

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 11

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, March 12, 2009

This Week in Highlands

• The Town of Highlands is accepting applications from non profits requesting funds. Applications are at Town Hall or on the Town's website www.highlandsonc.org under heading "forms and applications." Must be an IRS approved 501(c) (3). Applications accepted no later than April 1, 2009.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

Wed., & Fri.

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

Mondays

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

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

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

• Taize worship at 7 p.m. at the Lutheran Chapel of the Holy Family, 2152 Dillard Road. Call Chaplain Margaret Howell 526-2905

2nd & 4th Fridays

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

Thursday, March 12

• At Highlands School, dinner and bake sale in the cafeteria from 4:30-6 p.m. Dinner w/ drink and dessert adults \$5 or \$4 for children.

• PTO meeting at Highlands School at 6 p.m. in the old gym. Book Fair in the media center from 5-6 p.m. and science fair experiments on display in the old gym.

• Democratic discussion group at the Highlands Rec Park at 6 p.m. Contact chairperson Lee Hodges at eelejah@hodges.com.




Saturday, March 14

• Tool Sale Benefit on Glade Road, house #445 with proceeds to help pay for son's funeral. Rain or Shine. 9 a.m. until. No early birds. Take N.C. 28 and turn on Glade Road. First house on left. Items for sale include 1999 F150 4WD pick-up; assorted lumber, one horse-drawn wagon; lots of tools.

Monday, March 16

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association at 7:30 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
40 / 33F	45 / 31F	50 / 37F

Town drinking water not suspect

Citizens on town water got a "scary" notice with their utility bills this month, but officials say the notice was procedural and nothing more.

The notice said that the town had committed a Monitoring Violation for failing to conduct a Synthetic Organic Compound (SOC) test at the water plant two quarters in a row in 2005.

"There is no problem with our water quality and SOCs have never been found, but since we didn't test for them two quarters in a row that one year we got a slap on the wrist from the state," said Public Service Administrator Lamar Nix.

SOCs are contaminants that are by-products of fuel, gasoline and hundreds of other things, said Water Plant Operator Wade Wilson.

"This is not a health issue for Highlands," said Wilson. "It's a testing schedule issue. Every three years, the water has to be tested for SOCs two quarters in a row. In 2005 we tested in June but forgot to test in October."

In June and October of 2008, however, the water was tested for SOCs and nothing was detected.

• See WATER page 7

Commission amends height ordinance

Buildings could extend above 48 feet

During the process of clarifying language in the county's Building Height Ordinance, commissioners may have actually changed the overall height allowance of buildings in the county.

At the Monday, March 9 Macon County Commission meeting, County Planner Jack Morgan reported that since its adoption, it has become evident that certain words needed to be defined as they apply to the ordinance to make it easier for people to understand and for his department to enforce.

When the discussion began, Morgan explained that for clarification the word "eve" should be included to mean the uppermost part of a building.

Currently the ordinance reads, "The maximum building height on any building, structure, or unit within the jurisdiction of Macon County shall not exceed 48 feet or four (4) stories, whichever is less. For the purposes of this section, building height shall mean the vertical distance measured from the top of the foundation of said building, structure or unit to the uppermost point of said building, structure or unit."

By inserting the word "eve" it would read, "The maximum build-

• See HEIGHT page 6

HS Girls Soccer Begins...



Sayne Feria commandeers the ball at the game at Franklin Monday night. The score was 4-0 Franklin. For more on school sports, see page 13.

Photo by Noel Atherton

Airport Authority explains stance on runway extension

Citizens against the extension of the airport runway in Franklin packed the boardroom during Monday night's Macon County Commission meeting, urging commissioners to stop or at least mitigate the matter.

Some accused the Airport Authority of moving ahead on the project without the proper permits; others took the historical-heritage route saying once disturbed Iotla and

• See AIRPORT page 10

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Town meets Obama's grant deadline

Timing is everything particularly when it comes to grant deadlines, and from the looks of it Highlands will have its bases covered when it comes time to be on the receiving end of President Obama's stimulus package.

At the March 4 Town Board meeting, Town Manager Jim Fatland presented a report outlining the grants the town is applying for to finance infrastructure projects and programs.

Recently, Fatland, Mayor Don Mullen, Police Chief Bill Harrell and Public Service Administrator Lamar Nix attended an economic stimulus workshop in Asheville organized by McGill Associates and the Southwestern Commission, also attended by Rep. Heath Shuler and other state and federal officials.

The use of stimulus funds and steps to obtain them was discussed at length.

"I felt sorry for several representatives from other municipalities who learned that for certain projects, grant requests and plans had to be submitted by the next day after the meeting," said Fatland. "There was no way they could be ready, but thankfully, we were."

On Friday, February 27, Fatland and staff submitted grant applications for four water supply projects which will hopefully be completed

• See GRANT page 23

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Firefighters save Satulah

Dear Editor,

The fire fighters who responded to and controlled the fire on Satulah Mountain are very much appreciated by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and by the homeowners who live in the vicinity. Because of their knowledge and quick action the fire was kept under control with a minimum of damage to the flora and fauna of the mountain and no damage to homes of the people who live nearby.

The Highlands Volunteer Fire Department, Satolah Fire Department, Cashiers Fire Department, NC Forest Service and the US Forest Service are commended for their prompt action and valor. The land trusts owns and protects more than 90 acres of the summit of Satulah Mountain, but only about 20 acres of this protected land burned. This iconic mountain has overlooked the town of Highlands since the time of the first settler, and was here for the Native Americans for centuries before. It is natural habitat for rare and endangered species of flora and fauna that have been studied by naturalists from all over the world.

Thank you, valiant fire fighters for keeping the damage to a minimum!

Mercedes Heller
President of the Highlands-
Cashiers Land Trust

Earth Hour is March 28, 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Dear Editor,

the Sierra Club is helping to promote Earth Hour 2009 with an idea that originated in Sydney, Australia in 2007 and simply involves each household making an effort or pledging to turn all lights out on March 28 from 8:30-9:30 p.m.

On that 2007 Earth Hour, the city's carbon consumption dropped more than 10%. In 2009, more than 50 million people in 35 countries turned off their lights for 60 minutes.

Although some may not agree with all policies of the Sierra Club, surely most can agree this is a worthy idea. Maybe we can even strive to have "Lights Out" once a month or once a week. Try to have some candles and a flashlight handy for emergencies.

In such difficult times when so many are jobless and homeless, this is a small sacrifice to make.

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

Please email letters by Monday at 5 p.m.
There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands' Newspaper

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

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Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com

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To make a pledge of participation go to www.earthhour.org.

The Sierra Club was founded in 1892 and its motto is: Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

For more information go to www.sierraclub.org and on March 28 go dark between 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Waldroop Cabe
Franklin

National Forests in North Carolina approve non-native invasive species control project

Dear Editor,

Forest Supervisor, Marisue Hilliard, has approved a strategy to control non-native invasive plants on the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. Native plants can be overrun by invading non-native plants. It is this group of plants land managers are attempting to control with the approval of this project.

The project will annually treat up to 1,100 acres of non-native invasive plants using a variety of methods. Manual or mechanical methods may include the use of shovels, loppers and saws. Where appropriate, herbicides will be directly applied to target plants using spot treatment methods. Areas to be targeted will include legally designated rare species, rare plant communities, and/or areas including unique habitats. "It is estimated there are over 25,000 infested acres across the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests" stated Gary Kauffman, Forest Botanist.

The decision to implement this project provides managers with the flexibility to quickly respond to non-native plant infestations that pose a direct threat to the Forest's native ecosystems. Though the rate of spread is not yet known for these relatively new species to our forests, they spread several times faster than the species they are out-competing, and infest a variety of habitats.

Some of the species of particular concern on the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests include Oriental bitter-sweet, princess tree, privet, and Japanese honeysuckle. These species have all been imported from other countries either intentionally as ornamentals or accidentally through shipments of other cargo. They are uniquely able to thrive in Western North Carolina and other regions as

• See LETTERS page 15

• MILESTONE •

Jenkins going strong in USA G Junior Olympic Gymnastic Competition

Highlands School senior, Casey Jenkins, began her USAG Junior Olympic Gymnastic Competitive season January 31st at the Frostbite Invitational in Hickory. Casey placed first on floor and second on beam, uneven bars, vault and all-around. In the 2009 Tiger Paw Classic at the Littlejohn Coliseum at Clemson University on February 28, 2009, Jenkins took gold placing first on the balance beam with a score of 9.550 and finished with third place all-around. She has qualified to State Competition in Winston-Salem in late March.



Casey Jenkins

New officers elected to Highlands Democrat Precinct

On Thursday, March 5 at 5:30 p.m., the Highlands Democrat Precinct held 2009 elections at the Highlands Civic Center.

Chairman Ricky Bryson said the turnout was the best in years and thanked the Highlands Democrat committee for its fundraising efforts in 2008 which helped Macon County Commissioner Bobby Kupers get elected.

Monica Bomengen thanked Ricky Bryson for sending her as the Highlands precinct representative to a fundraiser for Rep. Heath Shuler on January, 28, 2009 in Raleigh where President Bill Clinton spoke.

At the precinct meeting, the practice of nominations and elections by secret-ballot was resurrected and Chairman Ricky Bryson, who has held the office for two years, took nominations from the floor.

Nominated were Lee Hodges, chairman, Robert Smith, vice chairman, Faviola Olvera, secretary, and incumbent Ralph Stevens, treasurer. During the previous year, Bryson was chairman, Hodges was vice-chair, Smith was secretary and Stevens was treasurer.

With no other nominations, those nominated were voted into office.

Hodges encouraged the group to check the "fair campaign" box on tax returns and offered the www.democracy-nc.org website for more information.

She also referred people to Governor Bev Perdue's site to track Obama's stimu-

lus spending in North Carolina at www.NCRecovery.gov.

Hodges informed the group of upcoming Democrat meetings both county- and statewide and suggested websites for keeping up to date on President Obama's policies.

On Thursday, March 12 there will be a Democratic discussion group at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center. This is so Obama supporters of Highlands can stay involved and provide community service as requested by Obama. "We also keep an eye on how his agenda is going and discuss matters at hand," said Hodges. "I hope this group will grow."

The Macon County Democrat Convention is April 25 at the Macon Courthouse in Franklin from 9 a.m. until noon. Macon County Democrat officers are elected and members vote on referendums to be put on the docket for the district convention.

On May 16, the Democrat District Convention, which is usually held in Haywood County at the community college, is an all-day affair with elections of officers and review of referendums to be sent to the state. "This is where it really gets interesting politically," said Hodges.

On Oct 3 the Vance-Aycock Dinner is in the Raliegh/Durham area.

For more information contact Chairman Hodges at eejah@Hodges.net.

— Kim Lewicki

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Dateline Dubai: Friday, 5:15 a.m. Even though our windows were tightly shut and the air conditioning hummed full blast; even though the fan in our bedroom was on high speed to drown out outside noises, I could still hear the faint call of the Imam calling Dubai's Muslims to Morning Prayer. It's an eerie sound.

The mosque is only a long block from our son's home but that doesn't matter because mosques are positioned throughout the city so Muslims, regardless of where they are, will hear the call to prayer. It happens five times each day...every day. If you're wondering how such a seemingly violent religion could pray so often then you don't understand Islam. Pigeon holing is a favorite American media pastime and lumping all of Islam with the handful of radicals is a common practice, usually based on ignorance.

I'm an early riser and was finishing my

first cup of java when the loud speakers kicked on. I decided to pause momentarily from my laptop and thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed on me. Even though I have much to be thankful for, I was finished before the Imam completed his lengthy chant. I'm convinced, after three visits to Dubai, Muslims are more accepting in the 21st century that their God and our God might be one and the same. They're not quite there yet and time will tell.

By 8 AM the whole house was awake and the smell of cooked bacon filled every room in the house. Jeff, our son, and Lisa, his wife, along with the li'l missus and me, sat down at the dinette table to eat and plan our day.

Lisa had already walked the dog and reported the wind was picking up off the

desert. Not good. By 9 AM Dubai had disappeared into a cloud of tan dust. The weather report said it would not be a big storm (a Shamal) and should be gone by noon. They were right, but by then the temperature was nearly 90 so we decided to scrub our daily two-mile walk.

People who must work outdoors put veils or scarves over their noses and mouths to keep the tan powder from giving them the persistent dry cough that is prevalent during these storms.

Actually, we decided to scratch all our outdoor activities for the day, complete our two-mile walk in the Mall of the Emirates and see "Slumdog Millionaire." We bought our tickets early after being warned the theater would be full. They were right, again.

Since Dubai's weekends are Friday and Saturday, the mall was packed with shoppers. We're told there's a flat economy but it's hard to see.

I could spend the entire day parked on a bench inside the mall and people-watch. To say Dubai is an amazing place is an understatement. Every nationality would eventually pass my bench.

Eighty percent of the population of Dubai is not native to Dubai and most foreigners are here on work or holiday visas. The city is alive with construction. Two Aussie teenage girls passed my bench wearing short shorts. They'll not be harmed but will receive many dirty looks and maybe even a few insults.

Some Islamic women celebrate the weekend by removing the black veil from their abayas. Many are stunningly beautiful. Why am I surprised? Some Muslim men, mostly teenagers and young men, shed their traditional head dress and don baseball caps, causing the elders to frown at such disrespect.

On our way home from the mall, Lisa drove into an open gate at a walled mansion only a block from her home. She killed the engine and waited. Momentarily, a guard arrived to question our unexpected arrival.

Lisa spoke. "Hi, you remember me? I'm the lady with the big black dog who walks by here all the time." Not waiting for an answer, she continued, "Since the owner is away, could I bring my parents in to see the grounds?" It was a bold move.

The guard put up an index finger and said, "Wait, one moment, please." When he returned, he invited us to look around but apologized he couldn't allow us inside the palace.

The grounds were surrounded by a

concrete twelve-foot wall, topped off with sculptured wrought iron artwork decorating the entire premises. The back walls of the

house...ah, mansion, consisted of huge sections of curved floor to ceiling "black glass" on the first and second floors. A flowing brook passed under the windows and eventually poured into the Olympic sized swimming pool, guarded by a life-sized magnificent bronze Arabian stallion. In addition, water flowed from the roof of a second building creating a series of six waterfalls that also flowed into the pool.

Wait, there's more! I have never seen so many beautiful petunias gathered

in one place. Not even in Highlands is there such magnificent extravagance. In fact, all of Dubai is covered with brightly colored petunias. Whodathunkit!

As we pulled out of the driveway to head home, Lisa reminded me the mansion is seldom occupied because the owner has many other residences to live in around the Middle East and he seldom shows up at this one. Actually, it's disgusting!

But could this happen in America if things were reversed? Could four Muslims pull their car into a private driveway at a Beverly Hills estate home unannounced and wind up receiving a tour of the grounds? I think not. More than likely, they would go to jail. Only in Dubai!

Unloaded gun found in student backpack

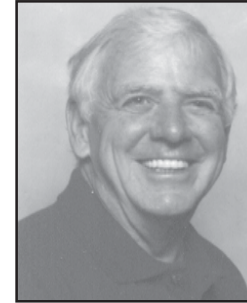
Around 10:45 a.m., Monday, March 9, the School Resources Officer and principal at Franklin High School were notified that a student had a weapon on campus in his book bag. The student was interviewed and a search occurred revealing an unloaded pistol and no ammunition. The student explained that the intent for bringing it was to sell the pistol, not to harm self or others.

At this time the investigation into this incident continues and the student is being disciplined according to state and federal guidelines.

I would like to thank the students and teachers involved for their quick actions to alert the administration about the incident. The administration and School Resource Office are also to be commended for their immediate actions to ensure our high school campus remains safe and secure.

Dan Brigman
Superintendent of Schools
Macon County School System

Dubai



Fred Wooldridge

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

How far we've come in so little time

This consumer electronic thing has gotten out of hand. I remember party lines and radios with tubes. I remember the first TV in the neighborhood.

For awhile, the Mercurios were the most popular family on the block. Their television had a tiny three or four inch screen. Their living room, which wasn't much bigger, was crowded with neighbors for Milton Berle and Sid Caesar. Dad had just bought a fancy record player, had second thoughts, returned it for a 16" Zenith. The first image that appeared as the technician attached the set to the aerial was the Yankees and Dodgers in the 1949 World Series. The screen was perfectly round, so I guess we missed the all action at first and third. A few years later, Dad came home with the first transistor radio I had ever seen. It was also a Zenith, about the size of a paper back book. It had a brass screen covering the speaker and two tiny dials. One was the volume control, and the second the tuner. The tuning dial was so small that it was nearly impossible to select a station. It had only an AM band. The emergence of FM was a few years away.

Computers, color television, and handheld calculators were several years away. The first calculator I saw was a Texas Instruments model. My brother bought it for nearly \$400. If he had waited a few years, he could have bought one for \$10 or received it free at Texaco with a fill up. My first cell phone wouldn't fit in a pocket and had a battery life measured in minutes. There were so few towers that it didn't really matter.

I mentioned record players. Brittle 78s gave way to 45s and 33s. Sound systems replaced record players. Speakers the size of packing crates were married to an array of components with enough cable to reach St Louis. Amplifiers and pre-amps provided power to increase the fidelity of music stored on dinner plate-sized disks or reels of tape. Everything was big. Components could fill a large cabinet or a small room. Audiophiles cringed as eight-inch tape reels yielded to eight-track and finally tiny cassette tapes. Compact disks replaced tape. At one point the components were packed together in an invention called a boom box which was carried on the shoulder and played on full volume. It was never clear if its primary use was to provide portable music, destroy hearing, or annoy everyone else on the subway.

Today's Ipods can store 30,000 songs or 150 hours of video in a device can get lost in a shirt pocket. Pretty soon the Library of Congress will fit in a postage stamp. Who could have imagined 60 years ago that we would be hanging 60-inch wafer thin TVs on our living room walls or in our home



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

theaters and that sports stadiums would feature "jumbotrons" 100 feet wide?

Today cell phones are everywhere. Ten-year-old kids carry them and send text messages to their friends. Phones come with full key boards, although the keys are too small to permit touch typing. The guy at Verizon told me that kids actually send text messages without looking at the keyboard, and without even taking the phone out of their pocket. After I figured out that they would have to look at the phone to read the response, I suspected that he might have been exaggerating.

I've heard that some kids and young adults send and receive thousands of texts every month. They must be a lot quicker than I. A few years ago, I texted a friend. He said that it was the first text that he had received from an adult. I didn't send another for years. Who would have believed that "text" would become a verb? The major evolutionary trend in the English languages seems to be creating verbs from nouns. A woman friend once asked, "Do you BlackBerry?" I responded, "Do I what?" With great disappointment she said, "I guess you don't." I chuckled months later when I learned that BlackBerry was a personal communication device.

The first time I saw a Bluetooth was in Atlanta. A guy was walking down the street talking to himself, or so it seemed. He was well dressed and carried a brief case and didn't look anything like a homeless schizophrenic. I'm not saying that schizophrenia is a precondition for homelessness. Lots of sane people find themselves on the street through no fault of their own. But most folks who walk down the street talking to themselves are a little off, and most don't look overly prosperous. It was a long time before I realized that the oversized hearing aid he was wearing was a Bluetooth. Why do multi-billion companies have iconoclastic names like Google, Yahoo, BlackBerry and Bluetooth instead of serious names like General Motors and United States Steel?

There was a day when a person could go for days without a phone call. Today people talk all the time. They talk while driving. They chat during meetings. There may be water resistant models for chatting in the shower. At least some of that talk must be unnecessary.

Several years ago Lizzie and I were having dinner with a friend of hers, a dentist. Dentists don't have a lot of emergencies, so I was surprised when she pulled a phone from her purse and engaged in a lengthy conversation, a conversation which had nothing to do with teeth.

I panic if I forget my phone, become catatonic if the battery fails. I have friends who carry several different communication devices on their belts. E-mail and the Internet are within reach from anywhere.

I just have a nagging feeling that it really doesn't matter, in fact I'm sure of it. Not that I expect anything to change, except the emergence of more toys. I asked a friend what "a couple of old farts like us" are doing on Facebook. He actually attempted an explanation, which made me feel very alone and very old.

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• AN AUDIO BOOK REVIEW •

'America's Owner's Manual'

Understanding the Constitution of the United States

By John C. Armor

By **Ryan Potts**

One of the most valuable purposes of the American educational system is to teach students the reasons for the success of our governmental system. However, as most of you can remember from your days of high school, civics class was usually spent filling out worksheets and daydreaming about the weekend.

Fortunately, for those who spent the majority of their time daydreaming, local author John C. Armor has created a "user's guide" for the United States government titled *America's Owner's Manual*.

The premise of Armor's book on CD is two-fold. The first is to provide the "owner's" of the United States...We the People, with the knowledge that as owners of the U.S. Government we are entitled to specific rights under law.

The second is to present in plain English the essential points of the Constitution not just for lawyers, but for laymen, to understand how the Constitution was designed to work, and why it is important, even in the 21st century, for us to understand, respect, and follow, that document. (That second point is taken straight from the American Civil Rights Union website)

From the standpoint of content, Armor's pamphlet is a clear, concise exploration of the U.S. Constitution and the manner in which it has been interpreted since the original 13 colonies.

The language is neither flowery nor oversimplified for the audience, and is suitable for both the high school classroom and the living room recliner.

Broken into a series of short essays on both the various articles of the Constitution as well as their interpretation, the pamphlet can be read over time or taken as a whole.

America's Owner's Manual looks at the Constitution article by article, and examines how the interpretation of the document is responsible of the current state of government in the United States today.

The owner's manual describes how each branch of government has infringed on the specified powers of the other branches, and the damage that this can do to our nation if continued.

Special attention is paid to the power of the Supreme Court to shape legislation, or judicial review, a power that Armor argues has been abused throughout recent years. Armor notes that the power of the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution is legitimate, but has been used in unnecessary circumstances and can be particularly dangerous when misused to overturn the will of the people.

America's Owners Manual also bemoans

the current size of the Federal Government, and how the misinterpretation of the Constitution by the various branches of government has led to a bloated and inefficient federal system.

While *America's Owner's Manual* is an excellent resource for citizens or students wishing to learn more about the federal government, no review of this work would be complete without mentioning that it was fronted by the American Civil Rights Union, which is an organization that is the counter to the American Civil Liberties Union.

America's Owner's Manual does not demonstrate any outward partisanship, but there can be found some inherent bias within the author's rigid interpretation of the Constitution.

The "Strict Constructionist" view of the Constitution is one that was popularized by Thomas Jefferson and other Democratic-Republicans during the Federalist Era, and is certainly a viewpoint shared by Mr. Armor, as well as many other Conservatives.

Depending on the readers' political leanings, they may or may not be swayed by Mr. Armor's arguments. However, *America's Owner's Manual* is certainly worth reading or listening to on audiobook regardless of one's political preference.

To purchase the book, email Armor at John_Armor@aya.yale.edu.

... HEIGHT continued
from page 1

ing height on any building...shall not exceed 48 feet or four stories from the top of the foundation, whichever is less...building height shall mean the vertical distance measured from the top of the foundation to the 'eve' of said building."

Problems arose when Commissioner Bob Simpson suggested that readers of the ordinance might construe it to mean that more structure could be built above the eve of the building, thereby circumventing the intent of the ordinance.

Though none of the other commissioners read the ordinance that way, they did agree that the reason for the ordinance was safety—that being the height fire departments could easily reach without a hook and ladder truck.

Highlands Town Board member architect Dennis DeWolf was in the audience and the commission sought clarification from him.

"How would you read this?" asked Commission Chair Ronnie Beale.

DeWolf said it depended on the purpose

•See HEIGHT page 21

• HIS & HERS •

A flat major

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

John and I recently went to Atlanta, to attend a mini-reunion of his Baltimore prep school, Gilman. Since we rarely go to Atlanta, the traffic tends to drive us crazy. As much as we enjoyed the event, there was a feeling of relief getting back on the road, heading for home. That feeling of relief turned to concern when the car started acting funny, however, and it became difficult to steer. Not being a car person myself, I tend to think of driving as being strapped into a bomb on four wheels anyway. Our return trip from Atlanta just confirmed my worst fears. Had we missed a car check-up? No, we're good about that. Had we run over something, and did we have tire problems? That was much more likely.

I cannot remember having as many flat tires as we have had since I moved to Highlands. We even picked up a nail driving down the Cullasaja Gorge – not the kind of place where you want to have anything particularly nasty happen to you and your car.

I asked our tire guru, AJ, about this, and his take is that there is so much construction going on around here that junk just falls off trucks, and onto the road. There are a lot of construction vehicles on the road, and it's surprising how often they are wide open in the back, and not covered with a tarp to prevent things falling out.

Last year, we were dropping money off to our wonderful cat sitter, Sue, for catsitting the Beasties. As I got out of the car, my foot landed on the kind of cartridge that goes into a nail gun. In fact, there were a bunch of nails there, just waiting for some poor sod to come rounding the bend, and run over them. I kicked them way onto the side of the road with my foot, and hopefully that was enough.

But, back to Atlanta. John masterfully got our car off to the side, and I jumped out, surveying a flattening back right tire. We decided to drive slowly to the next exit, and phone AAA for help. Back on the highway, things only got worse. It surprised me that such a slight flat was causing the car to act so oddly. We got off a mile later, at the Gainesville exit, and made it in front of the local middle school before we could go no further.

Once again, I hopped out of the car,



Michelle Mead-Armor & John Armor
michiamead@aol.com
John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

and checked out the back right tire. Still slightly flat, but not exceptionally so. Just on a hunch, I walked around to the left rear tire, and saw that that puppy was as flat as a pancake, and we were actually riding on the rim. Geez. Who gets two flat tires, for Pete's sake?

John whipped out his cell phone, pulled out the AAA card, and phoned for help. Clever wife smiled to self, remember how just the week before we had received our new AAA cards, and she had popped a check in the mail the next day to renew our membership.

AAA told us they would be sending someone to help us out within the hour. It seems that since the recent gas crisis, more and more garages and towing companies have dropped off the AAA list. The amount folks were being paid for their services hadn't increased to cover the rising fuel costs, making it less profitable to work for them.

We settled down to wait, feeling rather like turkeys with our two matching flats. I don't know why this made me think of Oscar Wilde's line in *The Importance of Being Earnest*: "To lose one parent may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness." Hmmm. To lose one tire may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness. Had we done something to bring this on ourselves?

We hadn't been sitting there for very long when a charming man in a Kubota jacket pulled up behind us. "What seems to be the problem?" he said pleasantly. "Can I give you folks a hand?" With that, he proceeded to walk around, whistled at our two flats, and offered to change the worst of the two tires. We thanked him for stopping, and told him that AAA was on the way. This knight in shining armor was followed by three others – wonderful gentlemen who saw our poor car with its flashers on, and volunteered to help.

What a reassuring commentary on modern life, that there are still people out there who see a bad situation, and just want to make it better. Finally, our AAA guy pulled up in his truck, Mr. Lester from Curts Detail Shop and Towing. What a sweetheart! Within no time, he changed the worst of the two tires, and

• See HIS & HERS page 15

... WATER continued from page 1

The SOC test – one of scores of tests operators at the water plant are required to continuously perform – tests for about 250 contaminants. Some contaminants include Lindane, Endrine, Methoxychlor, Toxaphenes and more. Nothing has ever been found in Highlands drinking water.

Recently, Nix told the Town Board for safety reasons the water plant would be switching from using chlorine gas to clean the water to chlorine bleach.

"Chlorine bleach is safer for employees and for people in the community, particularly those around the water treatment plant," he said. "Chlorine gas can be dangerous."

For now, citizens will continue to smell and even taste chlorine in town drinking water because chlorine is the only thing that kills bacteria.

Nix said using UV treatments for drinking water supplies – as at the Highlands wastewater treatment plant – is in the testing stages but isn't ready for use.

"Using UVs is OK for wastewater treatment plants because UV rays genetically alter bacteria so it can't reproduce thereby depleting it, but chlorine actually kills bacteria which is what you want for drinking water," he said.

– Kim Lewicki

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

When in doubt – punt?

Note: I often have wondered what a writer does when his well runs dry. Now I know. The bells aren't ringing, the light bulb over my head is dim, at best, and I don't seem to be able to come up with an inspiring thought to save my soul. This too will pass, but for now, I'm asking the editor to rerun a column first printed on October 23, 2008 titled "The Perfect Storm". I'll be back next week.

Over many, many years, I have come to a realization that should be obvious on its face. When something happens that defies logic, something that seems to be beyond earthly understanding, something that would be

described as not a natural occurrence, that would make it supernatural, wouldn't it? I believe it does.

There have been several recent major events/conditions that I believe could be described as supernatural. One is the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center and other targets. I don't have to recount the horrors of that day. The hole in the ground that remains in lower Manhattan gives silent testimony to the "success" of that heinous effort.

You say there is nothing unexplainable about that. It was planned, executed and resulted in mammoth destruction. That's true. Let's dissect the plan. The five years in which the attack was planned were enabled, to a degree, to the disarray of our intelligence agencies. MSNBC, the liberal news network says, "Attorney General John Ashcroft," while testifying before the 9/11 commission "blamed what he called the refusal of the FBI and the CIA to work together during the Clinton administration for the failure to detect the plot for the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks."

"Ashcroft said that the 10 years before Sept. 11, a snarled web of requirements, restrictions and regulations... prevented decisive action by our men and women in the field. Government erected this wall. Government buttressed this wall. And before Sept. 11, government was blinded by this wall." I thought at the time the condition of our intelligence was beyond explanation. The plan required this condition.

The execution. Terrorist pilots, with minimal training, carried out the hijackings nearly flawlessly. They flew the planes into the targets with precision, with the exception of the Shanksville, PA crash, created by the heroic actions of passengers. The results. Records of conversations among surviving planners indicated that the damage inflicted on the World Trade Complex, the billions in property losses, the nearly catastrophic business disruption far exceeded their fondest expectations, far beyond reason.

Then there was Katrina. Without boring you with the meteorological details, the conditions that existed that allowed Katrina to gain the size and power she did were extremely unusual. Even though Hurricane Rita, which followed Katrina,



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

was slightly more powerful, the damage inflicted by Katrina was much more devastating. It exceeded everyone's worse-case scenario.

It took many variables to align to produce its cataclysmic results. Conditions in the Gulf, tides, point of landing, storm surge, all had to be precisely as they were to flood New Orleans and environs to the destructive extent that occurred. I happen to believe

that God controls weather conditions everywhere and all the time. I don't believe a puff of wind or drop of rain happens without His hand on the wheel. Believe what you will, the recent increase of natural disasters is not a coincidence.

Currently, we have a worldwide systemic financial structure collapse to deal with. The response of the government is to throw trillions of dollars of our money, which is really debt that we and future generations will repay, at the problem. Whether or not all these bailouts and costly remedies are really necessary and helpful is another matter for another time. The fact is, for better or worse, the pot is in the process of being divvied up.

For those of us who viewed Merrill Lynch, General Motors and other giants in various stages of demise as indestructible icons, it feels like the ground is shifting beneath our feet. In my finite mind, what is happening to our country just couldn't happen. When I understood from scripture that the U.S. will be irrelevant at the end times, I couldn't process the thought. How could we be brought to the point of irrelevancy?

I guess now we know. Throw God out the Public Square, destroy the education system from within, put power and profit ahead of the public good and voila, here we are. The confluence of greed, lust for power and utter disregard for the future of the country has created the perfect storm. With the soulless media beating the drums for the destroyers, and the undereducated masses eating it up, small wonder we are looking down the barrel of socialism or worse.

I don't believe for a minute that the increased levels of misery we are enduring is anything but punishment inflicted by a God who has been scorned by His ungrateful children. Killing the innocents, tolerating smut and filth, banning prayer, worshipping nature. You can love Mother Earth but we will all answer to Father God.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Beast of what?



Associate Pastor Clayton Lopez
Community Bible Church

I don't know much about women, but I do know a bit about men. I suppose I could say with some assurance that most men want to be strong, to be courageous, to conquer, to fight, and to overcome.

I suppose women have their own dreams, maybe not of heroic conquest, but of terrifying beauty that leaves men distraught with awe and wonder.

The Bible gives us heroic accounts of men who were great:

Joseph, a stalwart of purity in the face of justifiable temptation.

Joshua, commanding the armies of the Lord in holy war.

David, facing Goliath, fearless against great odds.
Shadrach, Meshach and Abenednego, unflinching in the face of sure retribution.

Paul, fervent and determined in the midst of suffering.
Recently I have found myself reeling from what can be considered very trivial. It has again made me very aware of my own personal weaknesses. We all have our challenges in life, I have my own. Mine have again made me aware of how weak I am.

It does not take much to knock me for a loop. It is disquieting to say the least. It is a humbling experience.

So I turned to the Lord for help to see in more detail what he had to say. It was a simple exercise: Go to a Bible database type in the word "weakness" and see what pops up. 2 Corinthians 12 among other passages popped up, and it spoke of the Apostle Paul, someone I consider courageous to the extreme. Here's what it said.

¹I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. ³And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—⁴was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. ⁵I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. ⁶Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say. Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. The "NIV" and "New International Version" trademarks are registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by International Bible Society. Use of either trademark requires the permission of International Bible Society

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 22

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
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BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sky Valley, Georgia
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Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Office – 526-2320

Sunday: Holy Communion – 11 a.m.
(Highlands Community Center on U.S. 64 next to the ballfield in Highlands)

Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.

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

at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer

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

Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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Pastor Gary Hewins

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

Sundays: 9:30am Sunday School for all ages;

10:45am Worship; 6pm High School Group

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

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968

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

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

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

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

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

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

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

10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

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

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Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School – 9:30

a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15

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

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Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
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Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers

Choir – 7

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

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Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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For more information call 526-3212.

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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Sunday of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

... AIRPORT continued from page 1

Cowee valleys will be changed forever.

For eight years, during which time the Airport Authority has undergone many changes, the subject of extending the runway and disturbing the Cherokee burial ground in the vicinity has been an issue.

Representatives of the Cherokee Nation were at the meeting and said though they understand progress must go on, it is paramount to them that the area be respected and preserved as much as possible.

No one except members of the Airport Authority and the commissioners spoke for the project, with safety and the economic development of Macon County cited as bonafide reasons for the extension.

Milles Gregory, past MC board chairman and current chairman of the Airport Authority, said only 25% of the area will be disturbed, that all artifacts will be saved, that the finding of human remains will be dealt with separately and differently than other artifacts, and that the Airport Authority got permission from the FAA to raise the level of the airport extension so the Authority can put fill on top of the artifact area rather than

cutting into and dislodging items.

The current 4,400-ft. runway means planes that take off or land there aren't insured because it's too short. For safety reasons and to be covered by insurance, planes must take off or land on runways at least 5,001 feet long.

Commission Chairman Ronnie Beale explained that the Airport Authority is an independent authority with the same power as the Macon County Commission except it can't raise taxes. He said the county's Economic Development Commission (EDC) reports to the county and it is for the airport extension.

"According to its report the direct financial gain for Macon County will be \$646,000 and the indirect financial gain will be \$6 million," he said. "The EDC supports the extension and concerning the economic side that's what we as commissioners look at, but on the side of preservation, misinformation is part of the problem and maybe as a board we can help correct that."

Gregory said 10 acres of the airport site will never be touched. He also said the state has said that a 100% recovery of artifacts would be too cost-prohibitive for any project, nor did it want to set the precedent of requiring 100% recovery, as had been suggested at the Franklin airport site.

The figures 60% to 65% artifact recovery were also tossed about – the Cherokees said the Airport Authority's offer was rescinded before they had time to discuss it at a council meeting; the Airport Authority said since they never got anything back in writing, they rescinded the offer.

As it stands now, 25% of the area needed for the extension will be excavated for artifact recovery prior to being filled for the extension.

— Kim Lewicki



Mountain Lakes 5K set for May 2

"There's still plenty of time to get in shape for the Mountain Lakes 5-K." That's the word from Race Director Richard Betz. This year's race is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, at 9 a.m., and Betz says that for even casual joggers and walkers, six weeks should be enough time to train for the 3.1 mile event.

"Last year, several age group slots were not filled. For example, any woman between the ages of 40 and 44 could have walked the entire distance and won a first place trophy! In fact, competition seems to be tougher for men in their 50s, 60s, and 70s."

Most runners want to finish a race in a fairly decent time, however, and Betz said that a training program of increasing distance and speed between now and the first weekend in May would help any runner, from beginner to experienced, to a faster finish time.

"Beginning runners should start a training program by running at a comfortable pace as far as they can, even if it is only a block or two. They should then take a walking break for a minute or two and repeat the running segment, alternating running and walking for two to three miles. Eventually, most active people should be able to cover the entire distance with only one or two breaks. It is truly amazing how quickly your body will respond to training! And it's perfectly OK to walk during a 5-K."

"Experienced runners will benefit from adding a long run to their training program at least once a week, and also from some kind of speed-work each week. A rest and recovery day between training sessions will also help the beginner or the experienced runner alike to improve," Betz said.

Four years ago, Betz's wife Martha went from running/walking two miles to running several races, ranging from 5-K to 15-K, to eventually completing a marathon in a little over a year. He credits a carefully-designed training program to her success.

Other local runners have also gone through a marathon-training program, including Brian McClellan and Glenda Bell,

who both qualified for and went on to complete the Boston Marathon. "Qualifying for Boston" is the Holy Grail sought by many runners. More recently, local runner Mary Brooks qualified for Boston by completing the Rocket City Marathon in Huntsville, her first marathon.

The Mountain Lakes 5-K is the main fundraiser for the Highlands Roadrunners Club, a local running group that meets weekdays at 4:30 p.m. in front of the Town Hall and Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. Now in its 10th year, the race follows a loop that begins on US 64 in front of the Highlands Civic Center, circles around Lake Ravenel and Harris Lake, and finishes on Laurel Street beside First Citizens Bank. Traffic control will be provided throughout the course by police and volunteers, and those who choose can simply walk the course. Since part of the route is on an unpaved gravel road, however, strollers are not recommended.

The entry fee for the race is \$15 before race day, and entry forms will be available at the Town Hall, the Civic Center, and the Visitors Center, or on line at www.main.nc.us/hrc. Each participant will receive a quality T-shirt, and trophies will be awarded to the overall male and female winners, male and female masters winners (over 40), and to the male and female first, second, and third place finishers in five-year age groups. For more information, call Richard Betz at 526-5213 (evenings).

As in past years, proceeds will go toward fitness-related programs in the local community. The club awards a number of scholarships each year to Highlands School graduates who carry on some type of fitness activities while continuing their education. The club has also used the proceeds from past races to help purchase fitness equipment for Highlands School, HealthTracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and the Highlands Recreation Park.

The Highlands Roadrunners Club is a non-profit organization, and entry fees and contributions are tax-deductible.



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• ANOTHER POV •

The most dangerous man in America

The thought of the most dangerous man in America should cause one to think; who is this person and what makes him the most dangerous. Unlike the terrorist or the mobster whose danger to society is obvious, there are those who are, or were at least in their time. unthought-of as dangerous.

In their time they were thought to be patriots as they waved the America flag for all to see and heard the cheers of a grateful nation. In the background, behind closed doors, where regular people don't see, they abused the very principles of freedom they so publicly touted.

In the early 1950s Senator Joseph McCarthy became the public face for anti-communism. His claims of card carrying communists in the government and in the entertainment industry soon filled the airwaves and newspapers. His speeches of the pending dire consequences spread over the entire nation like a plague and suspicions arose pitting neighbor against neighbor.

The people of the United States riled in their fear and anger, and through McCarthy a Senate Committee held hearings dragging hundreds of people before them where they were verbally battered, their credibility put in doubt and their lives destroyed. Not because of crimes they committed, but because a single man, Joseph McCarthy, raised a false specter for his own personal gain.

Eventually the Senate realized the McCarthy's folly, ended the hearings, and censored him for his actions. But his actions are so infamous the term "McCarthyism" lives today to mean the corruption of truth and the abandonment of the due process.

J. Edgar Hoover, the head of the F.B.I. from 1924 until his death in 1972, was the most powerful man in America, not for what he said in public but what he held in private. Although an ardent loyalist of America, Hoover was a fanatic on his version of what America should be and he used everything at his disposal to control both the political agenda of this country as well as the politicians — even the Presidents through the use of secret files that he had compiled on virtually every politically important person in America.

Hoover's ego became bigger than the principals upon which he stood, to the point of eliminating accomplished FBI agents because they threatened his position, to refusing to accept intelligence information because it didn't come from his agency, to the unlawful spying on Americans, to unwarranted prosecutions, to lies and deceit. Hoover controlled the flow in information and destroyed careers, all to further himself and his agenda all the while violating the principles of this country.

Today we have a new, Most Dangerous Man in America. He is not a terrorist; he is not a bank robber, or mass murderer. He does not poison our people's health by selling drugs but he pollutes their minds by selling his brand of drug — political hatred.

Rush Limbaugh, self-proclaimed leader of the Conservative Right, pontificates his po-

sitions on fiscal policy, his support of the wars, opposition to social reform, and his business-first approach to life. For him just be a liberal is paramount to un-American activities. But what are "un-American" activities?

In March of 2008, and when it appeared that the two leading candidates of the Democratic party began to emerge Limbaugh said on his talk show, "Let's say it is Obama and Hillary... Let's put Hillary at the top — That's a position she's familiar with. Therefore, you've got a woman and a black for the first time ever on the Democrat ticket (he clears his throat and laughs). They don't have a prayer."

They didn't have a prayer? Why? Because it was a black and a woman and Lord knows blacks and woman cannot be elected? Does anyone detect an undercurrent of racism?

Limbaugh's self-indulgent speech at the recent CPAC restated his position that he "...wants Obama to fail." I have spoken of it before, that as Americans, regardless of party, that for the good of the public and the nation, we should want the actions of our President to fix this economic crisis to succeed.

But Limbaugh wants him to fail and in his words, "I want the country to survive as we have known it, as you and I were raised in it." Limbaugh was born in the 1950s and raised in the 1960s so who is the "you and I" of which he speaks?

Is it the black American who could not sit in the front of a bus or the white women whose acceptable place in society was in the home and aspirations of success and leadership for her were restricted to beauty and entertainment? It was most certainly not corporate or political senior office.

Is it the America that had blacks unable to sit in the front of a bus, or the white person fearing to walk through a black neighborhood? Is it the America that saw riots in the streets, a devastating and divisive war in Vietnam, an environment choking to death on its own waste, or a world poised for destruction from a nuclear war between superpowers? Is it an America that thought of war protesters as hippie freaks, cowards and traitors, and our soldiers as baby killers? Or perhaps it's the America that saw the murder of three of our nation's beloved leaders.

What would the world of Rush Limbaugh be?

Would it be all the Mexicans back in Mexico, the blacks in Africa, women bare foot and pregnant in the kitchen and fat white men smoking cigars in back rooms while they talk of "America for Americans." I won-



Matthew G. Eberz
Feedback is encouraged
Email: matt@matteberz.com

der where that leaves the American Indian; it was their country before we took it. Where would they go?

In the Limbaugh America, there would be no welfare, nor social security, no government helping hand to those who were so misfortunate as to not be born a Limbaugh.

In the Limbaugh America, we would strike with all our military might whenever provoked and the world would fear America's power once more.

In Limbaugh's America, it would be not only OK for corporate executives to make 200 million dollars when the company they are supposed to be leading loses a billion dollars, it would be right.

In the Limbaugh America, capitalism would be king; where the motto would be the strong survive the weak perish, and the almighty dollar would be the basis of all decisions, all laws, and the direction for all Americans.

In the Limbaugh America, do we return

to the days of McCarthy and Hoover, to the days of baseless accusations that destroyed lives, and to covert political control that cost us so dearly?

Some people think Rush Limbaugh is a wise and thoughtful patriot whose positions on policy are in the best interests of America. I have another point of view on that.

Limbaugh is one of the few people I truly despise. His lack of compassion for those less able to help themselves is appalling, uncharitable, and selfish; and that is un-American.

I despise Limbaugh, and if I saw him laying in the gutter, beaten and broken, having lost everything he covets, his fame, his fortune and his political status, I would stand over him and as he looked up to me with fear in his eyes knowing he deserved all the hate and disgust I have for him, I would extend my hand and help him to his feet. For I live in America, where a person's worth is measured by his heart and not his wallet, where no one is free unless all are free, and where no one is a cherished citizen unless we all are cherished citizens.

When I hear the term McCarthyism I cringe. I have a new "ism" for you, "Rushism;" the total disregard for the welfare of mankind.

Think about that Mr. Limbaugh the next time you tell a downtrodden man to pull himself up by his own bootstraps, even when he has no boots.

In two weeks I will have Another POV.



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Eckerd Center residents and staff send gift boxes to U.S. troops

A little of the caring spirit of Highlands and Cashiers will soon be reaching several groups of soldiers stationed in Middle East, thanks to the residents and staff of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center.

Some 15 "care" packages containing books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, blank greeting cards, snack food and candy, personal hygiene products and other items are already winging their way to several US military units. The units were identified through the "Adopt A Unit" program coordinated by Operation Troop Appreciation.

A half dozen residents and staff spent several hours one day last week boxing up piles of donated items, both new and used, which were collected over the past three weeks at several points around both the Living Center and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

The majority of the packages will be sent to members of 112th Infantry Unit of the Pennsylvania National Guard, which is serving in two different locations in Iraq. The remainder of the gift boxes are going to a US Army unit in the Middle East that is from Fort Bragg, NC.

Founded by a Pennsylvania woman in 2004 to support a local National Guard unit by providing body armor, Operation Troop Appreciation has grown into a national, non-profit organization supporting all branches and types of American troops.

Shawna Mellott, administrator of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, got the idea for the support-our-troops project after hearing how much items from home mean to US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, particularly if a unit isn't close to a commissary or PX. Both her sister and brother-in-law recently

returned from tours of duty in Iraq.

In addition to collecting the items donated locally, residents at the Living Center and staff also held a series of fundraisers including a soup cook-off and a cookie sale.

Nursing Center Director of Nursing Ava Emory won both categories of the soup contest. In all, those efforts raised more than \$200, part of which went to buy additional items to include in the packages. The rest of the mon-

ey was used to pay the shipping costs to the Military APO address. Even so, shipping might well have been pretty hefty, but the center used flat rate shipping boxes, so weight wasn't an issue," Mellott said.

"I'm very pleased with the way everyone responded, both in terms of donating items, and in helping us raise money," she said. "It's been a lot of work, but I'm glad we are able to bring some smiles to the soldiers over there."



Emily Porter, social worker at the Eckerd Living Center, (L) and resident Iris Jane Norman packed one of a number of boxes of items for US troops overseas. More than 15 boxes of donated items were collected during February.



Activities assistant Martha Woods and Eckerd resident Fred Fouts sort through a stack of black greeting cards to be included in gift boxes being sent to various military units in Iraq and Afghanistan. During February, staff and residents of the center collected books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, personal hygiene items and a variety of other things to send to three different US units serving in the Middle East.



Members of the 112th Pennsylvania National Guard, who are currently stationed in two different locations in Iraq, will soon be receiving care packages from staff and residents of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center in Highlands.

• COACH'S CORNER •

ACC Tournament preview

With the regular season of the ACC wrapping up, it's time to take a look at the ACC tournament and analyze what will surely be a competitive tournament.

Players to watch

Ty Lawson, UNC –

Probably the most watched player in the tournament will be Lawson, who is questionable after aggravating a toe injury running over Duke this weekend. If Lawson is a no-go, Carolina instantly goes from favorite to underdog for the ACC Championship. People underestimate the importance of Lawson to North Carolina's success – they cannot win a national championship (or an ACC title for that matter) without Tywon dominating the PG spot.

Jeff Teague, Wake Forest –

After being snubbed from first team all-ACC, look for Teague to come out with a vengeance in the ACC tournament. It's been over a decade since Randolph Childress single-handedly carried the Deacs to an ACC title-I can see Teague trying to repeat that performance.

Demontez Stitt, Clemson –

The sophomore had his coming out party in the season finale against Wake Forest, and is going to be a star next year for the Tigers. Stitt must have a big time tournament for Clemson to make it into the finals.

Sylvan Landesburg, Virginia –

UVA has a chance to spring an upset against Boston College in the first round, and if they do it will likely be due to the freshman of the year in the ACC, Landesburg.

Toney Douglas, Florida State –

A bit of a snub for Douglas in that he made a great case for Player of the Year down the stretch to earn Florida State a first round bye. Douglas is the unquestioned leader of an FSU team that just keeps improving down the stretch. If Lawson is out for Carolina, then FSU may just be the favorite this weekend.

Upset Special

Virginia over Boston College –

BC has had a great year with Tyrese Rice and Rakim Sanders leading the way, but I think UVA pulls the upset behind a big game from the aforementioned Landesburg. Virginia coach Dave Leitao has his undermanned Cavaliers playing hard-they picked up a big win against a desperate Maryland team last Saturday.

2nd Upset Special

If Lawson doesn't play for UNC, look for Miami to surprise the Heels on Friday. Miami had North Carolina dead to rights



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

earlier this year before Lawson saved the Heels with a couple of deep threes. Frank Haith's team can frustrate North Carolina with their zone defense, and they have a guy in Jack McClinton who would be the best player on the floor if Lawson cannot go. If Lawson plays, I reserve the right to reanoint UNC the favorite again. (How's that for an escape

clause.)

ACC Semifinal Picks

FSU vs. Miami –

FSU takes this one on the strength of Toney Douglas.

Duke vs. Wake Forest –

Wake Forest just has too much talent

ACC Title Game

Wake Forest vs. FSU –

Wake in a close one thanks to some heroics from Jeff Teague and Ish Smith.

All Tournament Team

G-Toney Douglas, FSU

G-Jeff Teague, Wake Forest

G-Jack McClinton, Miami

F-James Johnson, Wake

F-Tyler Hansbrough, UNC (lifetime achievement award)

HS Women's Soccer

The Highlands Women's varsity soccer team began their season Monday with a trip to face county rival Franklin in a non-conference match.

The Lady Highlanders started strong in the first half, playing solid defense and keeping the faster Lady Panthers at bay. However, Franklin was able to push a goal through halfway into the first quarter, and added another with only a minute to play in the first half for a 2-0 halftime lead.

The second half saw more of the same, as the Lady Highlanders were on the defensive for the majority of the match. Two more goals in the second half gave Franklin a final margin of 4-0.

Despite giving up four goals, the Lady Highlanders had an excellent defensive game against a faster and stronger Franklin squad. Keeper Madison Taylor recorded double digit saves, and defenders Kate-Marie Parks and Marlee McCall both had excellent games up the middle for the Lady Highlanders. The story of the match was the offense of the Lady Panthers, who outshot the Lady Highlanders 36-6 and powered home four goals.

The Highlander ladies will play again next week in Hiawassee, GA vs. the Towns County Lady Indians at 7 p.m.

– Ryan Potts

• HS SPORTS •

Spring means baseball at Highlands School



Conner Dobbs slides into base at the Cherokee game Tuesday night baseball game at Cherokee.
Photos by Noel Atherton



Stephanie Puchacz sliding home and Tawny Perez heading toward first base at the Cherokee game softball game Tuesday night at Cherokee.

• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

Current and future needs to be addressed

President Obama does not have any lock on change. Change is also in the air at Town Hall and the Police Headquarters at what will soon be the former ABC store.

For some time, both management and the Board of Commissioners have realized that more space is needed for both administration and the police. Currently, it is not feasible to build a new and expensive Town Hall which originally was planned to be all inclusive. The movement of the ABC store to the Highlands Plaza soon and the use of the Highlands Community Center for our Board meetings have opened up new and less expensive possibilities for the Town of Highlands.

We will begin first with a revision of the current Town Hall which will temporarily allow for a much more comfortable and practical working space in that building at a very reasonable cost. We no longer will be using the current meeting room; so that room and that side of the building will be utilized as new office space. We will, however, still maintain a smaller meeting room on the first floor. Architectural plans and cost estimates are in process for this change.

The Police Headquarters will be moving to the current ABC Store after a complete renovation of that building is carried out to meet the specifications of a modern police department. Plans are being developed and cost estimates will be forthcoming regarding that move. All in all these changes should be cost effective, more convenient and morale boosting. This was all discussed at our board meeting last week and will be further discussed and hopefully approved by the board at future meetings.

However, it is still apparent to the Board that at some point in the next three to four years, we must embark upon the process of building an entirely new Town Hall which will be more appropriate to a town of our character and size, but under current economic conditions we do not believe it is feasible to take that on right now. For several years we have been putting aside funds for this and will continue to do so. As I have said repeatedly, the town continues to be in excellent financial condition



Mayor Don Mullen

and we plan to remain so.

As I have stated before, several of us at Town Hall attended a meeting with Congressman Heath Shuler at a workshop in Asheville on utilization of the stimulus funds the federal government approved recently. We made good contacts at that meeting and have followed up with grant requests. Whether one is in favor of this stimulus package or not, we certainly want to take advantage of it just like everyone else. It would be irresponsible not to improve our infrastructure if the funds are available to help us do so.

Senator Richard Burr's field representative was in my office also this past week to meet with the Town Manager Jim Fatland and me regarding any needs we may have. Both Senator Burr and Congressman Shuler voted against the stimulus package but each will help us as much as they can to improve our town and preserve its functionality and beauty by improving our infrastructure. We thank them for their attention to us.

Rep. Shuler Weekly Legislative Update

In the last quarter of 2008 home prices across the nation dropped an average of 18 percent, and now more than 14 million homeowners owe more on their mortgage than their home is worth. Unquestionably, we must stabilize the housing market in order to return our nation's economy to solid ground.

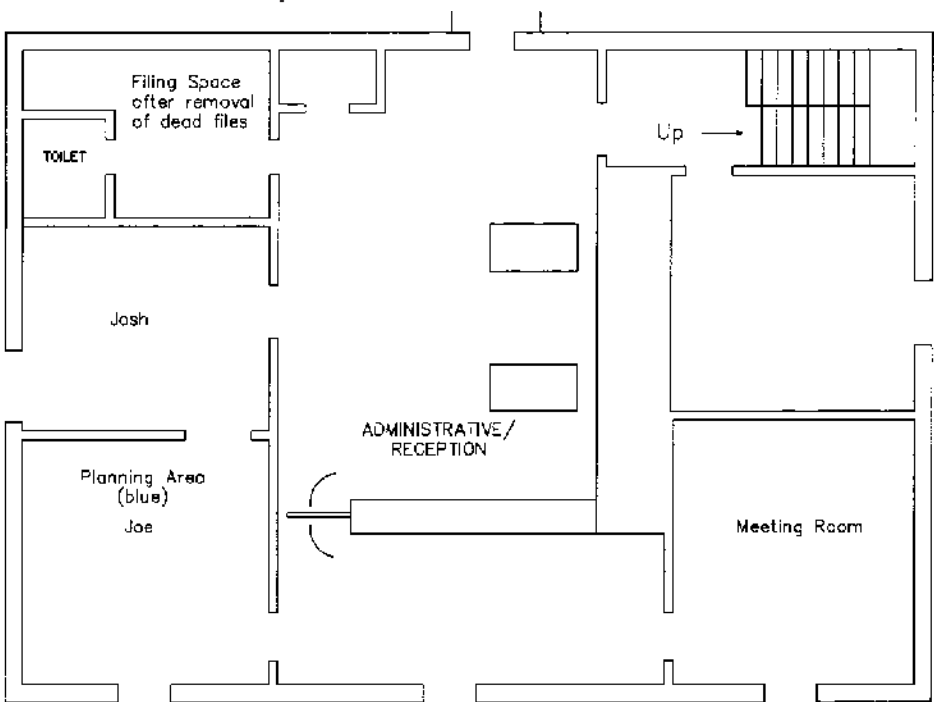
Last week the House of Representatives took an important step toward addressing this underlying cause of economic troubles, while also helping thousands of responsible homeowners across Western North Carolina keep their homes.

The legislation, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act, or H.R. 1106, will help families facing foreclosure keep their homes by granting bankruptcy judges the ability to modify existing mortgages on primary residences through Chapter 13 bankruptcy. Bankruptcy judges are already allowed to modify the loan terms for vacation homes and investment properties.

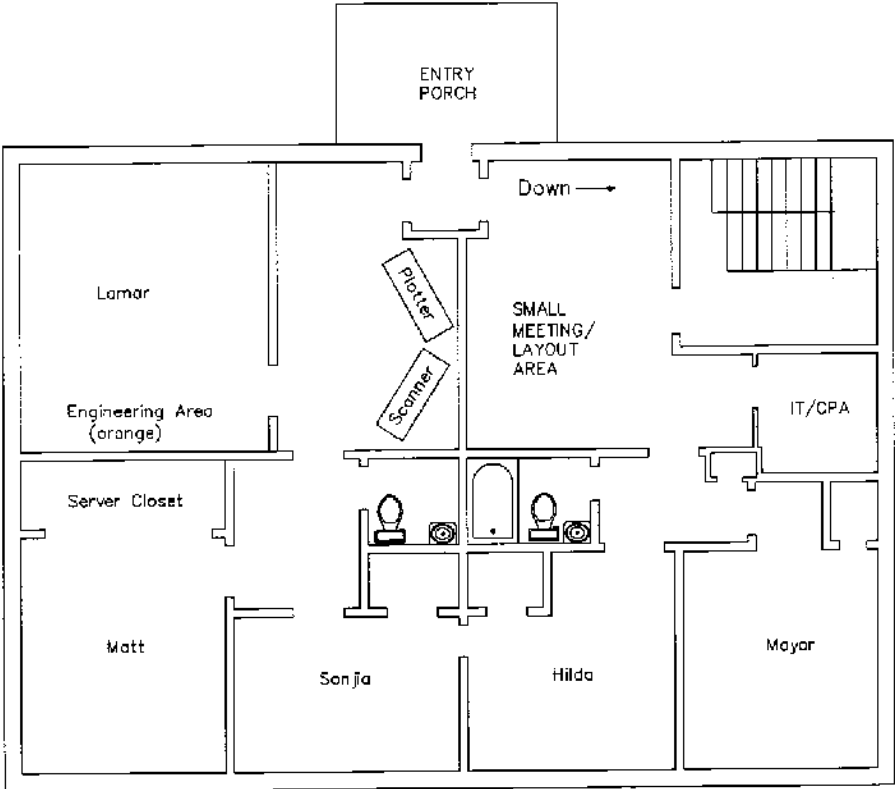
Declaring personal bankruptcy is a painful process and is not an easy way to escape debt. This bill requires homeowners to work in good faith to make their mortgage payments and keeps bankruptcy as the last option. But it does provide good, hard-working American families the opportunity

•See SHULER page 15

Proposed Main Level Renovations



Proposed Upper Level Renovations



At the March 4 Town Board meeting, Town Manager Jim Fatland told commissioners renovations to the existing Town Hall would satisfy the needs of the town and its employees for the next 3-5 years. His office would be where Lamar's current office is -- the unlabeled square above. Though final plans and cost estimates are not yet available, renovations will cost a fraction of what a new

Town Hall complex would cost. The ABC Store will be renovated to accommodate the Police Department once the ABC Store relocates to its new spot in Highlands Plaza next between the Highlands Office Supply and Subway. Plans and cost estimates have not been designed for the Police station yet.

HS scholars honored at Rotary



At its February 24 meeting, the Rotary Club of Highlands honored the February Scholars of the Month from Highlands School. Pictured from the left are: Thomas Jessup, School Counselor, Marisol Ruiz, high school scholar, Grace Brassard, middle school scholar, Jose Jimenez, grammar school scholar and Derek Taylor, Rotary Club President.

... SHULER continued from page 14

to stay in their homes and get back on their feet. It takes the necessary steps to help responsible homeowners who are suffering due to this historic economic downturn, while also not rewarding those who were irresponsible or dishonest.

By reducing the number of foreclosures we also protect the property values of all homes. Studies have shown that each foreclosed home reduces nearby property values by as much as 9 percent.

The Helping Families Save Their Homes Act also makes commonsense changes to the Federal Housing Administration's Hope for Homeowners program, reduces fees, and offers other incentives to encourage lenders to voluntarily modify loans.

... HIS & HERS continued from page 7

told us we could make it home if we could just pump up all of our tires to the correct pressure.

We made it just fine back to Highlands, and immediately went to see Nicky and AJ at Nantahala Tire and Car Care. In the back of my mind, I remembered how they had told us how vital it is to make sure that your tires are always properly inflated, especially around here. I'd assumed that John was taking care of this, being a guy and all. It seems that we'd picked up a screw in the right tire, and as it lost air, it threw things out of kilter. The underinflated left wheel then started running on a weak part of the tire, and actually blew.

We felt rather stupid, as we should. I pass on this information as friendly advice. Check the air in your tires once a month, the same day as your birthday, if

The Helping Families Save Their Homes Act passed the House with support from Democrats and Republicans, 234-191.

The House and Senate also came together last week for a joint session to hear an address from British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. The Prime Minister discussed the economic crisis that is troubling not only the U.S. but the world.

"We should have the confidence that we can seize the opportunities ahead and make the future work for us," the Prime Minister said. He is absolutely right.

Throughout our nation's history we have seen that from adversity comes strength. We have overcome challenges before, and I have no doubt that we will overcome this one.

that helps you remember. Another bit of advice? There are lots of kind, helpful people out there who are waiting to step up, and be heroes. Let them. Be grateful. Show how much you appreciate them. And then, one day, step up to the plate, and be a hero for someone who needs you. You'd be surprised how good it feels.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. Michelle has learned the hard way that inflation, when it comes to tires, can be a good thing.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

they overtake native vegetation. The Oriental bittersweet vine, for example, is able to grow in the shaded, dense areas of the forest thereby having a potentially greater impact than the more familiar non-native invasive kudzu vine which thrives in the direct sunlight available along roadways and other open areas. It is also important to recognize there are species with similar names, such as the American bittersweet, which is native to this region and should not be pulled or otherwise treated.

Cooperators play a critical role in

addressing private and other non-federal lands, recognizing plants do not stop their migration at a property boundary. Private land owners are encouraged to learn more about non-native invasive plants on their property. More information on invasives can be found at www.invasive.org, www.bugwood.org, and www.eddmaps.org.

For more information regarding the project decision and environmental assessment refer to the Forest website: <http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc>.

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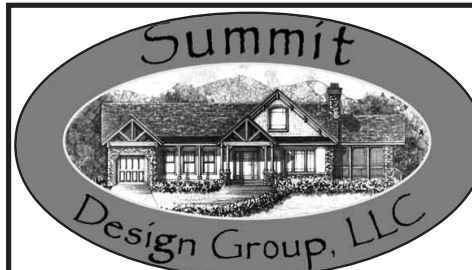
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going Events

- The Town of Highlands is accepting applications from non profits requesting funds. Applications may be obtained at Town Hall or on the Town's website www.highlandsnc.org under heading "forms and applications." To be eligible, an organization must be an IRS approved 501(c) (3). Applications should be submitted to the Town Clerk no later than April 1, 2009.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodruff room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

Mon. & Wed.

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

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the

Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

Wed., & Fri.

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

First Mondays

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

Mondays

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

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

Tuesdays

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

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

Wednesdays

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

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

Every Third Wednesday

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

Thursdays

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

- Taize worship at 7 p.m. at the Lutheran Chapel of the Holy Family, 2152 Dillard Road. There will be a simple supper of bread and soup at 6 p.m. Dress is casual, and all are welcome. Call Chaplain Margaret Howell for more information: 828-526-2905 or email her at Knytengale@aol.com

1st & 3rd Thursdays

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

2nd & 4th Fridays

- Community Drum Circle at the Highlands Rec Park, from 6-7:30 p.m. Come experience a fun family friendly drum circle. All ages are encouraged to attend this free event. All experience levels welcomed. Celebrate community with facilitated interactive rhythmical dialogue. Bring your own drum or percussion instrument. Some extra drums and percussion will be supplied. For more information call 421-0551.

Thursday, March 12

- At Highlands School the Freshman Class is hosting a dinner and bake sale in the cafeteria from 4:30-6 p.m. Baked Potato dinner w/drink and dessert for \$5 or for children, chicken nuggets, Mac & Cheese, drink & dessert for \$4.

- At Highlands School PTO meeting at 6 p.m. in the old gym, and prior to that the annual Book Fair will take place in the media center from 5-6 p.m. and science fair experiments will be on display in the old gym.

- The League of Women Voters is hosting a presentation by Jill Montana, executive director of the International Friendship Center of Highlands (Centro de Amigos) who will present a program on immigrant issues. The program will be sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Macon County and will be held at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. The IFC is supported by the churches and other community groups of Highlands and provides services to the immigrant community as well as education and advocacy on their behalf. Recognizing the complexity of the reality of thousands of immigrants living in our communities, who contribute to the workforce and economy, but are affected by complicated laws and limitations, the center strives to address needs not being met by other resources. They provide services in the areas of education, transportation, legal assistance, housing, food, taxes, and employment. Jill Montana will provide information on programs and talk about the issues pertaining to the immigrant community, the successes and the needs. Lunch will be served at noon, by reservation. Call 524-5192. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

- The March meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcome. The club meets every second Thursday at the Blue Ridge School at 6 p.m. September through March and 7 p.m. April through August. Listen to WHLC (104.5 FM) at 5 p.m. for cancellation due to weather. Visit our web site at www.wncwoodturners.com.

- The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursda at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center. Guest speaker will be Dr. Charles Thomas with 21st Century Radiation Oncology. Light refreshments will be served. Anyone who has been affected by cancer is invited to attend.

- Democratic discussion group at the Highlands Rec Park at 6 p.m. This is the Obama supporters of Highlands that want to stay involved and provide community service as Obama has asked for. For more information, email Highlands Democratic chairperson Lee Hodges at

eejah@hodes.com.

Friday, March 13

- Angel Medical Blood Drive (120 Riverview Street, Franklin) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Each person who wishes to donate at a Red Cross drive in March may enter a drawing to win one of two pairs of Delta Air Lines domestic tickets. Saving lives by donating blood or platelets is a wonderful feeling, and now just by taking the time to give the "Gift of Life," two lucky donors could be on their way to a vacation in the sun. In honor of Johnathan Mathis, a local 10-year-old boy.

Saturday, March 14

- Tool Sale Benefit on Glade Road house #445 with proceeds to help pay for son's funeral. Rain or Shine. 9 a.m. until. No early birds. Take N.C. 28 and turn on Glade Road. First house on left. Items for sale include 1999 F150 4WD pick-up, automatic with extended cab; assorted lumber, one horse-drawn wagon with rubber tire and hydraulic brakes; lots of tools.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike to Turtleback, Rainbow, and Stair Step falls on the Horsepasture River with an elevation change of 800 feet and a couple of steep ascents of 100 yards. The outing will take 5 hours (4 hours hiking and lunch break). Meet at the

Ikebana demonstration coming up



On Tuesday, March 31, the Asheville Chapter of Ikebana International will present a program on "Exhibition Designs: Ichiyo, Ohara and Ikenobo Demonstrations" at its meeting on Tuesday at 10 am at the Folk Art Center, Milepost 282 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Presenters include Emiko Nishiwaki, Ikenobo School; Sibbie Wilson, Ohara School and Terri Ellis Todd, Ichiyo School. For more information, contact Chapter President Sally Robinson, 828-669-6946 or salspencemntreat@aol.com

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Wachovia Bank in Cashiers at 8:30 a.m. Drive 16 miles round trip. Bring water, a lunch, and wear sturdy shoes. Call Leader Walker Taylor at 743-6977 for reservations.

- Holly Springs Community Blood Drive at Holly Springs Baptist Church 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please call 524-5200 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Each person who presents to donate at a Red Cross drive in March may enter a drawing to win one of two pairs of Delta Air Lines domestic tickets. Saving lives by donating blood or platelets is a wonderful feeling, and now just by taking the time to give the "Gift of Life," two lucky donors could be on their way to a vacation in the sun.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike to Turtleback, Rainbow, and Stair Step falls on the Horsepasture River with an elevation change of 800 feet and a couple of steep ascents of 100 yards. The outing will be about 5 hours: 4 hours hiking and lunch break. Meet at the Wachovia Bank in Cashiers at 8:30 a.m. Drive 16 miles round trip. Bring water, a lunch, and wear sturdy shoes. Call Leader Walker Taylor at 743-6977 for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

- The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin, NC., will welcome back to their pulpit, the Rev. Dr. Edward Frost from Atlanta, GA. The title of his sermon will be "The Baba Yaga Saga," a European folktale with moral teachings. The Fellowship is located at 85-89 Sierra Dr. off Lakeside Dr. 1.2 miles from Hardee's. The Service and Children's Religious Education begin at 11 a.m. For more information telephone 828/349-0748.

Sunday, March 15

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2-mile easy hike on the Greenway in Franklin from Macon Co. Library to Tasseer Park along the Cartoogechaye Creek and Little Tennessee River. Meet at the Tasseer Shelter off Ulco Dr. in Franklin at 2 pm; drive 4 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children 10 and over are welcome, but no pets please.

Monday, March 16

- Mirror Lake Improvement Association will meet Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center.

Tuesday, March 17

- The NC Extension Service will offer an area workshop at the Macon County Extension Center in Franklin from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. for gardeners and farmers desiring to learn the principles of organic vegetable production. This is a great opportunity for individuals to raise the bar from their current gardening practices to growing organic vegetables for a profit! The cost for this program is \$15 (pay at the door). Lunch will be provided. Please pre-register by Friday March 13. For more information or to register contact Alan Durden Extension Agriculture

Agent at phone # 828 349-2046 or e-mail Alan_Durden@ncsu.edu.

Wednesday, March 18

- The NC Extension Service will offer an area workshop at the Stecoah Valley Center in Graham County from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. This is for gardeners and farmers desiring to learn the principles of organic vegetable production. The cost for this program is \$15 (pay at the door). Lunch will be provided. For more information or to register contact Randy Collins Extension Agriculture Agent at phone # 828 479-7979 or e-mail Randy_Collins@ncsu.edu.

Thursday, March 19

- The comic musical, "Mama Mia" (2008), is the story of a young bride trying to discover her real father before her wedding. The story is told by using the songs of the 70s group ABBA. The movie stars Meryl Streep as the mother. "Dancing Queen" and "I Have a Dream" are among the great songs featured. The movie will air at 3 p.m. Friends of the Albert Carlton – Cashiers Community Library, the winter schedule will continue on the first and third Thursday as matinees.

Saturday, March 21

- Smoky Mountain Beekeepers will host a one-day crash course in beginner beekeeping Saturday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., at the Swain County Extension Office just west of Bryson City. Jennifer Berry, an apicultural research coordinator and lab manager at the University of Georgia Honey Bee Lab, will lead the bee school. Berry is a regular contributor to Bee Culture magazine. Topics covered will include basic bee biology, how to get started in beekeeping, insect and disease control and more. The fee - pay at the door - is \$10. This covers the cost of lunch and reference materials. Registration gets under way at 8:30 a.m. Door prizes, which include several scholarship hives, also will be given. Call Swain County's Cooperative Extension Office by Wednesday, March 18, to register. To get to the Swain County Extension Office, go 5.5 miles west of Bryson City on U.S. 74 to the old Almond School. Smoky Mountain Beekeepers is made up of beekeepers in Swain and Jackson counties and the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

Saturday, March 28

- Earth Hour is from 8:30-9:30 p.m. Turn off the lights in your house in support of the Sierra Club's endeavor to preserve carbon consumption.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2.5-mile strenuous hike that is more of a climb than a hike along the south face of Whiteside Mtn. for awesome views of Whiteside Cove and the spectacular rock formations and vertical wall of the mountain above. Meet at Whiteside Parking Lot at 9:30 a.m., 10 miles round trip from Highlands. Bring water, lunch, gloves, and wear deep-lugged boots. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526 8134, for reservations.

Visitors are welcome but must be fit and ready for a tough and rocky descent and ascent. No pets please.

Thursday, March 26

- Franklin Community Blood Drive at First Baptist Church (69 lotla Street, Franklin) 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Please call 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Each person who wishes to donate at a Red Cross drive in March may enter a drawing to win one of two pairs of Delta Air Lines domestic tickets. Saving lives by donating blood or platelets is a wonderful feeling, and now just by taking the time to give the "Gift of Life," two lucky donors could be on their way to a vacation in the sun.

Sunday, March 29

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2-mile easy hike at the Tessentee Farm through old fields and woods (good birding area) being rehabilitated by Land Trust. Meet at the Smoky Mountain Visitor Center in Otto at 2 pm; drive 6 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

Tuesday, March 31

- The Asheville Chapter of Ikebana International will present a program on "Exhibition Designs: Ichiyo, Ohara and Ikenobo Demonstrations" at its meeting on Tuesday at 10 am at the Folk Art Center, Milepost 282 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Presenters include Emiko Nishiwaki, Ikenobo School; Sibbie Wilson, Ohara School and Terri Ellis Todd, Ichiyo School. For more information, contact Chapter President Sally Robinson, 828-669-6946 or salspencemntreat@aol.com

Saturday, April 4

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 5-mile moderate hike to Rock Gorge and Big Bend Falls on the Chattooga River with a steep elevation change of 300 feet down and up the bluff above the river. Meet at the Bank of America in Highlands at 9:30 a.m. and at the Wachovia Bank in Cashiers at 9:50 a.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, April 5

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike to Mud Creek Falls on a pretty trail along a creek with an interesting covered bridge along the way. Meet at the Great Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center in Otto at 2 p.m., driving 20 miles round trip. If coming from Highlands or Cashiers, call leader for alternative meeting place. Visitors and children 10 or over are welcome, but no pets please. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

- At First Baptist Church on Main Street in Highlands, Easter musical program "Come Touch the Robe" at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday, April 7-8

- The Macon County 4-H Council is now

taking orders for raspberry, blueberry, and strawberry plants, grape vine, and apple trees with pick-up dates in April. These plants are bare root, except for blueberries, and come directly from the nursery. A limited supply of plants will be available, so place your orders early with Cooperative Extension at 349-2046 or 349-2054. Pick-up at the Agricultural Services Center, 193 Thomas Heights Road in Franklin. Contact Kathy Kuhlman, 4-H Agent at 349-2054.

Saturday, April 25

- Democratic County Convention at the Macon County Courthouse in Franklin. 9 a.m. until noon. Macon County officers will be elected and a vote on referendums will be taken.

Friday-Sunday, April 24-26

- The annual NC WILD FOODS WEEKEND will be held at the Betsy-Jeff Penn 4H Center near Reidsville, NC. People from all over the East will take to the woods and fields to learn about edible wild plants, meet other foragers, and celebrate spring. The climax of the weekend will be a WILD FEAST composed of collected foods prepared by the participants. Advance registration is required. For more information, call Debbie Midkiff at 919-489-2221, email debbiemidkiff@hotmail.com. www.wildfoodadventures.com.

Ruby Cinema

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March 13-19

RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN

rated PG

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

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

Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7

FIRED UP!

rated PG-13

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

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

Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7:10

WATCHMEN

rated R

Friday: (5), 8

Sat & Sun: (2), (5), 8

Mon – Thurs: (4), 7

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU

rated PG-13

Friday: 7:05

Sat & Sun: (2:05), 7:05

Mon – Thurs: 7:05

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rated PG-13

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YARD SALE – Sat., March 14

TOOL SALE BENEFIT ON GLADE ROAD HOUSE #445 WITH PROCEEDS TO HELP PAY FOR SON'S FUNERAL. Rain or Shine. 9 a.m. until. No early birds. Take N.C. 28 and turn on Glade Road. First house on left. Items for sale include 1999 F150 4WD pick-up, automatic with extended cab; assorted lumber, one horse-drawn wagon with rubber tire and hydraulic brakes; lots of tools.

HELPWANTED

BAKER/CATERER is needed in the Nutrition Services Department at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time, 32 hours per week, MTWF. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RN NEEDED FOR UPSCALE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY. 8 hours per week. Apply at Chestnut Hill, 64 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC. Or email your resume to dotty.guenther@gmail.com. Drug screening and background check. EOE.

MTN AIR WELLNESS CENTERS opening for massage therapist. Call 828 743-9070. 3/28

THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME IT PROFESSIONAL (16-24 hrs/week). This person should have knowledge of a server/client environment and a background in web design and programming, particularly in .html and .asp. For information about this position, direct inquiries to Matt Shuler at the Highlands Town Office (828) 526-2118.

RN/LPN needed at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Full time position available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Full benefits or the option to opt out of benefits

for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

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

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

BUY ONE HOUSE. GET ONE FREE IN HIGHLANDS! Buy this 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath Cabin with Long Range Mountain and Sunset Views and Get the Luxury Cabin Next Door for Free! Reduced to \$399,000. See both properties at <http://www.vrbo.com/181808> and <http://www.vrbo.com/194328>. This offer will not last long. Call 305 458-0033.

FOR SALE BY OWNER – 535 N. 4th Street. Zoned Commercial. \$389,000. Currently rented at \$2,500 a month. Call 770-827-0450. (st. 2/19)

NEW LUXURY HOME FOR SALE OR LEASE IN SCALY Mt. 3 BR, 3.5 BA, 2.88 acres. Appraised \$757,000, reduced to \$499,900 or lease \$2750/mth. Additional lots for sale. 404-272-2131 www.thomasknob.com/homes.html (5/14)

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

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.

DOWNTOWN FURNISHED! Spacious 1/1, full kitchen, walk in closet, balcony, small pets allowed. 526-3363 Call for appt. (st 3/5)

2 BED ONE BATH COTTAGE, fully furnished. Laurel Falls. two minutes from

hospital and few minutes from town. Call 787-2423. 3/19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FURNISHED 3BD2BATH HOUSE IN MIRROR LAKE area available for 6-12 month lease \$1200+ utilities. Call 770-977-5692.

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

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

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

VACATION RENTAL

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

THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE – Fish or canoe from deck. Available week-

ly, monthly, No min. Call 828-342-2302.

ITEMS FOR SALE

LARGE PICKUP LOAD OF MT. LAUREL Lengths 4 to 6 feet. Mt. Laurel, Kusa Dogwoods, Norway and Serbia Spruce, Red maples, Service Derry, Rhododendron. Call 828-293-5398. (3/12)

FREE POOL TABLE. You haul. Heavy. Brass Stick rack, balls, sticks & accessories. \$158. Call 828-421-6608.

WOODBURNING FIREPLACE INSERT – Strong and sturdy, 30 inches wide, 29 inches deep and 67 inches high. \$175. Call 526-5749.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MARTIN-C-1740 UNVENTED GAS HEATER – with oxygen depleting sensing system. BTU 40,000. H. 14 24 3/4 W.

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25" D. 13". Fan blower-model B35. \$125. Call 526-5640.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TWO ELECTRIC WATER COOLERS for sale. Approximately 38" tall x 12"

square. Put bottled water on top. \$50 each. OBO. Call 526-3262

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1989 MERCEDES 560-SL – 2-door, hardtop convertible. excellent condition. Only 70,000 miles. Always garaged. Black/gray leather. \$15,000. (770) 827-0450,4/29

1998 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE, black, 4 cyl., 5 speed, great on gas! \$1,500 or best offer. 526-4741

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SPECIALIZED NANNY/ FAMILY COACH available to assist families struggling with transitions or a child/teen's challenging behavior. 15+ years direct counseling, child development, and family enhancement experience. Call anytime, 828-342-8971. 3/12

DRIVEWAY – ROAD REPAIR – Tractor-Backhoe work, Drainage – Water Mitigation, Gravel Hauled. Reasonable Rates. Free Estimates. Local with references. Call (828) 421-6608. 4/2

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24-HOUR CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE. – Companionship, showers, cooking, doctor appts. and shopping. Call Mrs. Myers. 828-349-3479 or 828-342-1603.

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

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

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

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

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

CLOCK REPAIR - Antique or modern, complicated antique clocks are my specialty. Experienced and dependable with housecalls available. Call 706.754.9631. Joseph McGahee, Clockmaker.

Watershed Council seeks public input

The Macon County Watershed Council is currently conducting a comprehensive review of the local Sedimentation and Erosion Control Ordinance. The objective is to improve the ordinance's application and effectiveness.

To accomplish the objectives, the watershed council and Macon County erosion control officers are reviewing on-the-ground experiences to improve definitions, erosion control plan requirements, permitting procedures, and on-site maintenance of erosion control best management practices. The watershed council invites and welcomes public comments to assist in this review.

The Macon County Sedimentation and Erosion Control Ordinance is a performance-based standard for local control of sedimentation. Its goal, regardless of plans, permits, and procedures, is to minimize man-made erosion and to keep the mud and dirt on the property where it belongs. The watershed council welcomes your input and suggestions.

The next meeting of the Macon County Watershed Council will be Wednesday, March 11 at 10 a.m. at the Macon County NC Cooperative Extension Service building on Thomas Heights Road. The public is invited.

FIREWOOD "Nature Dried" Call 526-2251.

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

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

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

• POLICE, FIRE, SHERIFF •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for Feb. 28-March 10. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Feb. 28

• At 5 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at N. 4th and Laurel streets.

March 3

• At 7:50 a.m., officers responded to a call from Marathon Gas that reported receiving a counterfeit \$20 bill.

• At 5:20 p.m., during a search of a home on Cullasaja Drive for counterfeit money and paraphernalia, officers found drugs and drugs paraphernalia.

March 4

• At 5 p.m., Ronald E. Swafford, 34, was arrested for possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia and for being in the possession of counterfeit money and accessories.

March 6

• Officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in the Performing Arts Center parking lot where a hit and run was reported.

• During the week officers made 2 Traffic Stops, issued 5 citations and responded to 2 alarms

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of March 6-10.

March 6

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Rolling Woods Drive concerning a possible stroke. The victim was transported to the hospital.

• The dept. responded to a carbon monoxide alarm at a residence on Lake Sequoyah Drive. It was set off by a worker.

March 7

• The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers to assist with a brush fire which was out of control.

March 8

• The dept. provided mutual aid to the Scaly Fire Department which was called to assist with a brush fire in the Coweeta/Otto area. Highlands stood by for both Highlands and Scaly.

March 9

• The dept. provided mutual aid to assist Scaly with a brush fire in their district.

... HEIGHT continued from pg 6

of the ordinance. "Is your purpose an aesthetic one? In other words, are you concerned with the height above the tree line?"

Beale and others said it was a mainly a safety issue.

In the end, the board agreed to add "habitable space" and to change the ordinance to read "the maximum building height on any building ... shall not exceed 48 feet or four stories, whichever is less, of habitable space ... building height shall mean the vertical distance measured from the top of the foundation to the 'eve' of said building."

Morgan and the board said attics - which typically lie in the space directly below an eve - aren't considered "habitable" space.

"I think the way it will wash out is that the maximum building height allowed is 48 feet to the eve or four stories, whichever is less. If the eve height is 48 feet, then there can be no habitable space such as a useable attic above that point," said Morgan. "So the roof can extend above the 48 foot mark as long as there is no habitable space (story) above that point. If the attic does not have stairs leading to it and the attic is not heated or cooled it will not be considered habitable. The space above a hole in a ceiling where people poke stuff into the 'attic' is not considered a story. But to cut to the point, the only thing allowed above 48 feet is the roof, or limited storage, like the hole in the ceiling."

County Attorney Lesley Moxley said since the building height ordinance is a police ordinance only a unanimous vote was needed to make the verbiage changes, not a public hearing as with other types of ordinances. — **Kim Lewicki**

• FUN & GAMES •

Hex-a-Ku[©] 2009

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

OBJECT:

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

How to Solve:

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

Mystery Word Times of Dark (6)

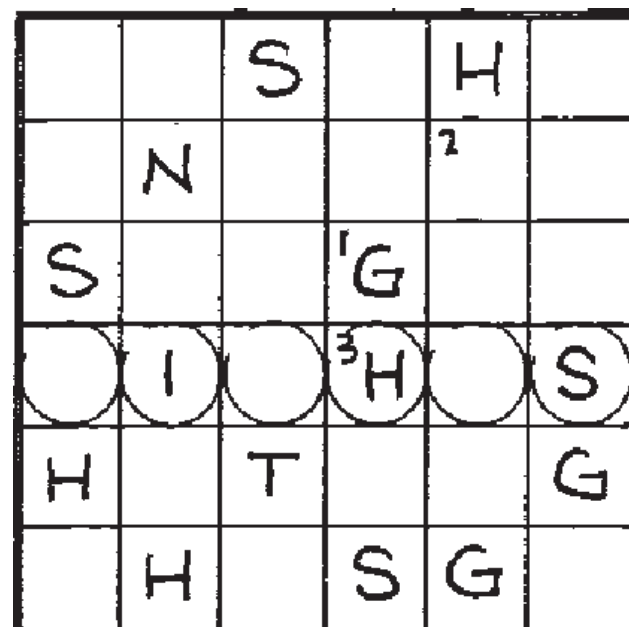
Across

1. Goes with tonic water (3)

Down

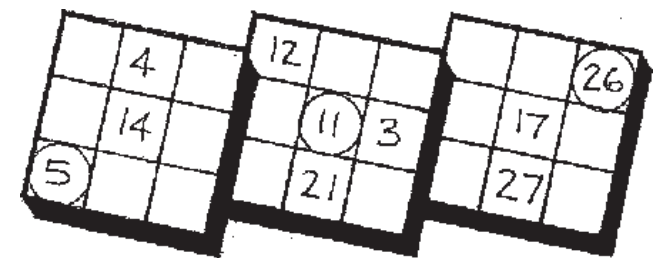
2. Be seated (3)

3. Belongs to him (3)



PseudoCube[©]

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#DN3B Level of Difficulty - Easy

THE SETUP:

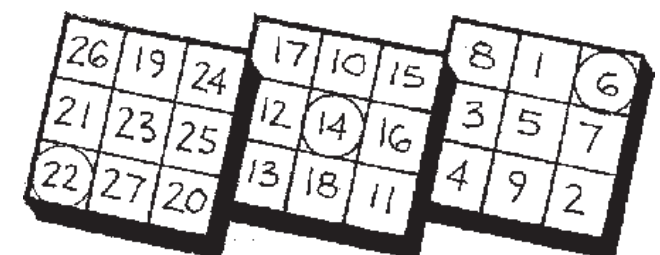
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

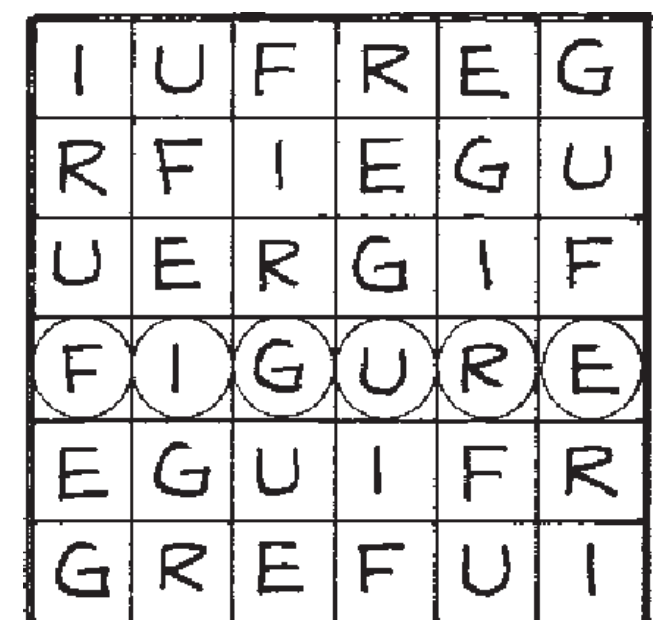
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

Solution to #BZ4F in March 5 issue



Solution to March 5 Hex-a-Ku



... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 9

So let's look at some phrases in this passage and gain insight: ... boasting gains nothing. When you're feeling weak this encourages.

I know a man in Christ. Is Paul talking about himself? Why in the third person? Is Paul trying to be self effacing? I doubt it. I believe he's just not completely able to grasp what has happened. He is unsure of the experience; it was way over his head.

In the body or out of the body? I do not know. He says this twice. Why? He's trying to emphasize a point here, but what point? I'm not sure.

He heard inexpressible things not permitted to tell. Sounds somewhat foggy. Again, uncertain.

So what was Paul sure of? I suppose not much in this experience. All we can say for sure is that Paul is sure of this one thing: his weakness, he says it in verse 5.

⁵I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses.

I can identify with that. Paul felt weakness, in fact he boasted about it.

Let's suppose you meet Paul lived in our day and you met him in one of his travels, in an airport:

"Hello, my name is Paul, you can call me Paul. Let me tell you about me. I have been to heaven and seen God. I've got the inside scoop on the greatest happenings on earth. Oh, by the way I am one of the greatest leaders in the church . . ."—Uh, no he did would not say that.

Let's try again:

How about, "Hello, my name is Paul, let me tell you about my grandkids . . ."—Uh, no not that either.

"My name is Paul. God is awesome and I'd love to share with you that I'm a weakling."—That's more like it. Can you imagine? Paul one of those guys who's hand is cold and clammy when you shake it?

2 Corinthians 10:10 For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing."

1 Corinthians 2:3 I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.

So, you could make a strong case that:

1. Paul, the Apostle, was many times not sure of himself, or when it came to himself he was only sure of his weakness.

This gives me hope, because many times, especially as a man I can feel the same way. When it comes to myself, or more importantly if I focus on myself and what I have to offer I find myself foggy, unsure, way over my head. But Paul, a pillar of our faith felt that way too.

I know there's more so I kept reading:

⁷To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations,

Well if we wondered who he was so cryptically talking about in verses 2 through 4, we know now. He says the man in verses 1-6 was he, Paul. Maybe someday we will know

why he was so cryptic.

. . . there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you . . ."

The words "torment" and "pleading" are strong words to describe Paul's apparent bout with weakness. I've been there and I can assume you have as well, though maybe not recently. It really does hurt, and the pain sometimes is fierce. The crying out to God is intense.

The next words, though, give the needed perspective that makes all the difference:

⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you . . ."

So I saw then that:

2. Weakness is a sure way to make us lean on God's grace

I am quick to lean on my own ability, my own experiences, my own education, my own dashing good looks, etc. But sometimes God sends the very messenger from hell to make us lean on his grace alone. And it is severe, and it really hurts, and we beg and plead, and we need an answer, and the answer is: ". . . for my power is made perfect in weakness." "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

It is almost appalling and yet so very encouraging and reassuring:

3. Weakness embraced will be a sure evidence of God's power.

Paul, the Apostle says he all the more gladly boasts about his weakness. He delights in weaknesses, in the tight spots. He's not trying to run away from them. In fact the very opposite seems to be the case.

My natural inclination and from what I know that of most men is to, work hard at removing anything that makes us appear weak. Hair Club For Men, Bowflex and Hemi's. The name of the game is to strengthen yourself, your position, or at least appear to strong. But Paul says that when we are weak in ourselves we are strongest in the Lord.

So we don't need to play the game and try to appear strong when we're weak. That game leaves us exhausted and sucks the true purpose out of our life out of us. Our calling is not to try to hide our weaknesses; no not to even try to minimize them or down play them. Our call is to do as Paul, delight in our weakness, to even expose them so that God's power will become more evident.

William Beebe, the naturalist, used to tell this story about Teddy Roosevelt. At Sagamore Hill, after an evening of talk, the two would go out on the lawn and search the skies for a certain spot of star-like light near the lower left-hand corner of the Great Square of Pegasus. Then Roosevelt would recite: "That is the Spiral Galaxy in Andromeda. It is as large as our Milky Way. It is one of a hundred million galaxies. It consists of one

hundred billion suns, each larger than our sun."

Then Roosevelt would grin and say, "Now I think we are small enough! Let's go to bed."

God says to us: "My Grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness." And we can confidently reply, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."



Above are the Rossetter sisters in their garden in the late 1960s). Left is Caroline Rossetter (1898-1999) who was known for her hats, and her sister Ella (1900-1993) who always wore something nautical.

Did you know the Rossetter sisters?

The Florida Historical Society has named Stuart Ferguson, who writes book reviews for Cyrano's Bookshop, its 2009 Rossetter Scholar, and is giving him a small stipend to write a book on the two ladies — Caroline and Ella Rossetter — who left their estate to the historical society so their 19th-century family home can be turned into a museum. For the past couple of years, Ferguson has been site manager of Historic Rossetter Museum).

Ella died in the early 1990s; Carrie died in 1999, aged 101.

The Rossetter sisters lived in Eau Gallie, FL, which is part of Melbourne, FL today, but they spent their vacations at High Hampton Inn in Cashiers, and did most of their shopping in Highlands at Wit's End and the Stone Lantern. They also attended mass at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church and visited friends in Highlands whenever in the area.

Ferguson is planning a chapter in the book about their time in Highlands and Cashiers. He's asking anyone who remembers the Rossetter sisters — either Caroline or Ella — to contact him by e-mail or phone. Email: Stuart.Ferguson@myfloridahistory.org or StuartMFerguson@hotmail.com and his cell phone number is (321) 693-7829.

Hospital announces free health screenings

Changes are in the works for the coming season of free health screenings offered every year by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

This will be the 15th year the hospital has offered free screenings. Nearly 400 people took advantage of the last year's series of area screenings. Rather than holding multiple screenings in various locations around its service area, the hospital plans two mega screenings this summer, one in Highlands and one in Cashiers.

The Highlands screening will be held on level 1 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on June 27. The other will be at Blue Ridge School on July 11. Both dates fall on Saturday.

The hours of each screening have been extended, however, significantly expanding the number of participants that can be accommodated. Sign up for each screening will be limited to the first 150 people, however. Priority will be given to those with addresses in the hospital's actual service area.

For the Highlands screening, priority will be given to residents in Highlands, Scaly Mountain and Sky Valley zip codes.

For the Blue Ridge screening, residents with zip codes for Cashiers, Glenville, Sapphire, and Yellow/Callowhee Mountain area will be given priority. Those from other areas, will be placed on a waiting list and accommodated if space allows.

Folks can register by calling the hospital at 526-1435, or sign up on the hospital's website

at www.highlandscashiershospital.org (click on the screening menu and complete the registration form). Those registering on line will receive a confirmation email. Appointment times will be assigned as part of the registration process to help reduce lines and waiting times.

While the number of screenings has been reduced, the tests and services are essentially the same as in years past. Participants will be checked for height and weight, BMI (body mass index), blood pressure, blood oxygen saturation level, cholesterol and triglyceride levels, glucose (blood sugar) levels, and white and red blood cell counts (to detect anemia and infection). Men over the age of 45 will also receive a blood test to detect prostate cancer (PSA).

Due to the nature of the tests being offered, those participating in screenings are asked not to eat or drink anything but water after midnight the night before.

In addition to the various tests, a dietitian/nutritionist will be on hand to discuss healthy eating and exercise habits, and a physical therapist will be available to evaluate balance and strength. Hearing tests and ear examinations will also be conducted at most of the screenings. All of that is in addition to a complimentary continental breakfast.

• OBITUARY •

Demetra Lamb-Maddox

Demetra Lamb-Maddox, 55 of Lawrenceville, GA, died Monday, March 9, 2009.

Funeral Services will be held 2 p.m., Friday, March 13, 2009 in the Lawrenceville Chapel of Tim Stewart Funeral Home in Georgia with Pastor Richard Cole and Rev. Paul Outland officiating. Burial will be held 1 p.m., Saturday, March 14, 2009 at Newman Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery in Otto, NC.

Owner and operator of Cuttin Caboose, Demetra worked as a hairdresser and cosmetologist. She is survived by her husband of 7 years: Larry R. Maddox of Lawrenceville, GA; step-father, John Locklear of Dacula, GA; her aunt, Betty Lou Bradford, of Dacula, GA; uncles: Charles Milton Bradford, of Newnan, GA; Harold David Bradford, of Morrow, GA; and Paul Donald & Elaine Bradford, Suwanee, GA; step-daughters and step-sons-in-law,

Kelly and Tim Haag, of Dacula, GA; Lori and Don Kary, of Winder, GA; half-sister, Dale Carol of Norcross, GA; and three grandchildren.

Flowers accepted or memorials to The American Lung Association of Georgia, 2452 Spring Road, Smyrna, GA, 30080.

Family will receive friends from 2-9 p.m., Thursday, March 12, 2009 at the Tim Stewart Funeral Home, 300 Simonton Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30045. There is also an online guest registry at www.stewartfh.com

... GRANT continued from page 1

through NC DENR channels.

Those include emergency generators for Highlands' water pumping stations, Radio Read meters for water consumption (\$770,000), water line upgrades for the Big Bear Pen system (\$205,000), and dredging of the Big Creek Arm of Lake Sequoyah (\$2 million). The permitting process component of the dredging project involving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is already underway and the town is now waiting to meet with the Corps.

Fatland said he and staff are assembling grant packages which will include design and permits as required with a submittal date of March 24 for two projects through NC DENR, this time construction grants.

The Mirror Lake Sewer Line grant is for \$3.1 million and the Lake Sequoyah Sewer Line grant is for \$5.65 million.

During several past meetings, Fatland has said that renovation of the ABC Store for the Police Department can be financed with USDA grants – separate from Obama's stimulus package – and the town will be meeting with the USDA once plans and designs are solidified.

Other grants the town has submitted involve the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program and Crime Commission which will finance a speed trailer, finger print equipment and supplies and a Ruvis Krimsite Imager for a total of \$32,300. Those grant applications were submitted on March 3.

Mayor Don Mullen said whether one is in favor of the stimulus package or not, the town should take advantage of it just like everyone else. "It would be irresponsible not to improve our infrastructure if the funds are available to help us do so," he said.

– **Kim Lewicki**

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