

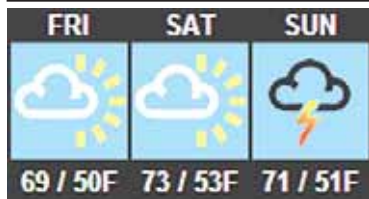
Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 36

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009



This Week in Highlands

Thurs. & Fri., Sept. 10-11

• The Native Plant Conference to benefit the Botanical Garden at the Highlands Biological Station. Call 526-2602.

Thurs., Sept. 10

• CLE presents The Story Behind the Story from 10 a.m. to noon at the Community Bldg. Call 526-8811.

• Taize service at the First Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 12

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Quickdraw at the Executive Conference Center at Old Edwards Inn at 5:30 pm. Tickets available at the door for \$45.

• Clear Creek Baptist Church cookout and fishing for kids Saturday at 3 pm. Call Mike at 787-1347.

Sunday, Sept. 13

• Bel Canto at PAC, 4 p.m. with dinner to follow at Highlands Country Club.

Mon., Sept. 14

• The "All Male Beauty Pageant" at The Highlands Playhouse at 8 p.m. Tickets are a \$100 available at Bryant Art Glass or at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital emergency room.

• A Beth Moore Bible Study, **Inheritance**, at Highlands School Media Center at 3:45 pm. Call Carol Bowen at 526-5168.

• The Highlands Audubon Society program at the Civic Center at 7:30. It's free.

• CLE presents Pencil Drawing from 10 a.m. to 12:30 at PAC. Call 526-8811.

• Macon County Commission meeting in the courthouse board room at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 15

• Hospital bloodmobile will be in front parking lot of hospital from 9-11:30 a.m. and at First Citizens Bank in Highlands from 12:30 until 6 p.m.

Wed., Sept. 16

• Highlands Town Board meeting in the Community Building at 7 p.m.

• Hospital bloodmobile will be in at the Blue Ridge School in Cashiers 7:40-10:30 a.m. and at the Albert Carlton Library 1-3:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 17

• Mark Twain (Marvin Cole) at PAC at 7:30. Tickets are \$15. Call 526-9047.

• PTO General Dinner-Meeting in the school cafeteria at 5 p.m.; meeting at 6 p.m.

• Taize service at the Holy Family Lutheran Church at 5:30 p.m.

Case highlights reason for DWI arrests

Lately there's been a lot of talk about Driving While Impaired (DWI) arrests made by the Highlands Police Department.

But Police Chief Bill Harrell said arrests made due to driving while impaired are not made lightly, nor should anyone expect the department to treat them as such.

He uses the case of driver William Matthew Wallin, 52, of High-

lands, as an example.

On August 6, 2009, Highlands Police Department arrested Wallin for Driving While Impaired and Felony Serious Injury by a Vehicle. The charges stemmed from a vehicle crash that occurred April 27, 2009 on US 64 east (Cashiers Road) near Sherwood Forest Drive.

Warrants were drawn from Macon County Magistrate Pat Tay-

lor in Highlands because Wallin and an eight-year-old passenger from the other vehicle were flown by MAMA to Mission-Memorial Hospital in Asheville for injuries sustained in the crash.

The driver and another passenger from the second vehicle were treated for minor injuries at High-

• See DWI page 3

Reps weigh in on sales tax increase

The one percent sales tax increase that went into affect across North Carolina last week points to the habit of state officials when it comes to fixing state budget deficits.

The increase of a full penny sales tax will help offset the \$4 billion budget-gap that federal stimulus money and budget cuts didn't fill, say officials.

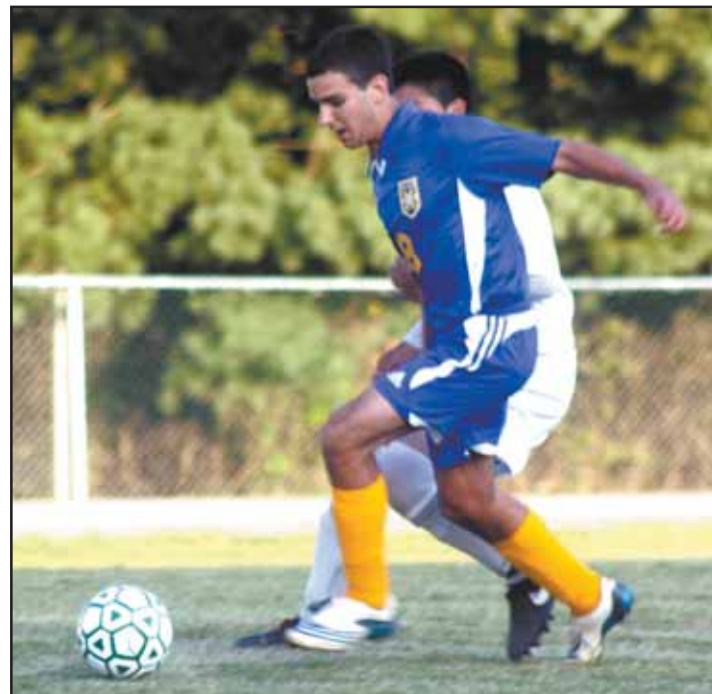
"Unfortunately, the increase in sales tax does not benefit the county in any way," said Macon County Commission Chair Ronnie Beale. "That one percent will be returned to the state in its entirety. We can only hope that with total sales tax revenue which is down almost 15% in the fiscal year ending in June of 2009, will not decrease further with the addition of the sales tax."

Senator John Snow said the state is in the shape it is due to the world-wide recession and the sales tax increase saved jobs and programs across the state.

"This year's historic budget

• See SALES TAX page 12

Lively soccer season ahead



On Wednesday, Sept. 2, Highlands School Boys Varsity Soccer played at East Henderson. Sophomore Clayton Creighton scored three goals for the Highlands team. See the soccer team pullout on page 16.

Photo by Noel Atherton

Rec Park survey on its way

Planners from Heden-Stanziale in Charlotte and Highlands Town Board members conducted

an Open House at the Rec Park last Thursday evening to hear what cit-

• See SURVEY page 12

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Highlands Pharmacy and residential variance on Zoning Board agenda

This week's Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting dealt with two cases – one involving a commercial venture and the other a residential variance.

With Highlands Pharmacy's move to 195 Main Street in Wright Square to the former Black Bear Furniture store, a special use permit was required from the zoning board.

As in its current location on Main Street, the pharmacy will share the space with the Mountain Barber Shop with the barber shop in the back of the space and the pharmacy in the front.

The uses are allowed in the B-2 district so appearing before the zoning board was a formality required to obtain a special use

• See ZONING BOARD page 3

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

JMCA goes on record against Duke Power rate increase

Tuesday, Sept 8, the Board of Directors of the Jackson-Macon Conservation passed the attached resolution expressing its opposition to the electrical rate increase proposed by Duke Energy. A public hearing before the NC Public Utility Commission is scheduled in Franklin September 22 at the Macon County Courthouse Room A at 7 p.m..

J-MCA's position has been taken because Duke Energy is asking the North Carolina Utilities Commission to approve an 18% rate-hike (13.5% actual and 4.5% for rising costs of coal) for residential customers to pay in part for on-going construction at its new coal-burning power plant at Cliffside, in Rutherford County and the rising cost of coal and pollution control. If approved, this rate-hike will add the misery now being experienced by ratepayers and residents in an economy already impacted by a lengthy recession.

In the year 2009 we should not be building new coal-burning power plants. Rather, these plants should be phased out in favor of conservation as we invest in developing the abundant renewable resources available in North Carolina.

The proposed rate hike is not limited to residential customers: The rate request extends to: commercial 9.78%, industrial 15.25% and outdoor lighting 16.74%.

David M. Bates
Jackson Macon Conservation Alliance
348 S. 5th Street
Highlands, NC 28741
Office: 828 526-9938 x 256
Cell: 828 226-5216

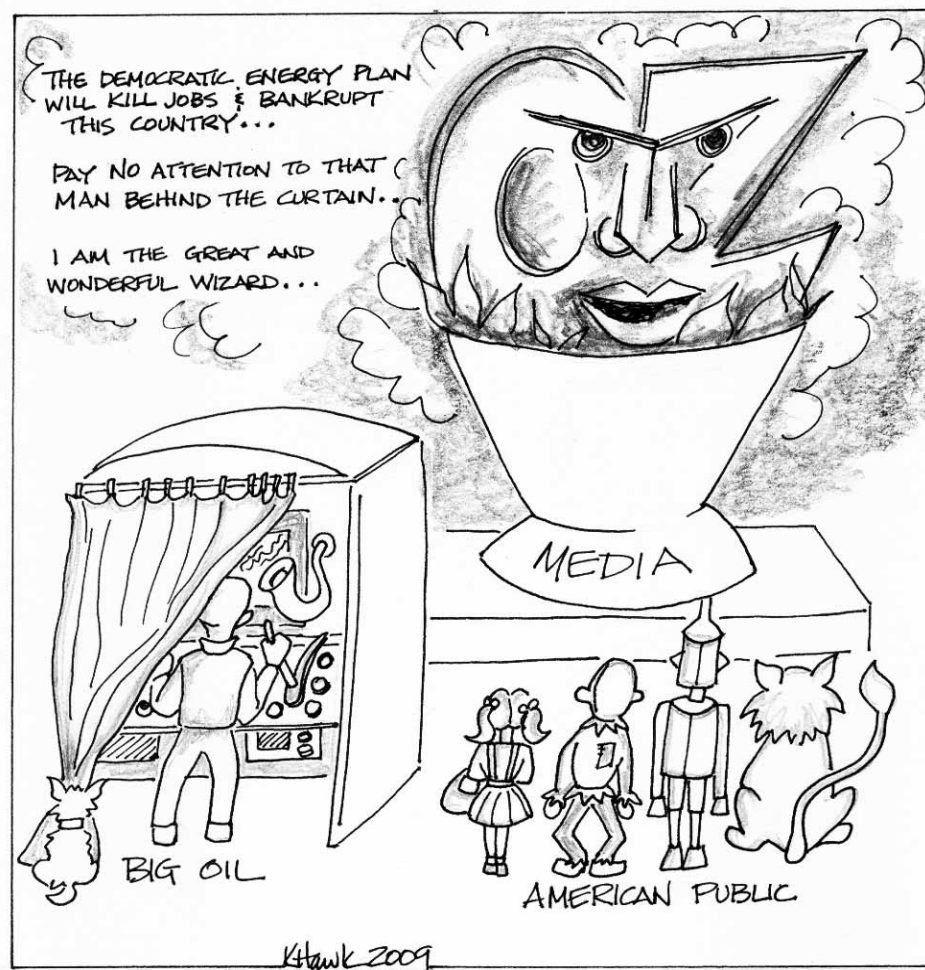
RESOLUTION TO PROTECT RATEPAYERS FROM UNNECESSARY RATE INCREASES

WHEREAS, Duke Energy is currently constructing a new 800-megawatt coal-fired power plant ("Unit #6") at its Cliffside generating facility in Rutherford and Cleveland counties in North Carolina;

WHEREAS, Duke Energy expects Unit #6 to cost 2.4 billion dollars to construct; and Duke Energy expects to recover these construction costs from its ratepayers;

WHEREAS, Duke Energy is seeking to recover 600 million to one billion dollars for the costs it has already incurred constructing

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

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Unit #6;

WHEREAS, Unit #6 will pollute Tar Heel skies with fine particulate matter, oxides of nitrogen, sulfur dioxide, mercury, other toxic chemicals and the greenhouse gas equivalent of one million cars annually over its fifty-year lifespan;

WHEREAS, Deposition of these pollutants from Unit #6 into our air, land and water will adversely affect health, the environment, agriculture crops, forests, waterways and fisheries; and Unit #6 will have disproportionate health effects on children, the elderly and those with chronic illness;

WHEREAS, Unit #6 is unnecessary because North Carolina can readily meet its future electricity demands through modest increases in energy efficiency and with renewable sources of energy at levels already required in North Carolina;

WHEREAS, It would be unconscionable to force an 18% rate hike on residential ratepayers to pay the actual and external costs of constructing and operating an unnecessary power plant during the worst economic recession in a generation;

WHEREAS, The stated purpose of the NC Utilities Commission is to "protect the interest of the public to the end that adequate service may be provided at reasonable rates";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned request that the North Carolina Utilities Commission fulfill—to the fullest extent possible—its legal duties to promote conservation and least-cost energy planning by denying Duke Energy's request to recover the costs of Unit #6 from ratepayers.

ADOPTED this 8th day of September 2009 by the Board of Directors of the Jackson Macon Conservation Alliance, 526 S. 5th St., Highlands, NC 28741.

NOTE: According to Highlands Town Manager, Jim Fatland, this article deals with the RETAIL rate hike requested by Duke Energy. Highlands is a wholesale customer of Duke. The Town of Highlands retail rates went up 10% earlier this year in anticipation of the new contract and the higher operating costs of Duke Energy.

• LETTERS •

Stay strong, Fred

Dear Fred:

Enjoyed your latest effort in the Sept. 3 issue of this paper entitled "You can kiss my grits...again" and have a few thoughts. Like I told you in my first communication, most individuals believe you really mean what you write.

Your comments reflect what a majority here in the Western North

See LETTERS page 18

... DWI continued from page 1

lands-Cashiers Hospital and released.

Wallin had been driving on US 64 east into Highlands when he struck the other vehicle head on near the intersection of Sherwood Forest Road.

Officers drew blood from Wallin on the date of the April crash for evidentiary purposes in relation to the DWI charges.

On August 28, Highlands Police Department received the blood results from the North Carolina Special Bureau of Investigation forensics laboratory and it showed that Wallin's blood alcohol level was almost double the legal limit.

"The child in the car Wallin hit was seriously injured

and was at Mission for an extended period of time due to his injuries," said Harrell. "Wallin is lucky the boy pulled through, or else he would be facing manslaughter charges."

Harrell said since January 2009, his officers have arrested 17 people for DWI. The Macon County Sheriff's Department has logged 71 DWI arrests the first eight months of this year.

"Driving While Impaired is a serious thing and it doesn't matter who you are, or where you live or where you come from. It's dangerous and illegal and we have to treat everyone the same," said Harrell.

Wallin's court date is pending.

— **Kim Lewicki**

... ZONING BOARD from page 1

permit – necessary for any new business.

The second case involved a setback variance at 1222 Bowery Road requested by David C. Watkins who wants to build a workshop barn on the 1.45 acre piece of property in the WS III BN district.

Attorney Scott Neumann spoke on Watkins behalf.

The variance was requested because due to a pond located on the property, the barn can only be built 25 feet from the edge of the right-of-way rather than the required 30-feet from the center of the right-of-way.

Furthermore, the owner bought the property prior to the road right-of-way being increased when Bowery Road was widened. The owner also said he received approval on Aug. 3, 2009 before he began work and said he relied on that approval to his detriment.

He said he can only build the barn if he is allowed an 18-ft. setback variance.

Zoning Administrator Joe Cooley said construction of the barn is "upscale" and wouldn't diminish the property values or the character of the neighborhood.

The final decision of the Zoning Board will be in next week's paper. — **Kim Lewicki**

• CORRECTION •

In last week's edition we stated that Lucy Herz, HS Class of 2007, now at Columbia University, was the Valedictorian of her class. She was the Salutatorian. Chase Jenkins, now at UNC-Chapel Hill was the Valedictorian of HS Class 2007.

We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

Highlands High School Student College & University Tour headed for UNC-Asheville

The first college/university tour of the 2009/2010 school year, organized by the HHS University Tours is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 12. Students will visit the University of North Carolina - Asheville campus for a guided tour and information session. Admissions/Information packets will be provided to students by the university.

All interested Seniors, Juniors and Sophomores are encouraged to participate in the tour. Seniors will be given first preference. Juniors & Sophomores who sign up will be notified in advance if the bus fills up.

Departure for the UNCA tour will be from the front entrance of Highlands School at 7:45 a.m. Students should arrive at the school by 7:30 a.m.

The tour of UNCA will begin at 10 a.m. with an ETA back

in Highlands by 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Seating for this tour is limited and all students wishing to attend must have Permission Slips and reservations returned by noon Thursday, Sept. 10. Forms should be returned to John Dotson or Thomas Jessup, HHS School Guidance Counselor.

Sponsors for these University Tours are Highlands United Methodist Church and Highlands Rotary Club. Trips are not Highlands School or Macon County Board of Education sponsored. Transportation for tours is provided courtesy of Highlands United Methodist Church via church bus. A certified driver and additional chaperones will accompany students. In the event we maximize capacity on the bus, private vehicle transport may be provided. Parents

• MILESTONES •

Barnes & Mace to wed



On Saturday, Sept. 26 at 3 p.m. Lisa Barnes and Steven Mace will wed at the home of Lisa's parents at 4117 Buck Creek Road. All friends and family are invited.



Annual Quick Draw
September 12, 2009



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will be notified in advance if this is necessary. Lunch will be at no cost to students.

Last year's tours included UNC-A, Warren Wilson College, Brevard College, Furman University, Clemson University, Davidson College and Wake Forest University. There will be return trips to some of these schools if students are interested.

For additional information or questions, contact John Dotson at 526-5587 (work) 526-5868 (home) – or email buz@ppoh.com

A tour of Appalachian State University on Saturday, Sept. 19 during their Fall Open House, so plan ahead if interested.

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

I'm drowning in bird poop

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Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

Years ago, Billy and Sabrina Hawkins, Highlands' local business entrepreneurs, lived just down the road from our li'l cabin off Clear Creek Road. They owned a beautiful pair of love birds that were very friendly and would fly to me when released from their cage, especially if I had fruit. Since I'm a bird lover to a fault, I visited often to play with them.

One afternoon Billy called in a panic because his birds had escaped through an open door. DUH! While I felt bad, there was little anyone could do. Then, a couple days later, both love birds showed up at my feeder and started to visit often. So ole bird brain Fred, in an effort to help, raced off to Reeves Hardware to buy a roll of flypaper. The plan was to remove the feeder, tack the flypaper to my porch rail and bait the paper with seeds. When the love birds landed on the sticky paper, I would race out and capture them. Ta Da!

It was a perfect plan...I thought. The love birds arrived, looked around for the missing feeder, spotted the flypaper with the seeds on it and laughed. While they sat on a nearby limb, looking at me like I'm nuts, a tufted breastmouse (I don't use the T word.) landed on the paper, got stuck, and fell over in the glue. The poor thing's whole body was plastered to the flypaper. The love birds took one look at the disaster, then at each other, and I haven't seen them since. Could I make this up?

I spent the next two hours in surgery, snipping, cleaning and detaching this very angry bird from the flypaper. When the operation was complete and I could do no more, I sat the terrified, exhausted bird on my porch rail for a test flight. It still had glue on one wing and one leg wasn't functioning well. Hey, I never claimed to be a bird surgeon. Flying a little crooked and with only one leg working, the breastmouse flew to a nearby limb. I named it "goo-bird" and it visited my feeder often.

That incident had a profound effect on me because I have spent 20 years trying to make up for my mistake. Today, I own the only bird feeder in Highlands that's

never been touched by a bear, raccoon, tree rat (squirrel) or chipmunk. I have the perfect feeding system. Since I only buy the best food, my feeder is crowded with American Gold Finches, Cardinals, magnificent Grosbeaks and an array of other less colorful birds....like the breastmouse.

One thing that birds love to do more than eat is poop. ...poop, poop, and poop. This year I have more birds at my feeder than ever. They are fighting over a feeder spot. The wimpy birds are waiting on my porch for a spot on the feeder. They are pooping everywhere, on my porch rail, on my deck, on my bar-b-que, on my porch furniture and even in my hair. It's disgusting. I'm drowning in bird poop.

Birds are not only poop machines with no toilet manners, they are slob. For every seed they eat, they spill two on the ground. Hoards of chipmunks and tree rats visit every day, trampling my beautiful fern beds. The chipmunks have built underground homes under my feeder. This attracts the fox, which digs up chipmunk homes and eats the critters, further trashing my garden. My backyard looks like a war zone covered with bird poop.

Wait, there's more. Not only do birds like to eat and poop, they also make babies. (This is not a bad thing, but not on my porch.) Now I don't mind an occasional bird nest, but don't attack me when I get near. Are they all bird brains?

Yesterday I decided I had paid my debt to the bird world. I took down my feeder and when the last baby chick took flight, I took down all the bird nests. Since there's nothing to eat, the birds, chipmunks and tree rats moved on. The fox doesn't come around anymore and dig up my garden looking for chipmunks. Best of all, the Peregrine Falcon doesn't make periodic visits anymore to eat the slow flying Gold Finch. My garden is making a slow recovery. Peace reigns.

Then yesterday I spotted a sad looking pouty-mouth chickadee staring at me through my glass sliding door. He wouldn't go away and kept staring and staring. Finally I shouted, "How would you like it if I pooped in your nest?"

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

A look at health care from the inside

Last week, I suggested that AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) opposed President Obama's proposed health care reform. I was wrong. AARP signed on early in support of the president's initiative, and it has cost the organization members. There. Now I feel better.

Most Americans seem to harbor an inherent mistrust of government, and not without considerable justification. The unease with the idea of government bureaucrats making decisions concerning our health care is palpable. I don't trust the government either, but I trust the beneficiaries of our present health care mess even less. I don't mean patients. I'm

referring not to recipients of care, but to dispensers.

To allocate limited resources, we will eventually have to prioritize and ration care. It's not in any bill being considered by Congress and it's unlikely to be mentioned anywhere but here in the next decade. But sooner or later we'll be forced to face the fact that we just can't afford to continue with our present model. We will adopt a system of "evidence-based medicine" in which doctors will be required to follow a rational sequence of



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

diagnostic tests and treatment. Doctors who comply must be indemnified against being sued for bad outcomes. Doctors who ignore established guidelines would risk malpractice litigation. Evidence-based medicine would not always produce a good outcome. It would be a more economical and more rational approach, and anyone who believes that our current system produces uniformly satisfactory outcomes, just doesn't know the facts.

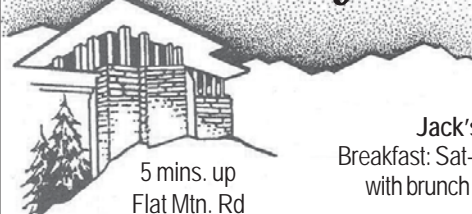
Government bureaucrats who would not make decisions, as fear mongers predict. Instead the brightest doctors in the country would establish the algorithms of care. It would be care-based on objective outcome studies rather than a physician's ownership of an MRI machine. As a friend of mine often reminds me, "When you've got a hammer, everything looks like a nail."

It is naïve to believe that decisions made by a patient and his doctor will always be better, or even as good, as a computer program. Some doctors, even those who want nothing but the best for their patients, aren't very smart, or have

• See SALZARULO page 13

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• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

Police Department doing great job

Once again our police department has shown the class act it is. Within a very short time, in a cooperative effort with other law enforcement teams, it solved the bank robbery of the RBC and two suspects have been detained. They are to be commended for their quick and efficient handling of this matter in their usual and effective manner.



Mayor Don Mullen

In a recent question asked by one of our local newspapers regarding financing of the police department 166 people responded, a larger number than I can recall ever having responded to such questions, and 86% of them approved the way the police department was being funded by the town. This is overwhelming support. When Chief Harrell announced at Rotary the solving of the bank robbery case this past Tuesday, he received a standing ovation from over 100 people.

Congratulations to all the people who worked so hard along with Will Amari and Paula Jones to make Relay for Life a success again this

year in Highlands and Cashiers. In spite of poor economic conditions in the country, over \$100,000 was raised in support of defeating cancer through research supported by the American Cancer Society. In the past nine years our area has been a leader in the fight against cancer, having raised over a million and a half dollars in this effort. Once again, thanks to all you hard workers out there who made this happen.

There were many great events around Highlands on the Labor Day holiday weekend from book signings by the great American writer Pat Conroy at Cyrano's Bookshop to singing events at the PAC and a Tail Waggers Walk by pet owners. The Village Square Art and Craft Show at the Kelsey Hutchinson Park featured high quality regional art which everyone could enjoy. Our weekend in Highlands was overwhelmingly successful and thanks go to all who participated in making this happen.

Want to advertise your upcoming events?

Get it in Highlands' Newspaper's Upcoming Events continuum all year long by simply emailing events in the following format ...

- Day, Date (example: Saturday, Sept. 5)
- Event information: including description, time, place, cost, contact information, etc.

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• COACH'S CORNER •

What we learned after one week of college football

- Steve Spurrier must be withering away slowly inside after watching his putrid offense stink up the joint against NC State and still come away with a W. Spurrier haters will note the karma side of all of this, but it is hard to watch a Spurrier led team only score 7 points.

- Boise State ran all over Oregon on the Smurf Turf last Thursday night. Kellen Moore looks like the real deal at QB and it is hard to imagine BSU not being undefeated at the end of the regular season, particularly after the way that their defense shut down Oregon's high powered attack.

- Speaking of Oregon, they did the right thing by suspending LeGarrett Blount for the season, but part of me can't help but wonder if it would have been better to suspend him for 6 games and give him incentive to continue practicing and stay out of trouble.

- Alabama's defense looked strong and their offense did some damage in their win over Virginia Tech. If Bama QB Greg McElroy can ever get comfortable with Julio Jones...watch out SEC.

- With Sam Bradford going down for a few weeks, Tim Tebow and Colt McCoy will need someone to step in to the Heisman race...I nominate BYU quarterback Max Hall and Oklahoma State WR Dez Bryant. Hall was near flawless in BYU's victory over Oklahoma, and Bryant was his usual electrifying self against the Georgia Bulldogs.

- Speaking of the Dawgs...don't be so quick to give up on Joe Cox (or as I affectionately refer to him, the Ginger Ninja). He was still feeling the effects of the flu on Saturday, but keep an eye on him vs. South Carolina.

- Florida State and Miami was one heckuva game on Monday night-neither team could stop the other in the second half and it evolved into an old fashioned shootout. One of these days Bobby Bowden is going to beat Miami in a close game...I just hope it's before they have to feed him applesauce on the sideline.

- Notre Dame won....meh
- Quote of the day on Saturday during the Syracuse-Minnesota game. "Former Duke point guard (and current Cuse QB) Greg Paulus was known for taking charges whether he was touched or not"



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- That last quote was from Pam Ward, whose monotone delivery actually made it funnier

- And finally, congratulations to Ron Zook and the Illinois Fighting Illini for getting waxed by Missouri in the opener and lowering expectations for the entire year. Come on Illini...win one for the Zooker!

• HS SOCCER •

Highlanders bounce back

By Ryan Potts

Highlands soccer coach Chris Green wondered aloud to me last week how well his team would respond to adversity.

After losing 5 starters and dropping a close 2-1 match to archrival Franklin, the Highlanders answered their coach with two dominating victories over 3A East Henderson and Thomas Jefferson.

Last Wednesday the Highlanders came out determined to put the Franklin game behind them, and they did just that on the strength of three goals from sophomore Clayton Creighton. Creighton provided the offense, and the rest of the Highlanders provided the defense, as they held the Eagles to only one goal and dominated possession throughout the match.

Friday, the Highlanders hosted the Thomas Jefferson academy Jaguars in an out of state matchup. Highlands once again came out strong, getting a goal from Creighton early and tacking on another one from sophomore Ricky Reyes to lead 2-0. The Jaguars cut the lead in have with a goal late in the first half to trail 2-1 at the break. Thomas Jefferson would get no closer, as senior Will Mathowdis added two insurance goals to give Highlands a 4-1 victory. "It was a tough game," said Mathowdis, "but we worked hard and did what we had to do to get the W."

The Highlanders travel to Brevard today to face the Blue Devils in another non-conference matchup and will host Rabun Gap on Saturday at Zachary Field

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Presumed innocent

Sometimes I enjoy imagining myself in life situations completely different from my everyday routine. One of those situations seems unbearable: being imprisoned for a crime I did not commit. If I were sent to prison even though I were innocent, I think I would go crazy with anger and bitterness. I would hate everyone and anyone connected with putting me in that horrible position. I would hate the guards for treating me as if I were guilty.

Perhaps that's why I enjoy the film "My Cousin Vinny" so much. The film tells the story of two young men accused of murder; they are innocent. Cousin Vinny, through his brilliance as a lawyer, proves that the crime was committed by two other people. While being held for trial the two young men are treated cruelly by prison guards. The nightmare of electrocution is rubbed in their faces. And at the same time the film is very funny so I can confront my horror by laughing.

The film revolves around the inaccuracy of eyewitness testimony. Once the machinery of the state has decided that a person is a suspect, the strangest thing happens to people. Their memory changes and they are suddenly certain that the person who has been arrested for the crime is the very person they saw at the scene of the crime.

In addition, the film's "expert" witness is not really expert at all; he just sounds like he knows what he's talking about.

The district attorney and the police are intent on convicting the person they have selected as the perpetrator and are not interested in any "facts" that get in the way of their theory of the crime.

Sound paranoid? The three examples that follow are the cases of three people who experienced just this miscarriage of justice. Three innocent people who were convicted of crimes they did not do by eyewitnesses who were either wrong about what they saw, or who changed their testimony to fit the prosecution's story after the suspect was arrested. And three prosecutors who never really looked at the facts of the case; who never took the time to consider whether the story the accused told was true but pursued an incorrect view of the crime until an innocent man was put in jail.

Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption, is the story of Ronald Cotton and Jennifer Thompson-Cannino (362.883T). Ms. Cannino attended college in eastern North Carolina; one night she was raped. In the next few days she picked Cotton as her attacker both through photos and in a line-up. There was no evidence linking him to the crime, but due to Cannino's absolute certainty that he was the culprit, Cotton was convicted. He was sentenced to life in prison.

The book goes back and forth between

Cannino's and Cotton's first-person accounts. Cotton realized during his first year in prison that he was incarcerated with the man who actually committed the rape. He realized that to survive he had to deal with his anger. His father helped by saying, "if you're really innocent, if you do something bad in prison (like kill the actual rapist) you'll no longer be innocent." Cotton's strength of character is astonishing. I was moved as he described his struggle to forgive his accuser and accept his circumstances.

After serving 11 years DNA evidence showed Cotton was innocent and he was released.

Two years later Cannino and Cotton met, and she asked his forgiveness. He had already gone way past that, and over time they forged a friendship. They travel together often to speak at law-enforcement seminars to share their experience.

Richard Rosen, the UNC-Chapel Hill law professor who took on Cotton's case and won his release on the DNA evidence, started the Innocence Project to learn how to better assess a suspect's professions of innocence.

Cotton may have suffered greatly while in prison, but at least he wasn't on death row.

"The Thin Blue Line" is an amazing documentary that helped establish the innocence of Randall Adams, who had been on death row for murdering a police officer in Dallas, Texas. Prior to the making of the film a U.S. Supreme Court decision had resulted in Adams' death sentence being overturned. Rather than retrying their shaky case the Texas prosecutors sentenced Adams to life without parole.

That is, rather than ruin their record of wins-and-losses by releasing this man, the state attorneys sentenced someone who was probably innocent to life in prison.

The filmmaker, Errol Morris, had gone to the prison to make a documentary about a notorious psychiatrist who was nicknamed "Dr. Death:" every suspect he interviewed got the death sentence because he invariably testified that they were a menace to society.

Morris met Adams and was so persuaded by Adams' story that he changed the focus of his film to the investigation of the police shooting. The film makes such a convincing case that another man committed the crime that Adams was released from prison. I know I've given away the punch line — but believe me; the film is still worth seeing.



Katie Brugger
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Morris interviews people who testified as eyewitnesses to the shooting. At the trial all of them claimed to have clearly seen that it was Adams who pulled the trigger, but when questioned for the film almost all admitted that they really didn't have a good enough view to be absolutely certain of the shooter's identity.

This week's *The New Yorker* has an even more chilling story: an innocent man was executed in Texas in 2004 ("Trial By Fire: Did Texas Execute an Innocent Man?" by David Grann).

Cameron Willingham and his three children were sleeping on the morning of Dec. 23, 1991 when a fire broke out in the house. The cries of his three-year-old daughter woke him, but the fire was raging in the children's bedroom and he couldn't reach them. He ran onto the front porch calling to his neighbors for help, then watched helplessly as his house and chil-

dren burned.

The local and state arson investigators determined that this was a case of arson. Willingham was arrested. He was labeled a sociopath by the "medical experts," one of whom was Dr. James Grigson, the Dr. Death of Morris' film.

Based largely on the testimony of these "experts" Willingham was convicted of triple homicide and sentenced to death.

A number of scientists have looked at the evidence in the case and concluded that this fire was definitely not arson. The Innocence Project hired expert fire investigators who concluded that "each and every one" of the indicators of arson cited in the trial had been "scientifically proven to be invalidated." Unfortunately, all of this came too late for Willingham.

I pray if I am ever accused of a crime I am given a presumption of innocence — these three men never were.

• All of Katie Brugger's columns are available on her website:
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“Small minds talk about people...”



Don Swanson
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...average minds talk about events; great minds talk about ideas.”

I've got an idea; let's talk about some great people's ideas. Where does that stand in the order of things? I digress. But before we do, let's get real.

Who has more readers? People Magazine or the Architectural Digest? And why would that be? Well, being a gregarious lot, people tend to relate to the things they think they understand the best, and that would be other people rather than, for example, the theory of relativity or the second law of thermodynamics.

The problem I find with ideas is that

they are debatable. I find philosophical discussions are very frustrating and non-productive. One assumes that such a discussion originates by someone (a person) having an idea. The can is kicked down the road by people. Then, ultimately, if the discussion bears any practical value, it will affect people. So, it begins with a person, it's debated by people, and ends with people. What occupies the loftier position? The idea – or people?

Circular thinking drives me nuts. Mathematics was and is of utmost interest to me. Statistics is close behind. Physics and chemistry made a lot of sense to me as

well. And that's the point; does the process produce verifiable results? Does the effort bear fruitful endings or do emotion and personal preference enter into the equation? Does the endless blabbing do anything but move air around? For example, my thoughts are attacked by others having views different from mine.

That's cool. But the idea usually isn't judged on its merits, but generally by the assessment of the one who proffers it.

We live in an era of historical revisionism. As a matter of fact, we're in an era of instantaneous revisionism. Admittedly it's on a micro scale, but it is a graphic and timely illustration. A few weeks ago, I wrote one of my rants on “climate change” and may also have mentioned the cap and trade scam. A reader, a fine gentleman, wrote a letter to the editor disagreeing with some of my stands. A few days later, I received an email from the letter writer, explaining he didn't challenge my facts, just the conclusions I drew from them. A fine debate of ideas in a public forum.

Unfortunately, his letter appeared under the headline, “Swanson's got Global Warming Facts all Wrong.” In his email, he assured me the headline was not of his doing and that he didn't dispute the facts at all, just the deductions I made from them. Certainly that is his right. So much for a civil exchange of ideas. Therein lies the paradox.

What is a boy from the Minnesota wastelands, whose mind lived between the lines for decades, doing writing a column based on subjectivity and opinion and subject to attack. Just lucky, I guess.

On a grander scale, millions get the ideas of the idea spinners, primarily politicians and pundits, through the filter of the national news networks and big city newspapers. They are talking about ideas; unfortunately, their slant on the subject obscures the real meaning of the ideas. Unless it's your idea, and you are putting out your thoughts directly to the audience you want to reach, it's not recognizable by the time it gets to them.

As I read over what I've written so far, it's evident that my exposition of ideas lacks clarity. To clean things up, I need to resort to the baser level and talk about — people. Take the current issue of Obama's choice for Czar of Green Jobs.

Forget the fact that the use of Czars, that bypass any congressional scrutiny, are clearly unconstitutional. This thug, Vann Jones, has such a sordid history that Obama had to deep-six him before the people took up pitchforks.

For those of you who don't tune in to

See SWANSON page 15

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• HIS & HERS •

Desperately Seeking Ava

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

John had a double whammy engagement in Raleigh recently, appearing first as Benjamin Franklin, and then serving on a panel. It was great timing, coming just the day before our granddaughter's fifth birthday. John's daughter, Karen, and her husband, Mark, and their children live in the Raleigh area. You'd think that living in the same state would make trips fairly easy, until you realize that With a few stops in-between, Highlands to Raleigh is a seven hour trip of butt-numbing intensity. Fortunately, the powers that be in the state government of North Carolina haven't succumbed to the idiocy of Virginia, which has closed a number of rest areas on their highways. You can still have a pleasant place to stop, stretch your legs, have a soda, and use the facilities, courtesy of the state of North Carolina. They've understood how important it is to keep both locals and visitors happy. On one of these stops, we picked up discount coupon books for people visiting the area.

"There's an Ava Gardner Museum," chuckled John. "Can you imagine?" Well, no, I hadn't imagined. I was born in 1950, and growing up, heard all about movie stars, many of whose films I'd been too young to see. Cary Grant, Jimmy Stewart, Grace Kelly, Rita Hayworth, Clark Gable, and Ava Gardner were still big names when I was a kid, but often the content of their movies was considered too racy for a child of my tender years. It was only later, watching channels like Turner Classic Movies, that I got to watch many of the films that had made the reputations of these film icons.

So there we were, in the Raleigh area. John had done his gig the night before. We called up Karen, and asked if we could help with the set up of Anna's birthday party. No, everything was being taken care of; we were just supposed to show up at 4 pm. What would we do until then? We decided to explore, and set off to find the Ava Gardner Museum. Why not? Trotting around the outlet mall didn't appeal to either one of us.

We headed 30 miles east of Raleigh for the town of Smithfield, which turned out to be an utterly charming, historic town. The courthouse is a marvelous building, although not the first at that particular site. It was there that Sherman announced to his cheering troops marching by that the war



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was over. The war in question was either the Civil War or the War of Northern Aggression, depending on what side you're on.

Smithfield is a splendid place for a walking tour. It was wonderful shops, and pleasant places to eat, but we were folks with a mission. Somehow, I'd gotten it into my brain that the museum we were looking for was in Sel-

ma, so we headed there.

Selma is an example of thoughtful planning on behalf of its mayor, town manager, and town council. Realizing the potential of having over 43,000 people passing by on I-95, they offered rent-free retail space to anyone who would open an antique or art shop in town. The result is 100,000 square feet of antiques, all within walking distance in a picturesque and pleasant old downtown area. Since Selma is famous for its antique shops, we went into one to ask for directions. We had the good fortune to encounter Amy of Keepsake Corner, a delightful and helpful lady in a shop full of marvelous things. Not only was Amy able to give us directions to finding Ava, she also had two extra tickets to the museum. Getting lost was beginning to look better by the moment.

Back in Smithfield, we finally found our destination. I'm ashamed to say I'd always confused Ava Gardner and Rita Hayworth, but I won't anymore. Ava Gardner was born on Christmas Eve of 1922, in Brogden, a small rural community seven miles from Smithfield. She was the youngest of seven children, and her family was very poor. To her mother's credit, she kept Ava in school when many parents would have insisted they drop out to add to the family's finances. Ava's older sister, Bappie, had married a photographer in New York. It was while visiting her sister that her brother-in-law Larry Tarr took some photos of Ava, and put them in the window of his Fifth Avenue shop. Ava came to the attention of MGM, and was asked to appear for a screen test. Her accent was so strong that most people couldn't understand her, and she did her screen test - in silence. She still landed a seven-year contract with MGM - and voice lessons - at the age of 18.

Shortly after arriving in Hollywood, Ava came to the attention of Mickey Rooney, who was totally smitten by her. Their ill-fated marriage lasted only a year. Her second marriage to bandleader Artie Shaw

didn't last any longer. In 1951, Ava married her third and last husband, Frank Sinatra, whom she considered the great love of her life. Although they divorced in 1957, they remained life-long friends, unable to live with or without each other. Ava eventually moved to Spain, and then to England, where she died in 1990. She is buried in Smithfield.

The museum would be a must-see, if only for the 20-minute biographical film of Ava's life. But there is so much more! Portraits, personal effects, and amazingly, costumes - size 0, mind you, with 18-inch waists! You can't help admiring this gutsy

lady, who came from such humble beginnings to achieve international stardom.

Before we hit the road, we stopped by Orchard House Booksellers & Coffee Shop. Not only do they serve great ice cream and baked goods, they have an interesting selection of books and other goodies. John and I were particularly taken by a CD entitled **Cheap Guitars & Expensive Women**, by Eric "ETRAIN" Manning, who performs regularly at the Orchard House. The CD has proven to be a serendipitous purchase, and really great road music. Ask John to sing you the chorus.

• See HIS & HERS page 19

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• HS VOLLEY BALL •



Sarah Power goes up for a block against conference Rival Hiawassee Dam.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

By Stephanie McCall

Highlands Volleyball Girls started out strong against their biggest conference rival Tuesday night with first match going to Hiawassee Dam after staying right with them and even pulling away with a 20-13 lead only to lose it with stong serves from their opponent.

In the second match, Highlands continued to have great blocks at the net led by Sarah Power and the girls played strong with a team effort to put this one in the win column but again lost 25-22.

Highlands came back out on the third match with a continued team spirit refusing to give up and went into overtime to win the match 26-24. The girls continued to play hard and as a team but went on to lose the last match 25-21.

Coach McKim said his volleyball squad gave it all they had and left it all on the court trying to make this a win and he looks forward to the next matchup with Hiawassee Dam.

... SURVEY continued from page 1

izens wanted at their Rec Park.

The open house was the first step toward the completion of a Master Plan for the 30+ acre park that could serve Highlands for the next 25 years.

Of the 27 people who attended the gathering, 22 filled out an abbreviated survey.

"The overall request noted on the survey dealt with facilities people would like to see added or expanded at the park," said Bert Lynn with Heden-Stanziale. "The most requested facilities included an amphitheater, fitness equipment, greenways/trails, an indoor pool, a dog park, a nature center, and a visual arts studio."

Though turnout was lower than hoped for, Lynn said the information will help with the overall plan as will results from an expanded survey that will be mailed out to Highlands and Highlands Township citizens.

"The information obtained from the open house attendees will be assessed and reviewed," said Lynn. "And this information,

along with the results from the forthcoming survey and data collected during our facilities and programs inventory, will influence the recommendations set forth with the Highlands Parks, Recreation, and Greenways Master Plan.”

Haden Stanziale has identified, and in many cases photographed, town recreation facilities including the Civic Center and all its rooms, the swimming pool and bathhouse, the four tennis courts, the multi-purpose court, three picnic shelters, the system of walking trails that now incorporated The Greenway, the ball park on U.S. 64 and Hickory Street, the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center and Kelsey-Hutchinson Park.

Part of the comprehensive plan includes the creation of a Mission Statement and Goals and Objectives for the Highlands Parks and Recreation Department.

Lynn said his firm is working on the survey now and it will be ready shortly for mailing.

... SALES TAX continued from page 1

shortfall, which was caused by the global economic recession, meant deep cuts to every portion of state government,” said Senator Snow. “In fact, the legislature cut \$2 for every \$1 in taxes.

“To protect public education and keep teachers on the job, we were forced to raise the sales tax. The average family will pay less than \$5 a week more in taxes and even though I didn’t like it, it was the right thing to do for our schools.

“Without the additional revenue, we would have had to consider laying off more than 18,000 teachers, eliminating significant portions of our community college budget – which is crucial to restarting our economy – and making cuts that would hurt the most vulnerable and needy in our state.”

Beale said the county won't know if the extra tax affected consumer buying in the county until a month or so after the second quarter which ends in December.

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... SALZARULO continued from 5

fallen years behind. The current reimbursement model rewards doctors for doing tests and doing procedures, which is fine, as long as the procedure is indicated. The fact is that doctors are remarkably like the rest of the population and are motivated by money. Don't believe for a minute that many doctors don't recommend a more expensive alternative rather than a less costly one, simply for the sake of money. I wonder why we have such trust in doctors and so little in computers.

Profit-based decisions are not limited to end-of-life care. An obstetrician may

choose to do a Caesarian section, because it is more profitable, or more convenient. On the other hand, a primary care physician may delay referring a complex obstetric problem for fear of losing the delivery fee. These things happen every day.

It is inherent in the system and in every decision I make, there exists the potential for conflict of interest. Many patients believe that ours is the best medicine in the world. There is no doubt that the wait for expensive procedures is shorter. Let me leave you with this thought. A patient complained that she

had undergone 14 operations. I suspected that she enjoyed the attention, and asked her this question, "If you hang around an insurance agency, don't you expect to be sold a policy? If you spend your leisure hours at a used car lot, would you be shocked if a salesman approached you and tried to sell you a car? Why are you surprised that doctors sell you procedures if you're constantly in their offices complaining?"

I hope this gives you another view of the health care debate. I promised I'd discuss suicide this week. Next week. I promise.

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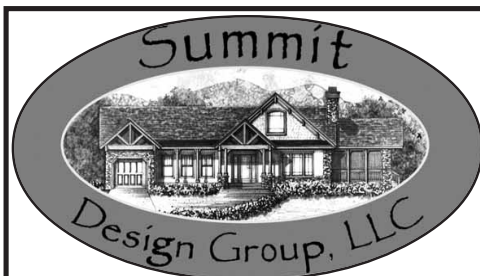
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Highlands attendees and staff for Project Learning Tree. Left to right are Kelly Hoke, facilitator; Stephanie Smathers, 6th and 7th Grade Science Teacher; Julie McClellan, Kindergarten teacher; Donna Sizemore, 1st Grade Teacher; Ashly Coppage, 3rd Grade Teacher; and Rene Strnad, facilitator.

Highlands School teachers benefit from 'Project Learning Tree' sponsored by Mountain Garden Club

On Monday, August 10, the Mountain Garden Club sponsored a Project Learning Tree workshop at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center. The workshop was attended by 17 educators, including four teachers from Highlands School. Rene Strnad, the Project Learning Tree coordinator and a NC-certified environmental educator, and Kelly Hoke, the West District Interpretation and Education Specialist with NC State Parks, were the facilitators for the workshop. Mountain Garden Club provided a \$100 stipend for each of the first 10 participants who registered.

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an award-winning environmental education program designed for teachers and other educators working with students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12. PLT uses the forest and trees as "windows" into natural and built environments, helping students gain an awareness and knowledge of the world around them and their place within it. PLT prepares students to make informed decisions about management practices and resource use by stressing *how* to think about the environment, not *what* to think.

PLT has a rich selection of activities, and they all tie in with environmental conservation and North Carolina educational standards. PLT materials are not for sale; educators must attend a workshop on how to use them and then can have access to the materials. One of the most interesting materials provided was the Biltmore Stick, used for measuring the size of a tree. Featured was the book *Last Child in the Woods*, which Moun-

tain Garden Club donated to the Hudson Library.

Mountain Garden Club sponsors the Hummers, the youth gardeners of the 6th and 7th grade at Highlands School. In sponsoring PLT, the club provides an additional benefit for the Hummers by sharing this knowledge with their teachers. First grade teacher Donna Sizemore called the experience a "great, engaging workshop with lots of fun activities to share with our students."

from the history guy....

On the day
Sept. 10, 1846

Elias Howe is granted a
patent for the sewing
machine.

If a stitch in time saves nine
this new gadget is sublime.
Where we might have hawed and
hemmed,

now it's easy to make and mend.
Why did it occur to him to meddle,
creating this thing with a foot treadle?

But it is good, gosh and darn it,
this new way to make a garment.

A faster way has been begotten
to create things out of flax and cotton.

Howe, did he know
that what you reap you also sew?

• HOSPITAL NEWS •

Hospital keeping up with computerized world of medicine

When it comes to computerization, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has been at the forefront of small hospitals in the region for the last 10 years, and it continues to invest in keeping its technology up to date.

For example, the hospital only recently spent \$17,000 to replace its point-of-care patient charting system with faster, more reliable technology. Back in 1999 the hospital was one of the first in Western North Carolina to employ bedside electronic record keeping, and one of the first in the region to utilize a computerized medication verification system designed to further reduce medication errors. Those are both systems that many larger hospitals are just now implementing.

"We have technology here that most small hospitals our size still don't have, and that many much larger hospitals have only recently been able to acquire," says hospital President and CEO Ken Shull. "That's a direct result of the generous support the hospital has received, and still receives, from our communities."

In the most recent upgrade, the hospital purchased four medical carts designed by Ergotron and equipped them with new IBM laptops. It also replaced key parts of its telemetry system, boosting the speed at which the cart computers can communicate with the hospital's main servers by a factor of five.

The system allows nurses and other clinical workers to immediately input and obtain vital treatment information on their patients, right at the bedside. In addition to



Mary Kay Crandall, RN, uses a bar scanner on one of the hospital's new mobile charting carts to read the bracelet of a patient. The new computerized carts provide the hospital's nurses and clinical staff members much faster point-of-care input of vital signs, verification of a patient's medications, and access to test results at patient's bedside.

puterized technology," observed Frank Leslie, vice president for Clinical Operations at the hospital. "There is a lot of electronic infrastructure behind the scenes that the patient never sees. It's all aimed at improving patient care. We are in the forefront of rural hospitals in the country when it comes to this kind of technology," says Leslie. "But we aren't about to forget that the most important part of any healthcare system is the smiling nurse beside the bedside. Technology can't replace that."

And the new point-of-care carts are producing even wider smiles on the faces of staff members these days. Nursing supervisor Mary Kay Crandall, RN, says the new carts are a big hit with the staff because they are easier to maneuver in and out of patient rooms, have significantly better battery life, and maintain their connection to the wireless network much better.

entering vital signs and observations about the patient, staff can also access the results of lab tests, radiology reports and other data as soon as those results become available.

Each cart also has a bar-code scanner that is used to match medications to the bracelet worn by each patient. That code not only helps make sure the correct medication prescribed for that patient by his or her physicians is being administered, but also helps ensure that it is given in the correct dosage.

"All hospitals are becoming more and more reliant on com-

See HOSPITAL page 18

... SWANSON continued from page 10

Fox News, this may come as news to you. Those who are enlightened, bear with me, they need to hear it. Jones was welcomed into the administration's inner circle by Obama, who thought that he was well qualified to forward his agenda. Somehow, the vetting process, if any, missed some points that some of us consider controversial.

Jones has described himself as a communist and a rowdy black nationalist, has, in a public speech, called Republicans (expletive deleted), formed two black anti-American organizations, overtly favors wealth equalization, signed the "9/11 Truth Petition" that claims that Bush II and our government knew of the attack beforehand, accused white men of poisoning black neighborhoods, etc. etc.

Sounds like a great choice to me. Evidently the heat applied by conservatives proved too much for the administration to

deal with, so Jones was canned, not by coincidence, on the Saturday that started a three-day week-end, the best time to slip it under the door.

In his ungraceful departure, Jones says he was a victim of lies, smears and distortions concerning his background. Look him up on Google for yourself.

All the above, and more, is readily available for anyone who spends 10 minutes researching the subject. Apparently, the FBI wouldn't, or just didn't, spend the time to clear this guy. Just add him to the long list of socialists, tax cheats and others that Obama chooses to surround himself with.

What do I think about the title quotation, "Small Minds..."? Not much. If you know the person, you can pretty well judge the value of his ideas. I know enough to know I know too much. Next week, the real 9/12 story.

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Highlands School Boys Varsity Team – 2009



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See latest
game story on
page 7



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... HOSPITAL continued from page 15

A major advantage to the new carts is the range and reliability of the signal transmitted, according to Kris Keen, head of Information Technology at the hospital. New wireless access ports installed as part of the upgrade have virtually twice the range of the old system, provide even greater security, and significantly better reliability.

And providing better access to patient information not only helps improve and speed medical care within the hospital, it also reaches beyond the hospital's front door. Hospital affiliated physicians are able to obtain patients' tests and other records electronically on their office computers. What's more, the hospital is part of the Western North Carolina DataLink system, which uses secure broadband internet to allow Mission Hospitals in Asheville and the 15 other hospitals throughout the region to instantly share patient information – something that's particularly important when someone with a life-threatening condition has to be transferred to a larger facility.

"That means that if someone has to be flown to Mission with a heart attack or

aneurism, where minutes are critical, the results of any diagnostic tests or procedures done here will be available to physicians in Asheville even before the helicopter can touch down," said Shull.

"We have very good computer systems at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, we have backup systems, and we keep all of our systems up to date," says Leslie. "That takes money and the cost of technology isn't cheap, and but it makes a difference in the quality of patient care and that's what it's all about as for us."

Leslie says the next major focus for improving hospital technology is updating the hospital's telephone system, much of which was installed back when the new hospital was opened in 1993.

"As with everything else, that will cost money. We are fortunate to have the support of donors who have a special interest in technology and will provide the majority of the funds to pay for our upgraded telephone system," says Robin Tindall-Taylor, executive director of the hospital's Foundation.

... LETTERS continued from page 3

Carolina believe to be true. So you are, inadvertently, reinforcing many negative areas concerning Pres. Obama, and Health Care, the Stimulus, and Auto Czar, etc.

I have followed you pretty much thru the last two years or so. And I have to say most of what I have read is negatives about the Democrats. Now I do not claim to be an Authority on your full body of work, but from what I have been exposed too, what I have stated is true.

Lastly, I cannot tell you where or when this is quoted by William F. Buckley, he stated on various times on his show Firing Line the following: "The problem with Liberals, and many Moderates is that they sincerely feel their outlooks are so fair and logical, they mistakenly believe most others believe as they themselves do."

I consider myself a moderate so most of the complaints will always come from the Right Wing, usually the extreme right where to disagree with them is to promote a violent response.

Suggest you change the title from "Laughing at Life" to "A Humorous Look at Life." Some wording that will clearly state your true intent. Stay Strong, and Force Fluids, Many Juices and Sweet Teas, Plus the old 64 oz of Waters.

Joe Mathers, Jr.,
Otto, NC

Another word on Brugger's view

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in response to Katie Brugger's column entitled "Trickle Down" in the Sept. 3 issue of this paper.

In it she references my letter to her concerning U.S. spending.

She certainly put me to work looking up U.S. spending.

GDP as a percent of debt for 2002 – 55%; from 2001-2007 – 35%; 2009 – 87% and counting. She said 60%,

Who is right? Who is wrong?

First, she was wrong to demean the "Tea Bag Lady" in her column. Second, look at the above statistics. She was wrong. However, I was wrong for claiming the lowest ever GDP. I stand corrected. But the point was this is the important statistic not the debt alone.

As far as the Trickle Down and Trickle Up thing goes, we could debate that forever.

However, I never had a homeless person offer me a job!

Also, the original article quoted from in USA Today was misleading on lowest ever. It was trying to point out that a percentage of GDP is a better gauge of the economy.

Thomas Martin
Sky Valley, GA

Hospital blood drives set for next week

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and AnMed Regional Blood Center will hold their fall blood drive later next week in Highlands and Cashiers.

On Tuesday, Sept. 15, the bloodmobile will be in front parking lot of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital from 9 until 11:30 a.m. Later that afternoon it will move to the parking lot of First Citizens Bank on US 64 East in Highlands (across from the Recreation Park) from 12:30 until 6 p.m.

The blood drive resumes the following day, Wednesday, Sept. 16, in Cashiers, beginning at 7:40 a.m. at Blue Ridge School and going until 10:30 a.m. The bloodmobile will then move to the Albert Carlton Library on Grouse Point Road, and take donations from 1 until 3:30 p.m.

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All holiday boxes will be delivered in November. Call 526-9191 or 526-9889 for more information.

... HIS & HERS continued from page 11

To complete the day, we made our way to Anna's birthday party, which was planned to perfection by Karen. The Tinkerbelle theme was imaginative, and who wouldn't melt at the sight of little girls with fairy wings and little boys with eye patches and inflatable pirate swords? I'm getting the hang of this grandmother thing, and it's more fun than I could have imagined.

John and I got hopelessly lost, trying to find the Ava Gardner Museum. It's silly, really, since it's on Main Street in Smithfield, NC, and not that hard to find. Like a lot of people, we got lost trying to find what was right under our noses. Not a bad lesson to learn, at any age.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. Michelle is high mileage, but low maintenance.

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SEVERAL HOUSES AVAILABLE – 3 bedroom, 2 bath plus large out building that could be a workshop or storage. \$900 per month; 3 bedroom, 2 bath MH \$750 per month; 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)

OPEN HOUSE LEASE/SALE CREEKSIDE, 3 bd 2 1/2 bath; hot tub; Sat/Sun 12-5pm, owners.com APA 2879; TWM 2368. 828 526 2759 (9/17)

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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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 Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

Sundays

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

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

• 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. MWW @ 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, 8 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. 9/26

• 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

• See EVENTS page 24

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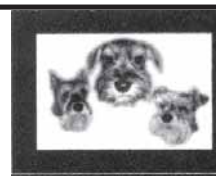
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Mary K. Barbour at 828-342-2498. 9/26
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

Softball Tournament to benefit Gary Raby set for Sept. 25-27

The benefit for Gary Raby and family on September 25-27 at the Highlands Ball Field next to the Highlands Conference Center. Friday the 25th will be a Women's Softball or Co-Ed Tournament; Saturday the 26th will be a Men's Softball Tournament and the possibility of Sunday the 27th having a Co-ed Softball Tournament if Women's Tournament is on Friday night. Friday we will serve Hot Dog Plates, Saturday and possibly Sunday we will serve Pork Plates. All proceeds will benefit Gary, Lena and Dusty Raby.

Gary and his wife Lena have been married for 17 years. Their daughter, Dusty, is a rising freshman at Highlands School. Lena works for Highlands School in the Cafeteria and works many different side jobs to support their family.

Gary's mother, Barbara Ann Watson, resides in Highlands, his father, Bobby Joe Raby, resides in Franklin, two brothers, Mike Raby, who resides in Franklin, NC, Randy Raby who just recently passed away and two sisters, Sandra James who resides in Salem, SC and Michelle Elliott who resides in Otto, NC.

Gary was diagnosed with Hepatitis C many years ago. Along with that diagnosis, Gary has had nine surgeries on his back and was later diagnosed with RSD, Reflexive Sum pathetic Dystrophy and Digenetic Back Disease. Gary now walks with a cane and lives in crucial pain 24hours a day. Due to Gary's diagnosis, he has been unable to obtain a job, even as a cashier, due to the risks he carries with him under any employers insurance.

We will be selling raffle tickets for \$2 each of 3 for \$5. Raffle location will be at Stop n Shop on Hwy 64 in Highlands or call Justyne Reese at 828-342-2740 or Jay Finley at 828-421-2434 for more information.

Please come out and support this benefit. This family really needs your help!

- Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal 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

- The Zahner Lecture Series at the Nature Center at 7 p.m. Subjects vary.

- 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

2nd & 4th Fridays

- Community Drum Circle at the Highlands Rec Park, from 6-7:30 p.m. For more information call 421-0551.

Fridays & Saturdays

- At 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.

Fridays & Sundays

- Highlands-Cashiers Music Festival Concerts every Friday at 6 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays at PAC in Highlands through Aug. 9. For tickets or more information, call (828) 526-9060 or visit www.hcmusicfestival.org.

Every Third Saturday

- The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 a.m. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

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.

Thurs. & Fri., Sept. 10-11

- Register for the Native Plant Conference to benefit the Botanical Garden at the Highlands Biolog-

ical Station. The experience includes a field trip, lectures, a luncheon, and a native plant auction. Choose among field trips that visit spectacular local private gardens landscaped extensively with native plants, pilgrimage to view 400+ year old hemlocks near Highlands, or hike the scenic Panthertown Valley or Whiteside Mountain with experienced botanists. If hiking is not your thing, several workshops will be offered on creating Monarch butterfly waystation gardens or growing rare southern Appalachian heirloom vegetable and fruit varieties. To obtain a registration form or to get more information visit www.wcu.edu/hbs or call the

Highlands Biological Station at 828-526-2602.

Thurs., Sept. 10

- CLE presents The Story Behind the Story from 10 a.m. to noon at the Community Bldg. Award winning local author Ron Rash will discuss his best-selling novel *Serena*. Call 526-8811 for more information.

- The September meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club is Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday at the Blue Ridge School. Listen to WHLC (104.5 FM) at 5 p.m. for cancellation due to weather.

Steenhuis painting, tickets to Rome Chamber Music Festival up for bid at Autumn Leaves Gala

A musical trip of a lifetime and a stunning painting by Aix-en-Provence artist Jill Steenhuis are among the amazing auction items up for bid at The Bascom's Autumn Leaves Gala on Oct. 2.

Four tickets to the Rome Chamber Music Festival's opening night gala and concert on June 6, 2010, plus four tickets to an additional performance during the June 7-10, 2010, festival run, will go to one lucky bidder. The Festival has played to full houses of chamber music enthusiasts from around the world and has received brilliant reviews every year since its inception in 2003. The Rome Chamber Music Festival is endorsed by the Embassies of the United States of America to Italy and to the Holy See, as well as the City of Rome and the Italian Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

Another lucky bidder will win an original painting by Steenhuis, an American-born acclaimed Cezanne specialist who lives with her French husband and three sons in Southern France. Her studio at the Chateau Noir from 1981 to 1995 is where Post Impressionist painter Paul Cezanne had his studio for 30 years, and her paintings are collected internationally.

"Every year, The Bascom holds an Autumn auction to benefit the exhibition and

education programming at the nonprofit visual arts center, and every year, the items are better and better. But this year, the items are off the charts," said Beth Nellis, event chair. "Imagine yourself and three friends

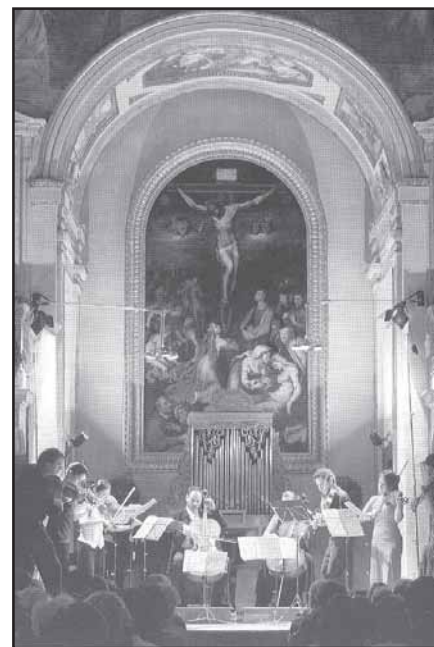
in the Eternal City enjoying masterworks performed by world-renowned musicians. Then imagine an incredible French landscape taking up residence on your mantle. Come to the Autumn Leaves Gala, and you can have all of this and more."

Held at The Farm at Old Edwards Inn, the Autumn Leaves Gala also features a seated dinner from Executive Chef Johannes Klapdohr, as well as wine and spirits. Dozens of live and silent auction items will be available for bid.

Tickets to the Auction Gala are \$225 each. For tickets to the Friday, Oct. 2, Auction Gala or its sister event, the casual Saturday, Oct. 3, Autumn Leaves Party

(\$35), visit www.thebascom.org/autumn-leaves or call (828) 526-4949, ext. 4. Combination tickets for both nights are \$250.

Corporate sponsors are Old Edwards Inn & Spa as presenting sponsor, ZWJ Investments as gold sponsor, Donna Laird Graphic Design, Franklin Ford/Moss Robertson Cadillac, Highlands' Newspaper, The Hillside Shops at Cashiers Village, InMed, The Laurel magazine, The Shoptaw Group, and Zeke and Earl's Hot Dog Stand.



Four tickets to the Rome Chamber Music Festival's opening night gala and concert on June 6, 2010, plus four tickets to an additional performance during the June 7-10, 2010, festival run, will go to one lucky bidder at The Bascom's Autumn Leaves Gala, Oct. 2.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

• Taize service at the First Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m.

• The League of Women Voters of Macon County will sponsor a program on the Macon County Comprehensive Plan Study. This Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) study is a long range plan, which identifies major transportation improvement needs and develops long term solutions for the next 25 to 30 years. The meeting will be held at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church. Lunch is available at noon by reservation. Call 524-5192. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

Saturday, Sept. 12

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Quickdraw

at the Executive Conference Center at Old Edwards Inn. Watch as 16 artists race the clock to complete a painting in 2 hours. Doors open at 5:30 pm and the Quickdraw begins at 6. Tickets are \$45 per person and include the Quickdraw, a silent and live auction and hors d'oeuvres. A cash bar will be available. All proceeds benefit local area Rotary projects. Tickets will be available at the door or call: 706-746-6913.

• Clear Creek Baptist Church will have a cookout and fishing for kids Saturday at the church at 3 pm. We will take the kids to a private pond in the community, and be back for a cookout at the church at 5:30. Any

• See EVENTS page 30

Highlands Cashiers Players announces new season



Donna Cochran and Stuart Armor on the set of "The Dining Room" set for Oct. 15-25.

Celebrating their fifteenth season, the Highlands Cashier Players open their 2009-2010 season in October with a revival of "The Dining Room," the popular play by A.R. Gurney that the group first produced in 1997. As the title implies, the many scenes of this delightful play take place in a dining room where different families of different time periods deal with important events of their lives. Kathryn Cochran and Kirk Howard are directing and will soon announce the cast. Performances dates are October 15-25 at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands.

HCP will be producing three plays during their 2009-2010 season rather than the usual four, as they align their performing season with their fiscal year. Following "The Dining Room" will be a new play, "The Dixie Swim Club" by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten, running February 25-28 and March 5-7. This touching comedy drama, directed by

Rick Siegel, celebrates the enduring friendship of five women who met when they were members of their college swim team and follows them through the years. The spring play, May 13-23, is the dramatic mystery drama "Rebecca" by Daphne du Maurier, directed by Mary Adair Leslie, a classic tale that was first a book, then an Alfred Hitchcock movie, and finally adapted for theater by du Maurier herself.

Season subscriptions are on sale now at the price of \$50 for the three plays, a savings of \$10 over the price of individual tickets. Among other perks, subscribers get to make early reservations for preferred seating. Those wishing to subscribe may pick up a subscription brochure at the counter in the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street and fill out the enclosed form to mail or send a check directly to the Players' Post Office Box, 1416, Highlands NC, 28741.



Beauty Pageant Benefit returns to Playhouse

The semi-annual "All Male Beauty Pageant" will return to the Highlands Playhouse on Monday, Sept. 14 at 8 p.m. There will be a complimentary wine bar before the performance at 7:30 p.m., the wine having been donated by Bryson's Food Store.

The hilarious event features twelve men competing for the title of Missed Highlands in evening gown, talent and lingerie events. This year there will be a celebration of the uniqueness of the non-profits in Highlands as the beauties will parade with parasols with the logos of several of the town's 501 c3 organizations. These parasols will be offered for auction after the ensemble act, which tries to recreate the Ascot scene from "My Fair Lady." The proceeds from the quick sale will go to the various charities.

The laughter will continue for about two hours and all this is available for a donation of \$100 for each person, all donations going to the Highlands Bolivian Mission.

This year's main project is to replace the aging x-ray equipment at the general hospital. The hospital can join an international group that supplies free pacemakers if they have fluoroscopy equipment. A used machine costs about \$27,000. The poor people in Brazil and Bolivia suffer from a disease called Chagas that caused heart blocks and many require a pacemaker. Naturally the x-ray machine can be used for diagnosis of TB and other orthopedic problems.

The show will raise about \$20,000 toward this and the other projects of the mission like the foster home and the prison ministry. Tickets can be purchased at Bryant Art Glass on the Franklin Road or at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital emergency room.



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

Sept. 19
Overton & Isabel Chambers
Remembering Highlands
1- 3 pm

Sept. 20-25
Southern Women Authors
Teamed with Old Edwards Inn for the first Highlands Southern Women's Writers Conference - Cassandra King, Mary Kay Andrews, Kathryn Stockett, Angela Dove, Kathleen Parker, Sandra Mackey, and more.

Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin, NC
524-2076

Sept. 11-17

ICEAGE:
DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS in 3-D
rated PG

Special Discount Pricing
One Week Only
Mon-Fri: 4:, 7:10, 9
Sat-Sun: 2:10, 4, 7:10, 9

BROKEN HILL
rated PG
Mon-Fri: 4:15, 7:15, 9:15
Sat-Sun: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:15

JULIE & JULIA
rated PG-13
Mon-Fri: 4:20, 7, 9:20
Sat-Sun: 2, 4:20, 7, 9:20

THE FINAL DESTINATION
rated R
Mon-Fri: 9:30
Sat-Sun: 2:05, 9:30

INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
rated R
Mon-Fri: 4, 6:45
Sat-Sun: 4, 6:45

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

questions, call Mike at 787-1347.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3.5-mile moderate hike to the Devil's Courthouse and Whiteside Mtn. with an elevation change of 800 feet. Meet at the Whiteside Mtn. parking area at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Sunday, Sept. 13

- Bel Canto at PAC, 4 p.m. with dinner to follow at Highlands Country Club. Call 526-1947 for tickets.

- The High Mountain Square Dance Club will host Fall classes commencing on Sunday, September 13th at the Environmental Resource Center, Lakeside Drive, Franklin, from 3-5 PM. Jim Roper, will conduct the classes. Everyone is welcome. Square Dancing is good exercise and a lot of fun. Come join us for a great time. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943, or www.highmountainsquares.org

Mon., Sept. 14

- The semi-annual "All Male Beauty Pageant" is at The Highlands Playhouse at 8 PM. There will be a complimentary wine bar before the performance at 7:30 PM, the wine has been donated by Bryson's Food Store. The hilarious event features 12 men

competing for the title of Missed Highlands in evening gown, talent and lingerie events. This year there will be a celebration of the uniqueness of the non-profits in Highlands as the beauties will parade with parasols with the logos of several of the town's 501 c3 organizations. These parasols will be offered for auction after the ensemble act, which tries to recreate the Ascot scene from "My Fair Lady." The proceeds from the quick sale will go to the various charities. Tickets are a \$100 donation to the Highlands Bolivian Mission. Tickets can be purchased at Bryant Art Glass on the Franklin Road or at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital emergency room.

- Beginning Monday, there will be a Beth Moore Bible Study, **Inheritance**, at Highlands School Media Center every Monday at 3:45 pm. This is a nine week study that includes a DVD presentation with a listening guide. There is no homework. Listening guides are \$5. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend this study. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Bowen at 828-526-5168.

- The Highlands Audubon Society will have a program at the Highlands Civic Center beginning at 7:30. Doreen Miller, Wildlife Biologist for the Nantahala National Forest will discuss how forest management can benefit migrating birds. Please join us for

refreshments beginning at 7 p.m. For additional information call Brock Hutchins at 828-787-1387. The program is free.

- CLE presents Pencil Drawing from 10 a.m. to 12:30 at PAC. All levels will discover new drawing techniques as artist David Knott teaches ways of capturing details with your eyes and your pencil. Call 526-8811 for more information.

- "Parenting Matters" is an 8-week parenting class taught by Sherrie Peeler, Extension Agent, Family & Consumer Science, that helps parents learn their personal and parenting strengths; define ideas and ways to be effective parents; describe more about themselves and their attitude toward others; ways to

identify things they can do to encourage and support their children based on their child's age; learn effective listening skills, and discipline techniques; manage stress, anger and conflict and find ways to strengthen their social support system. The classes will be every Monday – Nov. 2 at the Cooperative Extension Office. Please contact Sherrie Peeler at 349-2046 for more information or to register.

- The Highlands All Male Beauty Pageant will be held at the Highlands Playhouse on Monday to benefit the Bolivian Mission. This bi-annual show is always a fun filled event with 12 of Highlands' most famous people competing in evening gown, talent, and lingerie for the title of "Missed Highlands." This is an event that

Bel Canto reaches further to increase children's music education Sunday's performance a Sell-out!

Exposing children to music has always been a top priority for the Bel Canto board, and this year, the group is reaching out in two new ways.

A portion of funds raised from the Bel Canto performance have always been donated to the Highlands School Music Program, but this year the group is adding the experience of allowing children and youth to attend a special working rehearsal of the performers. In addition, Bel Canto is now contributing to the music program to the Highlands Community Child Development Center.

"In the past we have tried to give away a few tickets for children to attend the performance, but the event has become so popular we weren't able to do that this year," said board chairman Stell Huie. This weekend's performance at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts center is already a sold out event.

Bel Canto founder Richard Joel first suggested creating the opportunity for more children to experience opera first hand by allowing children to attend the rehearsal.

"The open rehearsal is a wonderful opportunity for our students to hear professional musicians of the highest order. One never knows who might be inspired to become an opera fan, or even to pursue a vocal career. A single event like the Bel Canto rehearsal can have a life-changing impact on a young student," said Highland School Music Director John Gorecki.

He said that past year's contributions from Bel Canto have supplied the school's music department with a variety of instruments including xylophone, metallophone, glockenspiel, and percussion for every K – 5 student. In addition, Bel Canto funds have also purchased educational materials and band instruments that are used by our middle and high school students.

"We are indeed blessed by this community and Bel Canto in particular," Gorecki

ki said.

He explained that recent research indicates that music enhances intellectual development in ways that no other discipline can. This is especially true of younger children. Music requires a practical application of mathematics, the ability to work with others as a team, development of fine motor skills, advanced listening skills, and a highly developed esthetic sense, Gorecki said.

HCCDC Director Pat Hedden also stressed the importance of music education at an early age, which is why the child care center was so keen on starting its own music program.

"You hear a lot of little children running around singing, but it's more than that. It teaches them a variety of important skill sets," she said.

HCCDC enrolls 57 children from ages six weeks to five years. Two days a week the 3- to 5-year olds will travel to the Presbyterian Church to receive music education from Angie Jenkins. In addition, Jenkins is working to help bring a special performer to the children once ever four to six weeks.

Hedden said already a harpist performed for the children and allowed children to try the harp first-hand.

"The kids were just so fascinated. We want to allow new experiences for the children just to introduce them to the world of music," Hedden said.

Huie said he is pleased that Bel Canto will be able to help fund this program and see its continuance in the future.

Bel Canto is an annual event scheduled the first Sunday after Labor Day each year. Literally translated as "beautiful singing," Bel Canto brings top opera performers to the Highlands Community for a unique personal performance. Although this year's event has already sold out, be sure to mark your calendars next year for Sunday, Sept. 12!

Jewelry, painting, raku classes slated for October at The Bascom

Several different types of art classes will be offered at The Bascom next month, giving students the opportunity to broaden their artistic horizons. Registration is going on now for the following:

- Oct. 12, "Figure Study Sessions with Live Model," 5 to 7 p.m. Bring one's choice of media: sketchpad, clay or paint box for a leisurely session of figure drawing, sculpting or painting from a nude model. Informal instruction is available. Cost is \$20 or \$15 for Bascom members.

- Oct. 16-17, "Introduction to Precious Metal Clay (PMC)," 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., by Sara Sloan Stine. This unique medium allows the student to create solid silver jewelry with speed and ease. No saws, hammers or soldering required. Cost is \$195 or \$175 for Bascom members (basic materials and firing included).

- Oct. 19-23, "Classical Still Life and Floral Painting," 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., by James



Several different types of art classes will be offered at The Bascom next month, including "Introduction to Precious Metal Clay (PMC)," Oct. 16-17, by Sara Sloan Stine (work pictured above). To register for these or other classes and workshops, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949, ext. 100.

Sulkowski. Sulkowski will inspire workshop participants with discussion on the effects of light and atmosphere as they relate to forms in space. This timeless Old Master approach results in a luminous painting full of depth and rich in color. Cost is \$375 or \$350 for Bascom members

- Oct. 19-24 and Oct. 31, "Spooky Raku: A Halloween Pottery Firing," by Patrick Taylor. For six days, Taylor, pottery legend in Western North Carolina, will guide students through a step-by-step process to create pottery for a Raku firing. On Halloween, students and the community will gather for a spectacular nighttime firing. Cost is \$275 or \$250 for Bascom members (basic materials and firing included).

Classes fill up quickly. To register for these or other classes and workshops, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949, ext. 100.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

cannot be missed. Ticket for this event are available by calling 526-3605. Tickets cost \$100 but this is a fully tax deductible.

- Macon County Commission meeting in the courthouse board room at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 15

- Hospital blood drive. The bloodmobile will be in front parking lot of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital from 9 until 11:30 a.m.

- Hospital blood drive. The bloodmobile will be in the parking lot of First Citizens Bank on US 64 East in Highlands (across from the Recreation Park) from 12:30 until 6 p.m.

- Macon County Democratic Women will meet at the Sunset Restaurant at 1 p.m. Guest speaker Bea Sanford from Angel Medical Center will provide information on the upcoming "Ladies Night Out."

Wed., Sept. 16

- Highlands Town Board meeting in the Community Building at 7 p.m.

- Hospital blood drive. The bloodmobile will be in at the Blue Ridge School in Cashiers 7:40-10:30 a.m.

- Hospital blood drive. The bloodmobile will be at the Albert Carlton Library on Grouse Point Road, from 1 until 3:30 p.m.

- The High Mountain Squares will dance this Wednesday night, September 16th at the Macon County Community Building on route 441 South from 7-9 PM. Marty Northrup from Columbus NC will be the caller. We dance main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943.

Thursday, Sept. 17

- Mark Twain (Marvin Cole) will perform at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands at 7:30. Tickets are \$15, and may be reserved at 828-526-9047. 9/17

- PTO General Dinner-Meeting in the school cafeteria Thursday to coincide with the annual school Book Fair. A fundraiser dinner to benefit the basketball

team begins at 5 p.m. with the meeting at 6 p.m. this way people can keep eating during the meeting. There will be a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate at the Book Fair. The winning class during "class count" will receive a \$100 for their teacher/classroom.

- Taize service at the Holy Family Lutheran Church at 5:30 p.m.

- The Thursday Library Movie Matinee is "Confessions of a Shopaholic" which will be shown at 3 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room. The series is hosted by the Friends of the Albert Carlton - Cashiers Community Library. This romantic comedy, released only six months ago, is the story of a college grad who lands a job as a financial journalist to support her shopping addiction and falls for a wealthy entrepreneur. It is based on the book by Sophie Kinsella. The movie and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated. Movies are among the many services provided to the community by the Friends of the Library.

- Southern Living at Home products line, is hosting a fundraiser to benefit the New Jackson County Library Fund from 3 - 7 p.m., at the United Community Bank meeting room located at 1640 East Main Street in Sylva. All profits from the sales of these products to help furnish the new Jackson County Public Library Complex. If you have any questions about this fundraiser, please call Dale Cate at home 631-3860.

Fri., Sept. 18

- Clear Creek Baptist Church Fellowship Hall Fundraiser at the Highlands Community Building (next to the ballpark) from 8 a.m. until. Featuring a HUGE yard sale, lemonade stand and bake sale. At 4 p.m. it's a hamburger/hot dog dinner for \$5 per plate. 4 p.m. hair cuts by stylist Lacy Jane Vilardo, live music with Oliver Rice and The Blue ridge Mountain Band and Doug and Donna Ivie. Also a live auction and much more.

- CLE presents Gastrointestinal Problems and Aging from 10 a.m. to noon at the Jane Woodruff Bldg

at the hospital Dr Richard Carter will discuss the gastrointestinal issues that often occur after age 65. Call 526-8811 for more information.

Saturday, Sept. 19

- At Cyrano's Bookshop, authors Overton and Isabel Chambers to sign "Remembering Highlands" from 1-3 p.m.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club is providing an easy 3-mile hike for children under ten with their adult(s) on the Park Creek Trail in the Standing Indian Campground area, with an option to wade in the creek. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9:30 a.m. Drive 30 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear

sturdy, comfortable shoes. Call leaders Sharon and Bill Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

- Benefit for Desiraya Drummond, daughter of Trysta Green and Ryab Drummond, granddaughter of Gene and Ann Green, Saturday, 5-9 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Park. Turkey dinner with all the fixings, \$6 per plate, \$4 for child's plate. Music by MountainTop Bluegrass, Appalachian bluegrass and Nathan Parris. There will also be a raffle and bake sale. 3-year-old Desiraya has Blounts Disease and requires extensive surgery.

Taize prayer services extended through fall season



Father Dean Cesa and Mary Beth Brody of Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church and Duncan Parham of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation place candles at the foot of the Cross in the tradition of Taize.

For the past three months Taize Prayer Services have been held in five local churches through the leadership of the Highlands Ministerial Association. The weekly services have been hosted, on a rotating basis, at Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, the First Presbyterian Church, Holy Family Lutheran Church, Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church, and the Highlands United Methodist Church.

Taize has been well received among many Christians in the area. Requests have been made to continue the prayer services throughout the fall season. Four churches have developed a schedule with services to be held the first and third Thursday of each month until December 3, 2009. All services will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Taize is ecumenical in nature. By design, the services do not violate any of the traditions of the participating churches. This allows worshipers to come together in prayer without feeling uncomfortable due to differing beliefs.

Taize prayer began during World War II

in France. It is contemplative, spiritual form of worship that incorporates music, scripture, prayers of intercession, and rich silence. Today, the Taize Community is made up of Protestant and Catholic believers in keeping with ecumenical principals. Taize is widely practiced in the United States, bringing Christians together.

The fall schedule of services:

- Sept. 17 - Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

- Oct. 1 - Our Lady of the Mountains

- Oct. 15 - Holy Family Lutheran Church

- Nov. 5 - Highlands United Methodist Church

- Nov. 19 - Our Lady of the Mountains

- Dec. 3 - Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Additional information on Taize may be obtained by contacting Chaplain Margaret Howell of Holy Family Lutheran Church at 828-526-9741 or Ed Boos of Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church at 526-3353.

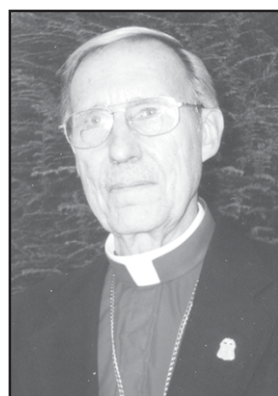
The Chambers to sign book Sat., Sept. 19



Overton & Isabel Chambers, co-authors of "Remembering Highlands" will sign copies of their book at Cyrano's Bookshop on Main Street from 1-3 p.m. Those who attended the arts & crafts festival at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Saturday and Sunday were able to meet the authors and get a copy of the book.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Follow me



CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling, Pastor

In John 1:43-45 we read, "The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. He met Philip who, like Andrew and Peter, came from Bethsaida, and said to him, 'Follow me.' Philip went to find Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the man of whom Moses wrote in the law, the man foretold by the prophets. It is Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth.'"

As those of you who have read my previous articles, it is unusual for me to start with a scriptural verse, but this week I want to speak with you about the two most important words that Jesus may ever have spoken, and here they are in the midst of this short passage: "Follow me."

Two simple words. I want you to note that he did not say, "Philip, let's sit down and discuss me," or, "Philip, let's call the others so we can hold a symposium on who I am."

He said, "Follow me." These are words of leadership, spoken with confidence and, yes, instruction, but most of all for Philip, this man of the Jewish faith, well-schooled in the Law of Moses and all its expectations, it was secure direction.

For those who are pilots or those who are passengers transfixed with the way an enormous airliner can be guided to safety after landing even in the worst rain, snow or fog, it came down to those two words, "Follow me."

They are on a sign that is mounted on a jeep-like truck that will wait at the edge of the runway waiting for the pilot to bring the plane to a stop and turn and follow that sign "follow me" to a safe hangar.

There is no discussion on the aircraft's radio as to Who are you? between pilot and jeep driver. There is no, "Let's discuss this a while."

There is only faith that as he has done for others, this little truck with its sign will do for you.

Philip had been sitting under a tree reading the expectation but with no one to lead him.

The pilot had studied his options for leaving the active runway. He knew them, they were written, but on the runway as in life, there is the need for a leader to follow.

The tower may have told the pilot, but in the dark of a rainy night, what a comfort it is to see those two words, "Follow me." We all will have the rainy night of doubt and darkness in our lives. They are the inevitable challenges of every flight. We may have read the flight manual from Genesis to Revelation and have flown our lives on some sort of autopilot of faith, but there will be a time when your flight will be rough and landing will be anything but smooth. You will strain to find hope and then you see it, faint at first, but as your trust increases, you see it more clearly. The words are "follow me." There can be no simpler phrase. You and Philip have found the Lord.

• 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
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

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

Third and Spring Streets, Highlands
Sunday Service - 11 a.m.; Sunday School - 11 a.m.
Wednesday Testimony Meeting - 11 a.m.

3rd Wednesday of the Month

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; 10:45am
Children's/Family Program; 10:45 Worship
Tuesdays: 9:30am Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5pm Dinner; 6pm Pastor's Bible Study
Fridays: 6:30pm Re:Act Middle & High School
Gathering

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 children's
Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;
Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School - 9:30

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship - 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Sun. School - 9:30
& 9:45.

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

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers

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 8:45 a.m., 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

POLICE, FIRE DEPT. LOGS

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from Sept. 4. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Sept. 4

- At 6:30 p.m., officers responded to a call of two suspicious people at Highlands School. They were two students dressed in black.
- At 9:12 p.m., officers responded to a call for service at a residence on Old Walhalla Road. There was an 11-year-old party going on in the backyard.

Sept. 5

- At 3:35 a.m., officers assisted another agency at a residence on Hemlock Drive for an incomplete 9-1-1 call.
- At 7:30 a.m., officers responded to a gas driveoff from Stop and Shop on U.S. 64 east for \$44.03.

Sept. 6

- At 11:50 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at N5th and Carolina Way.

Sept. 7

- At 1:40 a.m., officers responded to a noise complaint due to a loud party at a residence on Dogwood Ave. The party was moved indoors.
- At 11:11 p.m., officers arrested Kenneth Linwood Forrester, 65, of Wahoo Trail for assault with a bat concerning a domestic violence call that occurred at 11 p.m.

Sept. 8

- At 3:15 p.m., a resident on Wyanoak Drive called for assistance when the door to a vehicle was discovered flung open.
- At 8:30 p.m., Roman De Dias Tosca, 42, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI on Leonard Street.
- At 9:30 p.m., Kathryn Chastain Forrester, 61, of Highlands, was arrested for simple assault.
- At 11 p.m., officers assisted another agency issuing arrest warrants at a residence on Hicks Road.

Sept. 9

- A little after midnight the dept. assisted Highlands Country Club security at a residence on Cobb Road where the doors were found unlocked.
- During the week, police officers responded to 4 alarms and issued 39 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Sept. 2:

Sept. 2

- At 7 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Chestnut Street where a 60-year-old man had fallen. He was transported to the hospital.

Sept. 3

- At 10:48 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Cowee Ridge Road. It was cancelled.

Sept. 4

- At 12:11 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Leonard Street where a resident sustained a head injury after falling.
- At 6:51 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm caused by a low battery in a smoke detector.

Sept. 5

- At 8:40 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Hammond Road. It was set off accidentally by a child.
- At 5:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of smoke in the vicinity of Harris Drive. It was due to a controlled burn.

Sept. 6

- At 7:09 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Clubhouse Trail. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Sept. 7

- The dept. responded to a call of a man in a vehicle on the side Rich Gap Road. It was unfounded.

• FUN & GAMES •

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

OBJECT:

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

How to Solve:

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

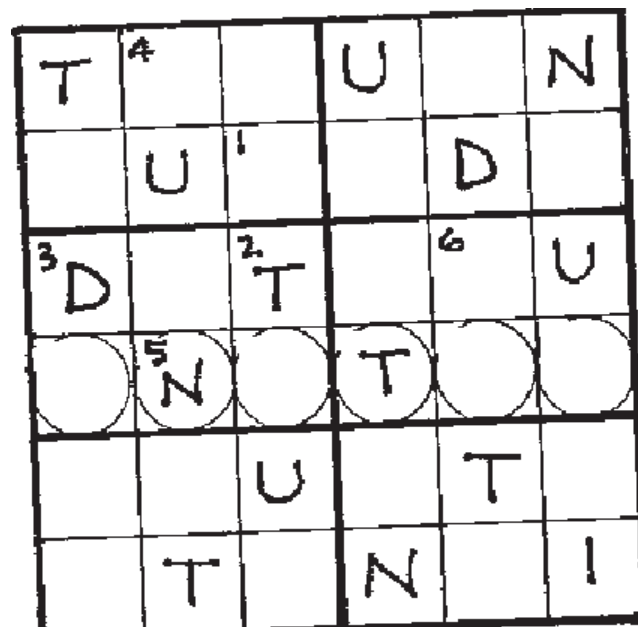
Mystery Word: Together

Across

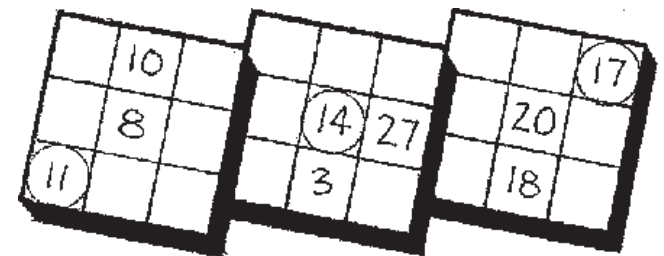
- Boy's name (3)
- Shiney metal (3)

Down

- Sand accumulation (4)
- Owed (3)
- Small amount (3)
- Seine (3)



PseudoCube[©] by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#CZ1A Level of Difficulty – Easy

THE SETUP:

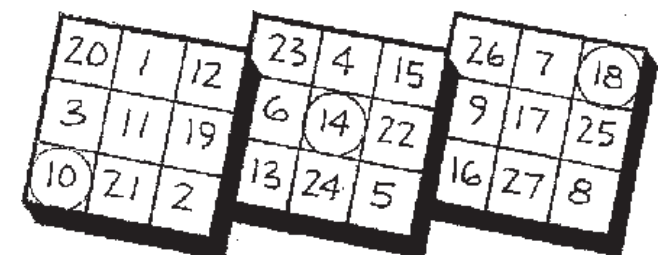
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

THE CHALLENGE:

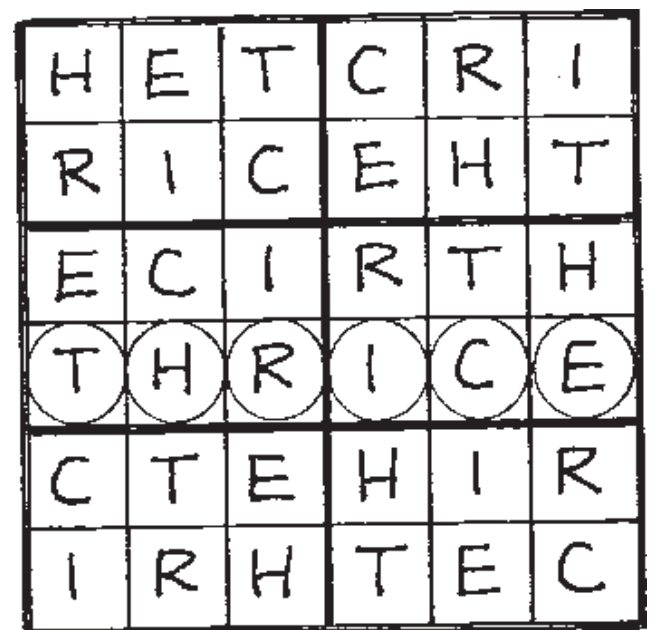
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

Solution to #DZ4A in Sept. 3 issue



Solution to Sept. 3 Hex-a-Ku



• BUSINESS NEWS •

Wine Spectator bestows "Best Of" Award of Excellence for 2009 on OEI's Madison's Restaurant

Madison's Restaurant in Highlands, NC has been awarded the Wine Spectator "Best of" Award of Excellence for 2009, making this the second year in a row. Madison's Restaurant, housed in the Old Edwards Inn and Spa has been awarded the "Award of Excellence" every year since 2005.

Curt Christianson, Madison's Beverage Manager states, "Madison's wine list is constantly evolving. Built on a foundation of quality and value, we strive to provide the widest variety from cult wines to quaffers."

Wine Spectator started the restaurant awards program in 1981 to recognize restaurants whose wine lists offer interesting selections that are appropriate to their cuisine and appeal to a wide range of wine lovers.

"Best Of" Award of Excellence Criteria The "Best Of" Award of Excellence is the second-tier award, created to give special recognition to restaurants that clearly exceed the requirements of the Award of Excellence; these lists display vintage depth or excellent breadth across several wine regions. The "Best Of" Award of Excellence is designated by the two-glass purple and white logo.

Madison's restaurant is open to the public seven days per week. To view the menus, visit www.olderwardsinn.com and click on "Dining" and then "Madison's." You may also call the restaurant at 828-787-2525.

Mountain Findings gives to HCCDC



Dorothy Arbuthnot, Mountain Findings Volunteer, Pat Hedden, Program Director of the Highlands Community Child Development Center, and several of the Center's children as they enjoy lunch in their beautiful building. For the past several years, Mountain Findings has donated to the Center's scholarship fund. Tuition of almost half of the children at the Center is subsidized through various programs including scholarships.

Bestselling authors to convene at Old Edwards Inn and Spa; fans invited to join in a Literary "Girlfriend Getaway"

Old Edwards Hospitality Group will host A Celebration of Southern Writers September 20 - 24 in conjunction with Cyrano's Bookshop of Highlands. Mary Kay Andrews, Cassandra King, Margaret Maron, Patti Callahan Henry, Kathryn Stockett and many others will spend four days and nights at *Old Edwards Inn and Spa* hosting cocktail parties, special meals and panel discussions for their fans.

Fans can spend all four nights with the authors at the Old Edwards Inn and Spa, just choose select nights or attend individual events. Lodging packages are now available

Venues for the themed events will span the resort, including an opening night "Southern Hospitality" party with live music at "The Farm at Old Edwards," and a "Southern Supper" at the Old Edwards Club. Themed cocktails have been created specifically for the event, with titles mimicking the bestsellers of some of the authors — there's a Hissy Fit, a Driftwood Summer and a Savannah Breeze.

Participants to any event will enjoy 10% discount at Acorn's, Acorn's Annex, Madison's Restaurant and Wine Garden, The Rib Shack, the Spa Boutique, and Oakleaf Flower and Garden — making it an affordable mini-vacation!

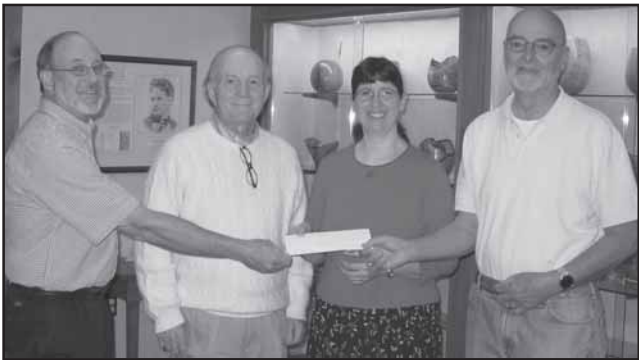
Mountain Findings dispurses \$70,000 to area nonprofits



Dennis Matthews, Mountain Findings Volunteer and James Reed, Chief of the Satolah Fire and Rescue Department. This all volunteer unit now has 23 volunteers with the recent addition of four new volunteers. The Mountain Findings donation will be used to purchase equipment and fire safety outfits for the new volunteers.



Don Rippe, Mountain Findings Volunteer and Robin Tindall-Taylor, Executive Director of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation. Mountain Findings supports the hospital's Master Key Program and the vital part it plays in the success of the hospital.



Robert E. Smith and Bill Stiefel, President and Treasurer of the Hudson Library Board of Directors, Mary Lou Worley, Branch Librarian and John Wells, Mountain Findings Volunteers. Mountain Findings continues its strong support of North Carolina's second oldest public library. With its newly acquired extra space the library will use the donation to purchase books and audio and video tapes.

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Chestnut Hill celebrates 'National Assisted Living Week'



Mayor Don Mullen signs proclamation designating Sept. 13-19, 2009 as National Assisted Living Week.®. Standing behind the Mayor are Chestnut Hill's Executive Director Tim Robinson, Activities Director Mary Bean, and Marketing Director Gary Tallent. Not pictured are Dianne English, RN, Director of Assisted Living at Chestnut Hill and Barbara Ridgewell, LPN, Manager of Assisted Living.

The week provides an opportunity for assisted living communities all over the country to honor their residents and show them how much they are appreciated.

Chestnut Hill Staff has planned a special event for each day. Some of the highlights are: a family devotional presented by The McKims, who have been special friends of Chestnut Hill for many years.

On Monday, Romney Bathurst and Hill-rie Quin introduced a special program on birding for the residents featuring birds that can be spotted in Highlands. Residents and staff members will then have the chance to observe local birds at the many feeders around the building.

On Tuesday, Robinson and Bean grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for staff and residents on the patio.

On Wednesday, Executive Chef Becky Roper honored residents and their families with one of her famous country suppers.

On Thursday, residents enjoyed mountain clogging performed by the Wildcatty Cloggers, and on Friday, there will be an ice cream social.

For additional information on the week's events, contact Mary Bean at 526-5251.

Mtn. Findings gives to Sky Valley F&R



Mark Dryman, Chief of the Scaly/Sky Valley Fire and Rescue Department and Fred and Sally Barloga, Mountain Findings Volunteers. Our donations for the last few years have gone to the acquisition of the land and building expenses for a new fire and rescue building.



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Mountain Findings gives to Highlands Playhouse



Joanna Baumrucker, President, Highlands Playhouse Board of Directors, Danielle Miller, Assistant General Manager, and Trisha Roellke, Mountain Findings Volunteer. Our donation will be included in the matching funds to Save the Playhouse.



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