

# Highlands' Newspaper

**FREE**

Volume 7, Number 13

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Thursday, March 26, 2009

## This Week in Highlands

### On-going Events

• The Town of Highlands is accepting applications from non profits requesting funds. Applications may be obtained at Town Hall. Must be received no later than April 1, 2009.

• Friends of Panthertown work days, last Thursday of every month. Contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes.

**Mon., Wed., Fri.**

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

**Wed., & Fri.**

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

**Mondays**

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

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

**Thursdays**

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

• Taize worship at 7 p.m. at the Lutheran Chapel of the Holy Family, 2152 Dillard Road. Supper of bread and soup at 6 p.m.

**2nd & 4th Fridays**

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

**Fridays & Saturdays**

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

**Saturdays**

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

**Saturday, March 28**

• "Servin' Up A Cure" Volleyball Tournament at Highlands School at 9 a.m. Team fee is \$90. Deadline is noon, March 27. Three men allowed per team. Contact Linds Gearhart at [purple.n.patchouli@gmail.com](mailto:purple.n.patchouli@gmail.com). All proceeds go toward Gearhart's team who is joining the Susan G. Koman for the Cure Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk in Arizona in November.

• The Highlands School University Tour will go to Davidson College and Wake Forest University. Leave from Highlands School. Be there by 7:15 a.m.

**Thursday, April 2**

• Bingo at the Community Building from 6:30-8:30. Recipient of net proceeds go to Boy Scout Troop 207 – half of all money paid for Bingo cards goes to the players.

## Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
56 / 44F	60 / 48F	47 / 37F

## Electric rates could rise 10% April 25

*Town 'profit' to stay the same*

Duke Power is raising its wholesale electric rates for the Town of Highlands effective March 2010 so the town is considering a gradual rate increase to its customers beginning April 25, 2009.

The Finance Committee, made up of Commissioners Amy Patterson, John Dotson and Town Manager Jim Fatland, believe a gradual rate increase in advance of the

new Duke contract date of March 1, 2010 would be easier for Highlands taxpayers than a hefty hike March of next year, followed by more hikes through fiscal year 2013-2014.

The new contract with Duke will be in effect March 1, 2010 through December 31, 2029. Duke Energy wants rate increases totaling 16% per year over the next few

years to bring Highlands on par with other wholesale rates and customers in their system by fiscal year 2012-2013.

Kevin O'Donnell with Nova Energy Consultants, who has been helping Forest City, NC and Western Carolina University with their Duke Energy negotiations with their rate hikes, said all of Duke's

• See RATES page 14

## BOE changes tuition policy

Families of students living in Satolah, GA, who meet discretionary admission criteria at Highlands School no longer have to pay tuition.

At the March 23 School Board meeting held at Highlands School, the board heard the first reading of the resolution which changes the district's tuition policy.

For several years, tuition has been charged out-of-state students who are admitted under the discretionary admission policy – except for those students of families working for the town of Highlands, the county or state of North Carolina.

Now only those students employed by the school district or living in Satolah, GA are exempt from paying tuition.

According to Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter, five families in Satolah will be affected by the new tuition policy.

The school board reiterated that the "discretionary" policy still stands. That is, a student living in another state is not automatically admitted to Highlands School.

"A student becomes a discretionary student when he/she does not live in our attendance zone. That may be out-of-state, out-of-county or simply out of our attendance zone as determined by our "zone" map," said Jetter. "We re-

• See TUITION page 10

## Highlands is MC Boys' Basketball Champ!



Congratulations to the Highlands Tarheels Boys Basketball team! Last Thursday night they won the Macon County Boys' Basketball Championship for 10-12-years-olds played in Franklin. This was the first time a team at this level from Highlands has made it to the championship game. To win the championship they came back from an eight to zero deficit and beat a previously undefeated team! To top it off, the stands were packed with Highlanders! The team is pictured with their coaches Tay Bronaugh and Jesse Munger.

## TDC and county connection still unclear

The final word on Macon County's room tax disbursement policy is still forthcoming.

At the March 23 Macon County Commission meeting, County Manager Jack Horton presented a policy that came out of a meeting

he had with the Franklin/Nantahala Travel and Tourism Commission (TDC), but the policy was put on hold pending another meeting – this one to include the Highlands TDC.

Commissioner Brian McClell-

lan, member of the Highlands TDC, said after the county's administration fees are deducted, the room tax money should be sent directly to the TDCs and not the county finance department as suggested by

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • FORUM •

## • HAWK'S EYE VIEW •

## • LETTERS •

### Highlands is a mess!



**Publisher  
Kim Lewicki**

**H**ighlands has a serious litter problem. I'm not talking about the roads in and out of town I'm talking the streets right here in town.

Last Friday, The Girls' Clubhouse set out to pick up litter on one of its routes here in town – Spring from S. 4<sup>th</sup> to NC 106 through Highlands Plaza, up NC 28 and back to Spring and S. 4<sup>th</sup>. Basically, an eight block rectangle.

In the time it usually takes us to pick up the route, the club could only pick up two blocks – Spring from S. 4<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> to N.C. 28. Why? Because there was an enormous amount of trash.

It took a little over an hour to pick up those two blocks and to fill to the brim five 30-gallon trash bags.

"What do people do, Miss Kim? Just throw their drink bottles out the window?" the girls asked.

Though we picked up plastic tarps, "Open" and "Sale" signs, and ribbons left over from the Christmas Parade, most of the debris discarded was soda, juice, beer and booze bottles.

It's not like the litter was disposed of in an out-of-the-way place. It's right in town...down the street from the shops on the 4<sup>th</sup> Street hill, and along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street which connects Spring to N.C. 28.

Also, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street is a creek which runs through the Rabbit Hole under 3<sup>rd</sup> street and emerges below the embankment on its way to Highlands Plaza. There we found so many beer and booze bottles it was impossible to retrieve them all. By then the five bags we toted were filled to the top and almost too heavy to carry.

When I was a teenager, there was a creek a group of us frequented most week-end nights and we did what all teenagers do, party. But we never left anything behind. We knew that if we did it would mess

• See FORUM page 10



### 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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### You're clearly an idiot

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in response to Dr. Henry Salzarulo's column in the March 19 edition of Highlands' Newspaper entitled "I say let 'em sue."

For someone with a supposedly "advanced degree" Dr. Salzarulo certainly has a lot of class envy problems. He's obviously never managed a business in his life. If he had, he'd realize that making a contract is a right and a responsibility. Either do not make the contract or make it and honor it.

Anyone stupid enough to think that a person making a retention agreement fulfilled in good faith should be punished for accepting payment is a complete idiot.

Or, as most of our sniveling "Baby Boomer" liberals, he suffers from some kind of sunset anger and maybe white guilt.

Not quite as well off as he thought he'd be, right? So now he thinks he'll jump on this Socialist train to dependency. Let's vilify hard work and success then transfer our tax monies to those less fortunate.

I'm glad you're isolated up in the mountains and out of any sphere of real influence.

I've watched for 25 years the democrats create this disaster. ...

They put pressure on Georgia lenders to lend to his fellow democrats, regardless of qualifications.

After explaining the economics to those fools and refusing to do it, Georgia took their licenses away.

After realizing that was stupid, and only limited available capital, Georgia reinstated them and allowed high risk loans. After realizing that these democrats were being soaked, the SDLC and NAACP went after these institutions and claimed they were predatory lenders.

Even though there were forced governmental quotas that had to be met. Enter Fannie Mae & Mac and the introduction of ARMs.

Given the risk of these crappy loans, the lenders packaged them, sold them and got them off their books. They aren't stupid.

Enter CDOs and CDSs. Buying these at a discount made them attractive but a buyer unsure sought insurance to hedge.

Enter AIG. Enter Sarbanes/Oxley and value as "Mark to Market" accounting standards.

House market collapse, bank collapse, insurance run. Bad bet. Take losses and let 'em fail. But, No. Too many may be hurt, so let's prop them up and let them work this out. THEM, THEM, THEM, THEM. Don't

• See LETTERS page 6



## • MILESTONES •

### Highlands School big winner at writers' contest

Michelle Lane, Highlands School Middle School English Teacher, is a three-time published author in the North Carolina Reading Association's Young Authors Collection.

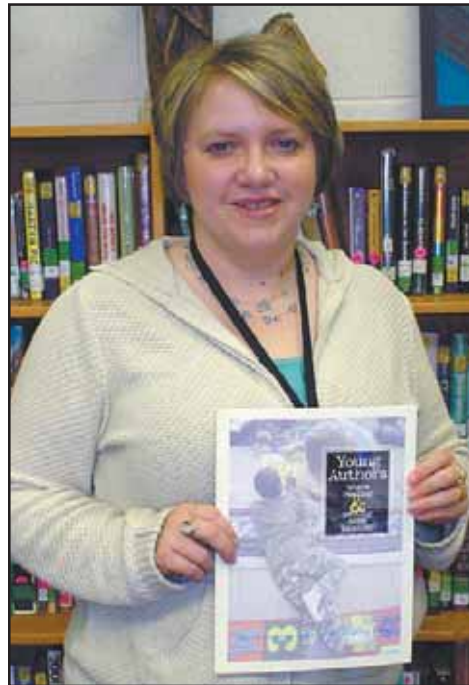
Michelle has entered the annual contest in the "Young at Heart" category. There were 11 state winners. Student winners from Highlands are Autumn Chastain, April Moss, Sydney Wagner, and Lindsay Wagner.

This writing contest is sponsored annually by the NCRA and is sponsored locally by the Western Mountains Reading Council, an affiliate of the NCRA and IRA. Each year the WMCR solicits students' writing on a particular theme.

The writing is judged locally and local winners are submitted to the state contest. This year, 10 students and Mrs. Lane were state winners.

The WMRC honored the winners at a banquet held on March 19 at the Angel Medical Center Dining Room in Franklin. Winners were recognized before an audience of family members, WMRC members, principals, and Superintendent Dan Brigman. They read their entries for the audience and received certificates and medals. The state winners received a trophy.

The state celebration where winners will be honored will be April 25 in at the Raleigh Performing Arts Center in Raleigh.



Michele Lane



Autumn Chastain and April Moss

### Man jailed for armed robbery in Otto

On Friday, Michael Wayne Galloway, 34, of Franklin, was arrested by Macon County deputies in connection with the March 17<sup>th</sup> armed robbery of the Otto General Store.

Following the execution of a search warrant, detectives seized several pieces of evidence at Galloway's residence. Items seized included the jacket, gloves, money bag and home-made hood that were used to conceal his identity during the commission of the robbery.

In addition, officers also seized a hand gun and the white Toyota Avalon that was captured on store security cameras leaving the scene of the robbery. "During an interview with detectives, Galloway claimed he used a fake gun during the robbery and afterwards disposed of the gun by throwing it out of the passenger window," said Sheriff Robert Holland.

Prior to the arrest, Sheriff's Office detective Don Willis and Franklin Police detective Tracy Chastain were following up on leads that had been provided by citizens and an anonymous caller to the Crime Stoppers Hotline.

"Concerned citizens calling in and providing us with vital information and the collaborative efforts of officers from different agencies working together is what brought this investigation to a successful conclusion," said Holland

Galloway is currently being held in the Macon County Detention Center after being formally charged with Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon. His bond has been set at \$50,000. by Magistrate Joe Brogden with his first court appearance scheduled for April 9, 2009.

## • THANKS •

### Potts family thankful

Dear Friends,

On Feb. 21, the people of Highlands proved once again their love for one of their own and for each other. They bailed me out. I thank you all for giving so generously and freely.

Special thanks to Oliver Rice and Blue Ridge Mountain Band, the Dendy Family, auctioneer, Bobby Newton, Carol Austin and all who helped and participated.

From the bottom of my heart, a big thank you!

In Christ's Love  
Red and Melody Potts

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## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

### Yo, bro...slip me some stimulus

I never used the "stimulus" word until after our president was sworn in. Now it's an everyday part of my vocabulary. Remember the term "misspoke?" Never used that one either until politicians started using it after getting caught lying. Here's an example of misspoke. "I arrived at Mountain Fresh Grocery under sniper fire and..."

These are fun words our politicians want us to learn to help us better understand that it's OK to lie, cheat and steal in the name of politics.

I'm a bone-headed dinosaur who still uses the Merriam-Webster Dictionary to find definitions of words. It's only natural I would look up the words "stimulate" and "stimulus" after using them several thousand times.

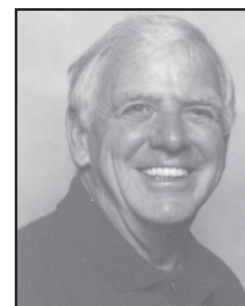
Are you sitting down? This is all about sex. Can you believe it? Our president admitted it when he named those legislative bills "the stimulus package." The question is what's getting stimulated and when. Being preoccupied with sex most of the time, I'm stimulated just writing this.

Webster Dictionary defines the word 'stimulate' as an agent, like a drug, that produces a temporary increase of the functional activity or efficiency of an organism or any of its parts. (Ha, I'm thinking Cialis.) Wait, there's more. "Stimulus is something that rouses or incites to activity, something that directly influences the activity of a living organism or one of its parts, such as a sensory organ (Organ? My mind is running rampant.) evoking muscular contraction or glandular secretion."

Glandular secretion? That's disgusting! Need I say more? Use your imagination, for crying out loud. This is not about money, it's about sex. Are we having fun yet? I am.

Now that I know this is about sex, my favorite topic other than toilets, I'm lovin' Obama more than ever. I also loved Bill Clinton after learning he showed that hot babe intern his cigar tricks. I also loved boring George Bush who stimulated nothing but America's anger, but managed to keep me safe and inflation low for his entire presidency. But who cares about stupid stuff like inflation and safety?

Actually, guys like me on a fixed income from a pension live and die by



**Fred Wooldridge**

**Feedback is encouraged!**  
 email:  
**askfredanything@aol.com**

inflation. If inflation goes up, my bucks are worth less and I'm poorer. But now that I realize what the president really means by "stimulus package." I'm willing to overlook, in the name of sex, a few minor flaws like over the top inflation and body bags in Afghanistan. I'm finally on the Obama train and I'm enjoying the ride to who cares where. Republicans, suck it up and get a life. It's our turn to screw up America.

But let's get back to this sexual stimulus thingy. This is weird 'cause it seems I'm always marching to the wrong drummer. As Obama's popularity falls and people begin to realize his programs are more like George Bush's programs than George Bush's programs, I'm growing fond of the guy. What's not to like other than our economy is in the tank and the banks are failing? And I'll be OK with that after he takes a couple more trips to the Tonight Show. I'm blaming Bush for that anyway. I find myself yearning to be an AIG fat cat. Yikes, I'm feeling very democratic. Folks get soooo testy when I bring all this up. They must be grumpy Republicans.

And shame on those mean spirited political media pundits who supported our president during his campaign but are now turning against him in his hour of great need. Have they no loyalty? They're actually saying the guy's over his head and doesn't know what he's doing. That infuriates me. Just look at his awesome experience as a Chicago pay-to-play community organizer and you'll realize he knows his stuff. He's a wheeler dealer extraordinaire. And if you think Obama is awesome now, just wait until we're attacked by terrorists because you'll really see him shine.

And why is John McCain seen on TV all the time with that stupid poop eating half smug, half grin on his face? Why doesn't he show us his teeth? Is there spinach in them or does he know something we don't? I just wanna swipe that grin from his face and choke him for running such a lousy campaign.

Next week, I'll give you another point of view by showing you how wonderful it is that our mayor and Town Board are going to cleverly use Obama's stimulus package to improve life in Highlands without sexually abusing any interns. Don't miss it.

# • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

## The definition of an idiot

Someone read my column last week and called me an idiot. Idiot used to be a clinical term used to denote a retarded person with an IQ less than 25. Idiots were at the bottom of the intellectual barrel, more severely impaired than either imbeciles or morons. Today it is used to describe a foolish or senseless person, except by my reader, who uses it to insult someone who disagrees with him.

I was called an idiot because I was angry that AIG displayed the arrogance to use the people's money to pay bonuses to the very executives who brought the company to the brink of ruin, a brink over which the company would have plunged without \$170 million from the government. I am angry that the company was insular enough to believe that it could make away with bonus payments without producing a firestorm of outrage. And I am disgusted with the greed of executives who first demanded and then accepted massive bonuses. I was then, and am still, upset that the government drafted and enacted legislation that permitted these payments.

Call me an idiot, but I think the American people deserve better stewardship of their hard earned money. My guess is that if



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.  
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

that makes me an idiot, it is a classification that I share with the vast majority of the American people.

My dear reader also took me to task for suggesting that the contracts between AIG and its executives which mandated these outrageous bonuses should be ignored. He suggested that the right to enter contracts was a "right and a responsibility." He seems to believe that contracts are sacred and cannot be broken, ignored, voided, or renegotiated.

I wonder how my reader thinks lawyers spend their time.

He thinks that I have a lot of "class envy" for someone with a "supposedly advanced degree." I like "class envy." I'd never heard the term, but it's better than being accused of suffering from penis envy, and it proves that my reader listens to Rush Limbaugh. He used a couple other terms which I hadn't heard, but which I enjoyed. "Sunset anger" was a good one. I don't suppose that it literally means anger that the sun is setting, by is a metaphor for life ebbing, which I guess is a metaphor for getting old. I'd heard of "white guilt," but I'm not sure how it applies to my moronic rage over AIG. Maybe I'm an imbecile, or maybe I don't spend enough time listening to Neil

Bortz, but like most Americans, I hate to see my savings evaporate. And, yeah, I hate make the guys rich, who helped make me poor.

If that's sunset rage, I've got a load of it. I really had to wonder who was the idiot when my valued reader wrote that Baby Boomer liberals wanted to vilify hard work and success and transfer money to the less fortunate. I don't want to vilify hard work and success. Far from it. I admire hard work and success and strive for both. I don't mind sharing with the less fortunate, unless the less fortunate are AIG executives and then transferring our money to them makes me mad as hell.

My precious reader expressed relief that I'm up in the mountains and far removed from any real influence. I'm up in the mountains, but not the ones he thinks. We are in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. It is late Sunday night. It is snowing and tomorrow promises to be a powder day. I'm going to bed so that I'll be able to enjoy it. I may be an idiot, but I'm no fool.

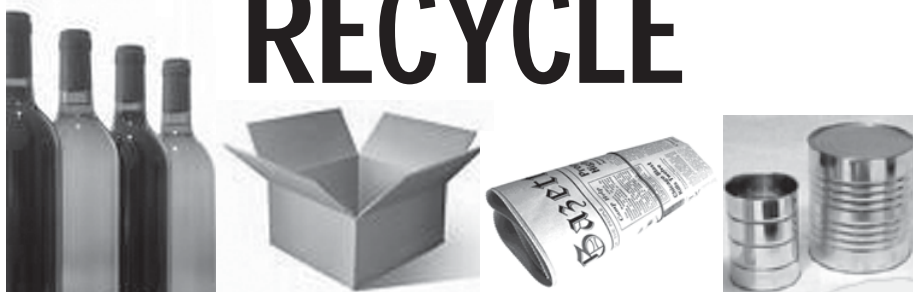
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By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

If you are a regular reader of my column, you know that I grew up in a small town in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. I'm not saying that we had no pollution. I simply don't remember any. I certainly don't recall having asthma, allergies or sinus problems. In my big city days, headaches and breathing problems were a daily occurrence, unfortunately.

When I got to New York, I decided to sort this problem out for good. I went to the Manhattan Ear, Eye and Throat Hospital for an allergy workup. As with most medical procedures, if you can get past the "gross out" factor, it's really quite fascinating. Various potential allergens are scratched onto your forearms, and you wait to see the reactions. Some results come as no surprise; some are a complete shock. I tested nega-

tive for dogs, and positive for cats – an odd result for someone who has had one dog, and eight cats. The four horsemen of my apocalypse were dust, mold, mildew, and cigarettes – all tricky things to avoid if you live in Midtown Manhattan. When the "no smoking" ban in bars and restaurants went into effect, many locals grumbled, but I wasn't one of them. It meant I could sit down at Clancy's, my local pub, and enjoy a whiskey sour without coughing and sneezing.

Knowing your enemy, and avoiding him altogether, have proven more difficult. I assumed that Highlands would be a much more healthy environment, and in theory, it is. Living in a 1916 farmhouse has been a major challenge, however. I live in an antique house with lots of antique dust. As the official person expected to deal with the antique dust, I muddle through, usually forgetting to put on my dust mask at crucial times. I pay for it later, with headaches so strong you feel like pounding your head against the wall – except that dust would probably come out of those, too.

This winter has been particularly bad. I came down with a series of colds, bronchitis, pharyngitis, sinusitis, and just about every other kind of "itis" you can imagine. We went up to see Maman in Virginia, and made it as far as the emergency room of Augusta Medical Center, the local hospital. The EMS doctor was nice, but his diagnosis was not what I wanted to hear. "It's just going to have to run its course," he said, apologetically. Seeing how exhausted I was, he did suggest a shot of steroids, which not only picked me up temporarily, but gave me the sudden urge to play baseball.

Back in Highlands, my sinus problem did not run its course – it ran me. Dr. Olson explained that my condition was obviously not going to go away on its own, and prescribed medicine which would help. Then he uttered those magical words, "Have you ever heard of a neti pot? Some of my patients swear by them."

Yes, I had heard of neti pots. Years ago, when I was a nanny in Paris, I worked for an American lady who was a natural food, biological cure fanatic. Her apartment was filled with all manner of weird things, including food which looked nasty and tasted even nastier. I've never eaten industrial waste, but I'm certain it would look and taste like some of the brown rice and bulgar wheat dishes she concocted. On the medical side, she was a great believer in ear candles and neti pots, which I assumed

## Fun with pot



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

were just more of her eccentric cures.

In March of 2009, this wasn't an eccentric ex-pat recommending I try a neti pot – it was an actual medical doctor. Of course, I did my research. It turns out that using a neti pot in many South Asian cultures is as common a daily routine as brushing your teeth. According to Wikipedia,

"Nasal irrigation is an ancient Ayurvedic technique known as *jala neti*, which literally means *nasal cleansing with water* in Sanskrit, where the practitioner uses a **neti pot** to perform the irrigation. Because modern medicine has long supported the use of nasal irrigation to clear sinuses and prevent sinus and nasal conditions, physicians also accept *jala neti* as simply one type of nasal irrigation, which can be performed using a neti pot or syringe."

I was game. What could it hurt? At this point, I would have stuck a garden hose in my ear if it would do some good. I slunk into my local pharmacy. "Do you have neti pots?" I whispered to the nice lady behind the counter, feeling rather silly. After all, "neti pot" is a rather comical expression. Try saying it several times without laughing out loud. Bet you can't do it! The lady at the pharmacy was pleasant and helpful. She explained that a number of their clients had tried them, and raved about the beneficial effects, especially when conventional medicine had had limited success. I tucked my purchase under my arm, and joined John in the car. We drove back to Kettlerock, saying "neti pot" over and over, while hooting and laughing.

I sobered up, however, once we got home and I was faced with actually using the contraption. Since then, I've found you can actually watch someone demonstrating it on YouTube, but I at this point, I was alone with my instruction booklet, my neti pot, and my deepest fears.

A former competitive swimmer and lifeguard, I couldn't think of much worse than having water in my nose. Bravely, I followed the instructions, using lukewarm water which had been previously boiled, mixing in a packet of solution which came in the box. I tilted my head to one side, and stuck the nozzle of the neti pot where it was supposed to go. Lo, and behold! It was exactly as they said! Boldened by success, I did the other side. The entire procedure complete, I was forced to conclude that my head had not felt this clear and comfortable in a long, long time.

• See HIS & HERS page 10

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## ... LETTERS continued from page 2

you get it?

Nobody in the government has a clue  
how to run a business.

They needed these people at AIG to fix

this problem. That's WHY they allowed  
these retention contracts!

Tom Roberts  
Atlanta & Lake Toxaway

# • CONSERVATIVE POV •

## Insanity reigns...

**P**elosi speaks to illegals and tells them America is evil in trying to enforce its immigration laws. Hapless Harry Reid is busy telling the public that housing is the problem. Perhaps Harry might catch up and read today's memos. I think he's stuck back somewhere in 2008, or before. And the messiah jets around, leaving a huge carbon footprint, while he's convincing us to ride bicycles to work to reduce emissions.



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

use in your vehicle. That gas was refined somewhere in the US, say Louisiana. The refiner sends the supposed harmful emissions into the air so they need to buy carbon credits. Naturally, they will add the cost to the product you buy. It's possible the crude shipped to the refiner was produced in the US. The driller emits, pays for credits, passes the cost on to the refiner, again increasing the ultimate cost to you. Of course, the gas needs to get from the refiner to your gas

station, and it is delivered there on trucks. The trucks produce emissions so the trucking company buys carbon credits from the government and again the cost is added to the product. So you are hit with multiple taxes on the gasoline you buy. More tax on you.

Last but not least, take the ailing automobile industry. Their plants produce effluents of sorts. They need to buy carbon credits. If anyone has the dough to buy a new vehicle, or if they should find financing available to do so, the vehicle they buy will not only cost more in terms of the credits the manufacturer had to buy, but those bought by tire manufacturers and all those suppliers that provide parts of your new car. More tax on you.

Without boring you, understand that everything you buy or service you use will be more expensive due to this hocus pocus. Companies now finding it difficult to compete internationally already because of existing corporate income taxes, will find this new burden unbearable, and will close down their domestic operations and move elsewhere more conducive to profitability. This should do wonders for Obama's job creating/saving efforts.

To quote The Washington Times on March 18<sup>th</sup>, "President Obama's climate plan could cost industry close to \$2 trillion, nearly three times the White House's initial estimate of the so-called "cap-in-trade"

On the subject of carbon footprints, the cap-and-trade scam that I have been squawking about for years is now making its way into legislation. Just to refresh your understanding of this ridiculous plan, the government sets a limit on carbon emissions and allows businesses and groups to buy allowances. Then, if one business didn't need all its allowed tons, or whatever measurement they use,

the excess could be sold on a market available for that purpose. Then, if a business runs short of allowances, they could buy more from the market.

Well, if you believe in the global warming myth, you might be asking yourself, if China, India and other major emission producers aren't forced to participate in this scheme, what's to prevent their stuff from creating the imagined dreaded results that Al Gore dramatized in his award-winning movie shown in a classroom near you?

Let's examine the economic consequences of such a plan being instituted in the United States. Take Duke Power as an example. The plant they use to generate the electricity that you use in your business and home produces some

carbon emissions. Duke would have to buy credits from the government. This would raise their cost of producing the electricity they sell to you and me. Will they eat this cost and show continuous losses ad infinitum? Of course not; they'll pass the cost on to you. Tax on you.

Take the producer of the gasoline you

• See SWANSON page 8

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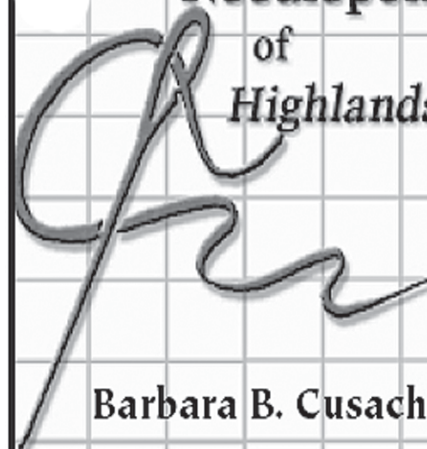
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### ... SWANSON continued from page 7

legislation, according to Senate staffers who were being briefed by the White House.

A top economic aide to Mr. Obama told a group of Senate staffers last month that the president's climate-change plan would surely raise more than the \$646 billion over eight years the White House had estimated publicly.

According to multiple a number of staffers who attended the briefing, "The Obama administration has proposed using the majority of the money generated from

a cap-and-trade plan to pay for its middle-class tax cuts, while using about \$120 billion to invest in renewable-energy products."

WHAT! They're going to legislate a program that will raise the price of everything we buy so they can give us a tax cut so we can buy more expensive stuff.

Well, talk about a stimulus. The stupidity has my head spinning. Six percent of the take spent on energy? Oh, I'm stimulated all right.

## • ANOTHER POV •

### The price of the executive

America is built on the concept of free enterprise, in which entrepreneurs build companies and reap the rewards from the success of creating and selling new ideas to the public and government consumers; it is the American dream.

How often have we heard it — work hard, build a company from nothing and then retire to a life of riches and comfort?

Apple Corporation, Microsoft, Google, and HP are shining examples of companies that started in garages and became billion dollar success stories. People who invested in those companies in those first days are now swimming in wealth. Everyone made out well, the founders, the stock holders and the employees.

That is the good part of American capitalism, but there are equally bad elements; salaries of the corporate officers and the sale of entire companies. Under our system of capitalism the level of compensation is up to the company — or the board — and that should continue to be the purview of company itself. However, that freedom to do so should not take away or diminish their responsibility to their stockholders to provide reasonable executive compensation.

Steve Jobs, Chairman of Apple, received \$647 million, Ray Irani of Occidental Petroleum got \$322 million, and Barry Diller of IAC/Interactive Corp got \$295 million.

The US Census Bureau reports the median income of an American worker is \$30,000 so the question becomes does the value of effort of Steve Jobs to Apple Corporation really equate to 21,567 of his workers? With the huge rebound made by Apple most would say, yes. But how about Barry Diller and his \$295 million or 9,833 employee equivalents, was he worth the price, especially since the stock of his company has sunk from a high of \$53.28 a share to a low of \$13.27 a share? What service, above and beyond the standard expected of an executive, did Mr. Diller provide to his company that warranted a bonus that is the equivalent of the annual salary of 9,833 of its employees?

The most puzzling of all is AIG, a company that is in such dire financial straits it was on the verge of collapse and was forced to take \$116 billion in Federal aid. How is it possible that AIG could even think of giving its executives \$165 million in corporate



**Matthew G. Eberz**  
Feedback is encouraged  
Email: [matt@matteberz.com](mailto:matt@matteberz.com)

bonuses? And that \$165 million was part of a larger total payout reportedly valued at \$450 million. This is the same company that reported it had lost \$61.7 billion in the fourth quarter of last year, the largest corporate loss in American history.

Excessive corporate executive salaries aren't the only objects of my concern. There is another practice in corporate

America that bears review and that is the selling off of entire companies — the executives get rich, the stockholders make money and the employees get screwed.

Take a local Atlanta company, ChoicePoint for example. ChoicePoint was started in 1997 as a break-off from Equifax. The public records company had an established product but had not captured the market. With a young executive team, the employees were inspired and told if they worked hard the company would grow, the stock would rise, and the employees would have a great future. Well after 11 years of hard work the company was sold to Reed Elsevier for \$4.1 billion. The Chairman and CEO of ChoicePoint, Derek Smith, got \$46 million, the stockholders made \$14 a share and then, when the deal was done, the axe came to the employees. So after years of work and promises of a secure life the rug is pulled out from under them in the name of consolidation.

One such employee, who was with the company from the first day of operation, was released without notice. A loyal employee, a husband and father of two small children, who for all accounts had been a valued contributor to the company, was given a severance without notice and his career with the company was over. Shortly thereafter his lovely wife dies in her sleep. Now, not only has he lost the love of his life, he is left with no job and two small children to raise alone.

Is any of this illegal? The answer is no, and when companies of the same type business merge there is a likelihood that there will be duplication of effort and some positions will need to be eliminated, and I agree that it should occur. But if we consider the cost of executive buyouts, and taking the payment of the \$46 million, or the 1,533 employee equivalents, to ChoicePoint's Chairman as an example, I am forced to wonder if the layoffs were necessitated due to duplication or required solely to pay for huge executive compensation.



## • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

### Some rambling thoughts from a little United Methodist preacher

**Pastor Paul Christy**  
Highlands United Methodist Church



I know that like many of you, you are all caught up in March Madness, right? You know, that time of year when you pull for your favorite team to go all the way to be considered the National Champs of College basketball.

There is something magical about March each year because people come out of the woodwork to pull for their favorite team. Yet, as big a fan as I am of college basketball, I really like March for another reason. I like it because Spring comes rolling in with a sense of newness. I mean, without a lot of fanfare, the mountains begin to change and produce color, flowers begin to bloom and people begin to come back home to these hills. Yea, there is something exciting about Spring.

Many years ago, there was a preacher by the name of Paul, who felt the call to spread the good news of God to a world that was in turmoil and searching for answers. Paul traveled a great deal; endured personal hardship and was even thrown into prison a few times. But he felt that it was vital to talk about a God who not only created, but recreated.

Paul wrote one time to a church in Corinth, that God was recreating, even in our lives. In other words, God could and would take something we thought was hopeless and make it new and exciting, or God could take what we felt was a disaster and make it a victory. I was reminded of that fact not long ago when I remembered a story about my good friend Betty.

Let me give you a little back ground on Betty. Betty is about 70 years old and she had a good life up until about two years ago. That was when Betty was faced with the task of moving to a new town. You see Betty had made her life in the same town; she had the same friends, ate at the same restaurants, and went to the same church all her life. But now the time was coming when she was going to have to move because her health was such that she was going to need to be near her daughter in another state.

She was sad and considered that move to be the start of her growing old and dying. But nothing could have prepared her for what would happen next.

She moved into her little apartment, near her daughter and sat for days, depressed because she knew no one. After she had been there for a week, there was a knock at the door. She went to answer the door and looked down and there was a little girl. This little girl said, "Hello, my name is Sally and I live right beside you, and I wanted you to know that while you may be old, I want to be your friend because I need a new friend and you look like you need a friend."

Betty with tears in her eyes invited this young guest in and they talked. It turned out that Sally had never really had a mother because her mom left when she was two months old and Sally lived with her father who was doing the best he could by her, but as many single parents have to do, it was a constant struggle to work and find time to be with his little girl.

•See SPIRITUALLY page 19

## • PLACES OF WORSHIP •

### BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11  
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7  
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, Georgia  
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding, Pastor  
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

### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329

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.

### FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

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Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.

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Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's

Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

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

a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.;

Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

Sun.: Worship – 10:55 a.m.; Sun. School – 9:30 & 9:45.

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

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers

Choir – 7

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy

526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;

5 p.m. Youth Group

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studies; 6:15 – Adult choir

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

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

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### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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Parish office, 526-2418

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### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

For more information call 526-3212.

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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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



## ... HIS & HERS continued from page 6

I realize that many people in this country are squeamish about the oddest things. We watch murder and mayhem on a daily basis on TV, but shrink from even the mildest discussion of bodily functions in normal conversation. If this article has had a high gross-out factor for some people, I apologize. I wrote this piece to encourage people with similar conditions to try what may seem like an unconventional cure.

For the common cold, however, I don't think you can beat the recipe given to me by my old doorman in Baltimore. "You boil yourself some water, and add lemon juice, honey

and some good whiskey." "And that will cure my cold?" I asked, sniffing and coughing. He replied with a chuckle. "If it don't, you won't give a damn!"

• 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 not sent her sinuses to Arizona, but is dealing with them locally.

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## The Girls' Clubhouse picks up trash

Last Friday, the club walked Spring and Third streets and in that two-block area picked up five 30-gallon bags of trash. Pictured from left are Grace Brassard, McKinley Mosely, Elizabeth Houston, Ivy Satterwhite, Veronic Garcia and April Moss.

Photo by Supervisor  
Kim Lewicki



## ... FORUM continued from page 2

up "our place" and likely bring unwanted attention from the neighbors.

What's happened that people of all ages think it's OK to leave trash behind or to throw it out the windows of their vehicles?

Happily, the sixth-grade members of The Girls' Clubhouse were disgusted with what they found and were glad to pick it up. The girls demonstrated pride in their

town and community. Having picked up the stuff others inconsiderately leave behind, I'm hoping that in the future if and when they "party" in the woods, they won't leave a mess nor will they throw trash out their car windows.

I'm a big believer in "litter pickup" efforts, but it's time the source of the problem is addressed and it's pretty simple – Don't Litter.

## ... BOE continued from page 1

quire proof of residency through utility bills, etc." However, only those families living out-of-state have to pay tuition.

Students living outside the Highlands School district may be allowed to enter and continue to attend Highlands School based on available seats in the grade level for which the student has applied; Passing grades in all core subjects; an exemplary attendance record; an exemplary discipline record and board of education approval.

If, at any time, the criteria are not met, the student may be withdrawn by Highlands School.

Except for those living in Satolah, GA, out-of-state applicants pay tuition equal to the local per pupil allocation for current expense as provided by the Macon County Board of Commissioners from the preceding year which is subject to change each school year.

Tuition for the 2007-2008 school year was \$1,340.74. Tuition for the 2008-2009 school year will be determined at a later date by the commissioners. Students will be enrolled only when tuition for the upcoming semester is paid in full.

As per the new tuition policy passed Monday night, tuition may be waived if the student meets one of the following criteria: a student who demonstrates extraordinary financial hardship; nonresident students of the school district whose parents moved or plan to move into the school district on or before Dec. 1, may be assigned at the beginning of

the school year to the school serving the pupil's new residence without payment of tuition; a student whose legal residence was located inside the boundaries of the school district and who during the school year moves into the boundaries of another school district will be eligible for continued enrollment during the school year without the payment of tuition; students whose parent(s) are employed by the school district; and students who live in the isolated geographical area of Satolah, GA.

As in Boone, N.C., geographical hardship occurs when families live closer to an out-of-state school than the school they are assigned to in their own state.

Satolah students are supposed to go to schools in Clayton, GA, up to an hour away by car.

Individuals wishing to have tuition waived must submit a written request to the office of the Superintendent of Macon County Schools on or before September 1 of the current school year.

Superintendent Dan Brigman also reported that he had waived the remainder of tuition due for this year for two Satolah families who are experiencing financial hardships.

Mayor Don Mullen said the new policy will be beneficial to those families who live in Satolah but who work in Highlands -- most of which have a historical connection with Highlands..

– Kim Lewicki



## • REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

### The wacky Liberal



Recently I heard someone say my column was filled with “wacky liberal ideas.” I have gotten used to criticism from conservatives and to tell you the truth, “wacky” is one of the kinder words I have been called.

It got me thinking about what it is in my columns that conservatives find wacky. I thought I'd explore what it is I believe and let readers decide for themselves how wacky my ideas really are.

I'm a liberal; in fact I am far to the left of the Democratic Party (I came close to not voting for Obama). What do liberals (in my opinion) believe? In essence, I think liberals dream of a society in which the promise of our country is fulfilled: a society that is equal, fair, just, and provides opportunity to all of its citizens.

Liberals believe that people matter, that there are more important things than money, such as the peace of mind that a social safety net can provide. Liberals think that satisfying human needs is more important than the bottom line. Liberals are called “bleeding-heart” because they think we should care for each other, not exploit each other for our selfish ends.

I can imagine many conservatives thinking, “I believe in that same ideal of an equal and fair society, that is not exclusive to liberals.” I am sure that is true. What is different between conservatives and liberals is the process by which these goals are accomplished.

As far as I can tell (I say this because you really don't hear conservatives talking about social justice very much) conservatives believe that government is the obstacle to everything, including bringing about a better society. (See my article “The Giving Spirit,” Dec 2008)

Liberals, on the other hand, believe that the government is the people's tool to achieve a more just and equal society. Let's look through the last 100 years of American history to see some examples.

Liberals believe that unregulated capitalism is dangerous and destructive. Our current global financial meltdown is the latest proof of the validity of this belief.

Liberals believe that businesses need to be regulated to safeguard consumers and workers. For example, food safety is something that affects every one of us. We've just had the peanut scare to remind us of what an unethical business will do if regulators are not vigilant enough: They will poison people to make a profit. If you'd like to read what the American food industry looked like before federal regulations, I recommend “Terrors of the Table,” by W. B. Gratzner (613.209G)

A century ago the United States was home to sweatshops just like the ones in

China today. Millions of courageous working people joined unions and walked picket lines to fight for better lives for themselves and their children until they achieved enough political power to bring about progressive worker-protection legislation during two periods — the 1910s and the 1930s. Laws mandating the 40-hour workweek, minimum wage, and worker-safety and protection were passed. You can easily imagine the uproar in the business community when these bills were being debated that this legislation would ruin American business.

After the deaths at the Sago coal mine in 2006, we heard that other countries had technologies that made their mines safer than ours, and legislation was passed to force the U.S. coal industry to adopt them. Within months the coal industry was lobbying the government to roll the new regulations back, insisting that the rules would be too costly. (“Mining industry pushing for rollback of rescue rules,” May 22, 2006 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette).

In the last few decades, liberals have fought hard for equal-access for minorities, women, and the handicapped to public places, jobs, and education. Businesses have been forced by federal law not to discriminate and to take positive action to enable participation by those disadvantaged by prejudice or disability. This is because liberals believe that our country should be a meritocracy, which means that a person rises in position and prestige based upon his abilities, not upon their wealth or circumstances of birth. Liberals believe we will all be richer, and not just in the sense of money, by giving everyone the opportunity to express their gifts.

Liberals have advocated higher taxes, particularly on the wealthy. The old cliché was “tax and spend” liberal — although the Republicans have proved themselves much worse. They are the “don't tax and spend” party and are responsible for the majority of the current federal debt. (If you doubt me, go to [www.treasurydirect.gov](http://www.treasurydirect.gov). When Reagan took office the federal debt was just under \$1 trillion. Under George W. Bush and a Republican Congress the debt dou-

bled from \$5 trillion to \$10 trillion.)

If you look at the history of taxes in the last century, you will find that in the 1940s and 1950s the richest people were paying a 90% marginal tax rate. And this was the period of greatest income equality and the golden period of the middle-class in this country. (See my article “Dueling Economists” January 2008.) Taxes are a tool to prevent a natural by-product of capitalism — the accumulation of wealth in a few hands (the game Monopoly is how we are all trained in the basics of capitalism) — from happening. Liberals believe that the concentration of wealth in the hands of a small minority is dangerous to the health of a democracy.

The current uproar over the bonuses paid to the executives at A.I.G. is perhaps a hint that the American public is finally

• See BRUGGER page 14

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Chase Flowers



Felipe Ruiz



Photos by Noel Atherton

Coach: Kevin Vinson



Austin Baty



Ryan Vinson

# Highlands School Middle School Baseball



Jordon Speed



Matt Rodriguez



Ash Gordon



Tyler Munger



Ellie Cate Beavers



Parker Sims



Clay Tucci-Caselli



Corbin Hawkins



Emily Shuler



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at Highlands Inn*



Tyler Owens





Isaac Beavers



Coach John Shearl

Coach Noel Buras



Hunter Leffler



Andrew Renfro



Olen Schiffli

## HS Varsity Baseball



Cody St. Germain



Michael Shearl



Cord Strawn



Conner Dobbs



Michael Baty



Clayton Lassiter



Luke McClellan



Cody Houser



Ezra Herz



## "Go Team!"

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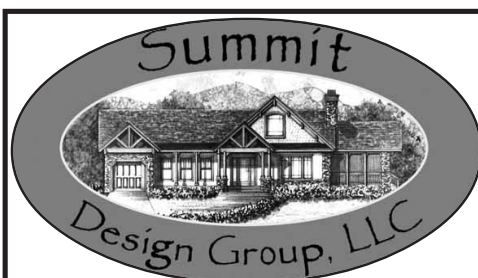
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## ... BRUGGER continued from page 11

starting to realize that the level of wealth inequality has risen to dangerous levels. This is a country that worships the idea of getting rich — we love the lottery and TV quiz shows promising to make anyone a millionaire. Get-rich-quick is a national obsession. Maybe, hopefully, we're realizing there is always a cost.

Bill Moyers, in his PBS program on March 20 mentioned a recently published British study. In research conducted over three decades the scientists found that in societies in which income is more evenly distributed, people are "healthier in mind,

body and spirit." On the other hand, "they found that violence, mental illness, overcrowded prisons, drugs, and obesity are more likely in a society where the gap between the have's and have-not's is as great as it is in the United States." ("The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better," by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett")

Let me know what you think: are these liberal ideas wacky?

• All of Katie Brugger's columns are available at [www.kathleenbrugger.com](http://www.kathleenbrugger.com)

## • COACH'S CORNER •

### The power of words

Last week a friend of mine faxed me an article that he wanted me to check out. The article was by a feature columnist on a major sports website, and the premise of the article was basically to challenge the manhood of North Carolina guard Tywon Lawson for not playing on an injured toe.

The article pointed to a lengthy return from an ankle injury last year and non sequitur comments from teammates as "sources" to validate his claim that Lawson didn't care enough about winning to play through the pain.

Look, anyone who knows me knows that I am certainly no North Carolina apologist, (particularly since Lawson is the sole reason why the Heels have beaten my Dukies like a drum recently) but this article went beyond the realm of idiocy in questioning the heart and desire of a 20-year-old kid. I could go on and on defending Lawson in this situation (not only is he barely out of being a teenager, the big toe is crucial for walking, running, cutting, balance, etc) but instead prefer to present this writer and his ilk as part of a larger issue right now.

While the Internet revolution has provided us with an amazing amount of information at our fingertips, it has also revolutionized the way we communicate with each other. With the creation of Facebook, blogs, Twitter, etc., we can get up-to-the-minute responses, thoughts and updates from people all over the world.

Internet media has become big business, and some major news outlets are considering going strictly online (Seattle's major newspaper has already done so). These outlets have created almost an addiction-like fascination with instant response, which has gone a long way in removing the thoughtfulness that can come with taking a moment to digest one's thoughts before putting them in writing.

Our culture has moved away from thoughtful responses or careful journalism, replaced by who can bring the fastest response, and who can get the most "hits" for their website. Sadly, the aforementioned Lawson article, while a terrible hack piece, was probably considered a success by the writer's employer because it gained so many views from angry North Carolina fans who wanted to see for themselves what an attack it was on the ACC player of the year.

I know what you are thinking, and no, I do not have a journalism degree and am probably as guilty as the rest of my ilk for



**Ryan Potts**  
**tryanpotts@hotmail.com**

jumping to conclusions and offering ill-advised opinions on certain topics. (Like the Yankees, for example — you see, I'm maturing... I can actually type their name now)

However, at some point and time we have to take a moment to reflect on the power of words in our society, and the effect that they can have on people.

Former slaves were forbidden from literacy to keep them unaware and in chains.

Peasants in Ancient Rome were pacified with free grain from the Emperor because of their lack of knowledge and understanding. Children cry themselves to sleep in anguish because of careless remarks from friends and classmates.

Words can be used as weapons, especially by those who are not qualified to use them. It is my hope that as we move into a new era of journalism and commentary in this nation and we are a little more careful about what we say, blog and tweet — it makes for a better atmosphere all around.

### ... RATES from page 1

wholesale customers are experiencing rate hikes and re-negotiations contracts. "And Duke's increases are not negotiable," he said. "Currently, Duke doesn't have to serve you — it used to have to. You can look at other suppliers, but there are risks," said O'Donnell.

He cited the cities of Greenwood, NC and Orangeburg, SC who left Duke and now 10 years later are trying to get back on the Duke system. "There are risks when playing in the open wholesale market," said O'Donnell. "They want back on because in the wholesale market Duke is considered to be a low cost supplier and their rates are a good deal."

Highlands hasn't had a wholesale rate increase from Duke since 1996. Highlands' citizens haven't had a rate increase from the town since 1998.

O'Donnell suggested an initial 10% retail rate increase followed by a 4% increase July 1, 2010, 4% July 1, 2011, 4% July 1, 2012 and 4% July 1, 2013.

Fatland said the gradual rate hike will stabilize the impact of Duke's 16% rate hike to the town and enable it to build a rate stabilization fund to offset potential increases and other costs above Duke's "estimated" 16% hike.

Duke has a "True Up" policy which means there is a projected revenue or expenditure and an actual revenue or expenditure. If Duke's True Up expenditure figure is more

• See RATES page 17



• HS HONOR ROLL •

4th Iannacone

A Schmitt, Cecelia  
A Gilbert, Abigail  
AB Barnes, Erica  
AB Garcia, Sandra  
AB Mathis, Danielle  
AB Satterwhite, Seth  
AB Shuler, Bethany  
AB Wilson, Stella

4th West

A Miller, Benjamin  
A Schandolph, Madison  
A Schiffl, Adam  
AB Billingsley, Kelsie  
AB Crowe, Emily  
AB Houser, Ryan  
AB ohnson, Tucker  
AB Mathis, Emily  
AB Moss, Katlin  
AB Murphy, John  
AB Vinson, Megan  
AB Vroon, Jackson  
AB Vroon, Taylor

5th Archer

A Gilbert, Chance  
A Kennemore, Ahzah  
AB Harris, Chase  
AB Henry, Sarah  
AB Iannacone, John  
AB McClure, Carrie  
AB Potts, Carter

5th Hedden

A Adrian, Remy  
A Billingsley, Whitney  
A Pair, Carson  
A Weller, Colin  
AB Moss, Michael  
AB Vinson, Dylan  
AB Wilkes, Allie

6th Grade

ABolt, Allison  
A Brassard, Grace  
A Lewis, Kenan  
A Murphy, Phillip  
A Satterwhite, Ivy  
AB Billingsley, Valarie  
AB Crowe, Ann Marie  
AB Garcia, Veronica  
AB Moss, April  
AB Owen, Kirstyn  
AB Tilson, Jessica

7th Grade

A Beavers, Ellen  
A Gabbard, Emily  
A Palmer, Jessie  
A Parks, Rebekah  
A Shuler, Emily  
AB Dorsey, Emily  
AB Vinson, Ryan

8th Grade

A Christy, Caroline  
A Johnson, Rebecca  
A Palmer, Brett Greg  
AB Fleszar, Cheyenne  
AB Hawkins, Corbin  
AB Sims, Parker David  
AB Vinson, Troy Austin

9th Grade

A Beavers, Isaac  
A Buras, Juliane  
A Roman, Cai  
A Shomper, Danielle  
AB Dunn, Clayton  
AB Lewis, Kaitlin  
AB Murphy, Emily  
AB Renfro, Brian  
AB Webb, Delania

10th Grade

A Bates, Tucker  
A Dobbs, Michael  
A Graham, Avey  
A McCall, Marlana  
A Strawn, Cord  
AB Buras, Taylor  
AB Damian-Clemente, Ana  
AB Fogle, Amy  
AB Power, Sarah  
AB Reyes-Cuevas, Karen  
AB Schiffl, Bevan  
AB Wheeler, Samuel

11th Grade

A Chastain, Shelbi  
A Hedden, Sarah  
A Jenkins, Brice  
A Johnson, Shelby  
A Parks, Kate Marie  
AB Bolt, Jamie  
AB Burton, Aaron  
AB Dickey, Ashley  
AB Dryman, Patrick Eli  
AB Durham, Katherine  
AB Gagne, Jessica  
AB Mathiowdis, Will  
AB Nix, Beverly  
AB Schiffl, Olen  
AB Talley, Bobbi Jo  
AB Taylor, Madison

12th Grade

A McClellan, Luke  
A Nix, Michael  
A Sanchez-Velasco, Griselda  
AB Billingsley, Andrew  
AB Brown, Caden  
AB Hedden, Alex  
AB Hornsby, Carolyn  
AB Lica, Michael  
AB McClellan, Matt  
AB Nadler, Spencer  
AB Owens, Levi  
AB Ruiz-Duarte, Marisol  
AB Ruiz-Frias, Lucitania

HS student wins poster contest



Valerie Billingsley won Second Place for her poster in the 2009 Soil and Water Conservation Essay and Poster Contest. The topic for this year was “Soil and Water – Yours for Life.” Pictured with Valarie are Brian Jetter, Principal of Highlands School, Josh Ward from the Soil and Water Conservation Board and Code Officer for Highlands, Valarie, and Stephanie Smathers, Science teacher. She received a certificate, a ribbon, and a monetary award. Her poster is on display at the Macon County Library until the end of the month.

9th Grade

Jenny Coram  
Sayne Feria-Cruz  
Kristin Hedden  
Kaitlin Lewis  
Alex Michaud  
Emily Murphy  
Andrew Renfro  
Danielle Shomper  
Cody St.-Germain  
Reta Thatcher  
Beverly Williams

10th Grade

Amy Fogle  
Elizabeth Gordon

Spencer Houston  
Ben Kennedy  
Clayton Lassiter  
Ana Reyes-Cuevas  
Courtney Rogers  
Cord Strawn  
Robbie Vanderbilt

11th Grade

Carmen Cortez-Damian  
Eli Dryman  
Rachael Hedden  
Brice Jenkins  
Will Mathiowdis  
Beverly Nix  
Charles Pair

Kate Marie Parks  
Olen Schiffl

12th Grade

Caden Brown  
Will Edwards  
Alex Hedden  
Carolyn Hornsby  
Casey Jenkins  
Hunter Leffler  
Mikey Lica  
Luke McClellan  
Matthew McClellan  
Michael Reese  
Lucitania Ruiz-Frias  
Griselda Sanchez-Velasco

• HS PERFECT ATTENDANCE •

GB – J. Chalker

Garrison Chalker  
Elijah Kennedy  
Jonathan Miller  
Logan Roddy  
Bailey Schmitt  
Maggie Sullivan

K – J. McClellan

William Chastain  
Peyton Coppage  
William Creswell  
Diane Dallmann  
Brooklyn Houston  
Logan Petrone  
Savannah Shaheen

1st – D. Sizemore

Lance Calderon  
Jessica Campbell  
Matthew Campbell  
Cydni Coppage  
Colby Harris  
Pablo Jimenez-Estrada  
Freda Olalde  
Joseph Tucci-Caselli  
Emma Weller

2nd – C. Cox

Grace Crowe  
Jesus Damian-Clemente  
Perla Garcia-Montano  
Samuel Hawkins  
Joshua Kennedy

2nd – M. Miller

Jake Billingsley  
Selwyn Chalker  
Teynita Contreras  
Joey Harris  
Michael Iannacone

3rd – C. Murphy

Brittany Chastain  
Analyse Crook  
John Grace  
Tiffany Preda  
Sarah Rogers

3rd – A. Coppage

Ben Avery  
Ana Cortez-Damian  
Olivia Diamond  
Kim Fera  
Jose Jimenez  
Jose Machuca

Alexandria Preda  
Cole Satterwhite

4th – D. West

Emily Crowe  
Emily Mathis  
Benjamin Miller  
John Murphy  
Quinn Rodgers  
Adam Schiffl  
Megan Vinson

4th – B. Iannacone

Erica Barnes  
Sandra Garcia  
Hayley Hawkins  
Danielle Mathis  
Dillan Medlin  
Amber Reese

5th – T. Hedden

Courtney Henry  
Gavin Johnson  
Randall McCall  
Sierra Nylund  
Donald Pair  
Tasha Thurmond  
Colin Weller

5th – J. Archer

Chase Harris

6th – V. Taliaferro

Ann-Marie Crowe  
Craig Dalton  
Veronica Garcia  
Meredith Garren  
Kenan Lewis  
Philip Murphy  
William Pair  
Luke Rodgers  
Tanner Stephens  
Kassie Vinson

7th – M. Lane

Olivia Dendy  
Ash Gordon  
Brianna Marshall  
Javier Montalvo-Espinoza  
Emily Shuler  
Rachael Smith

8th – S. Massey

Autumn Chastain  
Laura Ruiz-Frias  
Luis Ruiz-Frias

... TDC continued from page 1

Horton.

However, County Attorney Lesley Moxley and Finance Director Evelyn Southard said legally the TDCs couldn't be the recipients of the funds because they are not "legal entities only advisory committees," said Moxley.

McClellan then said the monies should then be sent directly to the chamber of commerce directors.

Horton expressed confusion. "If we send the money directly to them, why are we changing the policy at all?" Furthermore, Moxley said the chambers would then be responsible for any fiscal misappropriation, should any occur.

In his report, Horton said "under the reorganization of the county's occupancy tax system, a change is necessary to identify and account of the use

of these funds for the promotion of travel and tourism in the county. The board created two TDCs to provide guidance and direction for the expenditure of the funds. Both TDCs in Franklin/Nantahala and Highlands should operate in a like manner."

He suggested the TDCs responsibilities be to develop an annual budget that identifies line item areas to be utilized in the plan of work; the TDCs should work with the chambers to investigate and recommend approval of specific activities and contracts for services; that TDCs will designate an individual responsible for requesting purchases and approving invoices for payment; they should provide the county finance director



## • 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 web-site [www.highlandshsnc.org](http://www.highlandshsnc.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 828-1402 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 Mountain Top 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 is 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](mailto: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.

### Fridays & Saturdays

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

### Saturdays

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

### Thursday, March 26

- Franklin Community Blood Drive at First Baptist Church (69 Iotla 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.

### Friday, March 27

- Dr. Sue Aery of Mountain Air Wellness Centers will present a free lecture from 1-1:30 at Tommy's Coffee Shop in Cashiers. The topic is Your body's pH balance. For more information call 828-743-9070

### Saturday, March 28

- The Highlands School University tour will go to Davidson College and Wake Forest University. Departure is from Highlands School at 7:30 a.m. Be there by 7:15 a.m. Davidson tour is at 11:30 a.m. and Wake Forest is around 3 p.m. Lunch and dinner will be provided. Arrival time back at Highlands School will be 8 p.m. Permission slips are needed by Tuesday, March 24. Get forms from Guidance Counselor Thomas Jessup or John Dotson at Preferred Properties in Wright Square. For more information call Dotson at 526-5587.

- "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.

### 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.

- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin, NC will present Mary Ann Widenhouse, Sunda. Her topic will be "In my Own Voice: Living with Mental Illness. Service for adults and children begin at 11 AM. The Fellowship is located at 85 Sierra Drive just off Lakeside (1.2 miles from Hardees) All are welcome. For Info: 828/524-6777.

### Tuesday, March 31

- The Asheville Chapter of Ikebana International will present a program on "Exhibition Designs: Ichijo, 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, Ichijo School. For more information, contact Chapter President Sally Robinson, 828-669-6946 or [salspencemntreat@aol.com](mailto:salspencemntreat@aol.com)

### Wednesday, April 1

- High Mountain Squares will dance this Wednesday night at the Macon County Community Building from 7 to 9 p.m. Bob Morrison from Duluth GA will be the caller for the "April Fools Day Dance". We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcomed. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-349-4187 or 706-782-0943.

- Homeless Conditions in Macon County to be discussed from 9-11 a.m. at the Macon Program for Progress Training Annex. For more information, call 349-2425.

### Thursday, April 2

- Bingo at the Community Building from 6:30-8:30. Sponsored by Highlands Rotary. Recipient of net proceeds will go to Boy Scout Troop 207 -- half of all money paid for Bingo cards goes to the players.

### 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.

### Wed. & Fri, April 8 & 10

- Come and see the Easter Dramatic Musical "Believe" featuring the Apostle Thomas. Experience drama, song, dance and decide for yourself if the name "Doubting Thomas" is fitting. Community Bible Church. Wednesday, at 6 pm and Good Friday at 6:30pm followed by International Coffees and Dessert. 828-526-4685

### Saturday, April 11

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a short, but strenuous hike, 1.5 miles up Chimneytop Mountain in Sapphire for a great 360 degree view. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 9AM; returning between noon and 1 p.m. Drive: 6 miles round trip. Bring water, walking stick, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy hiking shoes. Call leader Walker Taylor, 743-6977, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

### Tuesday, April 14

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a five-mile moderate hike to Rough Run and High Falls with many wildflowers along the way, an elevation change less than 200 feet but some scrambling over rocks at High Falls. Meet at the big yellow sign in the Ingles parking lot on US Hwy 64 about one mile east of the Cashiers Crossroads at 10:00am; Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Carl Blozan at 743-1765 for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

### Saturday, April 18

- Mirror Lake Litter Pickup. Meet at Thorn Park at 9 am.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 6.2-mile hike on the Chunky Gal Trail to Boteler Peak with an elevation change of 1331 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9:00 a.m. Drive 34 miles round trip. Call leader Bill Van Horn at 369-1983 for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please

Thursday-Sunday, April 16-19  
The Highlands School drama production "The Inner Willy" at PAC. It is a coming-of-age story about a boy,



## • EVENTS •

who with a little help from his mischievous conscience, matures and learns to make his own decisions on his way to becoming a man. Evening shows are at 7:30 p.m., and a the Sunday matinee starts at 2:30 p.m. For tickets, call 526-9047.

### Sunday, April 19

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a five-mile moderate hike to Rough Run and High Falls with an elevation change of 200 feet but some scrambling over rocks at High Falls and many wildflowers along the trail. Bring water, a snack if you wish and wear sturdy shoes. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 1:30 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Carl Blozan at 743-1765 for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate one-mile hike on the Rufus Morgan Trail with nice wildflowers and a pretty falls. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 pm; drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children 10 and over are welcome, but no pets please.

### Monday, April 20

- Mirror Lake Association Meeting at 6 p.m. at the Rec Park. Call Elaine at 526-9939.

### Friday, April 24

- Frog workshop at the Highlands Nature Center. 8 pm. A program for adults on regional frogs including identification of species visually and by their calls. Educators can receive science CEU or NCEE criteria II credit. Bring a flashlight. Free for Highlands Biological Foundation members, \$1 for non-members. Advanced registration is required. Call 526-2623 or visit [www.wcu.edu/hbs/SpEvents.htm](http://www.wcu.edu/hbs/SpEvents.htm) for more information.

## Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin, NC  
524-3076

### March 27 – April 2

#### MONSTER vs. ALIENS rated PG

Friday: (4:10), 7, 9:10  
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:10), 7, 9:10  
Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7

#### KNOWING rated PG-13

Friday: (4:30), 7:10, 9:30  
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:30), 7:10, 9:30  
Mon – Thurs: (4:30), 7:10

#### DUPLICITY rated PG-13

Friday: (4:20), 7:15, 9:20  
Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:20), 7:15, 9:20  
Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:15

#### RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN rated PG

Friday: (4:15), 7:05, 9:15  
Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:15), 7:05, 9:15  
Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:05

## Highlands School students honored at March BOE meeting

Right, Bolt is with BOE chair Jimmy Breedlove and Superintendent Dan Brigman. Below is Jenkins.



Photo by Kim Lewicki

At the March 23 School Board meeting held in Highlands, students Jamie Bolt (above) and Brice Jenkins (left) were recognized. Bolt is a finalist in the Johnson & Wales University Chef Cookoff and will compete for a scholarship in April. Brice Jenkins and Ashley Dickey (not pictured) will attend the NC Governors School this summer.

## ... RATES continued from page 14

than projected, it can bill the town the difference and demand payment within 30 days.

"By implementing a rate increase now, we can begin building a rate stabilization fund by \$25,000-\$30,000 a month so we can be prepared for those kinds of events," said Fatland. "If the board agrees to adopt the proposed rate increase schedule, there won't be another increase until July of next year."

The town's "profit" from reselling Duke Power won't increase due to the rate hike. Highlands sees about \$100,000 per month on the resale of Duke electricity to citizens and the ratio is expected to stay the same after the rate hike.

Highlands' Electric Fund is an enterprise fund whose proceeds are largely responsible for funding the town's capital projects and padding the fund balance without raising taxes.

"Because of our healthy fund balance, for which the electric enterprise fund is a large contributor, we can fund services and projects needed in town," said Mayor Don Mullen.

As with all of the "Electric Cities" in the

North Carolina, electric revenues typically exceed expenditures so the extra revenue is transferred to the Capital Projects Fund to provide funding for such things as the Harris Lake Sewer Project and other projects..

For customers with a \$100 a month utility bill the increase will be \$10 per month. "Plus since the increase will be implemented in the spring, the impact won't be the same say if it was in January," said Fatland.

Fatland said if the town doesn't pass its rate hike on to consumers, the town's net income to reserve will be -3.78% for fiscal year 2010-2011, falling to -21.22% by fiscal year 2013-2014.

These figures are based on an assumed load growth of 1%; the wholesale power increase of 16% per year and an increase in town expenses of 3% per year.

The board will decide on the rate increase and start date at the April 1 Town Board meeting, and at Commissioner Hank Ross's suggestion, may also discuss using some of the fund balance to offset Duke's rate increase to the town and consequently its citizens.

– Kim Lewicki

## ... TDC continued from page 15

contracts or other purchasing documents for pre-audit and provide approved invoices for payment and report periodically to the county commission on activities and results of TDC effort to promote tourism in the county.

As per Horton's outline, the county's responsibilities are to collect room occupancy tax in accordance with state legislative procedures; pursue collection of penalties and delinquent taxes; include the recommended budget from the respective TDCs into the county's annual budget; issue checks for approved invoices directly to vendors from the appropriate line items; have a policy that payments can't be made faster than the flow of occupancy tax collections which typically come in monthly; contract with the chambers of commerce to provide administrative and staff support for the TDCs as specified in their agreements with the county; make timely financial reports as to the collection and disbursement of occupancy tax funds to the TDCs and the commission; and audit the occupancy tax transactions as part of the county's annual audit.

Under the premise that such an arrangement would put undue work and responsibility on the county's finance department – that of collecting approved invoices and making payment on them — McClellan urged the board to change Horton's proposed policy.

But Horton said the proposed policy would provide checks and balances to make sure funds are collected and used properly in the promotion of travel and tourism in Macon County.

Furthermore, he said the county has received the Franklin/Nantahala TDC budget for 2009-2010 but hasn't received the proposed budget from the Highlands TDC.

At the February Highlands TDC meeting, Chamber of Commerce Director Bob Kieltyka, the nonvoting member of the TDC, said the budget was basically ready pending the administration fee levied by the county.

When asked by TDC members to delineate line items that used room tax money, Kieltyka said he wouldn't supply specific line item amounts delineating the breakdown of room tax money used for chamber activities because the chamber is a private organization whose fiscal business isn't open to the public. However, McClellan said since the members of the TDC are also chamber of commerce members they could request a copy of the chamber budget.

Since the chambers share office space, personnel, supplies, machinery, utilities, marketing campaigns and other items with the visitor centers – the entities allowed to use the room tax money – the county and TDCs are required to provide the oversight concerning the co-mingling of room tax funds between them.

All along Kieltyka has said that the Visi-

• See TDC page 23



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## HELP WANTED

**RETAIL SALES:** Stone Lantern Inc. is seeking part-time seasonal help. 25 hours per week, 9 am to 2:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Salary negotiable. Call 828/526-2769 or stop by for application.

**ADMISSION CLERK** – at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time, Monday through Friday position. One year office/hospital clerical experience required. Must be dependable and show accuracy. A knowledge of insurance and precertification is preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org)

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

**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](http://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](mailto:dotty.guenther@gmail.com). Drug screening and background check. EOE.

**MTN AIR WELLNESS CENTERS** openings for CMT licensed massage therapist and a receptionist. 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.hchospital.org).

## LOST CAT

**A MALE BLACK Cat**, Keesa, lost in vicinity of Mt. Lori and N. Cobb. Wearing a hot pink rubber flea collar. Please call Tanya at 526-1706 or cell: 828-301-3696.

## HOUSING WANTED

**COUPLE SEEKING RENTAL HOUSE IN FRANKLIN.** Newly remodeled two+bedroom, one+bath. Close to town. Wooden floors, preferred. Heat & air, if possible. W/D required. No pets, no children, non smokers. Please call Alena 828-342-8729.

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**GOOD HOUSE FOR \$149,500** – 3 bed, 2 bath, high elevation, pond. Call Ann at Cabe Realty 828-526-2475.

**COMMERCIAL IN WRIGHT SQUARE** – two buildings with AC & Heat. Call Harold Brammer. 828-526-5673. 4/16

**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](http://www.thomasknob.com/homes.html) 5/14)

## RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

**2 BED, 2 BATH CABIN** – Charming. Completely renovated. \$800 a month. In Scaly Mountain. Call 423-715-7757. 4/16

**2 BED, 1 BATH HOUSE** for rent in Scaly Mountain. \$700 per month plus security deposit and utilities. Call Ann at Cabe Realty 828-526-2475. 4/16

**2 BED, 1 BATH APARTMENT** for rent in Scaly Mountain. \$500 per month includes utilities. Call Becky at Cabe Realty 828-526-2475. 4/16

**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

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

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

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

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

**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.

## COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

**RENTAL SPACE IN WRIGHT SQUARE** – Half a building or two floors of one building. Call Harold Brammer. 828-526-5673. 4/16

**2,300+/-SQ. FT. OF OFFICE/RETAIL AVAILABLE** for lease or rent to own. Excellent visibility! Location is 2271 Dillard Road. Asking \$1,250 per month. 526-8953.

## VACATION RENTAL

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

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

## ITEMS FOR SALE

**STEEL BUILDING** 22 gauge, 25' width, 24' length, 12' height, never erected. Paid \$5862.00. Sacrifice \$4,000. (828) 526-4313, (828) 787-2478 or (828) 526-3181. 3/26

**16" FISHING BOAT NEW** with Trolling motor, Charger, New Bat. } Untippable, \$1000 OBO Call 828-200-0701 3/26

**CHOPPER/SHREDDER.** 10 HP. Excellent Condition. \$200. Call 526-9534.

**STORE MOVING, EVERYTHING PRICED FOR QUICK SALE OR BEST OFFER.** Oriental rug 8x10, beautiful, red. Walnut dining table and four chairs, antique writing desk/credenza with backboard, 5' x 40 inches exotic wildlife painting, high quality bar refrigerator, 34"x24," beveled Italian glass mirror, 30"x36," heavy mahogany room divider/wall unit, much more. 828-226-0886 4/2

**BOAT, ENGINE, TRAILER** – Great for fishing. Needs some work. \$600. Call 828-200-0701

**VARIOUS BEDROOM ITEMS** – Brass and Wrought Iron antique Victorian replica headboards – one king and two queen. Also top-of-the-line Sealy Posturepedic mattress and box spring sets – one king and two queens. Call 526-9803. 4/26

**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)

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

**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. 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**



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**FROM LATE 1800'S.** Fully refinished. \$100. Call 369-5863.

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

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

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

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

**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-style 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 FIRE-PLACE.** W-68", H-52" Call: 828-349-3320

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

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

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

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

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

**MASSEY FERGUSON DIESEL DELUXE 35 WITH POWER STEERING.** Completely rebuilt,

repainted, new tires. Includes scrape blade, and an 8,000 lbs. tandem axle trailer. Sharp Package! \$6,000. Call (828) 526-1684 and leave message.

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

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

### VEHICLES FOR SALE

**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

### SERVICES

**HOUSKEEPING.** Excellent references. Call Justyne (828) 526-4313 or Kathie (828) 526-3181. 3/26

**MILT'S LAWN SERVICE** – lawn mowing & weed eating, yard cleaning & light hauling. Call Milton at 828-421-7919 or Bill at 828-524-8659. 4/16

**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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## Hands on learning in Kindergarten



Julie McClellan's Kindergarten class had a wonderful time making "Stone Soup" recently after reading the delightful children's book "Stone Soup." All students brought ingredients and helped stir the pot. Later that day everyone enjoyed a bowl of Stone Soup. Pictured from left are Will Chastain, Ms. McClellan and Noah Vroon.

## ... SPIRITUALLY continued from page 9

Now to make a long story shorter, Sally and Betty became fast friends and Betty will tell you that she found a new life, she felt she was renewed by her neighbor, Sally. Betty's health has improved and I am convinced she found purpose and life again. Betty moved to the new town to grow old and die, but now she is convinced that God moved her there to find Sally.

God can take what we think is a hopeless situation and make it new. That's why I love Spring because as we can physically see the mountains take on new life a new creation, we can also understand that God not only gives creation new life, but gives us

new life as well.

I want us all to appreciate the beauty of this place we live and call home, but I also want us to understand, what we see as hopeless, God sees as possibility; what we see as grim God sees as potential; and what we feel is lost, God sees as found and even gives the chance for new life!

March Maddness, isn't just about basketball, although that is awesome, it is about God recreating our world and our lives. And I don't know about you, but I believe that is pretty awesome! Grace and Peace.

## ... ANOTHER POV continued from page 8

Some people say that payment of bonuses to these corporate executives is by contract and is of no concern to the American public; I have another opinion on that. I believe that just because an entity is a corporation does not mean it has to be without conscious.

The corporate mantra should not be "Get all you can," it should be "Get what you deserve." I wonder if ChoicePoint's former chief executive asked himself the question, "How many of those I inspired with dreams of careers for hard work will lose their job for me to get these millions?"

I understand you cannot legislate moral responsibility, nor do I wish to. But perhaps because of all this turmoil we are now facing there will be a change for the better in how the public views these overpaid executives and how corporations do business, and maybe just maybe these executives — and the boards — will think twice about how much is enough? It's not socialism but it is social responsibility — there is a difference.

I'll have Another Point of View in two weeks.



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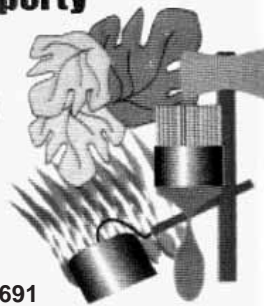
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## • POLICE & FIRE •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for Feb. 28-March 18. 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 18

- At 3 p.m., officers responded to a burglary of items from inside an unlocked vehicle parked in the vicinity of the public bathrooms sometime between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Taken were bank check books, credit cards, drivers license and a purse and wallet.

- During the week officers made issued 9 citations and responded to 3 alarms.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of March 18-24

March 18

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clubhouse Trail where an employee had fallen. The victim was transported to the hospital.

March 21

- The dept. responded to a call to search for missing hikers, but they were found walking on Hickory Nut Gap Road. The dept. gave them a lift to their vehicle.

- The dept. responded to a vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road. There were no injuries.

March 23

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Bowery Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

March 24

- The dept. responded to the call of two illegal controlled burns where people were burning construction material at the old Smokehouse Restaurant and the Highlands Country Club dam.

On Thursday, March 19, Highway Patrol and Highlands Police conducted a DWI seminar at Highlands School. They used simulator goggles to simulate "walking the line" when drunk and gave students a breathalyzer test to demonstrate normal readings and readings after using mouth-wash or mouth spray.



Photos by Kim Lewicki



Teacher Chris Green walks the line with simulator goggles.

## • FUN & GAMES •

### Hex-a-Ku<sup>©</sup> 2009

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

#### OBJECT:

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

#### How to Solve:

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

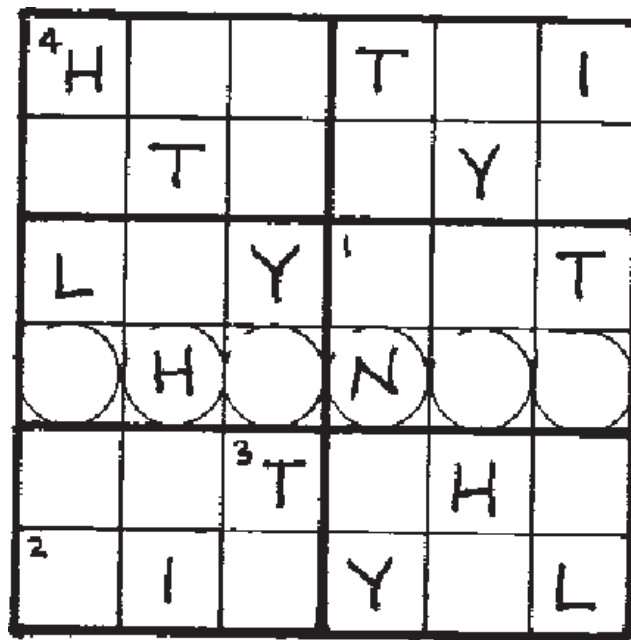
### Mystery Word Narrowly

#### Across

- Strike (3)
- National Institute of Heath (abbr.) (3)
- Seventh musical note (2)

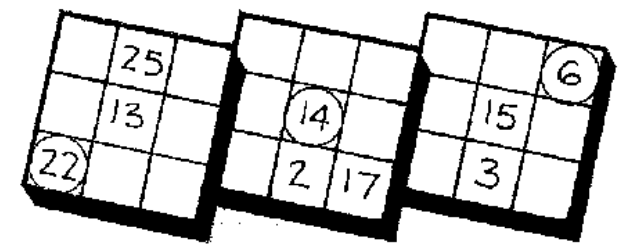
#### Down

- Sword Handle (4)



The new 5-6 School will be named Mountain View School  
Let the School Board know what you think.  
(In a recent survey, Mountain View School was suggested the most.)  
The Board will make the final decision at the April meeting.

### PseudoCube<sup>©</sup>



#### #AN1A Level of Difficulty - Easy

#### THE SETUP:

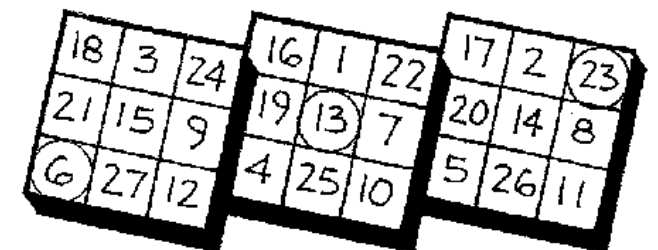
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

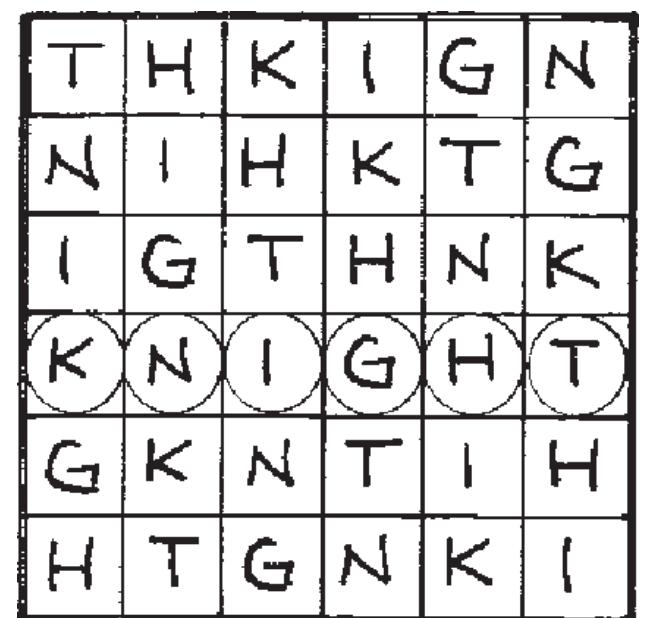
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: [pseudocube8@aol.com](mailto:pseudocube8@aol.com).

#### Solution to #AN3C in March 19 issue



#### Solution to March 19 Hex-a-Ku





• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

The week in review

The Highlands Board of Commissioner' meeting this week was a very short meeting. One of the reasons the meetings are now shorter is that every commissioner has had a chance to look at all the material to be discussed several days before the meeting and have solidified their ideas, making for shorter discussion periods and more indepth knowledge of the subjects. The other reason is that we have gone to what is called a "consent" agenda. That is, routine reports or decisions do not necessarily have to be discussed unless a commissioner wants to pull it out of the consent agenda for further discussion or information. For that reason I have suggested we possibly can begin having just one meeting a month unless something comes up that we have to call a second meeting. We will be considering this and discuss it in the future.

At the meeting last Wednesday, Ran Shaffner of the Greenway Committee presented a request for an additional \$28,000 for work on the Bear Pen Mountain greenway trail. In the town budget this year we allowed \$100,000 for greenway purposes but each time the committee needs funds from this they still must come to the board for approval. This committee has been doing an outstanding job in utilizing volunteers and town crews to reduce the cost of projects all around town. The board approved their request. The Greenway Committee thus far this year is well under their budgeted number, and the work they are doing with primarily volunteers has been efficient and outstanding. The chairman of this committee, Hillrie Quin, must be commended for his outstanding leadership on these projects.

There was also a decision regarding this radio station at our board meeting. The tower where the radio antenna is belongs to



Mayor Don Mullen

the town. The Town of Highlands had entered into a lease with the radio station in 1999 for operation of antennae facilities. This lease expired March 1, 2009 and the station had requested another ten year lease. North Carolina General Statutes required a ten day notice be provided in advance of board approval and this was done. Therefore, the Town Board of commissioners approved a new 10-year lease at \$529 a month with yearly increases determined by cost of living increases over the next 10 years.

Just a comment on sales taxes over this past fiscal year. We have not seen a significant drop in sales tax revenues which one would expect in a recessionary time. Thus far we are on tract to receive the budgeted \$800,000 for this year. Currently, the finance committee is beginning to carefully prepare our budget for the next fiscal year which begins July 1. We continue to be conservative in our estimates and plan to remain in the good financial position we are in at the present time. That process has just started and we will keep everyone informed. In difficult financial times we must be very cautious.

The combined meeting of the town and county boards of commissioners was held this past week in Franklin. All board members were present and it was quite a good informative session where we shared goals and ideas. These meetings over the past year, held quarterly, have been increasingly meaningful to all concerned as we meet informally and socially for dinner. It was a good chance to introduce our new town manager, Jim Fatland, to the group. Common interests, such as the new soccer field in Highlands, the occupancy tax, and the stimulus package, were discussed for informational purposes.

• HS SPORTS •

Soccer week in review

By Ryan Potts

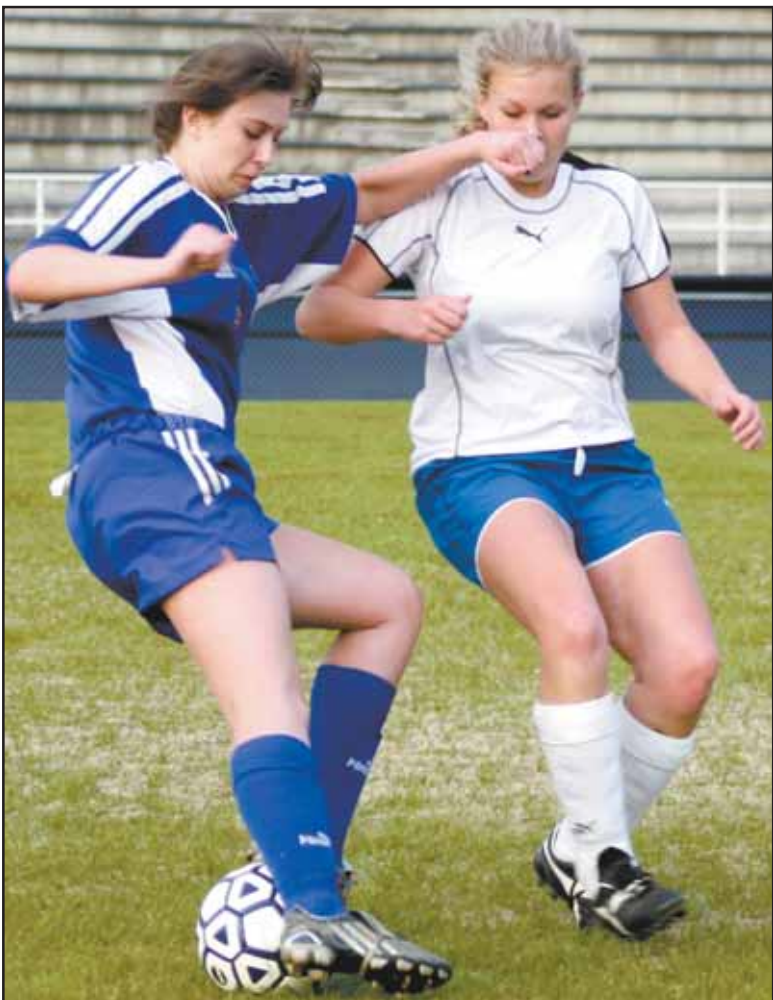
Last Thursday the Highlands Lady Highlander soccer team traveled to Hiawassee, GA for an out-of-state matchup with the Towns County Lady Indians.

After a back and forth affair early on, the Lady Highlanders took control on a goal from Forward Carolyn Hornsby to take a 1-0 lead. After a defensive miscue and an own goal that allowed Towns County to tie the game at 1, Forward Paige Strahan put the Lady Highlanders ahead for good with a blast from outside the keeper box.

Hornsby added another goal just before halftime to give the Lady Highlanders a 3-1 lead. Midfielder Marisol Ruiz added a goal off of a header in the second half, and the defense held firm to give the Lady Highlanders their first win of the season, a 4-1 victory.

Monday night, the Lady Highlanders traveled to Brevard for a match with the Lady Blue Devils. After strong early play by the Lady Highlanders, a couple of defensive lapses allowed Brevard to take a 2-0 lead that the Lady Highlanders could not recover from.

A frantic Highlands team came out and dominated the second half from a field position



Highlands' Paige Strahan at the Brevard game on Monday night.

standpoint, but could not push any goals through before falling 2-0.

The Lady Highlanders will play again this afternoon (weather permitting) at Swain before

opening their home schedule tomorrow (Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>) against Rabun Gap.

Photos by Noel Atherton



Highlands Varsity Boys run the bases at their home game last Saturday.



# • BIZ NEWS •

## Tutor Spotlight – Blanche Pavlis

At first glance, this sweet and spirited woman could pass for anybody's grandma, or that favorite aunt who makes the best cookies. But at a time of life when most are content to slow down, nest in a favorite chair with a crossword puzzle or the latest mystery novel, Blanche Pavlis has a different passion: math.

Last fall, this retired teacher signed on to become a volunteer tutor for the Literacy Council. Like many who volunteer out of a desire to "give back to the community," Blanche is finding that the rewards of tutoring bring tremendous joy.

Not content to stay within a mastered subject, Mrs. Pavlis has been spending her



time brushing up on Calculus, and having a marvelous time. "Math is such a fun subject," she says. "I like to teach at a level where I'm learning. Teachers should have the joy of learning as well as teaching."

Her hard work and enthusiasm for a subject most people

enjoy almost as much as a root canal are evident as is her dedication to her students as a volunteer tutor. It's this type of commitment that makes it possible for the Literacy Council to fulfill its mission of "enriching lives through literacy on the Highlands plateau."

To Blanche and all the other volunteer tutors that make our work such a joy, the Literacy Council extends its deepest gratitude.

## Library interim renovation plans to begin

By Katie Brugger

This is an exciting year for the Hudson Library. One hundred and twenty-five years ago, friends of Ella Emmons Hudson donated a box of books to the town of Highlands and thus began one of the oldest public libraries in North Carolina. During this anniversary year the library will expand into the space that has been used for twenty-four years by the Bascom-Louise Gallery (now known as The Bascom).

A year ago the Hudson Library Board unveiled plans for the renovation and expansion of the library building. The Board is now embarking on the first phase, what is being called an interim renovation, to allow the full use of the new space by the Highlands community as quickly as possible with as little disruption in library service as possible. Through this interim renovation the Hudson Library will be able to provide many of the services that Hudson Library patrons have indicated are important to them.

In discussing the plans with architect

Paul Schmitt the Board realized that many of the most pressing needs this community has for library services could be satisfied quickly with this interim plan, including a public meeting space that can be used for talks and films, more computers, a quiet reading space, and a special area for young adults.

The amount of shelving will increase by almost 30 percent, so there will be more room for books, magazines, CDs, and DVDs. Mr. Schmitt has carefully planned this interim renovation phase to be completely integrated with the full renovation/expansion plans, and to cause the least disruption in library operations.

The Hudson Library Board is continuing to study options for financing this interim phase. The Board has requested that Macon County fund all or part of the renovation. The Town of Highlands awarded a \$35,000 grant to the Hudson Library last year explicitly to help fund renovation of the library.

... TDC continued from page 17

tor Center management cost split is about 70%-30% with the 30% applying to the chamber. He said about 30% of his salary is paid for with room tax money because his job overlaps with Visitor Center functions. There is also a 90%-10% split for use of the building and all that entails with 10% assigned to the chamber. But specifics line item costs weren't available.

At the close of the February Highlands TDC meeting, Keiltyka said people should remember that the chamber of commerce is the first line of defense concerning room tax money. "The chamber of commerce is the

administrator of the room tax money," he said. "The TDC is just an advisory board which provides oversight for the county."

That "oversight" is what Horton said he was trying to outline but the commission agreed to allow Horton and the two TDCs to meet again to try to come up with an amicable arrangement for checks and balances.

Horton said he will have the exact administrative fee for room tax disbursement ready in a couple of weeks. It's expected to be somewhere between 5% and 15% but will be a specific dollar amount rather than an percentage, he said. — **Kim Lewicki**

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