

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 5, Number 15

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, April 12, 2007

On-going

• Registration has begun for this summer's nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. For details, please call 526-2623 or visit the Nature Center webpage at www.wcu.edu/hbs.

• Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Osteoporosis prevention exercise classes, a total body and muscle-toning workout exercise class, and Pilates classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

• A Grief Support Group is held every Friday from 10-12 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Contact Helen Moore (Hospice) 526-0727 or Martha Porter (Chaplain at HCH) at 787-1463.

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

• Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn with Cy Timmons 6 p.m. until.

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

• Children's classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery.

Every Tuesday

• Women's Bible Study, Beth Moore's study of Daniel at Community Bible Church Fellowship Hall. All ladies invited. Call the church at 526-4685 to order your book.

Tuesday-Thursday, April 10-12

• Volunteers needed to help at Highlands Botanical Garden prepare for 80th year celebration. Stop by the Highlands Biological Station office on Sixth Street or call 526-2602 and ask for the location of the day's projects.

Every weekend from April 13

• The Highlands Historical Museum will open again this season from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every weekend through October.

Saturday, April 14

• Why Knot Knit Highlands will present a Spinning demonstration featuring Marci Rheinschild from Wauka Valley Farms from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the shop at Village Square.

• Hurricane Creek at the Instant Theatre at Oak Square on Main Street. Come dance the night away beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Complimentary wine, beer and mixed drinks. Call 828-342-9197 for tickets and reservations.

Tuesday, April 17

• The Center for Life Enrichment is presenting a lecture by Breta Stroud about the important environmental issue of global warming 5:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Commissioners agree to revenue neutral budget but not the rate

Citizens wearing stickers and waving miniature signs proclaiming "MIL LIMIT 25" packed the board room, lined the walls and spilled into the hallway for the Macon County Courthouse Monday night.

But the cry for a revenue neutral bud-

get to be set at the 25 millage rate wasn't to be, at least not yet.

At the April 9 Macon County Commission meeting, Commissioner Brian McClellan made a motion to adopt a revenue neu-

• See BUDGET page 10

Easter eggs in the snow at the Rec Park



Bundled in winter outfits, families with children in tow gathered at the Rec Park on a cold April 7 morning for the annual Easter egg hunt. Despite the 27 degrees and the dusting of snow, every egg was found.

Tax relief bills in the pipe

As property values in resort and second-home areas continue to rise, the cry for tax relief is being heard from Western North Carolina to the sea.

This session, more than 30 bills have been introduced in the house and the senate.

At the April 9 Macon County Commis-

sion meeting, Tax Administrator Richard Lightner discussed 10 proposed bills he believes have the highest chances of passing and explained how each proposed bill could affect the county's coffers. He is in support of three of the bills.

"State legislators are very busy introduc-

• See TAX RELIEF page 11

• Inside •

Letters	2
Wooldridge	4
Obituaries	3
Another View	5
Conservative POV	6
From Turtle Pond	7
His & Hers	8
State & Fed Politics	14
Classifieds	18
Police	23

County's height ordinance on temporary hold

Just as county planners were crossing the finish line with the Building Height Ordinance the commission put on the brakes.

The problem? No distinction in the ordinance between height restrictions for commercial and multi-family projects versus single-family residences.

"I do not want this ordinance to stop construction of single-family homes," said Macon County Commissioner Bob Simpson at the April 9 commission meeting. "This ordinance was supposed to apply to commercial and two-or-more family homes, not single-family homes."

County Planner Stacy Guffey said according to a recent superior court decision handed down in reference to Hendersonville, the height ordinance can't discriminate between building types.

"We can't single out structures in the height ordinance," he said. "This ordinance is meant to protect the skyline of the mountains while allowing reasonable use of property with some restrictions."

Guffey was hoping the ordinance would be accepted so a public hearing for the Building Height Ordinance could be advertised and set for the May 14 Macon County Commission meeting - with a vote to follow.

However Commissioner Simpson said

• See HEIGHT page 3

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
62-45°F	60-40°F	56-34°F

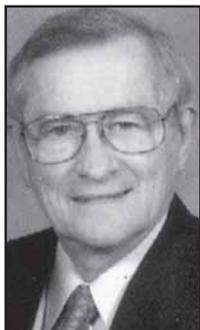
• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •

• LETTERS •

From my perspective



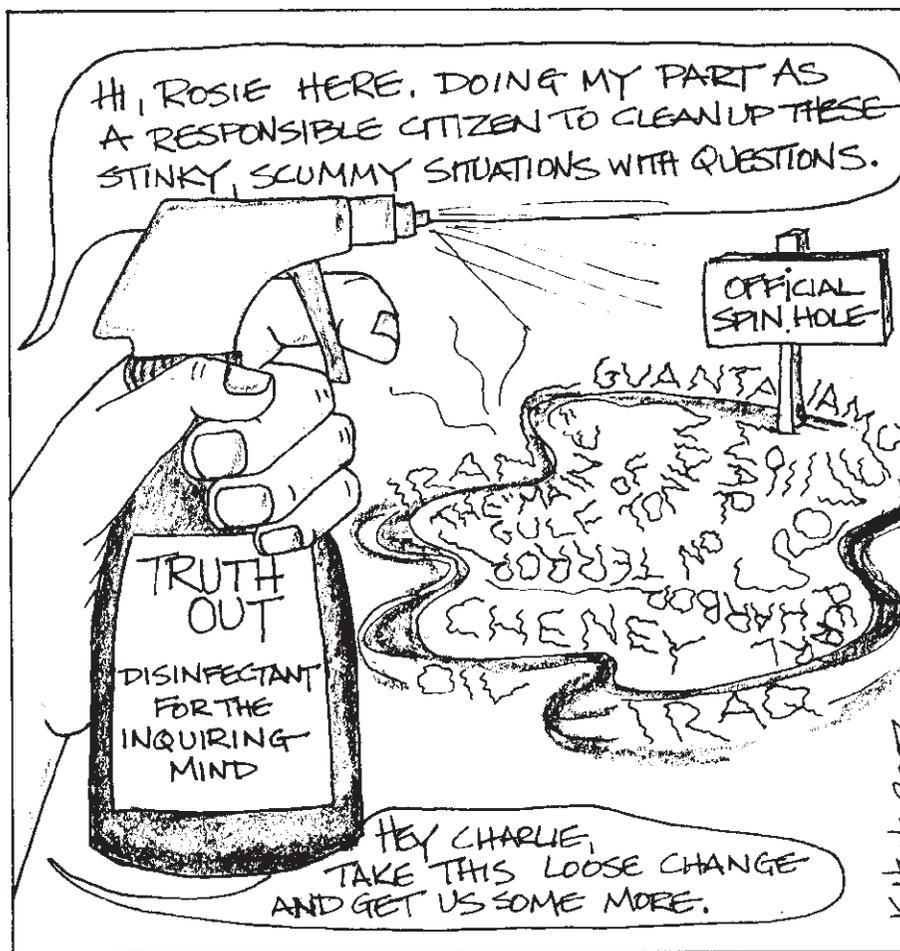
Mayor Don Mullen

My hope is that everyone had a wonderful Easter and Passover last week. It was a time of many Holy Week activities amongst the local churches and synagogues. Fortunately, we continue to be an active religious community here in Highlands and we are proud of that. Our churches have always worked together in an ecumenical manner which brings those in the religious community closer together as we all work in trying to understand and trust each other as we move toward bettering our Town. It is in understanding those who are different from us that brings peace not only here in our own community but around the world where people are far different from us and are the least understood by us. Highlands is such a diverse community that working together helps give us in that understanding and broadens us as individuals.

Last week I went to Sylva to meet with our Congressman Heath Shuler along with a few other Mayors from western North Carolina. It was a good meeting. I specifically talked to him about three things. One, I was very concerned about the Forestry Service closing the local work office on the Highlands plateau. He was sympathetic to my complaints and said he had talked with them about this but did not give much hope that it could remain open because of budget restraints. We are particularly vulnerable right here in the middle of a National Forest.

I also mentioned to the Congressman the silt problem we are having in our lakes, specifically the Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoia which is our town source of water. I pointed out that request for funding from the federal government had fallen on deaf ears through both former Congressman

• See MULLEN page 15



LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR POLICY

We reserve the right to edit submissions. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please email letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands' Newspaper

"Our Community Service - A Free Local Newspaper"

Member N.C. Press Association

FREE every Thursday; circulation 7,500; 100+ distribution points

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This and that

Dear Editor,

I always read his "gripe" in Highlands' Newspaper, but last week's piece got my attention.

"Hey! Great job protecting Highlands' businesses...let's repave Hwy 106 during the season...May-October. Whose idea was that? Give 'em a medal!"

Where is Don Leon in the winter when we can't get a shovel in the ground, and my gravy hardens before I get it to the table?

We need the Dillard Road paved so badly it shouldn't matter when they do it. I for one will be more inclined to come up to shop and eat in our community when the road is safer. I hope they have plans for some guard rails between Osage Overlook and Blue Valley...that is straight down! Onward!

We are developing and growing and more people can come in and get Don Leon's free coffee if the road is paved.

And by the way...parking meters have been in St. Augustine FL since the 1940s. Everybody pays and it works in the oldest city in the U.S.A., a tourist heaven. Works for them, come on bite the bullet, commissioners.

Also, we love Highlands' Newspaper...not because it's free, but because the publisher/editor has a knack for feeding us things of interest. Your friends in Scaly.

Marian Beccue
 Scaly Mountain

Hike and picnic to encourage action on global warming

On April 14 there is a hike and picnic 10 a.m. Meet at the base of Sunset Rock to make the moderate hike to the top and get a picture with the "Step It Up Congress" banner.

After the hike, at noon, there will be a picnic at the amphitheater at Highlands Nature Center for all hikers and anyone who would like to attend with music by Franklin musician, Susie Best.

There will also be plenty of food donated by local restaurants and businesses, including Brick Oven, Cypus Restaurant, Fressers Eatery and The Kitchen of Let Holly Do the Cooking.

Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance is co-sponsoring this event and will be providing sodas and water for the picnic.

• OBITUARIES •

Richard Lauris Tankersley

Richard Lauris Tankersley, 71, of Birmingham, AL, and Highlands, NC, died on Sunday, March 25, 2007, following an accidental fall while on vacation in Destin, FL.

A memorial service was held Friday, March 30, 2007, at Mountain Chapel

Methodist Church at 11 a.m. with Reverend Tom Parrish and Father John Robinson officiating. Visitation with family and friends was at 10 a.m. A memorial service will be held at a future date in Highlands, NC.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Fischer Tankersley; daughter Gerri; son Mike; daughter Terri; daughter Kelli; sister Barbara Tankersley Gardner of Las Cruces, N.M., three grandsons, one granddaughter, and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Quinton Lauris Tankersley and Muriel Mayme Meigs Tankersley.

Richard was born in Norfolk, VA, Au-

gust 9, 1935, graduated from Hackneyville High School, Hackneyville, AL, and Jacksonville State College, Jacksonville, AL, in medical technology. He served as a 2nd lieutenant in the army for four years as a Medical Technologist. His career then continued with Becton Dickinson and Company as a sales representative and followed with various other jobs in the medical field.

Richard was a member of Mountain Chapel Methodist Church, a long time very active member of the Birmingham Track Club, Highlands Road Runners Club, enjoyed gardening, competitive running, and volunteering at Mountain Findings in Highlands, N.C.

He participated in the Alzheimer study at UAB. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer Disease Research Center of UAB, Attention: Sara, 1720 7th Avenue South, Sparks Bldg, Suite 640, Birmingham, AL 35294-0017.

JoAnn Icenhower Ammons

JoAnn Icenhower Ammons, age 57, of Buck Creek Road, Highlands, N.C., died Tuesday, April 3, 2007 at her residence. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of Floy Houston Icenhower of Highlands, NC and the late Clarence Icenhower. She taught public school for 24 years and was Principal for East Franklin School for 6 years. She was a member of Buck Creek Baptist Church where she served as clerk and former Sunday school teacher.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by her husband of 37 years, Harold Ammons; her two daughters, Stephanie Deanise Pellicer and her husband, Matthew of Highlands, N.C. and Kimberly



Ammons Morgan and her husband, Nick of Franklin, N.C.; one sister, Paulette Corbin and her husband, Alex of Highlands, N.C.

Graveside services were held Friday, April 6, 2007 at 2 p.m. at Buck Creek Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Andy Cloer and Rev. Alton Dendy officiating. Jimmy Houston, Gary Houston, Mark Calloway, Sony Lee,

Tony Corbin, Paul Corbin were pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Buck Creek Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Floy Icenhower, 4783 Buck Creek Road, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Thanh Cong Le

Thanh Cong Le, 24, of Highlands, N.C., died Monday, April 9, 2007 at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C. He was born on November 3, 1982 in Saigon, Vietnam, the son of Lam Le of Saigon and Hoang (Julie) Nguyen of Highlands. He worked with his mother and stepfather Tony Hamasaki at #1 Nails in Highlands.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife of three years, Thuy Nguyen, his son Khang, daughter Di and his unborn child due in mid-June, all of Highlands.

The family will receive friends Thursday, April 12, 2007 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, April 13, 2007 at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church with Father Tien Duong officiating.



Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

John Reid Watt

John Reid Watt died April 1, 2007 in Highlands, North Carolina. He was 92. John, known as Jack to family and friends, was born in Seattle, Washington on November 15, 1914. He was the grandson of Louisa Catherine Denny Frye, a member of the Denny Party who co-founded Seattle in 1851. Jack grew up in Seattle and attended the University of Washington, graduating in 1937 with a BS degree in mechanical engineering. Later attending Harvard University studying economics and sociology and returning to the University of Washington to complete a MA degree in economics.

He joined the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin with a MS in mechanical engineering and a PHD in economics. Jack ended his teaching career at Georgia Tech in Atlanta where he helped create a program in hospital efficiency

engineering. He authored several engineering text books and a personal history of his and his family's lives in Seattle and Austin. Jack held patents and worked to develop inventions as diverse as an early ice maker for tubular ice, a machine for desalinating seawater, a camera designed to detect drug use, and a two man hovercraft. He was a Fellow in the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers and is listed in American Men of Science and Who's Who internationally and nationally.

His first marriage was to Sarah Elizabeth Craven (deceased) of Greensboro, North Carolina. His second was to Annie Lillian Mann of Hephzibah, Georgia. He had three children; John David Watt of Arlington, Virginia, Louisa Catherine Watt, later Kellough (deceased), and Madeleine Megan Watt of Cashiers, North Carolina. Jack is survived by two children, four grandchildren, and his brothers Robert Denny Watt of Seattle, Washington and Richard Frye Watt of Chicago, Illinois.

Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be sent to the Highlands School Scholarship Fund, Attention Thomas Jessup, in care of The Highlands School, PO Box 940, Highlands, NC 28741 or to The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Attention Gary Wien, PO Box 1703, Highlands, NC 28741.

A memorial service will be held at Bryant's Chapel in Highlands, NC on April 14, 2007 at 2 p.m. Friends and family are most welcome. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

... HEIGHT continued from page 1

as written, the ordinance would hinder single-family home development, particularly in Highlands.

"It's not unusual for cathedral ceilings in homes in Highlands to measure 100 feet," he said.

As the draft ordinance reads: The maximum building height on any building, structure, or unit within the jurisdiction of Macon County shall not exceed 48 feet or four stories, whichever is less. For the purposes of this section, building height shall

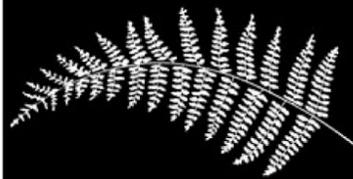
mean the vertical distance measured from the top of the foundation of said building, structure or unit to the uppermost point of said building, structure or unit."

Maximum height doesn't refer to water, radio or telephone or television towers or any equipment for transmission of electricity or communications or both; minor vertical projections of a parent building, including chimneys, flagpoles, flues, spires, steeples, belfries, cupolas, antennas, poles, wire, or windmills, or buildings and struc-

tures designated as National Historic Sites on the National Archives Registry.

County Attorney Lesley Moxley said she would investigate the recent superior court ruling to see how it may apply to the height ordinance and report back to the commissioners at their April 24 continuation meeting.

If the ordinance is accepted at that meeting, there is still time to advertise the public hearing prior to the May 14 meeting for final adoption. — **Kim Lewicki**



MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY



A rare find....one level living in a great neighborhood. This home is light, bright and open with a split three bedroom plan and in perfect condition. Move right in and enjoy the amenities of Apple Mountain Neighborhood which includes access to Lake Ravenel and part ownership of the Apple Mountain Park. Priced right at \$539,000.



Take a stroll back in time...to the days of yester-years...the Cabins at Half Mile Farm are brought back to life and take on a new tradition. Three cabins reconstructed from original Circa 1800 homes, taverns and trade stores are brought together on almost 2 acres with a meandering stream and covered community pavilion. Call us for more information about this special offering.



Nestles within historic Old Brushy Face lies this exclusive in-town community that blends original Highlands estates with new homes and legacy retreats. 33 home sites offering a variety of views from Blue Valley, Shortoff and Whiteside Mountains and dense forested sites with meandering streams. Look no further than BRUSHY FACE to create your family's legacy. Priced from \$275K-\$695K



Surrounded by multi-million dollar homes is this special opportunity to own this sleeping investment. Located in prestigious Sagee Woods and with views of Whiteside Mountain is this 4 BR 2 BA home. Wonderful main components to get your creative juices flowing like a 2 story native stone fireplace, warm wood wall paneling and original hardwood floors. \$775,000



The finest craftsmanship and finishes are showcased throughout this stunning home in Pinchot. Poplar bark siding, slate styled roofing, true masonry chimneys, and travertine baths with heated floor and steam shower. Three guest suites in the main house plus a carriage house equipped with a 5th bedroom/office. That's not all.. a wonderful mountain view and easy access to the crossroads of Cashiers. \$1,695,000



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Wrap your lips around this!

If you're a person who reads this stuff regularly, then you already know I'm a little weird. OK, maybe a lot weird. OK, OK, a whole lot weird. And if you're the li'l missus married to a whole lot weird person for a whole long time, then you know she is also weird.

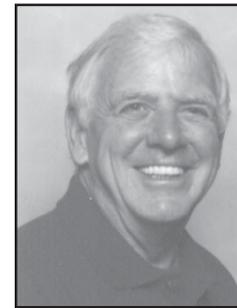
Of all the weird things the li'l missus and I do together, the weirdest is eating out. Even though we don't eat out often, when we do, it's weird. You see, we never eat in the same restaurant twice, even if we love the food. When the waiter asked, "Have you been here before?" we proudly shake our heads "no." Sometimes we say, "We have eaten in this building, but not in this restaurant." We get strange looks. We know this is weird because we have friends who have eaten at Cracker Barrel so many times they went to the waitress's wedding and now bring gifts for her kids. I think we ate in a Cracker Barrel back in 1997. I'll check the books.

There are built-in problems with being this weird because sometimes we run out of restaurants. Actually, it's not as hard as you might imagine because restaurants open and crash all the time. We have gotten good at judging which establishments will make it though a winter and which will not.

In Palm Beach County, where we hide from scary snow and ETJ, we are blessed with an ever-increasing abundance of restaurants opening and crashing around us. Just down the street from our home, a wonderful thing happened. They opened a new entertainment center full of exciting, exotic restaurants and fun things to do. The center offers live music, lots of movies and awesome food. It is rightfully called "Downtown." They opened so many restaurants in this center, we were set for the whole season and we didn't have to travel far.

Sign up for free tests at hospital

Highlands-Cashier Hospital FREE Health Screenings begin April 21. Re-registration is required for all screenings. People can sign up by calling the hospital at 526-1434, or by completing the registration form on line at www.highlandscashiershospital.org



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged! email:

askfredanything@aol.com

One by one we knocked them off and then privately voted on whether they would be there by next Christmas. As of last week, there were only two left for us to visit: sushi and Mexican. Since we have vowed to never eat anything placed on the end of a fish hook and thrown into the water, we were left with The El-Roacho Grande, an upscale fancy schmancy joint that proudly advertises every employee has a green card and no criminal record. Actually, I'm only kidding about the name, green card and criminal records. Get

real. It's called the Rosa Mexicano and features a 10-foot high wall littered with fake candles running on batteries. The back side of the wall is part of the main restaurant and features a grand waterfall with real water, all lit in dark blue. The food was just as impressive.

We have eaten in many Mexican restaurants in our day and here is what we know. Even though the menu may be extensive and have 26 pages of wonderful entrees, in reality, there are only 3 cauldrons of food in the kitchen. What you order determines where and how the food from these cauldrons is arranged on your plate. Will the pulled chicken be hidden under a limp, slimy piece of dough, placed over to the right or will they roll it up into a tube, place it to the left and call it something else? In any case, it's the same pulled chicken and the same slimy dough.

The gook makes the difference. Once the food is arranged, they season it with their special sauces. Mexican rice and black beans are always somewhere nearby. Have you ever looked closely at Mexican black bean mush? Scary stuff! Like the Italians crush their grapes with their feet, the Mexicans crush their beans in like fashion. Yummy, yummy, yummy!

When I ordered the pulled beef enchilada, the waiter cautioned, "Señor, this dish is just a little spicier than what is usually offered. I wanted to prepare you." I laughed, took it as a challenge and responded, "Bring it on!"

Half way through the meal the li'l missus asked, "Is it real hot?" "Nah, want a taste?" She hesitated. I was hoping, in the dim light, she couldn't see the tears running down my cheeks. She smiled, "I'll pass."

In the parking lot, I asked, "You always taste my food. How did you know?" She shook her head. "Your tears glistened in the candlelight and you haven't drunk three glasses of water with a meal since I married you. Duh!"

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Let's pay attention to business

There is probably no job less important to American interests than ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium. Kingdoms are anachronistic and would be of no strategic importance were it not for all that oil under the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We could send Donald Rumsfeld, Don Imus, Howard Stern, or Charles Barkley to Brussels with fear of loss of American prestige. Neither Ben Franklin, Douglas MacArthur, nor Henry Kissinger could shake European faith in our essentially vulgar nature. Why then all the fuss about the appointment of Sam Fox as ambassador to Belgium? The work of diplomacy is done by career diplomats. Plums such as this are political payback, nothing more, nothing less.

Sam Fox is a major Republican fund raiser. He has contributed millions of his own money and persuaded his friends to donate millions of theirs to the Republican Party. Under the sole criterion for the ambassadorship, he is eminently qualified. Among his contributions was \$50,000 to the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, a group which opposed John Kerry in the 2004 presidential election and produced a series of TV ads which were highly critical of Kerry, which many consider a distortion of the record, and which some believe cost Kerry the election.

Senator Kerry who chairs the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee may be among them. It is the very committee which is responsible for ambassadorial recommendations. It was clear that the Foreign Affairs Committee would not recommend Fox nor would the full senate confirm him. Had Kerry won in 2004, he would not have been in a position to block the nomination, nor would Fox have appeared before the committee.

There is sometimes a strange symmetry to politics. In what initially seemed a rare display of good judgment, President Bush withdrew the nomination. Only a week later, he bypassed the requirement for Senate approval by using the "recess appointment" to name Mr. Fox to the position. Democrats in general and Senator Kerry in particular howled foul, as if Democratic presidents hadn't done exactly the same thing in the past, and as if presidents of both parties won't use it in the future. It is interesting that two far more substantive appointments were made in the same manner in the same



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:
hsalzarulo@aol.com

week without eliciting so much as a whimper. It makes no difference that the recess appointment was originally intended to permit appointments when Congress was out of town for an extended period. This was a one week absence from Washington, during which the members were seeking votes, vacationing at tax payer expense, and dabbling in foreign affairs.

The question remains, why all the fuss? Democrats are happily flexing their newly attained legislative muscle and grabbing any chance to embarrass the president. They've been waiting years to avenge attacks by the Republican congressional majority against President Clinton. And what of President Bush? Why would he sacrifice the chance of bipartisan cooperation to repay a political debt to a Republican donor? Probably because he believed that there was no possibility of cooperation, despite promises as recently as January, when the president and the speaker of the house pledged to work together. The president could have compromised, out of respect for Senator Kerry. He might have offered Mr. Fox two weeks in the Lincoln bedroom, American plan, or free riding lessons at the Crawford ranch, or the ambassadorship to Bangladesh. But I think he really wanted to stick it to the Democrats.

We are once again distracted from the business of the Nation. We'll bicker over Sam Fox and over Alberto Gonzales while we should be working together to solve the conundrum of Iraq, to conquer world hunger, to insure health care for every American, to deal fairly with immigration, humanely with issues of social and economic justice, and courageously with the threat of global warming and global terrorism.

Historical museum now open every weekend

The Highlands Historical Museum will open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every weekend through October. The public is invited to view the many exhibits relating to Highlands history and to view hundreds of photographs, documents, family histories, etc., which are now available on the Museum computer.



Christ Anglican Church

Traditional • Conservative • Orthodox
at the Highlands Community Center

Visiting Rector Series

Sunday, April 15 - 11 a.m.

The Reverend Canon
David C. Anderson
President and CEO, American
Anglican Council, Atlanta, GA
Stay after the service to hear Canon
Anderson comment on events
occurring within the global Anglican
Communion.

Sunday, April 22 - 11 a.m.

The Reverend Paul F. Blankinship
Assistant, All Saints Anglican
Church, Asheville, NC

Sunday, April 29 - 11 a.m.

The Right Reverend
Alex D. Dickson
First Baptist of West Tennessee,
Retired, Charleston, SC.

All services are at the
Highlands Community Center on
Highway 64 next to the ballpark in
Highlands

For more information, call the
Christ Anglican Church office at
526-2320
Visitors and friends are welcome!

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Coalition issues action alert to cancel federal highway study

Stop I-3 Coalition has issued an action alert to its thousands of supporters seeking the immediate rescission of \$1.3 million of taxpayer funds earmarked for study of proposed Interstate 3 corridors through the mountains of Southern Appalachia. Congress paved the way for this action by requesting some \$3.47 billion in transportation program reductions from the Federal Highway Administration. The FHWA, in turn, is asking each state to propose specific budget cuts.

"This is a key opportunity, for Georgia in particular, to cancel the \$330,000 it had earmarked of its own state revenue for study of the I-3 proposal, a truly unnecessary and unwanted road," said Holly Demuth, the coalition's executive director. "But citizens across the Peach State must act quickly to make their voices heard." Friday, April 13, is the deadline for states to make their cuts known to the federal government. Citizen letters and calls should be addressed to Georgia's Transportation Commissioner,

Harold Linnenkohl, either by e-mail, at harold.linnenkohl@dot.state.ga.us, or by fax at 404-463-6336 or by telephone at 404-656-5206.

Tennessee and North Carolina have refused to pay their share of the study. Stop I-3 supporters from those states may write the Commissioner pointing out that their states are not supporting the proposal and would therefore view the cancellation of funds as a burden relieved.

Congress is providing citizens a rare opportunity to correct blatant, pork-barrel excess. Demuth urges Coalition supporters to work hard to get the project canceled - now. The I-3 proposal would create a new interstate highway from Savannah to Augusta to Oak Ridge, in effect creating a new road link between some of the country's key nuclear weapons and nuclear processing depots. The proposed I-3 would also duplicate current interstate routes that enable the movement of goods from the Port of Savannah to Knoxville, and on to the Midwest.

• THE CONSERVATIVE POV •

Aha, I think I've got it!

Those of you who endure this column every week know that there is a handful of elements in this world that really torque me; among them are the United Nations, environmental whackism and militant, destructive feminism. To me, these groups seem to have a parallel purpose and that is to bring down the United States as a World power. Farfetched you say; just look around.



Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged. Email swanson@dn.net

having sacred qualities and he has praised primitive pagan religions and goddess worship.

"Another key player is Ted Turner, who has turned his broadcasting empire into a virtual arm of the United Nations. A noted critic of Christianity and ambassador on behalf of the U. N. Population Fund, he promotes the concept of Gaia in his television programs, such as the "Captain

Planet" cartoon show, in which characters get magic powers from an Earth spirit or goddess.

"At the United Nations, the U. N. Environmental Program, founded by Maurice Strong (now Gore's partner in the carbon offset exchange scam), promotes the idea of an "Environmental Sabbath," a variation of the Gaia concept. One of Strong's organizations, the Earth Council, has produced an "Earth Charter" for the world that refers to respect for "Mother Earth" and animal rights.

"Those promoting the Gaia concept have no qualms about using the full force of government, even the international resources of the United Nations, to impose their beliefs on the rest of us. If they are successful in their drive for "sustainable development" to protect Gaia, they could stifle economic growth and promote a drastic decline in the American standard of living."

Here is the paradox that the Gaians currently face. In their thesis, the earth is an all-powerful, self sustaining organism which has the intelligence to adjust to any negative influence which may befall it. If the Earth is perfectly powerful, then why should global warming occur at all, if it is destructive, and if it does, why doesn't the self-correcting mechanism kick in? Their answer is that it will, but it's taking too long. Oh really?

Now, feminism on steroids. I don't have space to make the obvious connection in this column, but I will in the future. I would point out two current, dramatic events about which I speak; Nancy Pelosi's treasonous, self-promoting and downright stupid trip to Syria, and Rosie O'Donnell's continuous rant on the evils of America and Christianity. How people of this mentality can reach their level of influence is beyond me.

Editor's note:

Last week, Don Swanson submitted the following, "...Christ made a triumphal entrance into Jerusalem, soon to join His Father." It was printed "...his father." We regret the error.

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As I research and write about the influence these groups have on our lives, I wonder what promotes this hard to understand attitude which seems to advocate the diminishing of their own power, and ultimately their existence. Who knows? I wonder why all this stuff started to happen at about the same time? Is there a connection, and if so, what is it?

Gaia - part 1. I travel into the land of mythology, a subject I somehow missed

in high school, and admittedly know nothing about. In mythology, Gaia was the Greek goddess personifying the Earth. In Latin, she was called Terra Mater - "Mother Earth." I'll bet you never wondered what those bumper stickers meant or why people put them on their cars. Neither did I.

In mythology, Gaia emerged from the Chaos, and was the source of all life. She evidently produced a male god without the benefit of conjugation and thence produced mythological progeny who were the major gods and goddesses who ruled the world (and beyond, for all I know). I realize that this summary is very rudimentary and I apologize to those who take this stuff seriously.

So, in the dream world of Mythology, Gaia replaces God as the creator.

Gaia - part 2. Fast forward to 1999, when a source which I consider reliable produced the following: "U. S. taxpayers are being forced to subsidize a new form of state religion which holds that natural resources have to be protected for the sake of Gaia, a so-called Earth spirit. This religious movement, which has cult-like qualities, is being promoted by leading figures and organizations such as (then) Vice-President Al Gore, broadcaster Ted Turner and the United Nations.

"Gore, who as a member of the U. S. Senate, participated in the 1992 U. N.-sponsored Earth Summit, is the most prominent member of what appears to be an environmental cult built around the concept of reverence for the Earth. Gore has written openly about the Earth

• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Golden Corn

My father's father was a farmer in Wisconsin. He had dairy cows when my father was young but later grew corn. I vividly remember visiting one summer, the year of the Bangladesh famine, and touring his fields. There was corn as far as the eye could see until we came to a field full of weeds. I was horrified to hear my grandfather explain he was being paid by the government *not* to grow food when all I had been hearing for the last year was that people around the world were starving.

How could this be? How could it make sense to *pay* someone not to plant?

Today the corn subsidies are done a little differently. Instead of paying farmers not to plant, the government guarantees the farmer a minimum price for his corn, no matter how much he grows. As anyone who read my *Omnivore's Dilemma* review knows, this has resulted in mountains of cheap corn and innovative new ways of using it.

The latest is ethanol. Last week the papers were filled with the news that farmers were putting a record amount of land into corn production because of the expectation of high profits due to the demand for corn to make ethanol.

Congress has mandated that four billion gallons of ethanol be blended with gasoline every year, and that ethanol production be subsidized with a 51-cent per gallon tax credit. The number of ethanol plants is expected to rise by nearly 50% in the next few years.

Almost universally the spin seems to be that this is great news. Isn't it wonderful to think we can replace oil with a renewable fuel we can grow ourselves?

Unfortunately, the picture isn't so rosy. The problem with corn-based ethanol is that you don't get more energy out of it than it costs to grow and make it. The EROI (energy return on investment) for corn-based ethanol must take into account the energy it takes to grow the corn (the tractor fuel and the oil used to make fertilizer), the fuel to transport the corn to the ethanol plant, the plant operation, etc. Some computations show corn-based ethanol has a net energy of zero. Others show it as a net energy loser — that is, it takes more energy to make than it provides. (If you don't believe me just google corn and EROI.)

President Bush met with Brazilian President da Silva twice in March and got positive headlines from some deal they signed about cooperating in the production of ethanol.



Katie Brugger
kbrugger@hughes.net

In the 1970s, Brazil embarked on a program to substitute ethanol for oil. Today, every gallon of gas in Brazil is blended with at least 20% ethanol, and many cars run on ethanol alone, at half the price of gasoline. Brazil uses sugar cane to make ethanol. Sugar cane has an EROI eight times that of corn.

The Brazilians are making so much ethanol they would like to export it to the United States. Great, let's buy

our fuel from a friendly country, not from Iran or Venezuela. But, again, there's a problem. The corn producers don't want a more efficient ethanol getting in the way of their big, big profits so they have called on their servants in Washington — oh, I mean their elected representatives — to write a tariff bill into law (54 cents a gallon tax on sugar-based ethanol).

Of course all the Midwest corn-state legislators were in on this, Barack Obama among them, passing legislation that goes squarely against the interests of the country, but benefits a few constituents who know how to get a legislator's attention with a sufficiently large campaign contribution.

It's not just the corn farmers either. The sugar industry is very strong — a well-known fact to anyone who has lived in Florida — and sugar costs twice as much here as in the rest of the world because of government price supports. That's why no one's talking about making ethanol out of sugar in this country — it's too expensive as a raw material.

Another consequence of this gold rush in the cornfields? Higher food prices. Subsidized cheap corn is a component of a quarter of the items in the grocery store. Now that it's not cheap we are all going to pay. From tortillas in Mexico to steaks at Dusty's this ethanol boom is going to make us regret our subsidized agricultural policies.

You could say our policies are insane. But actually they're extremely logical. They are the direct consequence of special interests buying legislation.

Ethanol is a dream issue for a politician: he or she can look progressive — “look how much I care about the environment” — while still playing the same old money game — “whatcha got for my re-election fund.”

The most important political issue today is public financing of campaigns. Until we get politicians who are beholden to no one but the people who voted for them we will continue to have government of the rich, by the rich, and for the rich.

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My career as a litterbug lasted 10 minutes. My family had gone for a hike in the Blue Ridge Mountains near our home, and as we stopped to catch our breath, I took a caramel out of my pocket. I unwrapped it with enthusiasm, popped it into my mouth, balled up the wrapper, and tossed it on the ground.

"And what do you think you're doing, Miss Priss?" said my mother. "Oh, it's OK" I replied, "There's a sign over there, and it says that it's fine for littering." "No," my father chided. "It's not fine for littering. There's a fine for littering. It's \$50."

Since my allowance was 25 cents a week in those days, I was certain they were going to put me in prison instead. I hoped they made those striped uniforms in small sizes. From that day onward, I never littered again, provoking comments from friends and acquaintances for my tendency to stuff garbage in my pockets or handbag until I got to a trash can, where I could dispose of the refuse. When you make this a habit, it's not hard. It becomes second nature.

So, here's the issue. What's with all the trash, people? I've had the good luck to move to one of the most beautiful places on earth, and what do I see every day on the side of the road? Empty coffee cups, soda cans, beer cans, potato chip bags, old yogurt containers, cigarette packets - the list is endless. Haven't you ever heard of keeping a garbage bag in your cars or trucks? Or throwing your garbage in trash cans? What are you thinking?

I am a huge fan of Rudy Giuliani, so I'm familiar with the "Broken Windows" theory which was the backbone of his plan for cleaning up New York City. An article entitled *Broken Windows*, written by James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling, appeared in the March 1982 edition of *The Atlantic Monthly*. Their theory was that if you don't fix a broken window quickly, the tendency is for vandals to break other windows. I sure hope this is read by the folks who are letting that house on the way to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital get into worse and worse shape, after some genius broke a large picture window in front. That house gets more run-down every time we drive by, and it's a disgrace. I keep forgetting that I'm living in a place

where people shoot road signs and mail boxes for fun.

Wilson and Kelling's theory on litter is that if you don't pick up litter on a regular basis, more folks start throwing stuff on the road. Since Highlands is a small town, we don't have trash collectors who come around every day, and I don't

think the splendid folks who do clean-ups around here want to spend every single Saturday cleaning up for their neighbors who are inconsiderate slob. It seems logical that the easiest way not to have garbage on the roads is not to throw it there in the first place. Summer's coming, y'all. If residents of Highlands don't care about the litter in their area, do they think that summer visitors are going to care more about it than they do?

I'm particularly annoyed, because we live on a small private road, and it has become increasingly littered over the last several months. One of our neighbors is redoing his house, and two new houses are being built at the end of the road. Each day adds a new layer of insult and garbage to this lovely area.

Since I like mystery novels and detective shows, I decided to try to figure out who is leaving the trash, and began with a process of elimination. It can't be golfers, since golfers like their nice, tidy golf courses, and wouldn't dream of leaving the land in any less than the pristine condition they demand for themselves. It can't be the family and friends of those wonderful folks who regularly turn out for trash clean-ups, because they know first-hand what back breaking work it is to pick up all that garbage. It can't be ecologists, conservationists, and environmentalists, since they know the damage pollution has on the environment. And it certainly can't be folks who go to church, since we are regularly told that we do not own the land, but are only God's stewards whose duty is to care for the Earth and its creatures in His name.

Since I can't figure out for the life of me who these thoughtless people are, I can only conclude that this stuff is left behind by aliens. Gee. I sure do wish they'd take their Coke cans and Dorito bags back with them when they leave.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who is living on top of a mountain in Highlands. She and John Armor alternate columns.

Veterans honored for giving to the community



At the April 9 Macon County Commission meeting in Franklin, members of American Legion Post #108 and VFW Post #739 were recognized for serving their country during war and after war. Both Posts have funded numerous projects in Macon County. Chairman Charlie Leatherman read the Posts' accomplishments while Commissioner Jim Davis and Ronnie Beale presented plaques for placement in their respective halls.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Fun summer camps offered at the Nature Center

Registration is now in progress for this summer's nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center on Horse Cove Road across from the Sunset Rocks entrance.

Five different camps are being offered for different age groups: "WOW! - a World of Wonder" (ages 4 to 6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7 to 10), "NatureWorks" (ages 7 to 11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10 to 14), and "Jr. Ecologists" (ages 11 to 15).

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Girls prepare Rec Park for egg hunt



On Good Friday, members of The Girls' Clubhouse took a couple of hours to hide a thousand Easter eggs for the annual hunt the Saturday before Easter.
Photo by Kim Lewicki

... BUDGET continued from page 1

tral budget and to set the millage rate at 25 cents, but that motion failed.

"I thought we agreed to a revenue neutral budget at our January work session," said Chairman Charlie Leatherman.

After much discussion, County Manager Sam Greenwood verified that though commissioners informally agreed to the concept of a revenue neutral budget at the January work session, no action could be nor was taken at the meeting.

McClellan wanted the promise of a revenue neutral budget in the record and pushed for the 25 cent millage rate, as well.

"We need to be straight up about what revenue neutral really means," he said. "County governments do have authority to establish the millage rate that will produce sufficient revenues to meet the county's needs and the revenue neutral rate is 25 cents. We need to develop a budget that reflects the anticipated revenues generated by the new tax rate and property valuations."

General Statute 159-11(e) requires local governments to include in the budget a statement of the revenue neutral property tax rate for that budget. The revenue neu-

tral rate is defined as "the rate that is estimated to produce revenue equal to the revenue that would have been produced for the next fiscal year by the current tax rate if no reappraisal had occurred.

McClellan said though lower than last time, because of a rise in property values, the rate will mean a tax increase and will accommodate for growth and pay for improvements in the county.

The other commissioners agreed to the concept of a revenue neutral budget – something the commission says it's stuck to every year in recent history – but they didn't want to set the rate until the budget is closer to being finalized – nor do they have to publish the rate prior to finalizing the budget, they said.

"How do we know what to adopt if we don't know our expenses?" asked Commissioner Jim Davis. "Needs of certain segments of government require funding and before we adopt the millage rate we need to hear concerns of our financial officer and manger."

But McClellan believes the rate should be set first and the budget designed around

• See BUDGET page 12

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... TAX RELIEF continued from page 1

ing legislation aimed at reducing property taxes to many different groups and causes," said Lightner. "While we know the rapid growth in real estate values and the need for relief for certain property owners, poorly planned legislation will end up costing the county tax revenue and be very expensive to implement."

Bills H539, H540, H596 & S412 and S569 & S1203 will cause some major reduction in property taxes and inequalities, said Lightner.

Bill H39 – Homestead Exemption Expansion – sponsored by Representative Grady and others. It is in the House Finance Committee and opposed by Lightner.

For the 2007 tax year, this would raise the maximum income allowed for eligibility for inclusion in the Homestead Extension – elderly exclusion and the totally and permanently disabled – from its current maximum of \$20,500 to \$49,000. For future years, the maximum income level would be adjusted by the cost-of-living adjustment made to the Social Security Act.

"The increase proposed in this bill for the allowable income level is too great – 139 – and would most certainly swell the ranks of taxpayers who could become eligible for approval in this program," said Lightner. "It would have a major impact on the tax base."

Bill H54 – Residential Property Tax Reduction – sponsored by Representative Grady and others. It is in the House Rules Committee and opposed by Lightner.

This bill would require a statewide voter referendum to add a new section 105-283.1 to create a new definition and application of the Uniform Appraisal Standard for "permanent residences."

Section 1 would provide for the possibility of the General Assembly to enact limitations on the appreciation "in the assessed value of a permanent residence by more than an amount specified by law."

Section 3, effective for the 2009 tax year, restricts the increase in appraised value of a permanent residence to no more than the increase in the Consumer Price Index, unless ownership is transferred outside the immediate family or an increase in value occurs as a result of a physical change to the property, which in either case would require a reappraisal of market value. (If approved as part of the November 2007 General Assembly, it would become effective for the 2008 tax year.)

"This bill is proposing a cap on the appreciation shown in the market for real property and is somewhat similar to what as approved by South Carolina voters in November 2006," said Lightner. "If enacted, and if the market continues to act as it has historically, higher valued properties would benefit the most from this legislation while lower valued properties would continue to be appraised and assessed at something more akin to their true value.

• See TAX RELIEF page 13

SweetTreats hosts Leadership Highlands



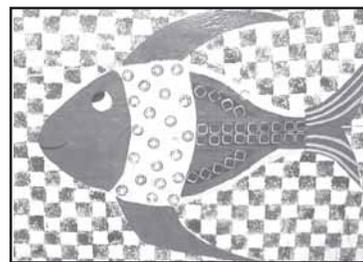
Leadership Highlands Alumni gathered for a "Spring Thaw" at SweetTreats and enjoyed a wonderful array of soup, salad, and sandwiches. Peter Ray just can't stop talking about it! Owner Sandy Carlton, graduate of Leadership Highlands' class of 2001-2002, hosted this annual event. Alumni networked and were informed of the new program changes implemented this year for the 2006-2007 class. If you would like more information on Leadership Highlands, please call the Chamber of Commerce at 526- 2112.



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Easter eggs in the snow



Despite the weather, this robin flitted the Rec Park grounds littered with Easter eggs and snow Saturday minutes before eager children descended.
Photo by Kim Lewicki

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... BUDGET continued from page 10

the income derived from the millage rate. Leatherman said the arithmetic used to derive the millage rate for a revenue neutral budget is easy, "it's the algebra part that's hard."

"That's the variable that is the unknown at this time and we don't know right now how much our tax base will be reduced due to the appeal process," he said.

He said the valuation of 5,000-6,000 pieces of property in the county will likely be decreased before the process is completed.

Tax Administrator Richard Lightner said the income from property value decreases is traditionally only about three percent. "It's usually a loss of about three percent of the value but we never know and won't know for sure until late May," he said. "That potential value loss is still outstanding."

Greenwood agreed, saying the budget should be based on the amount of the tax base that survives the appeal process. Chairman Leatherman spoke often of

the published millage rates of other counties - some higher than Macon and some lower - but said what other counties do is of no concern to him.

"We need to deal with the needs of Macon County and not concern ourselves with how we compare to other counties. We evaluate property to a fair market value, which increases the tax base and we'll come down to a revenue neutral figure, but I don't want to be locked into a number," he said.

Davis agreed. "I don't want to be locked into a number until we go through the entire process."

County Attorney Lesley Moxley told the board to direct the county manager to prepare a revenue neutral budget at the appropriate time.

McClellan amended his motion to adopt a revenue neutral budget. That motion passed unanimously. But it was clear McClellan considers the revenue neutral budget and the millage rate of 25 cents to be one in the same.

... TAX RELIEF continued from page 11

In essence, lower-valued properties – which typically appreciate at a slower rate – would be subsidizing higher-valued properties – which tend to appreciate more rapidly – especially in resort areas of the state.”

Bill H596 & S412 – Homestead Exemption Modification – sponsored by Representative Cleveland and others and Senator Brown and others. This would become effective for the 2008 tax year.

This would provide an option for tax relief consisting of the current elderly exclusion OR a “circuit breaker” where the tax would be predicated as a percentage of the owner’s income ranging from incomes of \$5,000 or less; \$5,000-\$10,000; \$10,000-\$25,000; or \$25,000-\$50,000 and percentages of 3.5%; 4%; 4.5%; and 5%, respectively, rather than being based on the value of the property.

Section 3 provides that when the qualifying owner’s income is \$25,000 or less if single and \$34,000 if married, all or part of the tax may be deferred unless prohibited by federal law or where liens against the property exceeds 85% of the assessed value.

“This bill essentially blurs the lines as to how a tax for property tax purposes might be determined for a certain class of property owners and replaces the typical property tax bill with one determined as a percentage of one’s income,” said Lightner. “This becomes an income tax payment – a tax payment based on income – made in lieu of property taxes.”

Lightner also said this bill would require five more employees to the tax office staff.

S569 & S1203 – Wildlife Conservation Property Tax Relief & Present-Use Value Charges, respectively. Sponsored by Senators Hartsell, Nesbitt, Jr., and others. S569 would be in effect for the 2007 tax year and S1203 would be in effect for the 2008 tax year.

This would allow land managed and maintained under a sound management plan certified by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission to be treated as agricultural land and assessed based on the Present Use Value (PUV) section in place. The land would have to be in PUV prior to its conversion to wildlife land. Lightner opposed this bill.

“Preferred tax treatment should be provided via the state income tax, as opposed to further deterioration of the local property tax,” he said. “PUV programs rewards land in production – farmland and managed forestland – integral to the local economy. Macon County would lose a minimum of \$1 billion in value and tax rates would initially go up around 7-10 cents per hundred.”

Section 1 of S1203 would reduce the minimum acreage requirement for qualifying agricultural land from 10 acres to five acres. “While I am generally supportive of Section 1, the problems inherent with the provisions of Sections 2 & 3 are so abusive

in terms of equity and administration costs that it cannot be supported,” said Lightner.

Section 2 is identical to S569 (see above) and Section 3 would permit land previously classified as PUV and now encumbered by a conservation easement to continue to be appraised at PUV rates without having to meet the requirements of income or actual production.

Bill S1305 – Present-Use Value Easement Tax Credit – sponsored by Senator Queen; to go into effect for the 2008 tax year.

In anticipated substantial property value increases across the state, this bill would provide that property in PUV be taxed at 50% of the general tax rate levied by the taxing unit when the “owner donates an easement on the property – made in perpetuity – requiring the property to continue to be used in a manner consistent with its current use.

“This is a quid-pro-quo where the property owner gives up future uses of the property – development rights and others – for being billed at 50% of the general tax rate of the taxing jurisdiction,” said Lightner. “The assessment value of the property would continue to be based on the PUV schedules adopted for the most current reappraisal, already a highly favorable benefit to qualifying owners.”

Lightner is in favor of H972 and S241 and S445.

Bill H972 – Raise Income Ceiling to \$30,000 – sponsored by Representatives Allred and others.

This bill would increase the allowable income level from the current \$20,500 to \$30,000 for eligibility for benefits of the Elderly Exclusion/Permanently Disabled Program as otherwise provided under 105-277.1 and would become effective for the 2007 tax year.

“This and the S1051 bill, provide preferable options in an attempt to keep the benefit of the exclusion in synch with appreciation in the real estate market and the effective purchasing power of the dollar,” said Lightner.

Bill S241 – Conservation Tax Credit Modification – sponsored by Senator Clodfelter and others, to become effective for the 2007 tax year.

This would modify existing law regarding the taking of tax credits against North Carolina Income Tax obligations for donations of, or an interest in, real property that meets certain statutory requirements under 105-130, 34 & 105-151, 12.

“This a much preferable to H234 which would adversely impact the tax base and create an inequity in the expectation from property required to be in a state of actual production versus “wildlife,” said Lightner.

Bill S445 – Study Bill for Property Tax Relief – sponsored by Senator Jacumin and others, to become effective upon passage.

This bill would create a Property Tax Subcommittee of the Revenue Laws Study

• See TAX RELIEF page 20

Doshie McCall Wilson turns 100



Photo by granddaughter Jewel Hedden



Photo by grandson Roger Lee Wilson

First cousins Doshie McCall Wilson and Irene Picklesimer James sit with their grandchildren – couple Brenda and Tommy James at Doshie’s 100th birthday party on Thursday, April 5 held in the conference room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. About 38 family members and friends joined in the celebration.. In a typical Highlands’ twist, Brenda James is Doshie’s grandchild and her husband Tommy James is Irene’s grandchild. Doshie’s mother, Albie Picklesimer McCall, who died at 103, was Irene’s aunt, the sister of her father Edward Picklesimer. Folks say it’s the longevity in the Picklesimer genes that keeps these women and their kin going. Irene will celebrate her 102nd birthday in June. At the party, Doshie and Irene talked about old times and tried to remember the horse they used to ride when playing together. Irene grew up in the Picklesimer home in Clear Creek and Doshie spent most of her youth at the McCall log cabin off Clear Creek Road under the brow of Brushy Face Mountain. Doshie’s parents, Rufus and Albie McCall, bought the cabin and the property it sat on from the Brooks family when they left North Carolina for Traveler’s Rest in South Carolina. Doshie moved with her family to the log cabin when she was seven. She was the youngest of the six McCall children -- Cassie, Wiley, Emory, Itta, Ransom and Doshie. As first-cousins close in age, Doshie and Irene were playmates. Irene said she visited Doshie at the cabin often. The cabin was purchased by the USFS in 1998. It was disassembled and reassembled on a knoll on Walden Way off U.S. 64. Plans have stalled due to funding, but it’s earmarked as a historical visitor center for the forest service.

– Kim Lewicki

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The week in review and a look at what's coming

By Senator John Snow

This year the North Carolina House has the budget first and the budgeting process has begun in earnest. Most budget committees, starting this week, will separate from having joint meetings with both Senate and House members to just having meetings with House Budget members. The leadership of the House has announced that they intend to present and pass their budget by the last week of April. While there are very many moving parts to the budget early indications point to the fact that there will be some very significant differences between the Governor's budget request and what the Legislature will ultimately vote on. These mainly surround several of the half-cent sales taxes that are supposed to expire this year. From what I understand, Senate legislative staff has been instructed to come up with budget scenarios that assume that this tax will expire this year as planned. Some concern has been voiced over letting this tax expire in relation to the mental health crisis. Mental health and child service advocates are very concerned that the expiration of these taxes will make the job of fixing our State's

mental health system extraordinarily difficult and in some cases next to impossible. While we will not know what the total revenue picture looks like until after April 17, you can be sure that this is going to be a debate that rages in Raleigh as the months turn warmer.

This Week: Transfer Taxes, Ringing Phones, Biofuels, Disbarred District Attorneys, and 529s

Transfer Taxes

This year several counties throughout the state have come forward and have requested legislation to allow for a transfer tax on the purchase or sales of homes in a county. A transfer tax is a tax on the price of a home when it is sold. The tax amount is usually around one percent. The county collects the tax and uses it to plan, develop, and construct needed infrastructure for the county such as schools, water and sewer lines, and other such things.

Currently in North Carolina there are seven counties that have a transfer tax. After studying these counties it appears to me that if that transfer tax is the sole financing mechanism for the development of infrastructure in a county that the tax makes it economically illogical to either buy or sell a house. Moreover, in our counties where many of the home sales are for second-home sales, where the person buying the home is most likely not living in the home for the majority of the year, that a strain on infrastructure is not as great as it may be in other counties in North Carolina.

After studying this situation for the last few weeks I have determined that a transfer tax is neither needed nor necessary for our mountain counties and I will not support the enactment of a transfer tax across North Carolina or in any of the Counties of the 50th Senate District. (See related story on page 1.)

Ringing Phones

All of us know about the Do Not Call List, however, this week the Senate's Commerce Committee heard and passed the Telephone Records Privacy Protection Act which would make purchasing private telephone information from other companies illegal. The reason for this additional protection is due to the fact that the telecommunication industry is changing rapidly and as it does, our laws need to ensure that the intentions of laws such as the Do Not Call List law remain in effect despite the new technology. Another benefit of the bill is that it will help the State Bureau of Investigation find people who engage in identity theft.

Biofuels

A few weeks ago I wrote about many of the bills that I am introducing to help get the biodiesel industry going here in North Carolina. As you will remember Western North Carolina is leading the way in biodiesel development in North Carolina. I was so very happy to learn this week that one of our leaders, Smoky Mountain Biofuels from Cullowhee has signed a deal to provide biodiesel to 23 gas stations across Western North Carolina. Before their announcement there were less than 20 biodiesel pumps in all of Western North Carolina. Now over half the pumps in North Carolina are located right near us. For those of you out there with diesel engines in your cars and trucks, I hope that this summer, if prices go up, you will consider using a fuel source that helps put money back in our mountains and not in the pockets of the oil cartels based out of the Middle East.

After waiting a while, I am also happy to tell you that the State of North Carolina is finally showing leadership on the idea of biofuels. The Biofuels Strategic Plan calls for 10% of our state's liquid fuel source come from biofuels by 2017. North Carolina imports and uses over five billion gallons of foreign liquid fuel every year.

Disbarred District Attorneys

This week, the senate unanimously passed legislation to remove district attorneys or judges who have been disbarred. This will keep district attorneys who have lost their license to practice, for whatever reason, from holding a public office and stopping prosecutions from taking place. Under the legislation, the governor would appoint a replacement.

529s

The College Foundation of North Carolina and their 529 plans are great ways to save money for your child, grandchild, or friend to go to college. In North Carolina there is a tax deduction offered that many families may qualify for. Your earnings grow tax free from both the state and federal perspective and as long as withdrawals from the plan are used to pay for college they too are not taxed. Moreover, the money can be used at any college anywhere for tuition, fees, room, board, books, and supplies and equipment required for enrollment. I encourage you to learn more about a 529 plan if you have a little one running around the house who might go to college. You can learn more about the plan at <http://www.cfnc.org> <<http://www.cfnc.org/>>



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Forsythia at the Rec Park, Saturday morning just after the snow fall. Right, daffodils at the park on Mirror Lake hold their own despite the snow and cold.

Photos by Jim Lewicki

Pre-Easter snowfall alters the landscape

Cold temperatures across the state since last weekend reminded all that Spring is always full of cold weather surprises. These events seem to happen each year. Snow and record breaking cold cover much of the South and Southeast. However, beyond the beauty of the snow lies the reality of killed or damaged vegetation and lost crops.

Temperature records in the Southeast are not just being broken by a degree or two, but they are being shattered by as much as 5-10 degrees. The fruit crop (apples, pears, cherries) and early vegetable crop is have been heavily damaged from Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia across Tennessee and the Carolinas north into Pennsylvania. The local apple growers in the Asheville area are saying the crop is already 80-100% gone.

The whole area is experiencing lows in the 20s and teens during the nights. According to a recent report, an apple grower whose family has been in the business near Asheville since 1910 said he has never lost more than 70% of his apple crop to spring freezes, but he estimates his loss this spring is already "near 100%."

Center of Life Enrichment hosts free presentation about global warming

The Center for Life Enrichment is pleased to present a lecture by Breta Stroud about the important environmental issue of global warming. The presentation is free and open to the public at the Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, April 17 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

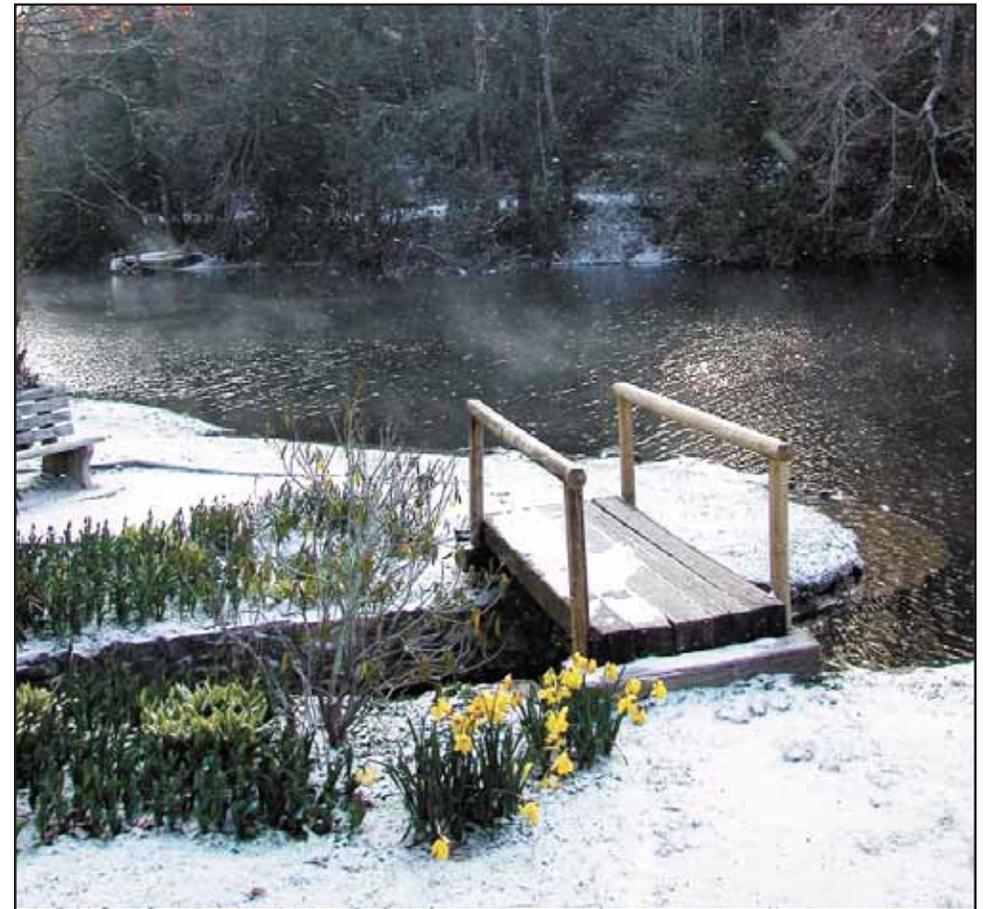
After seeing the Oscar award-winning documentary film which presents the scientific facts and evidence of Global Warming and Climate Change, "An Inconvenient Truth," Stroud began searching on the internet for ways to actively spread the word.

In January of this year Stroud was chosen as one of 1,000 from a field of 5,000 applicants to attend a three-day training in Nashville, Tennessee sponsored by the Climate Project, a nonprofit organization that was formed to recruit and train people from across the country

to present a modified and updated version of the slide show that Al Gore presented in "An Inconvenient Truth." Along with Al Gore, the Climate Project training included renowned climate scientists who were present to answer questions.

The slide show Stroud presents details the scientific facts about Global Warming and Climate Change and offers simple but effective and hopeful solutions that we, as individuals, can incorporate into our everyday lives to combat this growing problem.

The group of trained volunteer presenters was formed by Al Gore and the Climate Project to educate and energize the public and governments from around the world and challenge them to take action against the crisis of Climate Change and to work, together, toward finding solutions.



... MULLEN continued from page 2

Taylor and Senator Dole. He understood our silt problem in the mountains and told me recently a water bill had been passed in Congress (certainly not well publicized) which may be of some help in the future through the Corps of Engineers.

Third, Congressman Shuler also was very cognizant of the growing problem with affordable housing in some places in western North Carolina and was interested in our approach here in Highlands of researching the problem in depth. He expressed a desire to keep up with our progress. Rep. Shuler and I have a mutual friend in the Congress from Texas, a classmate who was one of my best friends in medical school at Duke.

We are all happy to hear that finally the Riverwalk development has reached the point of laying the roads. This probably will be accomplished before the end of April if the weather holds. This should help the erosion problem considerably. So it looks like erosion control is finally taking place although there are still a few spots, according to our consulting inspector, which need some work and the construction crew is working on that. We will continue to pursue the fines imposed on the developer although they will be fighting us in court on this. It is our obligation to continue to collect this because of gross negligence in the engineering plans and development of this site early in the clearing process.

I know that many people are concerned about the untimely delays we will soon be having on the Dillard Road because on the long needed re-paving all the way to the Georgia line. This will take about four or five months and comes at the busiest time of year for traffic coming from Georgia and beyond. However, this kind of construction cannot be done in the winter. We will be talking with the Department of Transportation and the contractors who will be doing the work to try to keep delays to a minimum. As far as I concerned, a delay of over 10 minutes is too long, and we will be watching this closely. Patience will be in order for all of us.

Finally, I hope that all residents will take advantage of the free health screening which is taking place by the folks at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital on April 21. This will be held on the first floor of the Jane Woodruff Clinic which is adjacent to the hospital. As a physician I can say that this activity is a most important service to the community, and early detection of serious problems can help not only save lives but prevent suffering. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this wonderful free service to help keep our community healthy. Health care is just as important as Medical care. There is a difference. Prevention simply does not get enough emphasis in our medical system. So avail yourselves of a wonderful opportunity.

Christ Anglican Church moves to the Highlands Community Center

Christ Anglican Church will move to the recently renovated Highlands Community Center for an 11 a.m. worship service beginning this Sunday, April 15.

The Reverend Canon David C. Anderson, president of the American Anglican Council, will preach and celebrate Holy Communion for this inaugural service. The Highlands Community Center, formerly known as the Highlands Conference Center, is located in Highlands next to the ball field on U.S. 64 east.

Christ Anglican, which serves the Highlands and Cashiers communities, has worshiped at the Community Bible Church (CBC) on Sunday afternoons for the past two years and expresses deep thanks to CBC for its wonderful act of hospitality during Christ Anglican's formative stage as a new church.

Christ Anglican Church, a member of the Anglican Province of America, is a traditional, orthodox and conservative parish seeking to know Christ and to make Him known. Its agenda is simple: to worship God and to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The church is sponsoring an ongoing Visiting Rector Series that has attracted a number of leaders of orthodox Anglicanism to come to the Highlands-Cashiers area to teach, preach and celebrate Holy Communion.

Community meetings set to determine library needs

A series of community meetings will be held throughout Jackson County to gather information about what services and features the citizens would like to have in their new library. The dates, times and locations for the library services meetings have been finalized. All full-time and seasonal residents of Jackson County are encouraged to attend one of these meetings.

The dates, times and locations are as follows: **Monday, April 23, at 7:30 p.m., at the Qualla CDC, in Whittier; Tuesday, April 24 at 11 a.m. at the Family Resource Center (Old Webster School), in Webster; 2 p.m. at the Golden Age Center, 1 N. Central Street, in Sylva; 5 p.m. at the Cullowhee Valley School, Highway 107, in Cullowhee and at 7:30 p.m. at the Jackson County Justice Center Grand Jury Room #246, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, in Sylva.**

A children's program will be provided at the 11 a.m. meeting at the Family Resource Center on Tuesday, April 24. Lori Richards, Director of Kindermusik, will conduct children's musical activities during the meeting time. Snacks will be provided for the children.

Ron Dubberly, library consultant, will facilitate these meetings. This is the first step in the process that will ultimately result in a new library for Jackson County. Dubberly will use a list of Library Service Priorities as the basis for discussion at these meetings. The list of library services is posted on the Friends of the Jackson County Main Library's web site - www.fojcmll.org. Meeting participants may want to review these service priorities prior to the scheduled meetings.

Directions are available at the current Jackson County Library and at the Friends of the Library Book Store, 536 West Main Street, in downtown Sylva.

• 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.
Special Singing Schedule - 7 p.m.
March 25: John Raby & Family
April 22: Morris Staneil
April 29: Promised Land with worship and lunch

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY
Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeding, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy
Communion each service

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
Office - 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion - 11 a.m.
(Highlands Community Center on U.S. 64 next to the
ballfield in Highlands
Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.
Tuesday: Women's weekly Bible study at 2 p.m.
Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m.
at First Baptist Church
Pot Luck Supper last Sunday of each month.
All are Welcome!

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
(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Students' Dinner (free for kids in
8th grade and younger);
5:30 p.m. Supper; 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 pm Small Groups for
kids Pre-K through 8th; 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm Adult Bible
Study 6pm-7pm Choir Practice

• Small Groups are offered for all ages throughout the
week, see our website or call for more info.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. Brian Sullivan - 526-2968
Monday, April 2: 5 p.m. - Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
Tuesday, April 3: 5 p.m. - Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
Wednesday, April 4: 5 p.m. - Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
Maundy Thursday, April 5: 7 p.m. - Holy Eucharist w/Feet
Washing (Sanctuary)

Good Friday, April 6: 12 noon - Stations of the Cross;
1:30 p.m. - Good Friday Eucharist & Meditation (Chapel);
7 p.m.; "Seven Last Words" Choral Presentation
Saturday, April 7: 7 p.m. - Holy Eucharist w/Baptism &
Meditation (Chapel)

Easter Sunday, April 8: 9 a.m. - Holy Eucharist; 9:45 a.m.
- Choir Practice; 11 a.m. - Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN
Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m. (nursery provided)
Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens

Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Junior & Senior 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 - 8:15 a.m., 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
Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175
Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun.School - 9:30 & 9:45.
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Mens Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers
Wednesdays: Prayer - noon; Supper - 6 p.m.; Choir - 7
Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia - 10 a.m. & 5

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Sixth Street

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;

5 p.m. Youth Group
Wed: noon - Mens Emmaus Reunion Group; 4:45 -
Childrens choir and handbells; 5:30 - Supper; 6 - Adult
Handbells; 6:15 - children, youth, & adults studies;
7:15 - Adult choir

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

Thurs: 12:30 - Womens Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741

Sundays: Worship/Communion - 10:30

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Choir - 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE
St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC
CHURCH**

Rev. Tien, Priest
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. Wayne Price

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769
Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.

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



Rev. Canon David Anderson

Rev. Canon David Anderson to visit Christ Anglican Church

The Reverend Canon David C. Anderson, president of the American Anglican Council, will preach and celebrate Holy Communion at 11 a.m. at Christ Anglican Church this Sunday, April 15.

The service at which he will be officiating marks the move of Christ Anglican Church to morning services and to its permanent Sunday location at the Highlands Community Center (formerly the Highlands Conference Center) located next to the Highlands baseball field on U.S. 64.

Canon Anderson is recognized around the world for the passionate commitment to traditional Anglican teaching and theology. He has served since 2001 as president and CEO of the American Anglican Council (AAC) based in Atlanta, GA. His leadership gained national and international recognition in 2003 when the AAC emerged as the leading voice for Anglican orthodoxy in the United States after the Episcopal Church USA adopted theological and doctrinal innovations contrary to the teachings of the Holy Scripture. The Episcopal Church's actions created an historic crisis in the Anglican Communion and thrust Canon Anderson into the role of a chief spokesman for faithful American Anglicans who desire to uphold the historic faith and order of the church.

Ordained in 1970, Canon Anderson served parishes in Maryland, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and most

recently in California as long-term rector of St. James Church in Newport Beach, where he led the congregation through significant growth in numbers, influence and extensive building programs.

Since November 2006, Canon Anderson has been canonically resident in the Convocation of Anglicans in North American (CANA), the U.S. missionary branch of the Anglican Church of Nigeria. He is a key figure for the reformation movement in the Episcopal Church and a sought-after speaker on the crisis in all denominations over the decline in biblically-based theology and moral authority. Canon Anderson receives frequent requests from the secular and religious media for comment on trends in the Anglican Communion. He travels extensively for the AAC and is in regular conversation with global Anglican leaders.

Canon Anderson holds a Bachelors degree in history from the University of Maryland and a Master in Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary. He is married to MaryAnn Kemp and is the proud father and grandfather of three children and four grandchildren. The Andersons reside in suburban Atlanta.

The Reverend Paul F. Blankinship, assistant at All Saints Anglican Church in Asheville, will be the next visitor in Christ Anglican's ongoing Visiting Rector Series coming to Highlands to preach and celebrate Holy Communion at 11 a.m., Sunday, April 22.

Art classes available for children of all ages at Bascom-Louise Gallery

Children's classes continue at Bascom-Louise Gallery in the Hudson Library on Main Street across from the Falls on Main complex.

The cost is \$5 per student and days and classes are designed for various age groups.

Mondays: For Homeschoolers, classes are from 1-3 p.m. For 2nd to 5th graders, classes are from 3:15-4:15 p.m. Tuesdays: classes for pre-school are 11-11:30 a.m.; for kindergarten-1st grade, classes are 3:15-4:15 p.m. and for young adult independent study, classes are from 1-2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays classes are for middle school students from 3:15-4:15 p.m.

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PART-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT NEEDED for general office work & ticket sales. Some travel between Highlands & Cashiers. 10 - 20 hrs. per week. Call 526-9060 for more information.

NICK'S FINE FOODS now open at its new location on Main Street is taking applications for waitstaff and experienced line cook for lunch. 5-6 days a week. Apply in person before 11 a.m. or after 3 p.m. or call 526-2706.

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB is taking applications for female massage therapists for the 2007 season. We offer competitive benefits, employee meals, and flexible schedules. Please fax resume to 828-526-9608 or mail to LEC, P.O. Box 220, Highlands, NC 28741. Applications may also be obtained by calling 828-526-0501, or at the Club Office, 981 Dillard Road, Highlands. 4/12

N.C. LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST AND COSMETOLOGIST NEEDED. Call 828-526-9477. 4/6

HELP WANTED AT SCALY MOUNTAIN GENERAL STORE AND BP STATION. Flex hours, premium pay. Come by for interview and application.

HIGHLANDS FALLS COUNTRY CLUB is now accepting applications for full and part-time seasonal employment for Clubhouse, dining, golf course and golf shop operations. Highlands Falls offers flexible work schedules and competitive benefits. Applicants must possess good communication skills and enjoy the service industry. To arrange for an application please call Glenda Creel at 526-4118.

FRESSERS EATERY - Now hiring team players. Apply in person before 11:30 a.m. or after 3 p.m. at 151 Helen's Barn Ave. in Highlands. Also accepting applications for Fressers Express.

LOOKING FOR PART-TIME CLEANING HELP - for banks in the Highlands-Cashiers area. Call 828-691-6353.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN!

Become a Certified Nursing Assistant for Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Now accepting applications for our next class beginning April 23, 2007. Students will be paid while in class Mondays through Fridays for 6 hours a day. Upon graduation, students passing the exam will become a Certified Nursing Assistant and will receive a substantial increase in pay. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. If interested, call Robbin Houston at 828-526-1317 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA OR CNA II IN ACUTE CARE. Full-time, 12 hour shifts. Our NEW WAGE SCALE for CNA's is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

STAFF SONOGRAPHER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time, Monday through Friday position. Must be registered by the ARDMS and ARRT. Echocardiography and MRI experience preferred. Radiology and Ultrasound call rotation required. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RN'S AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full, Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits available after 60 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

COOKS AND DIETARY AIDES AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Various shifts and days available. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Salary depends on experience. Full benefits available after 60 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA OR CNA II We have available Full, Part-time, and PRN positions at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center for day and night shifts. Our NEW WAGE SCALE for CNA's is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits after 60 days to full-time employees. We are now

offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 10-3. For Sale by Owner - Your own private view of Shortoff Mtn. 4BR/3BA. Beautifully landscaped natural setting with waterfall feature, stream, and easy access. Screened porch, extensive decks, hot tub. Well-maintained, light and bright. Reduced to \$695,000. 828-743-9560.

WANTED TO RENT

LOCAL COUPLE SEEKS 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH HOUSE in town. Unfurnished, Maximum of \$900 a month rent. Will take great care of house, very clean and handy. Call 526-9606.

FOR RENT

1 BEDROOM APT - 6 month lease. Queen bed, patio, utilities included. No pets. \$650 per month plus deposit. Call 828-526-2679.

TWO-STORY APARTMENT FOR RENT ON CHENEY LANE - 3 minutes from Highlands. One-year lease agreement. Recent renovation. Fully furnished. Two-bed, 2 baths; extra large closets. Kitchen with dishwasher and new Jenn-Aire cookstove; many kitchen cabinets. Washer/dryer; dining area; living room; cable and telephone connection. Native stone fireplace. \$1,000 per month includes water, sewer, electricity. Single-family. References required. No pets, no smoking. Call Jim at 1-770-789-2489.

WAREHOUSE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR RENT. 1,100 - 1,800 sq. ft. bays with large overhead rolling doors. Rent is \$500-\$600 a month. Located one mile from the crossroads in Cashiers off 107 S. For More information please call Josh Barber 828-743-0077.

CUTE AND VERY PRIVATE 1 BR 1 BA house in the Town Limit. Includes additional sleeping loft/office, large deck, gentle yard and babbling creek. Fully furnished or unfurnished available weekly or monthly but prefer annual lease. Broker owned. (828) 421-7922.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY - 1,500 sq. ft. Plenty of parking. In town. \$1,500 a month. Call 770-827-0450. 5/3

VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL PRIME OFFICE SPACE - 900 sq. ft of renovated space with new central heat and air, hardwood floors, kitchen/full bath, separate entrance through courtyard garden, some office furniture

available. Three phone lines/DSL ports for office. Very roomy with lots of natural light, great walkout balcony with bistro table off office space. Great for non-smoking entrepreneur who is seeking good downtown Highlands location. Available immediately, for rent & terms contact (828) 526-9990.

NEW SPACES FOR LEASE IN HIGH TRAFFIC LOCATION - Lease now for the 2007 season in Highlands Plaza. 600 sq ft - 8,000 sq ft available in new lower level or 1,200 sq ft on main level near Bryson's. Call 864-630-0808 today to lease your space in "The Most Visited Location In Highlands."

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH DREAM CABIN! 5 minutes from Highlands in Scaly Mtn. New appliances, new carpet, with amazing view! Stone/Wood Cabin with carport and separate workshop and wonderful landscaped property! \$825 per month. Annual Lease. Call 423-894-9566

COTTAGE OFF NORTON ROAD - (seasonal or yearly) - 1 bed, 1 bath cottage - great view - quiet location - only 1 mile off of U.S. 64. Close to Highlands and Cashiers. \$700/month. Call Kelsey 404-788-1304.

VACATION RENTAL - The Lodge on Mirror Lake, fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, 3-day min. Call 828-342-2302.

BEAUTIFUL CHALET for you in downtown Highlands. Two blocks off downtown Main St. Wonderful wide porch for entertaining on Highlands Creek. Beautiful new tongue-n-grove in kitchen and bath. 2 bd/1full bath. 1500 sq ft with additional 900 sq ft basement for your office or storage needs. Beautiful brand new furniture, new carpet, new wood floors in kitchen. Fireplace. Awesome location. 1 year lease, negotiable. \$1395. (772) 631-2602 or (772) 919-2384.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

NEW HOME ON DENDY ORCHARD ROAD minutes from town just past Bridal Veil and Dry Falls. Nice paved access. 2-bedroom, 1 bath, chalet with 1,177 sq. ft., loft, fireplace, vaulted great room, some view. \$169,000. For more information call Ty at 828-577-9261 or tywalinski@yahoo.com

FIX 'R' UPPER - 2,500 sq. ft home. Walk to hospital. Great location between Highlands and Cashiers. Needs interior finishing...bring imagination. Motivated seller. Make offer. Call 828-200-9333.

UNUSUAL RIVERFRONT PROPERTY. Two bedroom, 2 baths, 3-car garage, workshop, carport, concrete driveway, covered porch over looking Cullasaja River, gazebo, spiral stairway up to foyer entrance, washer and dryer, 2-door refrigerator with ice and water dispensers, smooth top range,

• CLASSIFIEDS •

dishwasher, plus efficiency apartment, much more. On almost level 1/2-acre on scenic Highlands Road only 5 miles from Franklin. Phone owner 828-369-2278 for appointment. \$395,000.

MOTOR COACH SITE – Private, luxury motor coach site available for purchase. Downtown Highlands. Corner of Fifth St. and Chestnut St. Gated, restricted. Call 828-526-5333.

BY BUILDER – 4/3, new construction. Executive home. 1.5 acres, bordered by 2 creeks and a pond in a new up-scale subdivision less than 5 minutes from downtown Franklin. \$485K. Call 371-3669.

QUAINT – Newly remodeled farm-style home. 1 acre, 2 stories, 3 bed, 1 bath, hardwood & carpet floors. Close to Cashiers area golf courses and Lake Glenville. Quiet neighborhood. Asking \$180,000. Call Linda. Day: 828-743-2948. Evenings: 828-743-2654.

ADORABLE 3 BR/2 BA COTTAGE with wonderful mountain view. One mile from Main Street. Highlands. \$275,000. By Owner. For Appt. 828-526-1085.

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 10-3. – For Sale by Owner - Your own private view of Shortoff Mountain. 4BR/3BA. Beautifully landscaped natural setting with waterfall feature, stream, and easy access. Screened porch, extensive decks, hot tub. Well-maintained, light and bright. Reduced to \$695,000. Buck Creek Road to Shortoff Road, then 1 mile to Eagle Ridge Drive. 828-743-9560

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KING BR SET (incls. mattress/box spring, frame, dresser, mirror, night stand, headboard) \$450; 4 Firestone tires (LT225/75R16) good tread \$125; Ethan Allen Hutch \$125; Queen mattress set (w/frame) \$175. Call: 526-2671.

18' INFLATABLE SWIMMING POOL. 4' deep. All attachments, Like New. \$100. Call Sandy at 369-6263 or Bob at SweetTreats, 526-9822.

TIME CLOCK, Acroprint Model 125, and time cards. See Bob at SweetTreats, 526-9822.

BISTRO TABLES, 21" round (black and white), 2 black chairs. (4 sets@ \$125 per set). See Bob at SweetTreats 526-9822.

DINING ROOM FURNITURE. Very nice. Rectangular with two leaves 6 chairs, 2 with arms. Maple with upholstered seats. \$326 all inclusive. 864-972-8525 or cell 864-723-4101

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HILTI TE 805 DEMOLITION HAMMER. New. Case & 4 bits. \$500. 828-526-2700 or 828-421-7886

1958 ALBATROSE TRAILER WITH COVER AND PORCH. Maple interior. Good condition. \$1,000. Can be seen a Carolina Court. 526-5939.

JENNY LIND BABY BED – light stain, excellent condition, mattress, all linens, originally \$375 asking \$225. Call 526-0498.

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 23

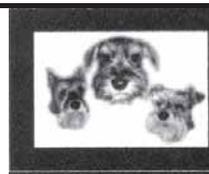
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Hurricane Creek to rock ITC April 14



Years ago if a woman wanted to go out on a date she had to wait to be asked by a man. In 1937 famed cartoonist, Al Capp, came up with the notion of creating a day in which woman did the asking out, and if she asked you, you had to go. He named it Sadie Hawkins Day. The Instant Theatre Company (ITC) has borrowed Mr. Capp's dandy idea by presenting a Sadie Hawkins Dance. A night of dancing to the music of the ever popular Hurricane Creek Band, complete with mood making dance floor lighting, and complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks. So women, there is no excuse if you want to dance. You are hereby encouraged to insist your favorite dance partner take you to The ITC's Sadie Hawkins Dance in the Studio on Main, 310 Main Street, Oak Square in Highlands NC. The date is Saturday, April 14th at 8 P.M. Reservations are strongly suggested, and can be made by calling 828-342-9197.

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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles names top producers for March



Elizabeth Matej



Gary Garren



Sherman Pope

Elizabeth Matej, broker associate and fine homes & estates specialist was named both top listing agent and top sales agent for the Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles Cashiers office. She was also awarded the Bronze Producer award for her production in 2006.

Gary Garren, managing broker of the Highlands office, was named top listing agent and Sherman Pope, broker associate and fine homes & estate specialist, was named top sales agent.

OEI announces March 'Service Champions' awards and promotions

Old Edwards Hospitality Group is pleased to announce Service Champions for March 2007. The Service Champion Program is utilized to reward and recognize associates who go above and beyond the call of duty to meet and exceed the resort guest's expectations.

Throughout the year, associates are nominated for the Service Champion Program. Each month, associates are recognized at an appreciation gathering. Associates with the most qualifying nominations are awarded gold, silver and bronze awards with monetary prize equivalents of \$250, \$100 and \$50 respectively. At the end of the year, three Champions are selected from these recipients and prizes are awarded in the gold (\$1000), silver (\$500) and bronze (\$250) categories.

March 2007 Service Champions:
Tara Southern, Administrative Office, Bronze Mary Brandeberry, Spa at Old Edwards Inn, Silver Jimmy Lowe, Security Department, Gold.

"By setting goals and rewarding the staff members regularly, we encourage positive motivation and set a standard for excellence that is not only attainable, it becomes second nature. This level of service is what sets us apart as the award-winning property that we have become," said Mario Gomes, Old Edwards Hospitality Group Chief Executive Officer and General Manager.

Additionally, Gomes announced the recent promotions of the following Old Edwards Hospitality Group employees: Charles Welch, promoted to Warehouse Manager.

... TAX RELIEF continued from page 13

Committee to study whether to provide property tax relief and if affirmed, the manner which to do so, including but not limited to, deferment programs, circuit breakers, Proposition 13 and SOH programs, fractional assessment programs – treating commercial differently from residential – treat primary homes differently from secondary homes, etc.

"The various proposals as introduced thus far warrant an in-depth study of their potential impact on tax base and equity," said Lightner. "Currently, bills introduced

represent the greatest legislative change to the property tax program since the change to a market value assessment standard and the creation of the Present Use Value program in 1973. In most cases, the impact would be more adverse to municipalities and special districts – those smaller in size, with less alternatives to absorb the shift – than to counties."

Lightner urged commissioners to voice their opinions and concerns to legislators in Raleigh.

– Kim Lewicki

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

• Registration has begun for this summer's nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are being offered: "WOW! - a World of Wonder" (ages 4 to 6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7 to 10), "NatureWorks" (ages 7 to 11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10 to 14), and "Jr. Ecologists" (ages 11 to 15). For details, please call 526-2623 or visit the Nature Center webpage at www.wcu.edu/hbs.

• 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 or go to the website: www.ncmana.org.

• Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.

• Yoga Classes at the Rec Park. Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. Bring your mat. \$7 per person per class or \$50 for a monthly pass.

• Angie Jenkins on the piano at the Old Clayton Inn in Clayton on Fridays and Saturdays for dinner.

• Beginners Clogging class Tuesday, 6-7 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley Community Center. Come have lots of fun and exercise. Call 743-7663.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Osteoporosis prevention exercise classes, a total body and muscle-toning workout exercise class, and Pilates classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

• A Grief Support Group is held every Friday from 10-12 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for anyone who has lost a

loved one through death or is dealing with a progressive illness with a loved one. If interested in attending, please contact Helen Moore (Hospice) 526-0727 or Martha Porter (Chaplain at HCH) at 787-1463.

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

• Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn with Cy Timmons 6 p.m. until.

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

• Children's classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery - cost is \$5 per student. Mondays: For Homeschoolers, classes are from 1-3 p.m. For 2nd to 5th graders, classes are from 3:15-4:15 p.m. Tuesdays: classes for pre-school are 11-11:30 a.m.; for kindergarten-1st grade, classes are 3:15-4:15 p.m. and for young adult independent study, classes are from 1-2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays classes are for middle school students from 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Every Tuesday

• Women's Bible Study, Beth Moore's study of Daniel at Community Bible Church Fellowship Hall. All ladies invited. Call the church at 526-4685 to order your book.

• Open Studio Night Figure Drawing Informal instruction available for beginners. Bring your sketch pad or paint box for a leisurely session of figure drawing/painting. Cost is \$12, \$10 for "Friends" of the Gallery.

Every Third Wednesday

• As part of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin's "Life-Span Learning Curriculum," there are "Wednesday Night Chautauquas" which are media enhanced study sessions at the UU 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.

Thursday, April 12

• The Macon County League of Women Voters is sponsoring a program with Stan Polanski of the Public Health Center. Polanski will discuss programs for seniors, health care for children, and other services provided by the health center. He will also talk about what is needed from the community - what it can do both personally and politically. Funding issues and other needs will be reviewed. The program is at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Franklin. Lunch is available at noon, by reservation. Call 524-5192. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

Tuesday-Thursday, April 10-12

• Volunteers needed to help at Highlands Botanical Garden prepare for 80th year celebration. The Highlands Botanical Garden needs volunteers a few hours at a time on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, April 10-12, anytime between 10 a.m. and 4p.m. This is a great opportu-

nity to become involved with the Highlands Botanical Garden, which is free and open to the public, year-round, from dawn till dusk. Stop by the Highlands Biological Station office on Sixth Street or call 526-2602 and ask for the location of the day's projects. Please bring gardening gloves, sturdy shoes, outdoor clothing, food, water, and a sun hat. Rain cancels. We invite you to the Garden and appreciate your help as we get ready for our 80th year celebrations and the season!

Every weekend from April 13

• The Highlands Historical Museum will open again this season from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every weekend through October. The public is invited to view the many exhibits relating to Highlands history and to view hundreds of photographs, documents, family histories, etc., which are now available on the Museum computer.

Saturday, April 14

• Why Knot Knit Highlands will present a Spinning demonstration featuring Marci Rheinschild from Wauka Valley Farms. Saturday, April 14 10-4:p.m. in the shop at Village Square.

• Hurricane Creek at the Instant Theatre at Oak Square on Main Street. Come dance the night away beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Complimentary wine, beer and mixed drinks. Call 828-342-9197 for tickets and reservations.

• Hike and Picnic 10 a.m.meet at the base of Sunset Rock to make the moderate hike to the top and get a picture with the Step It Up Congress banner. After the hike, at noon, there will be a picnic at the amphitheater at Highlands Nature Center for all hikers and anyone who would like to attend with music by Franklin musician, Susie Best. There will also be plenty of food donated by local restaurants and businesses, including Brick Oven, Cyprus Restaurant, Fressers Eatery and The Kitchen of Let Holly Do the Cooking. Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance is co-sponsoring this event and will be providing sodas and water for the picnic.

Sunday, April 15

• The Reverend Canon David C. Anderson, president of the American Anglican Council in Atlanta, GA., will preach at the Christ Anglican service at the Highlands Community Center on U.S. 64 east at 11 a.m.

Tuesday, April 17

• The Center for Life Enrichment is presenting a lecture by Breta Stroud about the important environmental issue of global warming 5:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Friday, April 20

• Senior Luncheon at the Rec Park. It's free.

Saturday, April 21

•Benefit for Milton & Pat Green at the Highlands Rec Park 5-9 p.m. BBQ & hot dogs, raffle, silent auction & cake auction.

Music by His Destiny, The White Sisters, Upward Bound-The Bowman Family, Oliver Rice & the Blue Ridge Mountain Band.

• Earth Day litter sweep begins at 9 a.m. Meet at Highlands Rec Park for an assignment. DOT provides needed gloves, reflective vests and trash bags. The National Forest Service and the Town of Highlands assist in picking up the litter bags from the roadside and disposing of them.

• Earth Day Fair on the green in Cashiers. Rain or shine. 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.Rain or Shine. Lots of fun events and booths for all ages.

• Highlands-Cashier Hospital FREE Health Screenings. re-registration is required for all screenings. People can sign up by calling the hospital at 526-1434, or by completeing the registration form on line at www.highlandscashiershospital.org

Sunday, April 22

• The Reverend Paul F. Blankinship, assistant, All Saints Anglican Church, in Asheville, will preach 11 a.m. at the Highlands Community Center on U.S. 64 east at Christ Anglican Church.

Tuesday, April 24

• Highlands Visitor Center is hosting an Open House, from 4 -6 pm. There will be complimentary hotdogs, chips, and soda. Stop in and see our new office located on Main Street across from Reeves Hardware. For more information call 526-2112.

Thursday, April 26

• Swanson Vineyards Wine dinner at OEI's The Farm.Each dinner is \$169 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Reception begins at 6 p.m. and guests will be seated for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited, and advance reservations are required. Call 828-787-2604.

Sunday, April 29

• The Right Reverend Alex D. Dickson, First Baptist of West Tennessee, of Charleston, S.C., will preach at the Christ Anglican service at the Highlands Community Center at 11 a.m.

Thur., May 10 thru Sun., May 13

•HCP's 'Enchanted April,' is at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Opening Night Reception, Thursday night is being catered by Wolfgang's On Main. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m. Call: 526-8084 for reservations. Enchanted April is sponsored in part by "The Galleries," Summit One Gallery and Drake's Diamond Gallery. The box office opens for season subscribers on May 3 and for the public on May 5.

Fri., May 17 thru Sun., May 20.

•HCP's 'Enchanted April' is at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m. Call: 526-8084 for reservations. Enchanted April is sponsored in part by "The Galleries," Summit One Gallery and Drake's

•See EVENTS page 22

Ruby Cinemas

Playing April 13-19

DISTURBIA rated PG-13

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

FIREHOUSE DOG rated PG

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

BLADES OF GLORY rated PG-13

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

MEET THE ROBINSONS rated G

Fri: (4:10), 7, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:10), 7, 9:10
Mon - Thurs: (4:10), 7

WILD HOGS rated PG-13

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

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Diamond Gallery. The box office opens for season subscribers on May 3 and for the public on May 5.

Saturday, May 19

• Highlands-Cashier Hospital FREE Health Screenings. Re-registration is required for all screenings. People can sign up by calling the hospital at 526-1434, or by completing the registration form on line at www.highlandscashiershospital.org

Thursday, May 24

• Wine Tasting 6-8 p.m. at the Bascom-Louise Gallery.

Saturday, May 26

• Groundbreaking of Fine Arts Center 11 a.m.-2 p.m.. Barbeque, Music and Fun

• Village Square Art and Craft Show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Food available.

• The Mountain Garden Club plant sale will be held 9 a.m.-1 p.m., May 26, at the baseball park on the corner of Highway 64 East (North 4th Street) and Hickory Street in Highlands.

Thursday, June 28

• Lambert Bridge Vineyards Wine dinner at OEI's The Farm. Each dinner is \$169 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Reception begins at 6 p.m. and guests will be seated for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited, and advance reservations are required. Call 828-787-2604.

Monday-Friday, July 9-13

• 4th Annual Challenger Soccer camp this summer. Half-day camps available for all ages from 3-16 and full-day camps for children 10 and older. For more information on registration or camp you may call Christy Nix Weller at 526-9931 or you may also contact Tony Esterwood at 524-1928. Register for camp at www.challengersports.com, 45 days prior to camp to receive a free challenger soccer jersey!

Thursday, July 12

• Fine Art Center Patron Party

Friday & Saturday, July 13-14

• Garden Festival for Fine Art Center

Thursday, Aug. 23

• Caymus Vineyards Wine dinner at OEI's The Farm. Each dinner is \$169 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Reception begins at 6 p.m. and guests will be seated for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited, and advance reservations are required. Call 828-787-2604.

Saturday, Aug. 25

• Highlands-Cashier Hospital FREE Health Screenings. re-registration is required for all screenings. People can sign up by calling the hospital at 526-1434, or by completing the registration form on line at www.highlandscashiershospital.org

Sunday, Sept. 9

• Bel Canto sponsored by the Fine Art Center.

Saturday, Sept. 21

• Highlands-Cashier Hospital FREE Health Screenings. re-registration is required for all screenings. People can sign up by calling the hospital at 526-1434, or by completing the registration form on line at www.highlandscashiershospital.org

Friday, Oct. 5

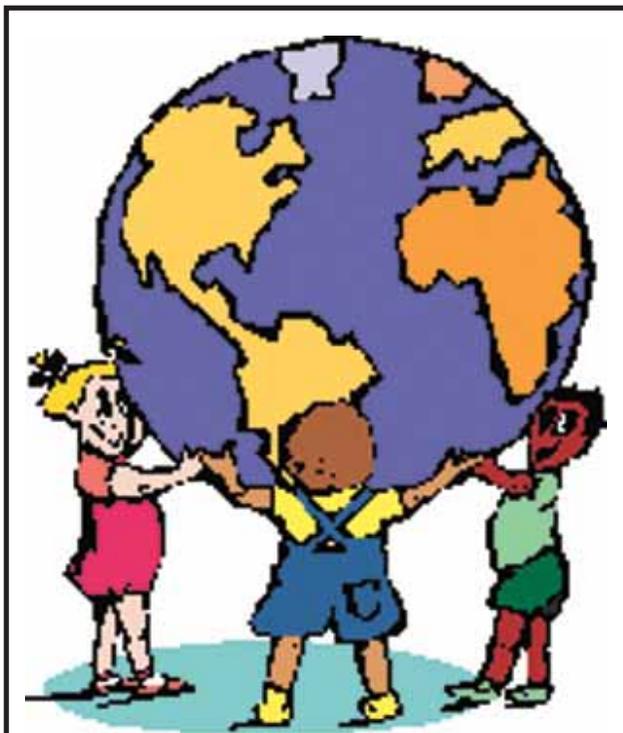
• Collect Spirits Auction at Fine Art Center.

Thursday, Oct. 18

• Steele/Shooting Star Vineyards Wine dinner at OEI's The Farm. Each dinner is \$169 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Reception begins at 6 p.m. and guests will be seated for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited, and advance reservations are required. Call 828-787-2604.

Thursday, Nov. 8 — Sunday, Nov. 11

• The Chamber of Commerce presents "Cooking Central" at the First Annual Highlands Culinary Weekend. Highlands area restaurants, accommodations, and merchants will partner to present instructional culinary courses/classes, tastings, and outdoor activities. Call 866-526-5841 or 526-5841.



'Celebrate Earth Day in the Mountains 2007'

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Jackson Macon Conservation Alliance, Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association, and Whole Life Market are hosting the annual Earth Day celebration at the Village Green in Cashiers on Saturday, April 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is FREE and will be held rain or shine.

"Celebrate Earth Day in the Mountains" will feature live music, interactive demonstrations, and food provided by Church of the Good Shepherd's Youth Group. There will be games for the young and the young at heart.

The event is an opportunity for local organizations and businesses to showcase their environmental interests. If your organization or business would like to participate, please contact Whole Life Market at 526-5999, or stop in to pick up a reservation form. The deadline to reserve space is this Friday, April 13. Space is offered on a first come, first served basis! Commercial sales will not be permitted at this event.

The year 2007 marks the 36th anniversary of Earth Day, an event that is celebrated worldwide. While land use patterns are shifting and natural resources are becoming more and more threatened, there has never been a better time to show appreciation for the uniqueness and natural beauty of the western North Carolina mountains!

Join us on Saturday, April 21 to celebrate the earth and learn about what is happening locally to protect it. For more information please contact any of the above listed organizations.

Hike & picnic to raise environmental awareness

'Step It Up Congress:
Cut Carbon 80% by 2050'

Want to enjoy a great day outdoors with your family? Are you concerned about our environment and would like to know more about the growing problem of climate change? Then come to Highlands to join a swelling national movement called Step It Up 2007, the biggest environmental movement since the original Earth Day in 1970.

On April 14, tens of thousands of Americans will come together all across the country with one goal: to cut carbon emissions by 80% by the year 2050. This movement originated in Vermont with a group of people who thought it was time to ask Congress to "Step It Up" and create legislation that would begin to tackle the growing crisis of climate change. Their original plan was to organize a march in Washington to put pressure on our elected officials to address this issue. Then, they had a better idea: Instead of having tens of thousands of people drive to Washington, why not ask people to organize their own events right where they are, in their home towns? With this more grassroots approach, not only would more people be able to participate in this historic event, but it would also save 1000's of tons of carbon dioxide from being emitted along the way!

So they rethought their plan, created a website and asked for just that, volunteer organizers from around the USA — and the response has been fantastic. There are over 1,300 events planned all over the country, including a dive to endangered coral reefs off Key West, an event at the levees in New Orleans, and a climb atop the melting glaciers on Mt. Rainer. The common thread of all these events will be that a photo will be taken of all participants at each site, holding a banner that reads: "Step It Up Congress: Cut Carbon 80% by 2050." These photos will then be uploaded to the Step It Up website and linked together electronically via the web, creating the largest protest our country has ever seen, not in numbers but in extent!

Highlands has also answered this call. At 10 a.m. this Saturday, April 14, folks from all around the area will meet at the base of Sunset Rock to make the moderate hike to the top and get a picture with our banner, made by Highlands' own Karen Hawk. After the hike, there will be a picnic around noon at the beautiful, natural amphitheater at Highlands Nature Center for all hikers and anyone who would like to attend with music by Franklin musician, Susie Best. There will also be plenty of food donated by local restaurants and businesses, including Brick Oven, Cyprus Restaurant, Fressers Eatery and The Kitchen of Let Holly Do the Cooking. Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance is co-sponsoring this event and will be providing sodas and water for the picnic.

So bring your friends and family to this important event and enjoy a fun-filled day outdoors while helping to preserve what makes our area so unique—the natural beauty that surrounds us each day. For more information, contact Breta Stroud at 828-342-0076.

County commissioners agree to fund repairs at Franklin High School prior to next budget

Some funding requested for repairs at Franklin High School for the 2007-2008 budget, will be distributed within the current budget cycle, instead.

At Commissioner Ronnie Beale's urging, the board agreed to fund the money needed to build a handicap-accessible bathroom (ADA), repair the track damaged during Hurricanes Ivan and Frances and outfit the bleachers with seatbacks at Monday night's meeting.

"These are safety and liability issues," said Beale. "I can't believe we have a 1,200 capacity stadium and no ADA bathroom."

Without backs on the bleachers, Commissioner Jim Davis said it's just plain lucky that an accident hasn't happened in the bleachers and the county hasn't suffered a lawsuit.

The county will be refunded money from the school board once public school funds come in from the state, but meanwhile the county will supply the money needed to begin work immediately.

The state's public school building capital fund will supply \$335,305.34 of the funds needed; the county's match is \$11,000. Most of those funds will be spent on the bathroom and gymnasium repairs and renovations.

Another \$170,000 is needed to repair the track and renovate the bleachers.

"The money the Board of Education is short and needs now will be included in its budget this upcoming year," said Beale. "With the funds we give them now, they can begin the work as soon as school is out and have it close to completed before school starts in the fall."

County Manager Sam Greenwood was against the idea.

"You are spending funds that constitute the reserve on which we need to base capital funding for the future," he said. "You have to be careful about what you prioritize. We are caught between county finances and state robbery, so pay particular attention to where your reserves are."

Superintendent Dan Brigman said the repairs and renovations were a priority to guarantee the health and safety of students and members of the community.

Commissioner Beale said the money allocated for these projects which was needed before the next budget cycle begins, will be earmarked for these particular projects only.

— **Kim Lewicki**

• POLICE REPORT •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of April 5-10. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

April 5

- At 8:10 p.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 and Cobb Road was cited for speeding 55 mph in a 35 zone.

April 7

- At 11:15 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 44 mph in a 25 zone on U.S. 64.
- At 2:30 p.m. officers responded to a call of a loud party at a residence on Sherwood Forest.

April 8

- At 2 p.m., officers assisted EMS with a medical call at a residence on Satulah Road..

April 9

- Officers responded to a noise complaint at a construction site on Satulah Road.
- At 2:30 p.m., a motorist on N. Fourth Street was cited for driving without a license..
- At 5:50 p.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 was cited for speeding 52 mph in a 35 zone..

April 10

- At 2 p.m., officers responded to a noise complaint on Satulah Road..

• CLASSIFIEDS •

SLEEPER SOFA – Neutral Plaid. Like New. \$145. Call 864-972-8525.

MICROWAVE – GE spacesaver, 19"x12"x12", black. \$50. 526-5834

ENGLISH & AMERICAN ANTIQUES – 18th & 20th Century. Private Estate Sale by Appointment only. Call 828-452-4888.

HEAVY BRASS ELECTRIC HANGING FIXTURE – Six green, glass panels, 4 feet of matching chain. 22-inch diameter. \$975. Call 526-1773.

SOLID DARK OAK DINETTE CABINET. 19"x64"x84".3 glass windows on top. 3 drawers on bottom. 2 bottom doors with keys. Imported from Belgium. Excellent condition. \$1,500. Call 369-3250.

PETS FOR SALE

MINIATURE DACHSHUND – 9-month old male, red-short-haired, good with kids, CKC registered. \$250, OBO. Call 828-526-2787 or 828-421-0730.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1999 CAMARO – New tires, low mileage, 5-speed, 6-cylinder, excellent condition. Call 828-369-3619.

PRICE REDUCTION! -- 1993 LEXUS ES 3000 – \$1,400. Call 526-1789 or cell: 864-376-3216.

2001 JAGUAR S-TYPE 4.0 – Excellent condition. 98K miles. Still under warranty. \$15,000. Call 828-243-6447.

ANTIQUE 1926 MODEL T FORD TOURING CAR – Fully restored. Needs a new starter. Selling for health reasons. \$15,000 but will discount cost of starter and ignition work. Great car and lots of fun. Call Horace Duncan at 526-3760.

2003 DODGE STRATUS – red exterior, gray interior, 30,000 miles, AM/FM cassette, A.C. PW, PS, PB, clean. \$8,000 OBO 828-526-3257.

1991 SUBURBAN 3/4 TON, 130K miles, 20K on

Tranny, 350 V8, lift w/wheels & tires, good condition, never off-road, white/blue \$4350. Call 200-0013.

SERVICES

PERSONAL CARETAKER – Run errands, clean house, buy groceries, Transport to appointments. References available. Call Cheryl. 828-421-6685.

FIVE STAR CLEANING & MAINTENANCE – Light and detail cleaning, concierge services, openings and closings, grocery shopping, personal shopping, personal chef and table service, house repairs, improvements: lighting, plumbing, fixtures, tile, drywall repairs and more. Call 828-332-7201.

D.P. PAINTING & PRESSURE WASHING – Interior and exterior painting. Quality Work. References. In business since 1984. Dennis Perkins. 526-3542 or 371-2277.

YARD WORK & PRESSURE WASHING – Yard and property maintenance. Pressure Washing and odd jobs. Call Bruce at 828-369-3168 or 828 371-2766. 8/18

H & D HOUSE CLEANERS – We're the team for minor cleans. Dishes, bed, floors, & baths. Give us a call 'cause we are the Best!" 706-982-1994 or 706-782-0376

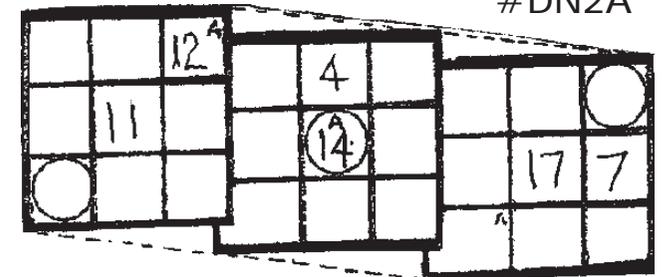
SCOTTS CONSTRUCTION 'ME FIX IT' – Decks, roofs, pressure washing, painting, lawn service, small electrical, floors, carpet cleaning, house cleaning! No job too small. 30 yrs. exp. Call David at 828-369-5886 or 828-347-5051.

C&C CONTRACTING – WE GET IT DONE – SMALL OR LARGE – Remodeling, decks, doors, windows or the whole house! Call Art Doughty at 828-508-1360 Workmen's Comp, General Liability, References

HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE – Atlanta Airport Shuttle. Drive - Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.

PseudoCube[©]

#DN2A



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.

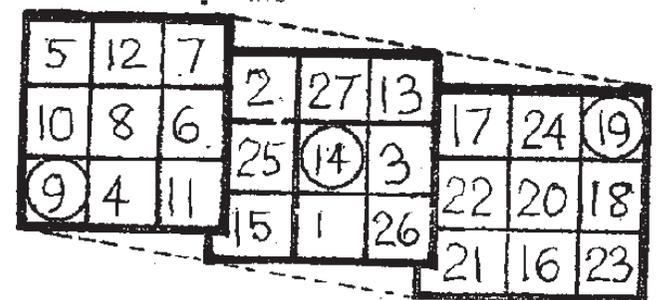
THE CHALLENGE:

Start with the three center numbers for each layer and two other numbers. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other 22 numbers belong. Good Luck!

The first correct solution emailed earns a coupon for a FREE cup of coffee from Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street.

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com

Solution to CZ2A in the April 5 paper



Find It All On This Map

Upscale Lodging, Fine Dining, Unique Shops & Best Realtors

Highlands Map

www.HighlandsInfo.com



Hurricane Creek Saturday - April 14th Instant Theatre



Mountain Fresh Foods



Wolfgang's Wine Spectator



Madison's Wine Spectator

MAIN STREET

FINE DINING	SHOPPING
1 Paoletti	5 Jolies
2 Madison's	6 Dry Sink
3 Wolfgang's	7 Silver Eagle
EATERIES	BEAUTY
4 Cafe 460	8 Pro Nails

Other Businesses and Landmarks:

- RB Centura Bank
- Gates Nursery
- Bryant Art Glass
- On The Verandah Wine Spectator
- Paoletti's Wine Spectator
- Exxon
- Wholesale < Down
- Don Leon
- #1 NAILS
- Fireside Restaurant
- Country Club Prop
- Helens Barn
- Fressers
- Regions Bank
- Images
- Warth
- Computer Man
- Brysons Foods
- Highlands Office
- RealTime Weather & WebCam
- Newspaper
- Main St Inn
- Baptist
- Drug Store
- Hardware
- Art Gallery
- Christian Scientist
- Methodist
- Bear Mt Outfitter
- Instant Theatre
- Griming Frog
- SportsPage
- Kilwins
- Village Kids
- Buck's
- Texaco
- AnnaWear
- Schiffli C.C.P. Realty
- Rest Rooms
- Town Hall
- Raspberry Fizz
- Schmitt
- All Seasons Mill Crk Gallery
- Why Not Knit Needle Point
- Drug Store
- Old Edwards Inn & Spa
- Acorns
- Presbyterian
- Mt Fresh Foods
- Country Club Prop.
- FALLS ON MAIN
- Cabin Casuals
- Century 21
- Creative Concepts
- Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals
- Nature Center 500 Yards >>
- Sunset Rock 500 Yards >>
- Hudson Library
- Bascom-Louise Gallery
- Episcopal
- Wine Dinner @ "The Farm" 4/26/07 * 787-2604
- Cabin Casuals Casual Sportswear for the Whole Family! The Falls on Main 828-526-3320