

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 5, Number 11

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, March 15, 2007

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

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

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

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

Every Tuesday

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

March 15

• Highlands School PTO meeting at 6 p.m. in the old gym.

• The Highlands School Scholastic Book Fair starts today at 1 p.m. and runs through next Thursday at 10 a.m. It will also be open tonight from 5-6 p.m. before the PTO meeting and also from 5-6 p.m. on Saturday, March 17 before the Talent Show.

Friday, March 16

• Arbor Day Observance, 10:30 a.m. at the Rec Park. 25 American Chestnut trees will be planted on the grounds.

Friday & Saturday, March 16-17

• Carpe Noctum Theatre invites you to "Seize the Night" at 8 p.m. at The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square. Call the box office at 342-9197 for tickets and reservations.

Saturday, March 17

• A "Talent Show" at Highlands School in the old gym on the main campus at 6 p.m.

Sun., March 18 & Mon., March 19

• Auditions for HCP's production of "Enchanted April" at 3 p.m. Sunday and 6 p.m., Monday at PAC on Chestnut Street in Highlands. A reading copy is at the Hudson Library. Three adult males and five adult females are needed. Performance dates are May 10-13 and May 17-20. Call 526-0306.

• Chaplain Margaret Howell will be installed during the 10:30 a.m. worship service at the Lutheran church at 2152 Dillard Road. Pastor John Propst and assistant to the Bishop Phil Tonneson will lead the service and installation. Pot luck luncheon will follow.

Monday, March 19

• Candlelight memorial march and peace prayer vigil for the fallen civilians and soldiers of the Iraq war. Gather on Main Street in front of Silver Eagle at 6 p.m. Walk with candles down Main Street. Prayer and silent meditation will follow at the gazebo.

Tuesday, March 20

• Episcopal Church Stations of the Cross - 5 p.m.; Soup & Salad - 5:30 p.m.; Speaker the Rev. Buck Hanks - 6 p.m. "Bible Study." All invited.

• HIARPT's Faith and Politics: How the Moral Values Debate Divides America and How to Move Forward Together by Senator John Danforth. Coordinator: Don Mullen 10 a.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Lunch will follow at 11:30. All are welcome.

ETJ zones finalized; allowances defined

At the March 7 Town Board meeting commissioners finished zoning parcels in the northern Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) area.

Most of the northern area had been zoned at the Feb. 28 meeting, but commissioners wanted to

walk the Zachary and Hick roads areas before ruling on whether to zone the parcels R1 or R2 as suggested by the planning board.

Commissioners said they based their opinions on what was on the land and ended up zoning 15 of the lots R2 and the rest

R1. They also ruled on lots around the Summer House on N.C. 106. The owners had requested that an entire parcel, which had been recombined, be zoned B5 rather than some parcels B5 and some R1. Commissioners zoned the re-

• See ETJ page 7

Rib Shack bar OK'd

There's been much talk about a proposed bar at The Rib Shack restaurant on Spring Street. Now it's official. Very soon patrons can order a martini with their ribs.

Wednesday, March 14, the Zoning Board unanimously approved the required Special Use Permit to expand The Rib Shack to include a bar. The only contingency is verification of the parcel's built-upon percentage. The built-upon allowance is 70 percent; the built-upon is 65 percent.

Zoning Board member Bill Rethorst questioned the built-upon but Interim Zoning Administrator Richard Betz and George Mathis, chief engineer for the Old Edwards Hospitality Group (OEI), said there are documents verifying the built-upon.

Basically, The Rib Shack is expanding its ability to serve alcoholic beverages from its current brown-bagging and wine and beer license to a bar where alcoholic beverages can be prepared and served. The state ABC board has already issued the permit under OEI's resort licensure.

"This is really safer than brown-bagging," said CEO for OEI Mario Gomes. "With brown-bagging, people can drink a whole

• See RIB SHACK page 21

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
55-33°F	50-29°F	51-33°F

A sure sign of spring



In 1929 the Highlands Improvement Society created a small triangular park at the corner of Church and Fifth streets and erected a granite memorial to Samuel Kelsey, Sr., honoring him as one of the founders of Highlands. Daffodils and irises planted around the memorial are the first to be coaxed from the ground by spring-like weather. March 21 is the first day of spring. Photo by Kim Lewicki

Priorities set for Planning Board

Whenever there's a question regarding an upcoming project or a planning philosophy the standard phrase heard is: "Send it to the planning board."

Feeling overloaded, Planning Board Chairman Griffin Bell re-

quested a joint meeting between the Town Board and the Planning Board on March 14 to learn exactly what the Town Board considers priorities — ETJ, implementation of the 2005 Land Use Plan,

• See PRIORITIES page 22

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Committee says survey will tell all

With surveys in the mail, the Affordable Housing Committee is anxiously awaiting replies.

"Right now, completion of the survey tabulation depends on response from the hospital," said member Ginger Slaughter.

Three employers on the plateau were sent surveys about affordable housing — Highlands School, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and the Highlands Police Department.

Nine surveys have been returned from the police department; 46 from the school and 224 surveys were delivered in paychecks to employees of the hospital.

Of most interest to the group is the answer to two open-ended questions at the end of the survey asking "Are you interested in living in Highlands? Why or Why Not?" and "What are your concerns about living in Highlands?"

"This is serious research," said Slaughter. "It's information we need to know and we don't know what the consensus will be."

Preliminary results from surveys returned from the school indicate some folks aren't interested in living in Highlands, while some would be interested if there were apartments to live in, but they're not interested in buying a home.

If the hospital's surveys

• See SURVEY page 17

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •

• LETTERS •

From my perspective



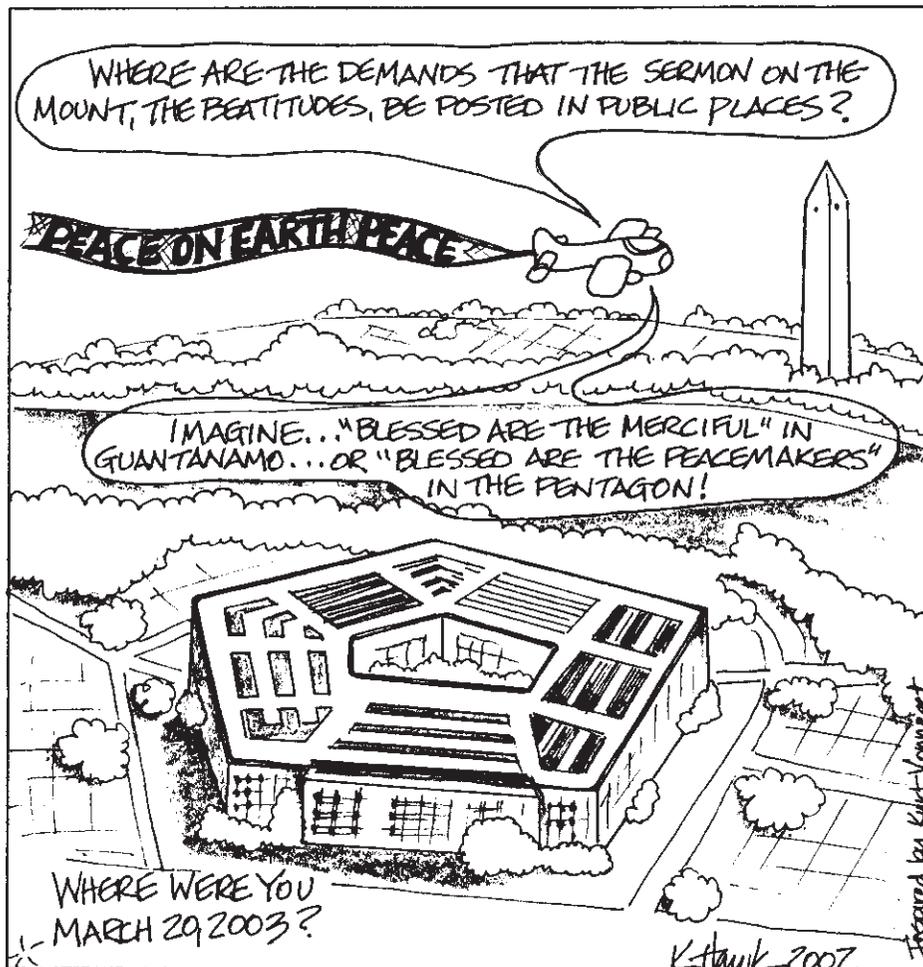
Mayor Don Mullen

Many people are concerned about the change and consolidation in U.S. Forestry services on the Highlands plateau. Unfortunately, the Department of Agriculture will be closing the Flat Mountain Road district ranger's office in June of this year. The downtown informational office on Main Street in Highlands will remain open. In spite of pleas from two former mayors, Buck Trott and John Cleaveland, along with me, to our congressman, the Forestry Service has elected to consolidate two districts into one and call it Nantahala Ranger District.

I have talked to both the N.C. supervisor, Marisue Hilliard and the Nantahala District ranger, Mike Wilkins, expressing my deep concerns about this move. They both have assured me that services will not be cut and the same careful overseeing of the pristine forests which surround us will be as it was before. Budget cuts in the Forestry Service unfortunately have made this move necessary and we are not the only ones in the country affected by this. Special permits for activities in the National Forest will now have to be obtained in the Franklin office. However, we expect the same level of protection and service as we always have had with the Forestry service, particularly in fire protection which always is a concern, especially during very dry times. If anyone has concerns about these decisions made by the Department of Agriculture, I ask them to call the Forestry Service in Franklin or attend the open house in the Flat Mt. Road office on March 13.

Parking downtown during the spring and summer months continues to be unsettled thus far this year. There was a very good well researched and thought out presentation by the Chamber of Commerce regarding the two hour parking ordinance this past week at the Town Board meeting. Business employee parking in central areas was also dis-

•See MULLEN page 22



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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Saying good-bye

Dear Editor,

It is with a great sense of sadness that I leave this precious town. I am moving to La Grange, GA, to be near family.

I have lived the happiest years of my life here in Highlands. Never have I felt so loved and appreciated. I've seen many changes in the 19 years we have been coming here - most for the good. But the thing that doesn't seem to change is the citizens' willingness to welcome the stranger and to involve him deeply in the life or the town.

I have just read Chuck Colson's book "The Good Life" and he talks about the emptiness of being "retired." He says the good life is filled with satisfying relationships, usually evolving through working hard on a project helpful to the community.

As I read the passage I thought, "He's describing Highlands! We have 60 nonprofits, many of them reading out to the needs right here on the mountain -- the Food Pantry, the International Friendship Center, the free health clinic, the Emergency Council, Fibber Magee's and more. There are others to do with the arts, classes of all kinds through the Center of Life Enrichment, three theater groups all of which are outstanding; a wonderful fine art center, beautiful music of all kinds, plus a host of environmental groups working hard to retain the health and beauty of our plateau.

The churches are warm and friendly and trying to reach out as Christ would have them do. I honestly think we have a little bit of heaven. Please don't let that change!

Edna Foster
 Highlands, La Grange

Say 'no' to toxic landfills

Dear Editor,

Do you know that there is a definite possibility of European countries dumping their ASR (auto shredded residue) in North Carolina? This consists of not only the metal but seats, carpeting and plastic panels that have been finely ground. They are also coated with the oil and fluids not drained from the tanks which may contain arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, celenium and PCBs.

Sims Hugo Neu, a New York

•See LETTERS page 22

• BIRTHS •

**Trysten
Keith
Stanley
and
mother
Stephanie
McCall**



On Oct. 20, 2006 Trysten Keith was born to Justin K. Stanley and Stephanie M. McCall. Trysten was 7 pounds, 7 ounces.

He is the little brother of Ayden B. Stanley and grandson of John and Julie McCall and Randy Stanley and Charlene Keener.

Great grandparents on his mother's side are Ray and Linda McCall and the late Della McCall; and Jack and Mary Alford. Great grandparents on his father's side are Perry and Joanne Wiggins, Frank and Nancy Stanley and Mr. and Mrs. Woodall.

Uncles and aunts on his father's side are Jason, Joey, Jamie and Jeremy Stantley and Brookelyn and Hannah Stanley.

Uncles on his mother's side are Stephen McCall.

His mother Stephanie was a 2006 Highlands School graduate. Stephanie is enrolled at Southwestern Community College completing a degree as a radiology technician.



**Cynthia
Gomes with
grandson
Tristin
Nicholas
Gomes**

On March 10, 2007, at 10:41 p.m., Tristin Nicholas Gomes was born to Philip and Lisa Gomes, in Marietta, GA. He weighed 8 pounds and 15 oz and was 20 3/4 inches long. His grandparents are Mario and Cynthia Gomes of Highlands.

• THANK YOU •

Thank you so much to our capable EMTs and first-responders who came to Gloria's emergency Tuesday night. May God bless you all.

The Mungers

• OBITUARIES •

James B. "Duck" Lindsay

James B. "Duck" Lindsay, 88, husband of Martha Todd Lindsay, died March 8, 2007 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in Highlands, NC.

A native of Clemson, he was the son of the late James Gill and Mrytle Burton Lindsay. He was a graduate of Clemson University in architectures and was a veteran of WWII, attaining the rank of major in the U.S. Army. He was the past district governor of Rotary and an elder in Fort Hill Presbyterian Church.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by four children: Jane L. Chalker and husband, Selwyn of Highlands, NC, Davis Lindsay and wife Sara of Clemson, S.C., L. English and husband John of Marion, N.C., and May L. Schmitt and husband, Gary of Highlands, N.C.; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a son, James Todd Lindsay and four brothers, Marvin, John Douglas, Herbert and Robert Jackson Lindsay.

Graveside services were held Friday, March 13 at Cemetery Hill in Clemson with Rev. James Richardson officiating. Honorary pallbearers were grandsons and grandsons-in-law, Selwyn Chalker IV, Hunnicutt Lindsay, Sam Schmitt, Jack McKinney, Dave McKinney, Keaton Goode, Ryan Gearhart and Michael Vilardo. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Rotary Club of Clemson, P.O. Box 1475, Clemson, S.C. 29633.

Martha Sligh Dunson

Martha Sligh Dunson, a beloved mother and grandmother, died March 13, 2007 from complications from cancer at MUSC hospital in Charleston, SC. Born October 24, 1929 in Gadston, AL, she grew up in Athens, GA. She moved to Highlands in 1988. Surviving are her sons: Stephenson L. Floyd; and three grandchildren, Melissa Floyd, Robert Floyd, and Tim Cheseborough. A memorial service will be held at Highlands United Methodist Church, Sunday, March 18, 2007 at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the American Cancer Society.

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MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY



Exceptional renovation on this "Old Highlands Charm" This 2 bedroom, 2 bath cottage offers winter lake views and deeded lake access. Lovingly restored with original wormy oak walls, hardwood floors throughout, an antique granite fireplace, a new custom kitchen with butcher block countertops and bead board cabinetry. Broker owned. \$550,000



"Bearfoot" at Flat Mountain offers mixed material siding of poplar bark, cedar shake and stone. The open floor plan and attention to detail lends a classic feel to this mountain home. Three bedrooms, three and half baths, covered deck, GE stainless steel appliances and Corian counter tops in the kitchen, stunning three-sided fireplace. \$795,000



This wonderful farmhouse features a park-like setting with covered bridge, over one mile of frontage on a flowing trout stream, huge pine trees, fully stocked trout ponds, guest cottage, chicken coop, and root cellar. Lovingly renovated and refurbished. Authentic farmhouse cabinetry with butcher block countertops and a farmstyle sink. Offered with 5 acres at \$1,500,000



Wonderful in-town home on almost 3/4 acres features 3 bedrooms and 3 1/2 baths plus 2 separate gathering/keeping rooms each with a fireplace. Mountain style vaulted deck offers some mountain view. Dual fuel central HVAC, skylights, hardwood floors, one car garage, and bright and open spaces. This is a must see. Priced at \$595,000. (Additional acreage may be purchased)



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Random issues

Commissioner Herb James says he has not heard of any complaints about the two-hour parking limitations on Main Street. Herb is probably from my planet, Mars, and has probably been away for a visit. How else could this happen? Anyway, welcome home from outer space. Rumor has it the merchants on Main Street are taking up a collection to send you to an ear specialist.

If all the people who have real estate licenses in their pockets parked on Main Street at the same time there wouldn't be one spot left for a person who just wanted to park and visit a real estate office.

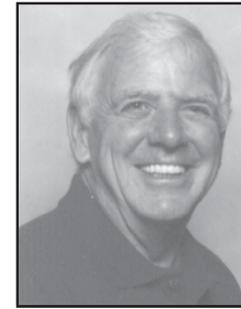
There is no truth to the rumor that the Presbyterian Church folks who want to build a drive thru on Fifth Street for church drop-offs are secretly scheming to create a special "Park and Pray" lane for those who are too busy to attend church. Holy smokes, is that a good idea, or what? They should include an ATM machine, but for deposits only.

And speaking of "holy smokes," there is not a thread of truth to the rumor that the Gantenbein boys were going to use the marijuana they are accused of possessing for religious purposes. They are headed to court on April 9th for reportedly dragging 369 pounds of the happy weed through the state of Louisiana. If the jury finds them guilty of possession with intent to sell then they could be sent to prison.

As you are aware, Highlands is becoming more and more cosmopolitan. I have heard, in an effort to make our community better rounded, a group of "think tankers" are studying the feasibility of bringing a large group of Muslim refugees from Baghdad to live here. The current question confronting the committee is whether they can cut lawns and do it cheaper than the Mexicans. More study is needed.

This would be fun. Once the dust has settled and the blood letting has stopped over the property re-evaluation issue, someone should go to the county records and see how much each county commissioner's home inflated as compared to everyone else. Even more better, how about the assessors who re-evaluate property. I'm sure their homes have gone up as much as ours....right?

And while I'm on the property tax issue, I say we should demand our leaders create a law that forces more property taxes on those dad gum summer people



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback
is encouraged!
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

who invade Highlands each year with all their money and throw beer cans along the side of the road and shoot at road signs and clog Main Street with cars and drive slow and blow their horns and operate those slow moving dump trucks on the Franklin Road and spend money and....well, you know the rest. It's only right their taxes should be higher.

The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has reported another increase in losses for the year. Ken Shull, head guru for the facility, is not overly concerned because he realizes the community is not large

enough to support a full scale hospital and some losses are expected. In an effort to help the hospital, I am encouraging every citizen to get sick during the 2007 year. I know, I know, you can't afford to get sick but come on everyone, this is for a good cause and you know you can't take it with you when you croak. Have you ever seen a hearse pulling a U Haul trailer? I'm currently working on a "Get sick and support our hospital" brochure to encourage our summer visitors.

This just in and I am not making this up. A lawyer has been bitten by a shark in Stuart, FL. No comment necessary.

And finally, this item falls under the heading of "would you believe?" The li'l missus and I are off on a dawn speed walk and we are passing a small harbor right in the heart of Palm Beach County, FL and we hear a rooster crow, not once, but many times. This is not Ye Haw Junction, mind you, but the land of concrete. Someone's got a dad burn rooster right here in condo canyon. Where is that Billy Hawkins, anyway?

Book Fair opens today, through next Thursday

The Highlands School Scholastic Book Fair that starts on today, Thursday, March 15 at 1 p.m. and runs through Thursday, March 22 at 10 a.m. There are books, games, and resources for children of all ages.

The Book Fair will also be open tonight from 5-6 p.m. before the PTO meeting and also from 5-6 p.m. on Saturday, March 17 before the Talent Show.

All the proceeds from the Book Fair benefit the Highlands School Media Center program. The community is cordially invited to visit the Book Fair.

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Behold a son's love

Barring the unwelcome intrusion of clouds, August 21, 2017 will be the most memorable day in the history of Highlands, easily eclipsing the spring blizzard, the hurricane, and even the annual antics of the garden club in the Christmas parade. Town will be jammed. Every hotel will be fully booked. Visitors who fail to reserve a bed and breakfast months in advance will be out of luck. Campgrounds will be full. Area homes which usually sit empty for months at a time will be aglow and abuzz with expectant owners and their guests. A total solar eclipse will darken our skies on that day. Visitors from far and near will descend upon us. Guests will include a mixture of scientists, astronomers, astrologists, new agers grown old, and the merely curious. There will be mystics dripping in pyramids and photographers with camera lenses as big as garbage cans. The most serious will bring massive telescopes. Even the casual observer will bring his credit cards. There will be excited anticipation, and there will be a party, more a carnival, really. The period of totality will be roughly 2 1/2 minutes. Then it will be over and there won't be a single witness who felt he didn't get his money's worth.

Lizzie and I are great fans of solar eclipses. My fascination began as a young boy when I saw "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court." For a long time I wasn't sure if the solar



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

eclipse was merely a device Stevenson invented for the story. The year 1991 removed all doubt. We traveled to Cabo San Lucas to witness an eclipse. The sight remains the most spiritual I have ever encountered. We witnessed all that I have promised you. An astronomer was wearing a tee shirt, "186,000 miles per second. It's not just a good idea. It's the law." I guess that is example of scientific

humor. I broke my collar bone while body surfing earlier in the day, but waited until after the eclipse to go to the hospital.

As the moon begins its journey across the face of the sun, it looks like a nibble out of an oatmeal raisin cookie. As more and more of the sun is covered, the light changes, diminishes. The process is gradual enough that vision adjusts, and not much seems to be happening. I was poised for disappointment. Then, at the moment of totality, the sky goes dark. Stars appear in the sky. Distant dogs bark and roosters crow while scientist, spiritualist, and skeptic fall silent. My wish at the moment was that it would not end. Such was the beauty of the event. Of course, the moon cannot pause in its path around the earth, and all too soon the sun emerged, a tiny wedge at first. By the time a quarter of the sun was exposed, I was on my way to the hospital. The very next day, while

•See ANOTHER VIEW page 11



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• A REVIEW •

Parallel Lives – hilarious, engaging, true-to-life

The talent shines during HCP's Parallel Lives. The show opened Friday night at Instant Theater's Studio on Main – an intimate, black box setting perfect for this sort of show.

The all-female cast portrays men and women in mini-plays about religion, death, diversity and dating.

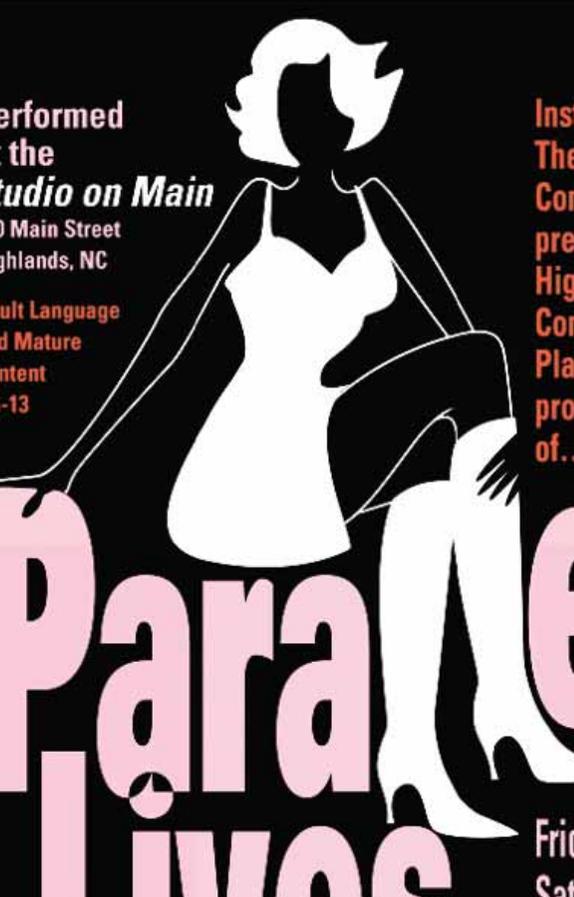
Directed by Mary Adair Leslie, it features Katie Cochran, Bonnie Earman, Jenny King, Mary Adair Leslie, Lee Lyons, Nancy Reeder, Jennifer Royce, Breta Stroud, Ronnie Spilton, and Sandie Trevathan.

My favorites vignettes were Bonnie Earman on a date with male friend Katie Cochran – Cochran nailed the mail character; Mary Adair Leslie and Nancy Reeder as familiar bar flies – Leslie's repetitive come-ons are priceless; following Catholic school girls Jennifer Royce and Katie Cochran through life were too true; Sandie Trevathan and Jennifer Royce depicting opposing women to Kenny Rogers' song "Lady" – too funny; and Jenny King and Breta Stroud as elderly women embracing the world with the help of a "Women's Studies" class at a local community college – fantastic.

Some of the actors are relatively new to the stage, but it's obvious director Mary Adair Leslie had a lot to work with – the entire cast comes off as naturals.

Missing the first weekend of Parallel Lives is understandable – suddenly there is a lot to do in Highlands in March! But there's no excuse to miss the second round. It's too good to miss. The next show is Friday and Saturday, March 30-31. Performances begin at 7 p.m. Call the Instant Theatre Box Office to reserve a ticket at 342-9197.

– Kim Lewicki



Performed at the **Studio on Main**
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PG-13

Instant Theatre Company presents a Highlands Community Players production of...

Parallel Lives

Friday & Saturday,
March 9-10
March 30-31
7:00 p.m.

Directed by Mary Adair Leslie

• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Babel is alive and well



Katie Brugger

Sometimes I wonder how we communicate with each other at all. For example, imagine I love cats and you hate them. Imagine we are talking together and I spy a cat; I might say, "Look at that calico cat" and you turn and see it. On the surface it would appear that we had communicated: I pointed out a cat and you saw it. But there would have been reams of information in my simple phrase, of admiration for the beauty of the cat, say, that you, hating cats, would completely miss, which another friend who loved cats would have easily picked up.

And communicating about the stuff we can point to is the easy part.

What about a word like love? Imagine I was abused as a child and had gone through four marriages and was now bitter about ever finding love in my life, in fact I had come to believe there is no such thing as love. Imagine you are happily married with children you adore. How could you and I have a meaningful conversation about love?

Or imagine that I think success means making lots of money, and you think success means a happy, fulfilled life. Then imagine we went into business together. How could we ever agree on what it means for our business to succeed?

How many of our problems arise from miscommunication and misunderstanding? So much of what we mean to say goes unsaid, partly because we are unaware of it ourselves.

And this is for people who speak the same language! Recently I have seen three films that all speak to this same theme of miscommunication.

The Cuckoo (Kukushka) is a wonderful Russian film set during World War II in Finland (released in 2002). A Finnish soldier is left to die by his comrades because he is a pacifist. They dress him in a German uniform knowing the Russian army will shoot anyone in that uniform. A

Russian soldier is being transported to prison because the poetry he wrote was considered subversive. They both end up at the home of a young Laplander woman whose husband was taken for the war and so lives alone. The three speak different languages and each cannot understand a word the other two says. They live together for weeks, if not months, continuing to have absurd misunderstandings until they discover the war is over.

The two men fight because the Russian thinks the Finn is a German and because they are jealous about the woman. Yet the irony is the two men have much in common. They were being punished for the same reason, because their superiors decided they were not dedicated enough to their country in war. The Russian writes poetry and the Finn, who had been at university studying literature before the war, wishes he could write poetry.

The absurdities and conflicts engendered in everyday life by miscommunication were just made more vivid by the device of having these three people speak different languages.

"Divine Intervention" (Yadon ilaheyya), also released in 2002, is a confusing and surreal Palestinian film set in Israel/Palestine. Much of the film shows people in a neighborhood living daily lives of frustration and conflict. For example, one man was shown coming out of his house every day and throwing a bag of garbage over a wall. The first few times you think he is

throwing it into a dumpster. Finally you see he is actually throwing it into his neighbor's yard. Later you see the same bags being thrown back into the man's front entrance by a woman standing on the wall, and the man says, "Couldn't we have just talked about this?" But of course they couldn't.

Another form of miscommunication: from the images we receive of Palestinians in this country we would never think they were capable of such sophistication as this film. Oscar-nominated "Babel" is all about miscommunication—the title of course is from the biblical story of the tower of Babel. Humans were building a tower to reach heaven, and after destroying the tower God prevented this from ever happening again by eliminating the ability of humans to work together. From that point on people could no longer understand each other's language.

The film's action takes place across vast gulfs of culture—from Morocco to the United States to Mexico to Japan—and of class—from the First to the Third World. American tourists in Morocco, a Mexican maid in the United States, and a deaf-mute Japanese girl in the world of sound; none of them can communicate.

Thomas Wolfe, in *Look Homeward, Angel*, lamented the loneliness our miscommunication brings: "Which of us has known his brother? Which of us has looked into his father's heart? Which of us has not remained forever prison-pent? Which of us is not forever a stranger and alone? O waste of loss, in the hot mazes, lost, among bright stars on this most weary unbright cinder, lost! Remembering speechlessly we seek the great forgotten language, the lost lane-end into heaven, a stone, a leaf, an unfound door. Where? When? O lost, and by the wind grieved, ghost, come back again."

• CP: OFFICE LINEBACKER •

Calling audibles on sports and life

'March Madness' attacks!

Ladies and gentlemen, it's that time again. It's time to pull out your brackets and pick who will win six straight games to become the 2007 NCAA National Champions. While the sports nerds (aka me and countless other men) of the world unite in pools to bet on brackets, the people who don't care for this time of year still create their brackets in an attempt to steal our money. Most of the time, it works. I can't remember how many times I've lost thanks to someone picking teams because of their colors, mascots, cheerleaders, coaches, seating capacity of their home stadium, or by the color of the sky as the pick was made that day.

So while March Madness begins to build, production at work begins to drop off entirely. Internet addiction rises through the first two weeks as the Final Four are decided through 61 games. Bosses around the world would be tearing their hair out with such a huge loss of productivity in the office if they weren't busy playing with their own brackets. I've already had one agent bring me brackets and a set of rules while another has invited me to join a pool based in Durham. Personally, my "bracket time" will be at night but I will definitely have ESPN up in the corner of my screen just to check scores from time to time.

When it comes to playing the odds, the bracket busters are the worst. These are the games where a small handful of people get lucky picking an underdog for the sake of having an underdog. These games kill the dreams of fans of the game as well as brackets predicting a team will go far or even win it all. Just ask any Kansas fan about the past two years, and be sure to have ear plugs in and protective gear on just in case it gets violent. Kansas should at least make it to the second round: they aren't playing a team that starts with a "B" this time around (no Bucknell or Bradley). That, and if they somehow lost they would be the first #1 seed to lose to a #16 ever. Even with how they're playing right now, it would not surprise me one bit to see them lose to Kentucky or Villanova in the second round.

It also would not surprise me to see Duke lose in the first weekend to VCU or Pittsburgh. Coach K is on the ropes, and even with the addition of Gerald Henderson again, VCU will put up a



Christopher Potts
John Cleaveland Realty
feedback encouraged:
cpottswriting@gmail.com

good game against the Blue Devils. Duke will probably lose before the Sweet Sixteen, but it's impossible to guess as Duke is one of those teams that can never be counted out.

My personal pick is for North Carolina to win it all. If they play like they did in the ACC tournament, they will be incredibly tough to beat. They also have the toughest potential bracket with match ups against Marquette, Texas, Georgetown, and Washington State possible.

To reach the Final Four by beating the best player in college in Kevin Durant, one of the hottest teams in Georgetown, and an under ranked Marquette team would be a true test of Carolina's abilities as a team and as individual players.

Sit back, relax, and enjoy the madness that will ensue in the coming weeks. The drama is building and I'm keeping my fingers crossed. UNC needs to win this so I'll come out on top of all my pools as well!

What? You thought I was gonna let everyone else have all the fun winning?

... ETJ from page 1

combined parcel the requested B5.

Though the zoning of ETJ areas in Horse Cove hasn't come to the table, yet, Luther Turner, who owns about 40 acres in Horse Cove, presented commissioners with a petition signed by 22 property owners declaring support of ETJ in Horse Cove. He said two additional letters in support of ETJ were in the mail.

"We are concerned about 20, 30, 40 years down the road," he said. "I have 40 acres that I'm sure my children will end up developing and I just want to make sure it is done attractively. This is important to the future of Horse Cove."

He said he and everyone else was concerned about home-businesses but understood that what exists now is grandfathered.

The planning board is still working on the exact definition of "home-businesses" and "home-occupations" but regardless, the consensus is that what exists today will be allowed.

Nevertheless, non-conforming uses on property zoned R1 in the ETJ continues to confuse. People are concerned about transferring ownership of property housing a non-conforming use business to relatives who want to continue the business.

As the ordinance reads, non-conform-

•See ETJ page 16

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• HIS & HERS •

Weighty issues

This is going to shock a lot of people, but I'm coming out of the closet. I have to. Nothing in there fits anymore. The fact hit me like a brick on Valentine's Day, when I tried on outfit after outfit that just was too small. I thought of all of those weight charts, and



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

realized that I was either many pounds overweight, or several inches too short. I wasn't always concerned with my weight. In high school, I was actually tall and slim. And even at my most porky, my face has always been thin. I just checked myself out in mirrors that stopped at the neck. But since I've moved to Highlands, and unpacked my wardrobe, the truth has hit, and hit hard.

So, I've decided to out myself, and let the chips (preferably sour cream and onion) fall where they may. We women make life harder for ourselves because we spend so much time lying about our age, our weight, our dress size. Why? After all, we don't wear things inside out, with the size showing to the world. How dumb do you have to be to wear shoes that are too small? Honestly!

Here's the truth. I am 56 years old, with birthday number 57 coming up in August. I am 5'8," and between a dress size 16 and an 18. My current weight is around 218. There. The bolt of lightning hasn't hit yet, but I'm sure I'll get some letters crying "too much information!"

There is supposedly a backlash going on against all of those super thin models we see on TV, on the runways, and in movies. Talk shows galore decry anorexia and bulimia. But few women, with the notable exception of Jamie Lee Curtis, have the guts to have themselves photographed without the photos being doctored.

Remember the scuffle a while back when Kirstie Alley claimed to have never weighed more than 210, even at her heaviest, and Rosie O'Donnell called her on it? She's absolutely right, and any woman like me who has ever

weighed over 200 pounds knows that women are lying through their teeth when they are photographed looking huge, and then titter "Oh, dear. I just can't bear being a size 12 right now." Heck, my mother is barely over 5' and 100 pounds, and she's a size 8.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not beating up on people who are overweight. I don't see it as a morality issue, that fat people are evil. I see it from a practical point of view. Diabetes and heart issues run in both sides of my family. I'd like to be around for a long time. Also, it's nicer and easier to be able to buy your clothing from regular shops.

John and I were recently in Pigeon Forge, TN, and stopped into Orvis. I picked up two great shirts for him, size XXL. Obviously, Orvis thinks it's alright to be a big guy - there must be something manly and macho about it. Unfortunately, Orvis doesn't carry XXL for ladies, thinking that big women are just slobs who should hide under a bush somewhere. Well, I hate to burst their bubbles, but where 6'3" men marry 5'1/4" women (like my parents), they sometimes wind up with daughters like me. Someone ought to figure out how to clothe them, and I'm not talking about Omar the Tentmaker.

Let's try this, shall we? If you are a woman, why don't you try being honest with just one person? See how it feels. If you see me around town, you can tell me. Once we get used to being honest about our age, weight and size, maybe we can be honest about other things, too. Perhaps we can get rid of all of that baggage we carry around about having to be perfect to be loved, and realize that a lot of folks love us just as we are.

Oh, and please don't stop me at SweeTreats or Kilwin's, and say, "Do you think you really need that?" I do. And so do you. Just in moderation, like all things.

There. I got that off my chest. Just don't ask the size. My mother reads this.
- Michelle Mead

• THE CONSERVATIVE POV •

In God we trust?

I want to start by saying that what follows is intended to be historical, not philosophical. However, since this is a point-of-view column, the historical facts presented will undoubtedly reflect my POV.

Without being dismissive of the Native American, my story starts with the arrival of Europeans to our shores.

They were Englishmen who fled their homeland to escape the confining traditions of the Church of England. First, they went to Holland, and after several years, decided this wasn't the place to "plant their flag" and set out for America on the Mayflower. So the first settlement consisted of people striving for religious freedom.

As the colonies sorted themselves out, the churches were forming learning institutions. Among them were Harvard (Puritan), William & Mary (Anglican), Yale (Congregational), Columbia (Anglican), Brown (Baptist), Rutgers (Dutch Reformed) and Dartmouth (Congregational). So the beginning of our system of higher education had a strong religious influence.

America's first step toward independence was the meeting of the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1774. It was opened with prayer which begins, "Our Lord, our Heavenly Father, high and mighty King of Kings, Lord of Lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon the earth, and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all kingdoms, empires, and governments, look down in mercy, we beseech thee, upon these American States who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor, and thrown themselves upon Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only upon Thee."

So the first step of the formation of our Federal Government began with prayer.

The Declaration of Independence includes "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by the Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness..."

As the Constitutional Convention considered the document which would guide our country, Benjamin Franklin said to those assembled, led by George Washington, "I have lived, sir, a long



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

time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

Every state constitution acknowledges God as the ultimate ruler. The preamble of North Carolina's Constitution

reads, We the people of the State of North Carolina, grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, for the preservation of the American Union and the existence of our civil, political and religious liberties, and acknowledging our dependence on Him for the continuance of those blessings to us and our posterity, do, and for the more certain security thereof, and for the better government of this State, ordain and establish this Constitution.

Within the Supreme Court building, where the highest court in the land convenes,

The Ten Commandments are displayed in three different settings.

Our National Anthem concludes, "Of thus be it ever, when free men shall stand, between their loved home and the war's desolation; Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land praise the Pow'r that had made and preserved us a nation! Then to conquer we must, when our cause it is just: And this be our motto, "In God is our trust!" And the star spangled banner in triumph shall wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!"

Abraham Lincoln, concluded his immortal Gettysburg Address, "...that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth." In 1954, Congress liked the phrase "under God" so much they included it in the Pledge of Allegiance. At that time, President Eisenhower said, "In this way, we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future. In this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."

So as our country and society is circling the porcelain, rapidly

•See POV page 11

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... ANOTHER VIEW
continued from page 5

swimming one-armed in a near by bay, I was able to rescue a struggling swimmer. A day or two earlier, I had caught a marlin in the Sea of Cortez. All in all it was a very good trip.

Why, you are wondering, have you chosen this time to tell this story? I could answer that I wanted you to have ample time to plan, or that it's my column so I'll write what I want, when I want. The truth is that I want to see another eclipse and I want Bull to share the experience. I was searching a website for future eclipses, when I found ours. I'll be 76. Bull will be 21. Lizzie will be somewhere in between, but would kill me if I were more specific. Here the story turns. I called for Lizzie and Bull to look at the computer screen and see the projected path from Oregon to South Carolina, pretty much over our back deck. I told Bull that we would, if I were still able, climb Scaly Mountain or Rabun Bald to watch the spectacle. "Dad," he answered, "I'll get you to the top, even if you're in a wheel chair." So there.

For the last 10 years, my life has been largely focused on keeping Bull safe and guiding his path to manhood. I felt pretty good yesterday, better than when I rescued the swimmer, better than when I caught the marlin, better, even, than when I saw my first eclipse. I've written before about the wonder of the love of a father for his son. It was a subtle transition, but I saw the reciprocal love of a son for his father. You can bet I'll make it a point to be there on August 21, 2017, on top of a mountain, or on my back deck, with those I love beside me.

... POV continued from
page 9

descending into irrelevance, can anyone explain to me who is busy at work trying successfully to undo what hundreds of years of God fearing men had developed? And why?

Our institutions of higher learning are infested with liberal thought. Our congress is nearly devoid of statesmen and statesmanlike thinking. Our courts laugh in the faces of our forefathers and reverse hundreds of years of our religious foundation.

So we're too busy playing video games to notice, or too engrossed in American Idol to care that our freedoms and our traditions and culture are disappearing and most of us don't even know it. If you think you are so old it doesn't really affect you, consider the world your children and their children will live in. It's time to use your God-given wisdom and speak out before that freedom is no more.

Highlands School Honor Roll
4th six weeks 2006-2007

4th - D. West

- "A" Katie Ingram
- "A" Kenan Lewis
- "A" April Moss
- "AB" Valarie Billingsley
- "AB" Alli Bolt
- "AB" Grace Brassard
- "AB" Billy Brennan
- "AB" Ann Marie Crowe
- "AB" Craig Dalton
- "AB" Andrew Figel
- "AB" Veronica Garcia
- "AB" Philip Murphy
- "AB" Desiray Schmitt
- "AB" Jessica Tilson
- "AB" Kassie Vinson
- "AB" Josh Wolfrey

6th - S. Mayer & G. Borino

- "A" Will Araujo
- "A" Rebecca Johnson

- "AB" Kalyn Billingsley
- "AB" Kaycee Carver
- "AB" Cheyenne Fleszar

- "AB" Dax Lloyd
- "AB" Parker Sims
- "AB" Lindsay Wagner
- "AB" Sydney Wagner

7th - E. Woods

- "A" Cai Roman
- "AB" Isaac Beavers

7th - S. Smathers

- "A" Kaitlin Lewis
- "A" Kim Machuca
- "A" Emily Murphy
- "A" Daielle Shomper
- "AB" Fabiola Diaz

8th - S. Massey

- "A" Marlee McCall
- "AB" Amy Fogle
- "AB" Clayton Lassiter

- "AB" Bevan Schiffl
- "AB" Samuel Wheeler

9th Grade

- "A" Amanda Bruce
- "A" Ashley Dickey
- "A" Brice Jenkins
- "A" Shelby Johnson
- "A" Kate-Marie Parks
- "AB" Carolina Diaz
- "AB" Katie Durham
- "AB" Amanda Fuller
- "AB" Sarah Hedden
- "AB" Beverly Nix
- "AB" Maricia Owens

10th Grade

- "A" Will Edwards
- "A" Carolyn Hornsby
- "A" Casey Jenkins
- "A" Luke McClellan
- "A" Matt McClellan
- "AB" Alex Hedden
- "AB" Ben Kirkland

- "AB" Michael Nix
- "AB" Taylor Parrish
- "AB" Griselda Sanchez

11th Grade

- "A" Kyle Lassiter
- "A" Katie Pierce
- "A" Sally Wheeler
- "AB" Kaylie Buras
- "AB" Jessica Dryman
- "AB" Jake Heffington
- "AB" Josh Hendricks
- "AB" Greg Porter
- "AB" Taylor Stinson

12th Grade

- "A" Chase Jenkins
- "AB" Sara Bates
- "AB" Amanda Chambers
- "AB" Adam Chandler
- "AB" Lucy Herz
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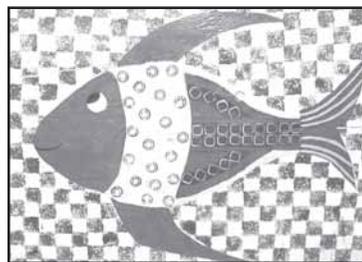
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Middle School dance rivals high school affairs

From all accounts, the middle school student government association put all it had into organizing the first-ever middle school dance off the school campus.

In years past, the middle school dances have been held in the school cafeteria. But this year, SGA took it a step farther and Principal Jetter was all for it. On Friday, March 9, the Highlands School middle school dance was held at the Highlands Conference Center.

Girls planned for weeks looking for the perfect dress, deciding on a hair-style and getting manicures and pedicures. Ipods and computers were used to supply the music. Decorations complete with a backdrop for photographs completed the scene. Though the dance was supposed to end at 10 p.m., students were still dancing at 11.



Highlands School sixth-graders at the Conference Center Friday night.



The girls and boys of the seventh-grade enjoyed their night on the town.



Eighth-graders enjoyed the dance -- a sign of what's to come next year when they advance to high school.

Photos by Stephanie McCall

Schmitt cousins to play in All-Star basketball game Friday

Highlands School seniors and basketball players cousins Alec Schmitt and Toni Schmitt, made the Annual Blue – White All Star Game put on by the Civitan and Rhododendron clubs of Asheville. They are the first Highlands School students to play in the game since 2002.

Players are seniors from Western North Carolina schools. Each player is nominated by his high school coach and chosen by the coaches selected to coach the all-star game.

Alec and Toni will both play on the White team, which is comprised of players from Asheville to Murphy. The Blue Team is comprised of players from Rutherford Co. to Asheville.

The players come from all classification schools from 1A – 4A. The coaches for the girls' White team is: Ann Gardner from Tuscola High School and the coach for the

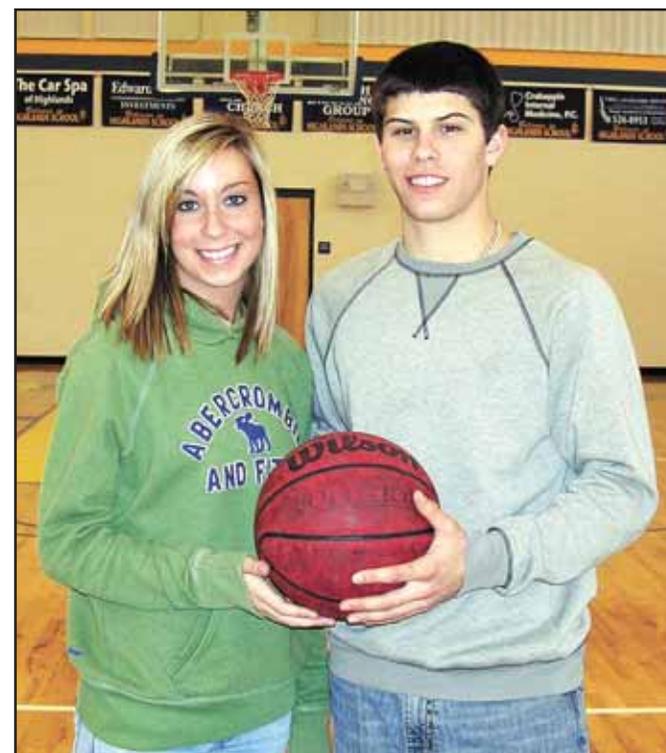
boys' White team is Tim Trantham from Brevard High School. The game is Friday night March 16 at T.C. Roberson High School – girls at 7 p.m. and boys at 9 p.m.

“This is a great honor for both of these players,” said Coach Brett Lamb. “After coaching both of them in high school, it is a great reward for me and to our teams that these kids will be honored for their hard work and dedication to their teams and the sport of basketball.”

Lamb said this is technically an individual award but without their teammates their nomination wouldn't have been possible. “They put the team first and by doing that they were able to receive this prestigious individual award.”

Seniors
Toni and Alec Schmitt

Photo by Kim Lewicki



Highlands young team playing hard



Highlander Carmen Damian in control of the ball with a Franklin High School opponent hot on her heels at Zachary Field March 7. Highlands lost 2-5. The next game is away against Walhalla on March 15. The next four home games are March 22 against Towns County, March 26 against Murphy, March 27 against Walhalla and March 29 against Cherokee.

Photo by Noel Atherton

Donation to upgrade cyber functions at SCC

When the Southwestern Community College Macon Campus opens this spring, students will be able to tap into the internet via a cyber lounge, courtesy of a \$43,700 donation from the James VanderWoude family of Franklin.

The cyber lounge will be centrally located on the first floor of the building with a panoramic view of the valley and distant mountains.

"It will be a wireless environment, in fact the entire building will be wireless inside," she said. "The cyber lounge will have two public access computers and the area will be furnished with comfortable chairs and tables with nearby vending machines for snacks and beverages and access to an outdoor area. It will be great space where students can work on computers, study and relax.

When plans began for the SCC Macon Campus, the college realized funding would not cover a number of facility needs.

"Thankfully, the people of Macon

County understood this," she said. "As a result, we have experienced a great deal of generosity from them. Like the Jim VanderWoude family, they are responding by coming forth to fill those needs."

"In honor of this generous gift and the support the VanderWoude's have provided to the college in many other ways, we plan to place a plaque in their honor in the cyber lounge and reception areas."

Sitting on a knoll overlooking a scenic valley on Siler Road in Franklin, the 27,568 square-foot building is nearing completion. Construction of the building is being funded through \$2.9 million in 2000 state bond funds, which was initially matched by monies from the Macon County Board of Commissioners who later agreed to provide an additional \$902,000 when the low construction bid exceeded initial estimates.

For information on the SCC Macon Campus or to make a donation toward furnishing or equipping the building, call Sonja Haynes at 800-447-4091.

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• POLITICS AT THE STATE & FEDERAL LEVELS •

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March 17! Super St. Patrick's Karaoke Bash with prizes for costume dress, singing, and other skills. Good fellowship, music, dancing, and fun, 5 to 11 pm. Come early to hear Angie Jenkins play Broadway piano in the Dining Room, have our famous Prime Rib Country Buffet, \$14.95, and do Karaoke afterward in the Banquet Hall, \$5 cover applies to dinner. Open for breakfast and lunch every day, including our Special Carvery Buffet Sundays 11 to 2 pm, \$10.95, including ice cream.

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Highlands' Own TV Show...on Northland Cable Channel 14.



Everyday at 8 a.m., noon, 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 10 p.m., & midnight.
The Visitor Information Program airs at 7 am, 9 am, 4 pm, 6 pm, 9 pm, and 11 pm.

News from Senator John Snow

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

<http://www.senatorsnow.com>

So many bills have been introduced in the legislature advocacy groups are coming to the capital to advocate their position on them.

Last Tuesday was especially busy with thousands of people showing up from all over North Carolina for a rally against gay marriage. There were so many people they almost covered all of Halifax Mall.

Inside the legislative building, representatives of Healthy North Carolinians flooded the hallways and the courts of the legislative building advocating for more funding for preventive health care. While advocacy efforts have commenced we still are not done introducing bills.

In the Senate, our last day to introduce bills was Wednesday, March 13 and in the House it is April 10. Even with all of these bills being introduced we are starting to focus, in a very meaningful way, on the budget.

Retail Theft

Many of our retailers, both large national chains and local shops, are losing millions of dollars every year to highly organized retail theft rings. These rings strategically locate and then rob a store. For example, a hardware store was targeted by one of these rings. One of the ring's members entered the store and purchased a \$20 power drill. This member then went to a print shop and made copies of the drill's barcode. He then went back to the same hardware store, located power drills that cost \$200, and covered the bar code with the copied bar code from the \$20 power drill. The person then checked out and paid \$20 for a \$200 drill and then sold these drills on Ebay for a \$180 profit.

In another example, members of these rings will go to a store, pile up all of the merchandise that they want to steal by the emergency exit door, then call another member of their team to back a truck up to the door. They then proceed to fill the truck up with everything they have piled up by the door and leave before the fire squad and police arrive.

This is a problem that merchants are dealing with throughout North Carolina no matter how large or small their store is. It is cutting into their profits, increasing prices for the rest of us, and in many cases hurting the revenues that both the state and local governments rely on to provide essential services.

This week I introduced a bill that will toughen up the crimes for people who commit crimes like these.

The Budget

Even though the House has the budget first this year we are working very hard to construct a budget before the start of the

state's new fiscal year. As such we are currently taking presentations from each of the state's agencies and their departments about what they need, what they experienced with last year's budget, and what new services they would like to offer.

I am happy to report that this year's budget process is a bit different from last year's budget process. Many of us have talked about the need for zero-based budgeting, essentially a full review of every program that receives state dollars. Those of you who own a business or manage a family budget do this every year to see what things you absolutely need and what items you do not need. This is part of the reason we are starting so early in reviewing each agency's budget. We want to ensure that agencies are providing the services needed and in demand by the public they serve.

University Elections

The elections for members of the UNC Board of Governors began this week in the House with the rules being announced. I write about this because of the great effect that this board has on our region. The UNC Board of Governors is responsible for the direction and control of the 16 campuses of the UNC system which includes Western Carolina University and UNC Asheville. The election of these people to the board has a great influence on our region. Right now there are four members from the western part of the state, one of which will rotate off the board. It seems there will be some consideration given to geographic diversity of nominees. I hope that is true so that we will have advocates on that board who can help talk about what our western universities need.

State Unemployment Numbers

We received a report this week from the Department of Labor that the North Carolina's unemployment rate continues to drop. Employment in North Carolina increased by 12,700 jobs in the past month. However, while the state's overall employment picture looks very healthy, we still need to do more to help attract new industry to our part of the state. This week marks the completion of the Balsam Fiber Net loop which connects the most western counties of North Carolina with a high speed fiber optic internet connection loop which is faster and more stable than what they have in Atlanta or New York City. (See story on page 16).

Now that we have this loop buried in the ground it is time to begin attracting companies to come and take advantage of this incredible internet infrastructure that we have in our mountains. I am proud to be a part of this internet connection and look forward to helping attract the business-

es that will use it to make their businesses function better.

U.S. Senator Dole calls for more ICE agents in NC

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole has called on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to remedy the severe shortage of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in North Carolina. Dole is concerned that among other problems, these shortages make it difficult to deport illegal immigrants who are convicted of driving while intoxicated or impaired.

"ICE agents in North Carolina have stated that they are understaffed and that they lack the resources to remove undocumented aliens convicted of DWI offenses," wrote Dole in a letter to Julie L. Myers, Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "State and local authorities similarly claim that ICE officials cannot and do not respond because they lack sufficient personnel. This is unacceptable and must be addressed immediately."

U.S. Congressman Heath Shuler reports on water bills

Last week was an important week for our local communities here in the House. We passed several pieces of legislation that are of critical importance to our water infrastructure needs. While the bills may not have been the most glamorous of items, they will have a tremendous impact on our local communities.

These bills have been repeatedly introduced in past congresses, but they have not been able to pass out of committee. This year is different. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, of which I am a member, has made a commitment to protecting clean water and assisting our local communities with their infrastructure needs. All three bills passed the House with tremendous bipartisan support – HR 700 passed 368-59; HR 720 passed 303-108; and HR 569 passed 367-58.

The three Clean Water Bills that passed were HR 700, the Healthy Communities Water Supply Act; HR 720, the Water Quality Financing Act; and HR 569, the Water Quality Investment Act. The three bills together take critical steps to help guarantee clean water for all American families.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Time flies

John 11:17-26



Rev. Hunter Coleman

"...at my back, I always hear
time's winged chariot hurrying near
And before us lies, deserts of vast eternity.
Thy beauty shall no more be found
Nor in thy marble vaults shall sound my echoing song.
The grave's a fine and private place
But none, I think, do there embrace."

In the head, we all know that one day, we will die. In the heart, it never becomes a part of us. We do not live in the sense of living as though it were true. In his autobiography, *Just as I am*, Billy Graham shares a question a student asked him about his fifty plus years of ministry. "What was the greatest surprise he found out about life?" Dr. Graham's answer, "The brevity of it. As I have been working on this book, many of the things I have recounted seem as if they happened only yesterday. Time moves so quickly, and no matter who we are or what we have done, the time will come when we will be no more." Longevity at its longest leaves us with little time but who wants to admit it?

We tend to live though we have all the time in the world to do whatever has to be done, as though our lives would go on forever. Such a view leaves us wishing a lot of time for certain things to hurry up and arrive. We say, "I'll be glad when Friday gets here. I've got some exciting plans for the weekend." Or, "I can't wait for next month when we finally get to take that long awaited trip."

When that day finally arrives, we begin the journey from one place to another. A journey takes time. Whatever that is, too often we think of it as some kind of necessary evil we must endure in order to get wherever we are going. So, we turn up the radio, if we are driving, and if we aren't, we take a nap, "to kill time" as the saying goes. If you stop to think about it, that's a pretty grim saying. The time you are killing is your own time. There is precious little that you have to kill. "The flower fades. The grass withers. Surely the people are grass."

February's snow inspired Trudie to build a snowman. Send pictures to Felix our grandson who loves the story of "Frosty" the snowman. I didn't want to go out. I had already been out shoveling the stuff. Here she came bearing a cap, raisins, a carrot & a scarf. You know what? There's a big difference between shoveling snow and building a snowman. Our own Frosty. I must have gone to the window a half dozen times to check him out before the evening rains melted him away. My first snow man at 63, wow! Hopefully, it won't be my last. One life on this earth is all we get.

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 16

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.
Special Singing Schedule -- 7 p.m.
March 25: John Raby & Family
April 22: Morris Staneil
April 29: Promised Land with worship and lunch

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Office – 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion -- 2 p.m.
(Community Bible Church on U.S. 64 between Highlands and
Cashiers)

Visiting Rectors Series: March 11: Rev. Ed Moore; March 18:

Rev. Frederick Richardson

March 25: Rev. Don Alley

Tuesday: Women's weekly Bible study at 2 p.m.

Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m.

at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Supper last Sunday of each month.

All are Welcome!

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast; 9 a.m. - Sunday School;
9:45 a.m. - Choir Practice; 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II;
5:30 p.m. – Youth Meeting
Monday: 7:30 a.m. – Stations of the Cross; 11 a.m. –
Contemplative Prayer; 4 p.m. - Women's Cursillo Group; 5
p.m. - Evening Prayer
Tuesday: 8 a.m. - Men's Cursillo Group; 9:30 a.m. - Staff
Meeting; 11 a.m. – Contemplative Prayer; 4:30 p.m. – EFM
Meeting; 5 p.m. – Stations of the Cross; 5:30 p.m. – Dinner; 6
p.m. – Speaker
Wednesday: 11 a.m. – Contemplative Prayer; 5 p.m. –
Evening Prayer

Thursday: 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with healing; 11

a.m. – Contemplative Prayer; 5 p.m. – Evening Prayer

Friday: 7:30 a.m. – Stations of the Cross; 11 a.m. –

Contemplative Prayer; 5 p.m. – Evening Prayer

• 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
Wednesdays: Prayer – noon; Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7
Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m. & 5

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;

5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: noon – Men's Emmaus Reunion Group; 4:45 – Childrens

choir and handbells; 5:30 – Supper; 6 – Adult Handbells; 6:15

– children, youth, & adults studies;

7:15 – Adult choir

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

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. 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.

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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BalsamWest connects Appalachian region

Dignitaries, business leaders and community members throughout North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee gathered at Harrah's Cherokee Hotel in Cherokee last week to celebrate a historic event: connecting the Tri-State Southern Appalachian region with major metropolitan areas through an ultra-high-speed fiber optic network.

The world-class technology will facilitate access to improved and competitive services, introducing the rural area to high-capacity communication services, such as IPTV, movie downloading, medical imaging, real-time distance learning and video security.

This celebration of connectivity comes on the heels of completion of a seven-year project to connect this mountainous region with the world. The new connectivity bridges businesses, hospitals, 45 school sites in seven rural school districts and ISPs serving individuals through the use of fiber optic technology that is more advanced than what can be found in many major U.S. cities.

"This connectivity will bring economic growth, educational and health care opportunities and much more to this area of the United States," said Sherry McCuller and John Short, managers of BalsamWest FiberNET. "Our area often gets overlooked when it comes to technology because of the

rocky terrain and sparse population. But despite the uphill battle, we persevered and are thrilled to celebrate the connection of our region to the rest of the world."

• BalsamWest and its local partners invested \$14 million in the construction of the next-generation fiber optic infrastructure. The backbone ring fiber forms the Western North Carolina Education Network (WNC-EdNET).

• The pipeline originates in Sylva, N.C. and serves 45 school sites in the counties of Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain, and the Qualla Boundary, Eastern Band of the Cherokee.

• Phase I connectivity of the WNC-EdNET is the first rollout of the network to bring next-generation communication capabilities (e.g. voice, video, data and distance communications) to more than 70 school sites in the isolated Appalachian region.

• By forming strategic local alliances, called "ASAP Partners," BalsamWest was able to save the schools more than \$60 million.

• The installation began in 2003 with the help of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Southwestern Community College

in Webster and Franklin-based software developer Drake Enterprises.

• The approximately 300-mile ultra-high-speed fiber optic network delivers bandwidth of one gigabyte per second – equivalent to nearly 13,000 simultaneous phone calls.

• 130,000 residents live in the six-county region. 165,000 are being serviced.

The fiber optic network has been built underground through the highest and most rugged terrain east of the Rocky Mountains for safety, security and aesthetics.

In addition to a dynamic program, attendees also enjoyed a business expo featuring world-class technology demonstrations from companies such as Cisco Systems, HotWire Communications, AVAYA, Occam Networks, Matisse Networks, Life-Size, Comtec, Fidelity Solutions, Allied Telesis and Hitachi.

Hosted by Drake Software, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, BalsamWest FiberNET and Southwestern Community College, the event showcased the best of what the Tri-State area has to offer.

For more information on BalsamWest, please visit www.balsamwest.net.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 15

Not to live it as fully and bravely and beautifully as we can is to be numbered among those G B Shaw said, "...die at 30 and are buried at 80..."

The world seems to be full of people who have gotten into the habit of thinking of their time, not as an end in itself, that is, time to be lived, for its own sake, but, as a means to an end, a means to a better job, the next vacation, or whatever. All the in between time is interim. The tragedy for these people is that too much of their time becomes this interim time. What does one do with interim time? You hear the advice that if you keep busy, it will be over before you know, and sadly, it is ...over before you know it.

We live in constant fear of time because we have so very little of it. We deal with the fear by repressing it as best we can. We pretend we have all the time in the world; tragic misuse of it wastes what there is precious little of. Tuesdays with Morrie, is a journal of conversations a one time student has with his professor and mentor, Morris Schwartz, who is dying. They make a covenant to meet each Tuesday of the final months of his life. Their conversations produce insightful lessons on living that turned the book into a bestseller. One particular Tuesday, the subject is death. Morrie speaks, "Everyone knows we are going to die, but nobody, believes it. If we did we would do things differently."

"I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me though they die, yet shall they live." We are in time, but we are also, by Jesus' resurrection, beyond time. Eternal. We do not have to fear time. We can afford, not only to know we are going to die, but to believe it sufficiently to do things differently. Instead of doing something with time, we can let time have a chance to do something with us:

Pay attention to what time is telling us about the wildness, the strangeness, the pain, the joy of things;

See the sky, feel the cold wind, hear the crackle of the fire, savor the food;

Listen to each other and hear what lies beneath the spoken words.

When that happens, the walls around you will crumble a bit. You will begin to truly hear and see what is before you. You will come alive, so alive that you will begin to truly love your precious little piece of time.

It's back to the kitchen sink, the golf course, the doctor's appointment, the computer, the office ...back to the time that looms before you. Remembering as you go, it's the 2007th year of our Lord. In him, you need not fear time. You can believe you're going to die sufficiently to accept time as an end in itself, a precious gift from God that is to be lived, loved, and filled to the fullest for its own sake. When the time comes that you've breathed your last, those who knew you best will say wistfully,

"She was alive when she died."

... ETJ continued from page 7

ing uses can continue even after a parcel sells or the owner of the property dies as long as the exact same non-conforming use continues without interruption.

Interim Zoning Administrator Richard Betz said the ordinance is clear on allowances.

It reads: "(A) Non-conforming uses. The lawful use of any building or premises at the time of the enactment of this Ordinance, or immediately preceding any applicable amendment thereto, may be continued even though the use does not conform with the provisions of this Ordinance, as amended. However, the non-conforming use may not have its use changed to another non-conforming use, nor may the non-conforming use be re-established after its discontinuance for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months, nor may the non-conforming use be expanded."

Not to be confused with non-conforming buildings, non-conforming uses pertain to the use performed in the building not the building itself. However, the ordinance does address the building's destruction in case of fire or natural disaster.

As long as a non-conforming use doesn't change to different non-conforming use, "if the discontinuance of use is due to damage from an unintentional fire or other natural disaster, then the building may be repaired or reconstructed and the

use re-established," reads the ordinance.

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

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

Commissioners plan to address non-conforming buildings in the near future.

New chaplain to be installed at Lutheran church

Everyone is invited to the Lutheran Church of the Holy Family (ELCA) for the installation of Chaplain Margaret Howell Sunday, March 18 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service at the church at 2152 Dillard Road.

Pastor John Propst and assistant to the Bishop Phil Tonneson will lead the service and installation. Pot luck luncheon will follow.

• BUSINESS NEWS •

William Heubel Named Executive Chef of Old Edwards Hospitality Group

William (Bill) Heubel has been named Executive Chef of the Old Edwards Inn and Spa in Highlands, NC. The Old Edwards Inn and Spa opened in July 2004 as a luxury 32-room destination resort after a \$50M restoration and expansion, including Madison's Restaurant and Wine Garden and the addition of a world-class spa.

With more than 15 years experience in the hotel restaurant business, Heubel is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco. He has worked in some of the most prestigious kitchens along California's North Coast including positions as Sous Chef at the four-star Ventana Inn where he worked under the acclaimed chef and restaurateur Joachim Splichal and at the celebrated Highlands Inn in Carmel, where he supported the annual Masters of Food and Wine program.

Most recently he was Executive Sous Chef and then Executive Chef at the renowned Starwood Hotels & Resorts - Resort named Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort

... SURVEY continued from page 1

come in as planned, Slaughter, Lee Hodges and Bill Nellis will tabulate the results. A summary of results will be sent to Principal Brian Jetter, Chief Bill Harrell and CEO Ken Shull.

The committee is still trying to find a town in Western North Carolina comparable to Highlands that has dealt with affordable housing issues. So far, Black Mountain is the only one that has come close, but construction of affordable housing hasn't come to fruition.

Plans there involved building three-story buildings, which the Black Mountain Town Board was against, and a plan where homes in disrepair were repaired in return for use of the parcel for construction of an affordable home.

The committee also discussed getting involved with Region A which includes the seven most western counties in the state to see how the region is dealing with the subject.

Several members of the committee will attend a housing conference in April to look for affordable housing structure ideas.

On the committee are Chair Mary Ann Sloan, Lee Hodges, Christy Kelly, Jill Montana, Bill Nellis, Dick Lawrence, Ginger Slaughter, and Pat Boyd.

The next meeting is March 23 at 10 a.m. at the Hudson Library.

and Spa in Keauhou, Hawaii where he was responsible for menu development for all outlets and banquet functions for up to 700 people, as well as daily operations. There he also successfully implemented HACCP (food safety) procedures and menu engineering program. He was also in charge of all ordering and inventory responsibilities. Prior to that, he was the Chef de Cuisine at the four-diamond Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows in Kohala, Hawaii.

In his role as Executive Chef, Heubel will oversee all aspects of the Old Edwards Inn and Spa's food service, restaurants and catering operations at The Farm, a 33-acre special events facility. Working directly with Food and Beverage Director Courtney Roane and Chef de Cuisine Chris Huerta, this classically trained culinary team will continue to present creative menus dedicated to the freshest local and regional ingredients and the very best flavors, continuing the resort's tradition of presenting "elevated Southern cuisine."

Heubel brings great enthusiasm to his new position in Highlands: "I have always appreciated the beauty and seclusion of destination properties such as Old Edwards Inn and Spa. The intimate size of this resort lends itself to personal guest interaction. I find that very satisfying as a Chef. Working together with some of the best local farmers in the area also promises to be very rewarding. These relationships along with the creativity of this very talented culinary staff will form the basis for continued excellence in our culinary program. It's truly a very exciting time at Old Edwards."



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Old Edwards Hospitality Group's 2007 wine dinners at The Farm

The Old Edwards Hospitality Group is pleased to announce its 2007 Wine Dinner Series. For each dinner, a distinct winery will be featured alongside a savory multi-course menu prepared by Executive Chef Bill Heubel especially for its pairing qualities with the wines. Dinners will be held in the rustically elegant setting of The Farm, just outside of town, only one mile from the Inn.

The resort will also debut a series of more informal wine tastings at The Lodge, which will run in conjunction with the Wine Dinners.

Each dinner is \$169 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Reception begins at 6 p.m. and guests will be seated for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited, and advance reservations are required. Old Edwards Inn will offer a special room rate of \$185, plus tax on the night of each

Wine Dinner. For reservations or more information please call 828-787-2604 or visit us online at

www.olderwardsinn.com.

The series is as follows:

Swanson Vineyards
Thursday, April 26, 2007

Lambert Bridge Vineyards
Thursday, June 28, 2007

Caymus Vineyards
Thursday, August 23, 2007

Steele/Shooting Star Vineyards
Thursday, October 18, 2007

Evenings at

The Spa

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Guests who cancel with less than 12 hours notice or fail to show for an appointment will be charged the full treatment price. A credit card number is required at the time of booking. Reschedule of appointment with less than 12 hours notice will be charged 50% of treatment. Limited time only and promotion subject to change.

445 MAIN STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC 28741

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WWW.OLDEDWARDSINN.COM

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Coming to Instant Theater



Madeleine Davis as "Betty" and Steve Day as "Bill" in *Sure Thing*. One of the 4 short, zany plays presented in the ITC'S Carpe Noctum Theatre March 16-17 and March 23-24.

Four short plays on ITC venue for Friday and Saturday nights

Opening March 16 at The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main, is Carpe Noctum Theatre. Included in the evening are four short brilliantly calculated plays by David Ives. Among them, "Captive Audience," a cautionary tale tells how Laura (Madeleine Davis) and Rob (Steve Day) face a menace in their living room. And "Sure Thing" in which Madeleine Davis and Steve Day are again paired, this time as strangers meeting in a small cafe on a rainy night. And what an eccentric meeting it is!

Madeleine Davis has an M.F.A. in theatre from the University of Alabama and an extensive resume of theatre credits. Steve Day has 30 years of broadcasting experience in six states and D.C. Their combined talents are a joy to watch as they romp through two of the evening's four plays. Madeleine also appears with Becky Schilling in "Lives of the Saints," in which two endearing women fashion a Polish-American funeral breakfast out of absolutely nothing! Steve and Scott R. Paxton make sporadic appearances in "Lives of the Saints," as stage hands.

In addition to these four delicious, wizardly plays, Carpe Noctum Theatre offers you an Interlude with Elmer Peabody-Town Muse. Elmer's appearances on "Highlands Public Radio," a segment of Little Entertainments and Cocktail Hour Theatre, had audiences rocking in their chairs as they listened to his wholly original and engaging musings on the goings on around town. Concluding this rollicking evening is "Encore." "Encore" includes an eclectic assortment of our company's favorite improvisational theatre games. The content and dialogue within the improv games is off-the-cuff and made up magically in the moment by the actors.

Seize the Night. Call 342-9197 for reservations to one of the merriest, diverting, gleeful evenings you have ever spent in a theatre. Tickets are \$20. Complimentary wine and beer are served at performances. Carpe Noctum Theatre will run March 16-17 and 23-24 at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited. Our intimate Studio on Main is located in the Oak Square Mall at 310 Oak Square. www.instanttheatre.org

On-going

- 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.

- Beginner Classical Yoga Group meets On Mondays, 5:45-7 p.m. at Highlands Yoga and Wellness, 464 Carolina Way. Mats and blankets provided. Learn the basics and improve your health. Other classes available. Call 526-8880 Ashby or Chad.

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

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

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

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

- A Grief Support Group is held every Friday from 10-12 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for anyone who has lost a loved one through death or is dealing with a progressive illness with a loved one. If interested in attending, please contact Helen Moore (Hospice) 526-0727 or Martha Porter (Chaplain at HCH) at 787-1463.

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

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

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

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

Every Tuesday

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

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

Every Third Wednesday

- As part of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin's "Life-Span Learning Curriculum," there are "Wednesday Night Chautauquas" which are media enhanced study sessions at the UU Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Thurs., March 15-Thurs., March 22

- The Highlands School Scholastic Book Fair that starts on today, Thursday, March 15 at 1 p.m. and runs through Thursday, March 22 at 10 a.m. There are books, games, and resources for children

of all ages. The Book Fair will also be open tonight from 5-6 p.m. before the PTO meeting and also from 5-6 p.m. on Saturday, March 17 before the Talent Show.

Friday, March 16

- Arbor Day Observance, 10:30 a.m. at the Rec Park. 25 American Chestnut trees will be planted on the grounds.

Friday & Saturday, March 16-17

- ITC'S evening of Carpe Noctum Theatre. Carpe Noctum Theatre invites you to "Seize the Night" on at 8 p.m. at The Instant Theatre Company's intimate studio on Main at 310 Oak Square. Call the box office at 342-9197. Reservations are strongly suggested as seating is limited. Tickets are \$20. Complimentary wine and beer are served.

Saturday, March 17

- A "Talent Show" at Highlands School in the old gym on the main campus at 6 p.m.

Sunday, March 18

- Auditions for Highlands Community Players production of "Enchanted April" At 3 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. A reading copy available at the Hudson Library in Highlands. In 1922, when two frustrated London housewives decide to rent an Italian villa for a holiday away from their bleak marriages, they decide to recruit two very different English women to share the cost. There, among the Mediterranean sunshine, all four women rediscover themselves and rejuvenate their marriages. Needed are three adult males and five adult females. Performances dates are May 10-13 and May 17-20. Call (828-526-0306) or E-mail (rspilton@verizon.net). Director Ronnie Spilton for additional information.

- Everyone is invited to the Lutheran Church of the Holy Family (ELCA) for the installation of Chaplain Margaret Howell Sunday, March 18 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service at the church at 2152 Dillard Road. Pastor John Propst and assistant to the Bishop Phil Tonneson will lead the service and installation. Pot luck luncheon will follow.

Monday, March 19

- Candlelight memorial march and peace prayer vigil for the fallen civilians and soldiers of the Iraq war. Gather on Main Street in front of Silver Eagle at 6 p.m. We will walk with candles down Main Street. Prayer and silent meditation will follow at the gazebo near Pine Street Park.

- Auditions for Highlands Community Players production of "Enchanted April" At 6 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. A reading copy available at the Hudson Library in Highlands. In 1922, when two frustrated London housewives decide to rent an Italian villa for a holiday away from their bleak marriages, they decide to recruit two very different English women to share the cost. There, among the Mediterranean sunshine, all four women rediscover themselves and rejuvenate their marriages. Needed are three adult males and five adult females. Performances dates are May 10-13 and May 17-20. Call (828-526-0306) or E-mail (rspilton@verizon.net) Director Ronnie Spilton for additional information.

Tuesday, March 20

- Episcopal Church Stations of the Cross - 5 p.m.; Soup & Salad - 5:30 p.m.; Speaker the Rev. Buck Hanks - 6 p.m. "Bible Study." All invited.

- HIARPT's Faith and Politics: How the Moral Values Debate Divides America and How to Move Forward Together by Senator John Danforth. Coordinator: Don Mullen 10 a.m. at the Highlands Civic

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Center. Lunch will follow at 11:30 for those wishing to attend. All are welcome.

Friday & Saturday, March 23 & 24

• ITC's evening of Carpe Noctum Theatre. Carpe Noctum Theatre invites you to "Sieve the Night" on at 8 p.m. at The Instant Theatre Company's intimate studio on Main at 310 Oak Square. Call the box office at 342-9197. Reservations are strongly suggested as seating is limited. Tickets are \$20. Complimentary wine and beer are served.

Saturday, March 24

• Movie Night with The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance is presenting a day of movies at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center from 1-8:30 p.m. The five movies and one slide presentation all explore global climate change or energy usage and alternatives, and include Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*, as well as the highly acclaimed *Who Killed the Electric Car?* Both admission and the popcorn are free.

• Mirror Lake Litter Pick-up. Meet at Thorn Park by the bridge at 9 a.m. All are welcome!

Tuesday, March 27

• Episcopal Church Stations of the Cross - 5 p.m.; Soup & Salad - 5:30 p.m.; Speaker the Rev. Gray Temple - 6 p.m. "Forgiveness/Reconciliation." All invited.

• HIARPT's Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass. Coordinator: Bill West 10 a.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Lunch will follow at 11:30 for those wishing to attend. All are welcome. For information, contact Creighton Peden at cphi2@verizon.net.

Friday & Saturday, March 30-31

• The Instant Theater presents the Highlands Community Players production of *Parallel Lives*, by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney. Directed by Mary Adair Leslie. Tackling such subjects as religion, death, diversity and dating, the play is for adult audiences as it contain strong language and adult content. Call the Instant Theatre Box Office to reserve your tickets at 342-9197. Performances begin at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 3

• Organizational Softball Meeting at Highlands Rec Park, at 6 p.m. If interested, have a representative attend the meeting. For more information, call 526-3556.

• Episcopal Church Holy Eucharist, in the Chapel, 5:30 p.m. All invited.

• HIARPT's "Frozen in time: the disabled nine-year-old girl who will remain a child all her life." From The Guardian (UK) and other sources. Coordinator: Beverlee Kritz. Brief reading material will be sent by email and also be available at the preceding session. 10 a.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Lunch will follow at 11:30 for those wishing to attend.

April 10-12

• Volunteers needed to help at Highlands Botanical Garden prepare for 80th year celebration. The Highlands Botanical Garden needs volunteers a few hours at a time on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, April 10-12, anytime between 10 a.m. and 4p.m. This is a great opportunity to become involved with the Highlands Botanical Garden, which is free and open to the public, year-round, from dawn till dusk. Stop by the Highlands Biological Station office on Sixth Street or call 526-2602 and ask for the location of the day's projects. Please bring gardening gloves, sturdy shoes, outdoor clothing, food, water, and a sun hat. Rain cancels. We invite you to the Garden and appreciate your help as we get ready for our 80th year celebrations and the summer season!

Saturday, April 14

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

Thursday, April 26

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

Thursday, June 28

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

July 9-13

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

Thursday, August 23

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

Thursday, October 18

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

Ruby Cinemas

Playing March 16-21

BREACH rated PG-13
Fri: (4:30), 7:15, 9:30
Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:30), 7:15, 9:30
Mon - Thurs: (4:30), 7:15

300 rated R
Fri: (4:20), 7:00, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:20), 7, 9:20
Mon - Thurs: (4:20), 7

WILD HOGS rated PG-13
Fri: (4:20), 7:10, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20
Mon - Thurs: (4:20), 7:10

BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA rated PG
Fri: (4:10), 7:10, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:10
Mon - Thurs: (4:10), 7:10

• BIZ NEWS •

"Nick's" opens in new location



The Moschouris family is back at it, serving up all time favorites but this time at the new location on the corner of Main and First streets. Look for signature items - pot roast, spaghetti & meatballs, trout, sweet potato fries - and all the rest. Dori, Nick and Patti welcome everyone back.

Changes include a side salad or soup with entrees, in a upbeat, yet cozy atmosphere spanning two floors. Diners can choose to eat downstairs in the fire-place room with its "tavern" feel or upstairs for a cafe feel. "Nick's" is open for lunch Tuesday through Sundays and expects to open for dinner before long.



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

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB is hiring for the season. Come join our team. Housing available, employee meals and much more. We are looking for servers, server's assistants, bartenders and housekeepers. Our chef is looking for an experienced sous chef and line and prep cooks. Please forward your resume to Highlands Country Club, P.O. Box 220, Highlands, NC, 28741, Or email to crawfor@aol.com or stop in the office on Hwy 106 and fill out an application. 3/22

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

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

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

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

OUTPATIENT CODER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Minimum of 2 years experience with ICD-9 and CPT coding required. Must have full knowledge of Local Medical Review Policies and good communication skills. Responsible for pre-certification appeals process along with other Business Office and Medical Record functions as assigned. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

ACCOUNTING CLERK/HUMAN

RESOURCES ASSISTANT AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time position, working 30 hours in Accounting and 10 hours in Human Resources. Responsibilities include Accounts Payable, assisting in payroll, general ledger, and fixed assets; along with clerical and receptionist duties including databases. Experience in Excel and Word helpful. Must be a self-starter, capable of working independently, and have good communication skills. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

UNIT CLERK IN ACUTE CARE AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Responsible for admissions and data entry. Good communication skills and computer knowledge helpful. Full-time position, 12 hour shifts. Full benefits after 60 days to full-time employees. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

CNA or CNA II We have available Full, Part-time, and PRN positions at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center for day and night shifts. Our NEW WAGE SCALE for CNA's is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits after 60 days to full-time employees. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

WANTED TO RENT

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

BUSINESS FOR SALE

ESTABLISHED ELECTRONICS STORE with excellent growth history for sale in Highlands. Rare business opportunity. Call 526-8534.

FOR RENT

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

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

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

AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY, spacious, fully furnished, 1/1 apt right on Main St. Balcony, walk in closet, new carpet, and small pets are allowed. This won't last long so call 526-3363.

FARM HOUSE - 3/Bed 2/Bath renovated farm house in Scaly on Buck Knob Rd. \$1,100 + utilities monthly. Call 526-4646.

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

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

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

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

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

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CUTEST COTTAGE IN TIGER GA, minutes from Highlands. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths on large lot. \$151,000. Call 706-782-0721 4/5

UNUSUAL RIVERFRONT PROPERTY. Two bedroom, 2 baths, 3-car garage, workshop, carport, concrete driveway, covered porch over looking Cullasaja River, gazebo, spiral stairway up to foyer entrance, washer and dryer, 2-door refrigerator with ice and water dispensers, smooth top range, dishwasher, plus efficiency apartment, much more. On almost level 1/2-acre on scenic Highlands Road only 5 miles from Franklin. Phone owner 828-369-2278 for appointment. \$395,000.

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

BY BUILDER - 4/3, new construction. Executive home. 1.5 acres, bordered by 2 creeks

and a pond in a new up-scale subdivision less than 5 minutes from downtown Franklin. \$485K. Call 371-3669.

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

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

CAMERA, NIKON F2 WITH MOTORDRIVE, 4 lenses, 2 flashes, and more. Call Bob at SweetTreats, 526-9822

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

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

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

WORKING BUCK STOVE - In good condition. \$200. Call Wayne Clark after 5 p.m. 526-3191.

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

SPA (FLORES 6-3 SERIES) - From Rec Warehouse, 6-8 seats with 38 jets including a waterface and 4 shoulder jets. The size is 93" x 93" x 41.25". Brand new, still in container. Original price \$6,500, will sell for \$5,000. Can be seen at Long Transfer Company. Call Mariette at 770-503-4433.

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

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

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

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SOLID DARK OAK DINETTE CABINET. 19"x64"x84". 3 glass windows on top. 3 drawers

... RIB SHACK from page 1

bottle of liquor and then go out and kill someone in a car. This way we can have drinking in a controlled fashion."

The patio area at The Rib Shack will be enclosed to house the bar with six four-tops, two two-tops and seven bar stools. Along the perimeter of the ceiling will be four TV screens.

As with every restaurant in town, parking is the issue because the number of seats allowed in a restaurant depends on available parking.

Since The Rib Shack is on a parcel that houses apartment dwellings and the dry cleaner, parking calculations are more involved. One space is needed for each three seats, plus one space for each two employees on shift of greatest

employment; dwellings require two spaces for each dwelling and two spots are required for the dry cleaner.

The SUP for the original barbecue restaurant that transferred to The Rib Shack was for 60 seats. However, the business license and fire marshal capacity issued is 116 seats - 50 in the north room and 66 in the south room.

Current seating in the Rib Shack is 84 - 42 in each room but that will expand to 119 seats so more parking is needed.

"They weren't in compliance but with this revised site plan and the required additional parking, everything will

be in compliance," said Betz. "But the additional parking will have to be created before the certificate of compliance is issued."

Mathis said the site plan has been revised to accommodate 70 parking spaces - only 67 are required.

The appearance commission approved the plan at its January meeting requesting that the area be landscaped wherever possible after construction is completed and any additional lighting be unobtrusive.

Because of the additional seats, the town will collect a sewer connection fee of \$5,900.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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cusSED at length with the public having free and open access to the discussions of these matters.

It was the recommendation of the Chamber that the two-hour parking zones be eliminated and restricted zones for employees be enforced with the possible exception of real estate office personnel. After much discussion, the board was unable to come to a consensus and decided to study carefully the situation over the next couple weeks and bring it back to the table again for a decision before the end of March. Although two hour parking has existed since 1999, it has become a complicated and controversial issue which requires careful evaluation.

The talent present in this small town of ours never ceases to amaze me. Take for instance the performing arts. Not only in the summer but all winter and spring great performances continue with not only the Instant Theater Company at the Carpe Noctum theater but with the Highlands Community Players at the Performing Arts Center. And this summer we will also be treated to a series of wonderful performances at the Highlands Playhouse. How many towns of our size have such an array of great and professionally done performances? We are indeed blessed. I hope everyone will get out to enjoy these wonderful and fun events over the next few weeks and months. And just think, we have the great Highlands Chamber Music Festival to look forward to this summer along with the wonderful series of dozens of lectures and classes by the Center for Life Enhancement. And to think that we also have a developing Fine Arts Center soon to be built on Oak Street which will define the visual arts in an outstanding and professional way brings Highlands to a new level in both visual and performing arts.

One last comment to set the record straight on the Antique show which apparently the Highlands Playhouse board of directors has decided to move out of Highlands. The Board of Commissioners had recently agreed to allow the Civic Center to be used by the Playhouse for the Antique Show this coming September exactly as they had requested, from a Tuesday night through Saturday. However, the playhouse board turned this down because they wanted a five- or 10-year contract for use every September. They had not come to the Board of Commissioners with that request, and the board never had a chance to discuss or vote for an extended use contract. The reason the Antique Show is not in Highlands this year was a decision of the Highlands Playhouse board and not the Board of Commissioners of Highlands.

... LETTERS from page 2

company (which has strict state laws regarding dumps) wants to bless our state with this "recycle facility" — a mound 350 feet high that will leach its toxic material into the Cape Fear River. This beautiful river serves as the source of drinking water for both Brunswick and Hanover Counties. It is also the lifeblood of their seafood industry. Thankfully there is currently a moratorium on landfills in our state. But why do they want to come to our beautiful state? Because we have weak landfill laws and citizens don't care enough to do something about it. I hope YOU will! Please contact your state representative and state senator. Senator John Snow home phone-828-883-3790, Raleigh 919-733-5875. Representative Roger West 828-837-5246, P.O. Box 160 Marble, NC 28905; Representative Phil Hare 828-586-1711, P.O. Box 727 Sylva, NC 28779

Edna Foster
 Highlands and La Grange

• POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of March 7-14. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

March 7

- At 5:05 p.m., a motorist was cited for running a stoplight at NC 106 and U.S. 64.

March 9

- At 9:41 a.m., a motorist on Fourth Street was cited for speeding 42 mph in a 25 zone.

- At 4:35 p.m., a motorist at Cobb Road and N.C. 106 was cited for speeding 52 mph in a 25 zone.

- At 10:40 p.m., a motorist on N. Fourth Street was cited for speeding 47 mph in a 25 zone..

March 10

- At 4:40 p.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 east and Hickory Street was cited for speeding 42 mph in a 25 zone.

March 11

... PRIORITIES from page 1

the proposed Greenway, or amendments to the town's zoning and subdivision ordinances.

After much discussion the Town Board charged the Planning Board to finish its definitions and applications of home-based businesses and home occupations in the ETJ; to look at subdivision road widths and road grade requirements; and to work on zoning the ETJ areas of Horse Cove and Clear Creek.

Planning Board member Mike Bryson asked if the current zoning ordinance could even be applied to Horse Cove and Clear Creek. "I don't think we have suitable ordinances for those areas. The purpose of ETJ was to protect the corridors and the watershed and neither of those are issues down there. It's a different category of zoning all together."

Commissioners said that was true and zoning Horse Cove and Clear Creek would take a lot of discussion on the Planning Board's part.

Planning Board member Clem Patton said they should concentrate on protecting the Big Creek water supply rather than going off the plateau and another watershed.

"I think you should consider annexing past the current ETJ and then ETJ past the new boundary to seriously protect the Big Creek water supply," he said. Commissioner Herb James said such an idea should include the Cullasaja and all the creeks and rivers that run into that, too.

"We need to decide what we want to protect and expend our energy on that," said Patton.

Planning board members were glad to learn that the job of Zoning Administrator/Town Planner is going to be expanded to two positions – Planning Director/Zoning Administrator and a code enforcement officer. Through recent organizational meetings, a consultant convinced commissioners that the position is really too much for one person to handle properly. Higher salary grades have been recommended to help enlist qualified candidates.

"We are working quickly but it may take a while to find the right person," said Commissioner Hank Ross.

Mayor Don Mullen said the board is committed to getting someone very good who is committed to staying with the job. Planning Board members asked if they should wait until the positions were filled to proceed with its work, but commissioners felt the board has come to far to stop.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said there were a lot of housekeeping things the Planning Board could complete on its own, specifically finishing tasks it has started.

Once the Planning Director is hired, its likely that person will help the Planning Board tackle Land Use Plan priorities which were submitted to the Town Board for review October 2005 as well as consolidating federal, state and local regulations as they pertain to watersheds and built-upon percentages.

- At 11:55 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 47 mph in a 25 zone and for driving left of center at U.S. 64 east and Laurel Street.

March 12

- At 7:40 a.m., a motorist at Maple and Fourth Street was cited for illegal passing.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of March 7-14

March 7

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Foreman Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

March 8

- The dept. responded to a mutual aid call from Cashiers Fire Dept. Both times the calls were cancelled en route.

March 9

- The dept. responded to a mutual aid call from Cashiers Fire Dept. The call was cancelled en route.

March 10

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on N. Fourth Street. The victim was transported to the hospital.

March 13

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at the Highlands School cafeteria where a worker fell ill. She was transported to the hospital.

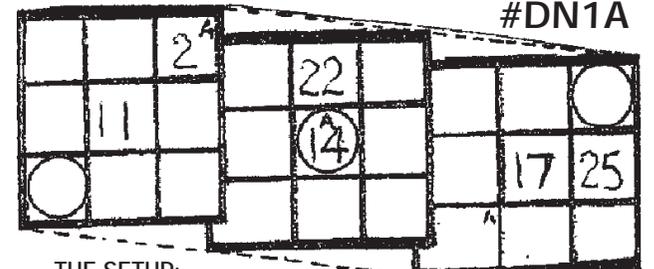
- The dept. responded to a call of a brush fire on Azalea Circle but one fireman was able to put it out with an extinguisher before the dept. had to respond.

March 14

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Buck Creek Road. There was no transport.

PseudoCube®

#DN1A



THE SETUP:

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

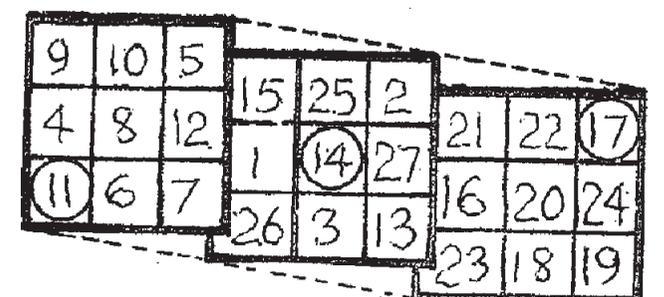
THE CHALLENGE:

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

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

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Solution for March 8 puzzle #CZ1A



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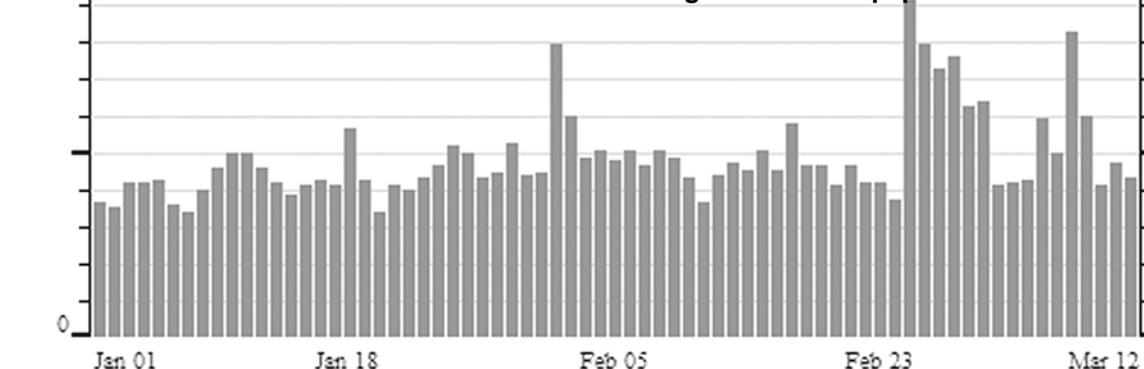
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