

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 43

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Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009

FRI	SAT	SUN
58 / 48F	56 / 38F	50 / 34F

This Week in Highlands

Thurs., Oct. 29

- Nick's Restaurant donating 10% of all proceeds from lunch and dinner to Highlands-Cashiers Hospice.

- Lady Highlanders After-school Hoops Clinic for grades K-6 from 3-5 p.m. at the Highlands School new gym. \$25 per student or \$40 for family of two.

- UCWA, the Upper Watershed Association will hold an Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m. in the Peggy Crosby Center.

- Literacy Council Halloween Spooktacular from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Peggy Crosby Center. The event is free and open to the public. Snacks will be provided.

- Fressers Eatery featuring a wine dinner by culinary students Michael Grabe and Jessica Stanley. 6:30 p.m. \$48 plus tax and gratuity. Wine will be available. Call 526-4188.

Fri.-Sat., Oct. 30-31

- This Halloween the Highlands Prominent Committee is hosting a Halloween Haunted House on Friday and Saturday from 7-10 p.m. at 2851 Cashiers Road in Highlands. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Saturday, Oct. 31

- At Greenleaf Gallery 12 noon – 5 pm – The "Leafware" Potter – Rusty Schrum-Owens at 177 Main St. in Wrights Square. Light refreshments.

- Downtown Trick or Treat. Halloween Highlands style. 6 – 8 p.m. 5:45 – 8 p.m.

- Spooky Raku, a Halloween Pottery Firing, at sundown at The Bascom. For information, call 526-4949.

- Halloween Pizza Party 5 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Eat before you Trick-or-Treat. Call 526-3376 so they know how much pizza to order.

Monday, Nov. 2

- "Questions for the Candidate" Wine and cheese Reception for Gary Drake, 5:30 pm at Wolfgang's restaurant and bistro. Compliments of Wolfgang and Mindy Green.

Thursday, Nov. 5

- Taize service at the Highlands United Methodist Church at 5:30 p.m.

- Rotary Bingo with Highlands Girl Scouts from 6:30-8:30 at the Highlands Community Building.

CEO Shull to leave hospital for Tryon job

Kenneth A Shull, FACHE, who has been president and chief executive officer of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for the past four years is leaving to become CEO of St. Luke's Hospital in Columbus, NC, near Tryon.

Shull informed hospital directors here of his decision to accept

the new position at their regular board meeting Thursday afternoon. Shull will remain with the hospital here through Nov. 22.

"Ken has guided our hospital through some difficult times, and we appreciate his dedication, leadership and commitment," said hospital Board Chairman Charlie Sheehan.

"He is leaving the hospital better off today than it was four years ago. Now it's time to begin a new chapter in the hospital's progress. We certainly wish him success in his new endeavor."

Sheehan said the board has already formed a committee and will

• See SHULL page 24

Planning Board says 'yes' to Methodist Church

A couple of months ago the United Methodist Church requested a zoning change from B3 to Conditional-B1 for its property behind the church on the grounds that parking requirements in the B3 zone would eat up the property earmarked for future church expansion.

Following an official request and detailed explanation by church architect Jeff Weller, the Town Board sent the request to the Planning Board.

At Monday's Planning Board meeting, the request was OK'd unanimously with four votes. Present were Griffin Bell, Pat Taylor, Thomas Craig and Mike Bryson.

Since Griffin Bell is a member of the board of trustees at the Methodist Church he thought he might have a conflict of interest, but board member Pat Taylor said since there is no "financial gain" on Bells' part,

• See PLANNING page 23

It's Halloween in Highlands!



These goblins were seen wandering around in front of TWIGS on U.S. 64 east on Saturday and they're sure to be seen on Main Street Saturday, Oct. 31 when all of Highlands turns out for "Downtown Trick-or-Treating" from 6-8 p.m.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

County only keeping 8% of room tax money

The long debate over how much the county should charge to administer the Occupancy Tax Funds it distributes to the Franklin and Highlands Chambers of Commerce has been decided.

At the Wednesday, Oct. 28 Macon County Commission meeting, Finance Director Evelyn Southard presented her findings.

Based on the information gleaned by the Indirect Cost consultant hired by the county last year, the county will be keeping 8% — roughly \$32,000 a year — to administer the occupancy tax.

"I have reviewed the cost of the occupancy tax procedure for the past three months and my recommendation is that the county administer the tax for 8% of the gross amount collected," she said. "That amounts to 32,000."

That will pay for one staff person, who is estimated at 25% time, the annual license fee for software,

• See ROOM TAX page 29

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

Save the bat!



Kim Lewicki
Publisher

After returning from "The Dining Room," Friday, Oct. 16, we had a glass of wine by the fire before heading downstairs to bed.

The bedside lamps were on, but once in bed we turned them off.

Just as we were drifting off the sleep, Jim jumps up and says "Oh my God, something bit me!"

I figured he was talking about a spider and that it was in the bed. So when I jumped up I said, "Is it still in the bed?"

By now he had turned the bedside lamp on and was examining his middle finger. Instead of answering, he slowly turned on his heel and began examining the floor.

Suddenly, a large bat rose up from somewhere and began frantically and furiously flying about the room.

Well, I began screaming, of course, running here and there trying to evade the bat that was flapping above my head.

I looked over at Jim who was laughing at the spectacle – evidently there was a lot of flapping going on.

He suggested I leave the room, which I did, but only to stand right outside the bedroom door. I heard flapping, running about and finally, "Get me some Tupperware!"

I quickly returned with the vessel. Jim had pinned the bat behind the French door which was opened and pushed against the wall.

Using a newspaper he successfully corralled the creature into the bin and then through the whole mess outside.

Though now safe, we quickly realized that the bat had likely entered the bedroom through the chimney of the old fireplace down there, one without a flue.

That being the case, neither of us was too keen on sleeping downstairs so we headed for the twin bed in the guest room upstairs.

Between the bat encounter and the twin bed, we didn't get much rest that

• See FORUM page 9

• LETTERS •

The comedy called "Politics"

Dear Editor,

I went to the town building over by the baseball park last week to listen to the people who want to be part of Highlands' government for the next couple of years. I'm sorry you couldn't be there it got pretty interesting. The two magic words for this meeting seemed to be hostility and hospitality.

It started out with a fellow asking a question of a particular candidate and then letting any of the others to jump in. One of the candidates seemed quite outspoken and excitable. He was bold though and not at all put off by not knowing much about the facts of the problems and solutions.

Some of the questions were more about 'gotcha' instead of being getting useful information. I asked if the belligerent candidate submitted these – nope, they came from the group that put on this thing. I don't think that this was helpful at all. I did not go to this to hear people attacking others and doing nothing constructive. If I wanted this I would turn on TV and watch congress in inaction.

One person (another one jumped in much later) said that the only thing the town government should worry about is 'hospitality!' Every time he said it, I kept expecting to see Groucho jump out with his

rubber duck give this person a hundred bucks – didn't happen.

Supposedly, people were asked why they came to Highlands and bought one of the expensive homes. It seems that most half of them said it was so they could go the shops and buy the shiny doo-dads. Now, this got me really concerned. Used to when our family was going down a road and saw a bunch of cars coming towards us, my daddy would say we were late again. It was all over and everybody was heading back home. Sure made one feel left out.

Well, that's the way it was that night. I been here year round for the last 12 years and no one asked me why I came here. Left out again! Course I never was one much for shiny doo-dads, so I guess it don't matter too much. Anyway, if I wanted a shiny doo-dad, I don't think I would drive all the way from Charleston, Atlanta, Miami or even Otto to get one in Highlands.

Now some of the stores in town are pretty nice and a few of them even have useful things. There is an auction place not far from here that will tell you right up front that they don't have anything that you really need. I suspect there may be a few other shops in town with the same kind of stuff.

You and I know a couple of families

that have been coming to Highlands for over a 100 years. Course they are only 'summer people' and don't have a business here! But, I never heard any of them say that they came up the mountain to go to the shops. However, they did speak pretty highly about Bill's Soda Shop and Helen's Barn.

Anyway, I think the town has a lot more important things to do than to shill for the individual businesses – that's the function of the Chamber of Commerce. Don't get me wrong, we do have some very nice businesses and some nice business people and the town should provide them services and support just like all the other taxpayers. But it is the responsibility of each business owner to sell enough doo-dads to keep the doors open. I want my tax money spent on things like good drinking water and a pipe to take the water away when I'm done with it.

Now, I sort of felt sorry for this one person who I thought said that his tap water looks like the rain water running down into Mill Creek. I'm real glad that the town provides me with good, clean tap water. Every now and then, one of incumbent candidates would tell us the real facts about some of the problems and solutions. We learned that the town has a very experienced and knowledgeable engineer to help solve runoff/silt problems and that going out looking after one rainstorm won't quite qualify a person to handle these problems.

Someone accused town government of holding secret council meetings. Well, I've gone to a couple of these and if they are trying to keep them secret, they are going about it in a funny way. First they stick a piece of paper on the wall about when, where and what they are going to talk about. Then they let just anybody come in and even let them stand up and say something. There is usually a writer from the newspaper taking notes about all the talking and the yaying and naying – even who done it. Then they put it in the paper! Heck of a way to keep something secret.

At the end of this thing, they let each candidate tell us why we should or should not vote for him or her. Well, I could not figure out who won this contest cause I did not get a score card. Each one said they love Highlands – of course more than the person that spoke before them. I figure that this part was pretty even. Then each one said how long they had been coming to Highlands, how long they have actually

• See LETTERS page 9

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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• OBITUARIES •

Rickey George McCall

Rickey George McCall, age 40, of Highlands, NC, died Saturday, October 24, 2009 at his residence. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late Leon and Halley Talley McCall. He was a construction worker and equipment operator. He was a member of Carvers Chapel Baptist Church.

He is survived by one daughter, Britney McCall of Clayton, GA; four sons, Ricky Jordan McCall of Otto, NC, Randall McCall of Highlands, NC, Wayland McCall of Clayton, GA and David McCall of Highlands, NC; three sisters, Julie Reed of Clayton, GA, Laura McCall of Highlands, NC and Jane McCall of Franklin, NC.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, October 28 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands, with Rev. Alton Dendy officiating. Burial was at Miller Cemetery. Pallbearers were Doug McCall, Shawn McCall, Kevin Earp, Jordan McCall, Gary McClure and Phillip Nix.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 332 N. Lauderdale Street, Memphis, TN 38105-2794.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences are available by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com,

Barbara Jane Herndon Gryder Magruder

Barbara Jane Herndon Gryder Magruder died Wednesday, Oct. 21. She was born September 29, 1933 and grew up in Chattanooga, TN. Mother Zollie Evangeline Hollo-man Hales, and father Paul Ralph Herndon, both predeceased her, as did her son Jack Erwin Gryder.

She is survived by her husband Lauch M. Magruder, children Pamela Jane Gryder Carr of Pensacola, FL, Susan Gryder Vassar of Lakeland, FL, Sandra Gryder Scheer of Tulsa, OK, her step-children, Claudia Magruder Featherstone of Knoxville, TN, Gloria Kate (Kay) Magruder Van Skiver of Cedaredge, CO; 13 grandchildren and her brother, Paul Herndon of Sparta, NC.

Funeral services were held at St. Andrews Episcopal Cathedral, Jackson, MS at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2009. Burial was at Highland Colony Parkway Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, NC in early December.

Jane was an active member of St. Andrews Cathedral, Jackson, MS and the Church of the Incarnation in Highlands.

In the early 1960s with her husband Jack Gryder and their four young children, Jane moved to Jackson. She was a charter member of St. Philips Episcopal Church. After the death of her husband, she continued serving as a teacher in its church school and later as a member of its Vestry. She married Lauch Magruder in December 1969. In 1997, when her husband retired, they moved to their home in Highlands, NC.

Jane was a faithful servant of her Lord having shared Christ's love with many. She was a regular music director for the Cursillos of both the Episcopal and Methodist churches, being instrumental in organizing The Mississippi Methodist Cursillo. Jane founded the Family Choir at St. Andrews Cathedral in Jackson. She served as music director of the Mississippi Faith at Work conferences in Jackson and the Summer Chapel in Highlands. For years she hosted a ladies prayer

group in her home.

Jane loved people, evidenced by the fact that wherever she went, she never met a stranger. In 1979, when the family was on an extended trip to Scotland, they were active in an Episcopal church in Edinburgh. Once Jane received a call from a leader of a ladies bible study in that church asking her to come and meet with the group. She said to Jane, "Please come and teach us joy."

• See OBITUARIES page 12



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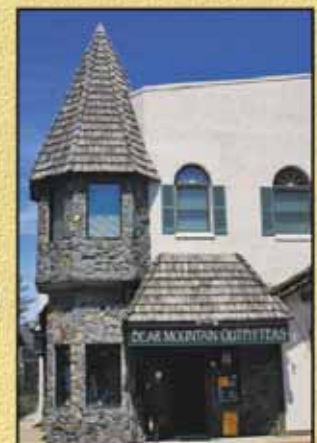
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

The party's over. Pack your thousand dollar bills

Yes, Highlands is winding down another fun season of frivolity and reckless spending. No, no, I'm not talking about the Democrats. Shame on you! Frivolity and reckless spending is their job all year long. I'm talking about those pesty country club folks, summer people and tourists who are packing their thousand dollar bills and heading for warmer climes. Who needs all that money? We're getting "free" money anyway.

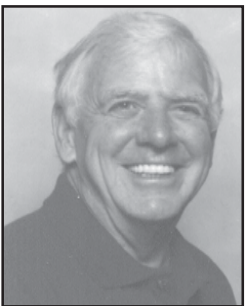
I've been a part-time Highlander in one fashion or another for 41 years. Whodathunkit! Not being a thousand dollar person, I'm packing my twenties and leaving soon myself.

Without a doubt, Highlands is unique. Did you see where the police were called to an 11 year old party down on the Old Walhalla Road? Now I've been to some all night shindigs in my day, but never one that lasted 11 years. Wow, I wanna meet those people. I'm bettin' they were all Catholics.

Speaking of police, one of my favorite things to read is the police reports. Boy, do I envy Highlands' cops. The town takes very good care of its finest, as it should. Our officers have take-home cars and, from reading the police reports, are not the busiest guys in town this time of the year; actually, any time of the year. Someone told me there are more Highlands' squad cars parked in Franklin than patrolling Highlands. I guess not too many officers can afford to live in Highlands on their salary. They surely don't pack their thousand dollar bills and head out. Still, they do get calls, like checking unlocked homes. Would you believe I was here when homes in Highlands were left unlocked?

Highlands' officers should remember this. Whether working Miami's dangerous Liberty City or Main Street Highlands in the dead of winter, it only takes one nut with one bullet to end your life. It's a thankless, dangerous job.

Since the li'l missus and I are winter wimps, we'll be pulling outta here soon. Some say good riddance. If I stayed, my blood flow would slow to a trickle, my nose would fill with mucus (Can I use the "S" word?) and I would spend all day



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

under covers. I definitely have bear genes in me. Unless I'm fired, I'll continue writing through the winter months and, as always, my column can be found on the Internet so my fellow weenie winter wimps who left town with their thousand dollar bills can catch my insanity.

And, at least part of the winter, I'll be sending you columns from camel-land (Dubai) where we go each winter. Dubai residents have million dollar bills but they

don't pack them and head out! When I send columns from Dubai I have to be careful because of censorship. Any writing about drinking, nudity, hot babes, sex, etc. will get censored. You would think Dubai is being run by a bunch of Methodists. I have received a "red flag" notice from the government censors telling me my e-mail was unsuitable. Get down on your knees everyone and kiss the ground you're kneeling on. Then shout, "God Bless America." Unfortunately, I think censorship will soon come to America.

Moving on, I think the smartest guy in town is our Town Manager. I planned on wasting at least part of my summer columns making fun of him but when's the last time you saw his name in print doing anything? He's a whiz at dodging bullets. Is he even in town? What a disappointment. Also, my biggest fear in leaving Highlands is that someone, in the dead of winter, will paint two hour parking signs on all the parking places.

And finally, let's talk about the November elections. No, I'm not running since everyone foolishly rejected my request to run the place from a foreign country. The two contenders for mayor are local businessman Dave Wilkes vs. Dr. Don, our current mayor. Dr. Don is a country club person who doesn't pack his thousand dollar bills and leave town. There are some who wish he would, but that's none of my business since I'm not even eligible to vote. I'm looking forward to writing some fun columns about whoever wins that race.

I hope my network of informants will keep feeding me dirt. Of course, I would never reveal the identities of my "deep throats" so don't ask. Then again, if I were a politician, I would sell you that information for a few of your thousand dollar bills.

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

This story spans two decades, but most of it takes place at the beginning and the end. The middle can be summed up as follows, "The next 18 years passed with Bill and Faith sharing a remarkable love, while watching their barren tree and trying with no success to conceive a child."

The story starts in Belize, a funky little country just south of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Belize was once an English colony, British Honduras, which makes it different from its neighbors.

Instead of a Maya Spanish culture, Belize is a blend of British and African, Caribbean funky with reserve. Crumpets and ganga tea. That's where we met Bill and Faith. They were on their honeymoon.

Lizzie and I were there for the diving. While waiting for a boat to take us to the offshore caye where we were staying, we

Undying love



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

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decided to catch a glimpse of Belize City. It was Caribbean to be sure. White frame building with lots of gingerbread and tin roofs, not the thatched huts we'd seen in Latin countries. Bill had bought a sliced orange from a street vender. He pleaded with Faith to share it, but she kept thinking of warning about eating local fruits and vegetables, about the Pepto-Bismol and Imodium back at the hotel.

She relented, as he knew she would, and as they shared the sweetest orange they had, or would ever taste, Bill suddenly, in the middle of the dusty street, with people streaming by on both sides, pulled Faith to him and kissed her.

It wasn't the "Oh, darling, Are you enjoying the exhibit. The snacks are divine," kind of kiss. It was head on, open mouth,

• See SALZARULO page 15

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My name is Joshua, I'm 12 years old, and I want to tell you why I like to come visit my grandma. When I come to see my grandma at Chestnut Hill, I have a lot of fun. You can never get bored. There is so much to do. The food here is delicious. It has some of the best food ever. If you come from far away like me, they have nice apartments to stay in. The nurses here are also very skilled. Like some days, if your grandma or grandpa wants to get out, you can go to the Boone Activity Center. There are pool tables, shuffle board, and a computer. If you do not want to do that, you can just sit down in the comfortable chairs around the fire or around the 70" TV. When you come here, you want to eat here. The food here is amazing. The Chef, Chef Becky, is the best. You can't get better than that. There is always something different everyday. The apartments are very comfortable to stay in, from the kitchen, to the beds, to the living room and bathroom. All are very nice. I think it couldn't get better. The nurses here do a great job of taking care of my grandma. They do so well, they spoil her. You can't imagine a place better. The scenery and everything is beautiful. Maybe when I get older, I'll live here!

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Beyond religion

John Shelby Spong is a familiar name to many people in Highlands. Bishop Spong has spoken here many times since I've lived here, and I have never gone to hear him. Now, after reading his new book, *Eternal Life: A New Vision: Beyond Religion, Beyond Theism, Beyond Heaven and Hell* [236.2S], I realize what I have missed.

Bishop Spong is a retired minister of the Episcopal Church, but has moved so far in his spiritual path that he says he has moved beyond religion. In fact, he declares that that is the destiny for the human race: to mature past the need for "theism," that is, a personal God.

His book could be seen as a history of humanity told through stages of consciousness. What sets humans apart from the animal kingdom is our sense of self-consciousness. Animals are aware, they are conscious of their surroundings, but they are not aware of themselves. They do not feel anxious about an uncertain future or shame at an embarrassing moment in the past. Perhaps most important, they are not aware that one day they will die.

Bishop Spong traces the beginnings of religion to the needs of these earliest self-conscious humans. He defines religion as a coping mechanism, a way for anxious self-aware creatures to manage their fears.

Religion served many purposes. It gave assurance that life would not end at death. It gave us explanations (even though they were inaccurate) for the mysteries of the planet — gods pulled the sun around the earth with a chariot, gods hurled thunderbolts in anger, when it thundered a god was bowling ten-pins. Religion made us feel that we had a powerful supernatural being on our side, who, if we performed the proper ceremonies, could be persuaded to intercede on our behalf.

In fact, Bishop Spong says, "religious practices, when analyzed objectively, make it obvious that their hidden purpose is to manipulate the external supernatural deity so that this deity will bring divine power to bear in the service of frightened human beings." These religious practices employ flattery, as if we could fool the creator of the universe.

In addition, religion has been a powerful form of social control: if we follow God's rules we'll not only have "His" protection in this life but in the life to come. So people have toed the line for centuries within the Christian tradition because



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they have been terrified to live outside the protection of the Christian God and terrified of the prospect of eternal punishment.

Bishop Spong insists that the era of religion is the era of humanity's childhood, when we desired parent figures to provide us with security. Now, he believes, we are maturing to a new level of consciousness.

I found the beginning of the book a little tedious because, I think, Bishop Spong knew how shocking his message would be to many people so he built his case slowly. And perhaps what I will write next will be difficult for many Christians: Bishop Spong declares that Jesus was not the son of God; instead he was a human who had fully matured. He writes, "Jesus was a human life so deeply lived, a human life through which love flowed without barrier or interception, a being so courageously present that he was open to the ultimate ground of all being. He had stepped from self-consciousness into a universal consciousness that brings us into a profound oneness with all there is. He had become one with God."

Bishop Spong proclaims this universal consciousness is available to all of us.

I was raised in a Protestant church, and my family attended faithfully every Sunday. When I was about 12 I became very devout; I was impassioned at the thought of becoming as Christ. Then I went through confirmation class and was instructed that Jesus was a singular being, that I had no chance of becoming as Christ, and I thought, "What's the point?" I completely lost interest in religion.

As the human race has matured in consciousness and become more analytical, we have begun to look at the rituals and theologies of our religions and found that they no longer satisfy our needs. Many people have thought the problem was with their particular religion, Christianity for example, and pursued spirituality in the religion of another culture, like Buddhism. Other people have discarded spirituality entirely. Our secular culture and its relative morality is a direct consequence of the removal of the straightjacket of the threat of heaven and hell.

A favorite author of mine, Alan Watts, wrote a book entitled *Beyond Theology*. His message is that Christianity creates a sense of a separate individual self and takes it to such an absurd length — of an

• See BRUGGER page 7

• COACH'S CORNER •

Random thoughts (leaf looker edition)

First off, congratulations to the Lady Highlander volleyball team for making it to the second round of state playoffs! Great job by these young ladies to finish with a winning record and advance in the playoffs.

Another weekend, another ugly win from the Florida Gators. While there are plenty of theories about why the Florida offense is struggling, I say look no further than the unimaginative playcalling of Steve Addazio. Gone from last year are the reverses and deep passing game to keep defenses honest. Instead Florida simply runs the read option play 80% of the time and depends on Tebow's talent. Also, by now it should be fairly obvious that Tebow is not a NFL quarterback based on throwing the ball-his release time is poor and his decision making is questionable. The guy knows how to win and can make plays, but I don't believe he can run an NFL offense because of his lack of accuracy and decision making in the passing game.

Speaking of passing game issues-Alabama is looking more and more one dimensional each week. However, as long as their defense continues to dominate and they don't beat themselves with turnovers, they look like the #1 team in the country...for now. BTW-what a game from Terrence "Mount" Cody-two FG blocks to save their bacon from Tennessee.

Don't look now, but Jonathan Crompton has been terrific the last two weeks playing QB for the Volunteers. I'm surprised that Kiffin didn't try and get a few more yards for that final FG attempt down in Tuscaloosa.

We are down to three unbeaten in the NFL. The Vikings stumbled in Pittsburgh thanks to a pair of defensive touchdown returns, but it doesn't matter-the Vikes are still a top 3 NFL team. Any questions as to how much the Gators miss Percy Harvin? The guy is dominating in the return game and has also been a major weapon for that Favre fellow in the Viking offense.

Silly turnovers...check. Poor effort by the O-Line...check. Down 24-3 on the road...check. Saints fans (including Ryan) remembering how we've seen this movie before...check. The bartender telling me that "these aren't your daddy's Saints".....what? Turns out he was right, and maybe...just maybe Saints fans have something to be excited about this year.



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Then again, the Falcons could paste us this week and I might have to listen to my brother in law crow about it.

Fearless World Series prediction. The Yankees win in 7 thanks to CC Sabathia and Alex Rodriguez. The New York media then proceeds to make us all remember why we hated the Yankees in the first place.

The NBA regular season started this week...anyone? Anyone? Bueller? Bueller? (a tumbleweed softly rolls by)

And finally, this year, for Halloween I am going as Bill Belichick. All I have to do is wear a hoodie and look ticked off all the time. I think it's a great costume, and in this economy, you have to go cheap.

... BRUGGER continued from page 6

eternal separation from God either in hell or even in heaven worshipping "Him" — that it will collapse of its own weight. This, Watts says, is the ultimate power of Christianity.

When we perceive individuals as being separate, we are seeing only one level of reality and missing the deeper levels where everything is joined. Watts uses as an example a crack in the fence: looking through it imagine seeing first a cat's head, and then 10 seconds later a tail. If we didn't know anything about cats we would think the head and tail were separate events, and maybe even postulate that a head-event causes a tail-event. The fence blocks our ability to see the underlying unity of cat.

Bishop Spong wrote this book to explore what it meant to leave heaven and hell behind when he discarded religion. What did that mean about death? His conclusion: "God is ultimately one, and that means that each of us is part of that oneness. I am finite, but I share in infinity. I am mortal, but I share in immortality. I am a being, but I share in being itself."

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

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

I had just sent off my 10/22 column when I received a lovely email from a devoted reader. She posed an excellent question. We know about the problems Rep. Charles Rangel had remembering all his assets and income when it was reporting time. I assume we know, at any rate. Maybe I need to bring you up to speed, just in case.

Charlie Rangel is the Representative from the north end of Manhattan. He has been that forever. He has so much seniority

he was named Chairman of the House Ways and Means committee. I screamed when he was named, knowing his sleazy reputation. But I digress. Charlie owns apartments, condos, homes, accounts at banks, credit unions, income producing property, assets all over the place.

Elected officials at the Federal level are required to report their assets and income

That's a good question

(from all sources) on a regular basis. For some reason, Charlie has made it a habit of forgetting to report lots of property and lots of income. Now I can somewhat relate to memory loss because I am a senile old man, and Charlie is five years older than I am. That's where the semblance ends since I don't own all those sorts of assets and I have an income puny compared to his.

Not only did he fail to report a slug of income, he also didn't pay taxes on it. This could be serious. That is, if it were you or me; with Charlie, not so much. The House Ethics Committee has been ruminating the matter for about a year, and evidently Madam Pelosi is in no hurry for Charlie to pay for his sins. But back to my new pen pal. She asks, "I wonder how Rangel accumulated all that wealth on a representative's salary?" That's a good question.

Rangel grew up in a poor home in Harlem, left school, had a distinguished stint in the Army, went to college and, can you imagine, came out with a law degree in 1960. Let's pick up Wikipedia's version of what's next. "After graduating law school, Rangel passed the state bar exam and was hired by Weaver, Evans & Wingate, the city's most prominent black law firm. Rangel made little money in private practice..." For the next five years, he held several low to mid-level state and federal positions and had held elected legislative positions since.

Now I'm in no position to know exactly how Mr. Rangel accumulated his wealth, but I've got a pretty good idea how it could have happened.

Let's shift gears and look at our friend, William Jefferson, former Democratic Congressman from New Orleans. From Nola.com; "A federal jury found him guilty of 11 of 16 corruption charges. He was charged with soliciting bribes and other crimes for a series of schemes in which he helped American businesses broker deals in West Africa in exchange for payments or financial considerations to companies controlled by members of his family."

Long story short, undercover FBI agents turned over to Jefferson \$100,000 in marked bills, \$90,000 of which turned up in his freezer. He will be sentenced Oct. 30th. By the way, have you ever wondered why it takes so long to sentence a convicted crook? The jury rendered its verdict on August 5th after five days of deliberation and the judge takes three months to sentence him? What goes on during that time? I don't get it.

Incidentally, William Jefferson is no re-

lation to William Jefferson Clinton in case you were wondering. Anyway, these gentlemen are very creative in building their net

worth. I suppose we would all have a little more in the bank if we forgot to pay taxes on a good deal of our income. Just a guess, but Charlie has had over 40 years to work his wonders and evidently he did it well. Possibly Rangel might become a greater liability to Madam Pelosi than his vote is an asset. We'll see.

On a lighter note, I woke up this morning to the news that the cost of health care legislation that started out at

\$850,000,000,000 and that Obama wanted to keep under \$900,000,000,000 is now estimated to exceed \$1,000,000,000,000. Given the government's history of underestimation, it may well exceed \$2,000,000,000,000 in the next 10 years.

Now, I am three score and ten and then some so you golden oldies can relate. I remember when the Fortune 500 wealthiest individuals were millionaires; now they are billionaires. I remember when national budgets were in the single-digit billions; now they are trillions. Other stats reflect the same escalation. Life has expanded a thousand-fold and I'm feeling it.

Medicaid cuts to affect pregnant women & babies

Recent budget reductions in the Medicaid program called Maternity Care Coordination may affect local services for pregnant women. Child health advocacy groups and local health departments across the state are concerned that these cuts are likely to increase North Carolina's infant death rate.

MC Health Dept. Director Jim Bruckner said the recent cuts were aimed at eliminating possible duplication in mental health case management services, but were now being applied to services for pregnant women as well.

Concerns surfaced in reaction to a recently-published list of rate reductions, which included a 39% cut for Maternity Care Coordination, a support service for pregnant women provided by local health departments. Local health department were told the cut would be no more than 19%.

In Macon County, the health department's MCC program provides services to over 193 pregnant and post-partum women each year. These services are provided by a registered nurse and include:

For more information about MCC or any other service, please call the Macon County Public Health Center at 349-2081 or visit www.maconnc.org/healthdept.



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

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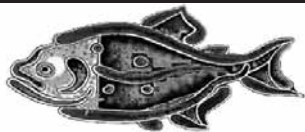
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... FORUM continued from page 2

night.

The next day we recounted the story to a brother in Wilmington with whom our daughter Megan and her boyfriend were visiting for fall break.

Big mistake.

My brother and Megan are very similar when it comes to ailments. Megan's an actor – enough said – Josh is excitable, so between the two of them the episode quickly lost all sense of proportion and verged on hysteria.

At first, Josh laughed with us about the episode but changed the story a bit, telling Megan and Joel that the bat was IN the bed. I had said it was UNDER the bed.

Turns out when Jim rolled over and dangled his arm off the side of the bed, the bat latched onto his finger. As soon as he felt it he jumped up and flung it to the floor.

He likened the "feeling" to that of a bird perched on a finger, but a bit sharper which is why it felt like a bite. He also says he initially thought it was a snake but didn't want to use that word at the time.

Anyway, Megan calls us and says that we have to go to the hospital right away and get a rabies shot.

During his tenure at Appalachian State University boyfriend Joel and several of his housemates had to get the rabies shot series when a bat was in a house they rented.

At that time, the CDC said exposure

meant being in a room where a bat was flying around. The CDC has relaxed those standards a bit, but at that time, Joel and his three roommates went to the Watauga Health Dept. and received the series. Since they were poor college students, it only cost them \$100 each.

"Jim has to get the shots," said Joel. "If he was bitten and the bat has rabies, he'll die. No one has ever survived rabies."

Well, Jim's at the grocery store getting lunch fixings for another brother and his family who is coming in for the day.

I meet him at the door, and tell him the news. "You have to go to the emergency room and get a rabies shot," I said as calmly as possible. "If the bat had rabies, you're going to die. They're waiting for you."

"Are you kidding me?" he asked.

"No," I said. "Megan just talked to Terry Potts over there and he said for you to come in right away."

He drops the groceries and goes. He's there for about three hours. Gets six shots, including Tetanus, the first of five rabies vaccine shots and the immune globulin shot which was actually five injections.

When he comes home he says I have to go.

"Rabies is an infectious viral disease that affects the nervous system of humans and other mammals. People get rabies from the bite of an animal with rabies. Any

wild mammal, like a raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote, or bat, can have rabies and transmit it to people. It is also possible, but quite rare, that people may get rabies if infectious material from a rabid animal, such as saliva, gets directly into their eyes, nose, mouth, or a wound.

"Because rabies is a fatal disease, the goal of public health is, first, to prevent human exposure to rabies by education and, second, to prevent the disease by anti-rabies treatment if exposure occurs. Tens of thousands of people are successfully treated each year after being bitten by an animal that may have rabies. A few people die of rabies each year in the United States, usually because they do not recognize the risk of rabies from the bite of a wild animal and do not seek medical advice," so reads information on the subject.

"Rabies can be confirmed only in a

laboratory. (So save the bat!) However, any bat that is active by day, is found in a place where bats are not usually seen (for example, in a room in your home or on the lawn), or is unable to fly, is far more likely than others to be rabid. Such bats are often the most easily approached. Therefore, it is best never to handle any bat. Most of the recent human rabies cases in the United States have been caused by rabies virus from bats. Awareness of the facts about bats and rabies can help people protect themselves, their families, and their pets."

After talking to several medical experts, including the ER doctor and nursing staff on duty, and Stan Polanski at the Macon County Health Dept., I agreed to undergo the rabies shot series, too.

Turns out being in a room with a bat doesn't ALWAYS count as exposure, but be-

•See FORUM page 13

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Salt is used as a flavor enhancer in many prepared dishes, but too much salt can be bad for your health. That's why using products such as Mrs. Dash® Salt-Free Seasoning Blends is a better choice. The combination of salt-free all-natural herbs and spices is perfectly blended to offer great flavor in a flash.

These recipes bring the best of both ingredients together to help you make healthy meals in a matter of minutes.

Southwest Chicken and Rice Wraps

Serves 4

- 1 can (14 ounces) low-sodium chicken broth
- 2 cups Minute Brown Rice, uncooked
- 2 tablespoons Mrs. Dash® Salt-Free Extra Spicy Seasoning Blend
- 2 cups frozen southwest blend vegetables
- 2 cups cooked chicken, diced
- 4 whole wheat tortillas
- 1 cup low-fat cheddar cheese, shredded, optional
- 1/2 cup light sour cream, optional

Bring broth to a boil in a medium saucepan. Add rice, seasoning blend, vegetables and chicken; stir. Cover, reduce heat to low and simmer 5 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand 5 minutes.

Warm tortillas and divide rice mixture evenly onto tortillas. Top with cheese and sour cream, if desired, and roll into desired shape.

Chicken and Rice Florentine

Serves 4

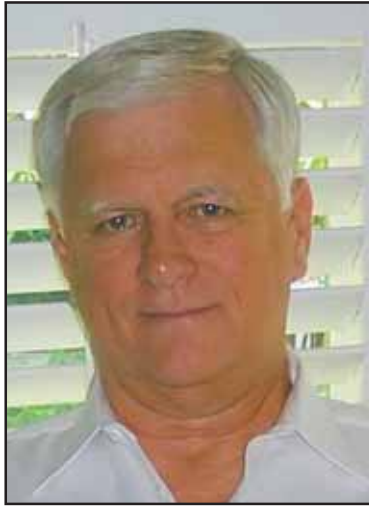
- 1 can (14 ounces) low-sodium chicken broth
- 2 cups Minute Brown Rice, uncooked
- 1 tablespoon Mrs. Dash® Salt-Free Lemon Pepper Seasoning Blend
- 1 tablespoon Mrs. Dash® Salt-Free Onion & Herb Seasoning Blend
- 2 cups cooked chicken, diced
- 4 cups fresh baby spinach leaves
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, shredded

Bring broth to a boil in a medium saucepan. Add rice, seasoning blends and chicken; stir. Cover, reduce heat to low and simmer 5 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand 5 minutes.

Add spinach and stir until wilted. Serve topped with Parmesan cheese.



Courtesy of Family Features



Gary Drake



Don Mullen



Amy Patterson



Hank Ross



David Wilkes

'Final Answers' in Candidates' Weekly Forum

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3. The polls will be open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

There are three seats open on the Town Board – two commissioners and the mayor's seat. All three sitting representatives are running for office and two citizens are vying for those seats.

Running for Mayor of Highlands is incumbent Don Mullen and David Wilkes. Running for commissioner are incumbents Amy Patterson and Hank Ross and Gary Drake.

This final week before the election, the candidates will answer two questions.

Questions 5:

• **What do you think of the proposed parking plan that came out of the parking study recently, specifically extending the "parking island" down to 1st Street and rearranging the current parking design?**

Question 6:

• **What is the single most important issue facing Highlands today and how would you propose addressing it?**

Gary Drake

Question 5:

There are so very many things about Highlands that one could consider unique and once again we are faced with the possibility of changing our town. Main Street in Highlands is also US HWY 64 and there are only a handful of towns left which have the ability to offer parking in the middle and down both sides in the heart of town. We have been grandfathered in for this type of parking and if we ever change the make-up, there's no going back. My question is this: Has the Department of Transportation been consulted in the possibility of this change and was this yet one more study that has been another financial drain on our budget?

The extension of parking islands down to 1st Street doesn't make sense to me because there is parking available in Wright's Square, in front of Wright's Square, down 2nd and 3rd Streets, and the length of Spring Street. These areas are never filled to capacity and if this project moves forward, I find this parking project to be spending once again ... just because we can. We have to preserve our "unique and charming town feeling" for ourselves and the generations that follow.

Question 6:

Although there are several things that need attention, the

most pressing issue is our water quality. If we address the following, I feel that we are well on our way to addressing the problem. 1) Acquisition of the FEMA flood insurance is imperative. 2) The Mirror Lake and Sequoyah Lake projects which must be completed with better oversight of contractor's performance to prevent the problems that occurred during the Harris Lake project. 3) Resolving the silt problems that affect both Mill Creek and Big Creek.

Don Mullen

Question 5:

About a year ago the Town Board requested consultants to take a look at the streets, sidewalks, parking and flow of traffic in our town. We were looking for a long range plan for the town regarding these issues. We were fully aware that there were differences of opinion regarding parking and the flow of traffic in Highlands, and we looked for ideas from situations in other towns who had problems similar to ours.

The result was a comprehensive plan for the future of streets, parking and flow of traffic. This has not been presented to the Board of Commissioners as yet although we have seen informally what has been proposed. Soon we will get that opportunity, and the public and the commission-

ers will have an opportunity to fully discuss these plans in detail as will the town's Planning Board.

There will be some changes, but we are going to look at the plans carefully and more than likely will not make all the changes which have been recommended at one time. Much depends on the ultimate cost of what needs to be done. Some changes could be made quickly and inexpensively but other changes may take several years. It is simply too early to say what the final outcome will be at this point. Much discussion and public comment is necessary. The extension of parking on the north side of Main Street between Third and First Street may possibly be one of the first options so that Wrights Square will have more access to parking. The town has long considered a red light at Third and Main as a recommendation which has been denied by the North Carolina DOT. I must hear much more public and board discussion on all of these issues before I will state any of my own conclusions.

Question 6:

There are many issues which point to a vibrant Highlands 10 years from now. The continuing improvement of the infrastructure of the Town of Highlands is probably the most important. Our low sewer attachments of only 30% must be greatly improved

over the next five years. The continuing collection of silt in our water supply lake, the Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah, is of utmost concern because of its threat to our water supply and the quality of our water. If we do not obtain funds soon for the removal of this silt, we may have to proceed on our own from our reserve fund. Storm water control is not only a quality of water issue but also a flash flood issue and must be continuously monitored.

Highlands is a wonderful place to live, raise families and enjoy. While maintaining our great traditions, we must also look for what changes we must make in the way we do things to keep up with modern advances in town management, improvements and conveniences. Remaining stagnant and unchanging is unacceptable, but each change must be done with great thought, examination and care.

The business climate must remain healthy and we must all look for means of supporting our business community. Workforce housing for those who work hard in Highlands but must live farther away must continuously be evaluated. The Highlands Community Child Development Center which many of us worked hard to build has supplied much needed child care for working mothers and fathers but more must be

done to bring these workers living closer to Highlands.

A walking greenway trail and park system in and around Highlands which can be expanded to link us with Franklin and other trails will attract people to our incredible area and keep the business climate of the town vibrant and productive. All of these issues of important to us all and important for the future of our town.

Amy Patterson

Due to other pressing obligations, Commissioner Patterson wasn't able to answer the questions this week.

Hank Ross

Question 5:

The Town Board has not voted or completed their review of the parking study. The purpose of the study is to make parking within downtown more convenient and safe while enhancing the appearance and signage. I am very much in favor of improving the safety of intersections, adding parking on Main Street and improving the appearance. The intersection at Main and Third Streets is especially in need of safety improvement for both vehicles and people on foot.

I am not, however, in favor of creating a center island along Main Street. Since people constantly stroll across Main Street from busi-

• See CANDIDATES page 14

• HIS & HERS •

Oxygen and old age

by John Armor

I hate defeat. No concessions. No quitting. No giving up before the goal is reached. Last week I made one of the greater concessions of my life. It was a concession to oxygen and old age.

All of us maintain a certain fiction, as long and as far as we can. Well, for Jack Lanne, he's still the same trim athletic guy he always was, and leading exercise groups at the age of 92. But for the rest of us, we are not the young, agile folks we once were.

RE-ELECT DON MULLEN MAYOR OF HIGHLANDS

- Led the change to a more effective Manager-Council form of government
- Supports responsible growth while Honoring our Heritage
- Listens and responds to all sides of controversial issues
- Supports a healthier town by improving water quality
 - ~ Paved roads reducing silt in our lakes
 - ~ Seeking funding for dredging our lakes
 - ~ Completed sewer projects without raising taxes
 - ~ Improving storm water runoff control
- Strongly supports Greenway improvements including sidewalk and curbing additions along with additional parks
- Improved relations with Macon County Board of Commissioners and administration with quarterly meetings and open communication
- Actively supporting the business community
 - ~ Radio and newspaper promotion of events supporting businesses
 - ~ Added parking spaces and eliminated 2-hour limits.
- Actively supporting charitable organizations and churches while serving and leading on many boards
- Led financially responsible government
 - ~ Reserve fund largest in history
 - ~ Received State and Federal grants totaling over 4 million dollars



EXPERIENCE, INTEGRITY, OPENNESS HONORING OUR HERITAGE

Paid for by the Committee to Re-elect Don Mullen for Mayor

Hair goes. Teeth go. Gravity takes hold of various body parts. Knees and other joints get stiff and uncooperative. We pretend it isn't much. But all together, it's a lot. It's permanent. And, it's all downhill.

But there is one symptom of deterioration I've always thought is an order of magnitude worse than all the others, combined. All of you have seen it. Some of you have experienced it. It is the plethora of take-along oxygen bottles that are appearing all across the graying face of America.

There is a good reason why oxygen in old age is a worse symptom of defeat than any other. All the others leave time for a cure. There are many months, nay years, to lose weight, change your habits, start exercising, and so forth. However, with breathing, you are never more than three minutes from death.

Now, that produces a sense of urgency. Last week I went on oxygen. Well, first I got double pneumonia. Last time I got that a few years back, I visited my kindly doctor. He wrote a prescription for stiff antibiotics, and that knocked the pneumonia for a loop, pronto. Not this time, however. The magic pills didn't work. So, I dragged myself to the hospital on the weekend and came away with a prescription for O2 bottles and stronger pills.

For those who have seen the various tubes and bottles but have no experience with oxygen supplies, here's how it works: They bring you an "oxygen concentrator." That's a machine which uses osmosis to take ordinary air, throw away some of the nitrogen, and run the oxygen content of the output up to double or more the 17% it represents in normal air. Then there are the back-up and travel additions.

Since we live at the end of a half-mile gravel road on a mountain top in the Blue Ridge, power failures from our electrical co-op (which shall remain nameless to protect the guilty), are commonplace. So, there is also a large tank, like the ones that Charlie Allnut used to sink the Louisa in "African Queen," which can put out a 16-hour non-electrical supply of oxygen. Then there are the baby bottles, a six-pack of small ones that carry a two-hour supply each.

The bad news is that we now have all of those devices in our home. The machine is connected to a 57-foot tube, so I can go most places in our compact house and remain tethered like a puppy on a retractable leash. The good news is that a steady dose of



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

oxygen at night and while I am working on the computer are more than enough to do the trick. I'm not trapped to these devices, 24/7.

I'm sleeping like a rock. I wake up bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. My energy level is way up. All my muscles are stronger than before. Even my dubious knees are happier now. I'm getting more exercise, and losing weight slowly

but steadily. As they say in the detergent ads, everything is sunshine bright. If your doctor has a chat with you (or a family member) about oxygen therapy, don't reject it out of hand. As they say, "Try it, you'll like it." Well, maybe "like it" is the wrong phrase. But you will be amazed by the good results.

As much as I doubted it and denied it for years and years and years, I am now officially an old f*rt, and significant deterioration has set in. But as Bette Davis said, "Old age is no place for sissies." And to paraphrase Maurice Chevalier, "Oxygen and old age are far preferable to the lack of both."

• About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu His latest book, on Thomas Paine, is available here: www.TheseAreTheTimes.us (Note the suffix, .us)

... OBITUARIES continued from page 3

You could not come to her home without her urging you to eat or drink something. She insisted that every repairman, yard worker, and the like who came to her home sit down and eat something or at least have something to drink. It was not unusual to find 8-10 workers on her deck eating the lunch she had prepared for them.

She was a member of Meh Lady Luncheon Club in Jackson, the Jackson Life Underwriters Association, Highlands Falls Country Club, and Mountain Laurel Tennis Club, both in Highlands, the choir of St. Andrews Cathedral in Jackson, the Church of the Incarnation in Highlands and the Highlands Choral Association.

In lieu of flowers, Jane asked that memorial contributions be made to the Episcopal Cursillo in Mississippi, Lake Logan Episcopal Center, 154 Suncrest Mill Road, Canton, NC., 28716, the University of Mississippi, Church of the Incarnation in Highlands or a charity of your choice.

... FORUM continued from page 9

ing in a bedroom with a fireplace and a bat does.

Since we couldn't be absolutely sure that the bat hadn't entered the bedroom through the chimney the night before, and that we absolutely hadn't been bitten while we slept, then I couldn't risk foregoing the shots. In addition, humans can't always feel bat bites, nor do bats always leave a mark or draw blood.

So, long story short, the shots are VERY expensive. Jim's first round that Saturday morning in the ER cost \$4,200 and each subsequent shot cost about \$385. Times all that by two.

"An exposed person who has never received any rabies vaccine first receives a dose of rabies immune globulin (a blood product that contains antibodies against rabies), which gives immediate, short-term

... LETTERS continued from page 2

lived in Highlands, and how many of their kids they got through the Highlands school. Well, they did not tell how many points each category was worth, so, I can't tell you who won this contest. I figure cousin Suzy would have won hands down since her family has a house on Satulah for 109 years. Course, once again, they were only summer people.

Larry Brannan
Highlands

Tenure appreciated

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the board of directors of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, I would like to express our profound thanks and appreciation to Dr. Patti Wheeler for her 21 years of service to the hospital, her patients, the medical staff here, and to our communities as a whole.

Whether saving the life of someone with a heart attack in the hospital's emergency room, seeing a patient with pneumonia in the hospital, or treating the sore throat of a sick child in her office, Dr. Wheeler has shown a passionate devotion to the people of our communities. Family physicians who choose to practice in rural areas such as ours often give up career paths that might otherwise earn them more in compensation or peer recognition. Yet their role in ensuring the health and well being of all of us is even more important in an area such as ours.

While the role of primary care physicians such as Dr. Wheeler and her associate, Dr. Richard Olson, continues to be of vital importance to all of us here, we also understand that the entire system of medical care across the country continues to evolve. We certainly wish them well as they transition to a non hospital-based medical practice.

Charles V. Sheehan
Chairman of the Board

protection. This shot should be given in or near the wound area.

They should also be given a series of rabies vaccinations. The first dose should be given as soon as possible after the exposure. Additional doses should be given on days three, seven."

Though Polanski said that rabies shots are only given in Highlands about once a year, the awesome crew in the ER say that's not the case at all. So, bat proof your house. After Jim got back Saturday afternoon he went up on the roof and screened in the chimney stack.

Thirteen days into this we've heard every bat analogy out there.

"Are you hanging from the rafters, yet?" "Are you feeling batty?" "Do you have an aversion to water?" ... and so on.

The morals of the story? Save the bat ... and bat proof your house!

Carefully examine your home for holes that might allow bats entry into your living quarters. Any openings larger than a quarter-inch by a half-inch should be caulked. Use window screens, chimney caps, and draft-guards beneath doors to attics. Fill electrical and plumbing holes with

HIGHLANDS ART GALLERIES•

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... CANDIDATES continued from page 11

ness to business, I believe that it would obstruct this historic way of enjoying Main Street. Last year, I proposed a solution that would provide street trees in the center parking areas on Main Street from Third to Fifth Streets. This plan would create tree planters at the ends of some parking places that would not obstruct strolling across the street or reduce the number of spaces. Construction was postponed until completion of the parking study.

Question 6:

Preserving what makes Highlands appealing to all, such as the natural beauty, the clean environment and the vibrant traditional downtown are the most important issues. Continued construction of the stormwater and sewer infrastructure and the beautification of downtown would help accomplish this end.

While preserving our town's assets, we must also keep the town finances in good order. Recently, the independent auditor's report for 2009 was presented to the town board. The CPA, Martin Starnes, used the word outstanding no less than three times to describe the financial condition of our town. The 42% fund balance amount and the fact that we are in a recession particularly impressed the auditors. Under my leadership, I believe the town will continue to have these outstanding reports over the next four years and continue our infrastructure construction.

In the future, I hope that Highlands will be a much more sustainable community using energy efficient technology to lower energy costs and thus have less effect on our environment. Also, I feel that cutting edge communications technology should be available and that it will help our existing businesses and attract small technology companies and telecommuters. I believe that Highlands can tackle these issues while preserving our environment and town character.

David Wilkes

Question 5:

I think any plan designed to remove parking space from the middle of Main Street is suspect. Replacing these spaces with additional spaces 1 to 2 blocks away is not a good idea.

Any plan that affects the business district should be designed with input from and consideration of the people most directly affects — the businesses on Main Street. The plan included designs such as traffic islands on each entrance to town designed to "slow traffic as it approaches downtown." These might be necessary in towns where traffic comes from interstates of major highways into a town, but not in Highlands.

Most of the plan was designed for aesthetics, and not practical solutions to real problems. A meeting with the town engineer, representatives of the business community, the town board, and town manager would yield better solutions and cost far less than \$50,000.

Question 6:

I don't believe there is one most important issue to every citizen of Highlands. I think that for many year-round residents on fixed incomes, the increase in utilities, and the prospect of increased taxes are the most important issue.

For businesses, most important issue is the town's focus on our hospitality industry including shops, restaurants, accommodations, real estate, construction and services.

This focus comes from improving communications and cooperation between businesses and town government. For part-time residents and visitors, it's retaining the charm and unique character that brought them to Highlands. To do this you have to realize what creates this charm and character and not destroying it and becoming another McResort Town. Addressing opportunities for solutions to situations like parking and recreation through discussions with the town, the business community, the school, civic organizations, and parents will give better results for our particular needs than consultants who have no history or involvement in Highlands.

The solutions to every issue facing Highlands should be addressed from the point of view of what's best for the community and economically feasible.



David Wilkes

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- Understand the need to control spending and that there is No Free Money.

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Paid for by the Committee to Elect David Wilkes Mayor of Highlands

... SALZARULO continued from page 5

tongue searching for her tonsils kind of kiss. He pulled her so tightly into him, that I thought they might fuse. That's when we met them.

Suddenly Bill stiffened. His chest heaved, his eyes bulged, and he started to turn blue. He clutched his throat in a gesture of air hunger. Lizzie said, "Do something," so I did. I ran to him, spun him, put my arms around him, and pulled up under his rib cage with both fists. A welcome explosion of air followed, and sitting on the tip of the explosion, like a space ship atop a million horsepower rocket, was an orange seed. It had wedged in his voice box and damn near killed him. Faith bent over, picked it up, and with a strange giggle said, "Let's take it home and plant it."

The next 18 years pass with Bill and Faith sharing a remarkable love, while watching their barren tree and trying with no success to conceive a child.

Faith was undergoing her thousandth examination when concern creased the doctor's face. "Probably nothing, probably just from the hormones, or maybe a cyst, or maybe just air trapped in the colon. But let's check it out to be sure."

"Ovarian cancer, stage 4," he mumbled, into the report which he held in front of his face. Bill was worried when the doctor called him and asked him to accompany Faith to the appointment, but neither of them was prepared for that. They did everything they were told to. All the scans, lab tests, nutritional counseling, a second opinion at Duke, the chemo, the retching, the hair loss. In the end there was nothing else.

One of the last things Bill said, while Faith still had the ability to comprehend, was, "Try to contact me. If there's anything out there, if there is any way, if you have any power or influence, send me a sign. Make our orange tree bloom. I'll know it's a sign, one flower. That's all I need, to know you're OK. We nurtured that tree. Hell, we smuggled the seed through Customs. We planted and transplanted it. We fertilized it and pruned it. We made it bonsai. We nurse it when it had scale. And we've loved it, even though it never bloomed."

Bill told me he thinks it was the last thing Faith ever understood. That and, "I love you."

He waited for the bloom. Every day, he examined the tips of the branches for the appearance of a cluster of tiny white balls. But they didn't appear. Their anniversary passed, his birthday, and then hers, the anniversary of her death. The cycle was repeated the following year, while his despair mounted. He came home on Halloween of the second year, walked zombie like to the miniature tree, picked it up, carried it to the porch, placed it carefully on the table, and put a bullet through his temple.

A neighbor reported a gun shot and the police investigated. It looked like a routine suicide, no hint of foul play. One of the officers called to his partner. "Hey, Ben.

You're from Florida. Come here and tell me this isn't an orange tree."

Ben approached, sucked in the same sweet fragrance he remembered from his youth, and answered, "It's an orange alright. It cute the way they kept it so tiny, like a perfect miniature of an orchard tree. But the end of October is a hell of a time for it to be blooming."

A mutual friend knew our connection and thought the tree should have a good time. He also knew that I had the patience to deal with plants, and that I haven't had much luck growing them, I love bonsai. So he sent us the tree. We still have it. We ate the tiny oranges that grew from those tragic flowers. They were as sweet as we remember those in Belize. The tree remains healthy. I can see it from my computer. It has never had another flower.

Happy Halloween.

from the history guy ...

October 29, 1960

Louisville, Kentucky, Cassius Clay wins his first professional fight

Grab your pen make a list
of those that are a pugilist.

Is the first one written Cassius Clay?

I think that just perhaps it may.

But if instead on the top was Ali,
well that would not really be folly.

If you were a fan and got lucky,
might have seen his first win in Kentucky.

In addition to his work with gloves,
this guy was known for his other loves,

that of engaging in hyperbole,

like "Floats like a butterfly, stings like a bee"

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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL VOLLEY BALL •

Varsity Girls win first round of State Playoffs

On Saturday, Highlands went up against rival Swain in a five-game match at home.

After winning the first game, Highlands was raring to go and excited about winning all the way.

However, the girls lost to Swain during the second and fourth match but beat Swain during the third match and the final fifth match 15-11.

That win put them over the top making them the winners of the first round of State Playoffs.

On Tuesday, the team traveled to Alleghany High School in Sparta, NC near the Virginia border for the second round of playoffs.

Despite the long, five-hour drive the girls were ready to play but lost in three games.



The score for the last game was 25-19.





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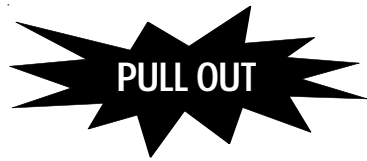
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Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Week Long

• The 2010 Highlands Historical Society calendars are available for \$10 each, and if you buy 4 you get a free cookbook. The calendars feature scenes of Highlands from the 1800s to the early 1900s. Calendars are available at Cyrano's, The Highlander Newspaper, Country Club Properties (Wright Square location), and The Chambers Agency. All proceeds benefit the Highlands Historical Society.

• YOGA - all levels all week, schedule posted Moonrise Yoga 464 Carolina Way,

Ruby Cinema

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Oct. 30 to Nov. 5

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY

rated R

Special Midnight Show Friday and Saturday Night

Fri: 4:30, 7:20, 9:30, Midnight
Sat: 2:20, 4:30, 7:20, 9:30, Midnight
Sun: 2:20, 4:30, 7:20
Mon + Wed: 4:30, 7:20
Tues + Thurs: 2:20, 4:30, 7:20

CIRQUE DU FREAK: THE VAMPIRE ASSISTANT

rated PG-13

Fri: 4:20, 7:10
Sat: 2:10, 4:20, 7:10
Sun: 2:10, 7:10
Mon + Wed: 7:10
Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 7:10

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

rated PG

Fri: 4:10, 7:15, 9:10
Sat: 2:15, 4:10, 7:15, 9:10
Sun: 2:15, 4:10, 7:15
Mon + Wed: 4:10, 7:15
Tues + Thurs: 2:15, 4:10, 7:15

LAW ABIDING CITIZEN

rated R

Fri: 9:20
Sat: 9:20
Sun: 4:20
Mon + Wed: 4:20
Tues + Thurs: 4:20

COUPLES RETREAT

rated PG-13

Fri: 4:15, 7:05, 9:15
Sat: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05, 9:15
Sun: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05
Mon + Wed: 4:15, 7:05
Tues + Thurs: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05

828.526.8880 www.yogahighlands.com. 10/15

• Nantahala Tennis Club at the Rec Park, six days a week at 9 a.m. Public invited.

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

Sundays

• Refuge Youth meets every Sun. night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God. Call youth ministers Matt and Candace Woodroof at 828-369-7540 ext 203.

• Hal Phillips on piano at Skyline Lodge and Restaurant on Flat Mountain Road during the Champagne Brunch 12-2pm.

Mon., Wed., & Thurs.

• Yoga On The Mat. New location. The Episcopal Church of Incarnation on Main Street. Enter through single door facing Mountain Fresh. M/W @ 7:30 a.m.; Thurs. @ 10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128 10/29.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

First Mondays

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

Mondays

• Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Tuesdays

• Clogging Lessons at the Rec Park. 5 p.m. Leather shoes recommended and tap shoes can be ordered. For more information, call Joyce Doerter at 877-6618. \$30/mth.

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

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

Tuesdays & Thursdays

• Zumba Classes at the Rec Park. Aerobic/dance/toning. No dance experience necessary. One-hour. \$5/class. Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30, Thursdays, 8-9 am. and 1 p.m. Thursdays at Cashiers Rec Park. Call Mary K. Barbour at 828-342-2498.

Wednesdays

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at Ruka's Table at 163 Main Street in Wright Square in Highlands at 7:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome. If you are new to the Highlands area we invite you to join us for breakfast and our meeting.

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

Wednesdays & Fridays

• Open AA meeting at noon at the Epis-

copal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Every 3rd Wednesday

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

Thursdays

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

1st & 3rd Thursdays

• NAMI Appalachian South (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will have a support group meeting the first and third Thursday of each month. It is for people coping with serious mental illnesses (bi-polar disorder, depression, schizophrenia, panic disorder, etc) and/or their family members. We also do advocacy and educational programs. 486 W. Palmer St., Franklin, NC, 7-8 p.m., with snacks afterwards. For information contact Carole Light, Ph.D. at 828-526-9769 or Ann Nandea at 828-369-7385

Fridays & Saturdays

• At Fressers Eatery, Cy Timmons live from 6 p.m.

• Hal Phillips on piano from 7-9:30 pm at Skyline Lodge and Restaurant on Flat Mountain Road.

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

Every Third Saturday

• The Highlands Memorial Post #370

• See EVENTS page 18

Girl Scout Bingo



If you like Girl Scout cookies – you love Girl Scout Bingo. Give it a try! On Thursday, Nov. 5th the Rotary Club of Highlands and Highlands Girl Scouts will join forces to offer Girl Scout Bingo at the Highlands Community Building from 6:30 – 8:30. The cost to play is \$1 per card per game and there will be 15 games. While each game's prize depends upon the number of players, most Bingo games pay \$40-\$70 with game 15 being some serious money. Half of all Bingo money goes to Bingo players and the other half goes to Highlands Girls Scouts. Enjoy the free refreshments served by Highlands Girl Scouts. The Rotary Club of Highlands is licensed to operate Bingo by the State of NC.

One more week to see 'Members Invitational' exhibition at The Bascom



Art lovers check out some works in The Bascom's annual "Members Invitational" exhibition. Featuring works by Bascom members, the exhibition runs through Nov. 7 in the Loft Gallery at The Bascom, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Exhibition admission is always free. For more information about the exhibition or other Bascom happenings, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949.

PULL OUT

Ongoing and Upcoming Events

of the American Legion meets at the Short-off Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 a.m. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

Free 'Spooky Raku' Halloween event at The Bascom



Raku pieces like this one, by Patrick Taylor, will be publicly fired at The Bascom on Saturday, Oct. 31, at sundown (approximately 5:30 p.m.). "Spooky Raku: A Halloween Pottery Firing" is free, and The Bascom invites the whole community.

This Halloween, the community is invited to celebrate in an artful way at The Bascom. On Saturday, Oct. 31, at sundown (approximately 5:30 p.m.), the art center will hold "Spooky Raku: A Halloween Pottery Firing" featuring works created by Bascom students. The event is free and open to all ages.

People are encouraged to come in costume before or after they enjoy the tradition of trick-or-treating up and down Highlands' Main Street. The event will be held outdoors at the Studio Barn.

"Red pots will be glowing against the black night sky, creating a magnificent mood and an unforgettable All Hallows Eve," said Norma Smith Hendrix, Bascom education director. "This might be the start of another great Highlands tradition."

Raku firing, though originating in Japan, has been modified in the West.

The Bascom is located at 323 Franklin Road in Highlands. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Every Fourth Saturday

- Friends of Panthertown work days, are the fourth Saturday of each month. (Time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

Saturdays

- At Cyprus International Restaurant, live music beginning at 9 p.m. No cover.

- 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.

- 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.

Thursdays

- ZUMBA classes at the Highlands Rec Park. Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m. and Thursdays 8 a.m. Classes are one hour long and cost \$5 per class. Also at the Cashiers Community Center at 1 p.m. on Thursdays. Call 342-2498 for more information.

Through Sun. Nov. 8

- First Presbyterian Church of Highlands is accepting donations for the troops for it's "Christmas for the Troops" campaign. Care packages will be put together containing microwaveable meals and soups, snap-topped cans of tuna, chicken or soup, ramen noodles, cereal bars, cookies, hot cocoa, tea and coffee, spices, salt and paper, hard candy, nuts, canned snacks like Pringles, pudding snacks, etc. Also travel-size board games, dominoes, air activated heat wraps, hand warmers, word puzzles, DVDs and CDs, icy/hot patches and winter gloves. Please no chocolates, aerosol or perishable items. Please drop off donations at the church or mail a monetary donation to First Presbyterian Church, Christmas Care Packages, P.O. Box 548, Highlands, NC 28741.

Through Friday, Dec. 18

- *American Art Today, Juried Works* exhibition will open at The Bascom and run through Dec. 18. Admission is free. A public opening reception will be Oct. 24 from 5-7 p.m. The juror, Dr. Annette Blaugrund, will speak at 6 p.m. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Thurs., Oct. 29

- Nick's Restaurant donating 10% of all proceeds from lunch and dinner to Highlands-Cashiers Hospice.

- Lady Highlanders After-school Hoops Clinic for grades K-6 from 3-5 p.m. at the Highlands School new gym. Learn the fundamentals of basketball. \$25 per student or \$40 for family of two. Make checks payable to Highlands School.

- UCWA, the Upper Watershed Association will hold an Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m. in the Peggy Crosby Center.

- Literacy Council will host Halloween Spooktacular, its first annual Halloween Spooktacular, a Halloween-themed event

from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Peggy Crosby Center. Children who attend will participate in an arts-and-crafts activity, as well as listen to a read aloud of a Halloween themed book. "As an educator, my goal is not only to promote good literacy in my students, but also a love of language as a creative tool. Halloween is a great opportunity for the kids to have a little fun and to celebrate the world of imagination and creativity," said Laura Miller, the council's programs coordinator. Everyone who attends the event is invited and encouraged to dress in their Halloween costume. The event is free and open to the public. Snacks will be provided. For more information about the event, contact Bessie Dietrich Goggins, executive director, by telephone at (828) 526-9938 extension 240 or by email at highlandsliteracy@juno.com.

- Banjomonium Coming to Cashiers Library. See gourd, cigar box, and fretless banjos and hear a little of their history and voices at 7 p.m. Recording artist and John C. Campbell Folk School teacher, Mary Z. Cox will present a free program entitled "Banjos in History" in the library's meeting room. She may even bring her new cello banjo and create a little banjomonium right here in the Cashiers library.

- Fressers Eatery is proud to show off the talents of Michael Grabe and Jessica Stanley. Michael is a graduate of Highlands School and is a student at The Culinary Institute of America. Jessica is a graduate of Franklin High and South Western Community Collages' Culinary Arts Program. Together they have assembled a four course menu that they will create for your dining pleasure. So please come sample what the next generation of chefs has to offer. Reservations can be made by calling Fressers Eatery at 828-526-4188. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. \$48 plus tax and gratuity. Wine will be available.

Fri.-Sun, Oct. 30-Nov. 1

- Walhalla Civic Players present "Dracula in Dixie" at the Walhalla Civic Auditorium. Regular performances at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. As a bonus, there will be a special performance at midnight on Halloween night. Tickets for all shows are \$12 for adults, \$8 for all students. Children three and under are admitted free. For more information call the Walhalla Civic Players hotline at (864) 280-3538.

Fri.-Sat., Oct. 30-31

- This Halloween the Highlands Prominent Committee is hosting a Halloween Haunted House on Friday, and Saturday from 7-10 p.m. Numerous volunteers will convert a dark warehouse into a hall of horrors at 2851 Cashiers Road in Highlands, located next to the Mountain Hardscapes parking lot. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door. Not for the faint of heart, the haunted house is open to all adults and brave children.

Banjos galore at Cashiers Library Thursday, Oct. 29



Two time Florida Banjo Champion, Mary Z. Cox will perform at Cashiers Library on Oct. 29th at 7 p.m.

On Thursday, Oct. 29, Banjomonium will be at the Cashiers Library. See gourd, cigar box, and fretless banjos and hear a little of their history and voices at 7 p.m. Recording artist and John C. Campbell Folk School teacher, Mary Z. Cox will present a free program entitled "Banjos in History" in the library's meeting room. She may even bring her new cello banjo and create a little banjomonium right here in the Cashiers library.

Mary Z. Cox, a banjoholic with 17 banjos, has been playing since she was 12, and is a two-time Florida champion. She has won old time music competitions on banjo, dulcimer, and string band in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and Tennessee and was chosen by Banjo Newsletter readers in 2006 as the fourth favorite clawhammer banjo player in the world. She has recorded six CDs, has written five banjo tab books, and has been published in Banjo Newsletter, Studio Magazine, and Old Time Herald. She has taught numerous banjo and dulcimer workshops and camps, including the John C. Campbell Folk School where she has taught for six years. Her music has been played on BBC and National Public radio and is available on iTunes worldwide. This event is free and open to everyone in the community.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



Friday, Oct. 30

- Macon County Library Blood Drive (149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin) 11 am to 3 p.m. Please call 524-3600 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors will automatically be entered into a drawing for one of three pairs of Delta Air Lines domestic tickets!

Saturday, Oct. 31

- At Greenleaf Gallery 12 noon – 5 pm – The “Leafware” Potter – Rusty Schrum-Owens at 177 Main St. in Wrights Square. Light refreshments.

- Downtown Trick or Treat. Halloween Highlands style. 6 – 8 p.m. Featuring merchants On the Hill, Main Street, Town Square, Wright Square, and Oak Square. Main Street will be open for foot traffic only from 5:45 – 8 p.m.

- Spooky Raku, a Halloween Pottery Firing, a free community gathering and demonstration, will be held at sundown on Halloween. The Bascom's resident ceramist and former college professor, Taylor welcomes all for a spectacular nighttime firing. Glowing red pots set in counterpoint to the black night sky will create a magnificent mood and an unforgettable All Hallows Eve. For information, call (828) 526-4949.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4.4 mile, easy-to-moderate hike from Sloan Bridge to Upper Whitewater Falls with great autumn views from the ridge

above Whitewater Falls. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 10 a.m. Drive 14 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call Leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

- Halloween Pizza Party 5 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Eat before you Trick-or-Treat. Call 526-3376 so they know how much pizza to order.

Sunday, Nov. 1

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a two-mile easy-to-moderate hike to Lookoff Mtn. in Black Rock Mtn, State Park in GA with a short steep section before the lookout. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center at 2:00 p.m. or call leader for alternate meeting place. Drive 26 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Mon., Nov. 2-Thurs., Nov. 19

- Pottery workshop “Open Studio for Ceramics,” by Patrick Taylor, will be held at The Bascom for intermediate to advanced students. Two sessions: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m.; or Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 pm. Cost is \$375/\$350 Bascom members (basic materials and firing included). To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Monday, Nov. 2

- “Questions for the Candidate” Wine

and cheese Reception for Gary Drake, 5:30 pm at Wolfgang's restaurant and bistro. Compliments of Wolfgang and Mindy Green.

- Macon County Planning Board Public Input meeting at the Pine Grove Community Center at 7 pm.

- Macon County Planning Board Public Input meeting at the Otto Community Center at 7 pm..

Thursday, Nov. 5

- Taize service at the Highlands United Methodist Church at 5:30 p.m.

- Rotary Bingo with Highlands Girl Scouts from 6:30-8:30 at the Highlands Community Building.

- Franklin Community Blood Drive at the First Baptist Church (69 Lotla Street) noon to 5:30 pm. Please call 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. *Walk-ins welcome, appointments preferred.*

Friday, Nov. 6

- Angel Medical Center Blood Drive (120 Riverview Street) 8 am to 5 pm. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment. *Walk-ins welcome, appointments preferred.*

Saturday, Nov. 7

- Searching for Liberal Religion? The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin, N.C. will present an introduction to liberal religion on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. The Fellowship is located at 85 Sierra Drive in Franklin, N.C. For further information including directions contact www.franklinfellowship.org or call 706/782-7978. All are welcome.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a six mile moderate hike on the Coweeta Lab Ridge Trail with a spectacular view from Albert Mtn. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

- WNC 234th Marine Corps Birthday Ball will be celebrated at Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Hotel. All Marines, Navy, families, and friends are invited to attend this BLACK TIE event celebrating 234 years of the United States Marine Corps. Social hour will begin at 5:30 pm and Ceremony/Dinner

• See EVENTS page 20

Historical Society's 'Christmas Showhouse' in historic Stewart House, Dec. 5 & 6



“Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat ...” and Liz View is busily making quilts for the Christmas Showhouse sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society. This year's Showhouse will feature the Stewart House, ca. 1890, at 425 Brock Court opposite the ballpark on Hickory Street. Showhouse hours will be 1-5 p.m. on December 5 and 6 with admission price of \$15. Shuttle from the Community Building on US 64. An added feature this year will be a raffle of a set of six art glass plates from Bryant Art Glass. Raffle tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5.



Historical Highlands calendar now on sale

The 2010 Highlands Historical Society calendars are available for \$10 each, and if you buy 4 you get a free cookbook. The calendars feature scenes of Highlands from the 1800s to the early 1900s. Calendars are available at Cyrano's, The Highlander Newspaper, Country Club Properties (Wright Square location), and The Chambers Agency. All proceeds benefit the Highlands Historical Society.



Ongoing and Upcoming Events

ner/Guest Speaker to follow. Tickets are \$30 per person and \$50 per couple. Tickets are on sale until November 1, 2009. For tickets and information visit www.mcleague-973.org or contact Commandant Gregory Hunt at (828) 342-2024. This event is sponsored by Smoky Mountain Detachment 973, Marine Corps League, Franklin, NC.

Monday, Nov. 9

• Art class "Figure Study Sessions with a Live Model," by Laurence Holden, will be held at The Bascom from 5 to 7 p.m. for beginning to advanced students. Cost is

\$20/\$15 Bascom members. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Tuesday, Nov 10

• HIARPT's Winter Dialogue. All are welcome. Only requirement is to read the material in advance. "Why Do We Rape, Kill And Sleep Around," Newsweek, 6-29-09 Robert Wright's "A Grand Bargain Over Evolution." Coordinator: Peter Gorday. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

• Macon County Planning Board Public Input meeting at the League of Women Voters meeting at Tartan Hall in the Pres-

byterian Church in Franklin at 12:00 pm.

Wednesday, Nov. 11

• Travel & Tourism Commission meeting at the Highlands Visitor Center at 9 a.m. to discuss Occupancy Tax issues.

Thursday, Nov. 12

• The Public Input Committee, composed of members of the Macon County Planning Board and Planning Department staff, is visiting communities and civic groups to give citizens the opportunity to participate in developing a Comprehensive Plan for Macon County. The League of Women Voters of Macon County will host a public input session with committee members. After a brief presentation on growth and demographic projections, participants will be able to tell committee members what issues are important to them and how they would like to see Macon County develop in the future. Areas that will be addressed in the comprehensive plan include land use, environment, housing, transportation, public services, education, recreation, economic development, health care, child care, and senior citizens' needs. The meeting will be held at Tartan Hall. Lunch will be served at

noon by reservation. Call 524-5192. The program will begin at 12:15.

Friday, Nov. 13

• At Cyprus Restaurant, Italian Pastry Kitchen Cooking Salon & Demonstration. Noon. \$69 plus tax and gratuity. Call 526-4429.

• At Wolfgang's Restaurant & Wine Bistro. Domaine Serene, Flavor Spectrum Luncheon. Each will be poured a taste of four different Domaine Serene wines to compliment four dishes. Noon. \$65 plus tax and gratuity. 526-3807.

• At Ruka's Table in Wright Square. Sake Tasting and Sushi Roll Demonstration. 2 p.m. Call for pricing. 526-3636.

• At Wolfgang's Restaurant & Wine Bistro. Wine Dinner with Crocker and Starr. 7 pm Champagne & Appetizers, 7:30 pm Dinner. \$150 plus tax and gratuity. Call 526-3807.

• At the Log Cabin, The 3rd Annual Grateful Palate Wine Dinner. This 5-course dinner features wine and food pairings that cannot be had anywhere else. 7:30 pm. Call for pricing. 526-3380.

Downtown Trick or Treat Highlands' style, Saturday, Oct.31



Halloween lovers of all ages turn out in a big way to trick-or-treat downtown including Main Street and shops on the 4th Street hill. The fun is set for 6-8 p.m.

AngelFood

The November menu is available and orders may be placed and paid for at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Main & 5th Streets through Monday, November 9th. Cash or EBT cards only. Distribution day is Saturday, November 14th from 9-10am at the church. NOTE: Steaks in a box of AngelFood are now thicker than ever before. Though there may be fewer steaks in a box, it's the same amount of meat but the quality is higher and the steaks are tenderer.

NEW! Online ordering is now available by going to www.angelfoodministries.com. Click on "Order Online or "Find a local site", type in your zip code (or 28741), and select Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. You may pay by credit card via this website.

ANGELFOOD Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization. This food relief program is open to everyone. Call 526-9191 or 526-9889 for more information.

Annual Year End Sale Through Sat., Oct. 31

Look for special President's Day Sale items throughout the store

Mountain Findings

"Non-Profit Thrift Store"
432 Spruce Street



Samuel Wheeler deserves to be saluted for his many recent feats including this hat trick at a recent Blue Ridge School away game.

Photos by Noel Atherton



The only senior on the Varsity Soccer team, Will Mathowdis was honored with his mom Holly at the home game against Swain on Monday.



Kelly Colleen stretch rings featuring Swarovski crystals or pearls on a sterling silver band.

One size fits all and they are great for arthritis sufferers. Stay comfortable all day and still cost just \$35.00!

PEAK EXPERIENCE

GALLERY OF FINE
HANDCRAFTS & ANTIQUES

2820 Dillard Road Hwy. 106
2 Miles past Highlands Country Club on left.

828-526-0229

End of Season Sale!

at Highlands Antiques

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Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays

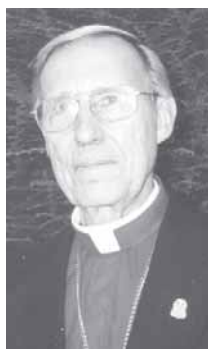
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

....located in an historic summer home • 802 North 4th Street, Highlands

All Sales Final

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Loving our neighbor



++The Most Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling
Senior Pastor, Chapel of Sky Valley

Most of us believe we should love humanity, that we are a community of brothers and sisters on this earth linked in more ways than we know. We look at pictures of suffering children in far away lands and our hearts are torn with sorrow. We grieve when we read in the newspaper of tragic accidents.

But it is interesting that sometimes it is easier to love people in general than people in particular, easier to love humanity than a particular neighbor whose habits irritate us. That is probably because we never associate with all of humanity. We can believe we are caring people without any nagging evidence to the contrary when it comes to loving everyone. "Do I love my neighbor? Yes, I do," most of us can answer when we think of people in general. Humanity in general never puts us to the test to see if our ideals really stick.

However, people in particular often put our ideals to the test: A particular child may defy us, disappoint us, or scream out in anger; a particular colleague at work wants the same assignment or promotion we do; a particular driver on the road honks at us; a particular friend judges us wrongly; a particular workman doesn't do the job we've paid him to do. Humanity in general is easy to love. It is people in particular we have difficulty with.

Yet, in this marvelous school called life, how we respond to people in particular is the true test of character. If the Lord has asked us to love one another, we cannot make exceptions, saying, "I can love everyone but him," or, "I can love everyone but her." The Lord makes no exceptions when he asks us to love one another. He makes no qualifications. It is not to love until we are crossed, or love until we are irritated, or love until our feelings are hurt. It is not to love until someone wears out our love and it runs dry.

We must ask ourselves the hard questions: "Do I see myself in a continual contest with others where only one can win? Do I feel a need to be more important than others? Am I slow to forgive and do I hold onto grudges? Do I always feel the need to be right? It is difficult to have any of these feelings at the same time we truly love our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not been asked to love people in general. We have been asked to love each person, one at a time, with all the attending imperfections and shortcomings. It is with that powerful, personal approach that the Lord loves us.

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Chapel of Sky Valley
Sky Valley, GA
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy
Communion each service

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Father Jim Murphy: Office – 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion – 11 a.m.
Highlands Community Center
Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m.
at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday – 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
Pastor Gary Hewins
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30am Sunday School; 10:30 am
Childrens/Family Program; 10:45 Worship
Tuesdays: 9:30am Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5pm Dinner; 6pm Pastor's Bible Study
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.
Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry
Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King
• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.
(nursery provided)
Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens
Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;
Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Small groups available throughout the week.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School – 9:30
a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15
Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6

p.m.; Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Bible Discussion &
Breakfast

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7
HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy
526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m.
Youth Group

Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults
studies; 6:15 – Adult choir

(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group
9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion – 10:30
HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197
OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAIN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor

Parish office, 526-2418

Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second
Sunday of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11



Students inducted into Beta Club

Last week six highschoolers at Highlands School were inducted into the Beta Club. Inducted were Cai Roman, Emily Murphy, Danielle Shomper, Andrew Renfro, and Isaac Beavers. Kaitlin Lewis was also inducted but she was not there because she was sick. Other members who were present included: Courtney Rogers, Marlee McCall, Sarah Power, Shelby Johnson, Kate-Marie Parks, Brice Jenkins, Cord Strawn, and Amy Fogle. Right, the induction was led by the officers: Kate-Marie Parks, Shelby Johnson, and Brice Jenkins. Marlee McCall assisted in the induction.

Photos by Stephanie McCall

... PLANNING continued from page 1

there was no reason for him not to vote.

Conditional Use Zoning enables land owners to put projects not normally allowed in a specific zone but more importantly it allows the town to dictate stipulations.

The Planning Board suggested conditions for the Conditional B1 zoning which will alleviate parking requirements otherwise required in B3.

They are: use in the new B1 zone be church-related; 30% of the property is to remain permeable; there can only be one single curb cut to keep the area pedestrian-friendly and 10-foot setbacks will be required on the property lines adjacent to other properties and five-feet on the street side.

"Conditional-use makes it a separate district and gives the town the opportunity to limit what can be done and makes it enforceable into the future," said Town Planner Joe Cooley.

Currently, the church's "Wellspring" property located behind the church's Main Street property, houses the Food Pantry, parking and a cottage used for guests.

Eventually, the church wants to build a new Faith and Fellowship Center on the property including additional parking — about 10 spaces — but not the amount required in the current B3 zoning.

"All of this is being planned so the sanctuary can remain on Main Street as it has for the past 100 years," said Weller. With the Fellowship Hall moved behind the church, the

sanctuary could be extended to the south which would allow it to stay on Main Street," he said.

Weller said it's likely construction won't start for another five years, but the OK for Conditional B1 is necessary now so planning can begin.

Now that the Planning Board has ruled on the subject, it will go to the Town Board for the final vote.

Also on the agenda Monday night was the potential Abandoned Structures/Derelict Building Ordinance.

This was brought to the table due to two buildings seen on US 64 and NC 106 when entering Highlands.

Board member Craig asked if such an ordinance was really necessary in Highlands because there are so few abandoned or derelict buildings.

But member Pat Taylor said any building has the potential to become a derelict and so the issue should be addressed.

Planning Administrator Joe Cooley said though the county doesn't have a code on the books for this sort of thing, "It's important for 'due process' issues to have something on the books," he said. "But ultimately it's the responsibility of the Town Board to condemn a building."

After a short discussion, the board decided 3-1 that Highlands doesn't need an Abandoned Building Ordinance. Pat Taylor voted against the motion. — Kim Lewicki



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... SHULL continued from page 1

begin its search for a replacement immediately. Vice President of Operations Frank Leslie was named interim administrator of the hospital.

St. Luke's Hospital is similar in size to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, which has 25 acute care beds. It does not have an attached long-term care center, but does have a 10-bed geriatric psychiatry unit. Located in the county seat of Columbus, St. Luke's is the only hospital serving Polk County, NC, which abuts the South Carolina state line. It has affiliations with Spartanburg Regional Medical Center in Spartanburg, SC, about 25 miles to the south, and Mission Health System in Asheville, about 40 miles to the north. It is managed by Carolina's Healthcare System. In addition to becoming president of St.

Luke's, Shull will also become a vice president of the Carolina's System.

"St. Luke's is another small hospital struggling to survive in a difficult health care environment, and I look forward to working with the physicians, staff, and board there to meet the challenges ahead," said Shull. "I have enjoyed getting to know the people here and being an active part of these communities. This will be an opportunity to make another new set of friends and address new challenges."

"The medical staff certainly appreciates Ken's efforts over the last four years to improve the lines of communication with the physicians here," said David Wheeler, MD, chief of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Medical Staff. "We wish him the very best in

this new opportunity at St. Luke's."

Prior to coming to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, Shull spent eight years as president of the South Carolina Hospital Association, which had more than 90 members. He spent 30 years experience in hospital management at various hospitals and hospital systems in Virginia and the two Carolinas, including a stint as president and CEO of Lexington County Health Services District, in West Columbia, SC, which operated a 292-bed acute hospital, 354-bed nursing center, and an ambulatory care facility in nearby Irmo, SC.

Prior to heading up the Lexington County health system, Shull was president of two smaller hospitals: Stanly Memorial Hospital, a 126-bed facility in Albemarle, NC, and Cannon Memorial Hospital in Pickens SC., with 56 beds.

Shull has a Masters degree in Hospital Administration from the Medical College of Virginia/Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, and a Masters of Business Administration from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, IL. He was an administrative resident at Community Hospital Roanoke Valley in Roanoke, VA. He is certified in hospital management and a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

While in Highlands, he and his wife Heidi were active in a number of church and civic organizations in Highlands. Heidi, who was guidance counselor in the Lexington, SC, area prior to moving to Highlands, recently took an interim position with the same school system, and has been commuting on weekends.

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OUT ON A LIMB

Tuition waiver for out-of-state students may change

There's a possibility the school system's waiver concerning "Tuition for Discretionary Admission" policy will change next year.

At the Oct. 26 School Board meeting, the board took under advisement the fact that a new state mandate involving the NC WISE program school system's must use to catalogue its head count -- known as the Average Daily Membership (ADM) -- now codes out-of-state students as "visitors."

"That means we can't use them in our head count tally which means we don't get any money from the state for them," said Superintendent Dan Brigman. "In the past we were at least able count them for local ADM money -- about \$1,200 per student per year -- but we can't do that anymore," he said.

The amount the school system is given by the state for head count is based on the previous year, so the affects of the new NC WISE rule won't be felt until next year.

Right now Highlands School is the only school in the county attended by out-of-state students. There are about 11, with one more slated to come of age next year.

Though the October meeting was her last school board meeting, member Frieda Bennett asked the board to consider

grandfathering in the families from Satolah, GA, who now attend Highlands School.

Satolah is considered an isolated geographical area which represents a hardship for parents who by law are supposed to take their children to school in Clayton, GA, some 45 minutes to an hour away.

For generations, Satolah families have been sending their children to Highlands School which is basically just up the road.

Currently, tuition is waived for fami-

lies who demonstrate an extraordinary financial hardship; a non-resident student whose parents plan to move into the district by Dec. 1; a student whose legal residence was inside the district but who moves to another district during the school year; students whose parents are employed by the school district and students who live in Satolah, GA.

Board members said they will take the information under advisement and discuss it at a later date.

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BOE says ‘goodbye’ to Bennett



The Oct. 26 Macon County Board of Education meeting was the last one for member Frieda Bennett who announced her resignation shortly after the September BOE meeting. She served for one year, winning the seat against Highlands District I opponent John Shearl.

At Monday’s meeting, Superintendent Dan Brigman and the board members expressed regret at her leaving. “You’ve done a lot in the short time you’ve been on the board and you have demonstrated a passion for education both in the classroom over the years and here at the BOE. I know it’s hard to be a school board member because wherever you go that’s the hat you wear,” he said.

Chairman Jim Breedlove said Bennett’s passion will be sorely missed on the board. Member Tommy Baldwin said Bennett brought a lot to the board and she challenged its members in many ways.

Brigman said several people from Highlands I District have expressed interest in Bennett’s seat. A special meeting has been called for Monday, Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. when her replacement will be discussed and selected in an open session. Whoever is chosen will serve the remainder of Bennett’s term which ends in 2012.

– Kim Lewicki

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Board members from the Highlands and Franklin town boards and the Macon County Commission "broke bread" last Thursday night at the Highlands Country Club. It was Highlands' turn to host the quarterly affair. The benefits of 'working together' were expounded upon as was the benefit of receipt of federal stimulus money countywide. Town Manager Jim Fatland said Highlands would be looking to Franklin for ideas concerning the development of a Main Street Project.



Photo by Kim Lewicki

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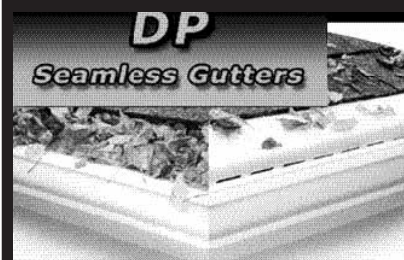
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RN needed at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position, requiring every other weekend shift. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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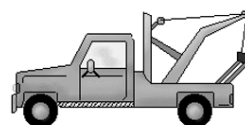
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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 31

... ROOM TAX from pg 1

delinquencies and research of rentals who may not be collecting and paying taxes in Macon County.

The 3% Occupancy Tax is a tax lodging establishments levy all patrons. Lodging establishments include bed & breakfasts, inns, hotels, motels, camping establishments and vacation rental homes.

The tax is sent to the county by each establishment each month and the county distributes it to the two chambers of commerce. By law the chambers can only use the money to promote travel and tourism in Macon County.

For the past several years, the county has charged 15% to administer the money. It was increased from 3% to pay for an outside tally and audit of the county's lodging establishments to see how many there were and to determine who was turning in the occupancy tax.

With that study over, the commission agreed to lower its fee as long as the decrease didn't affect the county's cost to administer the funds.

Southard said she compared this quarter's figures to the same quarter last year and determined that the same amount of work could be done for 8% rather than 15%.

"As long as we don't get an increase in participants — that is more lodging establishments — we should be able to continue doing the same amount of work for 8%, but I think we should re-examine this each year," she said.

Commissioner Bob Simpson, who with Commissioner Brian McClellan sit on the county's TDC boards, said he thought the state mandated that the county only take 3%.

County Manager Jack Horton said the county can't do the work for 3%. "If we did, it would cost us," he said.

But Southard said Macon County doesn't fall under those guidelines. The county's guidelines, which were established in 1986, say Macon County is allowed to charge up to 15%.

"As long as we don't change anything else in the legislation, we can continue to charge 15% if we want to," she said.

Occupancy tax proceeds for the first quarter of 2009-2010 were down compared to the same time last year — \$385,000 compared to last year's \$420,000. The majority of that is collected in the Highlands area.

Commissioner McClellan asked if the county's 8% is a fixed amount or would it change incrementally if the occupancy tax proceeds increase.

Southard said the percentage might decrease if proceeds increase as long as the amount of work and the number of lodging participants remain the same.

"However, we believe there are a lot of vacation home renters in Highlands and Nantahala who have been renting their homes for less than three months at a time and not collecting, or at least not turning in room tax money," she said. "We would like to spend some more time tracking down those individuals."

— **Kim Lewicki**

• WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT •

Barnes & Plemmons to wed



Toby and Patricia Barnes of Clayton Georgia proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Melissa Caprita Barnes of Highlands, NC to James Delbert Plemmons of Asheville, NC. James is the son of James and Rita Plemmons of Asheville. The bride-elect is the granddaughter of the late Ophelia Barnes of Highlands and Fred and Madge Munger of Highlands. The intended bride-groom is the grandson of the late Onlie Plemmons and Betty Hyatt of Asheville and Delbert and Pauleene Youree of Tallahassee, FL. A spring wedding is planned. Formal invitations will be sent.



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\$325/MONTH, one bedroom in 5-bedroom house. Utilities divided equally. Walk to hospital. Call: 828-200-1064. st. 10/1

ONE BED, 1 BATH, plus den with trundle beds – fully furnished, new construction, including utilities, cable TV, W/D, wireless Internet access. Smoke-free environment. 1,200 sq. ft. plus 2 outside decks. Walk to Main Street. Near new Bascom. \$950/month. Call 813-428-2359.

YEAR-ROUND HOUSE NEAR GLEN FALLS. Responsible adult for one bedroom, one and one-half baths, furnished or unfurnished. Wood and carpet floors, sunny deck with mountain and pond views, w/d, private. No smoking. \$650 furnished, negotiable unfurnished. First, last, security

required. 828-421-7922. (st. 5/7)

APARTMENT FOR RENT - partly furnished 1BR/1ba - no dogs/smokers - Whiteside Cove - \$100/week - call (828) 787-1515

ROOM FOR RENT - furnished or not - no smokers - must love dogs - \$50/week - call (828) 787-1515

APARTMENT FOR RENT – newly furnished one bed/one bath. AC/Heat. Deck. Fantastic view. 5 min from Highlands. Adults only. No smokers, no pets. Utilities included. \$795. Call 526-2694. (st. 7/30)

SEVERAL HOUSES AVAILABLE – 4 bedroom, 2 bath MH close in \$ 1,000 per month; 2 bedroom, 2 bath Home Carport; \$1,000 per month; Garage apt, 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$1,100 per month. All homes are plus utilities and no pets. Contact Terry Potts at Country Club Properties 828-526-2520. (st. 7/2)

APARTMENT FOR RENT – 1 bed, 1 bath, living area, kitchen and utility room. \$600 per month. \$300 security deposit. Rent includes utilities (electric, water heat). 1 year lease. Prefer nonsmoker. No pets. Unfurnished. good for 1-2 people. 838-526-9494.

GREAT 2 BEDROOM/1BATH APARTMENT – Main Street, Highlands includes 9-foot ceilings, central heat & air, balcony, large laundry room with washer/dryer. \$900 per month plus utilities. Lease and references required. Contact John Dotson - 526-5587. (st. 5/21)

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.

FOR RENT AND SALE – 2/2 condo, LR,

DR, Sun room, W/D. Walk to town. Available year round. Call 828-421-2144

FURNISHED 3BD 2BATH HOUSE IN MIRROR LAKE area available for 6-12 month lease \$1200+ utilities. Call 770-977-5692.

3BR, 2BACOTTAGE NEAR MIRROR LAKE – In town. \$1,250 per month. Very clean. 770-977-5692.

ON MIRROR LAKE – 3 bed, 2 bath, fireplace, hardwood floors, W/D, dock, canoe, furnished, 3-sided lake views. pets OK. Available Nov.-May. \$1,200 a month plus utilities. Call 770-435-0678.10/29

SMALL FURNISHED COTTAGE suitable for (1) occupant conveniently located @ 674 Chestnut Street. Queen bed, Living area and kitchen combined. Nice screen porch with sleeping loft. Quiet and private. No pets and no smoking. \$800. monthly plus \$300. security deposit with 6 months lease and references. Includes all utilities & satellite TV. Available 9/18/09. Contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT/SALE

TIRED OF PAYING MAIN STREET RENT? Join new center, less than 2 miles from downtown as an owner, tenant, or rent to own. Two spaces, 1,575 square feet each, \$299,900. Can be combined. Inquire for rental rates. Contact Betty Holt, Signature Properties, 526-4218 or Chris Gilbert, Carolina Mountain Brokers, 421-3161. 10/29

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

VACATION RENTAL

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE HOME WITH STUNNING FEATURES. Three bedrooms, plus den, three full baths, and an open living area. Two Stone fireplaces and three decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Full Privacy. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Rate dependant on term. Non smokers only; no pets. Deposit required. Weekly, monthly or yearly rental. Call 678-358-9675 or 770-639-2682.

3BR, 2BA CABIN – Spectacular valley views available for rent in September and October. Near Glen Falls. \$1,000 per week. Call 404-234-2830.10/28

RUSTIC FARMHOUSE – 3br/2b, central heat/air, spring water, big yard, access to fish pond, bordered by Buck Creek located on Buck Creek Rd.; close to Highlands and Franklin, NC. \$800 wklly or can be rented monthly. 828-524-6038

RV SITES FOR RENT IN TOWN — Short Walk to Main Street. Daily, Weekly, or Monthly Rates Available. Contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645 e-mail: chestnutcottages@yahoo.com

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

GENERATOR – Winco, tri-fuel, 16HP, 9,000

See CLASSIFIEDS page 31

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

watts. \$600. 828-526-1570 11/5.

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ANTIQUE 3-PIECE HOBNAIL AMBER WALL LAMP. \$20. Call 526-5367.

ORIGINAL SYRACUSE CHINA FROM NOW CLOSED "AUNT FANNY'S CABIN" IN ATLANTA. 19 plates, 18 bread and butter, 18 dessert. All for \$295. Call 526-0498.

TREAD MILL – Like New. Hardly Used. Paid \$400. Sacrifice at \$150. Call 526-4229.

RECLAIMED BRAZILIAN CHERRY DINING TABLE. One of a Kind. \$1,200. 828-526-9012. Randy. (st. 10/22)

PIANO — Gorgeous Fully restored. Late 1800s upright owned by the Vanderbelts and was in the Biltmore Estates Plays Beautiful \$7,000 invested, worth way more Must sell. Will sacrifice for \$2,800. OBO. 828-524-7233 or 828-371-2129 (st. 10/22)

EMPIRE GAS LOGS, 28 inches wide, ventless, with remote control and ember material. \$250. 526-4594.

FIREWOOD 2 YRS OLD, split & dried hardwood plus cut kiln-dried kindling close to a cord U-Haul \$200 Can divide. 828-342-7028.

MAYTAG PERFORMA GAS RANGE \$100. Maytag Dishwasher \$50. 526-9107.

TWO STAIRSTEPPERS. – \$100 each. Call 526-9083.

PET DOOR – Almost New. White. fits into sliding glass doors. \$150 oBO. Call 828-526-3397.

TVS FOR SALE – Remodeling makes these slightly used bargains possible. 25" -- \$140, 27" \$160, 32" \$260. Call 526-5992.

FURNITURE – 1 cream tweed sofa (89" long) \$500; 1 sofa/loveseat combo in cream stria-suede \$500 set; 2 brown fabric w/ color stripe custom swivel chairs \$300 each; 2 small green fabric swivel chairs \$150 each; 1 vintage wood vanity w/ beveled mirror and 6 drawers \$300; 2 matching nightstands \$100 for both. Will e-mail photos if interested! 828-743-3071 or 828-787-1900, st. 9/3

TWO MATCHING QUEEN ANNE CHAIRS. Cranberry Red. Walnut legs. Excellent condition. \$300 for both. 828-226-2027.

COLLAPSIBLE LADDER – \$270. Call 526-5025.

COLEMAN 5000 ER ELECTRONIC GARAGE DOOR. \$500. Call 526-5025. st. 8/13

PALLADIUM STYLE WINDOW — Mahogany two section 1-3/4" thick x 42" H x 70-1/2" W. \$160, OBO for photo call 828-526-2671.

WOOD BURNING STOVE W/ELECTRIC BLOWER. \$200. 342-3234.

MARY KAY with L – offering state-of-the-art skin care, new mineral makeup and other great products, as well as self-employment opportunities. Call Laurel at 349-6402 for more information. 10/29

OLD-FASHIONED PUSH MOWER – No gas needed! In great shape. \$50. Call 526-9027 or 342-6988.

OLD BRASS BALL FIREPLACE AND IRONS WITH ACCESSORIES. Asking \$500 but negotiable. Call 526-0439.

4 PIECE OUTDOOR FURNITURE SET. Glider, 2 rocking chairs & table. Metal frame, with cushions. Great condition \$125 369-5863.

EPIPHONE 6 STRING ACOUSTIC GUITAR with hard case-great condition-\$250 828.482.2222

HIGHLANDS LICENSE PLATES – New Photo Designs by Cynthia Strain. Cashiers & Franklin, also. Mill Creek Gallery & Framing on oak Street. 828-787-2021.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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).

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

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

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

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2003 AIRSTREAM / 30' CLASSIC: One Owner, Extra Clean @ \$34,000. rear island queen, walk-thru bath w/sit down shower, & dinette. Airstream's top of the line, no pets, no smoking. (st. 10/29)

ONE OWNER 2007 CHEVY PU with 26K miles, diesel duramax, 6 speed Allison, towing package, lineX bedliner, step rails, camper mirrors. @ \$22,000. call Charlie @ (828)526-8645, or email chestnutcottages@yahoo.com (st. 10/29)

2008 KEYSTONE OUTBACK FIFTH WHEEL CAMPER. –

Used 4 times. Has slide-out and bunkhouse. \$26,000. 526-9107. (st. 10/29)

2000 BUICK CENTURY LIMITED, 70,000 miles, excellent mileage, great mechanical condition, good body, well maintained. Power seat, new CD. \$3995. 526-4594. 10/29

1997 NISSAN PICK UP. – 5 speed. 140,000 K, 4-cyl., Great on gas! \$1,500. Call 526-4741.

2004 FORD EXPEDITION XLT – olive green, beige leather, 72,000 miles, Excellent condition, V-8 5.4 liter. \$13,500. Call 828-526-4707.

CADILLAC DEVILLE 2002 – Silver, 85,300 miles. One owner, garaged. \$8,950. See at 150 Shelby Circle, Highlands. 787-2310. (St. 7/9)

SERVICES

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

THE HIGHLANDS HANDYMAN – Anything and Everything. From High End to Low Spend. Local References. Call a neighbor. Call Mark at 526-0031. 10/22

MARK'S SEDAN SERVICE – Airport Transportation, Easy Pickup Procedures. Call 828-524-2149 or cell at 239-292-3623. MC/VISA, AMEX, Cash, Check. 11/12

WINTERIZATION AND PEACE OF MIND – The Highlands Handyman's Home Watching Service is Just in Time. On call 24/7. References. Call a Neighbor at 526-0031. 10/22

See CLASSIFIEDS page 32

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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

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

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

FIREWOOD "Nature Dried" Call 526-2251.

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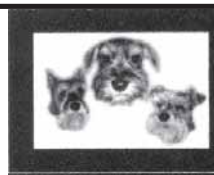
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POLICE, FIRE DEPT. LOGS

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from Oct. 9. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Oct. 9

• At 4 p.m., a burglary was reported at a residence on Hicks Road. It is under investigation.

Oct. 12

• At 11 p.m., officers responded to a call of a person refusing to leave Hampton Inn. She wanted to stay and watch the football game even though the night manager said she had to leave. Police requested her to leave.

Oct. 17

• At 11:35 p.m. officers were called concerning a disruptive person in a van pool after a wedding.

Oct. 19

• At 9 a.m., a gas-driveoff valued at \$70.20 was reported at the Farmers Market at Main and N.C. 106.

Oct. 20

• At 3 p.m., officers were called to Manley Auto on N.C. 28 concerning 125 gallons of missing oil.

Oct. 23

• At 9:30 p.m., vandalism to the Post Office was reported but upon investigation, officers found the doors to the trash bins open but no damage.

Oct. 24

• At 8:12 a.m., residents on Worley Road reported hunters illegally parked on the road.

• At 8:15 a.m., vandalism valued at \$100 was reported at a residence on Center Drive where a mail box had been damaged when a pumpkin was thrown at it.

• At 4:30 p.m. people on S. 4th Street called the station complaining that painters were blocking the sidewalk.

• At 6:40 p.m., Juan Carlos Jose, 27 of Tuckasegee, NC, was arrested for DWI when stopped for a traffic violation on Foreman Road. He was released on a \$1,000 secured bond.

• At 8:08 p.m., a suspicious person was reported at Sunset Rocks.

Oct. 25

• At 1:15 a.m., Deborah Clark, 56, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI when stopped for a traffic violation on U.S. 64 east. She was released on a \$500 secured bond.

• At 6:58 a.m., officers received a call from a person in South Africa trying to locate a Highlands resident about a death in the family.

• At 1 p.m., a suspicious person was reported at a home on Wilson Road owned by people who had left for the season.

• At 2:17 p.m., officers responded to a domestic verbal dispute at a residence on Oak Street. The male left and spent the night with friends.

• During the week, police officers responded to 13 alarms and issued 19 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Oct. 22:

Oct. 22

• At 12:32 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Moorewood Circle. It was false.

• At 7:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Buck Creek Road which was caused by something burning on the stove.

Oct. 23

• At 3:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence at Highlands Country Club set off from a faulty hood system in the club kitchen.

Oct. 24

• At 8:10 a.m., the dept. was called to search for a resident of Dillard Road near The Mountain entrance. He was found dead outside near his home, from an apparent bullet wound. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 26

• At 2:56 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cobb Road that was set off by workers.

Oct. 27

• At 10:18 p.m., the dept. responded to an accident on N.C. 106 near Koenig Builders. There were no injuries.

• THE PUZZLERS •

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

OBJECT:

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

How to Solve:

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

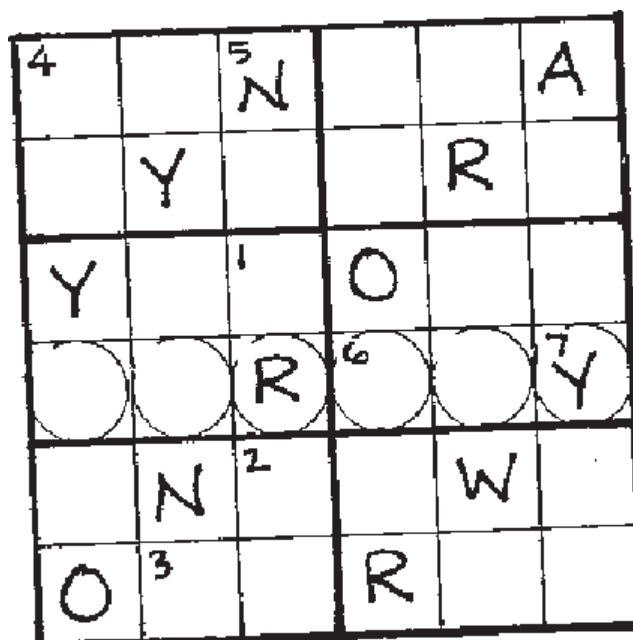
Mystery Word:

Scandinavian Country

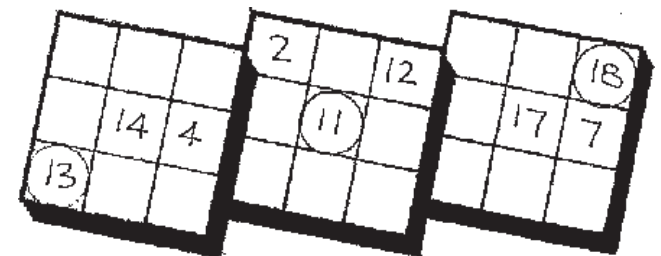
1. Victorious (3)
2. Slip sideways (3)
3. Alert to Danger (4)

Down

4. Direction (3)
5. At this moment (3)
6. Armed conflict (3)
7. Thataway (3)



PseudoCube[©] by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#DN2B Level of Difficulty - Moderate

THE SETUP:

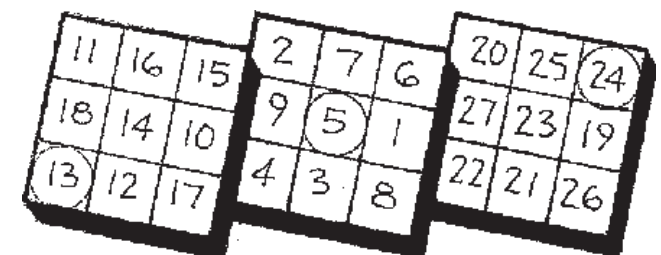
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

THE CHALLENGE:

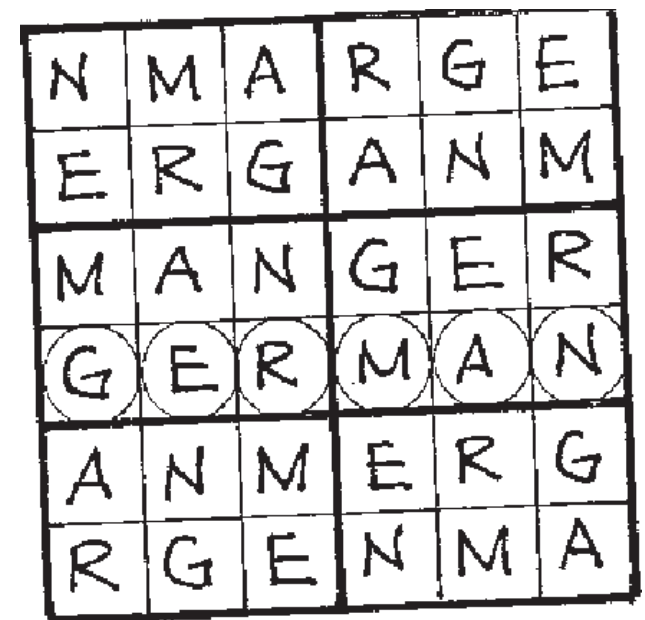
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: thepuzzlers@yahoo.com.

Solution to #BN2B in Oct. 22 issue



Solution to Oct. 22 Hex-a-Ku



• BUSINESS NEWS •

Artist Robert Tino part of Greenleaf Gallery's 'Meet the Artist' series in October



Every Saturday in October, a special artist whose work is on display and for sale at Greenleaf Gallery in Wright Square, visits from noon to 4 p.m. This past Saturday it was Robert Tino. On Oct. 31 its Leafwear potter Rusty Owens.

Artistic pumpkin carving at Mountain Fresh Grocery on Sat., Oct. 31



Photos by Denise Reynolds



Chamber of Commerce looking for award nominees

The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce is on the hunt for this year's recipient of the Robert Dupree Award. This award has been presented annually since 1991 to individuals or groups who make a difference on the Highlands plateau by using their time, talents, and compassion to positively impact the lives of others. Previous award winners have distinguished themselves in outstanding community service and embody the true spirit of self-sacrifice in representing citizenship.

If you know of a person or group that should be considered for the award, please honor them with a nomination. Submit a detailed entry recognizing their efforts, activities, community involvement, projects and achievements. Your nominee does not need to be a member of the chamber of commerce for consideration. Your letter of nomination can be delivered to the chamber office, PO Box 62, Highlands, NC, 28741. You can also submit by email visitors@highlandschamber.org.

Nominations should be delivered to the chamber office no later than November 9th. Last year this prestigious award was presented to Kay & Edwin Poole and the 2007 recipient was Marianne & Gordy Vines.

Once chosen the award will be presented at the

Highlands Chamber of Commerce Fall Finale, Tuesday, November 17th at Fressers Eatery.

• • •

Highlands has long been a community of volunteers and Duke Power has given us the opportunity to put them in the spotlight. The Chamber is on the search for the 2009 recipient of the Duke Power citizenship and service award.

The 2009 award winner was "Jackpot." Written nominations for such volunteers demonstrate commitment, integrity, stewardship, teamwork and initiative.

Your detailed letter of nomination can be delivered to the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 62, Highlands, NC, 28741. You can also submit by email visitor@highlandschamber.org. Nominations should be delivered to the chamber office no later than November 9th. Your nominee does not need to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce for consideration.

Once chosen the award will be presented at the Highlands Chamber of Commerce Fall Finale, Tuesday, November 17th at Fressers Eatery. Help us find the 20 percent that do 80 percent of the work.

Pre-Halloween product giveaway at the Hen House

The folks at the Hen House dressed the part Saturday during their Park Design product promotion. Featured were items with a Halloween motif -- Witch and Famous towels.



Pumpkin Decorating Contest at RBC Bank

Through Oct. 30, RBC Bank will display pumpkins decorated by the 2nd graders of Highlands School. Please visit us and vote for your favorite pumpkin 9-5 Monday-Thursday and 9-6 on Friday.

The child from each class with the most votes will win a Halloween Goody Bag from RBC Bank!

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Bryant Art Glass supports Bolivia Mission



Dwight Bryant, of Bryant Art Glass and a long time supporter of the Highlands Bolivian Mission donated the entire proceeds of his sales from October 23rd and 24th to the mission. He presented a check for \$2,100 to Dr. John Baumrucker, the president of the mission. Dr. Baumrucker stated, "This money is particularly welcome in this recession year because donations have been sparse," said Dr. Baumrucker. The funds will be used to support the foster home and to build a home for the cook who now spends most of her salary getting to and from work. Also, during the rainy season, getting to the home is often impossible. With a house near the foster home, she can easily walk to the home even in the most inclement weather. Bryant Art Glass is located on U.S. 64 west just across from the covered bridge at the entrance of The Bascom. His decorative and useful glass pieces adorn the White House in addition to many museums here in the U.S. and around the world. The mission really appreciates the support of Bryant Art Glass.

Girls' Clubhouse begins first service project



Members of The Girls' Clubhouse started work on centerpieces for the town's annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Rec Park. Pictured are 7th graders Claudia Lewis, Elizabeth Houston, Meredith Garren, Shannon Welch and visiting past member, 10th grader Shelby Houston. – Photo by Supervisor Kim Lewicki

The Girls' Clubhouse prepares for year 13



Members of The Girls' Clubhouse worked in Ms. Porter's room at Highlands School designing T-shirts for this year. Pictured are Meredith Garren, Claudia Lewis, McKinley Mosely, Elizabeth Houston and Shannon Welch. – Photo by Supervisor Kim Lewicki



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