

FREE Highlands' Newspaper

Volume 5, Number 14

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Thursday, April 5, 2007

Notice:

- The Town offices will be closed Friday, April 6, so there won't be any garbage pickup. Town Hall will re-open Monday April 9.

On-going

- Registration has begun for this summer's nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. 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.

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

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.

Thursday, April 5

- Maundy Thursday at Highlands United Methodist Church - Passover Meal and Celebration of Holy Communion, at 6 p.m. Reservations are recommended.

Friday, April 6

- Good Friday at Highlands United Methodist Church - Stations of the Cross at noon beginning at the Catholic Church and at 7 p.m., Service of Darkness, here at HUMC.

- The Incarnation choir on Good Friday evening, presents Theodore Dubois' beautiful "Seven Last Words of Christ." This performance, to be directed by Fletcher Wolfe, will commence at 7 p.m. and everyone is invited to attend.

Saturday, April 7

- Live music at Cyprus: Zorki on acoustic guitar and vocals and Todd on percussion playing original music and classic covers by Peter Gabriel, Paul Simon, The Grateful Dead, and Traffic at 9:30 p.m.

- Annual Easter Egg Hunt at 11 a.m. at the Rec Park through age 8. Bring your Easter baskets!

Tuesday-Thursday, April 10-12

- Volunteers needed to help at Highlands Botanical Garden prepare for 80th year celebration.

Board approves RiverWalk changes

RiverWalk appears to be on the mend. With approved soil and erosion controls in place and working, the emotion associated with the project has dissipated.

Attorney for RiverWalk, Billy Clarke was at the Town Board meeting to request an extension

of RiverWalk's preliminary plat which technically expired November 2006.

"I'm here requesting an extension with some minor changes," he said. Developers have broken the project into seven parts and want to phase them in one at a

time instead of all at one time, which is why an extension of the preliminary plat is needed.

"Basically, as each phase is completed, a final plat will be submitted so they can build and sell homes," said Town Administrator

• See RIVERWALK page 26

New project planned near VZ Top

Developers for a proposed development on top of VZ Top got the go-ahead from the Town Board.

Ray McPhail and Will Stolz appeared before the Planning Board twice before going to the Town Board Wednesday night for ultimate approval of their preliminary subdivision plat and for three variances.

Six homes on an 11.77 acre knoll above the VZ Top condominiums are planned and will be incorporated on the old Smathers estate. The six lots vary in size from 1.174 acres to 2.223 acres.

Developers sought three variances concerning road width, road grade and radius to protect trees, embankments and to preserve the historic elements of the site which dates to the 1940s.

"We can keep the old elements - the stone walls, observation tower and park-like setting - if we can stay on the existing road system," said Will Stolz. "The flat park-like setting in the center of the road system will be preserved with houses positioned around the common area."

Before Mr. Smathers bought
• See VZ TOP page 26

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
43-22°F	40-20°F	44-25°F

Little League baseball begins



In the 7-8 year old league, it was the Diamond Backs, sponsored by ...on the Verandah against the Devil Rays, sponsored by the Pizza Place, Saturday at the baseball field at Zachary Field. Jake Calloway, with the Diamond Backs, got the first hit of the season which sent him to first base. Nest, Joey Harris hit a stand-up double that drove Jake home. The final score was Diamond Backs 3 and Devil Rays 1. For information on upcoming games call the Rec Park at 526-3556.
Photo by Jim Lewicki

Gantenbeins granted continuance

A continuance for a pre-trial hearing and subsequent jury trial has been granted for Larry and Michael Gantenbein, of Highlands.

Attorneys for the Gantenbeins filed their requests separately. Attorney James Moorman, III, represents Michael, and attorney J. Edward La Blanc represents Larry.

The new pre-trial date is June

19. The jury trial is scheduled for the week of June 25. The case will be heard in Covington, La., by Judge Reggie Badeaux.

Both men were arrested Jan. 5 for possession with intent to distribute 369 pounds of marijuana. The men were en route to Alabama from Texas when their vehicle was stopped near Covington, La.

• Inside •

Letters	2
Wooldridge	4
Another View	5
From Turtle Pond	7
His & Hers	8
State & Fed Politics	9
Conservative POV	11
Easter Cookies	12
Classifieds	22
Police and Fire	26

Clustering still an issue

The concept of clustering continues to elude clarification, but two other ordinances passed unanimously.

At the April 4 Town Board meeting, Town Attorney Bill Coward spotted irregularities and ambiguous statements in the proposed ordinance and suggested it be re-worked once more before adoption.

"Diversity and originality in layout of lots, streets and parking areas, what does that mean?" said Coward reading from the ordinance.

Planning Board member Patrick Taylor was in the audience and explained that it meant that lots would not be laid out in a linear manner or all in the same shape and size..

Commissioner Hank Ross said it meant that the developer would have a feel for the site. "It's designing the project with a feel for the site layout in accordance to the lay of land and natural features."

Coward said one person's idea of diverse and original could be very different from someone else's idea. "If this isn't cleaned up, you will be creating loopholes which will cause problems down the line."

The board agreed that was exactly what it was trying to avoid so Town Administrator Richard Betz and Coward will go over the clustering ordinance draft and it will be presented at the April 18 meeting.

The subject of non-conforming uses has finally been put to rest. Not to be confused with non-con-

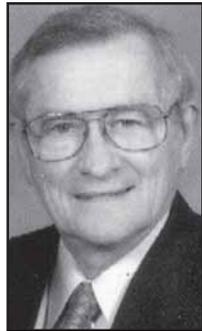
• See CLUSTERING page 27

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

• LETTERS •

From my perspective



Mayor Don Mullen

An important task for the town Planning Board lies ahead for them. That is zoning in the ETJ areas of the Horse Cove and Clear Creek areas. It must be done carefully in view of the different type properties which exist in the two distinct areas. We have a good Planning Board, and we can rest assured that understanding and special considerations will be taken into account so that all residents of these areas will be treated as fairly as they were in the other areas of ETJ which have already been decided. It is a matter involving both the whole community and individual property rights. The two cannot be separated. "No man is an island."

Congratulations go to our good friend Debbie Grossman for her award from the Girl Scout Cookie Cook-Off for the best three dessert creations in a competition which included many restaurants in Western North Carolina. We are indeed blessed in Highlands for having many of the best eating establishments not only in the state of North Carolina but in the country. Those who travel to our town can enjoy some of the best prepared food one can find anywhere. That too is a miracle.

In a sermon last week at the Presbyterian Church I was talking about miracles. It is interesting that probably the smartest and one of the most recognized figures of this last century had a statement to make about miracles. He said, "There are two kinds of people in this world, the ones who do not believe in miracles, and the ones who believe all creation is a miracle." The man who said that was Albert Einstein, both a scientist and a philosopher. As we see the spring burst forth this year I think most of us can attest to the miracle in which we live. In Highlands we are blessed with the miracle of incredible beauty. Let's keep it that way.

This week is Holy Week, and all of our churches and synagogues in the area have special services for this important time on both the Christian and the Jewish calen-

• See MULLEN page 17

What a revenue neutral tax rate really means to Macon County

Dear Editor,

Much has been discussed and written concerning the new property tax revaluations mailed to home and land owners in January. It is important to understand how your property is valued and why it is necessary to periodically (currently every four years) adjust the appraised value to reflect full market value. To ensure that owners of property pay their fair share in taxes, periodic revaluation allows for changes in demographics and desirability that are reflected in current market values for real estate. State statutes require that real estate be fully valued at fair market prices. Local county governments have no control over these statutes other than lobbying state legislators to consider other alternatives. (See State & Federal Politics – Senator Snow, page 9.)

County governments do have authority for establishing the millage rate that will produce sufficient revenues to meet the county's needs. General Statute 159-11 (e) requires local governments to include in the budget a statement of the revenue neutral property tax rate for the budget. The revenue neutral 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.

The rate is to be calculated as follows:

1. Determine the rate that would produce revenues equal to those produced for the current fiscal year. Using figures from page 116 Table 7 of the Macon County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the latest figures from the tax assessor's office, the revenue neutral rate is 24.4 mils, or 24.4 cents per \$100 of appraised value.

2. This rate is then increased by the average annual increase in assessed value of property since the last revaluation. That average increase is 3%. Therefore the revenue neutral rate including the average increase due to new construction and improvements is 25 mils.

It is important to know and understand how this rate is calculated and how it will impact your taxes. This is NOT a tax cut for county budgeting or for many citizens on an individual basis. For instance if your new valuation showed your property increased in value by 65%, your tax bill will increase by 11% if a revenue neutral tax rate is adopted. If your property dou-

bled in value you will see a 35% tax increase with the revenue neutral rate.

I believe it is critical that we adopt a revenue neutral tax rate and develop a budget that reflects the anticipated revenues generated by the new tax rate and property valuations.

There is talk of putting a referendum before the voters of Macon County to fund new schools and recreation upgrades for our county. To have a viable chance of passing a bond referendum, we must take this opportunity to present a reasoned and fair approach in response to the property revaluations.

By acting in this manner, I believe we will have the highest probability of a positive outcome when the people of Macon County are asked to vote on a bond request and its accompanying millage rate increase to build new schools and recreation facilities.

Brian McClellan
Highlands

Macon County Commissioner

Potential development could harm Needmore tract

Dear Editor,

The controversial plan to develop Dean Island in the Little Tennessee River at Oak Grove just above the protected Needmore tract raises environmental and legal questions which are certainly receiving ample discussion. It also raises ethical questions bearing on the concept of property rights as it relates to the welfare of the community as a whole.

In some respects, Dean Island is a parcel of land like any other. It has a legitimate owner whose right to restrict access or use by others would properly be upheld in any court of law. On the other hand, the Little Tennessee is in a certain sense the property of all who care to use it properly and respectfully - for fishing, hunting, boating, tubing, nature study, etc. The enjoyment of those uses by local people and visitors depends not only on clean water, but on the degree to which the visitor can feel that he or she is experiencing the natural world. Ostentatious development along the river infringes on these legitimate, healthy uses by the local public and the tourist. It makes the statement that the natural beauty of the Little Tennessee River

• See LETTERS page 18

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

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Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 526-0782

Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor – Kim Lewicki Cartoonist – Karen Hawk
Reporter – Susanna Hearn Circulation & Digital Media
Copy Editor – Tom Merchant Jim Lewicki

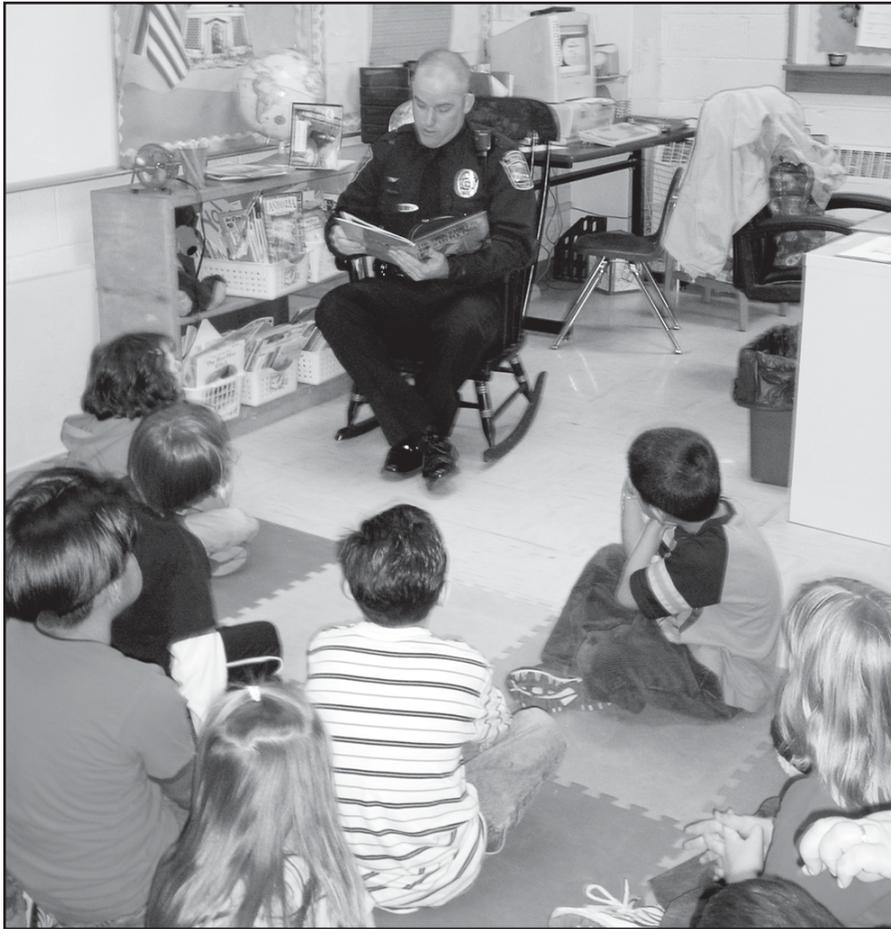


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265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

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Officers read to elementary classes



On March 2, Highlands Police officer Tim Fish went to the Highlands School and read to Ms. Chalker's Great Beginnings Class. Officer Fish read "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish" by Dr. Seuss. This was in calibration of Dr. Seuss's birthday celebration at the school. On March 15, Highlands Police officer Mike Jolly went to the Highlands School and read to Ms. Sizemore's Kindergartens Class. Officer Jolly read, "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs," by A. Wolf, as told to Jon Scieszka. Pictured above is officer Mike Jolly.

• THANK YOU •

From the family of Thanh Cong Le



Thanh Cong Le and his son

The Nguyen family deeply expresses their sincerest thanks for the tremendous outpouring of well wishes and support from Highlands, Cashiers, Sapphire, Toxaway and Asheville residents during this difficult time. The sense of community and its compassion has been an overwhelming surprise. They especially want to thank the personnel at Mission Hospital and the Rathbun house for the care and attention they have given Thanh Le his family and their gracious hospitality. The family appreciates your continued prayers as the road ahead is still a difficult one.

#1 Nails, MC Nails and The Raspberry Cottage Beauty Salon

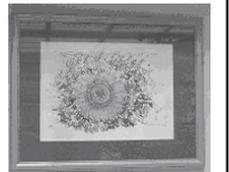
ESTATE SALE

Easter Weekend

April 6 & 7 • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Lloyd Flanders wicker



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MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY



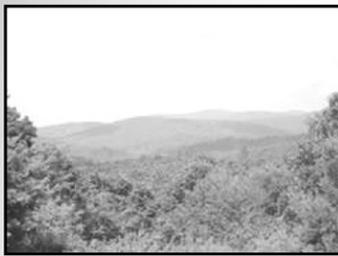
This wonderful mountain home sits on over 2 acres of gently rolling land and great mountain views located on desirable Flat Mountain. Natural wood walls, large stone fireplace, 4 bedrooms & 3 baths. Gleaming hardwood floors, built-in bookcases in the living room, covered deck for entertaining, 1 car carport, circular driveway and much more. Offered fully furnished. Makes a great investment for a small remodel and rental. \$539,000



Great location between the charming town of Highlands and Cashiers with magnificent view of the Cashiers Valley and the "Shadow of the Bear". The current owner has done extensive landscaping with terracing, outdoor grill, pond and fountain. Beautifully constructed with wood floors, wood ceilings and extensive beam work. Three stone fireplaces and 3 bedrooms 3 1/2 baths. \$1,695,000



Mirror Lake Cottage! The Laurel's Nest offers two bedrooms and 2 baths and has been recently remodeled and refurbished with travertine tile baths, hardwood floors, custom vanities and more. A separate den for an extra place to relax and a wonderful covered porch that is right off the pages of Better Homes and Gardens. Priced for you at \$399,000 furnished.



Wonderful home in Highlands Falls Country Club. Offering 4 bedrooms 3 baths, 2 lofts and an additional family room with efficiency kitchen and game area. Long mountain views, new kitchen with stainless steel appliances, new master bath with separate shower and jetted tub. Two car garage, Fenced in yard for the family pet and central heat and air. Priced to move at \$685,000



All one level living in this Highlands Falls Country Club villa. Live year round or seasonally with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, golf front views, two car garage and split floor plan. New roof and freshly painted this villa can be one of a kind with your furnishings and great style. Only \$555,000



Totally remodeled and all on one level, this cute craftsman style home features a large vaulted great room with a stone fireplace, vaulted kitchen and dining area, 3 spacious bedrooms with generous closets, stucco finish walls in the guest bath, and lavish master bath. Large yard for the children or pets to play in plus a 2 car garage. All this and a wonderful winter view of Shortoff Mountain. Priced to sell!!!

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

There's not a prejudiced bone in my body!

Ha, only kidding. Please don't call Kim to complain. She already knows I'm prejudiced so unwad your shorts. Besides, you know me; I would never put something in print that isn't true. (Har, har.)

I am not a bumper sticker person, but if I were, the sticker on my car would say, "Be patient, God is not finished with me yet." I love that saying, mostly because I'd like to think God is still working on my prejudices.

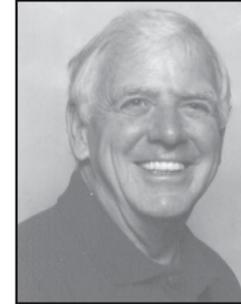
People are not born with prejudices, they are learned. I was born in the south, back in the '30s. My parents treated black people as chattel and I was taught to do the same. They were also not fond of gays, Yankees, Jews, foreigners or anyone who spoke funny which included everyone not from Kentucky. I was taught to be just like them. Most children keep their prejudices well into adulthood. I got out early, shedding a lot of mine. I consider myself one of the lucky ones.

In time, the word prejudice took on new meaning in this country. In the old days prejudice meant having a preconceived judgment or opinion without just grounds. It also meant having an irrational attitude of hostility aimed toward an individual, group or race. Pretty simple stuff, right? It's the "just grounds" and "irrational attitude" part of that definition that has faded away.

Prejudice can be personal. For example, let's say everyday when you leave your house, little green people beat you up. When you go home to nurse your wounds, little green people are stealing from your home. Let's say this happens often. You grow to dislike little green people and are leery of them. Seeing a little green person near your home arouses suspicion and hostility simply because your experiences with them have been unfavorable. You are now officially prejudiced against little green people even though you have just grounds and a rational attitude.

Now change the word green to black and POW, you are in serious trouble of being ostracized, chastised, and criticized by the dumb-ass politically correct police of this country for being a racist. Oh, and this is funny. If you sat down with my dad in 1950 he would have told you how much he hated the "Japs."

Six Muslims, waiting to board an airplane, decided to roll out their mats and



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged! email:

askfredanything@aol.com

pray. This freaked out passengers also waiting to board, many thinking the Muslims were notifying Allah they were on their way to collect their virgins. No one knew any of the Muslims personally, yet many passengers refused to board. Since the aircraft was now half empty, the Muslims decided not to sit in their assigned seats, which freaked out the flight crew, who also didn't know the Muslims personally. The captain was notified and the Muslims were taken off the plane for no other reason than they were Muslims. How does

that fit into your definition of prejudice?

A man went to a Yankee baseball game. He was a native New Yorker and a Muslim who looked the part. Security personnel found a combination, nail scissors and file in his pocket. They confiscated it which incensed him. Angered, he stood nearby and watched security personnel let women enter the stadium without removing one nail file or scissors from their purses. Were security personnel prejudiced against this Muslim New Yorker or were they just prejudiced against males? Or were they prejudiced at all?

Even weirder, when the guy headed for his seat, he learned it was "bat day" at the stadium and was given a free, full-sized Louisville Slugger as a souvenir. So there he sat in a sea of people all carrying baseball bats while his nail clippers sat in the trash can. How funny is that....not?

I think it's time to put the words "just grounds" and "irrational behavior" back in the definition of prejudice. Webster had it there and somehow the so-called politically correct police have removed it. Whatever happened to "common sense?" We have "just grounds" to fear all Muslims getting on airplanes. There are a well hidden, well organized large number of them out there trying to kill us by using airplanes. We have "just grounds" to search people who are Muslim more carefully than others, just because they are Muslims. This is not an irrational attitude.

Personally, I like the part about the Muslim sitting in Yankee stadium with his souvenir baseball bat. How about issuing bats to all passengers boarding airliners? What's a terrorist going to do about that?

• Read Fred's column while you're away at: <http://www.highlandinfo.com/newspaperdownload.htm>

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Hero or tool?

Pat Tillman died on April 22, 2004. For many of you the name doesn't ring much of a bell. Almost none of us would remember his name if the Army had told the truth about his death almost three years ago. The truth was tragic enough, but it was not terrible. It was just one of those things that happens in war, in the midst of danger, when fire rains down, explosions fill the ears, when terror and adrenaline take control, when training is forgotten and only the primal lesson of survival remains. It was under such circumstances that Pat Tillman was slain by his own men as three high velocity bullets slammed into his forehead.

If there was a poster child for the United States War on Terror, it was Pat Tillman. Pat was a fiercely competitive football player, first at Arizona State University, where he was selected an Academic All American, and later as a defensive back with the Arizona Cardinals of the National Football League. Pat was, by all accounts, a different kind of football player. He admired Winston Churchill, and read extensively. Although not a member of an organized religion, he read the Bible, the Koran, and the writings of Confucius. At one time he turned down a \$9 million offer from the St. Louis Rams to remain with the Arizona Cardinals for \$500,000. He explained that the Cardinals had given him a chance to play in the NFL and he was indebted to them. When his contract came up for renewal, the Cardinals offered \$3.6 million. Pat, instead, chose the Army.

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Pat and his brother Kevin joined up, successfully completed Ranger school and were deployed to Iraq. After he completed his tour, the army offered him an early discharge so that he could return to the NFL. Pat answered that he had not signed on to attract publicity, but to serve his country. He would complete his obligation, thank you very much.

Pat and Kevin were deployed to Afghanistan, where, in the fog of war, Pat was killed by his own men. Subsequent events have not been satisfactorily explained by the army despite four separate investigations. Within 24 hours, army commanders knew, or strongly suspected, that Pat's death was the result of fratricide, friendly fire. Despite this knowledge, a report of Pat's heroic action was fabricated to support of a



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

recommendation for the Silver Star, the nation's third highest award for valor. It was fiction. The death attracted nationwide attention and an outpouring of sympathy. A nationally televised memorial service was held.

With images of burned American corpses being dragged through the streets of Fallujah and of prisoners being abused at Abu Ghraib eroding support for the war, a real hero was just what the administration needed.

The Army created one out of the tragedy of an accidental shooting.

It would be weeks after the memorial service before the Army would reveal to the Tillman family what it had known almost from the beginning. At that time the Army may have had no idea that a hero's burial and a Silver Star would not buy the family's silence.

The army has undertaken four investigations in an attempt to explain the death and subsequent events. Pat's parents, savvy and persistent, have rejected the findings of each. They believe they know the truth, but want to hear it from the army. So the ghost that the army could have buried three years ago continues to haunt it. The most recently completed investigation, this one by the Army Inspector General, the equivalent of a civilian police, internal affairs department, concluded that nine officers, including four generals, are responsible for errors in the handling of Tillman's death. They remarkably find no evidence of cover up or intent to deceive, just flawed judgment. Pat's parents are asking for a congressional investigation. They think their son deserves the truth. They think they deserve the truth. They are angry that their son, who sacrificed everything in defense of his country, was used in a propaganda effort to drum up support for the war.

Lizzie and I argued over the value of Pat's sacrifice compared to that of other U.S. soldiers who died in the war. In every case, the fallen warrior gave his all. I just couldn't get over the idea that Pat had more to give. I hate to agree with the army. I told Bull about Pat, his sacrifice, and our debt to him. Bull, who had just turned eight at the time, said, "You love that guy, don't you Daddy?" I guess I do. I might have forgotten by now if the army had told the truth. I don't think Pat is any less a hero.

I had once met another recipient of the Silver Star. It was 1969. He was a

•See ANOTHER VIEW page 13

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The Moore family - Jerry, Kay and children Davis, Blakely, Anne Marie, and one on the way - are the new owners of Kilwin's on Main Street.

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 <p>Buy 1 Get 1 FREE! Any Style Fudge Slice of equal or lesser value Offer Expires: April 30, 2007 Good only at Kilwin's in Highlands</p>	 <p>Buy 1 Get 1 FREE! Any Style Brittle of equal or lesser value Offer Expires: April 30, 2007 Good only at Kilwin's in Highlands</p>



25 mils is the arithmetic equivalent of last year's property tax rate (37 mils) after allowing for the real growth in the tax base over the past year and after the effects of revaluation. This is the true REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE and this year's rate should be no greater than 25 mils.

No matter what the needs of the County are, there is plenty of money in the bank to meet the needs. As of February 28, 2007 the County had \$24,875,000 in cash and liquid investments. To meet the State average, the amount would be \$10,500,000. To meet the County's own standard, the amount should be \$12,000,000. No matter how you slice it, **YOU HAVE BEEN OVERTAXED FOR THE DIFFERENCE.**

Attend the Commission meeting at the Courthouse on Monday, April 9th at 6:00 PM, and encourage the Commissioners to support a 25 mil property tax rate.

This information is provided by your friends at ***FreedomWorks*** and the Macon County Taxpayers Association.

• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

The seven deadly sins are now virtues

A few years ago I read Kevin Phillips' *Wealth and Democracy* and a passage has stuck with me ever since. A research firm called SRI International had written that what were once the "seven deadly sins" — pride, gluttony, envy, sloth, greed, lust, and wrath — are capitalism's virtues.

I think this is a profound observation about our culture. For some time now I have felt there is a flaw in capitalism but struggled to find a way to express it, and this may be it.

Early in its history the Christian Church developed a classification system for sins: some were minor and could be forgiven easily but others were "mortal;" these carried the threat of eternal punishment. These mortal sins are the seven deadly sins and were obviously extremely serious transgressions.

A lot of art in the medieval era was devoted to warning Christians of the peril of committing one of these sins. To see the painting "Seven Deadly Sins," by Hieronymus Bosch (c. 1480) visit www.wga.hu. In Dante's *Inferno* (written around 1315) Dante Alighieri envisioned nine circles of Hell. Sinners condemned for the relatively less serious sins of the flesh (lust, gluttony, avarice and sloth) were in the upper circles, while those condemned for sins of the spirit (pride, envy and anger) were placed in the deepest circles of Hell.

Why did the Church consider these feelings so deadly? By looking at them in terms of relationship to God we can discover some answers. Three of them could be seen as choosing the material world over the spiritual: greed, gluttony, and lust all imply an unhealthy desire for more money or food or sex than the body needs.

The other four could be seen as sinning in thought against God. Envy means you desire something someone else has and you don't — in other words you are saying God made a mistake in your creation. Wrath likewise implies a judgment that something is wrong with God's creation. In medieval times sloth didn't mean general laziness like we think today, it meant laziness towards the things of the spirit. Thus it was a rejection of God. I had always heard pride was the deadliest sin. Pride means wanting to set yourself above everyone, including God. Isn't that the story of Satan: an angel who wanted to be bigger than God?

What do we think of these "sins" to-



Katie Brugger
kbrugger@hughes.net

day? Are they virtues to us?

Let's face it: our economy couldn't function without gluttony. The whole basis of our economic system is constant and increasing consumption. The first thing that might come to mind with gluttony is overeating. Most of us do our share of that, and it seems the entire American food industry is busy thinking up new things for us to eat and drink. We are also constantly bombard-

ed with new products that we never heard of but all of a sudden can't live without. Capitalism's theme: more, more, more.

Greed is enshrined as a necessary component of a capitalist society. I read a book a few years ago (unfortunately I can't remember its title), which argued the genius of capitalism is that it harnesses people's survival instincts, which are inherently selfish. In other words being selfish actually makes the economy work. How lovely!

What would music videos, movies, television, and advertising do without lust? Sexual desire is one of the main foundations of our media culture.

Certainly many of us are guilty of sloth in the medieval sense of neglecting our relationship with the Divine. But I would imagine that most people would say sloth is one sin they can't be accused of in the modern sense of the word: statistically, Americans work harder than people in any other developed country. However, sloth is many people's goal in life. The ideal rich and famous lifestyle involves a whole lot of doing nothing. Recently I watched the TV series "Brideshead Revisited" and the sloth of the wealthy was incredible. These rich people did nothing except lounge around, hunt foxes, and dress for dinner.

Envy is another engine driving the economy. The TV show "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" perhaps typifies this sin/virtue, but the entire celebrity worship culture is an envy-machine.

Wrath, or anger, might seem on the surface to be the one sin that is still a sin, but not really. Modern psychology teaches that it isn't healthy to bottle up anger, we need to express our rage, there is such a thing as healthy anger, etc.

Today it is believed that without pride in self you cannot be healthy. Pride is currently defined as "a sense of one's own proper dignity or value; self-respect." We're told to have pride in ourselves, our school, our town, our coun-

•See BRUGGER page 8

Highlands United Methodist Church Holy Week Services

Thursday, April 5
Passover Meal and Holy Communion –
6 p.m.



Gather around tables to celebrate the traditional Passover meal together. Jesus and his disciples were celebrating Passover that night in the Upper Room. After the Passover celebration, participate in Holy Communion and the ritual of washing one another's hands as Jesus washed the disciples' feet. This is a very special and participatory service. It is especially meaningful for children. Because of limited space in the fellowship hall, we recommend reservations. Childcare provided for younger children.

Friday, April 6
Good Friday
Stations of the Cross – Noon
(An Ecumenical gathering of Highlands churches)

Beginning at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church, walk through Highlands, stopping at various places to read the stations of the cross. The procession carries a cross and sings familiar hymns as they move. It takes about 30-45 minutes and finishes at First Baptist Church. If it is raining, bring an umbrella.

Service of Darkness – 7 p.m.

This service in the sanctuary, remembers the crucifixion. It is always a very powerful service of music and scripture. Childcare will be provided.

Sunday, April 8
Easter Sunday – 8:30 and 11 worship services

Covered Dish Breakfast – 9:45 a.m.
Children's Egg Hunt and Devotion – 10 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord! A nursery is provided.



Highlands United Methodist Church
315 Main Street • Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-3376

... BRUGGER continued from page 7

try. We're positively bulging with pride.

Before I started writing this I didn't know there was an opposing set of "seven heavenly virtues:" faith, hope, charity, fortitude, justice, temperance, prudence. Imagine an economic system built on these — maybe hard, but surely not impossible!

The medieval church also posited

remedies for the seven deadly sins. Humility cures pride. Kindness cures envy. Abstinence cures gluttony. Chastity cures lust. Patience cures wrath. Liberality cures greed. Diligence cures sloth.

I can envision a future in which our economy is based on kindness and liberality. Can you?

• HIS & HERS •

Charlie and Rosie are scum

I've been writing for publications for 50 years. I have never before referred to a fellow citizen as "scum." Growing up, I was taught that all human beings have worth, and that even "bad" people have some virtues. So, what could possibly make me call Charlie Sheen and Rosie O'Donnell, scum?



Michelle Mead & John Armor
 michiemead@aol.com
 John_Armor@yale.edu

is a brilliantly patched-together stew of all kinds of misconceptions, misquotes and real mistakes about how things really worked on that day." So the idea that 9/11 was a vicious U.S. plot is nonsense. I've spent decades writing about political nonsense without calling those who hold such views, scum.

These two people are backing an effort to recut, with Sheen narrating, an existing video about 9/11 called "Loose Change," and distribute it through Magnolia Pictures. In addition to the sitcom actor and the talk-show hostess, the other players may be Mark Cuban, an eccentric and sometimes out-of-control multi-millionaire who owns Magnolia, the Dallas Mavericks, and various other pricey baubles. (An article on wchs.com on 22 March, 2007, by Andrew Kirtzman, provided many of the facts for this column.) Let's have a look at what the original film contains. Here are two lines from the narration of that film: "If the government is lying about flight 93, is it hard to believe the rest is a lie?" And, this: "I know it's hard to imagine the government would intentionally murder almost 3,000 innocent people, but once you begin to accept that possibility you can never go back to the 19 Arabs." Is the idea that there was no Arab attack using planes on 9/11 merely a matter of political opinion? Absolutely not. There are physical laws on such matters as high-speed impact, high temperature fires, failure of steel and other materials under such stresses. And the collapse of the two World Trade Center buildings and the outer wall of the Pentagon on 9/11, all followed those laws. Sheen has backed this conspiracy theory in interviews. O'Donnell has backed it by reprinting the theories on her website. Cuban is backing it by saying of the film project, "we like controversial subjects." As a one-time physicist myself, I can follow the analysis of the hard evidence from what happened, as laid out in a book by James Meigs, Editor in Chief of Popular Mechanics magazine. Point by point he debunked the conspiracy theories about 9/11 being a U.S. government plot to get us into war. He concluded: "It

This is worse than mere politics. Barbara Olson was an acquaintance of mine. She was a writer, and a wife and mother. She was talking on her cell phone to her husband, Solicitor General Ted Olson, as her hijacked plane was flown into the Pentagon. My fiancée was two blocks from the WTC when the first tower fell. With thousands of others, she ran north through the smoke and debris, not knowing if she would survive. These conspiracy nuts are spitting on the memories of those who died that day, and all who were harmed, and all of their families, and on all of America — because the whole nation was the target of those attacks. Why would any Americans stoop to such a cruel and dishonest position? As usual, history books provide an answer. During WWII, there were a handful of people who hated President Roosevelt so much that they bruted about, and apparently believed, the conspiracy theory that Roosevelt knew about the Pearl Harbor attack in advance. They believed he allowed it to happen, in order to bring the US into WWII. The current conspiracy theory is even worse. Hatred for the Bush Administration has led certain people, including Sheen and O'Donnell to believe that this administration murdered 3,000 Americans to create a war. To my view, that makes Sheen and O'Donnell scum. Cuban may be in it merely for the money, not the belief, so I won't call him scum. Is that too harsh, or do you agree?

• About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu He lives in the 11th District of North Carolina. John and Michele Meade alternate columns.

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• STATE & FEDERAL POLITICS •

Senator John Snow

Representing the 50th Senate District of North Carolina: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood (Part), Jackson, Macon, Swain and Transylvania

As March came to a close, the focus of the General Assembly turns from the introduction of bills to debate and discussion over them. This week the most interesting debates have taken place in the House where they have been debating proposals to change the school calendar. As you will remember the school calendar changed two years ago to where it stands currently. It is not entirely decided yet as to what will happen with the school calendar. The only thing that is guaranteed about the school calendar debate is that it will be a fight right until the end.

This Week: The House's Calendar, Providing Alcohol to Minors, a Renewable Portfolio, Neighbors, and a Circuit Breaker

The House's Calendar

This week a House Committee debated a proposal to change the school calendar that would reverse the 2004 law that originally changed it. The proposal passed the committee 38-13 and now goes to the full house for a vote. One of

the most important reasons for changing the school calendar is to sync up the K-12 calendar with the Community College Calendar. This will ensure that high school students can take advantage of Community College offerings as they finish their secondary education.

In North Carolina we have a Constitutional mandate to keep the costs of higher education as low as practicable. By opening up our Community Colleges, so that students in high school can take the first two years of college level courses while gaining college credit for these courses, helps us fulfill that mandate. This means that a student and their family will only have to pay for two years of college and not all four.

As our world continues to move towards an economy that demands advanced education, no matter the profession or vocation that a person chooses to work in, this educational enhancement is a must.

Providing Alcohol to Minors

A very interesting bill was introduced this week in the House which would revoke an adult's driving privileges for one year if they are convicted of giving alcohol to anyone under 21 years of age. Over the last few years statistics have shown that the number of teens who are driving drunk is increasing. I have heard from sheriffs who have set up road blocks on a Saturday night tell us how in a four-hour period they have found 20 people who are legally drunk. The worst part is nearly 15% of those caught are underage. I am happy to report that the liquor industry is supportive of this bill.

A Renewable Portfolio Starting next week the Senate will begin to hear plans on the development of a renewable portfolio standard for energy production for North Carolina. Nearly all of North Carolina's electrical energy comes from either coal or hydrological pumps on rivers. The plan will require 20% of our State's energy to

come from other renewable sources such as biomass, wind power, and other methods that can be re-created. New industries and technologies are likely to come out of these discussions. I will let you know more about the plan in my next newsletter.

Neighbors

We all know that North Carolina is a wonderful place to live. In the last seven years the number of people living in North Carolina has increased by nearly 810,000 people according to a new census bureau report. Across the state this translates into 10 percent growth. The majority of this growth is concentrated in Wake County and Mecklenburg County. However, we are seeing our fair share of it in the west. One of the enduring challenges that we will have to face as people continue to come to our state is how we will provide enough infrastructure to ensure that our quality of life does not suffer. This growth means that in the next census that North Carolina could pick

up additional one or two seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Circuit Breaker

We all know that when we overload a circuit in a house that we'll trip the circuit breaker which will shut off the electrical supply and keep us from burning the house down. This week I have introduced legislation that does essentially the same thing for property taxes. When the property taxes get too high or increases too quickly the circuit breaker mechanism will switch on and stop the tax from increasing any higher. What drives property tax increases is the perceived market value of the property based on the opinion of the assessor. While we cannot control what the local market rate is, we can control at what point we'll quit using its growth rate to determine what the overall tax bill will be.

This circuit breaker is only available to residents of North Carolina who live in the home in which they are claiming the prop-

•See STATE POLITICS page 10

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Blankets represent hope and caring



Students of Mrs. Sabrina Cashion's Apparel Development class volunteered to put the finishing touches on fleece blankets for Eastern Star. The local chapter was participating in Project Linus, an organization whose mission is to provide love, security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need, through the gifts of new blankets and quilts. Eastern Star donated the blankets to the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department. The "blanketeers" above are Mrs. Cashion, Griselda Sanchez, Carolina Dias, Vickie Smith, Rachel Hedden, Sarah Hedden, Ashley Higgs, Paige Strahan, Haley Rice, Pamela Potts and Michael Nix.

... STATE POLITICS continued from page 9

erty tax exemption for and they must live in the house for at least five years. As a part of this legislation there will be some income limit requirements. Depending on income, the property tax rate could be lowered 4 to 5 percent.

The legislation does allow for someone to defer taxes on their property for as long as they or their spouse own that property. In

either case a homeowner will be able to substantially reduce their property taxes and should provide some very much needed relief across the district for people who are being forced out of their house because of the rapid growth and land speculation that is taking place.

• www.senatorsnow.com

Weekly update from U.S. Representative Heath Shuler D-11

Congress last week began working on three major issues affecting Western North Carolina – health care for those serving in our nation's Armed Forces, the budget of our nation, and the Road to Nowhere in Swain County.

With unanimous support the House passed the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act, HR 1538, to ensure that those wounded while serving our nation receive the care they deserve and can easily navigate the military's medical system.

The Wounded Warrior Assistance Act requires that a case manager be assigned to every member of the Armed Forces who is in an outpatient healthcare facility. The case manager will assist the service member in understanding their medical status; receive their prescribed medical care; and review the member's medical status at least once a week. All case managers will have to undergo a thorough training program

and will be assigned no more than 17 members at a time.

The bill also directs the Secretary of each service to conduct semiannual surveys of wounded service members on the quality of the care they received, adequacy of living facilities, and fairness and timeliness of the physical disability evaluation system.

Finally, the bill sets up a toll-free "hot-line" for reporting problems in military medical facilities.

These additional levels of oversight should prevent future incidents like we saw at Walter Reed's Building #18 where wounded soldiers were living in deplorable conditions including mold, mice, and cockroaches.

The Wounded Warrior Assistance Act passed the House unanimously and awaits action in the Senate.

The second big item was a vote on H.

• See STATE POLITICS page 13

• THE CONSERVATIVE POV •

What in the world?

As I drove through Georgia the other day, I was struck with the beauty of the greening fields, the flowering trees and bushes, the weeping of the willows. When I pulled into my driveway, I was met by flourishing pansies, budding lilacs and prospering azaleas. The dogwoods are starting to bloom which will make our home a dream world for a few weeks.

I find it incredulous that such beautiful gifts of nature can share the same planet with the ugly, nasty people whom we hired to run this country. I watch the news and see these frauds playing games with our country's future and I am appalled and ashamed at the base level to which our congress has descended.

Beyond politics, it is nauseating to me the role that entertainers have assumed in attempting to set policy in our foreign affairs. At a time when America's foreign relations are tenuous at best, we have people such as Rosie O'Donnell and Sean Penn spewing out their treasonous views on the glories of our enemies who have vowed to render us powerless as a country and culture.

I was about to get off the negative rut and introduce the Republican Study Committee as a ray of light in the otherwise darkening environment when Nancy Pelosi's trip to Syria was announced. The RSC story will have to wait.

I'm writing this on Palm Sunday, the day that Christ made a triumphal entrance into Jerusalem, soon to rejoin his father. It is a very meaningful day for those who share my faith. As I understand her itinerary, today speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) walks the streets of Jerusalem, arm in arm with Keith Ellison (D-MN), freshman representative and the one and only Muslim in congress.

I don't know what message this sends to me yet, I'm still sorting it out. I don't know what message this sends to the American people, but I'm guessing they wonder what she is doing there and what he is doing there.

More importantly, I don't know what message this sends to the members of the Israeli government, but she may find out when she addresses the Knesset. What message does it send to the Palestinians, with whom she will meet? And even more important yet, what message does this send to the Syrian government, the meeting with which is reportedly the main purpose of her trip?

Let's pick this story apart and see what we see. First, why Ellison? He will have



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

served in Congress for a total of three months by the time you read this. He can't be there because of his great experience in any congressional matter much less foreign affairs. Three months! He serves on two committees, financial services and judiciary. What has either to do with our relations with Israel and or Syria?

I quote from Wikipedia "Because of Ellison's campaign position calling for an investigation for the impeachment of President George W. Bush, his appointment to the judiciary committee (which has jurisdiction on these matters) was hailed by those in the movement to impeach George W. Bush." Is there a connection here? I don't know, but I'd bet these dots connect. Or is Pelosi putting the

Muslim member at the head of the line because of his religion? Is this a sign of things to come? We'll see.

Why Pelosi? As speaker, her duties are party-oriented and the operation of the House of Representatives. I searched the web and couldn't find a word about the speaker having responsibilities in foreign affairs. Her office says it is a fact-finding trip. What facts will she be finding addressing the Israeli parliament? Can we say photo-ops?

What facts will she be finding in meeting with the Syrians, who are, along with the Iranians, supplying and supporting the insurgents killing our people in Iraq? She'll find exactly what they want her to find and they will be lies. The truth is not in them. There are only two outcomes possible; nothing, or a loss for the U.S. She is walking into the lion's den and she is not Daniel. They will slice her and dice her, but she does take a good picture.

Now, I am no friend of the state department. I'm not a fan of diplomacy (read the Brits dealing with the Iranians). I have never known it to produce beneficial results for both parties. However, they do have a job to do and that is to deal with folks like the Syrians and the Israelis and the Palestinians, and I guarantee Pelosi will make their incredibly difficult jobs even more so.

Does the fact that her trip is during the Holy Week have significance? I don't know. She is in Israel during their Passover. Is her choice of timing meaningful in this regard? I don't know. I don't know what she's doing or why she's doing it (other than to dress up her resume). But I do know she is not going to spoil my joy in Easter and I wish all believers a blessed Easter as well.

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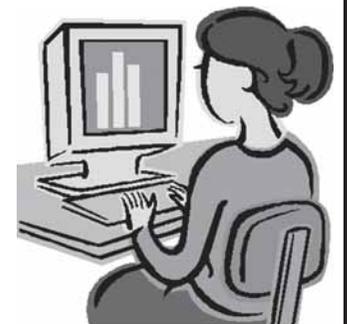
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• RECIPES FROM BRIGHT IDEAS.COM •

Kitchen inspired Easter joy

Warm spring breezes carry the promise of rebirth and new life. Spread the spirit of loving kindness this Easter season by making an extra Easter basket. Give it to someone who's not expecting it, or drop it off at a local shelter, home or school where someone is in need. This simple act of kindness will inspire others to pass along their generosity too. Fill it with treats below and spread the spirit of kindness

Spring Bud Cupcakes

Makes 24 cupcakes
Prep time: 20 minutes
Bake time: 17 to 21 minutes
Decoration time: 20 minutes
Difficulty: Easy

- 1 bag M&M'S Milk Chocolate Candies for Easter
- 2 cups chopped 3 Musketeers Minis for Easter
- 1 18.25-ounce box yellow cake mix
- 2 12-ounce cans whipped vanilla frosting plus red, blue, yellow and purple coloring
- 1. Preheat oven to 350° F. Line cupcake pan with paper cupcake liners.
- 2. Prepare cake mix according to package directions, folding in chopped candy.
- 3. Divide batter evenly between cups; bake until golden (about 17 to 21 minutes). Transfer to wire rack; cool completely.
- 4. Divide 1 can vanilla frosting into quarters, tinting one red, one blue, one yellow and one purple.
- 5. With remaining vanilla frosting, cover tops of cupcakes. Fit resealable plastic bags or piping bags with star tips. Spoon one color of tinted frosting into each bag. Pipe yellow frosting centers, and then pipe colored frosting rosettes around edges. Decorate cupcakes with coordinating colors of M&M'S on tops of rosettes.



Cookie Garden

Makes 12 cookies
Prep time: 15 minutes
Bake time: 10 to 12 minutes
Decoration time: 30 minutes
Difficulty: Moderate

- Assorted Starburst Jellybeans, M&M'S Milk Chocolate Speckled Eggs and Dove Chocolate Eggs
- 1 roll refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- 1 16-ounce container white frosting, assorted food coloring
- 12 lollipop sticks, small basket, Styrofoam or green floral oasis and Easter grass (optional)
- 1. Preheat oven to 350° F. Roll cookie dough to 1/4-inch thickness.
- 2. Using your favorite holiday cookie cutters, press out cookies from each shape. Press lollipop sticks into bottom half of cookies.
- 3. Bake 10 to 12 minutes; cool completely on wire rack.
- 4. Color frosting with a variety of food coloring. Frost cookies and press on assorted jellybeans and speckled eggs.
- 5. For display, press Styrofoam into a basket and cover with Easter grass. Arrange cookie pops by pressing sticks into Styrofoam. Decorate grass with sprinkling of jellybeans and chocolate eggs.



• All materials courtesy of: BrightIdeas.com

Area schools work as traveling b-ball team



This year, the coaching staff from Highlands and Blue Ridge schools formed a youth traveling basketball association (YBOA) team where athletes work on the fundamentals and skills of basketball after the "official" season is over. The name of the team is "Lady Bobcats" and it's a division 16 and under team. Four players are from Highlands, three from Blue Ridge, and two from Rabun County. Practices are twice a week during which players work on offensive and defensive plays. Front from left are: Celina Houston (Blue Ridge), Brie Schmitt (Highlands), Taylor Buras (Highlands), Marlee McCall (Highlands), Jennifer Savage (Rabun County). Back from left are: Coach Brett Lamb (Highlands), Kaylie Buras (Highlands), Bethany Wright (Rabun County), Stephanie Nichols (Blue Ridge), Coach Stephanie Smathers (Highlands), and Coach Jennifer Warner (Blue Ridge). Not pictured is Deana McCall (Blue Ridge).

... STATE POLITICS continued from page 10

Con Res. 99, the country's budget for the 2008 Fiscal Year. The budget took important steps toward restoring fiscal responsibility and balancing our nation's budget, including common-sense Blue Dog Caucus principles, like pay-as-you-go. I voted against this budget, however, because it did not contain specific language guaranteeing the protection of middle-class tax cuts. I am hopeful that as the budget process continues we will see important middle-class tax cuts guaranteed.

The budget passed the House 216-210 and awaits action in the Senate.

The final issue we began to tackle last week was finding a resolution to the Road to Nowhere. The people of Swain County have waited over 60 years for a resolution to this issue, and the federal government should not delay that resolution one more day. I joined with Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Senators and Representen-

tatives from North Carolina and Tennessee to announce a letter we have written to the Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne asking for a cash settlement between the federal government and the residents of Swain County, rather than further construction of the Road.

As a Swain County native, I have a deep and personal understanding of the issues that surround the road, but I do not support spending hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars and doing unknown environmental harm to build this Road.

The letter asks for a reasonable settlement which will maintain the undisturbed wilderness of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and save the American taxpayers millions of dollars.

Senator Alexander and I expect to hear back from Secretary Kempthorne soon and will then take additional action.

... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 5

lieutenant, a platoon leader. This is his story. I cannot document it, but I have no reason to doubt it. He had been evacuated from Viet Nam to Camp Zama Army Hospital, Japan, where I met him. His leg had been amputated, leaving such a short stump that fitting a prosthesis would have been difficult if not impossible. A glowing citation accompanied his Silver Star. It reported conspicuous gallantry and all that sort of

thing. The young lieutenant told me that what had actually happened is that his unit had captured a North Vietnamese soldier. His company commander, a captain, ordered him to kill the prisoner. The lieutenant refused. His commander repeated the order and said that if the lieutenant refused he would shoot the prisoner himself. The lieutenant placed himself between his captain and the

North Vietnamese captive. When he refused to move, his superior officer shot him just below the groin. The bullet hit his artery and vein and shattered his thigh bone. He was going home with one leg and a Silver Star.

Before he was evacuated to the States, I asked him why he was letting the army get away with the cover up. He was almost apologetic. It seemed that

he had used up his courage in that single heroic, defiant moment. He explained that people back home would accept a one-legged hero, but couldn't accept a one-legged snitch. He had to think of his future, he told me, and his future would be tough enough. I had to agree that the next 50 or 60 years would not be easy for him. So he took the deal, in another time, in another war, when people in the heartland still believed.

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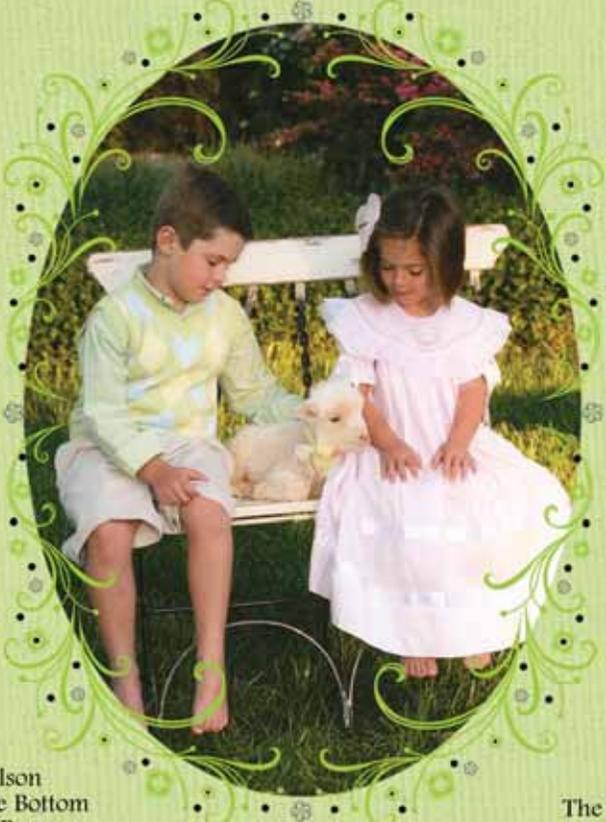
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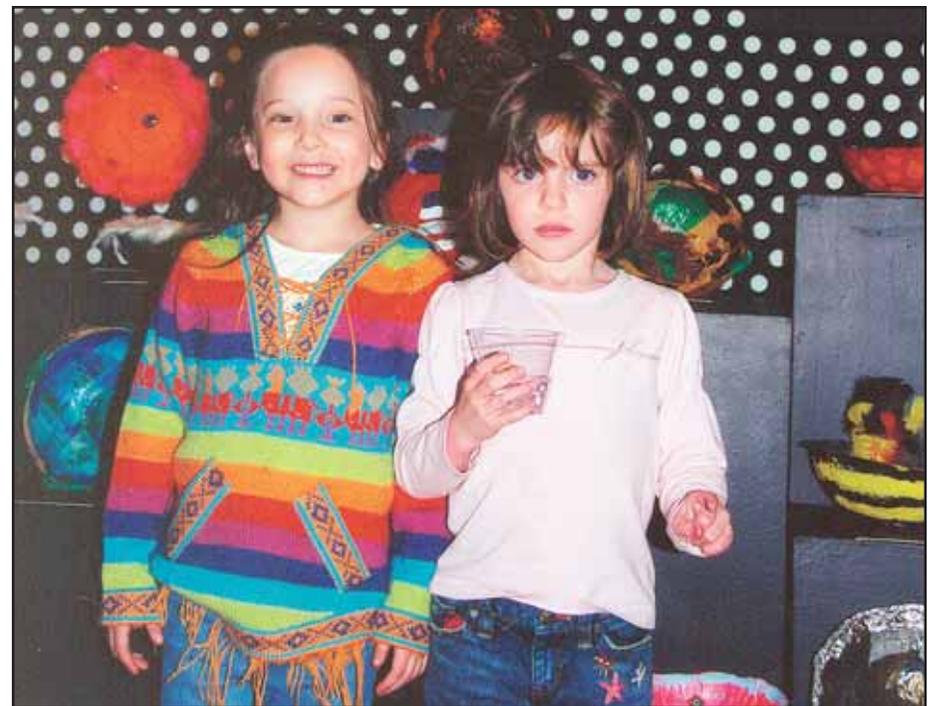
Contact:

Bob Boyd - JWB Realty Services, LLC.
Office: (770) 622-3050 Cell: (404) 274-5200
3400 Rivergreen Court Suite 500 Duluth, Georgia 30096

Young artists' work on exhibit at gallery



The culmination of the Young Artists Series at the Bascom-Louise Gallery can be seen at the Young Artists Exhibit, March 31 through April 12 at the gallery in the Hudson Library on Main Street. At the opening reception Saturday night, the artists' work was displayed. Life-size cutouts dancing along the wall were a big hit, as were the paper mache bowls. Pictured are Kedra McCall and Chela Green. The program is one of the many art programs offered at the gallery. Children's classes at Bascom-Louise Gallery cost \$5 per student. Mondays: homeschooler classes are from 1-3 p.m. and 2nd through 5th graders, attend 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.



Photos by Stephanie McCall

Volunteers needed at the botanical garden

The Highlands Botanical Garden is preparing for its 80th year celebration. Volunteers are a few hours at a time on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, April 10-12, anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. 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!



Tom and Georgene German, on the top of Laurel Knob, granted a conservation easement in December 2006 to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

Family protects Laurel Knob with conservation easement

If you stand at Rhodes Big View located at the Jackson-Macon County line on U.S. 64 east and look at the skyline to the east and a little north you cannot miss the vertical cliff face of Laurel Knob. This cliff face is reportedly the highest cliff face east of the Mississippi.

According to Dan Pittillo, retired botanist from Western Carolina University, the top of Laurel Knob is one of the finest examples of a sensitive rock outcrop plant community and dwarf montane oak-hickory forests in Western North Carolina. This forest is more than 200 years old.

This treasure has now been protected from development forever by Tom and Georgene German. They placed the 32.5 acres site into a conservation easement that will protect property from development for all time. This portion of Laurel Knob is not open to the public and is privately owned by the Germans, who hail from Savannah, Ga..

In a conservation easement, the owner gives away the development rights, not ownership, to a third party, in this case the High-

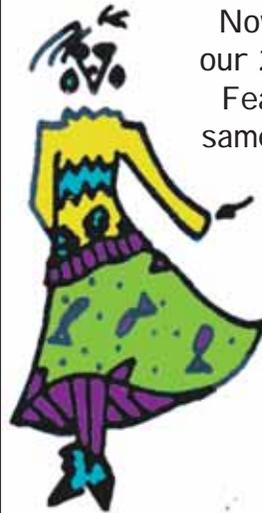
lands-Cashiers Land Trust. In exchange for these development rights, the owner conserves their property and earns a federal income tax deduction, a North Carolina tax deduction, and lowered property taxes.

"We are truly blessed to have an opportunity to preserve this jewel of Jackson County," said Mercedes Heller, president of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

Rock outcrops like Laurel Knob are uncommon and sensitive ecosystems. Some of the plant and animals found here are only found on a few rock outcrops in the southeast — their nearest neighbor is far to the north in New England. This latter fact suggests that these communities may have remnants of floras from a period of time 14,000 years ago when it was much colder in the Carolina mountains then it is now due to glaciers in the north.

To learn more about Conservation Easements contact the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (www.hicashlt.org) at (828-526-9938) ext 250 or email hitrust@earthlink.net.

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Save hundreds of dollars in tests through hospital's free health screening

There's still time to register for the April 21 community health screening being sponsored by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Admission is free and there are no costs whatsoever.

As in the past, the first Highlands screening will begin at 7:15 a.m. in the Jane Woodruff Clinic (on the hospital campus), however, this year it will be on the first level in Suite 104. Three other community screenings – all on Saturday mornings – are planned around the area between now and the end of August.

Core screening tests include height, weight, blood pressure, body mass index, and lab tests for glucose and cholesterol levels. There will also be a number of information stations and opportunities to talk with one or more

area physicians and other health care providers, including a free ear examination at most of the season's screenings. Free pneumonia vaccinations will be provided to participants 65 and old who have not received the vaccine in the last five years, or others who suffer from chronic diseases. The vaccinations must be pre-scheduled at the time of registration.

Pre-registration is required for all screenings. People can sign up by calling the hospital at 526-1435, or on line at the hospital's website at www.highlandscashiershospital.org.

Click on the screening menu, and complete the registration form.

Those registering on line will receive a confirmation email. Ap-

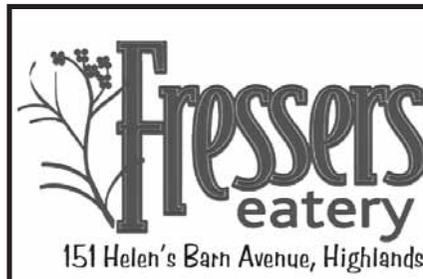
pointment times will be assigned as part of the registration process to help reduce lines and waiting times. As in the past, those participating in screenings are asked not to eat or drink anything but water after midnight the night before.

Confidential results of screening tests will be reviewed by the participant's own family physician (or another local physician if no family doctor is specified) before being mailed out.

...

There are four screenings planned for this year – two in Highlands at the Jane Woodruff Center, Suite 104 on April 21 and September 15; and two in Cashiers on May 19 and August 25.

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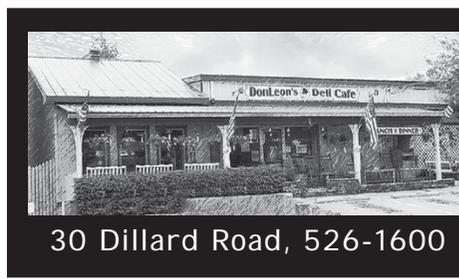
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Girls soccer traveling and playing hard



Even though Highlands School Girls' Soccer team made a valiant effort against Walhalla, March 27 they lost 5-2. Senior Allison Winn scored with a penalty kick. She got two during the game. The next game is April 5 at Murphy; April 17 at Franklin; April 19 against Brevard in Highlands; April 23 against Murphy in Highlands; April 24 against Rabun Gap in Highlands; and May 3 at Murphy. State playoffs begin May 9.

Photo by Noel Atherton



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businesses...let's repave
Hwy 106 during the
season...May-Oct. Whose
idea was that? Give 'em a
medal!

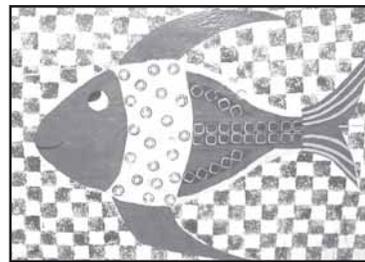
I'm DonLeon and that's
MY opinion.

... MULLEN continued from page 2

... I invite everyone to look closely at the times in their own places of worship which will have special meaning to them. As we come to the end of the Lenten season and approach Easter as Christians and the celebration of Passover as Jews, we have been through a period of re-evaluation of ourselves and our relationship to a Supreme being. Let us all hope because of this experience we can find ourselves better people who understand others and can relate to each other in a more full and abundant way.

One final note. Prepositions are sometimes the most important part of speech. One small change in a preposition can change the entire meaning of a sentence. An example of this happened to me last week in a moment of laxity. I made the statement both on the radio and in the newspapers that, and I quote myself, the area "on east Church Street... will no longer have two hour parking and will remain restricted to employee parking." The "to" was incorrect as very accurately pointed out to me by my friends Clem Patton and Hillrie Quin. It should have been that the area on east Church Street will remain restricted **from** employee parking. In other words, after April 15, no employee parking will be allowed behind the Presbyterian Church on east Church Street. A preposition can make all the difference in the world. Indeed, small things can mean a lot—a lesson for all of us. Be careful what you say and how you say it. It can make a big difference.

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... LETTERS continued from page 2

and its valley is just one more object to be bought and sold. It suggests that ultimately its use will be largely restricted to whoever manages more money.

This has already happened in large parts of Europe, where opportunities for public access for fishing, hunting, boating and other recreational uses of rivers are largely unknown. To me, one of the greatest points of pride in American citizenship has always been the concept of nature as a public good, available to all citizens regardless of economic class. It may be that ultimately our legal system will place private property rights ahead of the public good in cases like Dean Island. If that be the case, I would appeal to the owners of riverfront properties like Dean Island to exercise good taste.

At this point in history we are all aware of some of the transgressions of good taste committed by some very public figures. For the most part these crudities take little away from me directly. The statement implied by the conversion of Dean Island to a residential showcase is more of an affront. The implied message "I am successful, forget nature, look at what I have", is an insult to anyone who has, through accident or career choice,

failed to become wealthy. The development of places like Dean Island robs me of an experience I (and many others) find very valuable. I would ask the person who chooses to "develop" a site like Dean Island. Why? Knowing that need, properly defined, does not enter into the answer, I can find no reply which convinces me that adding value for a very few people justifies reducing value to the public—and damaging the very thing that supposedly leads one to want to be in that place.

So in the case of Dean Island, my first hope would be that the legal system will protect this resource. It is after all one of the reasons I moved to Macon County (where, as owners of a riverfront property, my wife and I deliberately chose to build in a manner which does not intrude upon the experience of the river user). Failing legal protection, I can only hope that the owners of such properties will prove to be good citizens, who care about the community, who will choose not only to protect the public good but to enrich their own lives by minimizing their impact on this marvelous resource which is the Little Tennessee River.

Bill McLarney
Franklin

Politicians need to end hunger in WNC

Dear Editor,

The U.S. House and Senate are currently considering Fiscal Year 2008 budget resolutions that would leave minimal room for growth in federal food programs such as Food Stamps and WIC. These are

the cornerstone programs for hungry Americans, and they provide food assistance to millions of hungry Americans each year.

The budget resolutions begin the process of the Farm Bill reauthorization later this year. Reasonable funding for the Farm Bill is critical to MANNA FoodBank and our 348 member agencies - especially the 115,000 hungry people we serve in Western North Carolina each year. Here in Macon County there are 29 local agencies that work with MANNA FoodBank to end hunger in WNC.

More than 35 million Americans live on the brink of hunger. A disproportionate number live here in Western North Carolina. One in six of our neighbors is at risk for hunger - *that's twice the national rate*. Now is the time to make investments that will reduce hunger in this nation and our community. At MANNA FoodBank, we believe everyone in WNC - and in the nation - should have enough to eat.

Join us in urging Congress to care for the people who are often voiceless in this great nation by adequately funding the nutrition title in the Farm Bill this year. You can take action today.

Visit www.hungeractioncenter.org to send a message to Representative Shuler and Senators Dole and Burr to let them know you want to end hunger in Western North Carolina. Let's make certain that our neighbors do not go to bed hungry at night.

Kitty Schaller, MANNA FoodBank
Pat Cable, The Banquet Table
Vanessa Bailey, MC Care Network



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For more information, call the Christ Anglican Church office at 526-2320
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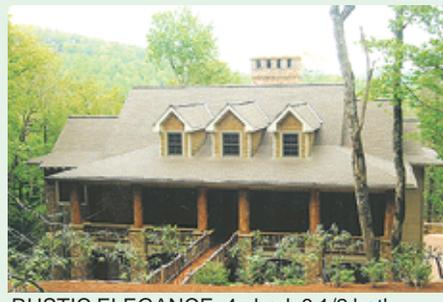
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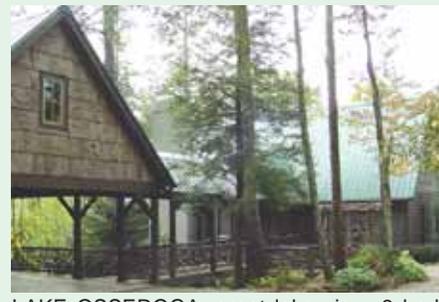
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Good Friday program features world-class musicians

Theodore Dubois' "Seven Last Words of Christ" will be presented by The Church of the Incarnation choir and soloists on Friday evening, April 6 at 7 p.m. This beautiful music masterpiece depicts The Passion of our Lord in a most meaningful presentation - It is a rare opportunity to hear this work performed to perfection and one which you must not miss!

Participating in this presentation under the direction of grammy award winning conductor Fletcher Wolfe will be an excellent choir and soloists. Accompanying the choir will be two musicians who also have achieved recognition on the world's music stages.

Organist James Mellichamp is a well known concert organist who is the Fine

Arts Dean at Piedmont College. Dr. Mellichamp will give a concert in June at Paris' Notre Dame Cathedral.

At the piano will be Robert Henry. Mr. Henry has won practically every national and international piano competition including the prestigious Leed's Competition in England.

Soloists performing this work are Micah Dingler, tenor; Emily Giardina, soprano; Daniel Burns, bass, and soprano, Molly McKim. Mr. Burns and Ms. McKim have just returned from Italy

where they were featured soloists at Venice's St. Mark's Basilica.

Come early to get a good seat as usually the church is filled for these presentations.



From left is Daniel Burns, Micah Dingler, organist Dr. James Mellichamp, Emily Giardina, Molly McKim, and pianist Dr. Robert Henry.

Dean David B. Collins to visit Christ Anglican Church

The Very Reverend David B. Collins, Dean Emeritus of The Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, Ga., will conduct Christ Anglican Church's Good Friday and Easter Sunday worship services this weekend. Services will be at Community Bible Church - Good Friday at 5:30 p.m. and Easter at 2 p.m. Dean Collins is one of several distinguished Anglican priests making a trip to Highlands this spring and he will be accompanied by his wife, Ginny.

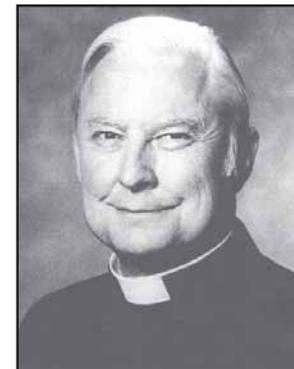
Dean Collins served as the 8th Dean of The Cathedral of St. Philip, at that time the largest Episcopal church in the U.S., for 18 years, until his retirement in 1984. For many years, he was one of the most active and visible leaders of the national Episcopal Church, serving as Vice President of the House of Deputies for nine years and than as president of the body from 1985 until 1991. Upon retirement, he and his wife, Ginny, founded Windsong Ministries which conducts renewal and healing conferences as well as retreats. Windsong hosts an annual conference that will be in High-

lands this year, Sept. 14-16.

Active in civic affairs, Dean Collins formerly served on the Board of Directors of Southern Bell Telephone Company (now AT&T), was president of the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, and was chaplain to the Atlanta Braves 400

Club. He participated in many international and ecumenical renewal conferences, including gatherings in Rome, Canterbury, Jerusalem and a number of U.S. cities. In 1982 Dean Collins represented the Episcopal church at a two-week seminar in the Anglican Centre in Rome. He is author of "There is a Lad Here."

Dean Collins received is B.A., and Master of Divinity degrees from the University of the south, Sewanee, Tenn., and served as a communications officer in the



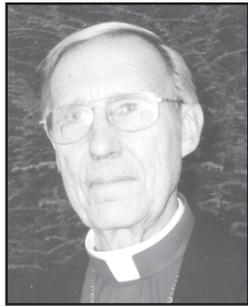
The Very Reverend David B. Collins

U.S. Navy during WWII.

Canon David C. Anderson, president and chief executive officer of the American Anglican Council, will be next in Christ Anglican Church's Spring Visiting Rector Series and will preach and celebrate on Sunday, April 15.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Who stole Easter?



Bishop John Erbeling

One of the better points of getting older is that you can legitimately say, "I remember when." I remember when the Easter vacation from school began the Thursday before Good Friday and was followed by a week off. Now it appears that Easter vacation for students has been replaced by a thing called "spring break." I don't know why the word "Easter" is no longer found in this vacation, but it isn't. If it's part of political correctness, then I'm not for political correctness when it eliminates the greatest occurrence in the life of Christ. Spring break has become an excuse for college students to leave home for warm and sunny vacation spots which are eager for their dollars and exploit the situation through elevated room rates. The college students (or should I call them "merry-makers?") celebrate this time of year not in the spirit of Easter but in the spirit of consumption. It would appear the more alcohol, the better. But I still ask, Who stole Easter?

In walking through a local mega-mart this week, I noticed the display set aside for this Easter holiday. It was a profusion of baskets containing everything from war toys to chocolate eggs, multi-colored plastic eggs, yellow marshmallow chicks, but mostly it was green plastic straw.

As hard as I looked through this display, I found not one reference to Easter as I remember it. I could not find one reference - certainly not in chocolate - of a Christ, of anything religious, expressing the real purpose of Easter.

I guess in the passage of time, we have so sanitized our lives that we deliberately avoid anything that may be challenging. We did that with Christmas, remember. Other than the displays of Christ in the manger in most churches and a few still-permitted public areas, we replaced Christmas with Santa Claus. Who could not like Santa Claus? What he has to do with Christmas in its true sense is far beyond me. Somehow we can't usher in Easter with the same fanfare we usher in Christmas. Macy's has not seen fit to have a "Macy's Easter Day Parade." And anyway, Santa has a sled which is the very last thing to appear on Fifth Avenue in the Macy's Parade. How outlandish would it be to think that at the end of the "Macy's Easter Day Parade" there may just be an empty cross! And yet I ask, Who stole Easter?

We have so many very good Christmas songs, popular because they really don't offend anyone. They're sippy and sweet and engender visions of sugarplums, men in red suits, reindeer, and all the world becomes a Currier and Ives winter portrait. I guess it would be too startling to hear our well-known Easter hymn, Christ the Lord is Risen Today, blared out in our malls as we

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 23

• 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. Erbeling, 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 - 2 p.m.
(Community Bible Church on U.S. 64 between Highlands
and Cashiers)
Tuesday: Womens weekly Bible study at 2 p.m.
Wednesday: Mens 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. Womens 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)

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

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HELP WANTED

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.

NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT AT THE REC PARK - Needed, lifeguard and rec counselors. Call the Rec Dept. at 526-3556 for an application or pick one up at the front desk at the Rec Park.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN! Become a Certified Nursing Assistant for Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Now accepting applications for out 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.

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.

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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

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.

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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.

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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, 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 High-

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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.

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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.

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

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING
continued from page 21

hear all the secular Christmas songs when that season is about.

I guess there really aren't any Easter songs that have ever made the top ten list like I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas as Bing Crosby did years ago. As I remember, no one made a fuss about that. No one seemed to care that it was about Christmas. It was just a song about nostalgia and possibly homesickness for the way things were.

Who stole Easter? No one did. You can't steal something that we seem to have joyfully given away. In the name of political correctness, we seem to have erased all that is traditional, all that is spiritual, all that is holy, in the name of not offending anyone. But may I correct myself? Maybe we have offended someone. Maybe that someone is God. Maybe we should rethink what we are doing. Maybe the thief all the time has been us.

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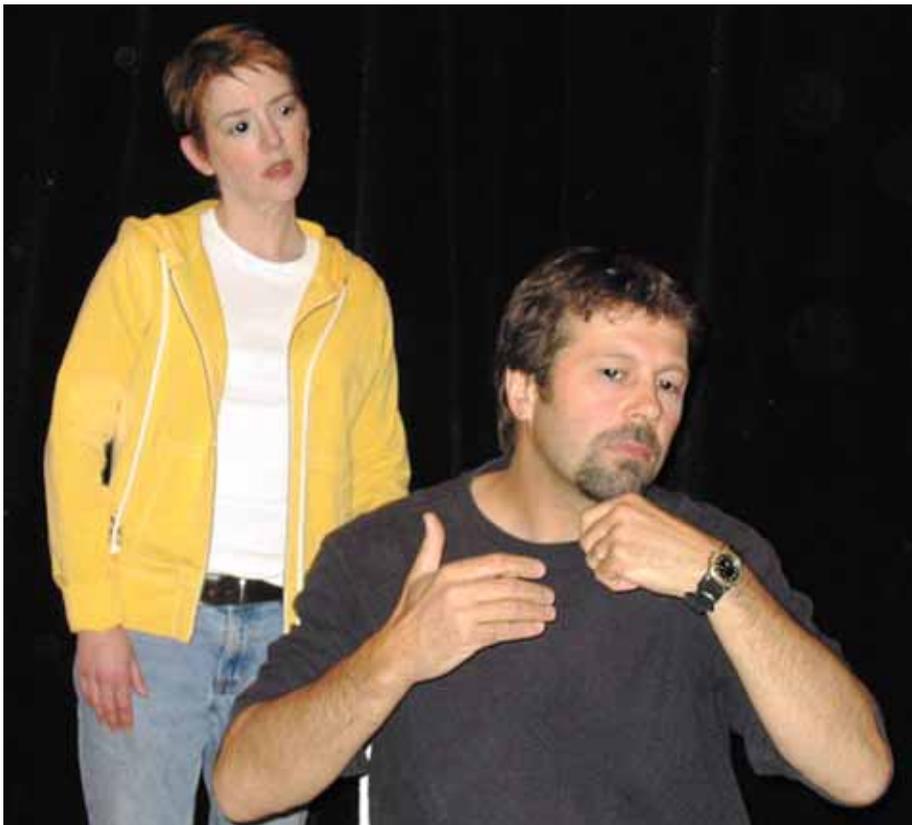
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

'Enchanted April' opens in May



Madeliene Davis and Jim Loring rehearsing the roles of Lotty & Melleresh Wilton

The Highlands Community Players (HCP) production of *Enchanted April* opens May 10 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. Written by Matthew Barber, this Tony Award nominated romantic comedy-drama will be directed by Highland's resident Ronnie Spilton whose past directorial achievements for HCP include the acclaimed productions of *Our Town*, *Steel Magnolias*, *You Can't Take It With You*, and *I Remember Mama*.

Enchanted April is a classic tale of rebirth and rejuvenation. In the London of 1922, four women, Lotty, Rose, Lady Caroline, and Mrs. Graves, are all leading spiritually and physically cold lives. To break out of this drabness, they decide to rent a villa in northern Italy for the month of April. The women do not know each other well, but as fate would have it, they need each other to afford the "small castle on the Mediterranean." Their overwhelmingly stale lives and dreary personal relationships underline their desperate desire to escape.

The action of the play then shifts from damp London to the sunlit San Salvatore villa where all four women learn just how much your point of view determines what you see. Amid Italy's freshness and healing sunshine, all that had been decaying in the grayness of London is given new life. The story, however, is more than a tale about four ladies sorting out their lives in Italy; it is a fascinating piece about the universal

capacity for life to renew itself as people rise above their hopelessness and rejuvenate their lives and future.

Spilton, as in her past productions, has assembled a multi-talented cast of local talent, including Becky Schilling, Madeleine Davis, Jody Read, Jim Gordon, Stuart Armor, and Shirley Williams. Gina Pauratore and Jim Loring, although new to the Highland's area, are not new to the stage. The creative production team includes stage manager Jenny King, production assistant Courtney Scarborough, costume designers Joan Levinson and Barber Werder, lighting designer Jim Gordon, and the properties/special effects duo of Sue and Jim Schulte. John Williams once again has composed original for a Spilton production.

The Highlands Community Players are known throughout the area as "the community theater with the professional touch." You will not want to miss their production of *Enchanted April*.

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 3rd and for the public on May 5th. *Enchanted April* runs May 10-13 and May 17-20. Opening Night Reception, Thursday, May 10 is being catered by Wolfgang's On Main. Evening performances begin at 7:30pm and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 pm. Call: 828.526.8084 for reservations.

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 5

- Maundy Thursday at Highlands United Methodist Church – Passover Meal and Celebration of Holy Communion, at 6 p.m. Reservations are recommended.

Friday, April 6

- Good Friday at Highlands United Methodist Church – Stations of the Cross at noon beginning at the Catholic Church and at 7 p.m., Service of Darkness, here at HUMC.

- The Incarnation choir on Good Friday evening, presents Theodore Dubois' beautiful "Seven Last Words of Christ." This performance, to be directed by Fletcher Wolfe, will commence at 7 p.m. and everyone is invited to attend.

Saturday, April 7

- Annual Easter Egg Hunt 11 a.m. at the Rec Park for ages new born to 8. Bring your baskets!

Sunday, April 8

- Macon County convenience centers will be closed and reopen Monday, April 9 as scheduled.

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 opportunity 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!

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

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.

Friday, April 20

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

Saturday, April 21

• 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. 10 a.m.

• 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, 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.

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 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!

Dance to Hurricane Creek April 14 at ITC



The Instant Theatre Company (ITC) is movin' chairs, rollin' up the carpets, icing down the beer and creating a dance space for a Sadie Hawkins Dance. Famous cartoonist, Al Capp, conceived the idea of a Sadie Hawkins Day back in the days when it was improper for a woman to ask a man out. For our Sadie Hawkins Dance women are encouraged to ask whomever they wish to be their dance partner. Everybody is going to be moving and shaking, and letting go to the rhythm and blues, jazz and rock n' roll of the super group, Hurricane Creek. The combination of this highly polished talent and the Studio on Main's moving colored light show and the atmosphere it creates is a unique experience.

The last two times Hurricane Creek played the Studio it was packed to capacity and people were turned away at the door. It is advised to make reservations early. Admission for the evening is \$20. Complimentary wine and beer and soft drinks are served with the best dance music anywhere. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. The band cranks up at 8 p.m. For reservations call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197. The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main is at 310 Main Street Oak Square in Highlands. www.instanttheatre.org

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.

• IN MEMORY •

Wayco Owens

It's been one year since the Lord took you home;

The love in our hearts continues to grow strong.

A husband, a father, a brother a son,
You are missed so dearly by everyone.
Although life goes on for us, now that you're gone,

The love we all shared will forever live on.

— With love from Audrey Owens and family. (Poem by Mary Ridgeway)

Ruby Cinemas

Playing April 6-12

Operating hours have been expanded to include four daily shows during the week of spring break

FIREHOUSE DOG rated PG

Fri:(4:15), 7, 9:15

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

Mon - Thurs:(2), (4:15), 7, 9:15

BLADES OF GLORY rated PG-13

Fri:(4:20), 7:15, 9:20

Sat & Sun:(2:15), (4:20), 7:15, 9:20

Mon - Thurs:(2:15), (4:20), 7:15, 9:20

MEET THE ROBINSONS rated G

Fri: (4:10), 7, 9:10

Sat & Sun:(2), (4:10), 7, 9:10

Mon - Thurs: (2), (4:10), 7, 9:10

WILD HOGS rated PG-13

Fri: (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

Mon - Thurs:(2:10), (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

Highlands Police working the 'Jack Vinson' case

The Highlands Police Department is working hard interviewing members of the Highlands community in connection with Jack Vinson.

Vinson, from the Cedar Bluff Road area of Franklin, is wanted on federal charges and is being sought after eluding arrest last week.

Police say Vinson has ties to Highlands.

"We are working feverishly contacting and interviewing members of the Highlands community about Vinson," said Police Chief Bill Harrell. "He is related to people here in town and has strong ties."

The Highlands Police Department is working with the U.S. Marshal, the Macon County Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement agencies in the manhunt.

Deputy U.S. Marshals attempted to arrest Jack Vinson, 53, last week at his home off the Highlands Road. As deputies approached his van, Vinson produced a weapon and fled into the woods. A passenger in his vehicle was unharmed. Several weapons were recovered from the van.

Law enforcement officers from the U.S. Marshals, Macon County Sheriff's Office, North Carolina Highway Patrol and State Bureau of Investigation searched the heavily wooded area for several hours without success.

Chief Harrell said authorities believe he doubled back to his residence and people there may have helped him escape. He is now considered a fugitive.

"He will eventually be found, but he is putting his friends, relatives and community at risk," said Harrell. "I wish he would turn himself in so no one, including himself, will suffer any harm."

Vinson is wanted for violating Supervised Release after a 2002 conviction on federal marijuana conspiracy charges in Texas. After his release, supervision was transferred to the U.S. Probation Department, Western District of North Carolina.

Vinson is described as being 5'7" tall, 160 lbs, gray hair, green eyes, and was last seen wearing a dark blue tee shirt and dark jeans. He is considered armed and dangerous so extreme caution should be used. Anyone seeing Vinson or someone fitting this description is encouraged to call 911 immediately.

... VZ-Top continued from page 1

the estate, it was known as the Rainwater estate the movie "Four Seasons" was shot in the 1980s starring Alan Alda. When the Rainwater home burned down Smathers built his home on the same footprint.

The town's subdivision ordinance calls for an 18% road grade, but McPhail and Stolz requested a maximum grade of 14%. Commissioners and Town Engineer Lamar Nix have long agreed the town's road grade percentage is too strict for mountain settings.

The ordinance also calls for 18-ft road widths with two feet on each side of shoulders, but many times variances are granted to preserve trees and environmental features.

"I have said many times I think our design criteria for roads particularly for small subdivisions is over-designed and too wide," said Commissioner Hank Ross. "I would prefer narrow roads with more room for shoulders."

The final variance involved a centerline radius of 150 feet to preserve trees and an embankment.

Nix said he took the biggest town truck he could find up to the site and drove the road system and there were no problems. He recommended the board OK the variances.

The board approved the preliminary plat and the variances with the understanding that a final subdivision plat, water, sewer, electric and soil and erosion plans would be forthcoming.

• POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of March 28-April 4. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

March 28

- At 8:40 a.m., a motorist at Oak and Main streets was cited for driving with an expired registration.
- At 8:27 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 and Webbmont was cited for driving with an expired registration.
- At 3:10 p.m., a motorist at Wahoo and Pierson streets was cited for transporting a minor without a seat belt.
- At 3:45 p.m., owners of Cyprus Restaurant reported \$1,099.45 missing from the cash register.

March 29

- At 2:30 p.m., a motorist was cited for driving without a license at U.S. 64 east and Poplar Street.

March 30

- At noon, residents of a home on Split Rail Row reported a coffee maker, lamps and drink glasses all valued at \$410 missing from their home.

Derrick Potts awaiting trial

Derrick Potts, 40, was indicted by the grand jury in Macon County, Monday, April 2 with his pending trial date to be determined.

He was arrested in early in November 2006 for felonious breaking and entering of Wilson Gas on Poplar Street and possession of stolen goods.

He has been in Macon County jail since Dec. 31.

... RIVERWALK from page 1

Richard Betz.

Technically, a subdivision is expected to be completed in one year and if more time is needed, an extension is supposed to be requested prior to the preliminary plat timeline runs out.

Since the plat ran out, technically it couldn't be extended, but in the end Town Attorney Bill Coward said it could be approved "now as if done then." The board extended the preliminary plat until November 2007.

The board's biggest concern was construction traffic on Cullasaja Drive – something that wasn't supposed to happen at all.

RiverWalk's General Manager Henry Lyngos said Cullasaja Drive has to be used until the road into the subdivision off U.S. 64 east is completed which involves the sewer force main. He said if weather holds the road could be completed in 10 days.

Commissioner Herb James said that road had to be completed as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, erosion controls OK'd by the state and by the town are in place and holding. For some time there was confusion as to the plan matching what was on the ground but all that has been worked out. Lyngos said 92 rock check dams have been installed as per the state's Division of Land Quality.

"It's looking better than I've ever seen it," said Clarke. "Grass is growing, erosion controls are in place and everything suggested has been done."

Betz said two notices of violations he issued have been addressed with minimal items still pending – mainly the on-going concern with silt fence maintenance.

The town's new code officer Josh Ward said he was on the site Wednesday and only saw some turbid water going into the river but no silt or runoff. "Everything seems to be holding pretty well," he said.

At the April 14 Town Board meeting, commissioners will hear a variance request from RiverWalk concerning a road setback.

Officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Carolina Way. **March 31**

- At 8:50 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 106 and Cobb Road was cited for speeding 54 mph in a 35 zone.
- At 11:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza..
- At 4 p.m., a resident on Sherwood Forest Road reported a \$300 cell phone taken from her kitchen drawer by friends of guests she had in her home.
- At 5:48 p.m., a gas-drive off for \$15 was reported at the Stop n' Shop on U.S. 64 east.
- At 5:05 p.m., a nuisance dog on Wyanoak was reported to police.

April 1

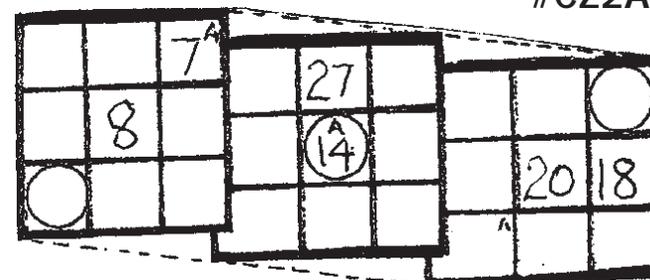
- At 10:10 a.m., officers assisted EMS with a medical call at a residence on Harris Drive.
- At 11:22 a.m., officers assisted EMS with a medical call at the Main Street Inn where a patron was unconscious. He was transported to the hospital.

April 2

- At 8:36 a.m., a motorist at Cherokee and N.C. 28 was cited for speeding 51 mph in a 35 zone.
- At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.
- At 12:50 p.m., a motorist in Highlands Plaza was cited for driving without a license.

PseudoCube[©]

#CZ2A



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.

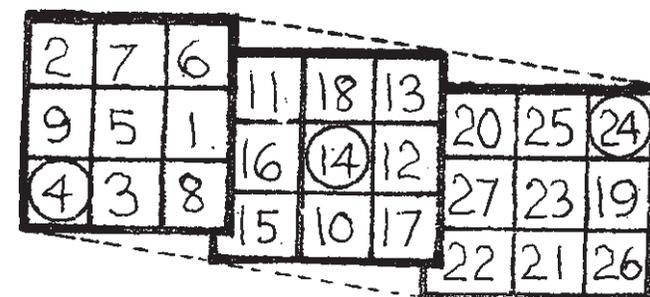
THE CHALLENGE:

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 for March 29 - #BN2A



• BUSINESS NEWS •

OEI announces spring and summer packages

Old Edwards Inn and Spa today announced an exciting lineup of spring and summer packages that will be available through the high season. The Old Edwards traditions of Champagne arrival, gourmet Continental breakfast each morning, welcome amenity, evening turn-down, access to the Fitness Center and a Butler's Pantry with snacks, fresh fruit and non-alcoholic beverages are standard and come with each guestroom and package.

Celebration Package
(Available May 25-28, July 2-7 and August 31-September 3)

Celebrate the Memorial Day, 4th of July or Labor Day holiday in mountain luxury. Relax and unwind with one or all of these three-night packages. Join us poolside for a gourmet cookout catered by Madison's. Bring the family and spend time reconnecting in the great outdoors, or come as a couple for a romantic, indulgent getaway.

Golf Packages
(Available Mid-April ~ October)

Old Edwards and Highlands Cove Golf Course are pleased to offer spectacular golf getaways. The championship design of the Highlands Nine and the Cove Nine combine for a par 71 layout that will be enjoyable and challenging for any player. As you play, we're sure you'll agree: the view is nothing short of inspiring.

Old Edwards Arts Package
(Available April ~ September)

Along with breathtaking moun-

tain and forest views, Highlands also offers interesting arts and cultural events. Indulge in all that Old Edwards has to offer, dine on gourmet cuisine in Madison's and end the day by attending a local play or concert. Performance tickets are available for the Highlands Playhouse, Highlands Community Players, Cashiers-Highlands Chamber Music Festival and the Bel Canto Opera Concert.

Hiking and Waterfall Package
(Available year round)

Perfect for those with a little adventure in mind, this package will have you hiking our beautiful mountains with a gourmet picnic from Madison's. Then return to The Spa for a relaxing treatment to soothe tired muscles and revitalize the spirit.

Fly-Fishing Package
(Available year round)

Perfect for anglers with every level of experience, this package offers customized, guided fly-fishing with experts from Highland Hiker. Check into our luxurious mountain resort, and head to nearby rivers or streams for a day of seasonal fishing at its best. Equipment is provided, or bring your own.

Fitness Package (Available year round)

Spring into shape for a healthier lifestyle! This personalized package includes one-on-one instruction with a personal trainer; time to enjoy The Spa and access to an array of fitness classes. What a wonderful way to shape up your life! Sample

itineraries are available online.

Elopement Package (Available year round)

The serenity and luxury of our mountain resort offers a magical backdrop for elopements. Your only decision—the color of roses to carry, and the rest is up to our dedicated staff. Relax in the one of our sumptuous suites, dine on the region's finest flavors and enjoy a couples' massage as you begin your lifetime journey together.

Sports and Hobby Groups

Inquire about customized retreats for groups of ten or more!

• **Package bookings may be made by contacting reservations at 828-526-8008, or online at www.olderwardsinn.com.**

... CLUSTERING from page 5

forming buildings, non-conforming uses pertain to the use performed out of the building not the building itself.

The commissioners unanimously agreed with the Planning Board's recommendation to allow a non-conforming use to continue as long as a non-conforming use doesn't change to another non-conforming use; and that the use isn't re-established after having stopped for 12 months except if it's stopped due to a fire or natural disaster. "If the discontinuance of use is due to damage from an unintentional fire or other natural disaster, then the building may be repaired or reconstructed and the use re-established," reads the ordinance.

However, repair or reconstruction must begin within 12 months and completed in two years and the total built-upon can't increase, or setbacks extended beyond the original building.

With the issuance of a Special Use Permit from the Zoning Board, the building in which a non-conforming use takes place can be expanded or the use extended to an additional building on the same property.

Commissioners said non-conforming buildings will be addressed at another time.

The ordinance concerning the allowance of sheds and storage buildings on vacant land in the R1-ETJ area for the purpose of caring for or cultivating that property passed unanimously.

RBC Centura pledges \$50,000 for Fine Art Center on Oak Street



Sue Gorski, manager of the Highlands branch of RBC Centura bank, recently announced a pledge of \$50,000 to the capital campaign of the Bascom-Louise Fine Art Center. At the presentation of the initial installment of \$10,000 of the 5 year pledge, she said "We are soon to be neighbors on the west end of town, and we feel strongly that support of the Bascom-Louise and the new Fine Art Center is important for us and the town of Highlands. This pledge underscores our involvement in the community and the local economy." The gift by RBC Centura will fund the artistic director's office in the new facility. Construction on the new Bascom-Louise Fine Art Center on Oak Street is to begin this summer.

New shop opens ...on the hill



Children's clothing store, Jackson & Madeleine at 290 S. 4th Street ...on the hill, opened Friday, March 30 with a Preview Party. Patrons enjoyed finger foods and drinks among "classics for children" in a fairy princess-like setting. Owner Rebecca Morton and partner Ron Quigley welcome patrons.

Michael's

FOR HAIR AND NAILS
at Old Edwards Inn

*The Spa at Old Edwards Inn
is pleased to welcome*

Michael Frankenberg

Specializing in
Designer Cuts and European Hair Color

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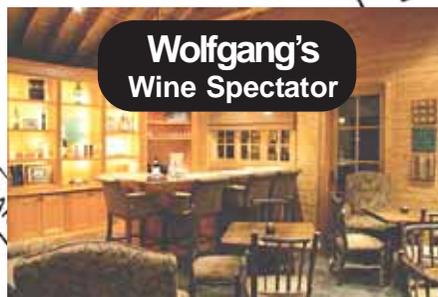
Upscale Lodging, Fine Dining, Unique Shops & Best Realtors

Highlands Map

www.HighlandsInfo.com



Mountain Fresh Foods



CAFE 460
Main Steet East
In The Drug Store

CIRCULATION
7,500 wk. - 30,000 mo.
Highlands' Newspaper
#1 In Local Readership

"We Cut The Best Steaks In Town"

Dusty's Market

Cyprus
Taylor Barns
Dillard Rd Village

Retail Space Avail.
Call: 770-622-3050

The Farm & Highlands C.C.
1 Mile Hwy. 106

Summer House & Tin Roof
2 Miles Hwy. 106

The Very Thing Salon & Art Gallery

Manley's Auto Service & Towing

J&J Lawn & Landscaping Service

KILWIN'S
Now Open
Coupons
Inside
Newspaper

MAIN STREET

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

Satulah Village

Highlands School K-12

Highlands Decorating & Hardware

Computer Man
Brysons Foods
Highlands Office

Images

Warth

Christian Scientist

Methodist

AnnaWear

Schiffli C.C.P. Realty

Old Edwards Inn & Spa

Acorns

Child Care

Pescado's

Now Open Jackson Madeleine

HillTop Grill

The Lodge

Rib Shack

Cleaners

Mt Magic Salon

Peggy Crosby Center

Highlands School K-12

RB Centura Bank

Gates Nursery

Bryant Art Glass

On The Verandah Restaurant

Exxon

Don Leon

#1 NAILS
Fireside Restaurant
Country Club Prop

Helens Barn

Fressers

Regions Bank

Images

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