, 9:20
Sat-Sun: 2:15, 4:20, 7:15, 9:20

On-going Events

- RBC Bank Highlands (225 Franklin Rd) is selling raffle tickets to win a Weber table portable gas grill. Tickets are \$5 and raffle is limited to 100 tickets only. Get 'em while they last! Also selling American Cancer Society "Fight Like A Girl" shirts in their lobby at 225 Franklin Rd. Highlands. 100% of proceeds donated to the American Cancer Society.

- Registration is now open for the 2009 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered. Call 828-526-2623

Highlands Playhouse opens 72st season with 'The Taffetas'

The 71st Season at the Highlands Playhouse begins with fond memories and a look back in time.

Journey back to the 1950s when television was in its infancy. Families gathered around a 12-inch screen on Sunday nights to watch programs that featured a variety of talent featuring singing groups like The Taffetas.

The Taffetas is a fun, nostalgic romp through the songs of the 1950s girl groups. The music and performers offer the audience an evening of energetic music and dance. The audience viewing the play "acts" as an audience of a fictitious television show in New York where The Taffetas are performing.

An homage to the girl-groups of the 1950s, *The Taffetas* catches up with a quartet of sisters (Kaye, Peggy, Cheryl and Donna) from the Midwest who are on their way to big-time stardom. In this play, The Taffetas are appearing on television for the first time; singing, dancing, and telling stories. *The Taffetas* covers a wide range of 1950s hits. With selections from The Fontane Sisters, The Chordettes, and others, *The Taffetas* gives a nice sampling of songs from the well-known "golden oldies" to forgotten gem.

The Taffetas is showing at The Highlands Playhouse from June 18 until July 5. Remember there is no performance July 4th. Performances are Tuesday through Saturday at 8 pm with a Sunday Matinee at 2 pm.

There will be an opening night buffet on July 18th after the performance generously provided by New Mountain Events and a chance to meet the cast of *The Taffetas* included in your ticket price.

For ticket prices or more information come by the box office at the Playhouse at 362 Oak Street or call 828-526-2695. Box office hours are Monday through Saturday 10am until 5 pm.

or visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.

- 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).

- 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.

- 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.

- Yoga Classes Tues/Thurs 4:30 to 6pm and Saturday 9:30 to 11am, Moonrise Yoga Center, 464 Carolina Way in Highlands, 828-526-8880.

Sundays

- Old-fashioned hymn-sing at the Little Church in the Wildwood 7-8 p.m. Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. For more information call Kay Ward at 743-5009.

Mon. & Wed.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

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

- Closed 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.

- Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

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.

Wednesdays & Fridays

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

Every 3rd 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.

Thursdays

- The Zahner Lecture Series at the Nature Center at 7 p.m. Subjects vary.

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

- New Yoga Class 4:30 to 6 pm, Advanced Beginner, All Levels Welcome. Moonrise Yoga Center 464 Carolina Way. For more info call Diane Levine, 526-8579

Every 2nd Thursday

- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Appalachian South support group will meet once a month through the summer on the third Thursday of each month. The meetings will be held at 7p.m. at the Children's Home for Family Restoration, 827 Wiley Brown Rd. in Franklin. NAMI is a grassroots organization providing support, advocacy and education for individuals with mental illness and their families. Membership is not required to attend meetings. For more information contact:

Ann Nandrea 828 369-7385, Mary Ann Widenhouse 828 524-1355, Carole Light 828 226-6213

2nd & 4th Fridays

- Community Drum Circle at the Highlands Rec Park, from 6-7:30 p.m. For more information call 421-0551.

More storytellers coming to PAC



The series of storytelling will continue at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on June 11 at 7:30 p.m. Elizabeth Westall will be featured in a one-act play written by Gary Carden about a mountain woman, Nance Dude, accused of killing her granddaughter. Ms. Westall holds a Masters degree in English from Duke University and taught high school English in Durham for 27 years. However, she has acted in or directed numerous plays and "Nance Dude" is one of her favorites. Tickets to her performance are available now at \$15 each. Charge by phone at 526-9047 or visit www.highlandsp PerformingArtsCenter.org.



Upcoming Book Signings
526-5488 • Main Street
e-mail: cyranos@nctv.com

June 24

1-3 p.m.

Mary Kay Andrews

The Fixer Upper

TBA

Cassandra King

(untitled - Set in Highlands)

July

Dorothea Benton Frank

Return to Sullivan's Island

September

5-7 (Labor Day weekend)

Pat Conroy *South of Broad*

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Youth exhibitions, classes, art summer camp all summer at The Bascom



This year, the Bascom is offering an expanded summer camp, plus youth exhibitions and classes, at its new campus. For more information, contact The Bascom at (828) 526-4949.

Who can resist the charm and unrestricted creativity of children's art? The Bascom will be exhibiting all manner of delightful art projects – a culmination of the 2008/09 *Young Artist Program* – from June 19 to July 11 on the ground floor of the main building at The Bascom. Following will be the exhibition *Summer Camp Projects*, which will be on view July 18 to Sept. 26.

It will be a new experience for children to have their classes in the beautifully appointed studio of The Bascom's new main building. The north side of the classroom opens to the outdoors.

The Young Artist Program Summer Camp for children ages 5 to 13 is from June 23 to July 28. The camp includes crafts, clay, painting and mixed media with Bascom art teacher Susan Nastasic. Camp is offered Tuesdays at The Bascom: ages 5-8 from 10 to 11 a.m. and ages 9 to 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Camp is offered on Thursdays at the Highlands Recreation Park: ages 5 to 8 from 1 to 2 p.m. and ages 9-12 from 2 to 3 p.m. Drop in for one class or take them all: cost is \$30 for a 6-class session or \$5 per class.

This season at The Bascom, several intergenerational classes have been added that can accommodate young children and their families. Knitting, mask-making, card-making and rubber stamping are among the subjects that will be explored. A full lineup of classes is available at www.thebascom.org. Registration is now open for the summer programs. Prices range from \$5 to \$95.

Youth programming continues into the fall and winter. For more information, contact The Bascom at (828) 526-4949 or www.thebascom.org.

Fridays & Saturdays

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese, at Falls on Main, complimentary wine samplings during business hours.

Saturdays

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main, Wine Flights from 4-6:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheeses and specialty foods. \$19 per person.

Through Thursday, June 25

- Instruments of Appalachian Music exhibition at The Bascom in conjunction with the Collective Spirits wine festival. Public viewing for non-ticket holders will begin June 2. Admission is free. For information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Through Friday, June 12

- Old Edwards Hospitality Group will host Summer Style Week. Representing all that is stylish about the summer season, Summer Style Week is an entire week of delicious samplings, demonstrations and mini-seminars to get you ready for a stylish summer. Guests will get the season's insider tips from top experts — including culinary, spa, gardening, tablescapes and more. The largest event will be a Garden Party at the Farm on Thursday, June 11 where participants will enjoy a delicious lunch while learning the secrets of throwing their own garden party — Old Edwards Style. Call 866-526-8008 to make your reservation

Thursday-Friday, June 11-12

- Pottery workshop "Mud, Sweat and Tears: Making Fine Functional Pots," by Mark Hewitt, will be held at The Bascom from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for intermediate to advanced clay students. Cost is \$400/\$375 Bascom members. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Thursday, June 11

- The Storytelling Series continues at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center with a one-act play written by Gary Carden. The story of Nance Dude, a mountain woman accused of having killed her own granddaughter is brought to life by actress, Elizabeth Westall. Ms. Westall, a former English teacher, is recognized throughout western North Carolina for her acting ability. The performance of the Nance Dude story starts at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday at PAC. Tickets are \$15 each and may be charged by phone at 526-9047, or online at www.highlandsp Performing Arts Center.org.

- Taize services will be held at 5:30 pm, at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church. Taize is a form of ecumenical prayer that is practiced by many Christian traditions. It is a means to reconciliation and peace among the people of God. The services will include scripture readings, Taize music, silent meditation on the Word of God, and prayers of intercession and praise.

- A free book signing featuring master ceramic artist Mark Hewitt will be 5-7 p.m. at The Bascom for Hewitt's 2005 acclaimed book co-written with Nancy Sweezy, "The Potter's Eye: Art and Tradition in North Carolina." Books available for purchase. For information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org/presentations.

- Each year CLE offers classes on medical topics of current interest. The first of this year's three lectures will feature Dr. Virginia Templeton discusses dementia. Dr. Templeton is Associate Director of MemoryCare, a non-profit organization in Asheville caring for older adults with memory disorders. "The Many Faces of Dementia" will be held at the Performing Arts Center on Thursday, June 11 from 10-12. \$20 members, \$30 non-members. Contact the Center for Life Enrichment office at 526-8811 for more information or to register.

See EVENTS page 26

SOAR activities line-up



Highlands High School AP Art History class created the Eight Flags for Eight Tours in honor of the fallen Special Operations members. *Students helping students.* Haley Chalker, Danielle Reese, Brice Jenkins, Kate Marie Parks, Matt McClellan, and Ashley Dickey participated in the project after studying symbolism is art this past semester. Shown is the flag created by Brice Jenkins, this and all of the other flags will be on display at the SOAR event on Thursday evening at the Highlands Community Building. At 5:30pm, an International Tasting Bar by Chef Nick Figel from Cyprus Restaurant, a Martini Bar, Wine, Beer, Music, plus a Silent and Live Auction. \$30 at the door.

When Sergeant Chris Self lines up at the starting line for Saturday's Special Operations Adventure Race, he'll be indistinguishable from the other superbly conditioned athletes.

They'll rocket through a brutal 40-mile course that'll test their skills in running, biking, canoeing and rappelling over eight hours.

But Sgt. Self's effort is even more remarkable when you learn that this soldier lost his right leg below the knee in a December 2005 firefight in Iraq.

"Well, I just learned to cope with an artificial leg and I promised myself it wouldn't slow me down," he explains.

This marks the second time Sgt. Self has signed up for this grueling race. "I got to meet some of the families that have been helped by this, so there was no question that I was going to come back again," he says.

SOAR of Western North Carolina, which stages the race and a full slate of other fundraisers, uses the funds raised to provide for the education of the children of Special Operations warriors who are killed in the line of duty.

The SOAR volunteers' efforts are part of a national effort to help these youngsters. For 28 years, the Special Operations Warrior Foundation has strived to have a positive impact on the children of the fallen heroes of the Special Operations Forces. The foundation gives all children of these young men who lost their life a college education (grant, not a loan).

Local volunteers were reminded of the urgency of their efforts at their last meeting, when they were told that their efforts would help support the education of the stepson of Navy SEAL Michael Koch, who was recently killed on his eighth tour of Iraq.

Stories like that are the reason that SOAR of Western North Carolina is staging a host of fundraisers this year.

It's also what keeps a soldier like Sgt.

Self returning to Highlands to test body and spirit.

If you'd like to help out, but may not want to participate in the SOAR Adventure, there are several ways to help out.

There's the Thursday, June 11th, Silent/Live Auction at the Highlands Community Building. Local merchants, businesses and individuals have donated a treasure chest of good and services that'll be available to the public. Tickets at the door are \$30, and early reservations are \$25. For reservations, call (828) 526-0224. This event, which starts at 5:30 p.m., will include an international tasting bar (featuring Mediterranean, American, Japanese and Asian dishes) by Chef Nicholas Figel of Cyprus Restaurant, wine, beer, soda, and music.

You can also buy raffle tickets being sold in front of Bryson's Food Store and Shiraz Oriental Rug Gallery. It's a chance to win for two Chinese rugs donated by Shiraz Rugs, three American Flag Jackets donated by Jolie's of Highlands and a 47-inch Vizio LCD Flat Screen TV donated by the Gary Van Flocke Family. Tickets are \$2 or six for \$10.

They're also providing information about SOAR of Western North Carolina's calendar of events, including the June 11th Silent/Live Auction at the Highlands Community Building. Local merchants, businesses and individuals have donated a treasure chest of goods and services that'll be available to the public. Tickets at the door are \$30, and early reservations are \$25. For reservations, call (828) 526-0224. This event, which starts at 5:30 p.m., will include an international tasting bar (featuring Mediterranean, American, Japanese and Asian dishes) by Chef Nicholas Figel of Cyprus Restaurant, wine, beer, soda, and music.

For more information on SOAR and its many activities and the children that it serves, call Buck Trott at (828) 526-4645.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

• Macon County Manager, Jack Horton, will speak about financial conditions in Macon County. He will present information on unemployment, construction and development, effects on business, the impact of the economic downturn on county spending, budget, and infrastructure projects, and answer questions from the audience. The meeting is being hosted by the League of Women Voters, and will be held at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church. Lunch is available at noon, by reservation. Call 524-5192 or email lvwmacon@wild-dog-mountin.info. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

• The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series the Series welcomes author John Yow who will be talking about his new book, *The Armchair Birder: Discovering the Secret Lives of Familiar Birds*, which he describes as "a different kind of bird book." While most bird books try to help you identify 500 species that you're never likely to see, Yow's book is a reminder that the most fascinating birds might well be the ones right outside our window. 7 pm at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Rd. and is sponsored by the Highlands Biological Foundation, Inc. in conjunction with numerous supporting organizations and individuals. For a complete schedule, visit www.wcu.edu/hbs

Saturday-Saturday, June 13-July 11

• The Three Potters: Bringle, Hewitt and Stuemple exhibition at The Bascom. Admission is free. A public opening reception will be June 13 from 5-7 p.m. For information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Saturday, June 13

• The Lady Highlands basketball team will be having a car wash on Saturday, May 30th and from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the First Citizens bank parking lot. Donations will be going to help the team go to Orlando, Florida for a holiday tournament. Other donations can be made to the team. Make checks payable to "Highlands School Booster Club."

• A pottery-making bonanza featuring demonstrations and lectures by well-known ceramists Cynthia Bringle, Mark Hewitt and David Stuemple will be 9 a.m. to noon at The Bascom. Cost is \$45/\$30 Bascom members. To pre-register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org/presentations.

• A free World Wide Knit In celebration for knitters

and non-knitters will be 2 to 4 p.m. on the terrace at The Bascom. Bring a folding chair along with your yarn or fiber project. For information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org/presentations.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.3 mile hike from Upper Whitewater Falls and Whitewater River Gorge to Bad Creek Reservoir Parking Area. The hike requires some scrambling over roots and rocks to get magnificent views of the highest waterfall in the eastern US, then proceeds into the gorge, offering beautiful river views and many wildflowers. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 am; Drive 50 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles at 743-1079 for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• John Collette Fine Arts will host a gala to benefit the Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Fine art, an open bar, excellent hors'd oeuvres, and artist raffles will make for a festive evening. HCCMF will receive a commission from all paintings sold and the proceeds from the sale

of raffle tickets. Invitations will be sent. The gala also marks the public's first chance to view John Collette's new location at the center of Highlands, 381 Main Street.

• Highlands Plateau Greenway Annual Meeting and Picnic. Will meet at 5 p.m. at the Picnic shelters at the south end of the Highlands Recreation Park. A hamburger and hot dog picnic will be provided. We will have a very brief business meeting to review the year's highlights and to elect new board members. We will also have badminton and croquet for kids of all ages to enjoy. Please call the Rec Park at 526-3556 for reservations.

Sunday-Friday, June 14-19

• Join us for Vacation Bible School at Clear Creek Baptist Church. This year we will be learning about the authority and reliability of God's word. Please join us from 7 - 9 p.m. nightly. All ages are invited, including adults.

Sunday, June 14

• A Courtyard Poetry Reading at Summit One

Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill, Chip Callaway, Margie Shambaugh to speak at Mountains in Bloom

Three dynamic lectures will add to the multi-day spread that is the Mountains in Bloom garden festival, set for Highlands July 7-11.

Mountains in Bloom features a garden tour of seven Highlands homes, a flower show and photography competition, lectures, a home and garden shop and a Giverny-themed Patrons Party, and all proceeds benefit The Bascom, a nonprofit visual arts center.

On Tuesday, July 7, at 5:30 p.m. in The Bascom's new ground-floor Two-Dimensional Studio, hear a lively talk on the medicinal properties of plants by Highlands' own Margie Shambaugh: "Flower Remedies: Take Two Roses and Call Me in the Morning." Cost is \$10.

Then on Thursday, July 9, come to "An English House and Garden Extravaganza," where two highly acclaimed speakers, interior designer Lady Henrietta Spencer-

Churchill and landscape designer/garden restorer Chip Callaway, will wow the crowd at two sessions. Held at the Performing Arts Center, Spencer-Churchill will speak on "Georgian Style and Design for Contemporary Living," and Callaway will speak on "What's New in Old Gardens." Attendees choose either a morning session (8:30 a.m. to noon) or an afternoon session (1-4 p.m.), with a book signing and the Café Royal gourmet experience in between lectures and slide presentations. Cost is \$100.

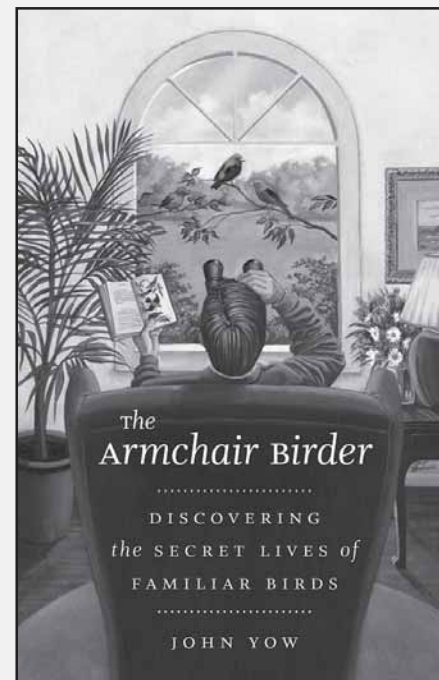
Tickets for the lectures and Mountains in Bloom are on sale now. Prices for the other events vary. Corporate sponsors are Old Edwards Inn & Spa, WNC magazine, Franklin Ford/Moss Robertson Cadillac, The Highlander, The Laurel magazine and Lupoli Construction.

For tickets or more information about Mountains in Bloom, call (828) 526-4949.

Zahner Conservation Lecture Series Continues Thursday June 11th with author John Yow on "The Armchair Birder: Discovering the Secret Lives of Familiar Birds"

John Yow will be talking about his new book, *The Armchair Birder: Discovering the Secret Lives of Familiar Birds*—which he describes as "a different kind of bird book." While most bird books try to help you identify 500 species that you're never likely to see, Yow says his book is a reminder that the most fascinating birds might well be the ones right outside our window. Yow's book covers 42 familiar species, devoting a detailed essay to each, and delving into their sometimes less familiar antics—from the philandering of the ruby-throated hummingbird, to the occasional dipso-mania of the cedar waxwing, to the "less than exemplary" behavior of our national emblem, the bald eagle. Based on his own observations, as well as those of America's classic bird writers like John James Audubon and Arthur Cleveland Bent, Yow says that "instead of bare facts and field marks" his book "offers anecdotes and stories—the readable, engaging stuff backyard birders will enjoy." Yow earned a Ph.D. in literature before veering from academia into the publishing business, where he served as Senior Editor at Atlanta's former Longstreet Press. He now is a full-time author of several books.

Next Thursday, June 18th, the Series welcomes Ran Shaffner, Rosemary Stiefel and Gary Wein from the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust as they reflect on "100 Years of Land Conservation" on the Highlands Plateau, telling the story of Land Trust's history of land conservation in honor of



their centennial.

The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series is held each Thursday during the summer months at 7pm at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Rd. and is sponsored by the Highlands Biological Foundation, Inc. in conjunction with numerous supporting organizations and individuals. For a complete schedule, visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.



Chip Callaway



Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill



Margie Shambaugh

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Gallery on S. 2nd Street. From 2-4 p.m. Bring lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy a cool glass of lemonade, poetry and art. Poetry by Joyce Foster and art by Jane Smithers.

• Please join the parishioners of *Christ Anglican Church* for their Annual Welcome Back Picnic on Sunday at The Summer Chapel, Whiteside Cove Road. The Most Rev. Walter H. Grundorf, Presiding Bishop, Diocese of the Eastern United States will be celebrating the Eucharist. This service will be much like Church services that were held over 100 years ago. Its simplicity will be a moving experience, and we pray that God will anoint everyone with His Holy Spirit at this joyous time of worship and fellowship. Please arrive by 12:30 in order to park. The service will begin at 1 p.m. with a picnic to follow. Please bring a covered dish and a folding chair. In honor of Bishop Grundorf's visit we are asking everyone bring a bag, or 2 of food to help with Highlands Food Pantry. Items needed are: canned meat (tuna & salmon); plain rice; tortillas; dried black beans; cooking oil, sugar; canned fruit; diapers; shampoo, shaving cream, lotion; toilet paper and paper towels. The food pantry is providing more food now than ever and we want to make sure the shelves are stocked. To learn more about Christ Anglican Church of Highlands/Cashiers, visit us at our

website www.christanglicanchurch.com.

Monday, June 15–Friday, June 19

• Pottery workshop "Finding Your Form Through Nature," by Alice Ballard, will be held at The Bascom from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for beginning to advanced clay students. Cost is \$395/\$375 Bascom members (basic materials and firing included). To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Monday – Wednesday, June 15-17

• Community Bible Church's summer ARTS camp is for children who are rising 2nd graders – rising 6th graders. We will be specializing in teaching the ARTS through Dance, Painting/Drawing, Music, Drama and Audio-Visual. 9am – noon. 3645 Cashiers Rd., Highlands, NC 28741. For more information, visit our website: www.cbchighlands.com or call 828-526-4685.

Monday, June 15

• A lecture by celebrated ceramist Alice Ballard, "Discovering Form Through Nature," will be held at 7 p.m. at The Bascom. Cost is \$15/\$10 Bascom members (free to Ballard's Bascom students). To pre-register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org/presentations.

• Art class "Learn to Knit" by Fayne Ansley, will be held at The Bascom from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for beginning to advanced students. Designed for the whole family. Cost is \$25/\$20 Bascom members. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

• At CLE, Hiking the Carolina Mountains Danny Bernstein, 10:00-12:00 lecture Peggy Crosby Center \$25/\$35; 1:00-2:30 hike Glen Falls

Tuesday, June 16

• "Junior Ecologists" day camp at the Highlands Nature Center. June 16-19, 10 am – 4 pm daily. Learn what field biologists do while conducting real science such as measuring trees and mapping stream salamander communities. Ages 11-15. \$50 per child, pre-registration required. Call 526-2623.

• The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a field trip around Highlands to look for breeding birds. Meet at the public parking area next to the town hall at 7:30 a.m. For additional information call Brock Hutchins at 828-787-1387.

• Macon County Democratic Women will meet at the Sunset Restaurant in Franklin at 1 p.m. For more information, call Elizabeth Cabe at 524-6859.

• Please join Mountain Air Chiropractic for a free lecture at 6 p.m. at their Cashiers office Topic: Hip, Knee and Ankle Health. For more information call us at 828-743-9070 or 828-526-3709.

• At CLE, The World in 100 Years William Hartman, 10:00-12:00 \$25/\$35 PAC

Thursday, June 18 – Sunday, July 5

• At Highlands Playhouse, The Taffetas, Tuesdays through Sundays, 8 p.m. everyday except Sunday which is 2 p.m. For ticket prices or more information come by the box office at the Playhouse at 362 Oak Street or call 828-526-2695. Box office hours are Monday through Saturday 10am until 5 pm.

Thursday, June 18–Saturday, Aug. 15

• Helen Frankenthaler and the Color Field Painters exhibition at The Bascom. Admission is free. For information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Thursday, June 18

• At Creative Concepts at Falls on Main, "Girls Night Out!" from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Offering massages and facials with new green products. Also, 35% all products and 50% off all jewelry. Gold buyer also available. Raffle and snacks. For information call 526-

3939.

• Taize services will be held at 5:30 pm, at the Holy Family Lutheran Church. Taize is a form of ecumenical prayer that is practiced by many Christian traditions. It is a means to reconciliation and peace

among the people of God. The services will include scripture readings, Taize music, silent meditation on the Word of God, and prayers of intercession and praise.



Above: Painted Lady butterfly on Ali Bolt's toes. Photos by Becky Schilling. Left: Grace Brassard and Painted Lady butterfly.

Walk in the Park set for June 28



In the early 1900s Dr. Mary Lapham built 60 cottages in Highlands to house tuberculosis patients, but left America to treat victims of World War I. Becky Schilling, seen here inside the TB cottage that now stands on the grounds of the Highlands Historic Village, will portray Dr. Lapham in this year's Walk in the Park. Six more actors will portray persons important to Highlands' history in Walk in the Park performances at Memorial Park tomorrow and Saturday, and at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street on Sunday. Shuttles will run from the Rec Park every 15 minutes tomorrow and Saturday from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Sunday's performance starts at 4 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$15 each; students are admitted free. Proceeds benefit the Historical Society.

Highlands School sixth-grade students raise butterflies

By Dr. Becky Schilling

On May 29, Stephanie Smathers and her Highlands School 6th grade students released about 30 Painted Lady butterflies in the butterfly garden in front of the school.

The students had raised the butterflies in their classroom.

The hands-on process started April 29, when the students pressed food into tiny cups where the larvae (caterpillars) could feed and grow.

Eight days later, "Our butterflies are humungous!" students shouted as they walked on the outdoor track near the butterfly garden. It was welcome news to the Mountain Garden Club members working in the butterfly garden that day.

Giving 6th grade students butterfly larvae to raise in the classroom is a Mountain Garden Club tradition.

By May 11, many of the larvae had formed chrysalises (cocoons), and the students gently moved them to a netted pavilion.

Then the wait began. Normally adult butterflies start to hatch in 7 to 10 days.

May 20 came and still nothing had happened. Were the chrysalises ok? Had something gone wrong?

Finally, May 21: "Two butterflies have hatched—just now noticed — cannot believe it — it is no neat — the kids will be happy,"

wrote Smathers in an email to the Mountain Garden Club.

"Raising butterflies from larvae helps students learn about metamorphosis and the butterfly life cycle," explained Elizabeth Little of the Mountain Garden Club. "It also gives the kids insights about plants and insects. In a garden, host plants like dill and parsley provide food for butterfly larvae, while nectar-producing plants provide food for adult butterflies."

Earlier this spring the students planted dill and parsley in the butterfly garden to feed native butterfly larvae.

In the classroom, the students fed their adult butterflies with nectar substitutes: sugar water and sliced oranges.

After a solid week of rain, May 29th dawned bright and clear. The perfect day for the students to release their winged prodigies.

With all eyes focused on the pavilion, Ivy Satterwhite unzipped the top, and the first butterflies flew out. Students took turns helping the butterflies up and out of the pavilion.

Several butterflies lingered on students before flying away.

Maybe the butterflies were warming their wings, preparing themselves for flight. Or maybe they were saying thank you. Whichever it was, it was worth the wait.

• BIZ NEWS •

Local businesses partner with Land Trust

On the first Saturday of June, businesses across the state showed their support for their local land trusts by donating a percentage of their sales or by making donations to them.

Land Trust Day, as it is known, is a state-wide public awareness event that began several years ago but is in its third year locally and is scheduled to coincide with National Trails Day. Several businesses participated last Saturday in support of Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and their local land conservation work.

Highland Hiker, The Orchard and Whole Life Market have been supporting Land Trust Day since it began locally three years ago. Victoria's Closet & VC for Men have expanded to include Victoria's Sportswear and are now in their second year as Land Trust Day supporters along with Fressers Eatery. Debbie Grossman, Owner of Fressers Eatery said, "By supporting Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, we are helping to protect the landscape that draws so many of our customers here in

the first place. For me, it's a smart investment in my business as well as our community." Grossman added, "My customers loved the idea of eating dessert for a good cause!"

Lakeside Restaurant also donated 15% of dinner sales from HCLT supporters on Wednesday as part of their "Evening at Lakeside" program. The Land Trust is also proud to welcome their newest Conservation Business Partner, The Chinquapin Company.

Land Trust Development Director, Julie Schott, said, "Highlands and Cashiers are blessed, not only with an abundance of natural beauty and biological diversity, but also to have a com-

munity of individuals and businesses who recognize the importance of working together to protect what we all hold dear." Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust protects nearly 1,700 acres in 56 places. For more information, call Julie Schott at 526-1111.



Immunization requirement for 6th grade entry

Macon County Public Health Center's Lead School Nurse, Jennifer Garrett, reminds parents that an immunization rule states that a booster dose of Tdap is required for all children before entering 6th grade in the public schools or by age 12 for those attending private, religious, home schools, etc, or if it has been more than 5 years since your child's last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine.

Bring proof of vaccination to the school on the first day of 6th grade. Acceptable proof of vaccination is a copy of the child's Certificate of Immunization. You will have 30 days from the first day of attendance to present the required up-to-date record for your child. If proof of vaccination is not provided by the end of the 30 calendar day period, the child will be suspended from school until proof of immunization is provided.

Tdap is a combination vaccine that provides protection against three diseases: tetanus, diphtheria, and Pertussis (commonly called whooping cough). This vaccine can be provided at the Macon County Public Health Center or by contacting your child's

health care provider for an immunization appointment. The cost of the vaccine is free; although your child's health care provider may charge a small administration fee to give the vaccine.

Other vaccines you may want to discuss with your child's health care provider are:

- Meningitis: which is an infection of the fluid of a person's spinal cord and the fluid that surrounds the brain. It can lead to the loss of a limb, brain damage, or death.

- Human Papillomavirus (HPV): HPV can cause cervical cancer. The HPV vaccine is only approved for females between 9 and 26 years of age.

The Macon County Public Health Center will offer an immunization clinic at the public health center on Tuesday, June 23rd from 2pm – 6pm for rising 6th graders who are eligible to receive the Tdap vaccine. There will be no charge for the Tdap vaccine. Garrett reminds parents to make sure their child is ready and up-to-date on his/her immunizations prior to the start of the 6th grade school year.

John Collette Fine Art on Main Street to host series of benefits this season

John Collette Fine Arts will host a gala to benefit the Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 13th.

Fine art, an open bar, excellent hors'd oeuvres, and artist raffles will make for a festive evening. HCCMF will receive a commission from all paintings sold and the proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets. Invitations will be sent.

The gala also marks the public's first chance to view John Collette's new location at the center of Highlands, 381 Main Street (across from Buck's Coffee Shop). The new space was developed by famed designer Joel

Kelly.

It'll also be an introduction to the newest artists featured in the gallery – Barry Sons and Karen Lawrence (profiled elsewhere in this issue of Laurel); Christopher Bell, an apprentice of Julyan Davis; Louis Ruis, who turns exquisite bowls from exotic woods; and Dale Weiler, who carves trout from marble and alabaster.

Other local causes that'll benefit from openings at John Collette Fine Arts this season are The Highlands Playhouse, Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society, and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.



H-C Chamber Music to be first Collette benefit recipient – June 13

On Saturday, June 13, John Collette Fine Art will host a benefit for the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Fine art, an open bar, excellent hors'd oeuvres, and artist raffles will make for a festive evening. HCCMF will receive a commission from all paintings sold and the proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets. John Collette Fine Art's new location is on Main Street in Highlands across from Buck's Coffee Cafe.

The celebration continues the gallery's tradition of supporting the festival. The gala also marks the public's first chance to view John Collette's new location at the center of Highlands, 381 Main Street (across from Buck's Coffee Shop).

The new space was developed by famed designer Joel Kelly. This summer marks the

HCCMF's 28th season. It's an ambitious slate that features performances by The Eroica Trio, The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet, The Biava String Quartet, Winds in the Mountains and individual musicians. That's a lot jammed in to a season that only stretches from July 5th to August 9th. But within that brief window are concerts that have captured the attention of National Public Radio and produced its own unforgettable CD.

Concerts are held at 6 p.m. Fridays and 5 p.m. Sundays at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands; and at 5 p.m. Saturdays and Mondays at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library.

To learn more about the Festival's 28th season of chamber music at its best, call (828) 526-9060 or visit www.h-cmusicfestival.org.

• POLICE & FIRE •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from May 29. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

May 29

• Officers responded to a call for service concerning a truck parked in the road on S. 4th Street.

May 31

• Officers responded to a "barking dog" complaint from residents on Shelby Court.

• Officers responded to a "barking dog" complaint from a resident on Paul Walden Way.

• Officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Main Street. There were no injuries.

June 2

• Officers helped a resident on Horse Cove Road who was locked out of her house.

• Officers responded to a call for service on Pine Street where gasoline was leaking from a vehicle on to the road.

June 4

• A person came to the police department to report that someone had been communicating threats to him in the Highlands Plaza parking lot.

• A driver reported the reckless driving of another driver on Spring Street.

• Officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on S. 3rd Street. There were no injuries.

June 5

• Officers stood by at the Civic Center during an event twice on Friday.

• Officers were called to Highlands School by a parent concerning an incident involving her son outside the Highlands jurisdiction. She was referred to the Macon County Sheriff's Dept.

June 7

• Officers were called to Paul Walden Way concerning a barking dog.

June 8

• Officers responded to a 9-1-1 hang-up from a Log Cabin Road.

June 9

• Officers were asked to assist another agency in the detention of a motorist.

• During the week the officers issued 22 citations and responded to 6 alarms.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from June 3:

June 3

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Henry Wright Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

June 5

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Club House Trail. The victim was transported to the hospital.

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Highlands Country Club. The victim was transported to the hospital.

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Cherokee Drive. The victim was transported to the hospital.

June 6

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Mack Wilson Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Oak Street. There was no transport.

June 7

• The dept. responded to an alarm at the hospital. It was false.

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Shelby Circle. The victim was transported to the hospital.

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Mack Wilson Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

June 8

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Hemlock Wood Road. There was no transport.

Note:

The Fire & Rescue Department asks that returning residents trim back their driveways and make sure their 911 address is visible.

• FUN & GAMES •

Hex-a-Ku[©] 2009 by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

OBJECT:

A mystery word or phrase using all different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words will appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different mystery word or phrase (no spaces). Assign different letters to each square of each column and row. In addition, 3x2 cells in the puzzle layout have the same different letters. (This is similar to 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 row, column or cell.

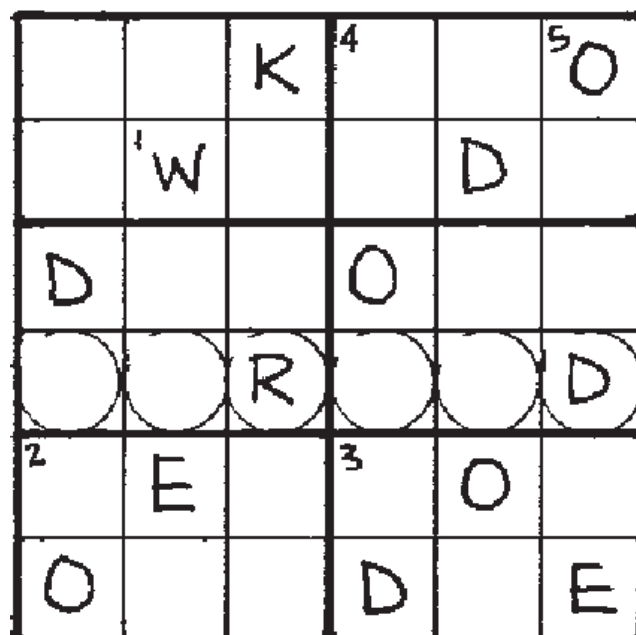
Mystery Word: Labored (6)

Across

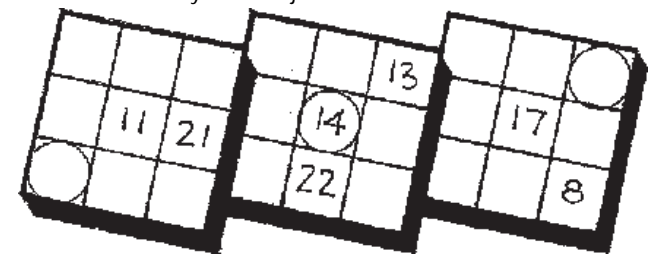
1. Sorrow (3)
2. Gym shoe type (3)
3. Line (3)

Down

4. Us (2)
5. Alright (2)



PseudoCube[©] by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#DN4A Level of Difficulty – Hard

THE SETUP:

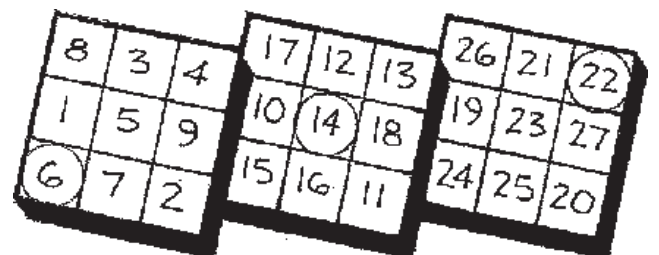
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

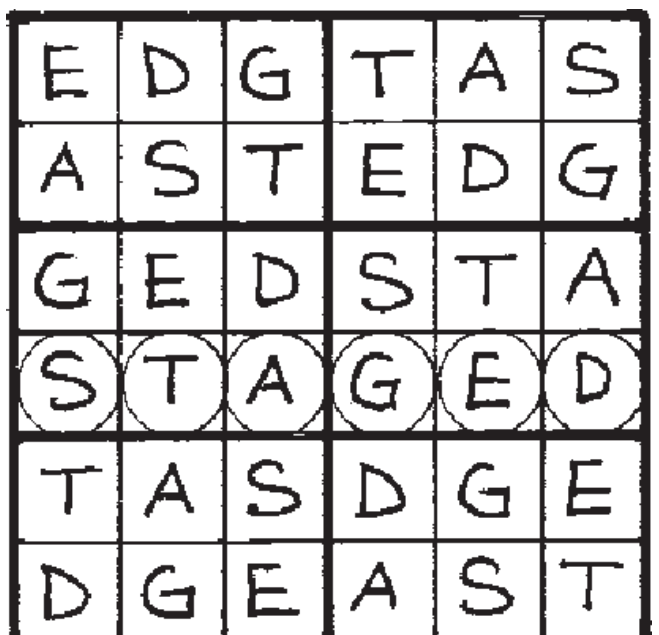
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

Solution to #BN4A in June 4 issue



Solution to June 4 Hex-a-Ku



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• BIZ NEWS •

Food Pantry big winner at Rotary Bingo



The Rotary Club of Highlands and the Highlands United Methodist church partnered to sponsor "Loaves & Fishes Rotary Bingo" with all Bingo proceeds being donated to the Highlands Food Pantry. The winners of the final Super Bingo game were Elizabeth Motz, Brenda Sherwood and Elaine Reynolds, shown here with Rotary President Derek Taylor and HUMC minister and Rotarian Paul Christy.

Scholars recognized at Rotary

At its May 26 meeting, the Rotary Club of Highlands recognized the Highlands School May Scholars of the Month. Pictured with Derek Taylor, club President, are elementary school winner, Peyton Coppage, middle school winner, Ann Marie Crowe and high school winner, Rachel Hedden.



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