

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 5, Number 34

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Aug. 23, 2007

On-going

• Live music every night at 7:30 p.m. and during brunch on Sunday at ...on the Verandah restaurant.

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

• Hal Phillips at the piano at Skyline Lodge and Restaurant on Flat Mountain Road Fri. & Sat. at 6 p.m.

• Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mon, Wed, Thurs. \$5 per class.

• Yoga Classes at the Rec Park. Mon and Wed at 7:30 a.m. Bring your mat. \$7 per class. Call 526-4340.

• At Health Tracks various exercise classes. Call 526-1FIT.

Every Thursday

• At Main Street Inn, piano and vocals in the wine bar 6-9 p.m.

Every Saturday

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. Cover.

Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 16-26

• The Highlands Playhouse, "Talley's Folly" Tuesday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Call 526-2695.

Through Saturday, Aug. 25

• "My Secret Weapon" by Carol Caldwell is at 8 p.m. at the Instant Theater. For reservations and tickets call 828-342-9197.

Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 23-26

• How the Other Half Loves, at PAC on Chestnut Street, Highlands. Performances will be 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Call 526-8084.

Thursday, Aug. 23

• Studio Dinner Series dinner featuring a menu of typical New Zealand dishes and wine. Call 828-526-2673.

• Pipe Organ Concert at First Presbyterian Church at 8 p.m., featuring Timothy Albrecht. It's free.

Friday, Aug. 24

• Cancer Survivor's Reception at the Highlands Recreation Center. at 5 p.m. just before the Relay For Life.

• MountainTop Relay for Life begins at 6 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Park.

Saturday, Aug. 25

• The Mirror Lake Association litter pick up Saturday at Thorn Park at 9 a.m.

• "Art to Wear" exhibit opens at Bascom-Louise Gallery from 5-7 p.m. Free. For more information, call 526-4949.

• At Cyrano's Bookshop, author Jerry Soud signing "Life As I Slice It" 1-3 p.m. Lisa Knapp's "Fabulous Pugs" from 3-5 p.m.

Sunday-Thursday, Aug. 26-30

• Caring for the Heart Conference at CBC. Call 526-4685.

Monday, Aug. 27

• First day of school 8 a.m. to 2:55 p.m.

• Highlands School Scholarship Golf Tournament at the Cullasja Country Club. Call 526-3531.

• Art League of Highlands meeting at 5:30 at the Recreation Park in Highlands. Call 828-524-6070.

Wednesday, Aug. 29

• Wine Dinner at ...on the Verandah featuring South African fusion experience. Call 526-2338.

Public meeting set for Hickory Hill residents

If property owners agree, the town wants to pave Hickory Hill and Chowan roads.

The first one in the town's sights is Hickory Hill due to its proximity to the water treatment plant and the runoff that routinely clogs the water intake valve.

At a public works meeting, Monday, Wesley Grindstaff, N.C. DOT district engineer, said DOT was ready to pave at least Hickory Hill, as long as the town can get the necessary rights-of-way.

Throughout the state DOT is turning secondary roads like Hick-

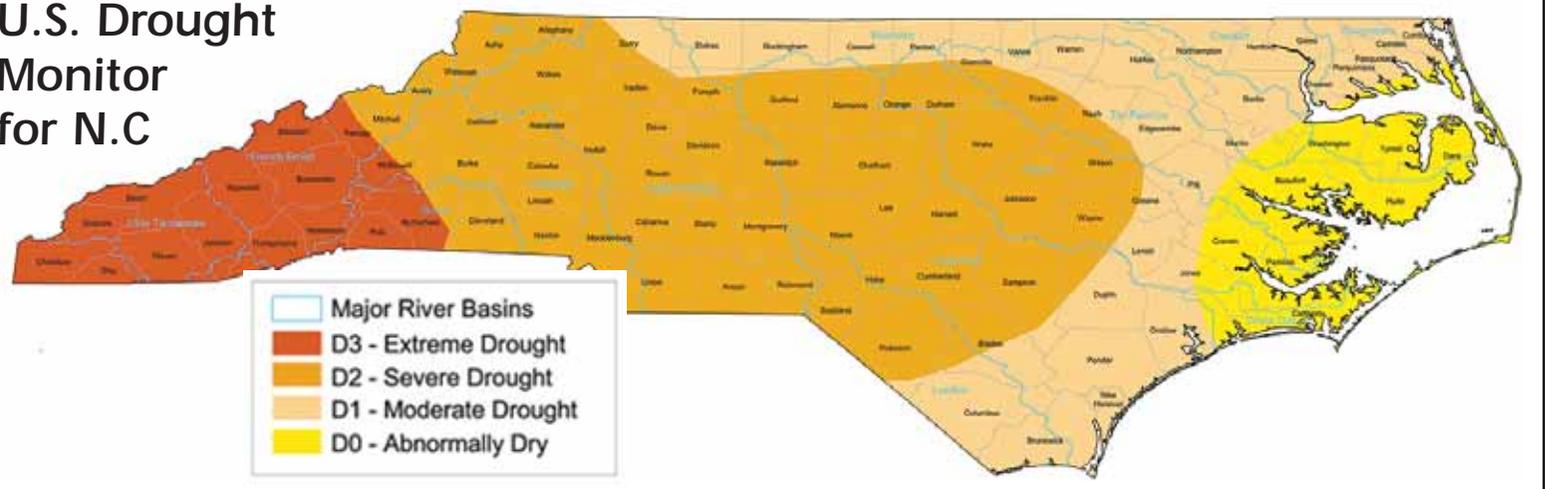
ory Hill and Chowan over to municipalities, "because we just can't maintain them the way they should be maintained, especially in mountains," he said.

He said DOT is not hiring as people retire; instead the work-
• See PUBLIC MEETING page 12

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U.S. Drought Monitor for N.C



Macon County in 'extreme' drought

- Statewide burning ban in effect -

The N.C. Division of Forest Resources has initiated a statewide ban on all open burning and canceled all burning permits effective Aug. 21, 2007. The ban on open burning will be in effect until further notice.

"They even came by and took our burning permit book," said Highlands Fire & Rescue administrator Bob Houston. "They've

never done that before." All burning permit books from all 100 counties have been taken and will presumably be returned when the ban is over.

The ban on open burning is necessary because of the dry weather conditions and an increase in fire activity statewide. Currently, more than 100 firefighters are battling 130 wildfires in

Robeson County alone. Monday of this week, there were 46 new wildfires affecting more than 370 acres across North Carolina.

Though not as hard hit as neighbors off the mountain, Highlands, a temperate rainforest, is feeling the affects of the drought.

According to the statistics gathered at the Highlands Biolog-

ical Station since 1961, on average, Highlands receives 85.16 inches of rain a year with a maximum recording of 115.62 inches and a minimum recording of 28.36 inches.

The maximum was in 1979 and the minimum reflects 2007 rainfall through June at 28.36 inches. Not included in that aver-

• See DROUGHT page 35

Specifics requested of Town Hall architects in Sept.

At a special called meeting, Aug. 22, commissioners met with architects to boil down the concept of the new Town Hall com-

plex.

"This next step involves refinement," said Commissioner Dennis DeWolf. "The use of the land, available parking spaces and future expansion possibilities."

Concerns centered around the money aspect, setback requirements, easy access for citizens not just visitors, proximity of the police department and magistrate's office, location of public restrooms and whether to incorpo-

rate just a visitor center or to include a visitor center/chamber of commerce in the scenario.

Geological limitations prohibit adhering to setback regulations in the G1 zone that of 25 feet from any right-of-way. As it is now, the Town Hall and the public restrooms are in the right-of-way. Commissioner Hank Ross said he'd rather the complex didn't have setback constraints. "It will enable us to keep it more pedes-

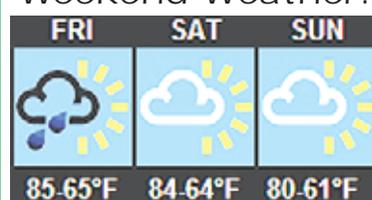
trian oriented," he said.

Commissioner Amy Patterson agreed. "We want a 'come in and see us' feel, so people don't have to wade through the property to get in."

The initial concept has the Town Hall building basically situated where it is now but expanded in a tiered fashion following the lay of the land stretching back toward the current public restroom

• See TOWN HALL page 6

Weekend Weather:



• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

It's time to can the sensationalism



**Publisher
Kim Lewicki**

Just as the new 2007-2008 school year is about to begin, reports about Macon County Schools' drop-out rate are being sensationalized in The Highlander newspaper.

As usual, the facts tell the real story. Macon County School's graduation rate for the 2005-2006 school year – which for the first time traced students entering the 9th grade and graduating in 12th grade — is 66.5%.

However, preliminary numbers from the state regarding the graduation rate since 2006, indicate the rate has improved by a large number for each class since. "We should be able to release this information soon," said Superintendent Dan Brigman.

Of the 115 school districts in North Carolina, 52 of them have a higher drop-out rate than Macon County and dozens of them beat Macon County by only a fraction of a percent. While Macon County Schools' graduation rate isn't stellar, it certainly isn't alarming.

The school with the highest graduation rate is Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools 90.2%; the lowest is Lexington City Schools with 43.7%. The state average is 68%.

With new charter schools catering to drop-outs heralded as the answer to the problem, perhaps such schools should be considered in the counties in North Carolina where there really is a drop-out problem — Hoke County 48.9%, Hyde County 47.1%, Pasquotank County 48.2%, Vance County 47.8% and Lexington City Schools 43.7%.

As far as Macon County Schools are concerned, Superintendent Dan Brigman said so far no outside company has seen the need to contact his office to discuss the county's drop-out rate, issuances of the GED or alternative programs.

Since the fall of 2002, North Caroli-

• See FORUM page 11

• LETTERS •

Visitor use capacity analysis, Upper Chattooga River; a window for comments on boating use is now open scoping package now available:

Dear Editor,

In response to numerous comments, e-mails and letters, data collected from a visitor use capacity analysis and information gathered during a series of public hearings and workshops, the Forest Service has developed six preliminary alternatives that cover a range of options on uses of the Upper Chattooga from maintaining current management to introducing new boating use to implementing restrictions on all users. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd alternatives maintain the North Fork for foot travel only, the 4th and 5th alternatives provide limited boating, and the 6th alternative provides unrestricted boating (any time, any water level, any number of floaters per day). For details and a side-by-side comparison table, go to:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/documents/Chattoogascopingpackagefinal08142007.pdf>
or info: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/>

The Forest Service is now asking for your comments on these alternatives for managing recreation uses on the Chattooga North Fork, including the alternative of maintaining the current

management direction. Even if you have commented previously, please take time to share your views specifically on these 6 alternatives. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Assessment to determine whether or not there are significant environmental effects that would require an Environmental Impact Statement. The Forest Service is receiving your comments on potential environmental effects of the alternatives and on the range of alternatives.

For your comments to be adequately considered, please send them in by Sept. 13, 2007 via e-mail to comments - southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us or by US Postal Service to: Project Coordinator – John Cleeves, USDA Forest Service, 4931 Broad River Rd., Columbia, SC 29212

The Jackson Macon Conservation Alliance urges all interested parties to comment on the use alternatives under consideration *in protecting the outstandingly remarkable values of the Upper Chattooga and protecting for present and*

future generations the benefits of an enduring resource.

David M Bates
Executive Director
JMCA

Hats off to Skippy

Dear Editor,

I wrote this to Fred Wooldridge about his Aug. 16 column on outsourcing.

Skippy is a marvelous person! I have had so many, many conversations with him. I especially adore his version of English — so correct, so precise. Much better than any of our dialects. What would we have done without outsourcing? We would have heard just the same old boring American electronic voices to make us crazy. And your column would never have been written.

It is hilarious hilarious, hilarious! Best ever!

Marda
Highlands

At least the drought is real

Dear Editor,

Western North Carolina has just moved from "severe drought" into "extreme drought." The next step is "exceptional drought" (the worst category, now toasting Alabama). To see the bad news go to <http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html> and click on the Southeast section of the map.

We should all be aware of this situation and pay more attention to our water consumption.

Drought has increasingly become a way of life here in the mountains. Not to mention the record temperatures. Could this have anything to do with global warming?

Arthur Hancock
Highlands

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

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Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com

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• See LETTERS page 21

• MILESTONES •

In Victory Lane



Ryan Bryson of Bryson Motorsports won his first race at Toccoa Motor Speedway, Saturday, Aug. 4. He says "thanks" to all his friends and family for supporting him for the past three years.

• OBITUARIES •

Joseph Anderson Crunkleton

Joseph Anderson Crunkleton, 72, died May 24, 2007 in Maryland. He was born October 3, 1934 in Highlands, N.C., the son of the late Christine Pierson and Lawrence Crunkleton of Highlands. Joe entered the Navy in 1952 and served 20 years. In 1961 he married Joan Hicks. After leaving the Navy, he worked for the Baltimore Gas and Electric at the Calvert Cliff plant until he retired in 1992.

He is survived by his wife, Joan, daughters Brenda Hann, Patricia Gott, Karen Brown and a son Joseph Anderson Crunkleton, Jr., all of Maryland. Also 15 grandchildren and three great grandchildren and a sister Christine Peterson of Staten Island, NY, and many nephews and nieces survive.

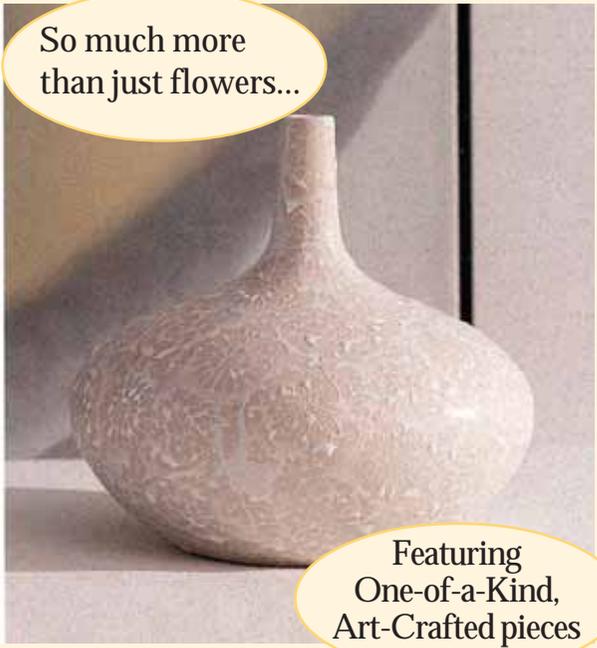
Funeral services were held June 5, 2007 at the Maryland Veterans Chapel in Cheltenham, MD.

Arrangments were made by Rausch Funeral Home in Port Republic, MD.

Ruth J. Davis

Ruth J. Davis, 85, died at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center in Highlands on Sunday, August 19, 2007, where she had lived for five years.

She retired in 1980 after a 30-year career as a teacher and guidance counselor teaching in Meridian and Jackson, MS public schools. She taught biology at Murrah High School and was a guidance counselor at Calloway, Enochs, and Lanier in Jackson. Survivors are her only daughter, Wanda Cooper and her husband Chuck in Highlands, two grandsons, Ted Rogers of Clinton, MS, and Ron Rogers of Brandon, MS, and two great grandsons. Services and burial will be Aug. 25 in Clinton, MS, where she lived for 40 years. Memorials may be made to New Sight Baptist Church building fund, 629 Forest Trail, Brookhaven, MS 39601.



So much more than just flowers...

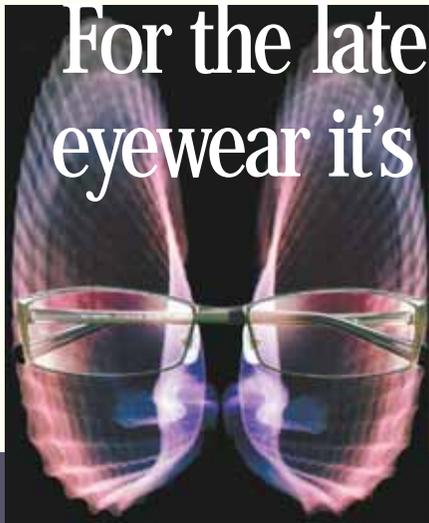
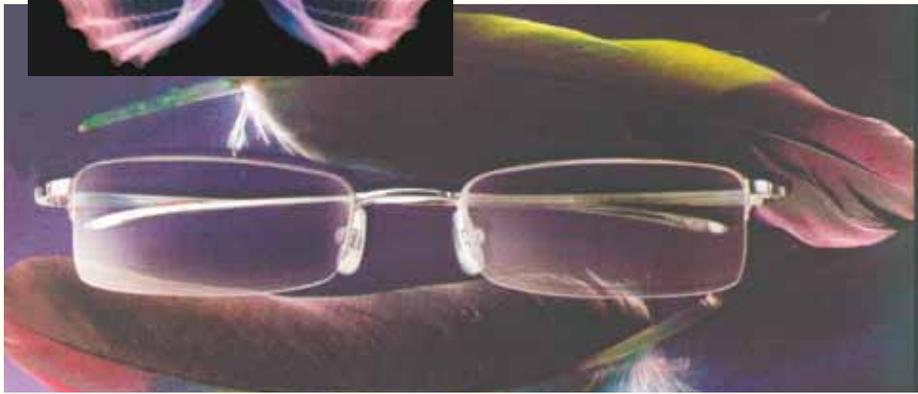
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It's pretty. It's light and it has great volume. It's obsessively clean. It has character. It's complete with desirable things - mountain views, stone fireplace, vaulted ceilings with beams, screened porch, plantation shutters, and a second lot. A surprise is a dedicated home theater with Dolby Digital sound and 102" screen. And, not unimportantly, this 3 BR, 2 1/2 bath home is offered under value for a quick sale at \$629,000. Furnishings negotiable.



New Construction in the Mirror Lake area. Brand new 4 BR, 4.5 BA home. Each BR is like a master suite with private baths, granite tops and tiled showers. Great kitchen with double ovens and island. Breakfast room open to kitchen plus a separate dining area. Great wood work throughout. 2 car garage. For in-town, new construction this is a must have!! \$895,000



Nestled on the Cullasaja River in town of Highlands is this incredible Tom Chambers log home built in 2005. With a private dock, fire pit and canoe launch this home is the perfect Appalachian Mountain Home. 4 BR on the main level and 2 BR upstairs. Plus a den and magnificent covered deck. A charming two car carport, privately gated and impeccable landscaping. A real chef's kitchen with industrial grade appliances. Too many high end features to mention. \$1,995,000



Best Cottage in the bunch at Highlands Cove. Sitting at the very top offering huge views, great privacy, audio and video upgrades! Granite throughout kitchen and baths, European styled vessel sink in powder room, deck with fireplace. One car carport with a storage room. Great view!!



Wonderful home in Highlands Falls CC with soaring ceilings in the greatroom, kitchen and master bedroom. Large eat-in kitchen which opens onto an expansive covered and open deck. The fireplace is exceptional. This lot fronts the 13th fairway and with some trimming could have a great view of golfers making their 2nd shot. Already has a mountain view. \$759,000



Newly constructed 2 bedroom/2 bath log sided cabin convenient to town across from "On the Veranda". A view of Lake Sequoia can be seen from the front entry way of the home. Makes a great rental investment or weekend getaway. Only \$299,000.



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Deport them all...except, of course, my yard guy

They crawl on their hands and knees and sometimes on their bellies in intense heat just to be where they want to go. They risk their lives daily crossing a border. They aren't paid much and they do jobs that others won't do or are afraid to do. They live in crowded conditions among a people who speak a different language. They rarely see their families and they face adversity every day. They live in constant danger.

Well, enough about our troops in Iraq, let's talk about illegal immigration. I'm going waaaaay out on a limb here and make a statement that even the most liberal of all liberals (I call them bleeders.) can agree on. Yes, even super liberal, Ted Kennedy, will give this bridge....oops, I mean this baby the nod. Are you ready?

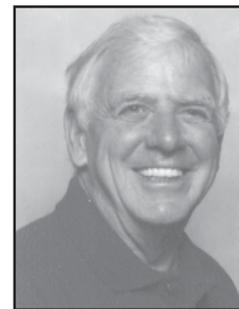
It is physically impossible for the U.S.A. to allow every person on this planet with a standard of living lower than ours to move here. The world is in such sorry shape that, mathematically, there's not enough land to fit them all.

Good, now that I have everyone agreeing to that, let's go one tiny step farther and see if my liberal buddies can agree with this. Since everyone can't live here, our government's job should be determine how many can live here. I'll lose a smidgen here because of some who want free and open borders. Everyone else believes government should place some kind of controls on who is moving here.

Let's forge ahead. In order for the government to determine who can live here, rules must be created and controls must be in place. Oops, I probably lost another 2% but they are Libertarians, not to be confused with soft-hearted liberals. May I call you liberals "Libbys"? Thanks!

Next question. Should the government allow immigrants convicted of murder, known pedophiles that would prey on our children, known gang members who commit violent felonies instead of working or narcotic smugglers to even visit here, much less live here? I'm guessing 97% of you "Libbys" out there are still with me, so hold right there for just a minute while I speak to those hard core, bone-headed conservatives.

Hello, conservatives, many of you with impenetrable brains, tell me if you can live with this statement. Prior to 1980 when good ole boy Jimmy Carter blew the wheels



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged! email:

askfredanything@aol.com

off our immigration policies, it was the import of immigrants to this county that was our real strength and backbone. It helped make us the greatest nation in the world. I'm bettin' I didn't lose one right winger on that one.

OK, try this one on. If all illegal immigrants were forced to return to their own countries, would you support a program that forces able bodied American welfare recipients sitting around on cinder blocks doing nothing to take over the jobs vacated by illegal immigrants? I knew you would like that one! How about

using prisoner volunteers? Next, how about a jump to the front of the citizenship line if an immigrant serves three full years in the United States armed forces? Wow, I only lost about 2% and they're probably bigots.

Soooooo, hello "Libby's" over there on the left, have you been watching this over here on the right? These conservatives are willing to let immigrants into the country just like you. You're closer to agreement than you think?

Apparently what's in your way is a whole bunch of corruption. You see, your U.S. Congressmen, both Democrat and Republican, have caved into major corporations who thrive on using illegal immigrant workers for huge profits and million dollar bonuses for their cooperate presidents. Congressmen are owned by these corporations who donated millions of dollars to their political campaigns so they would look the other way on illegal immigration. In the meantime they cleverly have you "Libby's" and right wing bone-heads fighting with each other. That's why, year after year, nothing ever gets done. Hellooooo, if it wasn't so serious, it would be funny.

Oh, by the way, my yard guy can't be deported because he's a full blooded American whose great grandparents moved here long ago. He's not on welfare, has a son in the military, and the American flag flies outside his home. He is one of millions of Americans, born and raised here, who are proud of their blue collar jobs and, no, you can't have his phone number.

Going home? Read Fred's column all year at: <http://www.highlandinfo.com/newspaperdownload.htm>

• ANOTHER VIEW •

America is growing at an unhealthy rate

I wasn't surprised to read that there are 41 countries in the world with greater life expectancies than ours. You may be shocked, and you may still believe that we have the best health care system in the world. We don't. It is no secret that 45 million Americans lack health insurance, nor that there are enormous variations in life expectancy in this country based on race, income, and availability of health care. There are other factors, one which is harder to swallow than a plateful of healthy vegetables, but which may be the most important of all. It is American lifestyle.

Las Vegas is listed as the fattest city in the country. Happily, folks in Highlands do a pretty good job of taking care of themselves. Lots of people exercise regularly, not many smoke, and except for sinful cream sauces, probably eat fairly sanely. I suspect that there is a little more alcohol consumption than is healthy and there are those drivers, careening wildly around mountain curves, who routinely endanger themselves and others.

But consider many other towns and cities in America. One McDonald's isn't enough to keep up with demand for Big Mac's. In America, we also have a fascination with "all you can eat" buffets.

Most people return from their first visit to the food tables with plates stacked to resemble Mount Fuji. I never saw an "all you can eat" buffet while I lived in Japan. I haven't noticed them in other countries, except in hotel restaurants catering to Americans. Competitive eating has become a sport, and while the perpetual champion is Japanese, he is an aberration.

The fact is, we are eating and sitting ourselves to death in this country. I've seen 80-year-old hikers in Austria with calves that looked like cantaloupes. I was passed by a man nearly that age while I was climbing Fuji. He had three cases of Coke strapped to his back. His buddy carried two propane tanks. There are rest stops on the trail to the summit, and these guys resupplied them. In this country we sit and watch televised sports. The introduction of the remote control devices freed us from the burden of moving to change channels or open garage doors.



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:
hsalzarulo@aol.com**

Customers wait in line for several minutes at fast food restaurant drive-throughs, even when the counter is empty.

Sure, we need universal health coverage. Of course, we must find a way to reduce the vast economic inequality based on race. Reduction of drug and alcohol abuse by pregnant women, along with improved prenatal care would bring our infant mortality in line with the rest of the civilized world.

Elimination of tobacco use and decreased alcohol consumption would result in a healthier America.

The key is self responsibility. Education is certainly a factor, but I think an exaggerated one, offered as an excuse for inaction. The family who decimated the buffet line was surely aware of the long term consequences of gluttony. The guy sitting in front of his TV, his muscles and his cardiovascular system withering while he watches, knows he should take a walk. The tobacco addict knows the hazards of smoking. Young people engaged in risky sexual behavior have heard of sexually transmitted diseases and condoms. The value of routine seat belt use has been clear for years.

We have become fat and lazy, or more accurately lazy and fat. Parking places reserved for the "disabled" are clogged with drivers whose only disability is obesity and those whose other disabilities result from obesity. They could do themselves an enormous favor by parking at the far end of the lot and walking.

One day at a time. One step at a time. Accept responsibility for one's health. Start today. Don't delay until next week end, your next birthday, or next New Year's Day. I think New Year's resolutions are doomed to failure, because everyone expects them to fail. They are the stuff of jokes for late night comics. They arise from herd mentality, but by the second week of January, the herd has dispersed. January 15 is where New Year's resolutions go to die.

Finally, don't blame your spouse's cooking, your hectic schedule, or your various ailments. Your disabilities will only worsen with inactivity. Start slowly, but begin. The reward can be a longer, healthier, happier life, one in which you are the captain of your own ship.

Highlands Playhouse ANNOUNCES

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• COACHES CORNER •

I watched John Smoltz pitch last Sunday instead of Johan Santana. Despite the fact that I missed Santana humiliating the Rangers to the tune of 17 strikeouts, I don't regret it all that much because it is a treat to watch a veteran ace like Smoltz go after people. Rest assured though, I will be watching Santana's next start.

Speaking of pitchers – Brandon Webb will be the story this week as he currently holds a streak of 42 scoreless innings. Webb will need two more complete game shutouts to break Orel Hershiser's record, which is one of the most phenomenal feats in professional sports. Webb's next opponent will be the powerful lineup of the Milwaukee Brewers – so he will need to be sharp if he wants to make a run at the record. The key to Webb's success is the same key that helped Hershiser and the previous record holder, Don Drysdale, set the record; a heavy sinking fastball that produces ground ball outs.

Watched a little bit of summer league action with Team USA from earlier in the year and I am very concerned about our chances at the Tournament of the Americas. Team USA's lack of outside shooting is a glaring

Random thoughts from the week in sports

weakness that has been exploited in recent years by crafty European and South American teams. Coach K is going to have to convince his team to ratchet up the pressure on defense if he wants to avoid a repeat of last year's stunning disappointment.

This year is a first for me, as I am now locked in to DirectTV's Sunday ticket package-so I will have the opportunity to watch every NFL game this season (including every Saints game). Trust me on this one people – TIVO and Direct TV are your friends – I can honestly say that I can never go back to regular TV ever again.

Some quick observations from NFL preseason games. The Saints' offense looks terrific. Carolina's defense looks shaky right now. Atlanta needs major help at QB – maybe



Ryan Potts

they can take one of Tampa Bay's 4 quarterbacks. Vince Young got pounded by the Patriots' defense this weekend – that's what happens when you have a bullseye on you Young fella. Speaking of the Patriots...damn they are gonna be good this year. The Giants offense...blech. Buffalo will be in good hands with JP Losman – kid is tough. Washington better hope that Jason Campbell gets better in a hurry – soft tossing Mark Brunell can't break glass with his arm.

College football is gearing up and according to the polls, USC is the best team in the land. Should be interesting to see how

... TOWN HALL continued from page 1
area.

Betz said a simple text amendment to the G1 ordinance would take care of the setback situation so the concept of a gathering courtyard and entrance to the building at the corner of Oak and Fourth streets could stay.

"We've done that before for the Fine Art Center and the school; identified a specific structure and drafted the amendment to address that." Commissioners asked Betz to draft an amendment and present it at the Sept. 6 Town Board meeting.

Commissioner Patterson said though it wasn't necessary for the police department to be housed in the Town Hall building, it needed to be near the Town Hall reception area so citizens could communicate with the police department in some way.

"The way it is now people come to the Town Hall to ask police department questions, walk all the way over there and then there's no one there because they are out patrolling," she said. "At least if the building was closer to Town Hall, there would be a presence and people could leave a message."

Since the magistrate's office is a county funded position, and because legally it's supposed to be separated from the police department, commissioners decided to use the current police department for magistrate.

There would still be about 400 sq. ft. for the EMS department to expand which is something they told the architects they needed to do.

The next issue involved placement of public restrooms and the chamber and visitor center which initially was going to be on the street level right off the gather courtyard and entrance.

"I'd rather have street level space entrance for our Town Hall complex with the easiest access for our citizens," said Commissioner Patterson. "I don't want the needs of the visitor center and chamber of commerce met before the needs of the citizens of the town. They're the ones paying for

USC fares in an overrated PAC-10 while football behemoths LSU and Florida attempt to slug through the conference of doom (otherwise known as the SEC). USC is hoping that their John David Booty-licious offense can keep up with a defense that looks like a NFL combine. LSU is looking to avoid the miscues that have been a Les Miles trademark over the last two seasons, and Florida is attempting to repeat as National Champions despite losing nine starters on defense.

West Virginia gets my nod as the team to watch this year-provided their defense can be merely pedestrian in support of the best rushing attack on this planet. QB Pat White, RB Steve Slaton, frosh sensation Noel Devine and intestine pulverizing FB Owen Schmitt may well be the newest incarnation of the famed four horsemen backfield that once led Notre Dame to a national title. Definitely check them out if you get a chance this year – it is worth it to watch such a well oiled running game.

Commissioner Herb James suggested taking the Visitor Center away from the Chamber of Commerce and possibly using room tax money. Commissioner Ross said he'd read where some visitor center's are using room tax money to operate.

Director of the Chamber of Commerce Bob KIELTYKA said there was lots of legislation in the works concerning the use of room tax money and future use also depended on the county's plans for the money. The county is considering changing the way room tax money is allocated beginning fiscal year 2008.

"I liked Amy's idea of having a central area where people could come in and buy tickets to events," said Commissioner James.

Commissioner Alan Marsh suggested building a small air-conditioned kiosk, gazebo-type structure in the gathering courtyard area staffed with two volunteers who could sell tickets to events and give out brochures.

"That would be the perfect place for it," said Marsh. "The chamber of commerce could have its business office somewhere else."

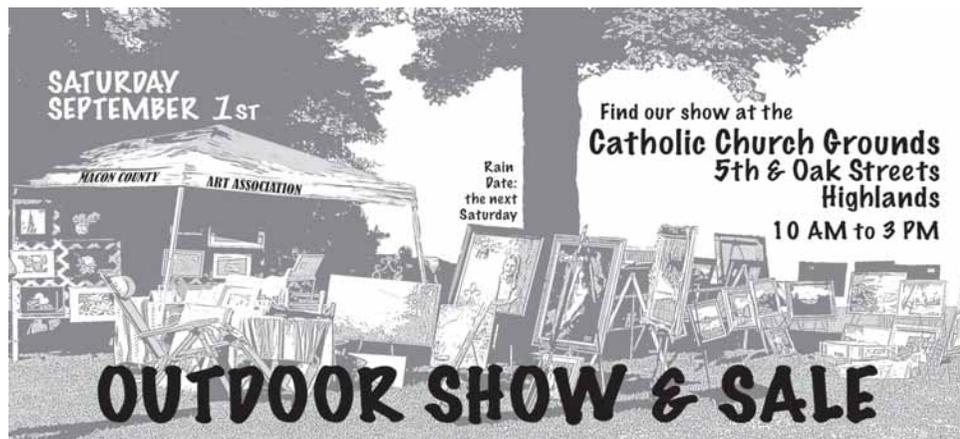
KIELTYKA said the kiosk would not be enough for a Visitor Center.

"We do much more than give out brochures," he said. "We allow people to use the fax machine, copy machine, use the phone when cell phones don't work and even Internet service."

Commissioner James also suggested building an ABC store on town property on Maple Street to the left of the old jail. Everyone seemed to agree that was a good idea especially since Maple Street has become a major thoroughfare.

"It means funds for the town if they don't have to pay rent," said Commissioner James.

Architects Sorin and Fisher are returning in September with a cost estimate. "We need some sort of ballpark figure to begin planning," said Mayor Don Mullen.



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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Mormonism – a deal-killer?

I am the first one to admit that I know little of Mormonism, and anything that I've learned has come by sifting through what's available on the web. I do not attempt to judge Mormons on their beliefs, far be it from me. I'm simply trying to determine if one should be excluded from consideration of the presidency because of his Mormon affiliation.



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

From the time Mitt Romney first announced his candidacy, a great deal was made of his religion, and I wondered what all the noise was about. I've waited for the media to explain their disdain for his running and haven't heard it yet. Curiously, since it became such a big deal in Romney's case, I wondered why senate leader Harry Reid's Mormonism had never been an issue.

So far as I am aware, I personally know two Mormon families. These people are intelligent, well educated, productive, solid citizens. My understanding of Mormons in general are that they are clean living, law abiding family oriented folks. The old bugaboo of polygamy has been renounced by the Latter Day Saints Church for more than a century and has been perpetuated only by a tiny group of fundamentalists.

Previous candidates who faced potential challenges because of their religious affiliation seem to have overcome them. John F. Kennedy, a Catholic, is the prime example. Kennedy overcame opposition by the following mantra, "I am not the Catholic candidate for President. I am the Democratic Party's candidate for President who happens to be Catholic. I do not speak for my church on public matters, and the church does not speak for me." I assume Romney has a similar attitude toward his current situation.

Let's see how Romney's Mormon ties have affected his personal and public life.

He graduated from Harvard with both an MBA and a J.D., cum laude. He is still married to his first wife. His five sons seem to be right side up, clean cut and all are currently active in his campaign, as is his wife. From all outward appearances, they are a model family. Mormonism doesn't seem to be a problem so far.

After serving a 30-month missionary term in France, Romney returned to become a vice-president of Bain & Co., a Boston based management consulting firm. In 1984, he left Bain & Co. to co-found Bain Capital, which later became a top 5 private equity investment firm. During the 14 years he headed the

company, Bain Capital's average internal rate of return on investments was 113%, making money primarily on leveraged buyouts including some well-known names as Staples, Domino's, Sealy and The Sports Authority. So far, so good.

The run-up to the 2002 Winter Olympics, awarded to Salt Lake City, pointed to a disaster. The original committee was overzealous in wooing the powers-that-be

to vote their way and bribery charges were flying in every direction. The finances in the early going indicated a huge deficit in the making and the whole thing was a colossal mess. Romney was tapped to step into the fray and by the time the event actually transpired, dignity had been returned to management, fiscal prosperity was restored and a successful Olympics went in the books. Mormonism still no problem.

The true test was his governorship of Massachusetts. Even though he succeeded a Republican administration, to be elected as a Republican in such a heavily Democratic state is an accomplishment. Further, it would seem that in largely Catholic Massachusetts, a Mormon would be subject to unusual scrutiny. It didn't keep him from being elected.

At the inception, his administration was faced with a huge budget deficit. Through persistent hammering on reducing spending, and increasing user fees where appropriate, in his final year in office, the State had a substantial surplus. On the social issues side, where one would assume there would be an opportunity for any quirkiness, none seemed to appear.

Romney's political stand on issues as he enters the 2008 campaign seem generally conservative. He claims to be pro-life after a change of heart due to events occurring during his gubernatorial term. He claims to support gay rights, however he opposed both same-sex marriage and civil unions in Massachusetts and when the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ordered such marriages be permitted, he lobbied for a constitutional amendment to overturn the decision.

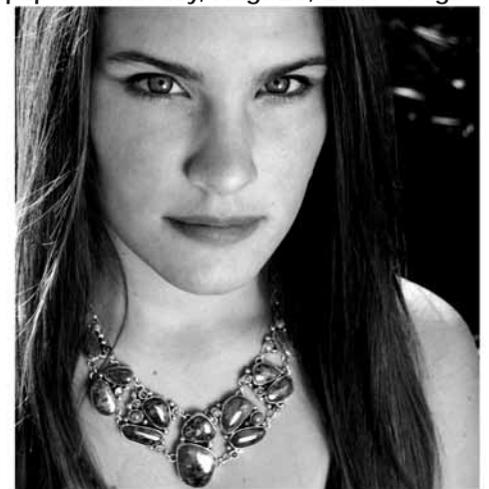
Romney supported the invasion of Iraq and supports the Troop Surge currently in progress. He advocates elimination of the capital gains tax and has signed a pledge to oppose any effort to raise income taxes. I can't see where his Mormonism has any effect on his candidacy whatsoever.

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• HIS & HERS •

Too tanned for Myrtle Beach

In the late 1950s, I had a unique experience for a little white girl from Virginia. I was thrown out of a swimming pool in Myrtle Beach for being a negro. Oh, yes, I can see all of you wincing at "negro." We live in politically correct times now, having lived through "negro" and "colored" and "black" and "African-American" and "person of color." The ultimate absurdity was listening to an interview recently where they referred to Nelson Mandela as "the African-American South African." Figure that one out.

It had been a wonderfully hot summer, and we neighborhood children practically lived outdoors. We had breakfast, played outside, came in when our parents called us for lunch, went outdoors again until dinner, and then played some more until bedtime. The Mead, Vigour, and Gross children formed a lively band of conspirators. We played in each other's back yards, with the occasional break when Dr. Gross made us snow cones. It was a blissful existence. Of course, spending so much time outdoors, in the days before people worried about sunscreen and skin cancer, meant that by the end of the summer, we were all dark brown. While I'd inherited my father's pale Irish skin, I had also inherited my mother's ability to tan.

Every summer, except for those we'd spend with my mother's family in France, we would pile into the car early in one morning, and drive to Myrtle Beach. Except for my father's incessant smoking, these trips were a delightful adventure. We would be woken early, loading up the car when it was still dark outside. Driving in silence past misty fields, we watched the dark shadows of cows as we sped by. Around 9 o'clock, we'd stop for breakfast in some diner beside the road, devouring stacks of pancakes served to us by an older woman in a hair net who called us "dear" and "honey." Hours of driving followed, as all of us competed to find what exotic license plates we could discover, seeing if we could persuade truck drivers to blow their horns for us, and reading Burma-Shave ads out loud:

*My job is
Keeping faces clean
And nobody knows
De stubble
I've seen*



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

Burma-Shave
I don't remember ever getting bored, unlike modern children who seem to need a constant stream of DVDs and games so they don't get restless. Do they ever even see the beauty of the places they pass through? I don't think so.

We eagerly awaited that sign that we'd arrived in the Carolinas – the first pit-cooked barbecue restaurant. A shout would go up, and we would tumble out of the car, a bit stiff from so much driving. I can still taste that marvelous barbecue, the red cole slaw, and those heavenly hush puppies – all washed down by local sodas we couldn't get in our neck of the woods. It was magic!

By the time we arrived in Myrtle Beach, we were exhausted. Still, it was a ritual that we had to unload the car, jump into our bathing suits, and hit the beach, no matter how late it was. Just to smell that incredible salt air, and to feel the water lapping against our legs. Of course, our motel also had a pool, but we seldom used it, preferring the challenge of the waves and the sound of the seagulls.

One day, however, my parents were busy, and decided to send me to the pool instead, since it had a lifeguard on duty to keep an eye on the bathers. I arrived at the pool, put down my towel, and prepared to jump into the water. A teenage boy with a crew cut and freckles grabbed my arm. "You can't swim here!" he growled. "But we're staying at the motel!" I replied, scared. "My mommy and daddy said I could," I continued lamely. "No, your kind aren't allowed" he snapped, and pushed me toward the exit. People were staring. I was mortified.

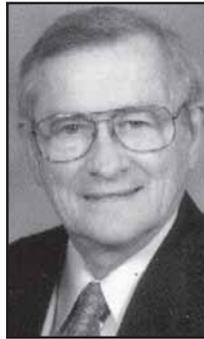
I grabbed my towel and ran back to our room. "The lifeguard won't let me play in the pool," I wailed to my mother. She looked at me, paused a second, and then said "Get your towel. We're going back." I was miserable, not wanting to have anything more to do with any of those nasty people who wouldn't let me in their stupid pool.

With a determined stride, my mother made her way to the pool. She gave a withering look at the lifeguard, and announced "I want to see the manager". The embarrassed teenager walked to a

• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

Head Start, ABC store, workforce housing & recycling,

As a member of the board of the Macon Program for Progress which oversees such government financed programs in our county as Housing and Urban Development, Early Head Start and Head Start, Adult Day Care and Children's Day Care, I am pleased that we have been able to keep both Head Start programs in the Highlands area. They were threatened with closure due to low enrollment. Head Start is a federally funded program for the care of pre-school children from low-income families in our area. I encourage those who think they may qualify for this care to contact the director of these programs, Susie McCoy, at the Macon Program for Progress headquarters in Franklin. Let us all support the continued progress of these much needed programs for our working families.



Mayor Don Mullen

At the Town Board meeting last week several important developments occurred. The lease for the ABC store on town property behind Town Hall runs out in September and the town board has extended this for three years. In the meantime the ABC board will continue to look for another location because eventually there will be expansion of the Town Hall on that property and further needed expansion of the ABC facility will not be possible. This gives them more time to decide what to do. It would be preferable for us to find another location on town property so that the town could continue to benefit from the scholarship money that comes from ABC store profits.

Mary Ann Sloan gave the board an update on the progress of the Workforce housing task force. Much has been learned by this hard working task force by going to conferences, visiting sites in other towns and talking with developers who do these kinds of government sponsored tax benefit programs. I think the town commissioners were pleased with what they heard as they saw pictures of what could be done in a very beautiful and professional way. Poorly built unsightly housing will not be tolerated, and we can all rest assured that workforce

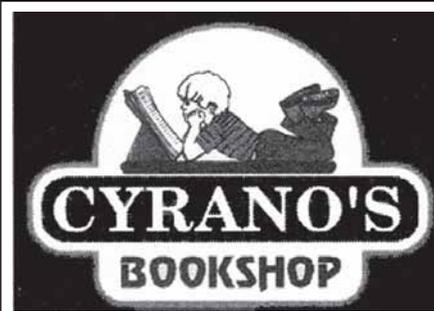
housing will fit into our community in a very practical way and will enhance the livability of Highlands. We look forward to hearing more from this very important task force in months to come as we move forward with making Highlands a place which we can all continue to be proud.

The Recycling Task Force chaired by Robert E. Smith has just begun its research into that important project.

Smith came to the board also for an informational session looking for some guidance as he and his team begin their work of improving the recycling efforts of the citizens of the Highlands plateau. The change in landfill regulations and the expense of this to the town makes it imperative that an educational program be initiated letting everyone know the benefits of efficient recycling not only to the town but to the environment and the individuals in our area.

There was also a discussion concerning the proposed sidewalk in front of the Texaco Station at the corner of Main and 4th Street to rid that spot of those horrible looking orange cones. As soon as we can approve the type sidewalk at our next meeting, we will proceed with this construction later on this fall, probably in November.

I was very disappointed that the NC Department of Transportation turned us down on a traffic light at the corner of 3rd and Main streets. I will be protesting this decision because there are other factors involved in our desire for a light there. Even though there is not enough traffic there and there has been only one accident recently, lack of visual access in coming onto Main is an important factor which DOT did not take into consideration. The recent accident which occurred there could very well have resulted in the death of a child in a stroller. We were very fortunate that the child was not severely injured. We also continue our talks with DOT regarding the paving of Hickory Hill, Cullasaja, and Chowan roads, all roads in the critical area of stormwater drainage into our water source for Highlands, the Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah.



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Author Lisa Knapp signing "Fabulous Pugs" 3-5 p.m.

Fri. & Sat., Sept. 7 - 8

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Monday, Sept. 10

Author Ron Rash signing "Chemistry and Other Stories Stories" 1-3 p.m.



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REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND

Prejudice



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

Last week I saw a photo of the U.S. physics team that recently went to the 2007 International Physics Olympiad in Isfahan, Iran (they earned two gold and three silver medals). The team was comprised of four men and a woman. From the photograph it appeared that four of the five were Asian.

This detail jumped out at me because the night before I had watched a documentary about Lon Chaney, the silent film actor. Chaney had played a Mandarin Chinese in the film "Mr. Wu" made in 1927, and the documentary described the extreme prejudice against Chinese in this country at the time the movie was made.

I looked the students up on the physics team website, and three of the five were definitely Asian, one was Philippine-Syrian, and only one could be categorized as "white."

I did a little research on the Internet about discrimination against Chinese in this country and learned that "only a handful of Chinese, or Celestials as they were often called in the nineteenth century, were in the Americas until gold was discovered in California in 1848. When news of the discovery reached China, many saw it as an opportunity to escape the extreme poverty of the time. Peasant families were often forced to sell one of their children, usually a girl, to survive. By paying \$40 or by signing a contract to pay \$160 for passage, thousands of Celestials were packed into ships for the voyage to the 'Golden Mountain' as California was known to them.

"By 1865 about 50,000 Chinese had come to California. After the Central Pacific Railroad (CP) started building the railroad eastward from Sacramento, demand for Chinese workers increased tremendously. The CP determined they needed 5,000 workers to build the railroad, but they were only able to recruit 800 whites to do the work. Many of these stayed only long enough to get a free trip to the end of track, and then deserted the CP for the gold fields. As an experiment, the CP hired all available Chinese workers, and as a result of the success they sent recruiting agents to Canton, Hong Kong, and Macao.

"With an average height of 4'10" and weight of 120 pounds, many doubted their ability to handle the heavy rail sections and ties. But handle them they did. So well in fact, that by the time they joined the railroad at Promontory more than nine out of 10 CP workers were Chinese, more than 11,000 in all. Much of the work they did has become legend." (National Park Service website: <http://www.nps.gov/archive/gosp/research/>

chinese&rr.htm)

The combination of a severe depression in the 1870s and a rising population of unskilled Irish immigrants in competition with the Chinese resulted in President Chester Arthur signing the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, which prohibited Chinese laborers from coming to the United States for 10 years and permanently forbade

citizenship to the Chinese. The Chinese residing in the United States were discriminated against in many ways: they were barred from some businesses and professions, excluded from certain residential neighborhoods, restricted in the right to own land, and prohibited from marrying whites. Chinese were also lynched.

President Theodore Roosevelt renewed the Exclusion Act in 1902 and it remained in effect until 1943.

These laws didn't stop the Chinese from coming to this country, of course. There were loopholes — family members could enter the country — and people paid to be made "paper sons." Illegal immigrants were smuggled in because they provided cheap labor.

I can remember prejudice against people of the Orient within my lifetime. The belief was that they were inferior to people of European descent; we of the West were naturally superior morally and intellectually.

How the tables have turned, and are still turning. Many books I have read in the last few years warn in particular about the declining number of American students studying in fields such as engineering and physics. Currently more than 70 percent of all U.S. doctoral students in engineering are foreign students, as are more than 50 percent of doctoral students in the physical sciences. The two countries who send the most students are India and China.

In the past when foreign students came to this country to study they would more often than not stay the rest of their lives. Not any more. By 2015, it's anticipated 90 percent of the world's scientists will live, study and work in Asia.

And the children of the Asians who came to this country despite the racism are our best students. In 2005, Asian-Americans had the highest average combined math-verbal SAT, at 1091, compared with 1068 for whites, 982 for Native Americans, 922 for Hispanics, and 864 for blacks.

Let's see: hard-working illegal immigrants discriminated against and belittled as inferior. Somehow that seems familiar.

... FORUM continued from page 2

na public school officials have been keeping a careful accounting of each ninth grader as he or she moves through high school. The goal of this record keeping – a four-year cohort graduation rate – provided the state with its first actual count of how many students graduate with a diploma in four years. Sixty-eight percent of first-time high school ninth graders in 2002-03 graduated in four years or less.

"High school graduation is a primary measure of school success," said State Board of Education Chairman Howard Lee. "The high school graduation rate has been a long-standing problem in North Carolina and in the United States. Our rate is not where we want it to be, but we welcome this information to help us clearly see the challenges ahead and to affirm the importance of the high school reform agenda in North Carolina as we continue working toward a day when all North Carolina students will graduate from high school ready for success in the 21st century."

While 68 percent is the current four-year graduation rate, that does not mean that 32 percent of the students have dropped out of school, said Lee. A total of 5,413 students were known to still be enrolled in high school at the end of the year and did not receive a diploma. Since approximately 15 percent of ninth graders across the state are retained each year,

some of those students likely will graduate in five years or more.

As it reads now, North Carolina education policy provides a conservative definition of high school graduates which affects graduation figures.

Students who leave public high school for a community college GED or adult high school program are counted as dropouts under state policy. Obviously, this affects the graduation rate. Also, the cohort graduation rate does not count students with disabilities who complete the 12th grade but do not qualify for a standard diploma but instead earn a Certificate of Achievement or Graduation Certificate.

In addition, school officials are not allowed to tag a student who transfers to another public or private high school as a "transfer" and not a "drop-out" until a request for student records has been received.

Within the district or state accountability models and according to federal *No Child Left Behind* legislation, the NC State Board of Education, the NC Department of Public Instruction, and the Macon County Board of Education, recipients of the GED are not recognized as "high school graduates."

"Students who drop out of the Macon County School System to pursue the GED count as a high school dropout,"

said Superintendent Dan Brigman. "For a student to exit one of our high schools and immediately enroll in a community college to pursue the GED, the superintendent's release is required. If the superintendent does not sign the release, a six-month wait period is required before enrollment in the GED program can occur. After the waiting period, students have free access to the community college GED program," he said. "I, along with a large number of other superintendents in this region, have discontinued signing the release to avoid the practice of "allowing" students to walk out of our high schools without careful consideration of their choice to abandon the regular K-12 diploma. Until the state allows the GED to count as a high school graduate, the releases will continue to be discouraged from my office," he said.

There's a sense of "fairness" in that policy. Going to school is hard, dealing with peers, teachers, administrators, rules and regulations, course loads, homework and tests, is hard.

Why should someone who drops out earn the same label as one who sticks with the system?

The fact is, parents should encourage their children to stay in school no matter what. If kids think K-12 is hard, they should try life!

Completing the school curriculum is more than just learning to read, write and

do arithmetic. Going to school 13 years teaches many things – learning to the "play the game;" doing what needs to be done even if you don't want to do it; abiding by rules and regulations; and most of all learning to persevere despite personality conflicts with teachers and administrators, or the work load.

Succeeding in college isn't easy, either. Course loads are heavy and instructors and professors care only about their courses not if a student attends class, passes or fails. Most of all, there is no coddling in college. If students can't cut it, they're out.

So, if a 9th-, 10th-, 11th-, or 12th-grade student can't hack the rigors of high school – particularly in Macon County where student-teacher ratios are low compared to many schools in the nation, it's not reasonable to think they can drop-out of high school and succeed in a traditional college setting.

Now of course there are exceptions to every rule including vocational programs that teach a specific skill which may be exactly what a particular student needs to become a productive member of society. And that should be applauded.

Brigman said Macon County Schools is seeking other options for success in school from K-12 rather than abandonment.

To strengthen the high school experi-

• See FORUM page 16

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Right: Great 3 bedroom, 2 bath home remodeled in July of 2006. This home features two tiled bathrooms and brand new living space with walk-in closet on the lower level and two decks. It's close to town and features separate living space with its own access from 2nd deck. \$269,900



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... PUBLIC HEARING continued from page 1

load is shifted to the remaining employees. "It's all we can do to take care of the major collectors and thoroughfares in the state," he said.

The town is willing to take the roads over but due to the money factor, wants DOT to pave them first. If the town takes

over the roads, the dimension can be less but the town would have to apply for funding. DOT will pave them but to DOT standards - 45 feet total including wear surface and shoulders.

Mayor Don Mullen and Grindstaff said as far as they know residents along Hicko-

ry Hill are willing to give the necessary rights-of-way to DOT, but Chowan still hangs in the balance.

"If 75% of the property owners along a road agree to relinquish the rights-of-way, we can move forward, but as of last year, residents surveyed on Chowan said they like living on a quaint, dirt, country road," he said.

Grindstaff said DOT won't tackle rights-of-way and condemnation issues for Chowan. "That can amount to \$25,000 per parcel plus appraised damages," he said.

For now - with residents' approval - Highlands and DOT are ready to tackle Hickory Hill. A public meeting has been set for September 13 at 3 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center.

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The garden is right outside the front door of the library.

Hudson Library's Martha Neese Garden

By Katie Brugger
Library PR

Ten years ago this summer a special garden was planted at the Hudson Library in honor of a remarkable woman named Martha Neese.

Mrs. Neese lived in Japan with her husband, a captain in the Air Force, in the 1950s. She became captivated with the Japanese art of flower arranging called Ikebana. In time she became a world-renowned grand master in the art, and traveled around the world giving classes: from Australia and Egypt to Japan and the United States.

Her home was in Columbia, South Carolina. She and her husband also had a home here in Highlands. Mrs. Neese began to teach Ikebana in the early 1970s, and she collaborated with Ralph DeVille of the Stone Lantern to bring Ikebana masters from Japan to Highlands for demonstrations and workshops.

Mrs. Neese wrote a couple of books [745.92N]. *Fun with Flowers: Japanese Flower Arrangement Made Easy*, written with her husband, has photos of arrangements and detailed descriptions of how to create them.

Ikebana: Seasons, Study Plans, Facts and Fantasies, includes Mrs. Neese's impressions of the four seasons and flower arrangements appropriate to each one illustrated with simple line drawings. She writes some wonderful descriptions of Highlands; here is what she has to say about summer: "Midsummer in the Highlands is green, green, green. Many summers I have attempted to count the different shades of green, from the deep forest shade to the lime. Then, from the yellow tinged to avocado. No way! It's like trying to count

my blessings. Our beneficent God provides me with new ones every day of my life."

Or winter: "Along our stream, now running clear and cold were extrusions of ice patterned like tiny flowers. Early morn, before sun's melting, they seemed to echo the shivering song of the water, an icecapade of winter's music and movement. At eventide it is as if one is wearing rose-colored glasses for the sunset is so brilliant and clearly seen atop the mountain ridges with their blue shadows."

In the back is very useful information about how to treat various flower and plant stems to make them last longer, from acacia to zinnia.

Mrs. Neese founded the Southeast Chapter of Ohara (a school of Ikebana). After her death the Chapter wanted to create a memorial in her honor, and they asked the Hudson Library to provide a space for a Japanese garden.

The Chapter then hired Masashi "Mike" Oshita, a master Japanese gardener in Asheville who is now nationally famous. Mr. Oshita was born in Japan and trained in Kyoto. He designed the garden, supervised its planting, and returns once a year to check on it. The Chapter continues to pay for upkeep.

Mr. Oshita has more recently helped design the bonsai garden at the Asheville Arboretum. The annual Carolina Bonsai Expo, bringing bonsai and Ikebana enthusiasts from six southeastern states, will be at the Arboretum October 13 and 14, 2007 (<http://www.ncarboretum.org/>).

Next time you come to the Hudson Library stop and pay a visit to the Martha Neese Memorial Garden.

View from Highway 64 traveling from Cashiers to Highlands

View from Whiteside Estates and Highlands Cove

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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL NEWS •

New faces for 2007-2008 school year

Students and parents will be greeted by some new faces at Highlands School this year.

Newcomers include:

- Tracy Austin who replaces Bill Lanford as the middle school PE teacher;
- Jim Draheim replaces Terry Bradley as the Assistant Principal;
- John Corecki replaces Kristina Kirchner for both the instrumental and choral music program; and
- Diane Struble is the new fourth grade teachers.

High School Volleyball

August 23	Nantahala	Home	6
August 27	Rabun Gap	Home	6
August 28	Cherokee	Away	5
Sept. 4	Rosman	Home	6
Sept 6	Swain	Away	5
Sept 10	Wallhalla	Away	5
Sept 11	Hiawasse Dam	Home	6
Sept 13	Blue Ridge	Away	5
Sept 20	Nantahala	Away	5
Sept 27	Rabun Gap	Away	5
October 1	Blue Ridge	Home	6
October 2	Rosman	Away	5
October 4	Swain Home	Away	6
October 9	Hiwasse Dam	Away	5

Left: Freshman Marlee McCall going up against Walhalla. Highlands won 3 out of 5 matches. 1st game: H 17 W 25; 2nd game: H 25 W 18; 3rd game: H 21 W 25; 4th game: H 25 W 23; 5th game: H 15 W 9.



Photo by Ashley Coppage

Welcome Highlands School students and parents!



Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter

Highlands School honors its rich traditions and continually seeks ways to develop the individual talents of every student. Through the creation of a safe and orderly learning environment, our teachers are able to foster intellectual curiosity and personal growth in each of our students, and we are devoted to giving our students the opportunities by which they will gain the skills necessary to become significant contributors to our society.

We encourage all parents to become active and supportive members of the Highlands School community by joining our PTO and by coming in to our school frequently.

Together we can make our students' years at Highlands School productive, fun, and memorable.

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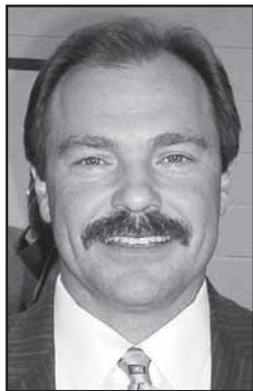
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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL NEWS •



**Superintendent
Dan Brigman**

Message from the Superintendent

On Monday, August 27, the Macon County School System will open its doors once again to a new academic year as more than 4,270 students return from summer break. As superintendent of the Macon County School System, I look forward to the upcoming academic year and continued progress toward the goals established for our district.

District goals include improving academic performance with a special focus on attendance rates, mathematics and reading performance, and addressing the graduation rate throughout the county. Other goals will include improving our facilities for all students within the district.

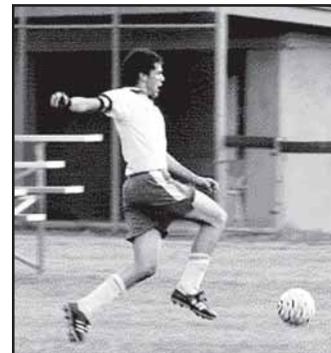
This coming November, citizens in Macon County will have an opportunity to impact our school district for many generations to come by going to the polls and supporting the Bond Referendum targeting school construction efforts. Dollars generated through the bond initiative will support the construction of a new school serving grades 5-6 and a new K-4 school to replace Cowee and Iotla. The 5-6 facility will provide much-needed relief to our middle and elementary schools in the Franklin area by combining all fifth and sixth graders in the Franklin area into one school.

In addition to the 5-6 school, funding will be utilized to construct a new elementary school on the current Iotla site to accommodate students from Iotla, Cowee, and other schools in the Franklin area following redistricting that will occur after construction is completed. These two projects will allow all students in our district to attend school in modern facilities equipped for educating tomorrow's workforce. Also, these projects will allow removal of all portable classrooms from our campuses, ultimately improving conditions and safety for all staff and students. The third and final component to the bond referendum for public schools will be completing the needed renovations at East Franklin Elementary School. At East

Franklin Elementary, students will receive a new gymnasium, six new classrooms, and other internal upgrades to the existing structure.

To better communicate our facilities plan and greater details to all stakeholders, multiple community forums will be conducted this fall to outline each component of the facility plan and provide an opportunity for questions and input from various stakeholders regarding school construction. Working together, we can ensure our students and teachers have access to a quality learning environment and the resources needed for our graduates to compete on a global level for careers, college, military, and other post-high school opportunities. In November, your support is greatly needed and appreciated. Strong communities build strong schools!

Best wishes to each teacher, student, parent/guardian, and community member as we enter another exciting academic year. I look forward to continued success as the Macon County School System strives to become the top-performing school system in our state.



Highlands School's home field is at Buck Creek.

Photo by Noel Atherton

Highlands Men's Soccer 2007

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Tues. Aug 28	Rabun Gap	Home	5:00
Thurs. Aug 30	Franklin	Away	5:00
Tues. Sept 4	Smoky Mountain	Away	5:00
Thurs. Sept 6	Franklin	Home	5:00
Mon. Sept 10	Hiwassee Dam	Home	6:00
Wed. Sept. 12	Hayesville	Away	4:00
Thurs. Sept. 13	Polk Co.	Home	6:00
Mon. Sept. 17	Andrews	Home	6:00
Wed. Sept. 19	Murphy	Away	6:00
Mon. Sept. 24	Tallulah Falls	Away	4:30
Wed. Sept. 26	Blue Ridge	Home	6:00
Mon. Oct. 1	Swain	Away	6:00
Wed. Oct. 3	Hiwassee Dam	Away	4:00
Fri. Oct. 5	Rabun Gap	Away	4:30
Mon. Oct. 8	Hayesville	Home	6:00
Wed. Oct. 10	Andrews	Away	6:00
Mon. Oct. 15	Murphy	Home	6:00
Wed. Oct. 17	Tallulah Falls	Home	5:00
Mon. Oct. 22	Blue Ridge	Away	4:00
Wed. Oct. 24	Swain	Home	6:00
Wed. Oct 31	State Playoffs	TBA	TBA

• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

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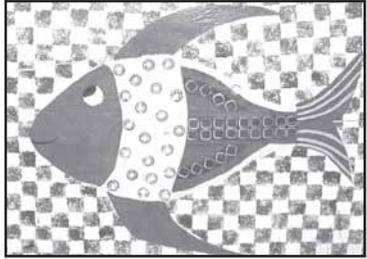
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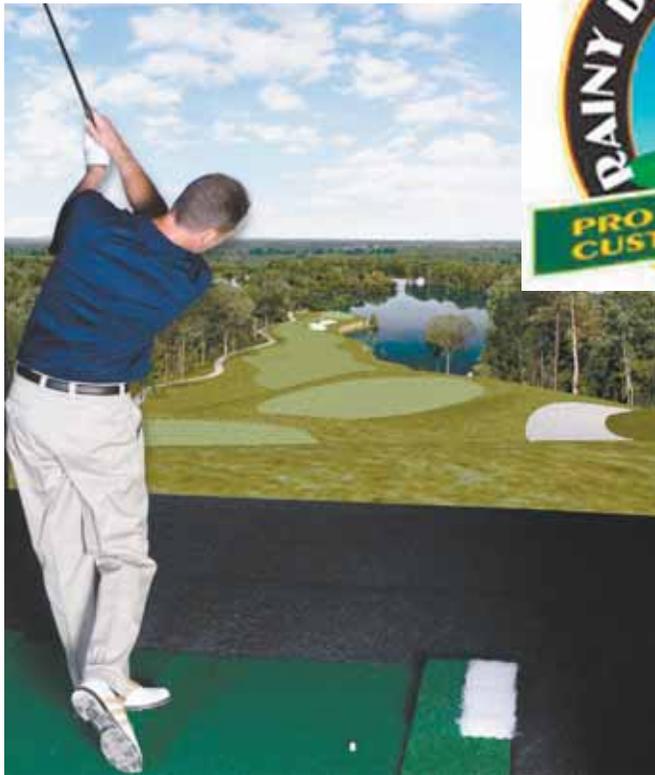
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Exchange student from Thailand here in Highlands



Rotary President Nick Bazan welcomed new exchange student, Jane Hudakorn.

On Aug. 15, Highlands Mountaintop Rotary President Nick Bazan welcomed new exchange student, Jane Hudakorn, to Highlands. Jane is a 15 year old from Bangkok, Thailand and will be living in Highlands for a year. Jane will be attending Highlands School and has already become a member of the Volleyball team. In addition to learning about American culture, Jane is on exchange to practice her English so be sure to say "hello" if you see her about town. Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at the Highlands Conference Center. Visitors are welcome.

... FORUM continued from page 11

ence for all students, North Carolina has created and sponsored a number of new high school models to help boost curriculum rigor and relevancy and to better engage students.

Macon County's Early College High School, now in its second year, is one of 33 such Learn and Earn/Early College high school programs operating statewide with expansion planned for 40 more schools in the next few years.

These programs are designed to provide students who enter in the 8th grade the opportunity to pursue a rigorous five-year high school curriculum in which they can earn both a high school diploma and an associate's degree or two years of college credit.

Macon County Schools also offers its Union School as an alternative to those students at risk of expulsion or dropping out. It has traditionally catered to high school students but this year middle school students are also being considered.

Last year, the state launched the 21st century middle school literacy coach initiative to ensure that students have the reading skills they need to succeed in high school.

Though Highlands School isn't in that category, beginning the 2007-2008 school year Principal Brian Jetter has initiated "The Mini-Course Wheel" to both snuff out drop-out notions in middle-schoolers and to introduce them to high school expectations. Statistics show that students who drop-out of school usually do so in the 9th or 10th grade. In Highlands, about two students drop out of their "class" each year.

"The classes in the wheel will introduce students to various academic and vocational topics, introduce them to the expectations of high school teachers and give them interesting and fun assignments through which they can learn," said Jetter. Since high school teachers are teaching the mini-courses, it will help alleviate the fear factor associated with high school and could even set some students

on a career or academic path, he said.

In addition, rather than losing interest, the six-week, mini-courses don't last the entire semester, so they can see the light at the end of the tunnel which may hedge frustration levels, he said.

Of course, keeping students in school is not just the schools' job; much of the responsibility must fall on the parents' shoulders.

We all know how trying teenagers are. A lot of times it's easier to say "yes" than to say "no." But that's what being a parent is all about.

Macon County Schools has had its share of ups and downs, but thankfully things have stabilized both at the administrative level and at Highlands School. Macon County Schools are clearly the best place for students to be.

As a parent of two Highlands School graduates, I'm pleased with the products the school produces. Thanks to the county's dual enrollment policy Rachel is graduating a semester early from Appalachian State University with a B.S. in Psychology and Megan entered ASU as a second-semester sophomore. Were there times during their high school years when it would have been easier to say "you don't have to go to school today or don't listen to that teacher?" Sure, anyone who has ever been in a teenager's crosshairs knows that. But making your children do what you know is best for them despite their cries is what parenting is all about.

During the 2006-2007 school year, his first year at Highlands School, Principal Jetter let the school heal and stabilize from the flux of the 2005-2006 school year. Now in his second year at Highlands School, Jetter is ready to try some new things and to initiate some new courses with the graduation rate as a target.

With new people at the helm, I think the county and Highlands School is on the right track. Both deserve a chance to try before another charter school, which by nature takes money from area public schools, is considered.

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• STATE POLITICS •

Explaining the 'Protect America Act'

By Congressman Heath Shuler

With members of the House of Representatives spending August in their respective districts there is no new legislation being debated and voted on. However, I wanted to take this opportunity to address one issue that came to a vote just before we adjourned for the August District Work Period: the Protect America Act, S. 1927.

The legislation was meant to be a temporary solution to address a critical gap in our electronic surveillance capabilities and to reduce a tremendous backlog of cases being reviewed by the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC). The FISC was created by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and is the court charged with overseeing the issuance of warrants against foreigners suspected of acting against the United States. S. 1927 passed both the Senate and the House, and was signed into law by the President on August 5th.

The law permits the U.S. Attorney General and the Director of the National Security Agency to conduct and acquire intelligence on people outside of the United States without a warrant from the FISA

Court for the next 180 days. Under the measure, government agencies may require communications service providers – phone companies, Internet Service Providers, etc. – to turn over records relating to suspects outside the country. However, the measure specifically bars the government from directly conducting electronic surveillance on individuals, and does not permit wiretapping.

The law requires that reasonable procedures be put in place to determine that: the targets of the surveillance are outside the country; the acquisition of foreign intelligence does not constitute electronic surveillance, but involves obtaining foreign intelligence information with the assistance of communications services providers or others; “a significant purpose” of the acquisition is to gather foreign intelligence; and the surveillance will meet current FISA standards to minimize the amount of information collected and disseminated.

The Justice Department will be required to submit its methods of action to the FISA Court for review, and semi-annual reports must be submitted to the proper Congressional Committees for review and oversight.

I strongly believe that we must strike a careful balance between gathering intelligence to protect our country and protecting Americans' right to privacy. I strongly supported the FISA bill originally considered by the House on August 3rd, H.R. 3356, which struck the right balance and should be considered a model for future legislation on this important issue. Unfortunately, this bill did not receive sufficient support for passage in the House and Senate.

After defeating legislation similar to H.R. 3356 the Senate passed S. 1927, sent it to the House, and then adjourned for the August District Work Period.

I fought to make the Senate come back to Washington and work on a FISA bill that would have fully protected American's constitutional rights, while also providing our law enforcement agencies with the tools they needed to protect our Nation's security. The leadership of the House of Representatives, however, chose to bring S. 1927 to the floor. Given no other choice, I supported the bill. The law, as written, does sunset after 180 days, and I expect Congress will use the time to update and improve the permanent

Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) statutes to ensure they protect our country and our Constitution simultaneously.

...SPIRITUALLY from p.25

forget that He can heal our wounds and that He, in fact, wants to. Then, we are too afraid to allow our loving, heavenly Father to touch our wounds, because it may hurt, even if it will lead to healing. T

his lack of intimacy with God leaves us so wounded and afraid that we spend most of our energy protecting ourselves from each other rather than walking together in intimacy and true friendship.

My favorite definition of intimacy is: into-me-see. The Bible says that we are fully known by God and that when we see Him in heaven we will know Him fully. We can have into-me-see with God once again! Isn't that the cry of our hearts; to know and be known?

If you would like a little insight and help with regaining your intimacy with God and with others, please join us at CBC starting Sunday, Aug. 26. Please call the church for more information about this free conference 526-4685.



**Congressman
Heath Shuler**



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• BUSINESS NEWS •

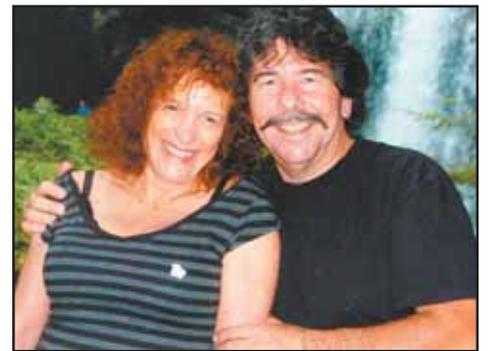
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Davidoff has "an eye" on Highlands

By Nancy Welch

Michael Davidoff sits back comfortably in an overstuffed club chair. He is not a tall man and he speaks softly. He has a mop of salt and pepper hair most men his age (54) would envy and there is a twinkle in his brown eyes. "He has smiling eyes," his mother, Babe says. Despite his calm demeanor, he somehow seems to have a commanding presence. His eyes take in his surroundings. Not surprising. Michael Davidoff is part of a famous photography dynasty. His vision is legendary. He has an eye for the world.



Michael and Maxine Davidoff

Many who are part of Palm Beach's social scene would recognize him, and many more have heard of the Davidoff name. His father, Bob Davidoff, was the Kennedy family photographer in the early '60s. Today, Michael, his two brothers and mother carry on the family business from their office in Lake Worth, Florida.

Across the room, Michael's wife of 10 years, Maxine, spurs her husband on to share stories of his many brushes with the rich and famous. Maxine is petite, has a mane of shiny, copper curls and large, expressive eyes. Her smile brightens the room and she speaks with a distinct New Jersey accent. Maxine is the point person clients contact to make arrangements for that special photograph.

Michael is somewhat nonplussed by the many famous people he deals with. It began very early.

"I was three when we moved to West Palm Beach," he says. "Our next door neighbor was Cloris Leachman. At one point, she had a famous house guest, a young Marlon Brando."

Michael says he doesn't really remember having his picture taken with Brando, but, he adds, "I have my own copy that photograph with him. The picture has the iconic look and feel of a Bobby Davidoff candid photo."

Michael doesn't recall making a conscious decision to become a professional

photographer.

"My brothers and I just grew up in the business with our father," he says. "After a stint in California where I worked in — and learned—commercial photography, I returned to Palm Beach to put my newly-learned skills to use."

He's not sure where his first camera, a Nikon F, is, but he does remember his first assignment.

"I was young," he says. "My father called and told me Jackie O was going to be at a certain fruit market and I was to go get a photo."

It didn't go well. He approached the former first lady and asked if he could take her picture.

"She said 'no' and smiled, so I returned and told my father," he recalls. "He was not happy.."

"You weren't supposed to ask. You were just supposed to get the photo!" his father told him. Looking back he says he realized Ms. Onassis was smiling because she knew he was new and inexperienced.

Through the years he has brushed elbows with many of the rich and famous. Bob Hope, Phyllis Diller, "and," he says, "I still remember my Elliott Gould assignment.. "He was very nice and very funny."

Most recently Michael has photographed presidential candidate John Edwards, the Rev. Billy Graham and ABC soap star Susan Lucci, to name a few. Michael is quick to say everyone he has photographed has always been very gracious.

The Davidoffs have just recently moved to Highlands. They had enjoyed trips to the mountains before. He and Maxine love the scenic mountains and waterfalls.

"I take some photos of the beautiful views here for my own edification," he says. But he takes most pleasure adding people to the scenes. He has photographed more weddings than he can count and is unflappable in the midst of the often emotional confusion of such a special day.

"Oddly enough, I am often a calming influence," he says, smiling.

He recently had his first assignment in Highlands.

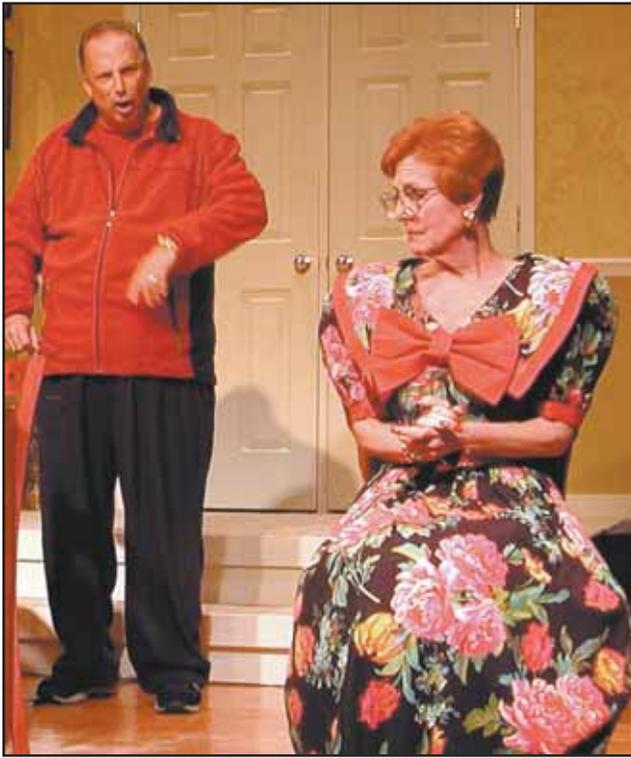


Susan Lucci

• See DAVIDOFF page 22

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• THEATER REVIEWS •



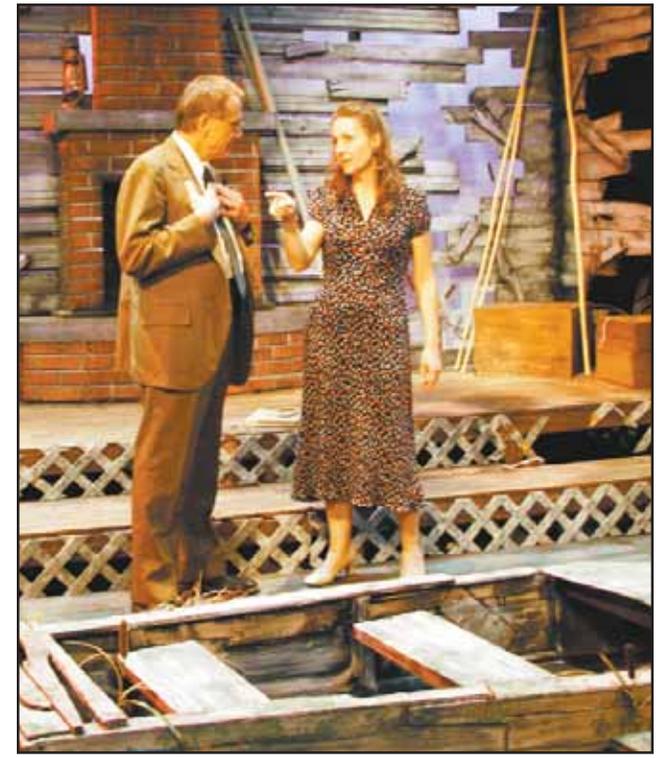
David Hoffman and Ronnie Spilton in "How the Other Half Loves."

Highlands Community Players
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Gina Pauratore as Hillary Clinton in "My Secret Weapon."

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Gabriel Russo and Catherine Clayton in "Talley's Folly."

The Highlands Playhouse
"Talley's Folly"
 Through Aug. 26
 8 p.m. or
 2 p.m. Sunday matinee
 828-526-2695

Three productions, by three companies through Sunday

How lucky are we in this little town to have not one, not two but three live performances to attend in one long weekend?

No need to anguish over which one to see, go theater-hopping and see a different one each night through Sunday.

Though each show is extremely different, each is a quality production worth the ticket price.

If attending theater for you is all about the laughs, then the Highlands Community Players' "How the Other Half Loves" is for you. It's a mad-cap "I Love Lucy" sort of bumbling affair. Three couples, loosely connected through husbands' affiliation with the same company, learn how each couple handles or would handle a cheating spouse. As it turns out, two forgive and one is outraged though only because of misinformation.

Newcomer David Hoffman steals the show as attention-deficit disorder Frank, a self-absorbed, husband of Ronnie Spilton (Fiona). Fiona suffers through as the tirelessly supportive wife except for the fact that she has a secret life.

Rick Siegel and Marsha Shmalo are endearing as an absent-minded, socially inept couple and Katie Cochran and Stuart Armor, regulars on the HCP stage, are well

suited as angry, frazzled young mother and self-centered, carousing husband.

In the end each couple evolves and learns what they are willing to live with and without for the sake of their marriages.

Serious topic, hilarious venue.

The second must-see play is Instant Theatre's "My Secret Weapon."

Portraying first-ladies who tell us like it really was are Madeline Davis as Nancy Reagan, Jenny King as Barbara Bush, Gina Pauratore as Hillary Clinton and Jennifer Royce as Jackie Kennedy. Each is so well suited to their character it's a little scary.

Impeccably staged, flawlessly executed, these ladies really pull it off. Emotions run the gamut as the audience is pulled into the secret lives of these very public women.

Playwright Carol Caldwell did extensive research so though there are laughs throughout you will also be struck by the severity of it all – the truth behind the presidents and their women.

The third production is the Highlands Playhouse's "Talley's Folly."

This is a rather serious piece, peppered with silliness

and laughter, but clearly more serious than not.

The two-person, two-act play is about two people in their 30s and 40s for whom love has passed by.

Sally Talley, played by Catherine Clayton is relentlessly pursued by Matt Friedman played by Gabriel Russo. In the end Matt wins out, but along the way a sweet, sad story unfolds explaining why only now love comes their way.

Talley's Folly isn't an "in your face" production. The story is told in a quiet, enduring way with the two actors bringing out the best in each other. What they deliver is a touching, memorable, stellar performance.

So there you have it. There's mad-cap funny; provocatively interesting and funny; and funny, sweet and touching.

What these productions really represent is how far Highlands theater has come. Used to be it was just musicals and English comedies – which were absolutely enjoyable. Now, venues go out on a limb a bit, offering a more sophisticated, sometimes risky stab at theater which makes it both memorable and provoking.

Take your pick or better yet, see them all.

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The following story is a solid example of how American Cancer Society helps local folks. There are 22 such American Cancer Society facilities at major cancer treatment centers throughout the nation. This is a great utilization of Relay dollars. -- Buck Trott

ACS's Hope Lodge offers comfort

By Tom Cox
Contributor

My diagnosis of prostate cancer on May 18, 2007 took some adjusting to for both me and my wife, Brenda. When we had digested the diagnosis, we set about discovering the best place for my treatment for the cancer to take place. It became very clear that Emory Winship Clinic in Decatur, Ga. was the place to trust.

The next question was how would we manage getting the recommended radiation treatments from our home in Highlands. The folks at the Emory Clinic quickly endorsed the Hope Lodge. Our first visit there just to check it out settled our minds and gave us a great deal of peace concerning the almost nine weeks of treatment that were to come.

Our first impressions of Hope Lodge were a mere shadow of the reality. Never in our lives have we felt more welcomed or more at home. The lodge is set on the Emory Clairmont Campus among large trees and beautiful landscaping. The lodge itself would fill the bill for anyone's idea of a mountain retreat that is not only lovely but most comfortable — with the welfare of the patient and caregiver the top priority. We were greeted by a most devoted group of staff and volunteers. The American Cancer Society has employed their high level of expertise to take care of the needs of all.

We're now about halfway through the treatment period and feeling quite at home there. Our accommodations include a small sitting room complete with computer desk, sofa, two comfortable chairs, and a TV. The bedroom has twin beds, as do all the rooms since the caregiver is often a parent or other relative or friend. The bath is handicap-equipped. The furnishings are of excellent quality including the bedspreads and all other amenities. Each

floor includes a laundry where the detergent and oxygen cleaner are furnished. There is also an ice machine in the laundry room.

Due to the fact that there are a number of guests in the long process of receiving bone transplants, cleanliness is a must. These patients cannot tolerate pesticides or even blooming flowers; so we do not take any food or beverage to the rooms as they might encourage bugs. A former guest there has made beautiful paper flowers that add color and cheerfulness. There is a community kitchen that not only solves the food-preparation problem, but makes it impossible to stay totally to one's self. It is most important for cancer patients to stay optimistic, and visiting with others with similar problems or those with more serious conditions keeps one from dwelling on the downside of the situation. You can always talk it over with someone in the "same boat."

I have mentioned the staff. There are not enough words to express their dedication. The director, Erika Price, always has a smile on her face, but none of us doubt she is in charge and has no plans to overlook the rules that protect the safety of the patients' health. Her door is always open, and we all feel free

to stop by and ask a question or just let her cheer us up. The night manager, Keri Schmidt, the granddaughter of former Highlanders Chet and Marge Schmidt, continues the care we have received all day. Keri spends every night there and didn't even complain when we left our key in our room at 6:30 in the morning and had to get her up to let us in to get ready to go for treatment. The volunteer staff is equally dedicated, and many of them are themselves cancer survivors or have loved ones who have had cancer.

Brenda and I have always been highly supportive of the American Cancer Society, and with our experience at its Hope Lodge, we are more enthusiastic than ever about their work as well as the way the money given to them is used.

This caring dedication follows us to Emory Clinic. The university's free shuttle service saves us the frustration of driving in Atlanta traffic, and once we arrive, all those we meet, from the doctors to the cleaners, are alert to any question or unsureness we might have.

One of my radiation technicians started off calling me Mr. Cox, then Mr. Thomas, and now he says, "Tommy come in here and get your treatment." What a caring bunch of people in whose hands we find ourselves.

MountainTop Relay for Life

Friday, August 24 • Highlands Recreation Park at 6 p.m.
2007 Relay Teams

Cashiers Valley Rotary, Chestnut Hill, Chicks Dig a Cure, Cub Scouts, Dwight Morgan, Highlands Cashiers Hospital & Hospice, Highlands Country Club, Highlands Rotary, Highlands School, Just for You, Keller-Williams, RBC Centura, Tangles, Terminix, United Community Bank Banker Babes, Vicki's Victors – Grace Community Church, Warth Construction, Yellow Mountain Baptist Church

Survivor & Caregiver Laps to Open Relay

MountainTop Relay for Life invites you to a Cancer Survivors' Reception at the Highlands Recreation Center hosted by the MountainTop Rotary Club Friday, Aug. 24 at 5 p.m. just before the Relay For Life. Coach Butch Smart to provide survivor welcome. Hors d'oeuvres are being provided by Highlands Cashiers Hospital. The Relay for Life will begin at 6 p.m. Opening Lap Honoring Survivors and Caregivers For more information, please contact Jillian Ream at 866-227-7798. The survivor reception to replace survivor dinner.

All New Relay Children's Play & Games Station

Hosted by the Highlands Ecumenical Council – Community Bible Church, Highlands United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church Of The Incarnation, and Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church starting at 6 p.m. at the Highlands Recreation Center. Activities to Include: Relay Games, Carnival Games, Bounce House, Gem Mining Sand Box, 3 Point Hoops Shoot, Line Dances, Cotton Candy and more. It's fun for the whole family!

1st Annual Mountain Top Relay Medical Mile

As a current or retired medical provider in our area, you are INVITED to take part in the 1st Annual Mountain Top Relay Medical Mile Relay For Life on Friday, August 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Highlands Recreation Center. Walk a lap or two together with other medical providers as we honor you during the first annual Relay Medical Mile!



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• MOUNTAIN TOP RELAY FOR LIFE •

March, cheer, laugh and bring that hope to everyone

It seemed I had come full circle on my journey. Once again I was sitting in my doctor's office and I was stressed. I had completed my many chemotherapy sessions. On this day I would find out if the medication had done its job. It had been a long week since my CT Scan. I had slept very little and had discovered most cable stations repeat programs during the late night and early morning hours.



Nancy Welch

My doctor entered the room.

"Why are you looking so bug-eyed this morning?" he asked.

"Because I have been waiting a week to hear the results of my CT Scan," I said.

He let me know, in no uncertain terms, I should never have to wait a week for such test results. That settled, we sat down, along with my husband, to look at my scans. They resembled large ink blots.

"What do they mean?" I asked my doctor.

He pulled up the radiologist's report. "What does it mean?" I asked again, my voice trembling.

My husband answered, "Look at the last line."

I did.

It read, "No evidence of metastasized cancer anywhere."

I stared. Then I did something that surprised me. I began crying. I didn't cry when I was told I had cancer. Now I had good news and I was blubbering like a baby.

The nurses came forward as I left and hugged me. Some had tears in their eyes.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," I said, grabbing at a tissue.

The story doesn't end there. I discovered quickly that when poison is pumped into your veins for many months, the effects don't leave overnight. But I did feel as if a black cloud had lifted.

"That cloud will grow smaller and smaller as time goes on," my doctor said.

I suddenly felt a need to find myself. Cancer had been

at the center of my identity for so long. Weeks of chemo, major surgery and recuperation, blood tests, CT scans and now I was a regular person again.

But I never will be. Cancer changes things. The sky is bluer. Laughter is so precious. Friends are so wonderful. Prayers bring miracles. Daily I see things in a different and more positive light.

I will be checked regularly and will always be on the lookout. I am so thankful for my doctors, my nurses and everyone who held my hand and sometimes held me upright as I walked this journey.

I am thankful for all the people here who will participate in our annual Relay for Life. I am grateful for the hope they gave me and the promise of other cures for many suffering from this terrible disease. You mean more to all of us than you know.

March, cheer, laugh and bring that hope to everyone. It means everything.

Because of efforts of people like you, I am now a survivor. What an important word.

God bless you all.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

There's a 'ring' of truth in it

Dear Editor,

I wrote this letter to Fred Wooldridge concerning his column in the Aug. 16 paper on outsourcing. I have always enjoyed your humor and jabs at our current environment around Highlands and around the world. Your current article about outsourcing had me rolling on the floor laughing. This strikes a particularly true chord nowadays.

Sadly, I work for a company who manufactures equipment and technology which enables businesses

to outsource easily for call center needs.

My own company is now answering many calls from India. Your fictional conversation (I pray Reeves has not outsourced...) is so realistic and pertinent.

I don't normally send email to strangers but I feel like you're a kindred spirit and fellow cynic so I wanted to say "Thanks for the job you do!"

Joe Mac
Highlands, NC
Kennesaw, GA

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Thursday, August 23 8:00 p.m.



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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Two booksignings at Cyrano's on Saturday, Aug. 25

Pug impresario Lisa Knapp and essayist Gerry Soud will sign copies of their works at Cyrano's Bookshop on Saturday, Aug. 25. Mr. Soud autographs from 1-3 p.m.; Ms. Knapp signs from 3-5 p.m.

In "Fabulous Pugs," her small-scale coffee-table book, Lisa Knapp does for those odd, adorable canines what William Wegman did for weimaraners.

Knapp, a graphic designer and Atlanta native, has attired her now five-year-old female pug, Charlie, in costumes ranging from ancient Rome to modern bling — all captured in photographer Danny King's rich images.

"The combination of my sewing skills and Charlie's modeling abilities has resulted in this walk through pug history and pop culture," says the author.

Authenticity is the key, with historically accurate details in each outfit. Queen Isabellapug has her mantilla, Shakespearpug his ruffled collar, Marie Antoinettepug her dress and wig and Napoleon Bonapug wears a jaunty bicorn hat and epaulettes. More recent historical personalities include Mao Tse-pug, Carmen Mirandapug and Liz Taylorpug. Lisa and Charlie will greet their fans and explain what the Pug Life is all about from 3-5 p.m. Saturday.

Gerry Soud is director of marketing and public relations for the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School in Georgia. He will sign copies of "Life As I Slice It: Essays on Absurdities in American Life" from 1-3 p.m.

Mr. Soud has both taught school and worked in public relations for several large companies in Charlotte.

Many of the chapters in "Life As I Slice It" had their beginnings as on-air comments on that city's National Public Radio affiliate, WFAE and range across such topics as cell-phone use, reality TV and job hunting, with wit and perception.

The inevitability of death: "I think it's the lack of choice that troubles me the most. I'm an American and having a choice is what it's all about."

On the tackiness of a certain tourist Mecca: "Nestled in some of the oldest mountains on earth, Gatlinburg puts the velvet in Velveta with a main street that resembles the fake cardboard cut-out town from the movie 'Blazing Saddles.'"

Scott Jagow, host of NPR's Marketplace Morning Report from Los Angeles says, "Gerry Soud's observations on life and work always bring a smile to my face. He has a gift for seeing things other people miss and for explaining them in a way that is both high-minded and humble. I learn something and I laugh out loud."

Cyrano's Bookshop is located at 390 Main Street in Highlands, North Carolina. Books can be reserved for autographing by calling (828) 526-5488 or sending an e-mail to cyranos@nctv.com; to learn more about Cyrano's Bookshop, visit www.cyranosbooks.com.

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... DAVIDOFF continued from page 18



Special members of the family are frequent subjects for Davidoff

"I shot a gathering hosted by Governor Haley Barber of Mississippi," he says. "And I look forward to expanding my business up here. We plan to spend the season here then return to Florida for the winter."

As his career continues, Michael says he is proud to carry on the fine professional reputation built by his father.

"He was a wonderful mentor and his sense of humor and his wonderful advice are with me everyday," he says.

• See contact information in ad on page 16.

• BUSINESS NEWS •

'Men on a Mission' exclusive sales agents for Titan Homes

Chris Roesner, member of the Men On A Mission Team with EXIT Smokey Mountain Realty announced Tuesday that his Team has been appointed exclusive sales agents for Titan Homes. In an interview, Roesner said, "this appointment {by Titan Homes} is a huge compliment to us and our abilities. We are very proud to be representing Titan and all of their premier developments in Macon County including Sunset Mountain Estates, Springwood Cliffs and River Valley Ranch."



Chris Roesner

Titan Development is led by experienced developer, custom home builder and true visionary, Shane Stikeleather. "Shane exemplifies the type of vision that is necessary to protect our mountainsides while dealing realistically with the growth that is inevitable in the Smokey Mountain Region," says Roesner.

Shane Stikeleather is responsible for the quality construction of nearly 900 homes during his lifetime. At this point in his life, though, Shane sees his calling as much more than just building top quality custom homes. "These mountains are so magnificent," says Shane "Building houses is good and all. I've done that," he says, "But building communities that are in perfect harmony with the natural settings of these Smokey Mountains, now that's something great! That's something to be proud of. That's what legacies are built on."

"Sunset Mountain Estates has been a

huge success," said Stikeleather. "We're very proud of what we have created there." The plan is to capitalize on that success while creating River Valley Ranch. "We want the same high quality infrastructure, only top-quality custom homes and, of course, outstanding building sites."

"River Valley Ranch is going to appeal to a wider range of buyers," says Roesner with EXIT Realty. We'll have cozy townhomes along the creek from the low \$200's that will appeal to the 55 and over crowd," he continues, "all the way to estate sized homes perched high up on the ridge and priced from the \$800's to over \$1 million." The central focus of the community will be The Lodge, a private owner's club right on the river housing stables, a small bistro and a coffee bar.

"The plan {with River Valley Ranch} is to create a sophisticated mountain retreat where people can come to commune with nature in a civilized fashion," said Stikeleather. "We have the land, we have the vision, we have the experience, and now we have the marketing and sales support we need with the Men On A Mission Team and EXIT Smokey Mountain Realty."

For more information on Titan Homes or any of their luxury communities contact Chris Roesner or Terry Green, the Men On A Mission Team with EXIT Smokey Mountain Realty toll free at 1-866-WNC-BUYER (962-2893) or locally at 828-371-3717

Old Edwards Hospitality Group announces July & August Service Champions Awards

The Service Champion Program is utilized to reward and recognize associates who go above and beyond the call of duty to meet and exceed the resort guest's expectations.

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

July 2007:

Gold: Jared Stull-Spa
Silver: Eneida Pacheco - Housekeeping

Bronze: Gonzalo Rojas and Carmelo Silva-Maintenance
August 2007:

Gold: Jimmy Lowe-Security
Silver: Corey Rogers-Warehouse
Bronze: Tony Neel-Madison's

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

Gomes also announced the recent promotions of the following Old Edwards Hospitality Group employees:

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

- Live music every night at 7:30 p.m. and during brunch on Sunday at ...on the Verandah restaurant.

- Nantahala Tennis Association: Meets Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. -noon for Round Robin at Highlands Recreation Park. All levels of play welcome.

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

- Hal Phillips at the piano at Skyline Lodge and Restaurant on Flat Mountain Road Fri. & Sat. at 6 p.m.

- Register for summer's nature day camps at the Nature Center. 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. Call 526-4340.

- 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, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1F1T.

- "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodward room 201. It is designed for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. The group meets 10 a.m. until noon. For more information, call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

First Mondays

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

Every Monday

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

Every Tuesday

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

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

- Women's Bible Study at 10 a.m. at Community Bible Church. Summer series on 1 & 2 Peter. All women are invited.

- 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.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

- Classical Yoga Beginner Level Class 8:15-9:30 a.m., 464 Carolina Way. Other classes available. Mats and blankets provided. \$14 per single/\$12 package rate.

Every Wednesday

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

Every Third Wednesday

- As part of the Unitarian Universalist Fellow-

ship 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.

Every Thursday

- At Main Street Inn, Lisa Price piano and vocals in the wine bar 6-9 p.m.

- Al-Anon Meetings, noon in the First Presbyterian Church basement at Fifth & Main Street.

Every Saturday

- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.

- Children's classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery - cost is \$5 per student.

Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 16-26

- The Highlands Playhouse, "Talley's Folly." Performances are Tuesday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. Call 526-2695.

Through Tuesday, Aug. 23

- At Summit One Gallery on South Second Street and Helen's Barn Ave, "Go Figure" featuring Joe Adams, Betty Foy Botts, Shari Erickson, Mase Lucas, Diane McPhail, Jane Smathers, Wesley Wofford, Tom Bluemlien, Lonnie Busch, Libby Mathews, Toby Penney, Rosemary Stiefel.

Through Saturday, Aug. 25

- The North Carolina Premier of "My Secret Weapon" by Carol Caldwell is at 8 p.m. at the Instant Theater. For reservations and tickets call 828-342-9197.

Through Sunday, Sept. 2

- 2007 Cashiers Designer Showhouse, two-week event at The Lodges at Millstone, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, except Sunday, when the House is open noon to 4 p.m. There will be a shuttle from the Cashiers Community Center to the Lodges. Tickets can be purchased before you board a van or at the showhouse for \$25.

Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 23-26

- How the Other Half Loves, at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street, Highlands. Performances will be 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Thursday, Aug. 23

- Artist Diane McPhail and Mary Adair Leslie of Summit One Gallery, where her work is represented, have a New Zealand theme planned for the Studio Dinner Series dinner at Diane's studio. The dinner, catered by Holly Roberts of "The Kitchen" will feature a menu of typical New Zealand dishes, including lamb and kiwi, and fine wines from the area, furnished by the Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop. And, of course, Diane's paintings. For more information about the Studio Dinner Series call Summit One Gallery: 828.526.2673.

- CLE will present a lecture by Kathleen Spencer on Guides to Rome. Spencer served as an adjunct member of the departments of Classics and Art History at Franklin and Marshall College, as well as Director of the College Library. The cost for this lecture is \$20 for CLE members, \$30 for non-members. 10 a.m. to noon. There are a limited number of seats still available, please call the CLE office to register at 526-8811.

- Pipe Organ Concert at First Presbyterian

• See EVENTS page 26

Into-Me-See (Intimacy)

By Darlene Melcher

Here at Community Bible Church we are getting ready for our Caring For the Heart Conference with John Regier which will take place Sunday, Aug. 26-Thursday, August 30. I am probably more excited about this event than anything else that we host all year because of the spiritual and emotional freedom that can be experienced by the participants. Last year, towards the end of the conference, I remember looking around the Sanctuary and seeing all the broken, vulnerable people and thinking, "We are all in this together. We are all just hurting, confused people trying to make sense of it all." For a moment in time, in our mutual brokenness and humility, our hearts were exposed and we were one as a family of Christ.

I think one of the biggest tragedies in our churches, in our marriages, in our families and in our relationships in general is simply that we have not learned the importance of intimacy with God and intimacy with each other. We don't know how to walk through life together and in spite of close proximity to each other, we all feel really alone.

This is not how God designed us to live. Even in the very beginning of creation as God was speaking the world into existence He only saw one thing that was "not good": Adam was alone. When God created Eve everything was "very good" and all was in place for us to experience a close relationship with God and with each other.

Then entered in the problem that destroyed our intimacy with God and with each other: the pain of sin. When Adam and Eve sinned, they violated God's plan and removed themselves from relationship with Him. This can be seen literally as they hid themselves from God. The pain caused them to blame and criticize each other. They began to hurt each other for the first time and began to build walls around certain parts of their hearts to protect from the crushing blows. We all know the rest of the story because we carry on in their tradition.

The pain of sin (whether it is someone else's sin inflicted on us or the consequences of our own decisions) causes us to run off into our secret corners and try to figure out how to deal with our hurts. This is where the vicious cycle begins. As we are trying to hide from the crushing blows and protect ourselves from further pain, we also hide from God. We forget how many times He has said that He is always with us, that He will never leave us or forsake us. So, we cope the best we know how. Instead of healing the hurt, we build a wall around the tender area so that no further harm can come to us.

As life goes on we have more walls than we have real exposed places of ourselves. Unfortunately, the walls we build to protect us also serve to isolate and imprison us. Now, we are not only hurt, but completely alone by our own design. We hobble around for so long in such a mess that we begin to believe that there is in fact nothing wrong with us at all.

Have you ever watched a child nursing a wound? They won't clean it, they just try protect it from further pain. They would rather lie about the wound than allow anyone to get close enough to touch it. And even when they finally decide to allow Dad to take a look, they squeal, "Don't touch it!"

Our intimacy with God is impaired because we

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
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
Rev. Cass Daly • Office - 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion - 11 a.m.
(Highlands Community Center on. U.S. 64 next to the ballfield in Highlands
Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.
Tuesday: Women's weekly Bible study at 2 p.m.
Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m. at First Baptist Church
Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES
3rd & Spring Streets
Sunday 11 a.m.
Wednesday testimony meeting 7 p.m.
Study room open Tuesday 2-4 p.m.

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

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

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
The Rev. Brian Sullivan - Rector: 526-2968
Sunday: 8 A.M. - Holy Eucharist (Rite I) Chapel
8:30 A.M. - Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.
Monday: 4 P.M. Women's Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 A.M. Men's Cursillo Group
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry
Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice
Thursday: 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
10:30 A.M. Daughters of the King

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN
Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m. (nursery provided)
Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; 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. - Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers
Choir - 7

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
Senior Pastor Todd Struble; Asst. Pastor Mike Harris
526-3376
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.;
5 p.m. Youth Group
Wed: Supper; 6; 6:15 - children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 - Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion - 10:30

LITTLE CHURCH OF THE WILDWOOD
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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. Cyprian's 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.
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
(through last Saturday of October)

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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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Art to Wear exhibit at BL Gallery



Aug. 26-Sept. 13, Bascom-Louise Gallery presents "Art to Wear," the latest exhibit at Bascom-Louise Gallery, will feature an array of marvelous clothing, jewelry, and other wearables and adornments. Fiber and jewelry artists from all over the southeast will be participating. Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am. to 4 p.m. Free. For more information, call 526-4949.

Church at 8 p.m., featuring Timothy Albrecht, internationally acclaimed organist. The concert is free and open to the public. The church is located at 471 Main Street.

Friday, Aug. 24
• Cancer Survivor's Reception at the Highlands Recreation Center. Hosted by the Mountain Top Rotary Club at 5 p.m. just before the Relay For



AFTERWARD SWING BY PEREGRINE

One of the nicest things about Highlands Cove is that you don't have to live here to enjoy all that goes with it. Our many amenities are open to the public, pay as you use. There are 18 holes of spectacular golf where the views are nothing short of inspiring. A clubhouse with a fully stocked golf pro shop. A practice facility that rivals any in the area. And a PGA professional staff.



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elegant. The menu is classic continental American and entirely handmade. Our chefs are passionate about serving up an excellent dining experience. And the full-service bar will quench any thirst.

Great golf. Fabulous food. Excellent service. Enjoy Highlands Cove today. We're located six miles east of Highlands on Highway 64. The course is open daily. Call 828-526-4185 for a tee time. Peregrine dining hours are seasonal. Call 828-787-2465 for our dining schedule, reservations or information on special events.



• **UPCOMING EVENTS** •

Artist to explain 'layering'



Art League of Highlands meeting at 5:30 at the Recreation Park in Highlands. Artist Carol Rollick will present a program on how she accomplishes the eye-catching "layering" in her digital photography. Light refreshments will be served at 5 p.m. For information, call 828-524-6070.

Life. Coach Butch Smart to provide survivor welcome. Hors d'oeuvres are provided by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

- MountainTop Relay for Life begins at 6 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Park.

- CLE will present a lecture by Dr. Germán Leperc entitled Stem Cells: Biological Alchemy or Medical Miracle? The lecture will be held on Friday, Aug 24 from 10 -noon at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands. There are a few seats still available; the cost is \$20 for CLE members, \$30 for non-members. Please call the CLE office to register at 526-8811.

Saturday, Aug. 25

- The Mirror Lake Association will have a litter pick up Saturday at Thorn Park at 9 a.m.

- "Art to Wear" exhibit opens at Bascom-Louise Gallery from 5-7 p.m. Free. For more information, call 526-4949.

- Hospital's free health screenings in Cashiers. Pre-registration is required for all screenings. People can sign up by calling the hospital at 526-1434.

- At Cyrano's Bookshop, author Jerry Soud signing "Life As I Slice It" 1-3 p.m.

- At noon at the Hambridge Center Rabun Gap, GA, "Creating A Life: Stories From One Artist's Journey" - Wayland Moore. Free and open to the public. Call Debra on 706.746.7324 or visit our website www.hambridge.org for more details.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 4-mile hike to Whiteside Mt. and

the Devil's Courthouse. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Exxon station on the Highlands Road in Franklin or at 10:15 a.m. at the Highlands Bank of America. Drive 34 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited

• See **EVENTS** page 28

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

to 20; reservations are required. Call leader David Sapin, 369-2628, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday-Thursday, Aug. 26-30

- Caring for the heart Conference at CBC. The first day its from 10:45 a.m. and 6:30-9 p.m. Every other day it's 6:30-9 p.m. You must register for child care, call 526-4685.

Aug. 26-Sept. 13

- "Art to Wear," the latest exhibit at Bascom-Louise Gallery, will feature an array of marvelous clothing, jewelry, and other wearables and adornments. Fiber and jewelry artists from all over the southeast will be participating. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am. to 4 p.m. Free. For more information, call 526-4949.

Monday, Aug. 27

- Town of Highlands Highlands School Scholarship Golf Tournament at the Cullasja Country Club. To sign up call 828-526-3531.

- Art League of Highlands meeting at 5:30 at the Recreation Park in Highlands. Artist Carol Rollick will present a program on how she accomplishes the eye-catching "layering" in her digital photography. Light refreshments will be served at 5 p.m. For information, call 828-524-6070.

- Artist Carol Rollick at the Recreation Park at 5:30 is sure to inspire anyone interested in bettering their art, no matter what the medium. Light refreshments are served at 5 p.m.. For further info contact Bill Richardson at 828-524-6070.

Tuesday, Aug. 28

- The NC Christian Women's Connection will feature a safari supper at 7 p.m. at the Community Building in Franklin. "The Great Outdoors" will be presented by Bill and Linda Fuchs of the Wilderness Taxidermy and Outfitters. The Morris and Baker Quartet will present "Melodies to Soothe the Savage Beast." James and Carole Comak of Grovetown, GA, will present "Smile! You are a Designer Original!" Cost of the dinner and program is \$10 inclusive. Call Gayle at 828-349-8938 or Georgan at 828-369-9117 for reservations by noon Aug. 23.

Wednesday, Aug. 29

- Wine Dinner at ...on the Verandah featuring chef de cuisine Julie Miller bring a South African fusion experience. Cost is \$95 per person plus tax and gratuity. For reservations, call 526-2338.

Thursday, Aug. 30

- The American Red Cross blood drive at First Presbyterian Church of Franklin, located at 26 Church Street in Franklin, NC. Please call 369-9559 to make an appointment today! Walk-Ins are welcome! All presenting donors at the Franklin Community Blood Drive can enter a drawing for a \$500 gift card! Anyone who is at least 17 years of age, weighs a minimum of 110 pounds and is in general good health is eligible to donate. Donors of all blood types are needed.

Saturday, Sept. 1

- Village Square Arts & Crafts Show featuring local artisans and their wares corner of Fifth and Oak streets.

- Hurricane Creek at The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. The category 5 band will touch down for one night, Saturday, at 8 p.m. just in time to kick off your holiday weekend. Call 828-342-9197 for reservations or information.

- Breakfast and Bake Sale for the Bolivia Mis-

sion at Highlands United Methodist Church at 9 a.m. For information about the fundraisers, please call 526-3605.

- The Macon County Art Association is holding an Outdoor Show and Sale on the Catholic Church grounds 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Artists will show their paintings and photographs. The rain date will be the next Saturday. The church is located at 5th

Leparc to lecture on stem cells



Dr. Germán Leparc

CLE will present a lecture by Dr. Germán Leparc entitled *Stem Cells: Biological Alchemy or Medical Miracle? Political battles, ethical issues, promise of miracles to come, scientific stardom, fortunes to be made!* Every day we get bombarded with the news about this biological gold at the end of the scientific rainbow. A brief overview of the current scientific knowledge on the subject, followed by the successes, failures and challenges ahead will conclude with a review of the public and private groups racing to get a hold of the biological equivalent of the philosopher's stone.

Dr. Germán F. Leparc, M.D. is Chief Medical Officer for Florida Blood Services in St. Petersburg, Florida, and a member of the Donor and Patient Safety Monitoring Committee of the National Marrow Donor Program. Leparc has authored over 50 scientific papers, as well as several abstracts and monographs on transfusion medicine. He is an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and the Department of Pathology at the University of South Florida College of Medicine.

The lecture is Friday, Aug 24 from 10-noon at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands. There are a few seats still available; the cost is \$20 for CLE members, \$30 for non-members. Please call the CLE office to register at 526-8811.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

'How the Other Half Loves' at the PAC through Aug. 26



The Highlands Community Players presents "How the Other Half Loves," at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street, Highlands, Thursday-Sunday. Performances will be 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Call the box office at 526-8084. It's open until 4 p.m. Above is David Hoffman as Frank Foster, Teresa played by Katie Cochran and Bob played by Stuart Armor.

and Oak streets in Highlands. If you can't make this sale visit us at the Uptown Gallery in downtown Franklin.

Sunday, Sept. 2

- Great Performance Concert at the Episcopal Church to feature pianist Robert Henry at 4 p.m. This is the second part of the Great Performance Concert Series which is free and open to the public.

Wednesday, Sept. 5-8

- At Instant Theatre "Copenhagen" featuring David Milford as Werner Heisenberg, Ellen Greenwald as Margrethe and Ralph Stevens as Niels Bohr. Performances are at 8 p.m. Call The Instant Theatre at 828-342-9197 for tickets.

Thursday, Sept. 6

- 2007 Studio Dinner Series in artists' creative environments. Theme: Caribbean Lively-Up at Artists Shari Erickson's & Doug Gifford's at 6 p.m. Caribbean cuisine and wines by Tim Lundy of Rosewood Market, part of art sales to benefit Cashiers Fire & Rescue Department. Call 526-2673.

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 7-10

- At Acorn's Coralia Leets Trunk Show. Distinctive jewelry with precious and semi-precious stones, gems and pearls set in 14k and 18k gold.

- At Cyrano's Bookshop, authors George Ellison and Thomas Rain Crowe.

Saturday, Sept. 8

- The Macon County Public Health Center will hold Rabies Vaccination Clinics throughout Macon County on Saturday from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center and from 3-4 p.m. at the Scaly Mountain Post Office. Area veterinarians will vaccinate dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months of age, as required by NC state law. The cost is \$5 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes or in carriers.

Sunday, Sept. 9

- Bel Canto Recital's 15th Anniversary Cele-

bration, 4 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb-Performing Art Center with festive buffet following at the Highlands Falls Country Club. Proceeds benefit the Bascom-Louise Fine Art Center and the Highlands School music program. For tickets call 828-526-5252.

Monday, Sept. 10

- The Highlands Community Christian Choral Rehearsals begin Monday at 7 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.

- At Cyrano's Bookshop, author Ron Rash signing "Chemistry and Other Stories" 1-3 p.m.

- "Missed Highlands, 2007" All Male Beauty Pageant at the Highlands Playhouse at 8 p.m. General Admission tickets are \$50 and reserved seats on the first two rows are \$100. For information about the fundraisers, please call 526-3605.

- At Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro, an elegant, 6-course wine dinner with Reynold's Family Winery hosted by Steve Reynolds and Kathy Simpson at 6 p.m. Call Leah for information, 526-3807.

Wed.-Sat., Sept. 12-15

- This year's Macon County Fair's theme is "The Barn Door is Open at the Macon County Fair." The Fair Association extends to the public the opportunity to construct an educational booth using this theme. This is an excellent time to better acquaint the public with your organization. To obtain an application please call the Extension Office at 349-2046 or come by our office at 193 Thomas Heights Rd. and pick up an application.

Saturday, Sept. 15

- Fall 2007 Gorge Road Cleanup. Meet at the Visitor Center at 8 a.m. Lunch & refreshments will be provided. To sign up call 526-5841.

- At Cyrano's Bookshop, author Anne Sharpsteen with Vivian Cash signing "I Walk the Line" 1-3 p.m.

• See EVENTS page 30

• SALONS & SPAS •



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Call Pam Taylor • (cell) 342-6988, 526-9027, 526-2520

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

• At noon at the Hambridge Center Rabun Gap, GA, "Memories of Betty's Creek: Stories of the Early Days of Hambridge" – Gena Latimer Smith and Dorothy Dickerson. Free and open to the public.

Call Debra on 706-746-7324.

• A class on Scherenschnitte, Wycinanki and Chinese paper cuts, at the Bascom-Louise Gallery.

Great Performances to feature Robert Henry on Sept. 2

Robert Henry, one of America's most renowned young concert pianists, will perform on Sunday, Sept. 2 at 4 p.m., as part of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation's Great Performances Series. The series free and open to the public, was established to bring to Highlands world-class performers in a beautiful and acoustically perfect surrounding.



Robert Henry

debut in New York's Carnegie Hall. Mrs. Henry currently is artist in residence at Georgia State College, Kennesaw State University and Highlands Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

He will receive a Doctorate in Piano Performance from the University of Maryland this summer as well as record the Franz Liszt complete An-

nees de Perlerinage.

Mr. Henry, winner of numerous international competitions including the Atlanta International Competition, Cleveland International Competition, William Kapell International Competition, competitions in Italy, Germany and Canada, and the world's most distinguished Leeds' Competition in England.

He appears frequently as soloist with major orchestras and made his

Mrs. Henry travels twice weekly to Highlands from Atlanta to work with mentor and former colleague Fletcher Wolfe in presenting an outstanding music program at the Highlands Episcopal Church.

This collaboration began many years ago when a young Robert Henry was accompanist for Mr. Wolfe's famous Atlanta Boy Choir.

'Copenhagen' opens Sept. 5-8 at the Instant Theatre Company

The play features David Milford as Werner Heisenberg, Ellen Greenwald as Margrethe and Ralph Stevens as Niels Bohr.

The Tony award-winning play that soars at the intersection of science and art, "Copenhagen" is an explosive imagining of the mysterious wartime meeting between two Nobel laureates to discuss the atomic bomb.

In 1941 the German physicist Werner Heisenberg made a strange trip to Copenhagen to see his Danish counterpart, Niels Bohr. They were old friends and close colleagues and had revolutionized atomic physics in the 1920s with their work together on quantum mechanics and the uncertainty principle. But now the world had changed and the two men were on opposite sides in a world war. The meeting was fraught with

danger and embarrassment; it ended in disaster.

Why Heisenberg went to Copenhagen and what he wanted to say to Bohr are questions that have exercised historians ever since. In Michael Frayn's new play, an ambitious, fiercely intelligent and daring dramatic sensation, Heisenberg meets Bohr and his wife Margrethe once again to look for the answers to work out "how we can ever know why we do what we do."

A quantum drama of sorts, "Copenhagen" has been hailed by London's "Sunday Times" as "a piece of history, an intellectual thriller, a psychological investigation and a moral tribunal in full session."

Performances being at 8 p.m. For reservations and tickets, call The Instant Theatre at 828-342-9197.

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WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY'S programs in elementary education, special education, birth-kindergarten, psychology and educational leadership are developing adjunct professor pools for teaching in the region. Master's degree in the discipline area is required, doctorate preferred. Send vita to Amelia Schlott, 220 Killian, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723. Western Carolina University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

POLICE OFFICER - Successful candidate must be 21 years of age; BLET-certified; and submit to an extensive background investigation, drug screening, and psychological evaluation. Applicant must possess a valid North Carolina, South Carolina, or Georgia driver's license, for the state which they reside in as a permanent resident. Salary: \$26,847, DOQ. Applicant must successfully complete the Highlands Police Department application process. Highlands Police Department, Capt. R.L. Forrester or Capt. T. Ensley, 310 Oak Street, Highlands, NC 28741, (828) 526-8734.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - needed for Fine Art Center/Bascom-Louise Gallery in Highlands. Email resumes to: jconnor_bascomlouise@verizon.net.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT - needed for Fine Art Center/Bascom-Louise Gallery in Highlands. Email resumes to: jconnor_bascomlouise@verizon.net.

EVENT PLANNER - needed for Fine Art Center/Bascom-Louise Gallery in Highlands. Email resumes to: jconnor_bascomlouise@verizon.net.

PANTHERTOWN COORDINATOR - Resumes are being received for part-time Panther town Coordinator. Duties include recruiting and training volunteers for projects in Panther town Valley, outdoor physical activities, fundraising and grant writing. Communication skills, commitment to environmental preservation and personal transportation are required. Send resume to Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, 348 S. 5th St. Highlands, NC 28741. 828-526-9938 x 256, jmca@dnet.net.

FURNITURE DELIVERY - mostly in Highlands-Cashiers areas. Professional appearing individual experienced in dealing with the public. Non-smoker. Good driving record. Attention to detail. Monday through Friday, some Saturdays. Call the Summer House at 526-5577.

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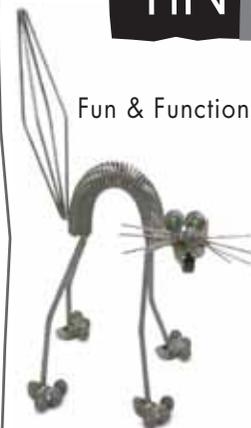
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Lot 7



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... DROUGHT continued from page 1

age is July's rainfall of 4.33 inches and the .12 inches of rain that has fallen so far om August.

The average rainfall statistics for February, May (and most likely August) 2007 were substantially lower than the average amount in 2006 which was 20 inches off the average of 85.16 inches.

In February 2007 there were 2.73 inches of rain compared to the average for February of 2006 of 6.69. In May, 2.09 inches were recorded compared to the 2006 average of 6.86 inches. In August the average in 2006 was 7.22 inches but by Aug. 22, 2007 only .12 inches of rain have been recorded.

By North Carolina law, the burning ban prohibits all open burning statewide, regardless of whether a permit was issued. Open burning includes burning leaves, branches and other plant material. In all cases, it is illegal to burn trash, lumber, tires, newspapers, plastics or other non-vegetative materials.

The ban will be enforced by local law enforcement agents, county fire marshals and the N.C. Division of Forest Resources, an agency within the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The open burning ban means that all burning is prohibited if it is 100 feet or more from an occupied dwelling. For more information, citizens can contact a county ranger within the Division of Forest Resources or the local county fire marshal's office.

In addition, the N.C. Drought Advisory Council has

classified Macon County in Extreme Drought Conditions – the highest category – and strongly urges the implementation of drought response actions for all water users located in or dependent on water resources from the areas of the state experiencing drought conditions.

The council suggests:

- Staying informed on drought conditions and advisories by accessing www.ncdrought.org.
- Participating in regional and local coordination for the management of water resources.
- Reducing socially and economically important water uses to ensure the availability of water for critical needs (e.g. firefighting, health and safety, etc.); and,
- Revisiting and exploring alternative water sources and reuse options.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix said the town is under voluntary water restrictions requesting that citizens on the town's water system not waste it watering grass or flowers. "The next level is mandatory and that means by law they can't water and if they do they can be cited," he said.

Counties in the state under Extreme Drought Conditions are Buncombe County, Cherokee County, Clay County, Graham County, Haywood County, Henderson County, Jackson County, Macon County, Madison County, McDowell County, Mitchell County, Polk County, Rutherford County, Swain County, Transylvania County, Yancey County.

The N.C. Drought Advisory Council says the highest drought classification applies to the entire county, if any portion of the county is depicted on the U.S. Drought Monitor of N.C. as meeting the higher drought conditions.

Other classifications are Severe, Moderate and Impending drought signifying "abnormally dry conditions."

... HIS & HERS from page 8

nearby phone, and came back. "He's on his way" he mumbled. I'd rarely seen my mother this angry, so in spite of my fear, it was exciting.

Around the corner came a big hulk of a man. He looked like a former football player gone to seed from too little activity and too much beer. "I gather you won't let my daughter swim in your pool," my mother announced in an icy tone. "Well, Ma'am, you have to understand, we don't want to get in trouble, some folks might complain, we have our orders." The manager stumbled through a litany of excuses. I had no idea what was going on. This was grown-up talk, much too complicated for me. Finally, my mother ordered me to turn around. She grabbed the seat of my bathing suit, and hauled it up over my butt, exposing a bit of very white bottom. Then she quickly pulled the bathing suit down again. "I don't think that there will be any further problem about my daughter swimming in your pool, will there?" she said, coolly. "Oh, no, Ma'am" stuttered the mortified manager. "No problem at all!" he stated. "Now, if you'll excuse me" he said, hightailing it out of there as fast as his hulking frame could go.

My mother gave me a sad smile. "I don't think there will be any more problems about going to the pool" she told me, her voice tired and resigned. Later I would come to know how she was no stranger to prejudice and narrow-mindedness. In that instant, I realized my tiny mother was a bigger hero than John Wayne, or Mickey Mantle, or even General Eisenhower. Oh, and for the rest of that vacation, I never went back to that pool.

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. Michelle is a member of the Highlands Writers Group. She is a "person of color." That color in pink.

• POLICE & FIRE •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Aug 15-22. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Aug 17

- At 11:40 p.m., a motorist at N. 4th and Oak streets was cited for driving without a license..

Aug. 18

- At 8:30 a.m. a resident on the Cashiers Road reported \$200 damage to doors and windows.
- At 8:10 p.m., a motorcyclist at NC 28 and Cherokee Drive was cited for not wearing a helmet.
- At 11:30 p.m., Sylvia Elliot, 22, of Highlands, was charged with a Class 3 misdemeanor for possession of drug paraphernalia at S. 4th and Main streets.
- At 11:30 p.m., a motorist at S. 4th and Spring streets was cited for driving without a license..

Aug. 19

- At 10:20 p.m., a resident on Worley Road reported six youth – male and female – trespassing in the woods on private property. The were told to leave the property.
- A little after midnight, a motorist at NC. 28 and Main Street was cited for driving without a license.
- At a traffic stop at N. 4th and Oak streets, Christian Sanchez, 29, of Franklin, was arrested for parole and probation violations.

Aug. 20

- At 8:50 p.m., officers on foot patrol responded to a verbal dispute on Main Street between two drivers – one who was experiencing road rage due to the fact that the other driver hadn't pulled over to let cars pass on the way to Highlands on the Gorge Road.
- At 8:50 p.m., a motorist at Main and 3rd streets was cited for driving a vehicle illegally.
- At 1:25 p.m., vandalism to a car on parked on Main Street was reported.

Aug. 21

- At 8:16 a.m., officers responded to a call of barking dogs on Satulah Ridge Road.
- During the week officers issued 20 warning tickets.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Aug. 15-22

Aug. 15

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Hemlock Wood Drive where a person had fallen. There was no transport.

Aug. 16

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly to assist with a sick hiker.

Aug. 18

- The dept. responded to a wreck at Mirror Lake where a vehicle ran into the water when a state road grader approached. There were no injuries..

Aug. 20

- The dept. carried out a hiker at Bull Pen and Ellicot Rock.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at VZ-Top. It was false.

Aug. 21

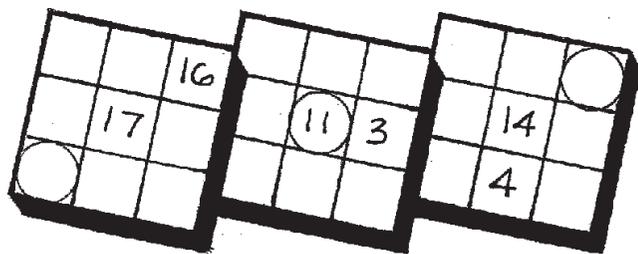
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Fairway Condominiums at Highlands Country Club.

Aug. 22

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Azalea Lane at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club.
- The dept. assisted with loading a patient from a residence on Foreman Road.
- The dept. responded to a call of a brush fire at a residence on the Cashiers Road. The homeowner put it out.

PseudoCube[©]

#DZ2C - Level of Difficulty - HARD



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 equaling the total of the three center numbers. One of the diagonals is shown with circles.

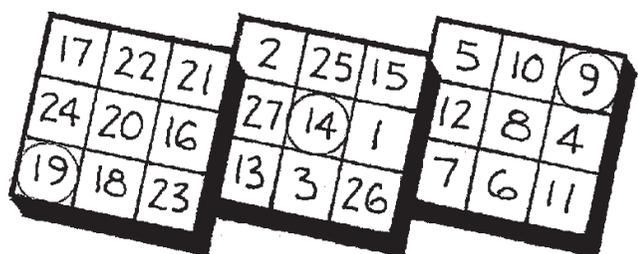
THE CHALLENGE:

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

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

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com

Solution to #CN2F in the Aug. 16 paper



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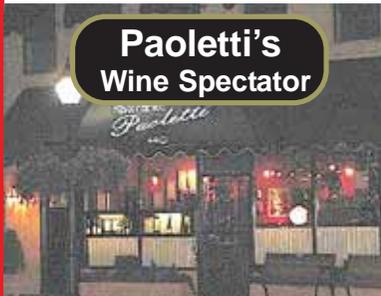
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