

# Highlands' Newspaper

**FREE**

Volume 7, Number 19

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Thursday, May 7, 2009

FRI	SAT	SUN
70 / 53F	69 / 54F	68 / 50F

## This Week in Highlands

- Mondays**
- Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.
  - Mon., Wed., Fri.
  - Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50/mth.
- 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.
- Thurs.-Sun., May 7-10**
- Rumors can be seen at PAC. Due to language and themes, it is appropriate for mature audience only. For tickets, call 526-808.
- Thursday, May 7**
- "Cats and Dogs Bingo" Thursday, 6:30 - 8:30 at the Highlands Community Building.
  - The American Cancer Society Team Captain's meeting 5:30 p.m. on Level 1 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic at the hospital.
- Saturday, May 9**
- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society field trip to the Franklin Greenway to look for migrating birds. Call 787-1387.
- Monday, May 11**
- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a program on "Bird Banding" by Kirk Stodola at the Highlands Civic Center beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 12**
- The Highlands Nature Center will host an excursion to White Rock. Meet at the Highlands Nature Center, 9:30 a.m. Call 526-2602 for more information.
- Fri.-Sun., May 14-17**
- "Rumors" at PAC. Due to language and themes, it is appropriate for mature audience only. For tickets, call 526-8084.
- Thursday, May 14**
- Nick's Fine Foods is hosting a dinner at 6 p.m. to benefit The Bosnian Community Farm Initiative for war torn Bosnia. Tickets are \$50 per plate. Call Patty or Dori at 526-2706.

## NC has 7 confirmed cases of H1N1 Flu

Macon County Health Director Jim Bruckner reported that as of 4 p.m., Tuesday May 5, North Carolina now has seven laboratory confirmed cases of the H1N1 flu, or Swine Flu as it is commonly known.

The seven confirmed cases and one probable case in NC are located in Onslow County (2), Craven County (4), and Carteret County (1). A case in Wake County remains probable.

"Macon County public health officials are taking appropriate steps to safeguard the health of residents. This includes active surveillance and making preparations for the distribution of antiviral medication received from Strategic National Stockpile and other materials for fighting infectious disease, such as gloves and masks if needed," said Bruckner. The Macon County Public Health Center is participating in daily conference calls with state

public health officials to remain updated on the latest surveillance, testing, and treatment guidelines.

Macon County residents are encouraged to visit the county's website at [www.maconnc.org](http://www.maconnc.org) for links to information about the H1N1 flu and prevention guidelines. In addition, a toll-free number from the CDC, 1-800-CDC-INFO provides recorded informa-

• See SWINE FLU page 9

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## Stimulus funds spur talk at BOE

Board of Education members discussed the federal government's stimulus Title 1 and IDEA funds as they pertain to eight new proposed positions at the April 27 meeting, but how it will all pan out isn't yet known.

Evidently, additional Title 1 funds are headed for Macon County through the stimulus package, as are IDEA funds, but Title 1 funds come with lots of strings and that has the administrative staff concerned.

Board members discussed the life expectancy of the proposed eight teacher facilitator positions with board member Frieda Bennett adamant about maintaining them after the first stimulus allotment is in hand.

The eight positions will be new positions funded through federal revenue sources rather than state funds and Superintendent Dan Brigman would like them to be

• See STIMULUS page 9

## Irene 'Granny' James dies at 103



When someone's been around for 103 years -- a month shy of 104 -- you just don't expect them to ever go! But Irene Picklesimer James, who saw more change in her lifetime than most will ever see, died Saturday leaving a legacy of family, love and memories. See pages 2 and 3.

## Fire Dept. to get new ladder truck

Details were hammered out to finance the new ladder truck headed for Highlands and the garage to house it in, at the Town Board meeting Wednesday held at the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department.

Highlands Fire & Rescue is getting the truck for \$440,000 -- substantially lower than the list price -- because it is a demo -- and will use \$150,000 from its vehicle and building fund and a loan to purchase it.

The town has secured a loan for \$280,000 from RBC Centura at 3.09% for three years. The loan will offset the amount lacking and pay for the garage building, grading and foundation estimated at about \$53,000.

At its Monday night meeting, the Appearance Commission unanimously approved the temporary structure to house the ladder truck which will be erected between the EMS building and the current fire

• See LADDER page 9



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

Spring Sale Now in Progress



# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • FORUM •

### Memories survive



**Kim Lewicki**  
Publisher

We all know death is inevitable, but it's always a surprise when it comes. Whether someone is old, young, sick or seemingly healthy, we never really expect it.

This past week death hit Highlands hard and because of the intimacy of this community, it touched everyone.

Randy Raby, 42, a man in his prime, was struck down suddenly by heart disease – a disease he didn't even know he had.

A long-standing place at the grill has been vacated with the death of Joe Geoghagan, 66, known far and wide for his barbecue and his readiness to offer up a plate at local benefits.

Gibson McConnaughey, a resident at Chestnut Hill, will be sorely missed by her circle of friends and family.

And, the death of Irene Picklesimer James, 103, not only marks the end of a long life but closes a door to Highlands' past.

I met Irene when she was in her early-90s but because Irene never acted her age, she seemed like a spry 70-year-old to me.

A golf ball found by the USFS at the McCall cabin in Blue Valley – the last home of Irene's Aunt Albie, who also died at 103 – led me to Irene, her sister Almetta, their cousins Itta Owens, Doshie Wilson and subsequently their kin.

Each artifact ignited a memory in all of them that helped me paint a picture of life in old Highlands.

Because they opened their hearts and revealed their memories to me I was able to weave an award-winning NC Press Association historical feature series when I worked at The Highlander newspaper. For that I will always be grateful.

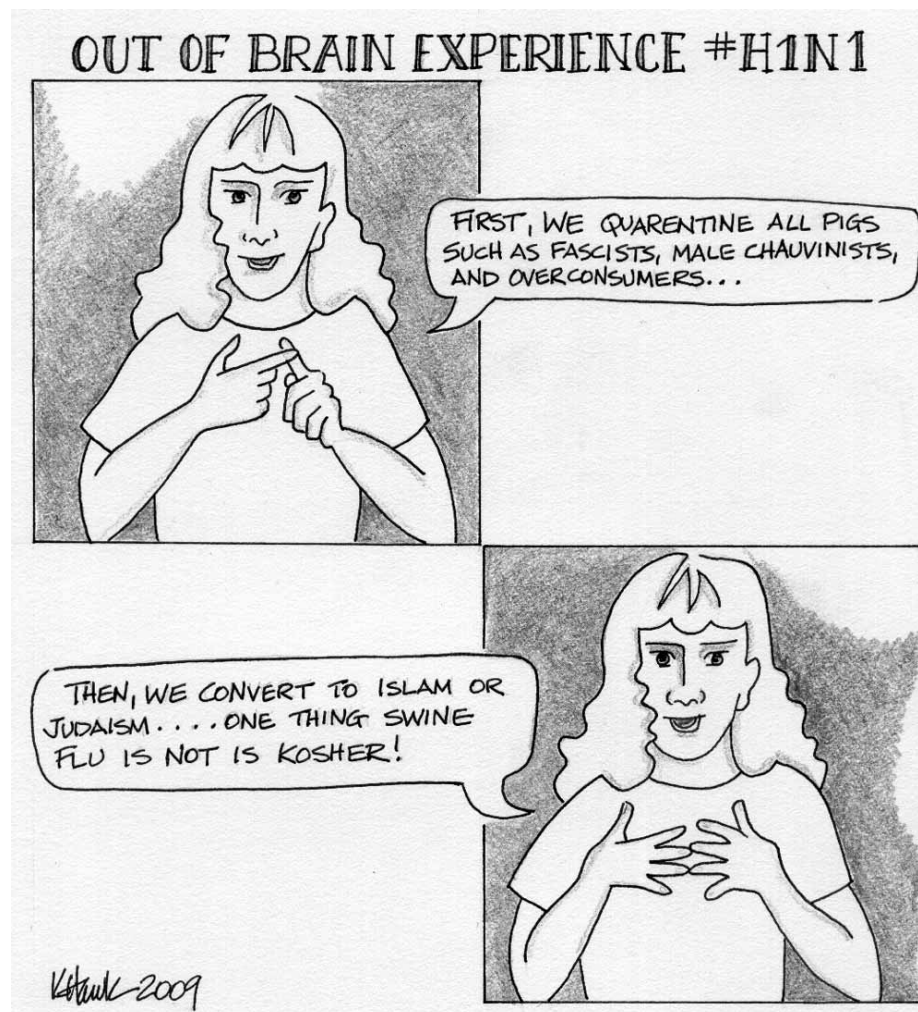
Though she was known as Granny to most, and her sister Almetta was known as Aunt Mett, to me it was always Irene and Mett – maybe because we related woman-to-woman and friends and not as kin.

I don't even know if Irene knew my last name. For 11 years it's always been "Kim from the paper."

When I'd go visit, I'd be warned of her failing eyesight, her poor hearing and her

•See FORUM page 17

## • HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



### LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

## Highlands' Newspaper

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## • LETTERS •

### Wake up, America!

Dear Editor,

I thought it might be interesting to bring to point a couple things to your reader's. Things I have already pointed out, but now are coming to light!

I had warned people that the fairness doctrine was floating around in the house so as to kill our freedom of speech and now the leftists are coming out about that! Telling us how it needs to be passed. But what they don't want you to know is what this bill entails. Like how it will affect the Christian radio, or any kind of conservative talk shows, etc.

But Christian Radio and conservative talk shows are the only fairness the conservatives receive because of the mainstream media!

I mean just look at the story about the homeless camp in California? A British news program proved that this was a false story made up by our own media! Propaganda! But I have said all along that this was coming. Now this president is moving to make a move on this through the back door so you can't see it coming, like he did with the private business invasion! Not that he would want you to know it but he had to do a 380 in the GITMO thing, now also because as I said before, other countries will not take these people, so now we keep GITMO open or we have these people in our country so they can form their cells, etc. People, wake up! If you do not, then we are about to lose all that made this country great! As John Quincy Adams said "Nip the shoots of arbitrary power in the bud, is the only maxim which can ever preserve the liberties of any people. So those who helped get the gentleman in there, should now stand to get the rascal out!"

The highest glory of the American Revolution was this; it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principle of Christianity making our nation the greatest of all nations and setting us apart from all other nations! But look at how it is now being destroyed right before your eyes, by taking the freedom of press away, thus holding knowledge from us and weakening our understanding of where our leaders are taking us!

There is one fact and that is that freedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under God is acknowledged. Ronald Reagan said this, and I believe that above all, we must realize that no arsenal or weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and mor-

•See LETTERS page 20

## Randy Raby



Randy Raby, 42, of Scaly Mountain, NC, died Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Born in Transylvania County, NC, October 1, 1966, he was the son of Bobby Joe Raby and Barbara Ann Watson. He was a rock and brick mason in the construction industry. He was a U.S. Army Veteran and a member of the Mount Sinai Assembly of God Church.

He is survived by his wife Carolyn Billingsley Raby of the home. His parents, Bobby Joe Raby of Franklin, NC, Barbara Ann of Highlands, NC; a son Christopher Allen Raby of Scaly Mountain, NC; a daughter Keri Ann Raby, of Scaly Mountain, NC; one granddaughter, Jaylin Brook Raby of Scaly Mountain, NC, two brothers, Mike Raby and Gary Raby both of Franklin, NC; two sisters, Sandra Raby James of Salem, SC; and Michelle Elliott of Otto, NC and one daughter-in-law, Janice Talley of Scaly Mountain, NC.

Funeral services were held Sunday, May 3, 2009 at the Flats Middle Creek Baptist Church in Scaly Mountain, NC with Rev. Dwight Loggins officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Hunter Funeral Home of Clayton, GA, was in charge of the arrangements.

## Gibson Jefferson McConnaughey

Gibson Jefferson McConnaughey died in Highlands, NC on May 2, 2009 after a brief illness.

## • OBITUARIES •

ness.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, William Cary McConnaughey. She is survived by her sons, Jefferson and Joseph McConnaughey, and a granddaughter, Elizabeth Barksdale McConnaughey. Mrs. McConnaughey was the author of a cookbook, "Two Centuries of Virginia Plantation Cooking," that went through multiple printings. She was also author of several abstracts of Amelia County, Virginia deed books that were well-regarded in genealogical circles.

The Burial Office was read for Mrs. McConnaughey Thursday, May 6, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, in Highlands.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Highlands Cashiers Hospital or to Chestnut Hill of Highlands.

## Joseph Allen Geoghagan

Joseph Allen Geoghagan, age 66, of Highlands, NC died Thursday, May 7, 2009 at his residence. He was born in Stephens County, GA, the son of the late James Lamar and Myrtle Sapp Geoghagan. He was a welder and was of the Methodist faith. He was Pit Master for Blue Valley BBQ Competition Cooking Team. He enjoyed camping, hunting, fishing and racing. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, father-in-law, uncle and friend.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years Judy Bennett Geoghagan; two sons, Clinton Geoghagan and his wife Geanine of Martin, GA and Michael Geoghagan and his wife, Kristi of Franklin, NC; three grandchildren, Seth Masten, Bryson Geoghagan and Elijah Geoghagan. One sister also survives. He was preceded in death by

a brother, Bo Geoghagan.

Memorial services were held Saturday, May 2 at the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands with the Rev. Luis Ortiz officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to one's favorite charity.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Irene P. James

Irene P. James, age 103, of Highlands NC, died Saturday May 2, 2009 in Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late Edward P. and Cora Rogers Picklesimer. She was married to the late Lawton P. James who died 1944, and was an elementary school teacher. She was a member of Highlands United Methodist and United Methodist Women, and was a member of The Highlands Chapter #284 OES. Mrs. James was a loving mother, grandmother and teacher.

Surviving are two daughters, Wilma Gordon and Geri Crowe and her husband Wayne, all of Highlands, two sons Tom James and wife Hilda and Herbert James and wife Barbara of Highlands. Seventeen grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild also survive. Mrs. James was preceded in death by a daughter, Barbara Taylor.

Funeral services were held Monday, May 4 in the Highlands United Methodist Church with Rev. Paul Christy officiating. Burial was in Scaly Mountain Methodist Cemetery. Pallbearers were grandsons, Allan James, Tommy James, Dana Gordon, Jeff James, John Gordon Michael Crowe and Billy Crowe

Memorials may be made to Highlands United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741.

Online condolences may be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

## The Socialist Republic of the United States of America

**T**he war was over in a flash. Actually, it wasn't much of a civil war. Once all the lawyers had been systematically slaughtered and the country's top CEOs were in prison for life, things started to quiet down immediately. As it turns out, shutting down and killing off the wimpy media was the easiest part. Oh, sure, there are a few jerks still around with their hunting rifles, waving their American flags, but they're like gnats around a dog's fanny, they'll be dead by the first snow. Thank God it's finally illegal to possess a gun.

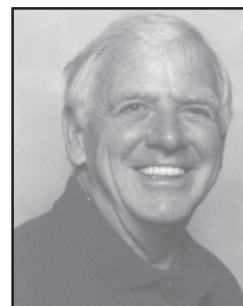
Soon it will be the best of times. The new government has just taken over the banks and auto industry. More control is on the way. A new world order with new world currency will render our old money worthless. Each citizen will be allotted the new currency according to their needs. There is free housing, free health care and free transportation to wherever a person needs to go. Citizens want for nothing. There are no rich people or poor people, just people working together for a common, blissful good.

Everyone works according to their ability...but everyone works. Retirement has been redefined as death. I am old and find it harder and harder to work much longer. Soon, I will be a burden on society, won't be able to keep up and it will be my time to be eliminated.

I sat up in bed, covered with sweat. I looked over at the li'l missus to confirm it really was a bad dream...no, a nightmare. I slipped from my bed without waking her and walked to the ship's balcony. Opening the glass sliding door, I walked out and leaned over the rail, staring down at the ocean, nine stories below. The moon was full and glistened off the calm water. A strong balmy breeze blew in my face. I stared at the water for a long time before closing my eyes to pray and thank God I'm a capitalist. I resisted the urge to rush to my desk drawer, pull out money and smell it. God certainly wouldn't approve of that.

I'm sure the insanity of my nightmare was brought on by the gluttony and luxury of this cruise. In a few hours I will have breakfast in bed, doze for another hour before awakening again to a day of relaxed activity aboard the Emerald Princess, bound for Europe and eventually Copenhagen.

I won't apologize for this disgusting display of luxury. I'm neither a rich man nor a poor man. After my Ma and Pa died, my inheritance was exactly one dollar. Ask the li'l missus. We were not born members of the Lucky Sperm Club. Everything I have, I



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!  
email:  
askfredanything@aol.com

earned with the help of my wife. We're a team. I've never asked for or received a handout from the government...or anyone, for that matter.

At age 14, I worked after school in a laundry for 60 cents an hour. As a policeman, I made a decent salary but almost lost my life several times. Put a price tag on that. While policing, I paid my way through college and cleaned toilets as a landlord, maintaining a profitable home rental business. Finally,

at age 65, I retired from another profitable but dangerous rappel business in Highlands. It was the first time I had been unemployed since I was 14. I'm pretty darn proud of that.

So, excuse me if I don't apologize for my gluttonous behavior. All I ever wanted from my government was the privilege of being free so I could work hard and be a capitalist. I could have chosen to sit on a cinder block and do nothing. My government would've permitted that also. Actually, they would have paid me to sit on that cinder block if I promised I was looking for work. That's what American freedom is all about.

So here we are, sitting right smack dab in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, two capitalists celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary and blowing our kid's inheritance. Being married that long is huge. There's no hypocrisy in our marriage. We are what we are, two intelligent head-strong independent individuals who speak their mind. We've had some doozy debates (some folks call them fights) and there were good times and bad over the years. Fortunately, we always agreed on the management of our money. So here we are, 50 years later, surrounded by water, more in love with each other than when we first married. Whodathunkit!

Later that afternoon, after another short nap on the Promenade deck, I walked into the ship's library to poke around. A ship's attendant asked if she could help. I asked, "Do you have a book titled *Animal Farm*?" She informed me children's books are in the teen center on the Sun deck. I gave up my search and decided to read it again when I got home. When evening came, I sat in my bed, staring at more bad news from CNN World Network. I'm amazed we have TV in the middle of the ocean. There was talk from China about creating a new world currency.

I pinched myself to make sure I had not dozed off. In fear of another nightmare, I decided to stay awake as long as I could.

## • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

### The swine, excuse me, Mexican, excuse me H1N1 flu

There can't be anything funny about a flu pandemic, can there? It is comforting that the severity of the illness is probably less severe than was originally feared. It is amusing, but at the same time reassuring, that the Obama administration has responded aggressively to the potential crisis.

The President is saying, "I'm not George Bush and this isn't going to turn into Katrina. President Obama doesn't have Michael, "Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job, Brown working for him, but he is saddled with Joe Bidden. Bidden, who suffers from foot-in-mouth disease, if not the swine flu, advised Americans against air travel, and said that he would discourage his family from flying. Of course, the rest of us don't have the luxury of calling Air Force II when our plans call for air travel. The Vice-President might have crushed the struggling economic recovery with that one, but fortunately, no one listens to him. So maybe there is at least a little humor in the potential pandemic.

Egyptian pigs can't find anything to laugh about. The government of Egypt ordered the slaughter of the entire pig population of the country, roughly 300,000-350,000 animals. Egypt's Muslims, 90% of the population, don't eat pork, but its Christian minority raises and consumes pork. One might ask if this action, condemned by public health officials and PETA, is a way of saying, "We don't need no stinking pigs, or Christians, in our country."

If there were a goat flu, and if the U.S. government ordered the slaughter of goats in Detroit and Houston, American cities with large Muslim populations, you can bet that we would be accused of cultural insensitivity at best, and religious persecution at worst. Egyptian officials have said that the pig farmers will not be compensated for their loss, because they will be able to sell the meat. Egyptian Christians can expect bargain basement bacon prices in the coming weeks.

In a rare show of solidarity with his Muslim brothers, ultra-conservative Israeli Health Minister, Yakov Litzman, asked that the disease be renamed, "Mexican Flu." He doesn't seem overly concerned with solidarity with Mexico. The term swine flu, he explained at a news conference, was offensive to Jews and Muslims alike. If Litzman and his ultra-conservative colleagues demonstrated more concern for the legitimate concerns of Palestinian Muslims, the Middle East would be less of a mess, but including Muslims in an expression of cultural outrage was a nice touch.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vil-



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.  
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

sack, joined the chorus of those calling for a new name, explaining that the term "swine flu" implied a problem with pork products. His effort was clearly intended to protect pork producers rather than pigs. Pig farmers, on the other hand, are taking drastic measures to protect their herds. They are banning visitors for fear that the swine might become infected by humans. It is not clear why any one would want to visit a pig farm. It's not exactly the Grand Canyon or Mount Rushmore. The pigs, which are said to be very intelligent animals, must be resting easier.

The World Health Organization acquiesced to the pressure and now refers to the disease as H1N1 which is about as vanilla as we can get. The panic seems to

... SWANSON from page 7

call it swine flu anymore. It's killing the pork biz. That will protect the homeland, all right. She says it's the H1N1 virus/ That slips right off the tongue, doesn't it? Isn't she the one who says we should call terrorists "man-made disasters" or something equally as stupid?

Speaking of stupid - "FAA Memo: Feds Knew NYC Flyover Would Cause Panic." Really? Let's do it anyway, shall we? And then there is Joe Biden, caught up in the SF panic, told us that we should stop flying, and to avoid enclosed places where other people hang, and if we need to go to Mexico, we shouldn't take the subway! He then jumped on the train and went home. The grand and glorious Ms. Pres. showed up at a benefit for the poor in \$540 SNEAKERS. Classy. And finally, and my personal favorite; the White House reporter who asked Obama what was the most "enchanted" moment of his first 100 days. GAG.

Enough of this nonsense. I'm going to take a ride through the countryside and enjoy the beauty of nature.

be lessening, as the illness has yet to claim its first American life, but it has not completely subsided. My sister-in-law called and proudly declared that she had bought the last available surgical mask in Greensboro, NC. At last count, North Carolina has yet to record a case of the swine, excuse me, Mexican, excuse me H1N1 flu.



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## Pescado's — Highlands

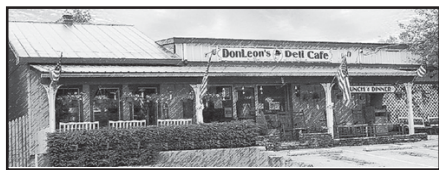
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# • HIS & HERS •

## Mothers

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

Mothers' Day is coming up this weekend, so it's gotten me to thinking about mothers. Last night, I was reminded of two mothers, in particular – Mother Nature and Necessity, the mother of invention. I'd found a wonderful documentary on PBS about sea eagles on the Scottish island of Mull. There we were,



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transported to this marvelous, wild area when all of a sudden – flash, bang, and then total darkness. I grimly remembered something John had said when I moved in several years ago about Kettle Rock Mountain being nicknamed “Lightening Knob.” Hmm. Suddenly, all of this made sense.

“Don't worry!” boomed John in his chirpy “I can fix this in no time” voice. “Stay where you are. I know where the candles are.” Well, I know where the candles are, too, but whether or not I could find them in pitch black darkness without doing grievous bodily harm is another story. So I sat in the darkness with Weasel on my lap until even she jumped down in disgust and slunk off to parts unknown. (I'm convinced that the cats have a secret cat bar somewhere in the house. They sneak off there and hang out, drinking strong cat drinks and telling bad dog jokes.)

Several years ago, I'd ordered a terrific gizmo from a catalogue place called “Joie de Vivre.” As the name implies, they carry all manner of interesting products from France – food, CDs, calendars, and most importantly, in this case, a wonderful gadget which was about to deliver us from darkness, quite literally. It is a tin box, with a candle holder on top. The box is filled with spare candles, and has a clever little handle on the side so that you can hold the box/candle holder as you walk through your cluttered house, dodging unwieldy furniture and cats. Every home should have one. In fact, every floor of your house should have one.

After what seemed to be ages, John appeared on the stairs, fabulous French candle holder in hand. “Come on, Hon!” he called out, “Let's go to bed.” It was 9:30. What else were we going to do? Read the Constitution by candlelight? I remembered that my father had given me a battery-operated radio that had come as a freebie from Omaha Steaks. Grabbing the radio in the darkness, I traipsed into the bedroom. I lit the candle on the mantelpiece, and found a second one in the red room to put in the

bathroom. I'd forgotten that most of our candles are scented ones, and don't necessarily blend well. At best, it's an odd combination of smells. At worst, it's like being stuck next to a guy with cheap aftershave during a long movie. Turning on the radio, we realized that we'd stumbled on the NPR program of Celtic music, and soon the candlelit room was filled with Scottish harps

and fiddles.

Finally, we settled down for the night. No cats appeared, but perhaps the unexpected change in their nighttime routine had put them off. John apologized in advance for his snoring. Without any electricity, he couldn't use his CPAP machine. I accepted his apology, and apologized in turn for potentially murdering him in his sleep, when the snoring got so bad that even earplugs could not spare me the horror the electricity came back on two hours later. Looking out the window, we saw that other people had theirs back, too. I heaved a sigh of relief, knowing that we were not going to have to sit down and eat the entire contents of both our refrigerator and freezer.

Of course, Maman is spared these sorts of things now. She lives at Summit Square, which has an emergency generator. Alas, we won't be getting together for Mothers' Day this year. I'm saving my trip to Virginia for later on in the month. Maman fell and broke her arm two months ago, and has been in Assisted Living, not her usual apartment. While she has been marvelously well looked after, she still misses being in her own place. Her house on Shawnee Road has just been sold. Given the current state of the housing market, we know how lucky we are to have found a buyer, and to have gotten a reasonable price for the house. Still, it's the last house my mother could call her own. It's the last house she lived in with Daddy, whose ashes are scattered in the back garden. And while my brother Eric had no great attachment to the house, it was the place I visited regularly, to escape the noise and hectic pace of New York. It was, as my mother always liked to say, “a perfect house.” That part of our family life is over.

The solution, if there is any solution, is to try to make our house a warm and welcoming place for Maman, especially now. Having her piano in the living room is a huge step. The red room upstairs is now

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

**It's amateur hour, 24/7**

**O**K, so you're doing whatever you do in lower Manhattan the other day and you hear the sound of low flying airplanes. You look up to see a giant airliner being followed by a fighter plane and they are flying at a level of 1,000 feet, precisely the level that the 9/11 attackers flew their weapons of terror into the WTC buildings.

It just so happens that you were in the same place on September 11, 2001 and saw firsthand the carnage that ensued. Logically, you assume it's a replay and you have a panic attack, run out in the street and catch a taxi the hard way.

Now this is hypothetical, although for all anyone knows, it may well have happened. No doubt any negative incidents resulting from the White House' ill-conceived fly over photo shoot were quickly squashed. If you don't believe things like this happen, let me tell you a story. Early one morning, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1996 to be exact, since sleep seemed out of the question, I turned on the news.

It was the first I'd heard of the crash of TWA flight 800 that had blown up and dropped into the Atlantic Ocean just off East Moriches, NY. The news reporter was on the scene of the recovery operation and was interviewing Leon Panetta. Even in my sleepless condition, I thought it strange that the White House Chief of Staff was there. Curiously, I thought, I never saw Panetta again in any subsequent newscasts. He had accomplished his purpose of squashing any evidence that the plane was shot down. Subsequent investigations proved the government's story of how the explosion occurred were bogus. Many eyewitnesses were marginalized, labeled as drunk or crazy, even though they all reported seeing a missile-like object striking the plane.

The government can and will cover up the damage done by their screw-ups and this low-level flight over Lower Manhattan qualifies. The mayor of New York was uninformed that this Kodak moment was going to take place and our commander-in-chief



**Don Swanson**  
Feedback is encouraged. Email [swansonson@dnnet.net](mailto:swansonson@dnnet.net)

pleaded ignorance as well. The Mayor was livid. The President says it was a mistake and it will never happen again. That's reassuring. "Oh, did I press that red button? My bad. I certainly won't do that again."

Then there are the "mistakes" of Janet Napolitano, who can't let a week go by without damaging our relationship with someone or another. Her apology to the veterans was hardly out of her mouth when she told the Can-

nadians that the 9/11 bombers came to us through the Canadian border, which they didn't. Then, in an interview with CNN, she let the viewers know that illegally entering the country is not a crime. WHAT! This is the Secretary of Homeland Security speaking. Well, I feel safer already.

Now that we are involved in a world wide near-pandemic, it would be good to hear from the Surgeon General. What? You say we don't have one? Oh, we've got an acting SG, but not the real deal. I wonder what that's about? OK, what does the Secretary of Health and Human Services have to say? What? We don't have one? We have an acting Secretary? Criminy. Didn't anybody pay their taxes? Oh, you say the Senate confirmed Gov. Sebelius? A woman whose biggest financial supporter is the king of late-term abortions? Perfect qualifications for protecting our health (if we survive childbirth).

Speaking of health, have you seen a photo of one of our faves, Lindsay Lohan? The child looks like she weighs about 83 pounds. She is just a wisp of a thing and apparently she isn't strong enough to get in trouble. The stable has been strangely quiet lately and I can't figure out what's happening. Oh well. Having totally run out of anything worthwhile to say, let's consult the Drudge report and see what's goin' on.

Man, it's swine flu, wall to wall. Ms. Napolitano, who seems to be ubiquitous these days (look it up), says we shouldn't

• See SWANSON page 5

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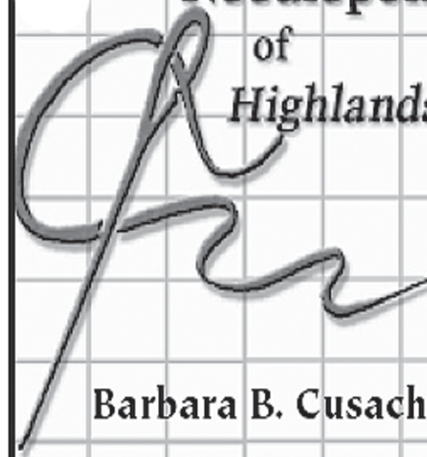
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 Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group  
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 Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice  
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 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15  
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Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

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 Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers  
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 526-3376  
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 5 p.m. Youth Group  
 Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults  
 studies; 6:15 – Adult choir  
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 Thurs: 12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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## • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

### The exceedingly great and precious promises



Rev. Sam Forrester

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is founded on the promises of God. II Peter 1:3-4 "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires." These promises have been given to everyone who will come by faith believing in Jesus Christ and his work.

If you want to know these promises in an experiential way and have them bring joy into your life, then you must meditate on them. These promises give nothing to those who only look at them from a distance. They have to be handled, squeezed if you will, to cause them to give up their nectar. It is when you are putting effort into understanding them that you will receive the rewards they promise. They are not designed to bless by osmotic means. They bless only when mixed with faith.

Along with meditation comes another important requirement. You must seek to receive these promises in your heart and to believe they are from God. You know very well that when you are promised something from other people in this world you tend to check out those making the promise before putting your hope in their promise being fulfilled. You carefully stop and consider the character of the promise maker. So, with the promises of God, your attention must be focused on the One making the promise and not the reward the promise offers. This is what allows men to be successful when the mark looks to what he will gain and not to the character of the one promising.

When you go to the Scripture to see who has promised such wonderful things as salvation and peace and joy for an eternity it will become clear these promises are real. The Bible shows us a God that is eternal, all knowing, all powerful, ever-present and unchanging. He is a God who cannot lie, a God who does not change and his words are true. He has not altered one thing that has ever gone out of his mouth. He has never had to recall one word he spoke. He has never fallen short on the power to fulfill his promises. He made the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. He has never failed in his wisdom of knowing how and when to reveal the promises of life. Therefore, seeing that it is the word of this great and unchanging God who is true in everything to his own character, is possessed of all power and wisdom, you can place all hope in the promises he makes.

Open your Bible and read these wonderful promises. Meditate on them and consider the character of the One who has made them and they will change your life



## HS Scholars honored at Rotary

The Highlands Rotary Club honored the April Rotary Scholars of the Month at its April 28th meeting. These Highlands School students exemplify academic excellence as well as outstanding citizenship.

Pictured from the left are high school winner, Ezra Herz, middle school winner, Ellie Cate Beavers, grammar school winner, Cyndi Coppage and school Counselor, Thomas Jessup.



## ... LADDER continued from page 1

house. It will have Hardiplank siding, but basically is a long garage, said Town Planner Joe Cooley.

Town Manager Jim Fatland said NC General Statutes require formal bidding on equipment exceeding \$80,000 but towns can by-pass the requirement by using piggy-back rules set out in the code which was OK'd at the April 15, 2009 meeting as required by law.

Administrative Assistant Bob Houston said the department has requested a .001 increase in fire tax for 2009-10, from .008 to .009 to build back its reserve.

Of the 11 volunteer fire departments in Macon County, Highlands has the lowest fire tax which amounts to \$8 per \$100,000 property valuation.

He said Highlands' property valuation is precisely why the fire tax is so low. The requested .009 rate would translate to \$9 per \$100,000. Highlands property valuation is \$3.84 billion

The Macon County fire commission has OK'd the .001 increase but the final word

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

called "Maman's room," and has French books in the book case, copies of **Paris Match** on the bedside table and paintings of Notre Dame Cathedral and Napoleon on the walls. She snuggles under the duvet, and watches her own little TV, fighting the cats as they sprawl and take over the lion's share of the bed.

John and I lost a dear friend, Gibson McConnaughey on Saturday. Only a week before, we'd been heading to Cashiers, and stopped by Chestnut Hill to see her. Gibson was in the lobby, chatting with the receptionist. We hadn't seen her since she'd arrived back in Highlands, so she did a double take to see me. "OK, kiddo!" I said, with a fake gangster voice. "Grab your bag. We're springing you from this joint!" Gibson clapped her hands in delight. "I don't need a bag; I just need to sign out."

We bundled her into the car, and went for a marvelous ride in the country. The sky was the shade of blue I've only seen in the Carolinas. The trees and flowers were in bloom. It was the most glorious day. We caught up on all our news. Gibson was happy and animated. Before we dropped

must come from the MC Commission which meets Monday, May 11.

Commissioners also set a special meeting Wednesday, May 13 at the Community Building to discuss larger stormwater detention area as well as a larger park area for Kelsey Hutchinson Park which may include a one-way street around the park rather than a road through the park.

## ... STIMULUS from pg 1

filled by current employees in an attempt to save jobs.

To ensure the longevity of those positions, staff said data must be collected verifying student and teacher improvement. "I understand that the stimulus package will take care of the first year, but I'm concerned with the second year," said Bennett.

Essentially, the state is cutting MC Schools' budget by a very large amount and superintendents are expected to use the federal stimulus funds to create new positions

her off, we made a date to pick her up on Thursday to take her to Writers Group. Gibson was the shining star of our group, with what she called her "silly poems" – a misnomer, since these poems were anything but silly. More often, they were keen insights into the follies and foibles of society. Gibson had a great sense of observation and a delightful wit. When we showed up on Thursday, her door was closed. She had been taken to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. We delivered the bad news to Writers Group, and went to the hospital after the meeting. Gibson was pale and puffy, but glad to see us. We didn't stay long, since we could see even the slightest bit of conversation was wearing her out.

On Saturday morning, we received a call from our mutual friend J.Jay. Things had taken a turn for the worse, and Gibson wasn't expected to make it more than a few days. Just before getting into the car, I went outside and gathered some violets which carpeted our yard. I clutched them in my hand as I entered the hospital room. Gibson was surrounded by family and friends. I took Gibson's hand in mine. It was cold

## ... SWINE FLU from 1

tion about the H1N1 flu in both English and Spanish.

Bruckner says anyone who shows flu-like symptoms should remain at home, avoiding work, errands, school, church, or other public gatherings. Flu-like symptoms include: a fever over 100 F, chills, headache, extreme fatigue, dry cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, and body aches. Anyone exhibiting these symptoms should contact their health care provider to determine if testing is needed.

He also said that common prevention measures are the best way to stay healthy. These actions include covering your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve if you cough or sneeze; avoiding touching your eyes, nose, or mouth; washing hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based sanitizer; and avoiding close contact with sick people.

that will have a long-term impact.

"We can not simply pick up eight teaching positions paid by state funds and start paying those positions out of federal revenue," said Brigman. "We would be supplanting and that is not permissible."

The current expectations of the state is to return funding levels to school districts at the 2008-09 level in two years, thus giving adequate funding to sustain the positions.

"I do not know what will happen in two years but hope this local initiative will be sustained once we see the impact on teaching and student achievement throughout our school district," said Brigman

A called meeting has been set for Thursday, May 7 at 1 p.m. at the administrative office to discuss the use of federal stimulus money. The use of the extra Title 1 funds must be presented by mid-June.

and clammy. I showed her the violets, which brought a smile to her face. "Oh, I do wish I could see them in person!" she sighed. She passed away several hours later.

Sometimes your life is changed by major events. Sometimes change just slips in by the back door, before you know it. Mothers' Day reminds us that mothers are special, to be acknowledged and cherished. Our own mothers, we often take for granted. If we're very lucky, we get to share other people's mothers, too, delighting in clear blue Carolina skies and delicate violets that disappear before you know it.

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. While not a mother herself, she is stepmother to Dori and Karen, two of the most beautiful and clever girls on God's earth.

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## • COOKING ON THE PLATEAU •

### Make Mother's Day special

Moms deserve special treatment, especially on Mother's Day. Serve her something deliciously different – a baked ravioli dinner that the kids can help create.

Natural foods expert and cookbook author Maribeth Abrams has cooked up an easy and great ravioli recipe that's sure to make mom happy. "I'm always looking for ingredients that are versatile, quick and easy," said Abrams. "I love using Nasoya wraps because they're fresh and all natural, so they make healthy eating convenient and fun." In addition to using wraps for ravioli, Abrams likes to use large square

wrappers in place of lasagna noodles and small square or round wraps as mini pastry shells for fruit tarts, baby quiche and chicken salad cups for snacking.

For this special ravioli, kids can help fill the wraps and seal them up by painting a line of water along the sides of each wrap. Let them do the crimping with a fork and the cheese sprinkling, too.

Have them set the table with the good dishes and silverware. Some fresh flowers and handmade place cards are easy ways to dress up the table for mom.

For fun new ways to use Nasoya wraps any time of year, visit [www.nasoya.com](http://www.nasoya.com).



#### Baked Sweet Potato Spinach Ravioli Yield: 24 Ravioli

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1 clove garlic, minced or pressed
- 1 large sweet potato, peeled and cut into 1/4-inch cubes
- 1/2 cup vegetable broth or chicken broth
- 1 bag (9-ounce) pre-washed spinach
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 package Nasoya square wraps (48 wrappers)
- Parmesan cheese

Place oil in large skillet over medium high heat. Add onion and garlic and cook, stirring, for 5 minutes. Add sweet potato and cook, stirring, for 3 minutes. Add broth, bring to a boil, cover, reduce heat to low, and cook, stirring occasionally, for 8 minutes. Add spinach, cover, and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until it is bright green and tender. Add cumin, ginger, salt and pepper to taste. Stir well and set aside.

Preheat oven to 375° F. Mist a baking

sheet with non-stick cooking oil spray and set aside. Fill a small bowl with water. Place 1 teaspoon sweet potato mixture onto one wrap. Dip a finger into water and "paint" a line of water along each side of wrap. Place second wrap on top, then crimp edges together tightly with fingers or tines of a fork. Place filled ravioli onto prepared baking sheet and repeat with remaining wraps.

Mist tops of the ravioli squares with non-stick cooking oil spray, and sprinkle them generously with Parmesan. Bake for 8 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool for 5 minutes on a wire rack and serve.

#### Sage Brown Butter Sauce (Optional):

- 2 thick cut slices of pancetta – diced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 stick unsalted butter – cut into large pieces
- Approximately 10 sage leaves – finely diced

Fresh black pepper Place pancetta and sage in hot saucepan with olive oil and sauté until slightly brown and starting to crisp. Add butter. Remove from heat when butter starts to brown; add pepper to taste.

• Courtesy of Family Features

## • COACH'S CORNER •

### NBA and the NHL playoffs

The time of year is upon us again where the late spring months give television viewers a month and a half of exciting sports action that many red-blooded Americans miss out on. May and June are the home of both the NBA and the NHL playoffs, both of which are often overlooked by the majority of viewers. Every year I write some sort of words that lament the lack of interest in both of these sports, and I think this year should be no different, as both sports have already provided tremendous opening round moments than any sports fan could have enjoyed.

While I am often critical of the NBA game, and tend to avoid regular season NBA games like the Swine Flu-let me be the first to tell you that playoff NBA basketball is totally different from the regular season. Whereas the regular season is full of players loafing up the court for three quarters, poor defense and questionable shot selection, the NBA playoffs is 48 minutes of hustle and amazing displays of athleticism. The skill of the players involved is certainly phenomenal (except for FT shooting) and it is a much prettier brand of basketball than the regular season. Add in some great clutch performances like that of Paul Pierce and Ray Allen in the first round, and you can see why these players get paid to perform at the level that they do.

Speaking of that Boston-Chicago series in the first round, it was simply incredible to watch the level of both teams in those seven games. Clutch shot after clutch shot from Ben Gordon, Allen and Pierce made for in-



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

credible television. There were great story angles in that series as well, with the aging champions ultimately prevailing over the young, hungry up and comers. Although the Celtics will likely fall to Orlando in the second round, they still displayed incredible fortitude in winning the greatest first round series in NBA history.

As for the hockey playoffs, all you need to look at is game 4 of the Carolina Hurricanes-New Jersey Devils series to give you an example of the excitement of playoff hockey. Carolina blew a 3-0 lead and yet was able to steal a victory with a goal in the final second of regulation. Even more exciting was game 7 of the series, in which Carolina scored 2 goals in the final 90 seconds to erase a 3-2 deficit and win the series. Playoff hockey is intense throughout, but when you add in the tension of the power play and the excitement of pulling the goalie in the final minute it can be a very exciting viewing experience.

As I close this column with the continued refrain of "watch these sports!" I am continually reminded of my preschool experience with Mrs. Gordon and how we always tried new things. It certainly was difficult to taste that kiwi fruit at first, because it looked awfully strange and not what I was used to-but once I tried it and liked it, I was a fan for life. As a fan, I would warn you to be careful if you start watching the NBA and the NHL during playoff season-you may become a fan for life.

## • HS SOCCER •

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Women's Varsity Soccer team finished up a successful regular season with two victories over conference rival Murphy to win the SMC conference soccer championship. Thursday saw the Lady Highlanders travel to Murphy to play the Lady Bulldogs in one of two conference matchups. The game was dominated from the start by the Lady Highlanders, who possessed the ball the majority of the match and kept continual pressure on the Murphy keeper. Senior forward Carolyn Hornsby finally pushed through a goal late in the first half to give the Lady Highlanders a 1-0 halftime lead. The second half saw the Lady Highlanders allow Murphy to stay in the match by missing on several scoring opportunities before Paige Strahan finally gave the Lady Highlanders an insurance goal midway through the second half to push the lead to its final margin of 2-0.

Monday provided a rainy day rematch with the Lady Bulldogs, with the game being played in less than stellar conditions out at Zachary Field. Once again, the Lady Highlanders struck first on a goal from

Carolyn Hornsby to take a 1-0 lead. However, Murphy proved resilient, equalizing just moments later on a goal off of a free kick, and then kept the momentum by scoring again just a few moments later to take a 2-1 lead. After a frantic last few minutes in the first half, Hornsby again scored for the Lady Highlanders to equalize just before the half. Despite the halftime tie, the Lady Highlanders came out angry in the second half, and dominated possession in a manner reminiscent of the game in Murphy. Hornsby scored her third goal of the game early in the second half, and then provided a beautiful assist to freshman forward Sayne Cruz to give Highlands a 4-2 lead. Cruz then followed with another goal late in the second half to provide the final 5-2 margin.

Highlands (5-6 overall) will face Rabun Gap today in the final home game of the season before the state playoffs. Also, seniors Carolyn Hornsby and Marisol Ruiz will be honored on senior night. Kickoff is at 4:30, so come out and support your Lady Highlanders.

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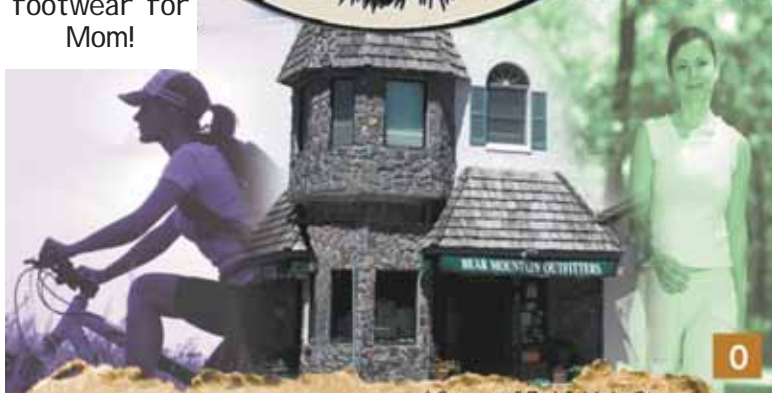
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## • REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Recently I watched Werner Herzog's documentary, "Encounters at the End of the World," which was filmed in Antarctica. Herzog encountered interesting characters drawn to the South Pole as well as scientists working on various research projects. He met a physicist searching for neutrinos with a helium-filled bal-

loon because in Antarctica the atmosphere is free from the electrical interference caused by human activity on every other continent.

The scientist tried to explain what a neutrino was in layman's terms: "in the course of our conversation trillions of neutrinos have passed through my body without affecting anything, yet in the first moments of the universe, just after the Big Bang, neutrinos played a critical part." Then he started talking about neutrinos somehow existing in a parallel plane, maybe as a link to the world of spirit.

As I listened to this scientist I felt that in a future time this explanation would sound just like a Greek 2,000 years ago assuring his children that Zeus had control over human life, or a fundamentalist Christian mother of today telling her daughter that God created the world in six days and then took a day off.

The physicist acted like he had a total grasp of the reality of what he was describ-

### How little we know



**Katie Brugger**  
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ing, yet it seemed to me that he was exposing something completely different: science has gotten so powerful that it is pushing the edges of our culture's current explanations of reality. We are on the verge (I think) of a paradigm shift in how we perceive reality.

The favorite example for many people of a paradigm shift is the Copernican revolution, when the Earth's central place in the cosmos was displaced; instead of everything orbiting around us, we were just one of many planets orbiting around the sun. There was a similar revolution less than a 100 years ago that overthrew another paradigm: Maybe we aren't the center of the universe, but the stars we can see in the night sky are all there is to the universe.

The American astronomer Edwin Hubble, using the world's largest telescope of the day, the Hooker Telescope, in 1922, observed stars in several spiral nebulae that, because of their distance, conclusively proved that these nebulae were galaxies distinct from the Milky Way. He announced his findings in 1925 to great opposition from much of the astronomy establishment because this completely changed the prevailing view of the universe.

Now humans had to deal with the fact that not only were we not the center of the universe, but our galaxy was just one of hundreds of billions in a mind-bogglingly huge universe. Of course we eventually got over the shock and named our first space-based telescope, the one which enabled us to see further into this expansive universe, after Mr. Hubble.

Perhaps my favorite evidence that we are pushing towards a paradigm shift is "dark energy" and "dark matter."

Currently, astronomers believe that ordinary matter — such as galaxies, gas, stars and planets — makes up just 4% of the universe. The rest is dark matter (23%) and dark energy (73%). But what is dark matter and dark energy? No one has a clue! (That's why it's called "dark.") The scientists are telling us that 96% of the universe is comprised of things that are a *complete mystery* to us. All of our scientific explanations for

what/how/why/when are built on knowledge of only 4 percent of the whole. Doesn't that seem a tenuous basis for understanding?

My husband's favorite example of the limit science is pushing up against: "At the moment of the Big Bang, the universe was infinitely dense and zero in size."

Quantum physicists now postulate something called the "quantum vacuum" which, as James Schombert, professor of physics at the University of Oregon put it, "is the ground state of energy for the universe. Attempts to perceive the vacuum directly only lead to a confrontation with a void, a background that appears to be empty. But, in fact, the quantum vacuum is the source of all potentiality." (abyss.uoregon.edu/~js/)

This theory was discussed in a *Harper's Magazine* article a couple of years ago: "As Rainier Weiss [professor emeritus at MIT] put it, 'It turns out there is no vacuum. The vacuum is full of stuff!' Perhaps not since general relativity has a theory produced such maddeningly counterintuitive corollaries, calling into question fundamental presumptions of physics, even relativity itself. 'A dark mystery is bubbling up,' Weiss told me, 'and it says: We don't have a working knowledge of the universe.'" (Harper's Magazine, Oct 2007, "A Curious Attraction").

Did you catch that? An MIT professor said, "We don't have a working knowledge of the universe"? Kind of shocking, isn't it?

In other words, "quantum vacuum" means that what appears to be nothing — empty space — is in fact everything — all potentiality exists at every spot in the universe. In every place in space and time there is infinite energy, infinite being. Everything we know as the visible universe — particles, waves, and physical forces—are manifestations of fluctuations in the quantum vacuum energy field.

Infinite oneness, present in all places and at all times, the source of all that is, was, and will be. I don't know what the new understanding of the universe will be, but from the above evidence it seems that it will sound more like mysticism than science.

- All of Katie Brugger's columns are available on her website: [www.kathleenbrugger.com](http://www.kathleenbrugger.com)

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## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### On-going Events

• Registration is now open for the 2009 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! - a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 8-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-14), and "Junior Ecolo-

gists" (ages 11-15). Some camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit [www.wcu.edu/hbs](http://www.wcu.edu/hbs).

• See EVENTS page 15

## • FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

### Infrastructure and public service projects in the works

As everyone now knows, last week we got the great news that the town has received approval of a grant totaling three million dollars from the Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the Mirror Lake Sewer Project. We were one of 36 communities in the state to receive a grant and actually got one of the largest ones. This grant includes \$1.5 million with another 1.5 million in interest-free loans over a 20-year period. This is the first phase of grants issued and hopefully we will obtain more in the next phase for the Lake Sequoyah Sewer Project. We continue to seek through the stimulus program funds for removing the silt from Big Creek which is a tremendous need for us. In fact, this has been our priority all along.

We all are indebted to the hard work our new town manager, Jim Fatland, put into these projects.

The new parking study will be completed soon and the Board of Commissioners will have some decisions to make on major changes in traffic control and parking in the downtown area which will have to be coordinated with the NC Department of Transportation. We are making great progress in making Highlands an even more pleasant place for both visitors and

residents while continuing to maintain the village character of our town.

Along those same lines we are in discussions regarding stormwater control in the Fifth and Pine Street areas before we can complete plans for the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park. McGill Engineering has been working with us on in planning this important project. A central urban park is a vital part of most viable towns and must be planned with great care for the good of all people concerned.

We therefore have some important board of commissioner meetings coming up. This Wednesday we had a special meeting at the Fire Station to discuss the purchase of a new ladder truck for our volunteer fire department. This will be a commitment of almost half million dollars for this much-needed vehicle. And then on May 13 another special meeting will be held for discussion of the stormwater situation at Fifth and Pine along with the future of the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park.

The paving of the streets torn up because of the Harris Lake Sewer Project is now taking place just in time for the sum-



Mayor Don Mullen

mer season to get started. As soon as the sidewalks and curbing is completed around the new Faith and Fellowship building of the Presbyterian Church, Fifth Street can also be paved. The sewer project in that area is now back on schedule and should be completed by mid-summer at the latest. In spite of the inconveniences that project has brought about I think everyone will be pleased with the end result. Our town engineer, Lamar Nix, has done a great job in pushing along that im-

portant construction. Now we can move on with the Mirror Lake Sewer Project.

On the entertainment front, this Thursday at the Performing Arts Center the Highlands Cashiers Players will open with that great comedy by Neil Simon, "Rumors." This will be the next two week ends and promises to be a great performance by a wonderful acting company. Everyone will want to see this as it starts off a new season of excitement and fun in Highlands. Get ready for a wonderful summer in entertainment and activities in our little mountain town everybody.

## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

- 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. 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.

#### Wed., & Fri.

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

#### First Mondays

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

#### Mondays

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

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

#### Tuesdays

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

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

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

#### Wednesdays

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

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

#### Wednesdays & Fridays

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

#### Every 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

• See EVENTS page 16

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## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### Audubon to offer bird-banding program

On Monday, May 11, the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will offer a free demonstration and talk on bird-banding. The scientific research done in the field, through the use of mist nets to catch birds, will be explained and the use of the nets will be demonstrated. There will be an opportunity to see some of our Spring migrants up close, in the hand, and to observe how the birds are measured and weighed. A talk on the research and what it means for our local birds will be given that evening.

Reseracher Kirk Stodola, of the University of Georgia, grew up in Minnisota and gained an appreciation for wildlife though his experiences with his grandfather. Kirk has years of experience both in our area and in the northeast and southwestern US. After having worked with California Condors, Western Tanagers, Aplomado Falcons, and others, he has developed a special interest in forest songbird species. He received his B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Biological Aspects of Conservation at the University of Wisconsin, and his Masters from Mississippi State University. There he investigated the influence of elevation and food availability on nestling quality and food provisioning in Ovenbirds and Black-throated Blue Warblers. Both of those birds are common summer residents which breed in our area. His interest in Black-throated Blue Warblers continues as he is currently conducting field work on the life-history trade-offs between a population of Black-throated Blue Warblers in North Carolina and another such population in New Hampshire. He hopes to determine what



these differences mean in light of potential climate change.

A special license is needed to conduct such research, and the Audubon Society is delighted to have an experienced field scientist present such a program in our area. The morning demonstration will begin at 8 a.m. and will take place at the old Highlands Ranger Station, Flat Mt. Road. Be sure to bring binoculars and cameras. The evening program will be at the Highlands Civic Center, with refreshments at 7 and the program beginning at 7:30PM. You don't have to be an experienced birder to appreciate what Kirk hopes to share with us. For further information or questions, please call Romney Bathurst, 526-1939.

- 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

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays

- Community Drum Circle at the Highlands Rec Park, from 6-7:30 p.m. All ages are encouraged to attend this free event. All experience levels welcomed. Bring your own drum or percussion instrument. Some extra drums and percussion will be supplied. For more information call 421-0551.

#### Fridays & Saturdays

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

#### Saturdays

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

#### Sundays

- Old Fashioned Hymn Sing at the Little Church in the Wildwood 7-8 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day.

#### Thurs.-Sun., May 7-10

- Rumors can be seen at PAC. 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](http://www.highlandscashiersplayers.org).

#### Thursday, May 7

- "Cats and Dogs Bingo" Thursday, 6:30 - 8:30 at the Highlands Community Building - next to the ballpark at Hwy 64 and Poplar Street. The cost to play is \$1 per card per game and there will be 15 games. Half proceeds go to winners, half to Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society.

- National Day of Prayer at the Gazebo downtown Franklin at noon. In case of rain, First Baptist Church.

- The movie, "Nights in Rodanthe" Cashiers Community Library at 3 p. m. in the Cashiers library. The movies and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated.

- The American Cancer Society Team Captain's meeting for the August 2009 Mountaintop Relay For Life at 5:30 p.m. on Level 1 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic at the hospital. Call Linda Henderson at 743-3295

#### Saturday, May 9

- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society field trip to the Franklin Greenway to look for migrating birds. Meet at the Main Street Greenway pavilion at 8 a.m. To carpool from Highlands meet at the public parking area next to the Town Hall at 7:30 a.m. Call Brock Hutchins at 787-1387.

- Otto Community Blood Drive 8:30-12:30. Call Phyllis Castle at 524-9307 to make your donation appointment today. Bring a photo ID. All presenting donors may enter a drawing for a cruise for two.

#### Monday, May 11

- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a program on "Bird Banding" by Kirk Stodola at the Highlands Civic Center beginning at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a bird banding demonstration that morning beginning at 8 a.m. at the former USFS Ranger Station on Flat Mountain Road near Highlands. Call Brock Hutchins at 787-1387.

#### Tuesday, May 12

- The Highlands Nature Center will host an excursion to White Rock. Join Joe Gatins and Highlands Biological Station staff for a free, 4.5-mile (3-4 hour) moderately-paced and moderately difficult hike to White Rock, approximately six miles from Highlands just off the Bartram Trail, offering good views of the Tennesse Valley and spring wildflowers. Wear comfortable clothes and appropriate footwear; bring own water and snack, and walking sticks if you use them. The event is free and no reservations are necessary; please, no pets. Meet at the Highlands Nature Center, 9:30 a.m. Call 828-526-2602 for more information.

#### Fri.-Sun., May 14-17

- Rumors can be seen 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 or visit online at [www.highlandscashiersplayers.org](http://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

### 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.

### HCP's 'Rumors' opens Thursday night



The Highlands-Cashiers Players try their hand at Neil Simons "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](http://www.highlandscashiersplayers.org).



## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

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.

**Saturday, May 16**

• 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 when Mountaintop Relay For Life holds its 2009 kickoff on Saturday. The event, which will be held outside in the parking lot adjacent to Fressers on Helen's Barn Avenue in Highlands, begins at 8 a.m. with breakfast. 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. Meet at the Whiteside Parking Lot at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, gloves and wear deep lugged boots. Call Leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

### Choose drought-tolerant plants

**By Emily Compost**

We currently have a moderate drought in Macon and Jackson counties. Conditions are not as dry as last summer, but it's still important to minimize non-essential uses of water. What's a gardener to do?

Go for succulents and other drought-tolerant plants, like daylilies, foxglove, hostas, and moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*).

Look for great choices at the Mountain Garden Club plant sale in Highlands on Saturday, May 23.

Drought tolerant does not mean plants will grow without water. It means they can survive with less water. Drought tolerant plants should be watered when first planted and may need supplemental watering during their first year. Deep, infrequent watering and the use of mulch will help promote healthy, deep root systems.

Succulents naturally conserve water by storing it in their fleshy leaves and stems. Succulents come in many different shapes, colors and textures and grow well in containers as well as in the garden.

Sedums, also called stonecrops, are the most popular succulents in our area and many varieties are winter hardy. *Sedum spectabile* 'Autumn Joy' grows 16-18 inches high and has pink blooms in late summer. As fall approaches the blooms darken to a handsome rust color, making a nice feature in a fall garden.

Other sedums, like *Sedum repense* (Rocky stonecrop), are mat-forming ever-



Sedum 'Autumn Joy'

green species that go great in rock gardens and between stepping stones.

Most succulents have the same needs for growing. They need well aerated soil for quick draining, which can be accomplished by mixing 40 percent grit and sand with pot-

ting soil.

To bring out the brightest foliage colors, place succulents in full sun. Fertilize monthly with liquid 10-10-10 fertilizer and water when the top inch of soil is dry.

In the late spring and early summer, place containers of succulents throughout a garden or other outdoor area to add color and visual interest.

Ghost plant (*Graptopetalum paraguayense*) is a fast-growing native succulent of Mexico with silvery green leaves on foot long stems. Ghost plant should be brought indoors before the first frost and kept where temperatures do not fall below 45-55 degrees.

To propagate tender succulents like Ghost Plant indoors, cut some stems from each plant. Place the stems in a shallow container for two or three days until they form calluses on the ends. Then moisten a sandy soil mix and place the stems in it. Water when dry.

To buy succulents and other drought-tolerant plants, come to the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale, Saturday, May 23, 9 am to 1 pm, at the baseball park in Highlands on Highway 64 E. Make sure to arrive early to get the best selection!

### ... FORUM from page 2

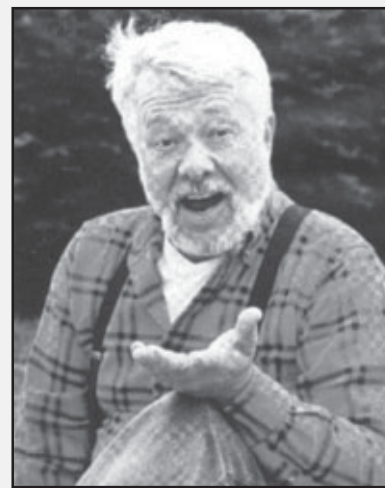
fading memory, but as soon as I said "Hey, Irene, it's Kim from the paper," she seemed to know who I was and with very little prying her memory box sprang open.

She told me about her grandpa Benson, his two wives and their children; her mother Cora and father Edward who met as teacher and student, respectively, at the one-room school house in Clear Creek; about trips in the wagon with her father to Walhalla, SC, to sell produce and buy supplies; about escapades with her sister Mett including their 5-mile walks to school in town from their home on Clear Creek through the woods and up the mountain every morning and back again in the evening.

How they left so early in the morning they carried a lantern they hung on a tree

• See FORUM page 20

### Storytellers coming to PAC



Gary Carden



Sheila Kay Adams

Gary Carden returns to the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street May 23 at 7:30 p.m. This time he brings with him another extremely popular storyteller, Sheila Kay Adams. Tickets are on sale now at \$15 each. Charge by phone at (828) 526-9047 or visit the PAC website: [www.highlandperformingartscenter.org](http://www.highlandperformingartscenter.org).

### Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin, NC  
524-3076

Showing May 8-14

#### STAR TREK

rated PG-13

\* Special Show On Thursday May 7, at 7 p.m.

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

#### 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

#### STATE OF PLAY

rated PG-13

Mon - Fri: 4:10, 9:10  
Sat & Sun: 4:10, 9:10

#### 17 AGAIN

rated PG-13

Mon - Fri: 7:05  
Sat & Sun: (2:05), 7:05



Upcoming Book Signings  
526-5488 • Main Street  
e-mail: [cyranos@nctv.com](mailto: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)*

\$5 for 20 words weekly

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\$2. for each add'l. 10 words

HELP WANTED

**MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY** in Highlands is hiring for a full time grill position in our new open kitchen. Must have previous experience. Email [jobs@MGro.com](mailto:jobs@MGro.com) or call 828.526.2400

**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](mailto:jobs@MGro.com) or call 828.526.2400

**WAITERS, WAITRESSES, COUNTER, COOKS, DISHWASHERS.** Apply in person at Sweettreats from 2-4 p.m. Call 526-9822. (st. 5/7)

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

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

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

**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 inquires to Matt Shuler at the Highlands Town Office (828) 526-2118.

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT/NURSE** - needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Physician office setting, full-time position available. Current certification and/or NC license and BLS required, ACLS recommended. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**RECEPTIONIST** - needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Physician office setting, full-time position available. Previous medical/family practice office experience required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-

employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

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

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

LOST & FOUND

**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.

**FOUND: POOL CUE.** Call 404/237-4333

RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE

**ADORABLE HIGHLANDS COTTAGE** - 2/2, totally remodeled, one car garage, community lake, and lots of outdoor living space! Call now for more details: 1-800-526-1648 ext. 1218, Green Mountain Realty Group. 5/28

**SPACIOUS 3/2 ON .83+/- ACRE**, stone fireplace, impeccably kept, new granite counter tops! \$339,000 Call now for more details: 1-800-526-1648 ext. 1398, Green Mountain Realty Group. 5/28

**CUSTOM HOME WITH LAKE** - 3/2 on 1.34+/- acres, master suite on main level, covered front and back porches, lake with dock on property! \$549,000 Call now for more details: 1-800-526-1648 ext. 1208, Green Mountain Realty Group. 5/28

**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

**Adorable 2/2 Joe Webb log cabin only a stone's throw from Mirror Lake.**



Completely furnished for only \$499K. Call 800-335-9215 and view pics at: [www.HighlandsRentals.net/StonesThrowPics](http://www.HighlandsRentals.net/StonesThrowPics).

5/28

**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

**44.76+/- ACRES** \$189,000 BANK FORECLOSURE Tuckaseegee Riverfront Ridge Top Views MLS #67408 Marty Jones Realty BRIAN RENFRO, REALTOR 828-226-0118.

**TRILLIUM BEST BUY BIG VIEW HOME SITE** Great Building Site \$189,000 MLS #67480 Marty Jones Realty BRIAN RENFRO, REALTOR 828-226-0118

**GOOD HOUSE FOR \$139,500** - 3 bed, 2 bath, high elevation, pond. Call Ann at Cabe Realty 828-526-2475.

**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)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

**THE REAL ESTATE BOOK** - North America's largest and most successful "Homes for Sale" magazine is offering the chance to be an independent distributor of the

Cashiers-Highlands area. This market meets the criteria of our other 400 successful territories. Comprehensive training, on-going support help ensure success. Candidate should possess strong sales skills, customer support & follow-up. No franchise fees or royalties. Initial start-up and working capitol required. Contact Tara Truitt @ 770-962-7220, ext. 24608 or email: [ttruitt@nci.com](mailto:ttruitt@nci.com) for more info. 5/7

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

**APARTMENT FOR RENT** partly furnished, 1BR/ ba, 6 mi. from Highlands NO dogs, NO smoking, \$425/mo includes power/water, negotiable rent 828-787-1515.

**TURTLE POND** - 3 bd 2 1/2 bath, hot tub, furnished, no smoking/pets, \$1,300 + util 828 526 2759 [marbago@hughes.net](mailto:marbago@hughes.net) (st. 5/7)

**YEAR-ROUND RENTAL HOUSE AVAILABLE ABOUT A MILE FROM MAIN STREET.** One bedroom, one and a half baths, furnished or unfurnished. Includes washer and dryer, hardwood floors, vaulted wood ceilings, nice sunny deck with mountain and pond views, private. No smoking or pets. Rate negotiable but first, last and security deposit required. (828) 421-7922. (St. 5/7)

**PATIO APARTMENT** - Furnished, Queen Bedroom, all utilities except phone. \$650 a month. First & last month's rent for at least a 5-month lease. Call 828-526-2679.

**HOUSE FOR RENT ON MIRROR LAKE** - 3 bed/3 ba, with w/d, central h/a, deck. \$1,100 per month plus utilities. Security deposit required, yearly lease, no smoking. 828-526-4073.

**HIGHLANDS GARAGE APARTMENT** - Within town limits. Quiet, cozy, wood panelled. Living room, bedroom, bath, kitchen, balcony, newly painted and carpeted. One person. No pets. Six month minimum, furnished. \$425/mo, incl. utilities, except electric. Call 404-892-2090 or 828-526-4445. 4/30

**IN-TOWN HIGHLANDS, MIRROR LAKE AREA.** 2Br/2Ba House, W/D, hardwood floors, deck. No smoking, \$750/mo, available immediately. Green Mountain Realty Group 828-526-9523.

**TWO-STORY APARTMENT FOR RENT** - (3 minutes from Highlands/Cashiers Hospital). Recent Renovation. Fully Furnished. 2 bedrooms/2 baths. 3 extra-large closets. kitchen with dishwasher and new JennAire cook stove, dining area, living room, native stone fireplace, wash-

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Cell: 828-200-1139  
email: [allandearth@msn.com](mailto:allandearth@msn.com)

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er/dryer, cable and telephone connection. \$875 monthly. Includes water, sewer, electricity, heat. Single family. References required. No pets. No smoking. Call Jim at 1-770-789-2489

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

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

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

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**ADORABLE CABIN FOR TWO** - Four blocks from town on Chestnut Street. \$80 per night. Available beginning June 5. Call 828-526-9375. 5/28

**RESTORED FARMHOUSE ON SHORTOFF ROAD** - 2 bedrooms, 2 baths in a country setting. Well furnished with a large screened porch. See details and pictures at [#23644](http://www.homeaway.com) \$800 per week. (912) 354-6917.

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

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

## ITEMS FOR SALE

**TWO PIECE CHINA DISPLAY CABINET/ BUFFET** - bottom and top scrolled, inset lighting, glass shelves, ornate brass handles, beveled glass door. Must see. \$800 OBO. Call 828-349-9212.

**4"X6" OAK TIMBERS** Lengths 12'-30' \$10 per foot. Delivery available. Call Joey at 828-734-0101

**6X12 ENCLOSED TRAILER** - Haulmark Transport DLX. White, 3 doors, transport package, never on highway, like new. \$2000. 828-526-0974. 5/21.

**ANTIQUA 8 AIR CYLINDER MUSIC BOX** - ca 1880s mahogany & rosewood marquetry - good condition - PLAYS. Serious buyers/collectors only call 828-787-1515

**ORVIS FLYFISHING COMBO** - Battenkill bbs III 5/7 reel and Clearwater mid 5 wt 7'9" rod. One year old but NEVER used. Orvis Padded reel case and rod tube/bag included. \$200. 828-399-9427.

**BRAND-NEW, NEVER WORN, WEDDING DRESS**

**AND VEIL**. Beautiful; ivory with beading at waist and scoop neck. Size 6. Price tags: dress \$640 and veil \$265. Make offer. Please call 828-526-5733 or 601-316 3147.

**NORDICTRACK SUMMIT 4500 TREADMILL**. Excellent condition. Has incline and preset workouts. \$550. Instruction Manual Included. 526-9107.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BABY LOCK SERGER MACHINE** with extra spools of thread. \$200. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

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

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

**MARTIN-C-1740 UNVENTED GAS HEATER** - with oxygen depleting sensing system. BTU 40,000. H. 14 24 3/4 W. 25" D. 13". Fan blower-model B35. \$125. Call 526-5640.

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

**AVON CAPE COD RED GLASS** - 8 piece place

setting. 64 pieces. \$385. Also, accessory pieces available. Call 828-524-3614.

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

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

**4 SOLID OAK, LADDERBACK** dining room chairs with woven seats. \$400 for set. Call 526-3048.

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

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

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

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

**TWO ELECTRIC WATER COOLERS** for sale. Approximately 38" tall x 12" square. Put bottled water on top. \$50 each. OBO. Call 526-3262

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

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

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

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

## VEHICLES FOR SALE

**1989 MERCEDES 560-SL** - 2-door, hardtop convertible. excellent condition. Only 70,000 miles. Always garaged. Black/gray leather. \$15,000. (770) 827-0450, 4/30

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 20

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## ... FORUM continued from page 17

near the old Harbison House when it got light, retrieving it on the way back home.

How they used to walk to their aunt's house in Cashiers up the mountain then down Rich Gap and through Horse- and Whiteside coves.

The stories are endless.

I wasn't around when her husband Lawton or her daughter Barbara died so I never saw a sad Irene until her life-long buddy, Mett died. As sisters who lived through so much change in America, not to mention Highlands, who connected like no other, Mett's death at 95 hit Irene, who was 93, hard.

They called each other countless times during the day and watched their favorite pastime, baseball – specifically, the Atlanta Braves – on TV, only over the phone – Irene from her easy chair in her living room and Mett from her couch in her upstairs room.

During a visit after Mett died, Irene was sad and quiet – not her regular disposition. I asked her if she was OK and she said she missed Mett and wanted to be with her. I honestly thought she would die soon after but her extended family pulled her through and she lived for another 10 years.

When I visited her in the hospital the Sunday before she died, she was sitting up in a chair, talking and dosing. When I asked her if she was going home soon, she said she reckoned she would but she didn't feel up to it, yet. That was an abrupt about-face for Irene. Whenever she ended up in the hospital, on the mend or not, she was always ready to go home.

So, I think Irene had grown tired and was ready to be with her long gone loved ones. If I had asked her that question, it's likely she would have answered her signature response, "Well, now, that's right."

We will miss Irene, but we should remember her fondly and feel ever so lucky to have known her at all.

## ... LETTERS continued from page 2

al courage of free men and women. That is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have.

Well there is one more quote that pretty much proves to be true today, more than any other time in our history and that is: "Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it and if it stops moving, subsidize it.

Johnny Owens  
Highlands NC

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## Panther Prowl Wins Tournament



**Panther Prowl 8U Travel Baseball Team** traveled to Morganton, NC, May 2-3 to compete in the Catawba Meadows Hit & Run Tournament sponsored by Nations Baseball. Despite the battle with rain, The Panther Prowl returned to Franklin as the Silver Division Champions!! Pictured front from left: Tyler Harrison, Blake Gibson, Jesse Seagle, Hunter Jamison, Jay Bueck, Camden Williams. Middle Row from left: Austin Ramey, Kent Cochran, Dylan Burt, Tyler Harrell, Jacob Koch. Back Row from left: Coach Mike Gibson, Head Coach Bill Harrell, Coach Matt Sullivan.

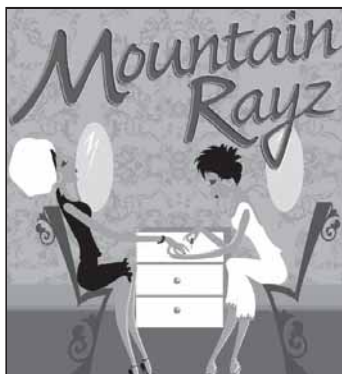
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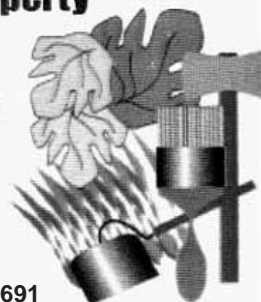
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## • POLICE & FIRE •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from April 23. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 23

- At 1 p.m., a larceny of outdoor lighting fixtures was reported at a residence on Cobb Road. The fixtures are valued at \$150. The case is under investigation.

April 29

- At 10:20 a.m., officers responded to an accident at U.S. 64 east and Carolina Way. There were no injuries.

May 1

- At 1:30 p.m., officers issued a parking violation concerning an abandoned car on Webbmont Road.

- At 10:20 a.m., officers conducted a residence check on Paul Walden Way when a part-time resident called to report her utility bill had increased from \$10 a month to \$30 a month so she suspected someone was living in the house. The back door of the residence was unlocked but police said everything seemed OK. It was secured when they left.

May 2

- At 5:12 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hicks Road where a car was in a ditch. There were no injuries.

May 3

- Officers at a traffic stop on U.S. 64 west conducted a breathalyzer test on a driver when they smelled alcohol in the car. Her breath registered a 0.00. The odor was from a cake in the car that contained alcohol.

- During the week the officers issued 6 citations and responded to 1 alarm.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from April 29:

April 29

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Main Street. The victim was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD and supplied water for a brush fire on Norton Road.

April 30

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Oak Street. The victim was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. responded to a rescue call at Cliffside Lake where a 64-year-old had fallen and broken an ankle. He was transported to the hospital.

May 1

- The dept. responded to a life-line alarm at a residence on Dogwood Drive. No one was there.

May 2

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Dillard Road where a person was complaining of a back problem. He was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at the Mountain Retreat Learning Center. The victim was transported to the hospital.

## • BIZ NEWS •

### Elizabeth Salzarulo new owner of Harry Norman

On May 1, Elizabeth B. Salzarulo assumed ownership of the Highlands' Harry Norman, Realtors office. Salzarulo became a NC real estate broker five years ago and is eager to put her expertise and passion for real estate to work as she heads up the Harry Norman team.

Former owner and broker-in-charge Pat Allen will now be able to devote her time solely to sales and serving her clients. Long time Highlander Monica Calloway, with Harry Norman for three years, will assume the role of broker-in-charge. Brokers Molly Leonard, Bert Mobley, Frank Scudder and Cy Timmons will remain. A recent addition to the staff is broker Gwen Cruze.

Salzarulo is thrilled with the opportunity to be a part of the revered firm, members of Leading Estates of the World and Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate. Salzarulo's plans for the firm include integrated marketing and PR initiatives, but the emphasis on customer service, the foundation of the office, will remain unchanged. "The office's greatest strength is its incredible group of brokers and passion for serving its customers and I feel fortunate to be working with such talented and dedicated professionals."

Harry Norman, Realtors is located at #1 Mountain Brook Center. 828-526-8300.

## • FUN & GAMES •

### Hex-a-Ku<sup>©</sup> 2009

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

#### OBJECT:

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

#### How to Solve:

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

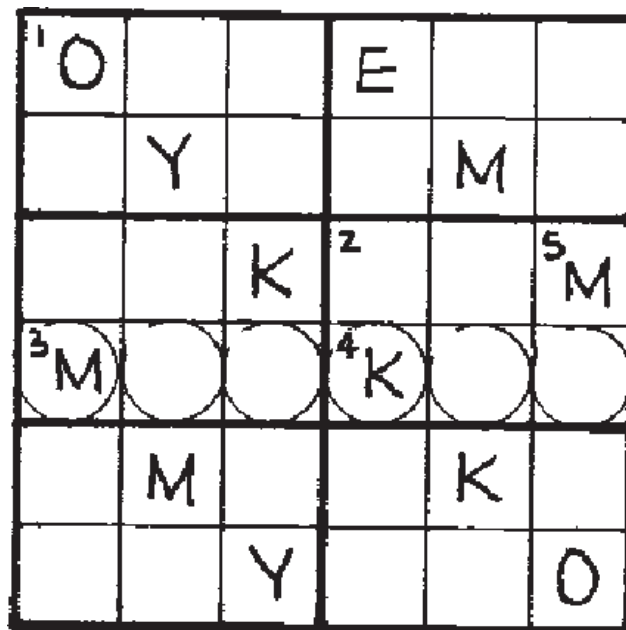
**Mystery Word:**  
primate

#### Across

- Not Off (2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ de plume (Fr.) (3)
- Abbot (4)
- Lock part (3)

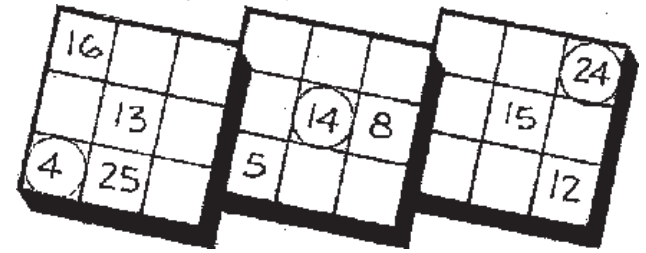
#### Down

- Mine (self) (2)



### PseudoCube<sup>©</sup>

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#### #AN3A Level of Difficulty - Easy

#### THE SETUP:

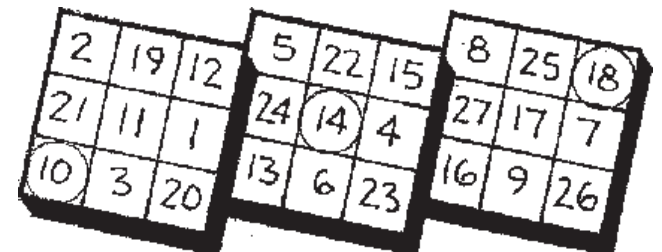
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

#### THE CHALLENGE:

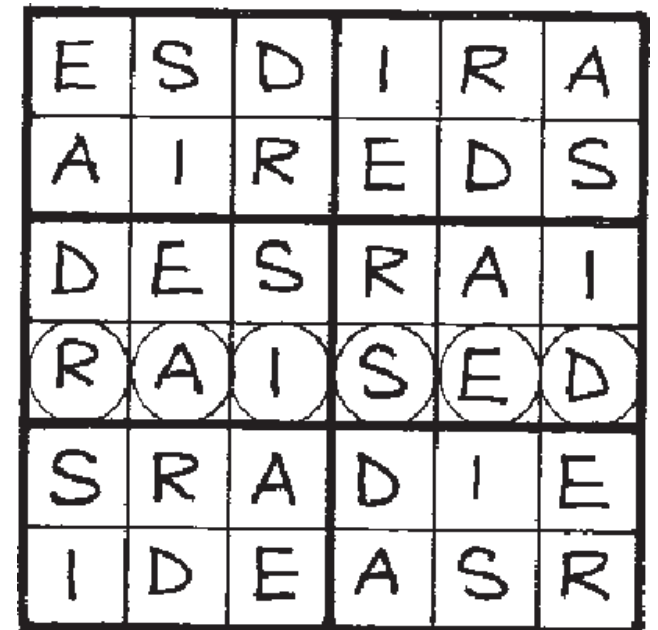
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

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

#### Solution to #DN2A in April 30 issue



#### Solution to April 30 Hex-a-Ku



# The Girls' Clubhouse travels to Charlotte, NC for service & fun

Commemorating its 12th year of community service in Highlands, The Girls' Clubhouse traveled to Charlotte, NC, to perform a community service project and have some much deserved fun.

The girls prepared lunch at the Hall House which is a home for women and their children, who suffer

from poverty, addiction or abuse. The girls also enjoyed a night on the town, a day at Carowinds and a day at the Discovery Museum and Imax Theater. Special thanks go to Highlands Rotary, Old Edwards Hospitality Group, the Highlands United Methodist Church and Hillrie Quin for their generous donations.



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One of the original Girls' Clubhouse members, Rachel Lewicki, let the club stay at her apartment in Charlotte and helped with hair do's Friday night. Pictured are McKinley Moseley, April Moss, Elizabeth Houston, Grace Brassard, Veronica Garcia, Meredith Garren and Ivy Satterwhite.



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• BIZ NEWS •

**Ruka's Table in Wright Square is open**

Ruka's Table Restaurant features a warm, inviting atmosphere perfect for all ages. A seasonal menu centers around high quality ingredients at peak freshness provided by various local food artisans. It is open for breakfast, lunch and light dinner fare seven days a week. The Roddy family enjoyed a meal on Sunday.



**The family-owned, family-operated and family-friendly Pizza Place on Main Street**

For pizza, sandwiches and salads every way you like them, it's The Pizza Place open seven days a week. Family owned and operated by the Robinson family, Charles, Charissa, Payton and Karalee.

**Highlands Hill Deli at 4th & Main now has inside seating!**

Expanding into Mrs. Wong's space has made all the difference for Highlands Hill Deli. Now you can place your order and eat in or take out. The choice is yours.



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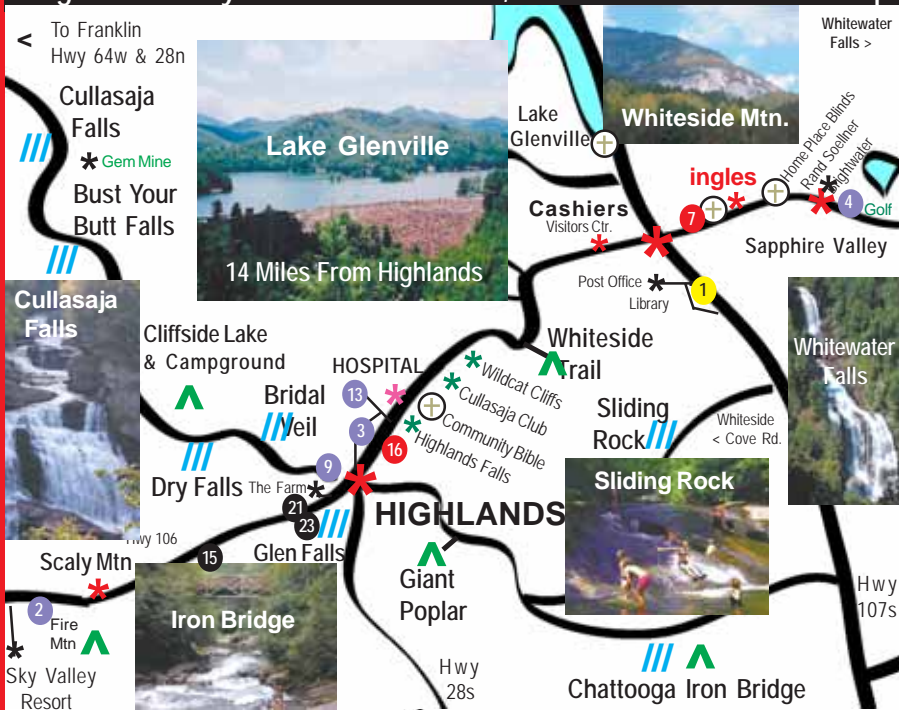
828-743-2121

U.S. 64 east

(past the crossroads on the left)

# 2009 HIGHLANDS MAP

HighlandsInfo.com Everything You Need To Know  
Highlands Only Real-Time Weather, WebCam & Interactive Map



- 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
- 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 Sumimt One Gallery
  - 21 Summer House
- MARKETS**
- 1 Bryson's
  - 2 Dusty's
  - 3 Mtn. Fresh
  - 4 Whole Health
- BEAUTY**
- 1 All Seasons
  - 2 Creative Concepts
  - 3 Images Unlimited
  - 4 Taylor Barnes
  - 5 The Salon
  - 6
- REALTHY**
- 1 Buyer's Realty
  - 2 Century 21
  - 3 Chambers
  - 4 Country Club Prop
  - 5 Green Mtn.
  - 6 John Schiffl

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Weekly Events  
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Interactive Map @  
HighlandsInfo.com

A detailed street map of Highlands, North Carolina, featuring numerous business listings and photos. The map shows streets such as Main St., Church St., and Spring St. Key businesses include:

- Madison's** (9): Restaurant with a photo of a dining table.
- Log Cabin** (8): Restaurant with a photo of a dish.
- Bryson's Foods Gourmet** (1): Grocery store with a photo of a storefront.
- Scudder's Galleries**: Art gallery with a photo of a gallery interior.
- Paoletti's** (12): Restaurant with a photo of the exterior.
- Wolfgang's** (20): Restaurant with a photo of a chef.
- Country Club Prop.** (17): Restaurant and property.
- Log Cabin Restaurant** (8): Restaurant.
- Dusty's Market** (2): Market.
- Mitchell's Lodge & Cottages** (8): Lodging.
- ACE Hardware** (3'd & Main Street): Hardware store.
- Manley's Auto Service** (Hwy. 28s): Auto service.
- J&J Lawn & Landscaping** (<<< 1 Mile Hwy. 28s): Landscaping.

The map also includes various landmarks like the Community Center, Rec. Park, and performing arts center. A legend in the top right corner provides a key for the numbered markers used on the map.