

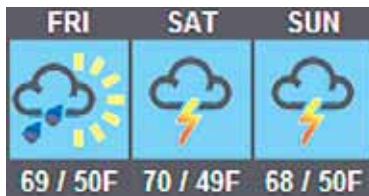
Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 20

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, May 14, 2009



This Week in Highlands

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.

Fri.-Sun., May 14-17

• "Rumors" at the PAC. Due to language and themes, it is appropriate for mature audience only. For ticket information call the box office at 828-526-8084.

Thursday, May 14

• Nick's Fine Foods is hosting a dinner at 6 p.m. to benefit The Bosnian Community Farm Initiative. Tickets are \$50 per plate; a cash bar will be available.

• Highlands School final PTO meeting of the year next is at 6 p.m. in the old gym.

Friday, May 15

• The public is invited to attend the dedication of Harris Lake Park to the Edwards Family at 4 p.m. Mayor Don Mullen will unveil the portal to the entrance of the park at the corner of Smallwood and 5th Street. Refreshments will be served and music to be provided by bagpiper, Jean Hayes of Franklin.

Saturday, May 16

• At 8 a.m. the 2009 Relay for Life kicks off at Helen's Barn parking lot. Clogging, door prizes, a hearty breakfast, and more will officially jump start this year's efforts to raise money for the fight against cancer.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway work trip at 10 a.m. will continue side hill trail work on the lower portion of the new loop.

Sunday, May 17

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile easy hike on an old railroad bed and woodland trail in Terrora Park at Tallulah Falls in GA. Call Kay Coriell at 369-6820 for reservations.

Monday, May 18

• The Mirror Lake Improvement Association will meet at 6 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center.

State mandates furloughs for schools

Due to its growing deficit, the state is taking back money and demanding cuts from all its agencies, including the Department of Public Instruction.

At a called School Board meeting last Thursday, the board learned that as authorized in the Governor's Executive Order Number 11 which was signed on April 28, 2009, full time public school employees are to receive 10 hours of flexible furlough leave to be taken between

June 1 and December 31, 2009 in return for a .5% reduction in salary to be taken by the end of fiscal year 2008 – June 30.

Though there is some confusion as to which full-time public school employees this affects – locally paid, state paid or federally paid – the Macon County School Board voted unanimously to apply the rule to all full-time school employees regardless of their pay origination.

Finance Director Betty Wal-

droop said though the final word concerning the subject is still in the "House" school districts have been assured that all full-time employees will be affected.

The new policy will affect about 650 people in the Macon County School system, including full-time hourly employees like bus drivers, said Waldroop, even the school board members and admin-

• See FURLOUGHS page 13

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County's 2009 budget down 10%

Last year the county's budget came in at \$46,723,013; this year the proposed budget is \$41,967,266 – a full 10% less.

"This represents the lowest budget in the past five years," said County Manager Jack Horton. "Adjustments had to be made due to a loss in revenue."

Since January, county departments have been working with Horton and Finance Director Evelyn Southard trimming all fat in anticipation of a lean rest of 2008-2009 and a lean 2009-2010.

Horton said the county's tax base is expected to grow only one percent this coming year and sales tax collections continue to come in lower than previous years' projections. To compound that, Oct. 1, 2009, the county loses all of its Article 44 – ½ cent sales tax – and the state will continue to withhold a portion of the county's Article 39 – 1 cent sales tax – to remit to the county's municipalities – Franklin

• See County page 2

Kelsey Hutchinson Park Preliminary Concept



Public says 'no' to new park design

The design of the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street continues to evolve – with this most recent plan centered around the most favorable stormwater remediation solution that could also qualify for

federal stimulus money or a Clean Water Trust Fund Grant.

The idea was to close Pine Street, retain six angled parking spaces along the CK Swan building, and reroute traffic down the

alley to Oak Street to create a park with 17,820 sq. ft. of underground retention using a Rain Tank Stormwater system.

This represents more than dou-

• See PARK page 11



*You haven't been to Highlands
if you don't leave with this!*



• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTER •

Pay attention, people!

Dear Editor:

Every time I turn on the TV, or read a paper, I hear about the CIA memos that were released. Well every time spineless news organizations or broadcasters do this I want you to look at what they are helping this incompetent leader we have do!

H.R. 1388 was passed yesterday, behind our backs. This wasn't mentioned on the news, it just went by on the ticker tape on the CNN screen.

Obama funds \$20 million in taxpayer dollars to immigrant Hamas Refugees to the USA. This is the news that didn't make the headlines. By executive order, President Barack Obama has ordered the expenditure of \$20.3 million in "migration assistance" to the Palestinian refugees and "conflict victims" in Gaza. The "presidential determination" which allowed hundreds or thousands of Palestinians with ties to Hamas to resettle in the United States, was signed on January 27 and appeared in the Federal Register on February 4. Few on Capital Hill, or in the media, took note that the order provides a free ticket, complete with housing and food allowances to individuals who have displayed their overwhelming support to the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) in the parliamentary election of January 2006.

Let's review an itemized list of some of Barack Obama's most recent actions since his inauguration. His first call to any head of state, as president, was to Mahmoud Abbas, leader of Fatah party in the Palestinian territory. His first one on a television interview with any news organization was with Al Arabia television. His first executive order was to fund/facilitate abortion(s) not just here within the U.S. but all over the world, using U.S. taxpayer funds. He ordered Guantanamo Bay closed and all military trials of detainees halted. He ordered overseas CIA interrogation centers closed. He withdrew all charges against the masterminds behind the USS Cole and the "terror attack" on 9/11. Now we learn that he is allowing hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees to move to and live in, the US at the taxpayers expense. These important and insightful issues are being "lost" in the blinding bail outs and stimulation packages.

Still like your change? There are those who think of course that Obama can't know these things are happening, or he would not allow it. Executive order means he has to know people! Then there are those who like the idea that we are heading

into a western socialist-like government. Just remember we the taxpayers are having to pay for this and we are handing our nation over to the very people who have been trying to destroy it! Look what happened once they got a foot hold in Europe!

Johnny Owens
Highlands

• THANK YOU'S •

Volunteers help the Earth

I want to thank all the many youth and adult volunteers that helped make Earth Day in the Mountains a huge success. On a spectacularly beautiful day, our fifth year coordinating this great get together "on the plateau" was enjoyed by hundreds of friends and visitors.

Special thanks go out to: The Bascom and the Art League of Highlands for providing outstanding green art opportunities that were over the top thanks to coordinators Margie Shambaugh and Susan Bauknight.

Mark Lassiter did a superb job of stage management and his son Clayton was on hand to help in any way. Words can't express how much we all appreciated and enjoyed the musicians that shared their talents. Mark English made a huge splash with his llamas that were paraded around throughout the day and well fed by eager children.

Many thanks to the Girl Scouts Troup 219 for their green contributions and recycle bags offered and their leadership from Marjorie Crowe ; They worked in tandem with Highlands United Methodist Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation providing tasty "pommards" from the earth with all the trimmings. The Forest Service brought Smokey the Bear for the little ones to meet and have a photo op with. The Girls' Clubhouse participated as they always do every year keeping the younger kids in check at the Bouncy Castle and other errands. Individuals who helped at the snack shack and climbing wall included Pat Boyd, Madelline Watt, Kinzey Parker, Carole Stork and our Civics class community service volunteer Monserrat Reyes. And a last thank you to John Woods for handling all the trash and recyclables from the event.

It was truly a community effort between our sister mountain towns of Highlands and Cashiers and we are proud of all who gave their time to help celebrate our great Earth and the beautiful part of it in which we live. Many Thanks.

Lee Hodges
Event Chair

Thanks from all of us

The family of Irene James would like to express their heart-felt thanks for the many cards, calls, food, prayers and acts of kindness they have received. They would also like to thank Dr. Patti Wheeler and the nurses and staff at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital who tended to Irene and all her family and friends so well. My God bless every one of you.

The family of Irene James

... COUNTY continued from page 1

and Highlands – to make up for their loss of the ½ cent sales tax.

However Horton said the good news is beginning July 1, 2009, the state will assume 100% of the county's Medicaid costs which more than offsets the loss of the ½ cent sales tax. "In the long run we come out ahead," he said.

Other revenue declines are expected in permit fees – both septic and inspections – due to the slowing of the construction and real estate market and investment earning are expected to be about half of what they were last year – only \$500,000 versus \$1 million.

The proposed budget calls for a fund balance appropriation of \$780,839 – less than the last three years due to the decrease in the overall budget.

Horton said though revenues are down in Macon County, compared to other counties in the state, Macon County is in very good shape.

Horton said with the General Assembly still in session, counties are concerned that the state will further shift additional fiscal responsibilities while reducing county funding to correct its budget crisis.

"The state is facing a \$3 billion revenue shortfall for 2009-2010 so we can only wait to see what effect this will have on Macon County," he said.

He said the county is fiscally sound and projects in the pipeline will likely continue including funding school construction, the new senior citizens center, EMS and Health Department needs.

Except for the new Animal Shelter and the Economic Development Committee, there won't be any new positions added and the school's current expense budget will remain at the current year's level while maintaining full funding for the teacher supplements.

Horton said he's not recommending a tax rate increase and that at 26.4 cents Macon County's rate is still the third lowest in the state.

Commissioners will have the first of many budget worksessions Tuesday, May 19 at 5:30 p.m.

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. **NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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• MILESTONES •

Medical Science students graduate from SCC EMS program

During a ceremony Friday evening, May 1, on the Jackson Campus seven Southwestern Community College emergency medical science students received their pins presented by SCC program coordinators Tony Belcher and Eric Hester. Students from Macon County, from left, are Richard Davis, Pete Privette (honorary graduate) and Chris Metrick.



New ladder truck rolls into town



Firefighters took turns climbing the ladder of the new 75-foot ladder truck at Tuesday night's weekly meeting at the fire house. The department also practiced shooting water which thanks to the capacity of the new truck will be able to reach structures within the OEI complex bordered by Main, Fourth & Church streets and other tall structures.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

• OBITUARY •

John William (Pluck) Baty

John William (Pluck) Baty, 92, of Highlands, NC, died Friday, May 8, 2009 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late Henry J. and Mary Silla Crane Baty. He was married to Eva Hedden Baty who died June 15, 1999. Mr. Baty was a Marine Veteran of WWII and was a retired carpenter and painter.

He is survived by one son, James Hedden Baty of Waverly, TN; two brothers, Clarence Baty of Norcross, GA and Herbert Baty of Al-



pharetta, GA. Four grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren also survive. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Jane B. Rogers.

Memorial services were held Sunday, May 10 at 5 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands with the Rev. Walter Wilson officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mountain Top Relay for Life.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Reed appointed SGA Attorney General at UNC-Greensboro



Jackie Reed, a rising senior at UNC-Greensboro double majoring in Accounting/Finance and Political Science, has been appointed Attorney General of the SGA Judicial Branch for 2009.

The Judicial Branch is headed up by the Attorney General, who oversees Constitutional issues and decisions for the Student Government Association and acts as a liaison between students and the University's Office of Student Conduct.

The Attorney General's office serves to protect the rights of students while upholding the policies set forth by the University.

The Office of the Attorney General (AG) works in partnership with the Dean of Students Office, providing guidance to students on the University's *Academic Integrity Policy*, and *Student Code of Conduct*. Student advisors are appointed by the Attorney General to assist students through the conduct process. These advisors are trained by the Dean of Students Office and the Student Government Attorney General on the *Academic Integrity Policy* and *Student Code of Conduct*.

Reed is a 2006 graduate of Highlands School and the daughter of Morris and Cindy Reed of Highlands.

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Getting the word out...



Members of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary were hard at work last week helping the hospital's foundation mail out its annual spring fund raising appeal. As they have been throughout the hospital's nearly 60-year history, contributions are essential to keeping a small hospital operating smoothly in a such highly seasonal area such as ours. Helping the foundation is only one of many projects undertaken by Auxiliary members each year. And the Auxiliary is always looking for new members. Those helping out last week were from left: Betty Bunnell, Doris Long, Jolene Niblack, Polly Dean and Marie Sharpe.

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LAUGHING AT LIFE

Get me off this stupid boat

WARNING! Never, never, ever take a sea cruise longer than seven days! When we got on this 17-story, monstrous, super duper luxury liner, it seemed huge. Now it's the size of a raft. Each day it shrinks.

If I eat another Beef Wellington or lobster, my insides will explode. Please, no more Cordon Bleu or Leg of Lamb. And to think a cute li'l lamb actually gave up its leg to wind up on my plate only to have half of it and some other weird looking gobbledygook raked into the garbage. Please, I can't eat another shrimp cocktail. Don't they know shrimp are the cockroaches of the sea?

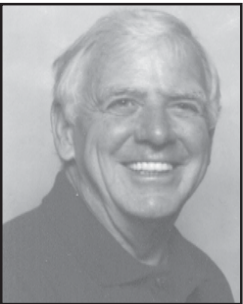
Are you sitting down? On the fourth day of the cruise, I learned the li'l missus was cheating on me. Yep, she had smuggled a six-pack of individually wrapped packets of peanut butter on board. I would kill for a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. I have searched our room four times but can't find where she stashed them. I know she has them because I smell peanut butter on her breath. I begged her to share but, hey, she says some things cannot be shared and being married a long time does not mean giving up your peanut butter on a cruise.

Yesterday I was listed as a "very bad man" on the ship's Daily Patter. I tried to con a four-year-old out of his peanut butter and banana sandwich in the children's play room on the Sun Deck. My picture now appears on the wall with a warning notice describing me as a peanut butter thief. Not guilty! I merely wanted to trade my garlic encrusted escargot appetizer for the sandwich.

Today is our 15th day at sea and I've just finished my 27th trivia quiz game at the Cucamonga Lounge. I may know all the elements needed to obtain a search warrant but I don't know the population of Chad back in 1960. They always ask the wrong trivia questions.

Each day we go to the Cucamonga Lounge so I can get my daily dose of "look how stupid I am" by not knowing any of the trivia questions. I'm so bad at trivia everyone avoids me, including the li'l missus. She's putting together her own team and I'm not on it. I'm always the last guy to be chosen. Ha, I'll bet none of those dummies know how to assemble an M-16 automatic weapon in the dark.

And there's this really, really fat lady....or should I say skinny-challenged person who hates me because I don't know



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

squat. She's so skinny-challenged they have to pry her out of her wrap-around lounge chair when the game is over, otherwise the chair stays stuck to her fanny when she stands. Ask me how funny that looks. But, boy-o-boy, does she know her trivia. Lately, the ship's personnel have been sticking me on her team 'cause she's so trivia smart, I won't matter.

Without answering one trivia question correctly, this is the ninth game our team has won because of her. So far, my winnings consist of four

Princess key chains, a Princess coffee mug, two decks of, yep, you guessed it, Princess playing cards and two knock-your-socks-off Princess makeup mirrors for my purse. I was hoping for a bottle of wine or glass of champagne. Or maybe a free massage from that drop-dead, long-legged, six-foot Norwegian hot, babe, blond working in the ship's spa. But, no, I got key chains, cards and mirrors.

After the trivia quiz, I raced upstairs to the main pool deck where an intellectual game called Marco Polo was being played by persons in the pool. A blindfolded swimmer says "Marco" and other swimmers say "Polo." The Marco person tries to catch the Polo person. I challenge anyone to try to read a book or sleep with the words Marco Polo being shouted 10,000 times an hour. The winner of the Marco Polo game gets a special "Duh" trophy for being able to stay in the pool for hours without eating. Unlike the trivia quiz, I actually feel intelligent around these people.

Later in the day I passed through the Cucamonga Lounge on my way to the "Name That Tune" game in the show lounge when I saw the skinny-challenged lady still sitting in her trivia chair. "I'm stuck and can't get out," she said. I saw a waiter and stopped him for help. "Waiter, can you help this woman by bringing her a six-pack of Crème Brulee, por-favor," I said as I walked out of the lounge.

Just before my 10th meal of the day, I attended a briefing on how the ship operates and the audience was permitted to ask questions. The best question asked was, "Does the crew sleep on the ship?"

Two more days and I'm off this tub. How can the people who work here do this for 365 days a year? One thing, I'm bettin' they have peanut butter squirreled away in their room. And they don't have to attend trivia games or see the nightly shows. Tonight's show is a talking parrot ventriloquist with a Czechoslovakian accent impersonating Barack Obama. I can't miss that one.

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Honor killing

The idea of murder is repugnant. The notion of killing a member of the family is unthinkable. No one would ever consider that restoration of family honor requires him to behead his wife, shoot his daughters, or stone his cousin. At least such a thought would never cross the minds of civilized people.

Around the globe, at least 5,000 such murders are reported each year. The United Nations suspects that the number is actually far greater, for the deaths are often reported as the result of accidents or suicide. The victims are usually, but not always women; wives, daughters, cousins. The perpetrators are usually men, but sisters and mothers of the victims are sometimes complicit. These savage acts go by the name of honor killings.

Honor killings take place in remote tribal areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan. They occur in villages in Egypt and Iraq. Closer to home, western European nations and the United States have witnessed the atrocity.

A successful Pakistani immigrant, owner of a television station in Orchard Park, NY beheaded his wife and an Egyptian-American murdered his daughters for becoming too Americanized. In Canada a father killed his daughter for refusing to wear a head scarf.

Killing in the name of honor is not practiced only by Muslims, but Muslims are by far the most common culprits. Honor killing has more to do with barbarism than religion. There just happen to be more barbarians among the world's one billion Muslims than among other religious, cultural, ethnic, or national groups. When a family feels honor-bound to kill a sister or a daughter for refusing to wear a head scarf, for holding hands with a boy, or for seeking divorce from an abusive husband, the family is most often Muslim.

The woman's role in society is the primary determinant in honor killings. In a religion, culture, or nation which supports human rights, the idea of murder is abhorrent. Where a woman is viewed as chattel, she is far more likely to be punished, even murdered, for independent behavior. The crimes for which women are murdered are not crimes at all in most of the world. They include choice of dress, occupation, association, and sexual partner. Neither are they criminal in the places they



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

take place. There is no crime except in the minds of the family and the community. Adultery is an exception. In several Middle Eastern countries, a man who catches his wife in an adulterous relationship may kill her without penalty.

Fundamentalist Islam, with its goal of rolling back the calendar to the 7th century, a time when women were mere possessions, creates an environment

favorable for honor killings. The most remarkable aspect of the tragic custom is the response of moderate Islamic scholars, if such a description is not an oxymoron. They claim that honor killings are not restricted to Islam, and this is true. They choose to ignore the fact that the vast majority of these murders are committed by Muslims. It is certainly an Islamic problem, even if it is occasionally a Hindu problem or a Christian problem. If, instead of claiming anti-Islamic persecution by the world's media, Islamic leaders encouraged imams to preach against honor killing, to clearly and categorically declare that is sinful for a Muslim to kill his wife or daughter, perhaps the killing would stop.

Islamic leaders further obscure the issue by making the absurd claim that honor killings are simply examples of domestic violence, and indistinguishable from the act of an abusive drunk red neck who murders his wife. Honor killings are planned, often by several relatives, specifically to punish a sinner, and restore family honor. They often follow a series of warnings that the woman will be punished if she continues the offensive conduct. A popular Pakistani singer was recently murdered by her family after she ignored repeated threats that unless she stopped singing she would be killed.

Much as the world's Islamic leaders were unwilling to unconditionally condemn another barbaric act, the 9/11 attacks, they are unwilling to admit that Muslims commit these atrocities, that they are culturally or religious based, and that they must stop.

There are no more religious people on earth than Muslims. Whatever is or is not written in the Quran, devout Muslims would not kill their families unless they believed honor killing was sanctioned by their faith.

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• HIS & HERS •

Want another bigot on the court? You got it.

by John Armor

Sometimes even when you attend an event, and take part in it, it still takes time to understand it. I had the honor to speak at the Knoxville Tea Party, as Ben Franklin, a printer from Philadelphia. The visible, massive driving force for that and all 750+ Tea Parties with 1+ million people in attendance was taxes. But the real issue was larger and deeper than taxes.

When the mainstream media attempt to deal seriously with this phenomenon, they phrase it as “conservative” as opposed to “liberal.” Sometimes it’s no such thing. The Tea Parties are related to the present issue of the “rebranding” of the Republican Party.

Long ago, when ice covered the Earth and the last dinosaurs were staggering to their deaths, I was in advertising. “Rebranding” meant putting a new name and a new slogan on an old product that the people demonstrably did not want. That change was intended to market the goods despite endemic defects.

If “rebranding” is all that the Republicans do, it will be a fraud. It will fail. It will deserve to fail. And, the nation will be the worse for the lack of any competent opposition to present trends in the US government.

With the defection of Arlen Specter, the Democrats now solidly control two of the three branches of the federal government. Control of the third branch, the Judiciary, is now at issue. One of the leading candidates to replace retiring Justice David Souter is Judge Sonia Sotomayor of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. She gave a 2005 speech at Duke University which was taped. She said that “the Appeals Courts are where policy is made.” She added, “I know this is on tape and I should never say that, because we don’t make law. I know.” And the audience tittered.

This gets us to the heart of the matter. It is the fundamental theory of American government, as embodied in the Constitution, that it is the business of Congress, not the courts to write or rewrite the laws. This would-be Justice has made it clear that she will deliberately violate her oath of office to protect the Constitution if she gets on the Court.

She will be biased, in favor of some legal parties and against others, based on who they are. In that, she fully represents President Barack Obama. He has said both as a



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candidate and now that he wants judges who have “empathy” for certain parties. In plain English, he wants judges who are biased in his chosen direction. And that, in turn is a frontal assault on the whole Constitution, which was written to provide “equal justice for all” in our courts.

It is also a direct assault on the Declaration of Independence. Governments “derive

their just powers from the consent of the governed.” Federal judges are appointed, not elected. So, there is no “consent of the governed” when unelected judges write laws, or worse, revise the Constitution by their votes alone.

Taxes are only a symptom of the larger problem. The attack on the Constitution is the basic issue. Dr. Thomas Sowell has addressed this at length and with eloquence. His latest column is ‘Empathy’ versus the Law: Part IV, where he writes: “For more than a century, believers in bigger government have also been believers in having judges ‘interpret’ the restraints of the Constitution out of existence. They called this ‘a living Constitution.’ But it has in fact been a dying Constitution, as its restraining provisions have been interpreted to mean less and less, so that the federal government can do more and more.”

This is not a “conservative” or a “liberal” or a “moderate” issue. It is a matter of national survival. If the Constitution is destroyed as a limitation on the federal government, the essence of the United States will be gone. Labels and forms will remain, but in reality the US will be nothing more than the majority of the world’s 192 governments, a tin pot dictatorship with a meaningless constitution.

It is that serious, that immediate, that important. I’ve looked at the backgrounds of most of the possible nominees to replace Justice Souter. Whoever the President named will certainly be confirmed, regardless of whether he or she is an enemy of the Constitution. When that person is named, I’ll readdress the subject. In the meantime, please read Dr. Sowell’s four columns on this subject.

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

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

The grass is always greener....really?

Every now and then there is some ironic justice in the lives and careers of national politicians. For those of us who are old enough to have been around at the time, one of the country's promising political careers got thrown into neutral.

First, some background.

From Wikipedia, "Joseph Kennedy was a prominent American and businessman and political figure, and the father of President John F. Kennedy and Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Ted Kennedy. He was a leading member of the Democratic Party and of the Irish Catholic community." Among other business pursuits, Kennedy was a big time bootlegger. After the end of prohibition, it was a natural progression to remain a liquor importer. Ironically or not, he also owned the largest office building in Chicago, the Chicago Merchandise Mart.

Let me state, I take no delight in the following; it is just part of the story. Joe's very popular son Jack became President in 1961 and served until 1963, when he was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald. In a curious turn of events, Oswald himself was killed in a Dallas police station, on national television, by Jack Ruby who eventually died in prison. Bingo, bango, bongo – case closed. Some think not.

"Bobby" Kennedy served as Attorney General from 1961 to 1964 and Senator from New York from 1965 to 1968. Seeing a weakness in the Democratic Party's potential presidential ticket in 1968, Bobby threw his hat in the ring. Unfortunately, he was assassinated by Sirhan Sirhan, whose motive for doing so is somewhat murky. Thus ended the President aspirations of the second of Joe Kennedy's sons.

A third Kennedy son, Edward, better known as Teddy, after the tragedies that had befallen his brothers, seemed destined to someday become President. I have purposely avoided mentioning Marilyn Monroe's involvement with the brothers Kennedy for lack of substantiation. Extramarital frivolities cannot be avoided in the case of the end of the Presidential prospects for Teddy, however.

From the Charlotte Observer, "It was in the early hours of Saturday night when Sen.

Ted Kennedy, D-MA, accompanied by a young woman who was not his wife, drove his car off a narrow bridge on Chappaquiddick Island into a tidal pool. The young woman, Mary Jo Kopechne, died in that car as it rested upside down in dark and chilling waters. Whatever hopes Kennedy had of being president – and those hopes were indeed high – died that night, also."

"It eventually became clear that the central moral question at Chappaquiddick was not whether he was taking Mary Jo to the ferry or the beach, or even if he had been drunk or sober. It was: Why didn't he get help?" To save his political skin, that's why. Jumping the fence to enjoy the grass on the other side didn't serve him well.

Fast forward to the present and shift gears from questionable personal behavior to questionable political behavior. Sen. Arlen Specter has been a US Senator from Pennsylvania since 1980. To my mind, his political allegiance has always been to himself. He was the Republican version of Chucky Schumer, and that is not meant to be a complement.

Last week, Specter announced that he is switching to the Democrat Party. It seems that there was a communication hiccup between Specter and his new boss, Harry Reid. "Senator Reid assured me that I would keep my committee assignments and that I would have the same seniority as if I had been elected a Democrat in 1980. It was understood that the issue of subcommittee chairmanships would not be decided until after the 2010 election. Some members of the caucus have raised questions about my seniority, so the caucus will vote on my seniority at the same time subcommittee chairmanships are confirmed after to 2010 election."

Well Arlen, while you are trying to figure out why Harry Reid lied to you about your seniority, which is all you've got as far as I'm concerned, you may spend some time figuring out how you are going to beat Tom Ridge in 2010. Your precious seniority may be a



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

moot point in the final analysis. Oh, by the way, Harry doesn't want you, he wants your vote.

Speaking of lying Democrat Congressional leaders, how's Bad Nancy doing these days? "What? Nobody ever told me about waterboarding or other forms of being testy with the enemy that is pledged to destroy us." The CIA said they did. From the LA Times (ultra-liberal rag, by the way), "Congressional leaders were briefed repeatedly on the CIA's use of se-

vere interrogation methods on Al Qaeda suspects, according to new information released by the Obama Administration that appears to contradict the assertions of House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi (translation; she's lying).

The records describe dozens of congressional briefings about CIA decisions that since have emerged as major sources of controversy – including the agency's use of waterboarding and its destruction of videotapes of interrogation sessions." Nancy, you were there, you heard, you knew and you said nothing against the practice. I think Code Pink just turned into Code Red. If you can't stand the heat, head for Baghdad.



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Tuesdays Young Mom's Bible Study
Wed.: 5pm Dinner; 6pm AWANA, Youth Activities

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

Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

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Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
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Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers
Wednesdays – Choir – 7

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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526-3376
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5 p.m. Youth Group
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studies; 6:15 – Adult choir
(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs: 12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Commit random acts of kindness



Pastor Paul Christy
Highlands United Methodist Church

I am often amazed at the generous spirit that many people have in this world. I have heard stories of how people have helped struggling families out of hardships, or I have heard the stories of how adults helped out students who needed book bags, braces or cars. You know when you think about it we live in a world where there is a lot of good that takes place each and every day. And the problem is that very often we do not hear about the “good” that happens in the world, but only the bad. We all love to hear the bad stories because I am convinced that we love to hear stories of defeat so we can build ourselves up. However, this week I wanted to share some stories of the good I have experienced the last few months because I think we need to hear some stories that are good for the soul.

Story one,

Several months ago I heard about a group of ordinary folks from Highlands who heard the call to serve others in another community called New Orleans. You know several years ago there was a hurricane called Katrina that devastated the Gulf Coast and many of you in this whole community have been a part of the rebuilding from Gulfport to New Orleans and what an example you have given us all about the human spirit. But an ordinary group of folks from Highlands gave up a week of their lives to go help rebuild some homes that were hit hard in New Orleans. They went without a lot of fanfare or need to say “hey look at us,” but they went and worked on a row house and built relationships with the good people of Louisiana. Just let me say that that was some good news from this community in helping others in the rebuilding not only of buildings, but lives!

Story two.

Then on a very personal level, my mother who fell and broke her pelvis, has been in rehab from eight weeks is home now and let me say how appreciative I am to people who help in hospitals, to nursing homes to rehabs because they are unsung heroes of our community. I do not think that we give enough appreciation to the folks who help out our loved ones on a daily basis. I saw more compassion and care in the eight weeks my mom was in rehab than I had ever seen. I visit in hospitals and nursing homes everyday and I have neglected to say thank you to all the folks who give of their time and talents to help others on a daily basis.

Story three.

Then this past week, I was away on Sunday, you know us preachers don't often take a Sunday off, but it was my wife's birthday and I promised to take her away so I did. But my father-in-law, who is a retired preacher, came and preached for me. He did a great job and I really appreciated the time away. But on Monday when I went to my desk to wade through all the things I felt I needed to do, I found a note, a simple note from my dad-in-law that said, “Thanks for letting me come preach and thank you for being my son-in-law.” It was a simple note, but it meant a lot to me and I thought, you know, that was really a nice thing to do!

Why do I tell you these stories? Because I want to let you

• See SPIRITUALLY page 9

• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

There's too much to do to quit now!

This year is an election year for the Town of Highlands and up for election will be the position of Mayor and two Commissioners. Many people have been asking me whether I will be running for another four-year term. My wife and I along with friends have discussed this at length over the last few months and I have decided that, yes, I will run for mayor for another four-year term.



Mayor Don Mullen

Our Board of Commissioners has accomplished a lot over the last four years but there is still much to do as we continue to seek to maintain the village character of our town and yet be progressive enough to keep up with necessary improvements in the infrastructure and amenities we all enjoy.

Over the coming months I will be discussing with you which direction I perceive the town going. We have a lot to be proud of over these past few years, and I would like to help this board continue that progress with as little impact on the taxpayers as possible.

Once again, I would like to commend the work of our volunteer firefighters. Last week the Town Board of Commissioner had a special meeting to consider buying a ladder truck for the fire department. These guys do such a great job in protecting us from fires that they need as much good equipment as we can give them. One of the necessary things for any good fire department is a ladder truck which can reach up to three stories on buildings. And indeed the commissioners did approve the purchase of this vehicle at a cost of \$440,000 along with constructing an expanded garage space for housing this fine piece of equipment. We have always been proud of the fine work our firemen and emergency personnel do. They should be not only commended for this but recognized with the support of good equipment. These guys work hard training for their job, always improving and they certainly deserve the best.

At this reading we will have had another very important special town board meeting at the Community Center for the discussion of Stormwater protection around Fifth and

Pine Street. We are looking at state-of-the-art development in that areas and it coincides with the soon-to-be-developed Kelsey Hutchinson Park. Preliminary plans have been developed for that park which will follow the stormwater work and the commissioners will discuss this situation in detail as we plan to pull all this together in one project that will protect the area from floods in addition to creating a much

needed central urban park for the convenience of all our citizens and the visitors who come to see us.

On the entertainment front, my wife and I attended the opening of the Highlands Cashiers Players production of Neil Simon's "Rumors" last week at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. Everyone in the play did a marvelous job with a brilliantly conceived comedy that kept everyone in stitches for the entire evening. One of the lead characters is played by Rick Siegel who was particularly outstanding. I highly recommend that all who can, go out the PAC this week to see a truly outstanding performance. Those folks in that volunteer actors group just keep getting better and better. Don't miss this one.

Let me just add that there are many other wonderful things going on at the PAC throughout this summer. On May 23 Gary Carden, a popular local story teller, brings with him Sheila Kay Adams. The last time Gary was with us the audience was kept roaring with laughter. So call the PAC for tickets which could be some of the best but cheapest entertainment you could see this summer. During these trying economic times we need to let our hair down with some good laughs.

And there are more great events coming up. Keep in touch with what's going on at the PAC. If you are a classical music fan, one cannot find better music than at the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival held at the PAC and in Cashiers in July and August. Some of the best musicians from all over the world come to this fine festival. Come on out and enjoy the fun.

... SPIRITUALLY continued from page 8

know and mostly this little preacher know that it doesn't take a lot to make a difference in this community and in this world.

Treat one another with love and respect; be willing to give of yourself to help someone, and write a note to brighten someone's day. It doesn't take a lot to make the world a brighter place, I mean so often we think it takes something big, but it is the small things that go a long way.

I am reminded that Jesus when He was a

itinerate preacher made more about building relationships than He did about being appointed to the high steeple churches of His day.

We build relationships by the way we care and love each other, so I challenge you as I do myself, commit a random act of kindness this week because you never know, when you will make a difference in another's life!

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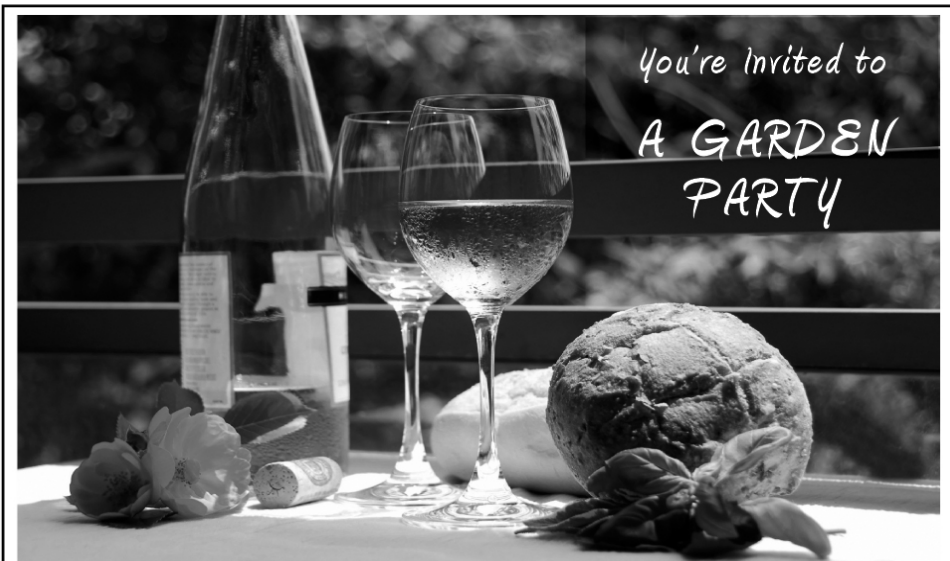


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New family physician to open practice in Highlands June 1

A new family physician is moving to Highlands and will begin seeing patients June 1, officials at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital announced Friday.

Richard S. Matthews, Jr., MD, will be relocating his practice in family medicine to Highlands from Gulf Breeze, FL, where he has practiced since 1985. Dr. Matthews is board certified in family medicine and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.



Dr. Richard S. Matthews, Jr.,

"This is very welcome news for the hospital and the communities it serves," said Bud Smith, chairman of the hospital's Board of Directors. "I think we have all recognized for the last several years that, when it comes to the number of primary care physicians, our area has been underserved, especially since the departure of Dr. Mark Heffington and Dr. Mark Wagner. The hospital has been working very hard to recruit new primary-care physicians to come here, and we are very pleased to gain someone of Dr. Matthews' skills and experience."

Mr. Smith said efforts to recruit up to two more primary-care physicians (primarily for the Cashiers/Glenville/Sapphire area) are still in full swing. Those efforts are in conjunction with Dr. David Wheeler and Mountain Area Family Medicine.

Dr. Matthews said Friday he is looking forward to a change of scenery. He has spent his entire professional career in the Gulf Breeze area. "My wife and I are very excited about coming to the mountains and to Highlands. We have visited Highlands several times in the last several years, and we just fell in love with the area," he said. "Last December I had a chance to meet a number of the doctors there and see the hospital, and I was very impressed. The size of the hospital and the community reminded me of Gulf Breeze when I first began practicing there."

Dr. Matthews says he was particularly impressed with how friendly the physicians and hospital staff are, and that the hospital is a clean, modern facility. "It has all the modern technology that I have been used to at what is a much larger hospital here in Gulf Breeze," he adds.

He and his wife Catherine have found a house to rent in Highlands, and will be moving over the course of the next few

weeks. While he will begin seeing patients June 1, his office is already accepting appointments at (828) 526-4942. His offices will be located in Suite 303 on the third floor of the Jane Woodruff Clinic. He has applied for full privileges on the hospital medical staff, and final approval is expected late this week.

"We've checked his qualifications and credentials very thoroughly and he has already met most

of the current members of the medical staff," said hospital CEO and President Ken Shull. "Dr. Matthews is going to be a great addition to the hospital and to our communities for many years to come."

Dr. Matthews says he isn't coming to Highlands to slow down or semi-retire. "I plan on practicing another 20 years, and I like to stay busy," he says. "I also believe in being an active part of the community. I'm looking forward to getting out and meeting people."

A native of Pensacola, Dr. Matthews earned his medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, FL, in 1982 and performed his internship and residency in Family Medicine at the University of South Alabama Medical Center in Mobile. After completing his residency in 1985, Dr. Matthews has practiced in the Gulf Breeze community.

A member of the medical staff of Gulf Breeze Hospital, a 65-bed hospital owned by Baptist Health Care (based in Pensacola), Dr. Matthews served as Chief of Medicine from 1999-2000 and on the hospital's executive committee from 1999-2001. Most recently (in 2008) he served as assistant Chief of Staff, before deciding to join the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

He also has other leadership experience, serving on the board of trustees and numerous committees for West Florida Regional Medical Center in the early 1990s. During his career, he has also served on hospital committees on cancer, women's health, family practice, physician recruitment, physician certification, quality assurance, health care leadership, pharmacy and therapeutics, and others.

He and his wife Catherine have been married for 32 years and have three grown children.

• COACH'S CORNER •

We are all witnesses

I ran upon an interesting discussion in an online forum the other day, and it was questioning whether or not LeBron James should be compared to Michael Jordan.

This discussion piqued my curiosity, mainly because I tend to favor the historical greatness over current greatness due to my historical nature. However, as I read the case for both players, poured through the statistics and thought for myself, I came to the conclusion that there is really no comparison for a guy like LeBron James.

Let me be clear on one thing before delving into some statistics. By stating that there is no comparison to LeBron, I am not saying that he is better than Jordan at this stage in his career. Jordan, Wilt Chamberlain, Bill Russell, Oscar Robertson and the like are unable to be compared because they played in different eras with different teams and different styles.

Wilt was a giant amongst men during his era... Robertson was the first "big guard" and these players defined new positions and were unique to their time periods.

Russell and Jordan were two of the greatest winners of all time, and were fortunate enough to be surrounded with great talent that allowed them to win numerous championships.

In looking at LeBron, he certainly has the athleticism and ability to redefine "position" in the same way that Chamberlain, Magic Johnson and Oscar Robertson did before him.

At 6'9" and over 260 lbs, James outweighs most NFL defensive ends and plays with a physicality that is unmatched by other guards around the league. By the way, think LeBron is simply a brute who overwhelms people with size? Not so, as James also has tremendous speed to go along with his size, and regularly beats all comers in races at Cavalier practices.

James is also not simply a scorer, but he is a terrific and willing passer, and has averaged 8 assists a game on the year. James has dominated the playoffs at this point, and will have a chance to win his first title at the age of 24.

Speaking of titles, one thing that LeBron will have to have to approach the standards set by Jordan and Russell is a better supporting cast.

Whereas Russell had Bob Cousy and John Havlicek and Jordan had Scottie Pippen and Horace Grant, James has no



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

one in that class alongside him (although Mo Williams has developed into a reliable second scorer.)

In this era of free agency and big contracts, it is inconceivable that James will be able to have the type of dynasty that the Celtics or the Bulls had during those respective eras. However, if James can manage to carve out a

legacy for himself with a title this year, he may be able to convince a top level free agent (and himself, for that matter) that the Cavs can create a Chicago/Boston-type dynasty that would allow James to have the same type of success enjoyed by Michael Jordan.

Regardless of where you stand in the LeBron/Jordan debate, one thing is clear. James is playing at a level this postseason that elevates him into the Jordan stratosphere. What will truly define LeBron's career is whether or not he can continue to improve his game with the passion that Jordan did throughout his years as a Chicago Bull.

If LeBron continues to grow, his assault on Jordan's legacy as the G.O.A.T. will continue to be taken more and more seriously.

... PARK continued from page 1

ble the existing available area for stormwater management under the current scenario, said JP Johns with McGill and Associates.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix recommended McGill's plan saying the more water that could be detained, the more efficient the system and the more potential to clean water on its way to impaired Mill Creek.

However, the Rain Tank system's immense stormwater capacity it is not designed to support heavy loads from traffic, or vehicles like firetrucks, oversized RVs or tractor-trailer trucks and that's one reason Pine Street would have to be closed.

But at Wednesday night's Town Board meeting, public outcry caused the board to unanimously vote to table the plan and reconsider keeping Pine Street intact while utilizing some of the stormwater retention and water purifying methods proposed under the current green area, instead.

Under that scenario, the current park area would offer 8,740 sq. ft. for the underground detention system -- enough to somewhat help the stormwater flooding problem, said Johns.

• See PARK page 20

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Board-certified in Family Medicine and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, Dr. Richard Matthews has 24 years experience in family practice in Gulf Breeze, FL. Now he is bringing his training and experience to Highlands, beginning June 1.

A native of Pensacola, Dr. Matthews earned his medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, FL, in 1982 and performed his internship and residency in Family Medicine at the University of South Alabama Medical Center in Mobile.

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Highlands Little League Teams Yankees – T-Ball Team



(Back Row) John Underwood, Jelehna McKim, Anne Marie Moore, Elias McKim, Dillon Schmitt, William Creswell. (Front Row) Timmy Bronaugh, George Underwood, Chase Armundrud, Brent Sleight.

Highlands Little League Baseball Schedule

May 14	6pm	7/8 Twins vs Yankees
May 15	6pm	9/10 A's vs Red Sox
	2pm	9/10 Twins vs Blue Jays
	2pm	9/10 A's vs Indians
	4pm	11/12 Twins vs Rockies
May 28	6pm	7/8 Twins vs Marlins
May 29	6pm	9/10 A's vs Dodgers
May 30	10am	7/8 Twins vs Dodgers
	12pm	9/10 Twins vs Indians
	2pm	11/12 Twins vs Brewers
May 31	2pm	9/10 Twins vs Red Sox
June 4	6pm	9/10 A's vs Twins
June 6	10am	9/10 A's vs Cardinals

All games are at the Zachary Park on Buck Creek Road and are subject to change due to weather.

• The other four Little League team photos will be in next week's paper.

Braves T-Ball Team

(Back Row) Debbie Moss, Ryan Neil, Brandon Moss, Will Chastain, Nathan Thompson. (Front Row) Noah Vroon, Stephanie Barnes, Cullen Joiner. Not Pictured: Logan Roddy, Anna Green

Red Sox T-Ball Team

(Back Row) Drew Rooney, Elijah Kennedy, Camren Dalton, Jeslyn Head, Pablo Jimenez. (Front Row) Daniel O'Conner, Lawson Shuler. Not Pictured: Cannon Rooney, Kadence Ramey, Turner Edgens



... FURLOUGHS continued from page 1

istrative staff.

Furthermore, excitement about new programs and positions in the school system funded by federal stimulus dollars has dwindled as the state calls for further reductions.

Instead of using its \$700,000 in Title I federal stimulus funds for new facilitator positions, the board agreed to hold on to the money – both the \$350,000 allocated in April and the balance \$350,000 it is set to receive in October – in case the state withholds more funding over the next two years.

Now considered more “stabilization rather than stimulus funds” the board decided to concentrate keeping the programs and teachers now on staff in the system.

“It’s important that we sustain our current level of staffing and services,” said Superintendent Dan Brigman. “We need to spread the money out or we may not be able to sustain jobs.”

The state has also requested another fund reversion of \$123,000 to be sent back from non-instructional support, custodial and clerical services.

“We don’t have that much money left because that money was already frozen by the state last month,” said Waldroop. “But they said since it’s frozen, we can move it into the reversion fund and send it back.” She said that way the school system won’t “feel” the loss.

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

For a long time the Republican Party has been devoted to the interests of business and the rich. Consistently Republicans take positions in favor of business owners and against the interests of the working people; for the wealthy and against the poor. If you question this, you only need to look at Republican leaders' opposition to the credit card reform legislation currently moving through Congress.

The Credit Cardholders Bill of Rights would curb the ability of card issuers to raise interest rates retroactively and would require them to reduce

hidden fees and penalties. The measure passed the House with a bipartisan vote of 357 to 70 because Republican members realize they would have a lot of trouble defending a "no" vote to their constituencies. This is a rare example of the Republicans breaking ranks with their leadership.

Deer hunting with Jesus

If the Republican Party does not represent the interests of working people, why have so many working-class people voted Republican in the last 30 years? Several books have been written by liberals trying to answer this question, including *What's the Matter with Kansas?* and *Deer Hunting with Jesus: Dispatches from America's Class War*.

Joe Bageant, the author of *Deer Hunting with Jesus* (2007), grew up in a working-class family in a working-class town in Virginia, and after a few decades on the West coast returned home, a far-left liberal encountering the strangely conservative politics of today's working class. This book is an attempt by Mr. Bageant to understand his neighbors' point of view and to guide the Democratic Party as to how to reach these people.

Conservatives have successfully labeled liberals as "elites" out-of-touch with blue-collar workers. Mr. Bageant examines a number of issues, such as religion and the right to own a gun, about which liberals seem completely clueless. Last spring, Barack Obama expressed what many liberals think when he famously said to a California audience, "You go into some of these small towns in Pennsylvania, and like a lot of small towns in the Midwest, the jobs have been gone now for 25 years and nothing's replaced them. ...And it's not surprising then they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations."

Mr. Bageant is particularly passionate in the area of guns. He advises the Democratic Party to understand the important place that guns have in rural traditions, and that many of the statistics used to advocate gun control are overblown scare tactics. He cites research that shows that municipalities that allow concealed weapons have seen a drop in crime — muggers think twice about attacking someone who might have a gun in her purse — and accidental shootings are rare.

The liberals need to learn more about the working-class perspective to be able to reach them, but working people need to wake up to the true state of this country. Unfortunately, most of these people have had such a poor education they do not have the skills to interpret the conflicting political messages they hear.

Perhaps more than anything else *Deer Hunting for Jesus* is a plea for better education. Mr. Bageant quotes statistics from the National Institute for Literacy that estimate that about half of all American adults range from minimally literate to functionally illiterate. "Of these, 17 to 20 percent can read just a little. That means they cannot fill out job applications, understand food labels, or read simple stories to their children. Another 25 percent can read, but not well enough to follow five consecutive paragraphs of text or dense documents such as sales contracts."

In other words, these people are unable to



Katie Brugger

k-brugger@hotmail.com

analyze information; instead they just digest what they hear on TV or radio. "Functional illiterates cannot separate the news from an advertisement or an infomercial." Or from propaganda: FOX News is fair and balanced, right?

Functional illiterates also have trouble with complexity. They like their stories simple, without need for analysis. Good and evil. Right and wrong. Love it or leave it. Or as a bumper sticker my husband

saw once said: "The Bible says it. I believe it. That settles it." Or as President George W. Bush said, "I don't do nuance."

But life is full of nuance and complexity. For example, after 9/11 Iran cooperated with the United States, helping our military target the Taliban in Afghanistan. They were an ally for a brief moment, then a few months later President Bush labeled them part of the "axis of evil." During his administration U.S. foreign policy was black and white — you're either with us or against us — but even though Iran had worked with us they were labeled the "enemy." A more nuanced foreign policy recognizes the complexities of national interests and would have nurtured the fragile opening that 9/11 had opened in Iranian-U.S. relations. But this kind of nuanced policy is more difficult to explain to those without the intellectual skills to understand the many conflicting issues involved.

The United States has a strong anti-intellectual strain. A favorite example of mine is the success of such films as "Dumb and Dumber." Conservatives have turned this trait to their advantage and stigmatized liberals as "intellectuals." As Thomas Frank writes in *What's Wrong with Kansas?*, "The enemy of the plain people, of good ol' red-state America, is intellectuals. They are the haughty liberal elite under whose tyranny 'Middle America' suffers." These liberal elite are the professors at the universities, reporters and editors at the mainstream media, and scientists preaching evolution and global warming.

Research has shown that education tends to make people more liberal. People with a high-school education are much more likely to be conservative than those with a college degree.

Mr. Bageant asserts that there is a sector of society who have an interest in maintaining a low level of education (and not just to keep the workers voting for conservatives): "The lives and intellectual cultures of these, the hardest-working people, are not just stunted by the smallness of the society into which they were born. They are purposefully held in bondage by a local network of moneyed families, bankers, developers, lawyers, and businesspeople in whose interest it is to have a cheap, unquestioning, and compliant labor force paying high rents and big medical bills. They invest in developing such a labor force by not investing (how's that for making money out of thin air!) in the education and quality of life for anyone but their own."

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

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• A REVIEW •

Neil Simon's 'Rumors' performed by HCP



Claire Simpson, as Chris Gorman and David Spivey as her husband Ken.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

The fun thing about community theater is seeing people you know on stage. Some are seasoned community theater performers, others are new to the stage but with careful direction, somehow a plausible play is produced.

'Rumors' now on stage at PAC is a mad-cap romp involving five couples – four you actually see on stage and one you don't.

True to Simon's style, each couple's marital problems with signature modes of communication are enacted. Though sometimes disturbing and unsettling, remember it is a comedy and shouldn't be taken too seriously.

It's awhile in coming, but the ending of this mad-cap series of mis-events, is the very best part. Every character comes on stage toward the end of the second act and that's when the whole thing comes together and some really fun acting takes place.

HCP old-timers Katie Cochran, David Spivey, and Colin Long as well as new "regulars" Rick Siegel, Marsha Shmalo and Linsey Wisdom all deliver their parts well and as expected, while newcomers to the stage, Clair Simpson, Robin Phillips, Hilton Fuller and Rich Harrison are a delight in their newfound abilities.

Due to the required comedic timing, the depiction of critical couple-relationships and the back and forth and up and down and in and out staging necessary to pull this show off, Director Donna Cochran really had her hands full.

Rumors continues Friday and Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center.

For those who need a little help hearing what's happening on stage, HCP now has 15 amplifiers for use during productions. They represent at \$4,500 investment by the company and can be picked up in the lobby.

– Kim Lewicki

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going Events

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

- Registration is now open for the 2009 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered. Call 828-526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

Sundays

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

Mon. & Wed.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

First Mondays

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

Mondays

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

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

Tuesdays

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

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

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

Wednesdays

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

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

• See EVENTS page 16

Arts & Crafts in the park May 23



Basket-maker Tom Ruffin shows a customer how it's done. Tom also makes beautiful Nantucket baskets. He and other regional artisans will be featured at the Village Square Art & Craft Show in Highlands' Kelsey-Hutchinson Park (Pine Street Park) Memorial Day weekend, May 23 & 24th from 10 to 5.

Sponsored in part by WHLC 104.5

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present

Rumors

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Directed by
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Wednesdays & Fridays

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

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.

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

2nd & 4th Fridays

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

Fri.-Sun., May 14-17

• "Rumors" at the PAC. Due to language and themes, it is appropriate for mature audience only. For tickets, call the box office at 828-526-8084 or visit online at www.highlandscashiersplayers.org.

Thursday, May 14

• Nick's Fine Foods is hosting a dinner at 6 p.m. to benefit The Bosnian Community Farm Initiative which is helping to rebuild lives in war-torn Bosnia. Tickets will be \$50 per plate, and as always, Nick's will provide a choice of delicious entrees accompaniments. Non-alcoholic beverages are included, and a cash bar will be available. For more information, please contact Patty or Dori at 526-2706.

• Paul Carlson, Executive Director of the Franklin-based Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT), will speak about the past decade of accomplishments of LTLT and the Land Trust's strategic planning as it enters its second decade of service to Macon and surrounding counties. The program is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Macon County and will be held at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. Lunch is available at noon, by reservation. Call 524-5192 or email maethlarry@aol.com. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

• Highlands School final PTO meeting of the year next is at 6 p.m. in the old gym.

Friday, May 15

• The public is invited to attend the dedication of Harris Lake Park to the Edwards Family is Friday at 4 p.m. Mayor Don Mullen will also unveil the portal to the entrance of the park at the corner of Smallwood and 5th Street. Refreshments will be served and music to be provided by bagpiper, Jean Hayes of Franklin.

• High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building on route 441 from 7-9:00 p.m. Clyde Couch from Cassville, GA will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-349-4187, 706-782-0943.

Saturday, May 16

• 2009 Relay for Life kicks off at Helen's Barn parking lot at 8 a.m. Clogging, door prizes, a hearty breakfast, and more will officially jump start this year's efforts to raise money for the fight against cancer. Fressers Owner/Chef Debbie Grossman will be cooking French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage patties, grits, home fries, biscuits, sausage gravy, orange juice, and hot chocolate or coffee. Breakfast is free, but donations to Relay are requested. Opening remarks, music, the clogging will follow, beginning about 9 a.m. A whole host of door and raffle prizes will be given away, including a rod and reel, children's rod and reels, an afghan, wine, a polo shirt/visor combo, and a dozen other items. Signal Ridge Marina, J. Lohr Wines and the American Cancer Society are kicking in many of raffle and door prizes, but more items from other area merchants are still coming in. While anyone participating or heading up a Relay teams is especially encouraged to attend, everyone is welcome.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2.5 mile strenuous hike, that is more a climb than a hike, along the south face of Whiteside Mtn. for awesome views of the cove below and spectacular rock formations above. Call Leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• The next Highlands Plateau Greenway work trip at 10 a.m. will continue side hill trail work on the lower portion of the new loop. If you are interested in participating please register with Hillrie Quin at 526-2385 or hmquin@verizon.net. Meet at the large parking lot behind the Rec Park at 10 a.m. for a brief orientation session and then walk to the trail sections for construction. Participants will be furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment. Participants should bring water, lunch, rain gear, a day pack to hold everything. Boots and clothes that can get dirty are advised. Please let us know how we can make these trips better for you.

Sunday, May 17

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile easy hike on an old railroad bed and woodland trail in Terrora Park at Tallulah Falls in GA. Call Kay Coriell at 369-6820 for reservations.

HCP's 'Rumors' continues Fri. - Sun.



The Highlands-Cashiers Players try their hand at Neil Simon's "Rumors" on stage at the Performing Art Center on Chestnut Street, Thursday-Sunday of this week and Fri-Sun of next week. Watch for familiar faces and newcomers to the HCP stage. Due to language and themes, it is appropriate for mature audience only. For ticket information call the box office at 828-526-8084 or visit online at www.highlandscashiersplayers.org.

Rumors abound

Following last Thursday's opening performance of the Highlands Cashiers Players' production of "Rumors" theatergoers enjoyed a reception catered by Wolfgang's. In between bites, audience members were heard to comment: "Everybody did such a good job!...Colin was terrific! Has he studied professionally?...Wasn't the show hilarious?...I hear Clair hasn't been on stage since high school. She was wonderful - so poised and expressive...I've never laughed so much!...I just loved seeing Katie and Marsha on stage. They always do a good job. And they always look mighty fine too...Are Robin and Hilton new? They were funny! Did you notice those expressions on Robin's face? Priceless!...And he has a beautiful voice...I've never seen that guy who played the police officer before, but he's good...really knows what he's doing. I think his name is Rich. Linsey was good as the other officer too, wasn't she? Did you check out the looks on her face when she listened to that wild tale at the end? Really cracked me up!...And Rick, oh my goodness, how funny was he? He deserved that standing ovation at the end, didn't he?...David's always been one of my favorite performers, but I didn't realize he was such a good comedian. I chuckle every time I think of the way he said: "Hah-vad Law School". And what about those blank expressions when he couldn't hear what was happening!? Hilarious!...I was laughing so hard I didn't think of the economy even once....I'm going to try to see it again."

Are these comments true, or are they just rumors being spread around town? To determine for yourself, get tickets for one of the remaining performances, May 14-17. Evening performances begin at 7:30 and the Sunday matinee begins at 2:30. Tickets may be obtained at the HCP box office: 828.526.8084. Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC Because of language and content, this Neil Simon play is for mature audiences only.

Sacred concert at First Presbyterian



WCU and First Presbyterian Church of Highlands will co-sponsor a faculty showcase concert at 4 p.m., Sunday, May 17 in the sanctuary. The public is invited to attend this free concert that will last about an hour.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Monday, May 18

• The Mirror Lake Improvement Association will meet at 6 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center.

Wednesday, May 20

• An American Red Cross Adult and Child CPR/AED plus Infant CPR course will be conducted by the Macon County Public Health Center. The course will be held on Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 pm at the Macon County Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Drive. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay at the Macon County Public Health Center before Monday, May 18. Call Jennifer at 349-2439.

Thursday, May 21

• The movie, "Flash of Genius," is based on the true story of a California professor and part-time inventor's long battle with the US automobile industry which he believed stole his idea for the intermittent windshield wiper. The film stars Greg Kinnear and Lauren Graham at 3 p. m. in the Cashiers library. The movies and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated.

• Macon County Democratic Women will have a bake sale in front of the Macon County Courthouse beginning at 9 a.m. Anyone wishing to donate a baked item, please have it there by 8 a.m. or as early as possible.

Collective Spirits a true feast for the senses with food by 12 local chefs



Exquisite fare by 12 local chefs will be a signature part of the Collective Spirits wine festival, with all food designed to complement the more than 100 domestic and international wines being poured.

Held Friday and Saturday, May 29 and 30, Collective Spirits is the first event at The Bascom's stunning new six-acre campus, and all proceeds raise money for the nonprofit visual arts center.

A two-day event, Collective Spirits includes on Friday night a grand wine tasting, grazing dinner, silent auction, live instrumental music and wine raffle, and on Saturday night a gala seated dinner, followed by a live auction of exceptional wines and special wine-related items.

Chefs participating in the Friday night grazing dinner include Nicholas Figel, Cyprus; Matt Thole, Highlands Smokehouse; Holly Roberts, The Kitchen CarryAway & Catering; Marty Rosenfield, Lakeside Restaurant; Matt Thole, Log Cabin Restaurant; Johannes Klapdohr, Madison's Restaurant; Dusty Cope, Inn at Millstone; Rob McCarthy, Oak Street Café; Andrew Figel, ... on the Verandah; Tim Lundy, Rosewood Market; Mitch Sheppard, Ruka's Table; and Wolfgang Green, Wolfgang's Restaurant & Wine Bistro.

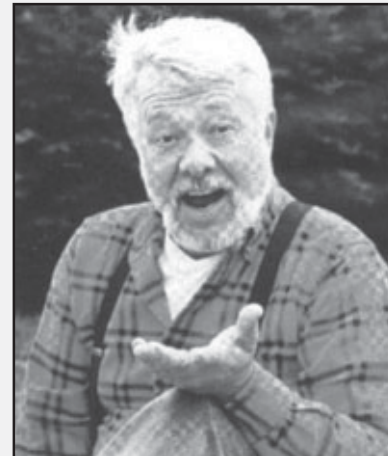
For the Saturday evening Wine Gala, Tim Lundy and his staff from Distinctive Design Events and Rosewood Market will provide gourmet fare for a seated dinner on The Bascom's new terrace. A live auction conducted by Atlanta's Jim Landon will follow.

"Between the delicious food and the eclectic collection of fine wines, Collective Spirits is sure to be a feast of the senses in every way," said Donna Woods, The Bascom's events director. "Please come, support the local chefs, enjoy the wine and know your celebration is helping The Bascom."

Tickets for the wine festival are on sale now at www.collectivespirits.com or (828) 526-4949. Prices start at \$100.

Bank of New York-Mellon is the presenting sponsor. Old Edwards Inn & Spa is the premier hospitality sponsor. Other corporate sponsors are First Citizens Bank, Harry Norman Realtors/Pat Allen and Bert Mobley, brokers; Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop; The Laurel magazine; and WNC magazine. Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop is the official wine retailer of the event.

Storytellers coming to PAC



Gary Carden

The Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center announces a series of storytelling programs, starting with humorous folklorist Gary Carden. Carden will share the stage with Sheila Kay Adams on May 23.

On June 11, Elizabeth Westall will be featured in a one-woman show, "Nance Dude," which was written by Gary Carden. June 20 Marilyn McMinn McCreadie and Lloyd Arneach will present "Traditional Appalachian and Cherokee Legends."

On July 2 naturalist and humorist Doug Elliott will be featured in a program titled "Woodlore and Wildwoods Wisdom." And finally on September 17, Marvin Cole who looks enough like Mark Twain to be his brother will present "River Dinner with Mark Twain."

All the storytelling events will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available now at \$15 each for any of the programs. Tickets may be charged by phone at 526-9047, or may be bought online at www.highlandperformingartscenter.org. Hearing assistance is available at each event on a first-come, first-served basis.



Sheila Kay Adams

Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin, NC
524-3076

May 15-21

ANGELS & DEMONS

rated PG-13

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

STAR TREK

rated PG-13

Mon - Friday: (4:20), 7, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:20), 7, 9:20

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE

rated PG-13

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

GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST

rated PG-13

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

TERMINATOR: SALVATION

rated PG-13

Starts Thursday May 21
Thurs: (4:30), 7, 9:30



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

May 23

2 to 4 pm

Jack Riggs

The Fireman's Wife

June 9

1-3 p.m.

Matthew Eberz

Honor for Sale

June 24

1-3 p.m.

Mary Kay Andrews

The Fixer Upper

TBA

Cassandra King

(untitled - Set in Highlands)

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MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY in Highlands is hiring for a full time position in our produce department. Must be able to lift 40 to 50 pound crates. Email jobs@MGro.com or call 828.526.2400

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HOUSEKEEPER: Happy person who loves clean homes needed in Sapphire Valley once per week May through October. 561 706-7555. 4/30

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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.

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.

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LOST – 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 828-301-3690, 526-1706 or cell: 828-301-3696.

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LOT #2 RIVER RIDGE DEVELOPMENT – water & house site already in. Fish Trout Creek or Tuck. \$14,900. Call Carolina Realty at 828-586-0293. 5/7

3-BEDROOM, 2 1/2 BATH. New paint inside and out. New carpet. Below Appraisal. \$199,000. Cashiers Area. Call 743-1107 or 371-1609. 4/30

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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)

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GARAGE APT. FULLY FURNISHED IN LAUREL FALLS – close to hospital and downtown. \$475 a month plus utilities. Call 828-767-2423. Available June 15. (st. 5/7)

HOUSE FOR RENT – Scaly Mountain, 2-bed, 2bath cabin rent is \$800. Call 423-715-7757. (6/4)

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

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James "Popcorn" Manley
Owner/Operator
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... PARK continued from page 11

About 45 people turned out to discuss the proposed plan -- with the majority of people opposed to the idea.

Most everyone spoke about the importance of keeping Pine Street intact as a bypass to Main Street and for its parking which is sorely needed by employees and potential clients.

"You've spent thousands of dollars to figure out how to deal with parking and now you want to turn around and do away with 45 parking spaces," said Ashley Walker. "It just doesn't make any sense."

Sharon Anderson agreed. "For five or six years the town has had a 'parking war' because of parking problems so it boggles my mind that you would get rid of Pine Street parking," she said.

Arthur Paoletti said the idea of routing traffic down Oak Street wasn't feasible at all. "You already have a problem on Oak Street. It's an amazing mess," he said.

If Pine Street were relocated to the western side of the park along the backside of the Village Square shops as suggested prior to this final design -- the current paved area could be reclaimed for the park but the available underground area for retention would only be 7,036 sq. feet.

Several items bothered park-area businesses and citizens who say they weren't considered or included in recent discussions about the park.

"It really ticks me off that you didn't bother to contact us," said Cynthia Strain building and business owner in Village Square. "You say this new system can't support vehicles which will make unloading for the craft shows I'm involved with difficult as well as erecting event tents."

Town Manager Jim Fatland admits that the new park scenario would eliminate parking spaces in the Fifth, Fourth, and Pine Street

vicinity but according to the Wilbur Smith Parking Study completed last year, the available spaces in the vicinity were under-utilized during the peak tourist season of 2008.

Currently, on Pine Street there are 49 angled spots; and on Fifth Street, 4 parallel parking spots for a total of 53 park-vicinity spots.

According to the parking study of spaces near the park on Pine, Fifth and Fourth streets which were used during the 2008 tourist season -- a total for 124 spaces -- 78 spaces were vacant between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.; 42 were vacant between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. and 49 were vacant between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

When the proposed scenario was compared to that study including the elimination of 35 spaces between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. there would be 48 vacant spots; between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. there would be 7 vacant spots and between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. there would be 14 vacant spots.

"I don't know who did the parking study, but I've watched from my kitchen window in Village Square when every parking space on Pine Street is taken on Sunday mornings and every afternoon UPS trucks on load there. RV owners pull in and unhook their cars. The street is used all day everyday so your survey is just wrong," said Gale Knorr.

Father Dean Cesa of Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church said his church relies heavily on Pine Street parking and is sure Sunday morning parking needs weren't included in the parking survey. "We don't have enough parking now, so losing Pine Street parking will make things even worse," he said.

Even the real reason for closing Pine Street was questioned. "Is it already an assumption that Pine Street will be closed? I mean is it a foregone conclusion that this needs to be done for drainage or is it just an excuse to close the street for a park?" asked David Wilkes.

Chuck Cooper suggested making better use of the Rec Park's 30 acres rather than using only four acres as is now the case. "You could make a real public park with a playground everyone could use and even a pavilion," he said. "Pine Street is important to the churches, the business owners and if nothing else its the widest street in town which means it can handle vehicles other streets can't."

John Cleaveland said closing Pine Street was a terrible idea for the town. "You'll lose parking, you lose a pass through and Oak Street isn't wide enough for a wagon. You won't be able to replace the lost parking spaces so nearby residential areas will be impacted. The people have spoken and they don't want Pine Street closed," he said.

Ralph Stevens, owner of Jolies, said rather than preparing for a 25-year storm event, the board should be more concerned with the day-to-day lives of the people and businesses of Highlands.

The cost of the total project was estimated between \$400,000 and \$500,000 with half that to be paid by stimulus funds or Clean

• See PARK page z1

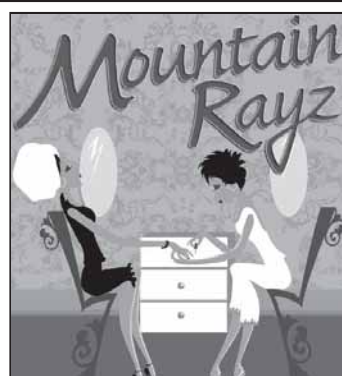
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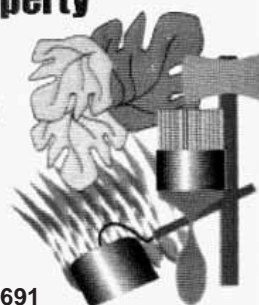
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• POLICE & FIRE •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from April 30. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 30

- At 6:34 p.m., Officers responded to a call for service concerning an open door at a place of business on Oak Street. It was left open by workers.

May 1

- At 6:52 p.m., officers responded to a "life-line" activation from a resident on Dogwood Drive. The resident was OK.

May 4

- At 3 p.m., Farmer's Market reported receiving a counterfeit \$20 bill.

May 5

- At 5:54 p.m., officers responded to a call of disorderly conduct at the ballfield on Hickory Road where a youth was yelling profanity at the other team.

- At 10 p.m., officers made a routine check of the grounds of the Highlands Civic Center.

May 8

- At 9 a.m., officers responded to a resident on Moorewood Drive to document damage to a rock gate by a paving truck. Damage is estimated at \$2,500.

- At 1:19 a.m., officers on patrol found an open door at a place of business on Main Street. It was secured.

May 9

- At 1:09 a.m., officers responded to a noise complaint at a residence on Trillium Circle. The residents were told to quiet down.

- At 1:49 a.m., officers were called to Wildcat Cliffs Country Club dorm residences about intoxicated underage people being allowed to drive home.

May 11

- At 11 a.m., a debit card was found on the floor of Rosenthal's and turned into police.

- At 3:05 p.m., Stacy Palmer Swofford, 39, of Highlands, was arrested for passing a worthless check. Her bond was set at \$750.

- During the week the officers issued 7 citations and responded to 5 alarms.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from May 5-12:

May 5

- The dept. responded to an alarm activation at a residence on Mt. Lori Drive. It was cancelled en route.

May 6

- The dept. responded to a fire and carbon monoxide alarm at a residence on Hickory Nut Gap Road. It was set off by lightning.

May 8

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

May 10

- The dept. responded to a vehicle accident on N.C. 106 South. There were no injuries.

May 11

- The dept. responded to an alarm at the Highlands Biological Station which was set off by workers.

... PARK continued from page 21

Water Trust Funds and the rest funded through a no-interest 20-year loan costing about \$9,000 a year.

The plan to route Pine Street along the back of Village Square from U.S. 64 to Fifth combined with stormwater remediation techniques would have cost \$370,000.

When Commissioner Hank Ross made the motion to table the latest idea and reconsider keeping Pine Street intact and using the current greenspace to remediate stormwater runoff and flooding, Fatland said McGill could draw up those plans at its original fee of \$28,000 and still meet the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) shovel-ready green deadline of June 3. He said that project would only cost \$220,000 because the road wouldn't have to be rerouted.

But Commissioner Amy Patterson said no. "You only want to do that to get the money and we need to decide the right thing to do. I personally think it's a good idea to consider our water quality and stormwater capacity and create more greenspace in town while trying to figure out a way to take care of the lost parking so we need to think about this more."

Since the board didn't make a decision Wednesday night, it's likely it will miss the required ARRA deadline and lose that funding option for stormwater remediation..

• FUN & GAMES •

Hex-a-Ku[©] 2009

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

OBJECT:

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

How to Solve:

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

Mystery Word: Frantic determination (6)

Across

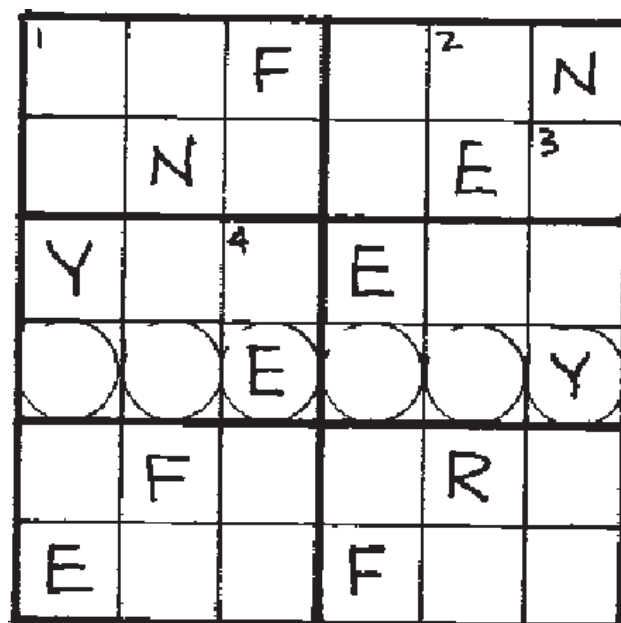
1. Umpire (3)

Down

2. You (Medieval) (2)

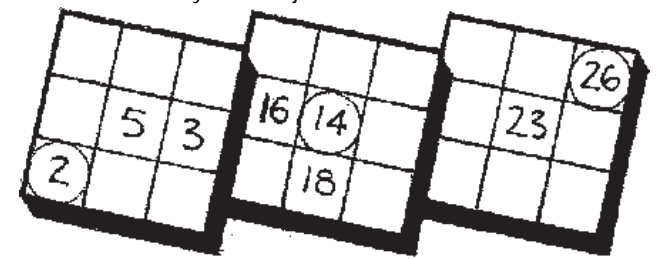
3. Sautee (3)

4. Pince___ (Fr.) (3)



PseudoCube[©]

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#BN3A Level of Difficulty - Moderate

THE SETUP:

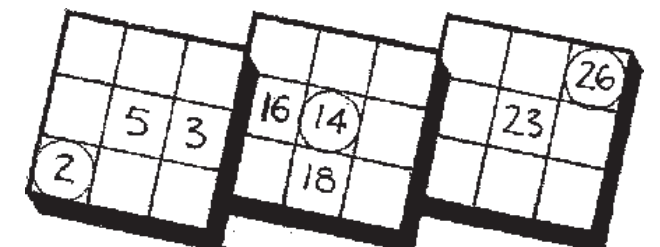
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

THE CHALLENGE:

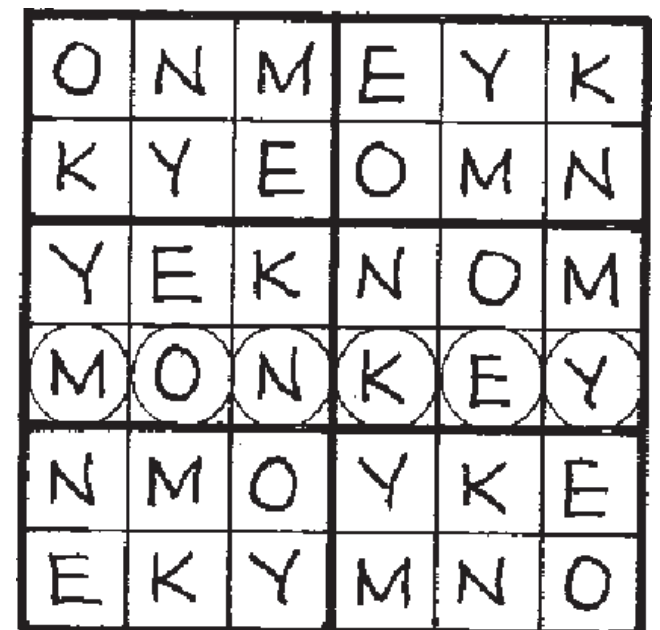
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

Solution to #AN3A in May 7 issue



Solution to May 7 Hex-a-Ku



Long-time 'Luncheon' volunteers Chastain, Barnes and Potts are 'retiring'



After 28 years of service at the Senior Citizens' Luncheon, Ann Chastain and Barbara Barnes are hanging up their aprons and Sue Potts, who has been decorating the tables for 10 years, is turning in her clippers. Julie McCall has volunteered to head up the Senior Citizens Luncheon which means buying the groceries and preparing the food.

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SOCCER •

Highlands beats Murphy



Senior Marisol Ruiz, who has played volleyball, was a cheerleader and plays soccer helped Highlands beat Murphy 5-2 last week. Soccer playoffs were Wednesday, May 6. A complete write-up will be in next week's paper.

Photo by Noel Atherton

Upcoming School Events

May 26

Athletic Banquet, 6 p.m. at the Rec Park

May 28

Dinner for HS Seniors and Parents, 5:30 p.m. at HUMC

June 1

MS Athletic Banquet, 6 p.m. at the Community Building

June 2

Academic Banquet, 6 p.m., at PAC

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• BIZ NEWS •

Rotary supports elementary school teachers



The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary club recently presented a check to Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter and second grade teacher Melanie Miller. The check helped purchase printer ink cartridges for the elementary school teachers. The elementary school teachers are responsible for buying their own ink cartridges for use in the classroom and since hundreds of sheets are printed each week for classroom use, the costs can add up. Mrs. Miller said that this check would allow each elementary teacher to purchase three printer cartridges each. The two fifth grade classes taught by Mrs. Archer and Mrs. Hedden used their portion of the check towards the annual fifth grade class trip to Charleston, SC. The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets every Wednesday morning at 7:30 at the Highlands Community Center. Visitors are welcome. Pictured from left, Teacher Melanie Miller, Rotarian Victoria Ingate and Principal Brian Jetter.

Rotary bingo goes to C-H Humane Society



At the May "Dogs and Cats" Bingo game, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Highlands, all net proceeds were donated to the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society. Boy Scouts Carter Potts, left, and Taylor Schmitt, whose troop assists with refreshments, are shown with Buddy, a CHHS rescue dog previously adopted by Rotarian Bill Nellis. Thomas Craig won \$150 in the final Super Bingo game.



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To Franklin Hwy 64W & 28N

Cullasaja Falls
Gem Mine
Bust Your Butt Falls

Cliffs Lake & Campground
Bridal Veil
Dry Falls
The Farm
Glen Falls
Scaly Mtn
Fire Mtn
Sky Valley Resort

Lake Glenville
Whiteside Mtn.
Cashiers
Sapphire Valley
Whitewater Falls
Home Place Blinds
Rapid Soilder
Sapphire Valley
Whitewater Falls
Whiteside < Cove Rd.

HOSPITAL
Wildcat Cliffs
Cullasaja Club
Community Bible
Highlands Falls
Sliding Rock
Sliding Rock
Giant Poplar
Hwy 28s
Chattooga Iron Bridge

14 Miles From Highlands

Cashiers Hwy. 64e 10 Miles

TWIGS 24

Chandler Inn 1

Community Center &

FOREMAN RD.

Hwy 107s

Whole Health Market

Rec. Park Pool & Tennis Greenway Trail

Performing Arts Center

Community Players H / C Music Festival

LAUREL ST.

Fibber Magee's

Mt Findings

SPRUCE ST.

Brick Oven MovieStop

Rainy Day Golf

Wayah

Wild Thyme

Chambers Vacation Rentals

I Love Highlands

An Official Bird Sanctuary

Episcopal Library

Nature Ctr

Presbyterian

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Wine & Cheese

Creative Concepts

Wolfgang's

Highlands School K-12

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Cleaners

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SOUTH ST.

4TH ST.

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MAIN ST.

OAK ST.

MAPLE ST.

Highway 64 E. (CASHIERS RD.)

ATM

Macon Bank

ATM

CK Swan Antiques

Mill Creek Gallery

Highlands Inn

Drug Store

Old Edwards Inn & Spa

Acorns

Pescado's

Ice Cream

Pizza Place

Town Sq

Methodist

Main St Inn

Oak St Cafe

Bear Mt Outfitters

EMS

PlayHouse

Rest Rooms Public Parking

Town Hall

Reeves Ace

Drug Store

Hardware

REST ROOMS Visitors Ctr.

Newspaper

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Mtn. High Lodge

Exxon

Nick's

Country Club Prop.

Ruka's Table Restaurant

Cimarron Builders

Helens Barn

Fressers

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DINING

- 1 Cafe 460
- 2 Don Leons
- 3 Fressers
- 4 Highlands Deli
- 5 Horacio's
- 6 Log Cabin
- 7 Madison's
- 8 Nick's
- 9 Oak St. Cafe
- 10 Paoletti's
- 11 Pescado's
- 12 Pizza Place
- 13 Rib Shack
- 14 Rooster's
- 15 Ruka's Table
- 16 Smoke House
- 17 SportsPage
- 18 Wild Thyme
- 19 Wolfgang's
- 20
- 21
- 22

LODGING

- 1 Chandler Inn
- 2 Fire Mountain
- 3 Half Mile Farm
- 4 Hampton Inn
- 5 Highlands Inn
- 6 Highlands Suites
- 7 Main St. Inn
- 8 Michell's Lodge
- 9 Mirror Lake
- 10 Mt High Lodge
- 11 Old Edwards Inn
- 12 The Lodge
- 13 Skyline Lodge
- 14 Chambers

REALTY

- 1 Buyer's Realty
- 2 Century 21
- 3 Chambers
- 4 Country Club Prop
- 5 Green Mtn.
- 6 John Schiffl

SHOPPING

- 1 Acorns
- 2 AnnaWear
- 3 Bear Mt. Outfitters
- 4 C.K. Swan
- 5 Christmas Shop
- 6 Cyrano's
- 7 Drakes Diamonds
- 8 Dry Sink
- 9 Dutchman's
- 10 Elephants Foot
- 11 Highlands Photo
- 12 House of Wong
- 13 Mill Creek Gallery
- 14 Needle Point
- 15 Peak Experience
- 16 Rarities
- 17 Scudders Antq.
- 18 Shiraz Rugs
- 19 Stone Lantern
- 20 Summit One Gallery
- 21 Summer House

MARKETS

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- 3 Mtn. Fresh
- 4 Whole Health

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- 4 Taylor Barnes
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- 6

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