

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 5, Number 12

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Note: There isn't a Senior Luncheon at the Rec Park for March. The next luncheon is April 20 at noon.

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.

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

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

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

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.

Fri. & Sat., March 23 & 24

- 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 on Main at 310 Oak Square. Call the box office at 342-9197. Tickets are \$20.

Saturday, March 24

- Movie Night with The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance is presenting a day of movies at PAC from 1-8:30 p.m. 5 movies and one slide presentation all explore global climate change or energy usage and alternative. It's free.

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

Sunday, March 25

- First Presbyterian Church will host an old-fashioned hymn-sing at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary.

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.

- The Highlands Writers Group presents "Writers in the Round" at 6:30 at the Instant Theater. Admission is free and there will be a complimentary glass of wine.

Smaller hi-rise planned for U.S. 64 tract

The dust has settled concerning the transaction of property on U.S. 64 east where a high-rise condominium complex was planned. Now, the buyer is ready to move forward with his plans for Highland Views.

Though a cloud still exists on

the 19-acre deed regarding the allowance of multi-story condominium structures there, Friday, March 16, Developer Bill Shephard closed on the two original tracts for a total of 21-plus acres.

On the front 1.3 acres - the tract without a cloud on the deed

- a four-story building housing 23, three-bedroom, 2,400-2,600 sq. ft. condominium units is planned.

If the court removes the cloud on the deed for the remaining 19 acres, Shephard said a

• See CONDO page 22

Parking regs change little

Though Mayor Don Mullen thanked the Chamber of Commerce for all the work it put into developing a new parking plan, in the end, not much changed.

Except for the elimination of some two-hour parking on Church Street, Wednesday night the board voted to basically keep the parking plan that has been in affect since 1999 - two-hour parking down the center of Main, on Fourth and part of Church streets, unrestricted parking along the curbs of Main and parking restricted for employees and business owners on Main, Fourth and Church streets.

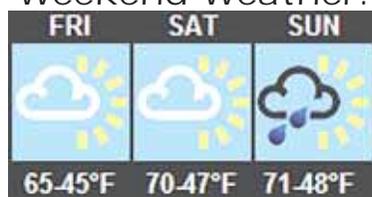
Now Church Street only has two-hour parking on half the street - from Fourth Street to the OEI property line on the south and to the Church property line on the north - basically in front of the retail shops. However employee restrictions still applies.

"I don't think we need as much two-hour parking on Church Street anymore," said Commissioner Amy Patterson. Commissioner Hank Ross agreed saying it was basically instituted to alleviate construction parking on the street.

The motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Ross dissenting.

• See PARKING page 11

Weekend Weather:



Spring cleaning volunteers



The Highlands Botanical Garden is looking for volunteers Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, April 10-12, anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to help spiff up the gardens for its 80th year celebrations and the season. Stop by the Highlands Biological Station office at the 6th Street entrance, up the hill or call 526-2602 and ask for the location of the day's projects. Bring gardening gloves, sturdy shoes, outdoor clothing, food, water, and a sun hat. Rain cancels. Last Friday, members of The Girls' Clubhouse worked with horticulturist Cyndi Banks disengaging the invasive English Ivy from bedding areas and tree trunks.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Pine St. Park gets face lift

An unofficial groundbreaking at Pine Street Park took place this week.

Last week commissioners asked Town Engineer Lamar Nix to see if town crews could remove the asphalt and concrete on the park site. Nix said the asphalt would be no problem but wasn't sure about the concrete.

Over the years, people have claimed the concrete was riddled with rebar and covered various fill

material.

In the end, the job was a piece of cake.

"They removed it all quickly," said Ross. "The rumors about potential problems were unfounded."

Ross said the Pine Street Steering Committee has secured free fill to raise the park ground two to three feet higher. "I think it's necessary due to the flooding in the

• See PINE STREET page 11

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Audit shows community still believes in hospital

The hospital foundation doesn't know exactly why, but despite a rocky year, donations were up for 2005-2006.

"During last year's period of turmoil we had more contributions than the previous year," said Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation board member Clem Patton. "We don't know if people were stepping up or if had there been no turmoil it would have been even better year."

In addition, Russell Harris, director of the hospital foundation said his donor list is growing.

"We had 176 new donors in 2006 and about 90 more people gave in November of 2006 than in November of 2005."

The average gift last year was \$90, which is up, so there are more donors giving a higher amount.

Current assets of the foundation for fiscal year 2006 (Oct. 1, 2005-Sept. 30, 2006) were \$20.75 million, down from \$21.9 in 2005. But that's not a true picture of the state of affairs.

The foundation picked 2006 to clean up its assets and liabilities - basically write off unfulfilled pledges instead of keeping them on the books as assets as in years past.

"We still have a reserve for a certain amount of uncollected pledges that we are sure are coming in and we count that as an as-

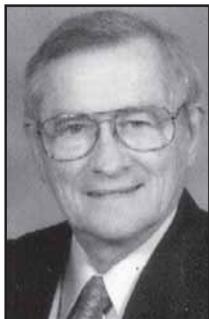
• See AUDIT page 22

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

• LETTER FROM BOLIVIA •

From my perspective



Mayor Don Mullen

Now we will soon have an open bar in Highlands where people can get mixed drinks and not be required to "brown bag" or even have dinner at the establishments. Other than the private golf clubs on the plateau, The Rib Shack and Madison's are the only restaurants allowed to do this. But they are private clubs. At least that's what the law of North Carolina says, and we are bound by that law. A tennis court out of town at "The Farm," a part of the Old Edwards Inn Hospitality Group, the owner of these two restaurants, makes them a club and it is all legal.

A Franklin referendum on "liquor by the drink" passed last year. With the passage of time in North Carolina, a dry state for many years, we have slowly moved to statewide liquor by the drink in our restaurants. The larger cities have had it for some time and the state law states that the decision is by local option. In all fairness to the other restaurants in Highlands I think it is time for our town to have a referendum on liquor by the drink. I am not taking a position on whether we have this here or not, but I believe it is time for this decision to be made by our citizens. I welcome public comment on this suggestion.

We had a good combined meeting of the Town Board of Commissioners and the Planning Board last week and were able to set some priorities with what needs to be done among the long list of projects. The intensity and time taken with working on ETJ set many things on the back burner. The fact that we do not yet have a permanent zoning planner and manager will slow things down a bit but there are still some things that the Planning Board can do such as complete ETJ zoning in Horse Cove and possibly Clear Creek along with cleaning up some of the recent ordinance changes necessitated by ETJ such as clustering and non-conforming uses.

•See MULLEN page 8

News from Dr. John in Bolivia – part 1

This was one of those blessed weekends that makes you sure there really is a God, and he led us all the way.

We had breakfast Saturday morning at eight and we were to leave at nine. Following breakfast I went to the pharmacy as the pharmacist promised all the medicines I had ordered would be ready. She had said the same on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday but I had faith that all the medicines would be there and my faith was not displaced.

Five boxes of medicines richer and \$700 less wealthy, I returned to the hotel to pick up the rest of the group. It had rained quite a lot during the night and there was some concern about the state of the road we would have to take to get to Santa Maria. The main road was fine, but then we turned onto a dirt road, and I knew the rest of the trip would be an adventure.

The road was wide and farms of sugar cane lined the path, but the road itself was a sea of mud. With four wheel drive, we did quite well but our windshield was so muddy I could hardly see. When we approached a

truck that was stuck I knew we were in trouble. The taxi that had led the way got stuck, but was able to get by the truck and the mud with the help of several of the men working with the truck. I thought I could get through on the other side of the road, but I got caught in a deep rut, and the

mud in the middle was so high that it got stuck under the truck and lifted the wheels up enough to be useless.

With some cut tree branches, we were able to lever the truck backwards until we were able to dig a channel to let me escape from the rut. I was able to get to the other side of the bad place and we finally got to our destination and set up our clinic in a school house. The man in charge of the school just happened to be there. They did have electricity and we had a strong cell signal for the phone which I found both comforting and confusing. I don't always get a good signal in the town of Montero.

We all prayed there would be no more rain or we might have to spend the night here. Unannounced and unplanned, it came to me as no surprise that people began to congregate to be seen by the medical team. In less than one hour there were at least 100 people waiting. Numbers were passed out and the patients were seen in numerical order. This technique had always worked before when we had so many people and it worked again.

While patients waited, Martha, Michelle and Maria Eugenia did skits to entertain and educate them about God. My medicine would only work for a few days or weeks, but their message might help some for much longer.

The first patient had scleroderma, as diagnosed by his fingers which had a very characteristic appearance. If he had lived in a cold climate, he would have ulcers on the finger tips, so perhaps he is lucky to live here. There is no cure for this systemic disease that affects the esophagus as well as the skin. I asked him if he had trouble eating and he said he could not swallow well. That, however, was not the problem for which he came to the clinic. He was having symptoms compatible with the dengue. I didn't bother to tell him about his real problem as there is nothing we could do for him whether he lived here in Bolivia or in Boston where he could go to one of the best hospitals in the world.

Many, if not all the children had parasites. The microscope worked well and the eggs of the ascaris worm were easy to see. Most of the kids and their family had actually seen the worms and these children we treated without doing a stool test. Many of the children and adults were anemic. Some of this is nutritional, as there is little

•See BOLIVIA page 10



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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• ANNIVERSARY •



Sammie and Bobby Houston celebrate 50 years

Bob and Sammie Houston celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 14, 2007. They will be honored at a luncheon reception at their daughter's home March 17 given by their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. They have two children, Tim of Young Harris, GA, and Karen and her husband Joe of Highlands. They have four grandchildren: Danae and husband, Scott of Highlands their grandson Trent who is a student at UNC-Chapel Hill and is studying abroad in Dijon, France, Matt and Melissa who reside in Young Harris, GA. They have one great-granddaughter, Adisyn of Highlands. The couple enjoyed a memorable trip back to Ireland recently to celebrate this special occasion. Their family is thankful for the blessing and inspiration they have been to them.

• OBITUARIES •

Louise N. Holland

Louise N. Holland, age 70, of Highlands, NC died Monday, March 12, 2007 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville. She was born in Jackson County, NC, the daughter of the late Paul and Grace McKinney Norton. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Guy Holland; two daughters, Patricia Watts and her husband, Tommy of Clayton, GA and Sheila Holland of Cookeville, TN. Three grandchildren and one great-grandchild also survive. She was preceded in death by a brother, Tommy Norton who died in 1973.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 14, at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands with Rev. Dan Robinson officiating. Burial will be in the Highlands Memorial Park. Cliff Talley, Jimmy Lowe, Gary Ammons, Tommy Watts, Bobby Zoellner, and Buddy Elmore served as pallbearers.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences can be made by visiting www.MeM.com or www.bryantfuneralhomes.com.

Frederick Willert Chesna

Frederick Willert Chesna, 71, died peacefully after a brief and sudden illness at his home in Otto, N.C. on Wednesday, March 14. He was preceded in death by his mother, Lucille Willert Chesna, and his father, Gustave Joseph Chesna. He is survived by his wife, Betty Ann Chesna, to whom he was married for 49 years; his brother, Paul Timothy Chesna, of Birmingham, MI; his sister, Nancy Sherman, of Williamsburg, VA; his children, Karen C. Adams of Callaway, VA, and Gregory James Chesna, of Lawrenceville, GA; and two grandchildren.

Born and raised in Birmingham, MI, he was a 1953 graduate of Wylie E. Groves High School and attended The University of Michigan and Detroit Institute of Technology. He served in the United States Air Force Reserve from 1957 until 1964. He retired in 1997 from his position as Senior Administrator/Design for Manufacturing, North American Operations after 46 years of service to General Motors.

He and his family were very active members of Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills, MI. After his retirement to North Carolina, he and his wife enjoyed singing in the choir at the Church of the Incarnation in Highlands.

Services were held March 17 in Highlands at Episcopal Church of the Incarnation at 2 p.m. with Father Brian Sullivan officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family would prefer gifts be made to American Cancer Society.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences can be made by visiting www.MeM.com or www.bryantfuneralhomes.com.

Employment Opportunity

Retail Sales Associate position open for the 2007 season (May-October). We are seeking an energetic, positive person for full-time/seasonal employment who is interested in learning about and selling fine Asian art and jewelry in a long established retail business.

Retail experience not necessary, only a willingness to learn. Your duties will include retail sales of jewelry, antiques, gifts and all other merchandise on a non-commission basis: interaction with clientele of shop in a friendly, courteous and helpful nature; daily upkeep of shop including, but not limited to, arrangement and display of merchandise, cleaning of areas as needed, and possible clerical duties.

Hours are from 8:00-5:00, Monday thru Saturday, 4 to 5 days minimum, including Memorial Day & Labor Day, Sundays plus Sundays in October. Salary is negotiable.

Contact: Katrina Laverty for interview at 800-437-2741 or 828-526-2769.



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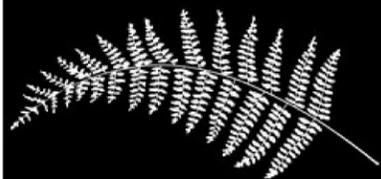
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Great location between the charming town of Highlands and Cashiers with magnificent view of the Cashiers Valley and the "Shadow of the Bear". The current owner has done extensive landscaping with terracing, outdoor grill, pond and fountain. Beautifully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



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



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



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



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

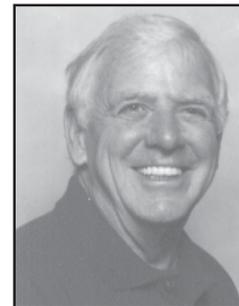
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Never take a sedative and a laxative together

There are some things in life dubbed "common sense," like not taking a sedative and laxative at bedtime. You just don't do that. You're probably not going to believe this but I, of all people, have been accused of not using common sense when I write. (Ha) Actually, this is a good thing because once it's established that I have no common sense, there is sooooo much more I can get away with.



Fred Wooldridge

**Feedback
is encouraged!
email:**

askfredanything@aol.com

When I was a police administrator, I was known for using good common sense. Once I retired and decided to jump off cliffs for a living, people began to re-evaluate my common sense level. Then I began to write for this paper and any remaining semblance of common sense was lost. It's currently at the "duh" level.

The teensy tiny eensy beensy little bit that remains in my being tells me not to write again about sleazy real estate agents, slow as molasses building contractors who rip you off, OEI shenanigans and bumbling cops with donuts in their holsters. If these people ever get together, I could be put to the stake.

Then there are the Jews. I love to make fun of Jewish people, but don't. I spent my entire adult life working among them and, as an ethnic group, have grown very fond of them. (Bigots, suck it up.) Because I know their idiosyncrasies so well, it would be fun and easy for me to nail them, but that speck of common sense left in my being tells me not to do that. Goyim making fun of Jews and mixing laxatives and sedatives at bedtime have about the same results and fall under the heading of "duh" common sense.

So today, I spent the better part of my morning searching through my hard drive, the newspapers, the obituaries (making fun of dead people can also be tricky) and several magazines for something new I could trash. Pickins' are slim because it seems I have either made fun of or insulted everything on the planet. What's a mother to do?

I am currently working on an adult version of the old children's story entitled "Puss in Boots" but it won't be out for a while. I need something for now.

I did find several things with potential, but I can't seem to get my thoughts together. One was "Bowling for Bimbos" where the owner of a bowling alley substituted curvy little hot babe bowling pins for the regular ones. It's definitely a guy thing. Supposedly the person who knocks over the most bimbos for the evening gets to go out with the owner's daughter. She reportedly

can eat corn on the cob through a picket fence while drinking a whole liter of sarsaparilla without taking in air. I may do a story just on her.

Another thing that earned my interest was a rumor that Sly, our very own "Rocky Balboa," currently drawing Social Security, lost the fight because a gummy bear shoved up his nose to stop bleeding got sucked into his lung. Hmmm, a gummy bear in a lung; I can do something with that.

I could make fun of beauty salons and barber shops but again, that speck of com-

mon sense left in me tells me to never make fun or ridicule a person who has a razor or pair of scissors in his hand. I may lack common sense, but I am not stupid.

The most fun I have ever had was writing several pieces about deer hunters. Again, this can be dangerous for a person like me who admire and love deer that breathe. For sure, hiking the forest becomes more adventurous.

Maybe I should write about a donut eating police officer who goes deer hunting and accidentally shoots a real estate agent who also owns a contracting business. That should just about finish me off. At least the story would have a happy ending.

And finally there is this toilet humor thing I seem to be obsessed with. As you are aware, I love my toilet humor but I can't go there often because a group of readers have formed a SOF group and are signing petitions against me. My fear is they will band together with real estate agents, building contractors, police officers and deer hunters. It's my worst nightmare.

SOF stands for "stamp out Fred."

• Read Laughing at Life while you are away at: <http://www.highlandsinfo.com/newspaperdownload.htm>

Berry plants available

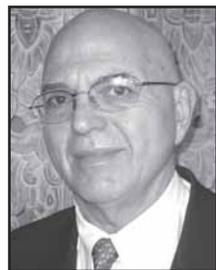
Macon County 4-H is taking orders for raspberry, blueberry, blackberry and strawberry plants, grape vine, apple and pear trees. A limited supply of plants will be available, so place your orders early with Cooperative Extension at 349-2046. Pick-up dates are Tuesday, April 3, 1-6 p.m., and Wednesday, April 4, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., at the Agricultural Services Center, 193 Thomas Heights Road in Franklin.

Cure concoctions

Dr. Fredrick Banting found the treatment of diabetes in a dream. Sir Alexander Flemming discovered penicillin after observing that bacteria failed to grow in a culture dish contaminated with bread mold. Many antibiotics are products of naturally occurring fungi. The introduction of tamoxifen, produced from the Pacific yew tree, and a mainstay in the prevention of recurrent breast cancer, resulted in such aggressive harvesting that for a time, extinction of the tree was feared.

I met a guy whose father, a missionary in Haiti with no medical knowledge, had invented an ointment with remarkable healing properties. Among other botanical ingredients the preparation included the bark of the red oak tree. I saw a home-produced VCR which demonstrated the elimination of truly ghastly skin lesions. Bed sores disappeared almost as if by magic, and lab analysis suggested efficacy against resistant Staphococcus. I passed on an invitation to invest in its commercialization. Maybe I'll be sorry someday.

The pharmaceutical industry spends billions scouring the earth and probing the seas in search of effective biological treatments. Aspirin came from a willow tree. Perhaps God sometimes whispers into the ear of a



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

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sleeping person, his way of apologizing for earth- quakes, tsunamis, and AIDS.

Yahya Jammeh, the president of Gambia, a tiny and impoverished west African nation, has announced that he has found a cure for HIV/AIDS. The cure, a blend of roots and herbs was revealed to him in a dream in which his ancestors spoke to him. CNN Television video shows Jammeh wearing a brilliant white robe, carrying a leather bound copy of the Quran, and looking very much the part of a healer, or a charlatan. The report includes an image of a three-year-old drinking a cloudy brown liquid, poured from a bottle that had originally contained Aunt Jemima Pancake Syrup. A few testimonials follow. Each patient claims to have experienced restoration of energy, weight gain, and cure of his disease.

Health officials from both the United Nations and World Health Organization demonstrate understandable skepticism, but their doubt has a hard edge, almost as if they hope it isn't true.

This is Africa, where last year the South African Minister of Health announced that a diet of garlic, roast beef, and lemon juice is more effective than standard anti-retroviral medicines.

This is Africa, where many believe that having intercourse with a virgin will cure HIV/AIDS. This is Africa, where it must be a lousy place to be a virgin.

Yet one remembers that just a few years ago, the World Health Organization opposed treating AIDS in Africa, because it was not economically effective. The WHO disregarded not only the transnational spread of the disease, but more importantly dismissed the value of human life on an entire continent. So I don't think that the WHO has much residual moral authority.

There are certainly grave concerns here. President Jammeh has refused to offer any proof of cure. Patients must stop taking anti-retro viral drugs while under treatment by their president, which, if the therapy is ineffective, will cause acceleration of the disease. People of Gambia may die needlessly while pursuing the dream of cure.

On the other hand, unlikely as it seems, this strange conco-

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tion might cure AIDS/HIV. Frankly, the whole thing looks like a farce, from the presidential costume to his claim that he can treat AIDS only on Monday and Thursday. He treats asthma on Wednesday. Friday is reserved for prayer. Tuesday must be dedicated to affairs of state. We talk about the "sniff test" and this doesn't smell good.

Despite it all, and despite the fact that I was trained in

scientific western medicine, I still believe in miracles. I can hope that President Jammeh's next honor may be a Nobel Prize in Medicine. But if I had AIDS/HIV, I wouldn't give up my anti-retroviral drugs, not until I saw something more convincing than a guy in a white robe dispensing an unknown liquid form a plastic bottle, and buttressed by a few enthusiastic testimonials.

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Winds of change are blowing

The tide seems to have turned on climate change; now it seems that global warming is accepted by (almost) everyone as reality.

Al Gore has played a huge part in this transformation of opinion. Gore's film *An Inconvenient Truth* lays out the evidence for climate change so clearly using diagrams and photographs that most viewers leave the theater convinced.

The film vividly depicts the effects of warming that has already happened. Pictures of glaciers taken decades apart from the same vantage point show the retreat or complete disappearance of the ice. One set is taken in Glacier National Park, what Gore suggests we'll have to rename "the park formerly known as Glacier," because scientists predict that within 15 years all the glaciers in the park will be melted.

So what does this mean? What do we have in our future? I read a couple of books to try and find some answers.

I am a very optimistic person; my husband gets mad at me some times for being such a "Pollyanna" because I can find the silver lining in the darkest of clouds. But after reading these books I have struggled with a profound despair about the future of the human race.

The Winds of Change: Climate, Weather, and the Destruction of Civilizations, by Eugene Linden looks at a number of civilizations that mysteriously disappeared, including the Mayans and the Viking Greenland colony, and argues that the cause of their downfall was climate change.

Linden wrote about global environmental issues for *Time* magazine, and it shows in his clear writing. The book is very easy to read...until you come to the section about climate science. Everything gets very complicated, but that is how complex the science is. Climate science needs to take into account the way the Earth wobbles as it changes its angle of inclination towards the Sun, not to mention sunspots, the interaction of the atmosphere and the oceans, volcanic eruptions, etc.



Katie Brugger

Easy Ways to Reduce Energy Use

1. Change a light

Replacing one regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

2. Drive less

You'll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don't drive.

3. Recycle more

You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year by recycling just half your household waste.

4. Check your tires

Keeping your tires properly inflated can increase gas mileage by 3%. Every gallon of gasoline keeps 20 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

5. Use less hot water

Install a low-flow showerhead (saves 350 pounds a year) and wash your clothes in cold or warm water (500 pounds saved per year).

6. Avoid products with a lot of packaging

You can save 1,200 pounds by cutting down your trash by 10%.

7. Adjust your thermostat

Keeping your house 2 degrees cooler in winter and 2 degrees warmer in summer will save 2,000 pounds a year.

8. Plant a tree

A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide in its lifetime.

9. Turn off electronic devices

Turn off your TV, computer, and stereo when you're not using them; you'll save thousands of pounds a year.

The terrifying new finding in climate science? The climate can switch from, say, an ice age to a temperate climate in a decade, not the thousand-year

timeframe previously thought.

In January a *New York Times* article about a "new age of geography" caught my eye. Seems the melting of the Greenland glaciers is revealing hundreds of islands off the coast, uncharted and unnamed, just waiting to be "discovered."

"Greenland is covered by 630,000 cubic miles of ice, enough water to raise global sea levels by 23 feet. The abrupt acceleration of melting in Greenland has taken climate scientists by surprise. Until recently, the consensus of climate scientists was that the impact of melting polar ice sheets would be negligible over the next 100 years. Tidewater glaciers, which discharge ice into the oceans as they break up in the process called calving, have doubled and tripled in speed all over Greenland." "The Warming of Greenland," by John Collins Rudolf, January 16, 2007.

Then I read *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*, by Jared Diamond to see how climate change factors into this author's thesis. Diamond studied many of the same societies as Linden and he agrees that climate changes did contribute to their collapse; he just suggests that the story is more nuanced.

Diamond also chronicles the societal collapse of the ancient Easter Islanders, Anasazis of the American Southwest, and modern-day Haitians and Rwandans. He balances his account with some societies that succeeded in solving the problems facing them: Japan, the Dominican Republic, and New Guinea (seem to be fewer who succeed).

A common feature in all societies that collapsed: deforestation. Japan figured this out in the 1600s and began to manage their forests. Now of course Japan is deforesting other nations, such as Indonesia.

Why did the few societies survive, while most collapsed? "A society's responses depend on its political, economic, and social institutions and on its cultural values. Those institutions and values affect whether the society solves (or

•See BRUGGER page 16

• CP: OFFICE LINEBACKER •

Calling audibles on sports and life

Bullets for 'Buckeyes'

The first week of March Madness has concluded and there were a lot of interesting stories occurring both on and off the court. However, I'm giving myself a pat on the back for my prediction of Duke losing in the first two rounds. More on that to come a little later though, but now it's time for bulleting!

- My complete disdain for officials and announcers has doubled with the incidents involving Tyler Hansbrough and Greg Oden.

Duke guard/forward Gerald Henderson's punch (yeah, it was a punch) leads to a broken nose and a slew of "was it/wasn't it intentional" lines from Billy Packer.

First off, who goes to block a shot with their elbow/forearm? How do you blame the victim for getting hit? Just ask Packer, who was adamant that Hansbrough shouldn't have been in the game in the first place, that it wasn't a dirty shot, and that Henderson was the victim for being suspended for a game after all was said and done.

Compare that to Greg Oden, who fouled out against Xavier by shoving a player with both arms fully extended. It was easily an intentional foul, should have been a flagrant foul, and Xavier should have beaten Ohio State.

Granted, Xavier blew their chances in overtime on their own, but there never should have been one. Hearing the announcers genuine excitement that Ohio State came back to win is also very irritating to everyone but Ohio State fans.

There is a reason schools have their own broadcasting network, so it's perfectly alright to be biased towards one team. Announcers for a network should be unbiased, just like officials. Too bad it doesn't happen that way.

- Congratulations to Virginia Commonwealth for upsetting Duke in the first round.

The Ram's Eric Maynor had ice water in his veins for his game winning shot. VCU followed the preset formula for defeating the Blue Devils and Duke followed their pattern of losing the game by building a lead and letting it slip away.

At least Coach K has some time off to scout replacements for Martynas Pocius and Josh McRoberts. Duke



Christopher Potts
John Cleaveland Realty
feedback encouraged:
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haters will not let Coach K forget this upset, as they have already started VCU chants where K has made an appearance for a recruit.

- There are no double digit seeds left in this year's tournament, so CBS is forced to refer to teams like Tennessee and UNLV as Cinderella teams.

UNLV, yes. Tennessee has been solid all year, so I'm not buying it. Unless they beat Ohio State, there are no real Cinderella teams this

season.

The games are still very exciting, so I guess a tip of the cap is in order for the selection committee.

- Just because there is only one ACC team left doesn't mean the ACC is a weak conference. Duke might have been over seeded at 6, and the match ups for Maryland and Virginia were very equal. The conference isn't top heavy, but 7 teams is still no easy task unless it's the Big East with 16 teams.

- I saw a video by Peter Rosenburg that anyone who doesn't like Duke will love. Youtube Rosenburg's name at your own risk, and don't say I didn't warn you. I am not responsible for the laughter or anger that can occur after seeing this video.

Note:

This article is not intended to be a Duke bashing article, but since I'm a UNC homer and I'm fully expecting the entire world to say something to me if Carolina loses, so I'll take my poison later if it happens while I smile after last week. Enjoy the Sweet 16 everyone!

Old-fashioned hymn-sing set for March 25

First Presbyterian Church will host an old-fashioned hymn-sing at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 25.

Those attending may choose a hymn from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. The song leader will be Stell Huie and Angie Jenkins will play the piano.

The church is at 471 Main Street. Join them for an hour of singing and fellowship.



Girls soccer going strong

Katie Durham takes control of the ball at the away Swain game on March 12.

Photo by Noel Atherton

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... MULLEN from page 2

Parts of the Land Use Plan can continue to be worked on and hopefully completed but much of that will depend on the input of a new Zoning Manager. All in all it was a good meeting with the Planning Board. Under the fine leadership of Griffin Bell I am sure much will be accomplished by that board in the coming months.

Maybe we here in Highlands are going to be part of the great comeback of the Chestnut Tree. I remember my parents talking about the blight in the Chestnut trees around Western North Carolina and in the entire east when I was a child. This loss of our Chestnut trees began almost

100 years ago and wiped out virtually all Chestnut trees by the 1930s. It involved almost 25% of the trees in our eastern forest and national parks. But now it looks like a hybrid of the Chestnut has been developed. We planted two dozen of these hybrid trees around the Recreation Park parking lot last Friday thanks to our GIS engineer and town arborist Matt Shuler who took a special interest in the project. The more green we can keep in our community and actually add to our town the better place we will have to live. Thanks go to Matt Shuler for his leadership in tree conservation and growth.

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• HIS & HERS •

Prosecutors, hypocrisy and Harry Reid

I've been following the unfortunate career of Harry Reid since he joined the US Senate in 1986. His latest pronouncement, concerning the firing of eight US Attorneys, is one more example that he will do and say whatever he can get away with, to earn himself either political capital, or capital gains in a land deal.

Is that too harsh a judgment of a man who is now the Majority Leader in the US Senate? Judge for yourself.

Here's what Harry Reid said on TV, in front of God and everybody, about the decision of the Bush Administration to terminate eight (less than 10% of all the US Attorneys): He called on Attorney General Gonzales to resign "in order to restore the Justice Department's credibility on both sides of the aisle." He also described the actions as one of the most "shocking abuses of power" that he had ever seen.

Apparently the Senator from Searchlight, Nevada, was previously blind, since President Clinton in 1993, and President Reagan in 1981, both fired all of the currently serving US Attorneys, or about 90 of them, in one fell swoop. Senator Reid was not around to comment on the Reagan mass removal of US Attorneys in 1981. But he was in the Senate in 1993 for the Clinton purge.

And what did Harry Reid, a Democrat, say about that? Not a discouraging word was heard, to quote a famous Western song. And did he demand the resignation of Attorney General Janet Reno, a Democrat, at that time? Not on your tintype.

Let's get some particulars on the table. All US Attorneys are appointed by the President. And today, all of them serve at the "pleasure of the President" after they have completed their initial four years after confirmation by the Senate. Harry Reid is not a stupid man. He knows that any President, at any time, has the power to remove eight (or more) US Attorneys without stating a reason for those removals.

So, what really has Senator Reid's knickers in a knot on this subject? There are two reasons, one personal/political and the other party/political.



Michelle Mead & John Armor
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John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

The personal side is that one of the Attorneys dismissed was a protege of Reid. The political side is that the eight dismissed attorneys were apparently slack in pursuing cases of election fraud. The largest single source of election fraud cases is a national organization

called ACORN. It's full name is the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now.

In the last presidential election ACORN registered about 1 million new "voters." Since then, its employees and representatives have pleaded guilty or been found guilty in dozens of cases of fraud, including providing heroin as compensation for the filing of fraudulent registrations. And most of the new "voters" discovered by ACORN are in a group that votes 90% for Democrats.

So, a win-at-any-cost Democrat, which I believe Harry Reid to be, would not be eager for US Attorneys to investigate fraud in federal elections. As for why I place Senator Reid in that category, it goes back to his first election.

I had spent 25 years traveling around the country as an expert witness on behalf of ALEC (a membership organization of state legislators) on behalf of the proposed Balanced Budget Amendment to the US Constitution.

The form of the proposed Amendment that ALEC supported was the one drafted by Dr. Milton Friedman.

In his campaign to become a US Senator, Harry Reid repeatedly told his constituents that he would "vote for the Balanced Budget Amendment." Within three months of taking office, Reid had a chance to do just that. The BBA failed to get a 2/3rds vote in the Senate by a single vote on that occasion. And Reid, contrary to his pledge to his state, voted against the BBA.

So, Harry Reid's latest political dishonesty is no surprise to me. He can get away with lying about the right to remove US Attorneys only with either the incompetence or the connivance of the press. Placing the facts of what Presidents Reagan and Clinton did concerning US Attorneys in articles

• See HIS & HER page 9

• THE CONSERVATIVE POV •

It's time to cool your jets

“Simple measures of stockpiling food or of introducing variables of climatic uncertainty into economic projections of future food supplies would be appropriate.” Good grief, has global warming reached the point that we need to stockpile food?

“Ominous signs of the earth's weather patterns have begun to change dramatically.” There is an impending “drastic decline in food production.” Political disruption stemming from food shortages could affect “just about every nation on earth.” Yikes! Grab the beef jerky and head for the storm cellar.

Great Scott! I didn't realize the threat of global warming had reached this point. Surely, those must be quotes from some fourth-rate sci-fi publication. Not really. They came from an article published in Newsweek, the nation's self-appointed scientific journal. They appeared in the April 28, 1975 issue and it dealt with GLOBAL COOLING!

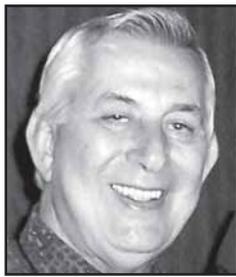
In all fairness, NW was not alone in pursuit of scientific truth. In 1972, the National Science Board, the governing body of the National Science Foundation, was quoted in the Washington Post, “Judging from the record of the past interglacial ages, the present time of high temperatures should be drawing to an end ... leading to the next glacial age.” Following up in 1974, they said “During the last 20 to 30 years, world temperature has fallen, irregularly at first but more sharply over the last decade.”

I could quote several highly respected scientists whose names would mean nothing to you, all on the coming ice age bandwagon of the 70s, but let's fast-forward to 1992. Al Gore wrote a book titled *Earth in the Balance* wherein he advocated the elimination of the internal combustion engine which means your automobile, SUV, truck would be history. That went well.

In 1999, in an interview with CNN, Gore stated “During my service in Congress,

I took the initiative in creating the Internet”. Well, no you didn't. It was in use before you were elected. I could go on for hours. The totality of Gore's delusional beliefs, claims and misstatements of facts put Dan Quayle's malapropisms to shame.

Today, Gore is the Champion of the Global Warming movement. Well, he is a lifelong enviromaniac, so why shouldn't



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

he lend his considerable delirium to the proposition? We all know about his “award winning” documentary “An Inconvenient Truth” which somehow is being shown, as I understand it, to every schoolchild in America. I'd love to know how that came about. But I digress.

The same “scientific” brilliance which said our days were numbered due to glaciers burying all mankind

are now the ones saying those glaciers are melting at an alarming rate and we will soon all drown. It's hard to keep up with the disaster du jour. The question now becomes, why the reversal? What caused the tea leaves to read hot when just a short while ago they read cold?

Remember the Kyoto Protocol? It was (and is) the UN's attempt to diminish the U.S. economic engine and give the advantage to developing countries under the guise of combating “global warming.” As the development of the protocol was being finalized in mid-1997, the US Senate voted 95-0 to not consider ratification until the terms of the deal were balanced. It still hasn't been ratified.

Curiously, however, on November 12, 1998, Vice-President Al Gore symbolically signed the protocol. Since it was never ratified, who knows what it meant, if anything, other than to put Gore out front on the issue.

Now the matter gets really foggy. As I understand it, the 160 +/- countries which participate were assigned limits of emissions (China and India were given a pass). Quoting from Wikipedia, “Kyoto includes “flexible mechanisms” which allow Annex I (forget it) economies to meet their GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emission limitation by purchasing “GHG emission reductions” from elsewhere. These can be bought from financial exchanges such as the new EU Emissions Trading Scheme.”

“Countries, in turn, set quotas on the emissions of businesses. Business that are over their quotas must buy carbon credits for their excess emissions, while businesses that are below their quotas can sell their remaining credits. Credits can be exchanged between businesses or bought and sold in international markets at the prevailing market price. There are currently two exchanges for carbon credits: the Chicago Climate Exchange and the European Climate Exchange.”

Stay with me, it's almost over.

And then there is Personal Carbon

•See POV page 11

... HIS & HER from 8

about Reid today would expose the Senator's hypocrisy. But almost no mainstream media has bothered to make that highly relevant comparison.

Seems like the press is defending Senator Reid from the consequences of his own dishonestly, doesn't it?

About the Author: John Armor has practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu He lives in the 11th District of North Carolina. He alternates columns with Michele Mead.

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... BOLIVIA from page 2

meat in the diet, but most is from chronic illness from parasites.

One thing that did strike me was the lack of the creeping eruption that proved to be so common in the previous clinic we had. Now I had the medicine for that problem and there was none. Foot fungus was common but we had no medicine for that. It will disappear when the weather is dryer. There were the usual depressed people along with many that had stomach pains. Some probably had ulcers from being infected with helicobacter pylori, a bacteria that cause inflammation of the stomach and ulcers. It comes from poor sanitation which surely is the case here.

We tried our best to treat these cases with two kinds of antibiotics in hope that the combination might clear the infection. Soon it was 2 p.m. and we had to leave, with many patients unseen, and many more were on the way to be seen. As it was, we had seen almost 75

patients. Whole families were seen, but few of the children were really sick. The mothers just wanted them to be seen. All had their blood pressure taken and the adults had a diabetes test.

I was happy with the way we were able to take care of the patients, as Mary Yoder and Nancy Main did the blood pressure and some of the finger sticking for blood sugar. Outside the school room Martha, Michelle and Eugenia managed to keep the people happy. As we were leaving they brought us chicken and rice which we politely refused as we had another birthday party to attend. Most of my friends here have birthdays in March. I felt bad about leaving and not eating their gift, but I knew the food would not go to waste, and I wouldn't take the chance of eating in this place knowing of all the patients with the stomach bacteria and the children with parasites. On the way back the car was pulling strongly to the right. As we arrived

at the hotel, there was the strong smell of brakes. I hoped that the car would not need another mechanic to fix it again. The car was muddy from front to back and top to bottom.

Thankfully it had not rained any more and the road had dried sufficiently to make the return trip a lot less adventurous than the one going in. The birthday party was at an estate in Santa Cruz. A German family had come here in the 70s and stayed, becoming quite prosperous. The son had married the daughter of the Rotary vice-president and a good friend of mine and several of the group had actually stayed with them over the years.

We had gone from one extreme to the other, which is not all that hard to do in Bolivia. It is not unusual to have a beautiful home right next to an adobe hut. We returned home ready to go to bed as this was a fun day but a hard one. Maybe soon our bones will stop shaking from the trip down that road.

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... PARKING continued from page 1

"I like everything the way it is now, except I'd like to see three-hour parking and the elimination of the pass system," he said. "Three hours simplifies things because it will help the Realtors and help folks who want to shop and eat and go in and out of hotels. There would still be turnover. I'd like to try it for a year."

But Commissioner Patterson and others said they liked it the way it is. "I like the turnover and I really haven't heard that many complaints," said Patterson.

Commissioner Alan Marsh said two-hour parking turnover is particularly critical for Reeves Hardware.

A second motion to keep the Chamber's pass system for one year passed 4-1 with Commissioner James dissenting.

With the pass system, the chamber and merchants give visitors passes allowing them to park anywhere for an indefinite period.

"If we have a pass system, we might as well have no restrictions at all," said Commissioner Herb James.

Parking restrictions are in affect April 15-Nov. 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

... PINE STREET continued from page 1

area," said Ross.

Mark Meadows, owner of Sapphire Lakes Country Club, has offered the services of the golf course crew to grass the park after the fill is in and he's paying for the materials.

Ross said the grass will be a temporary thing because the creek still has to be re-routed, but it will stabilize the dirt in the meantime.

To date, the Pine Street Park group has raised \$710,000. Future donations are needed to begin construction of the park. "We're two-thirds away with funding," said Ross.

To make a donation, mail it to: Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, PO Box 1703, Highlands, NC 28741 Attn: Pine Street Park Project.

... POV continued from page 9

Trading. This involves Domestic Tradable quotas (DTQs) and Personal Carbon Allowances (PCAs). As far as I'm able to determine, this is the scheme which enables the filthy rich environmentalists to fly their jets spewing CO2 and heating their 28,000 square foot homes, buy these things (call them indulgences) and feel good about themselves. Somebody takes the money and plants trees. Wonderful. I feel warm and fuzzy all over.

All of these tradable items were spawned by the Kyoto Protocol, promoted by Gore and now it is learned that Gore and Maurice Strong, billionaire Canadian environmentalist, own the exchanges that all these generically called carbon offsets are traded and are profiting nicely doing so. Follow the money and learn the truth.

Perhaps this provides a motive for the man-made climate crisis known as Global Warming. If you choose to dig deeply into this issue, you may find your brain feeling like it's been in a blender and pureed.

The gobbledygook is stultifying. If Gore engineered this whole caboodle for personal profit, my

opinion of him has been dramatically upgraded. It would take a twisted but very clever mind to think it up.

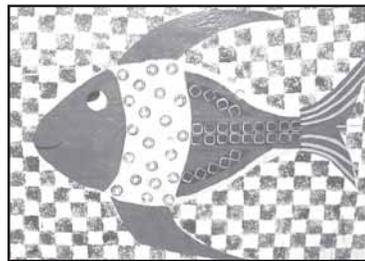
Columnist meets Romney



Don and Min Swanson recently attended a dinner featuring presidential candidate Mitt Romney sponsored by the Spartanburg County Republican Party. The following morning, FreedomWorks sponsored a breakfast at which presidential candidate Duncan Hunter offered his thoughts for the future.

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Lutheran church welcomes new minister



On Sunday, March 18, Chaplain Margaret Howell was installed as the minister of Holy Family Lutheran Church in Highlands. She was installed by the Rev. Phil Tonnesen, Assistant to the Bishop of the NC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Also in attendance was the Rev. John Propst, who had served as interim pastor of Holy Family Lutheran Church. Chaplain Howell previously served at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC. She and her husband, Jon, will be residing in the Highlands area. From left: Rev. John Propst, Chaplain Margaret Howell, and Rev. Phil Tonnesen.



Performers shine at Talent Show

By Elizabeth Gordon

The Highlands School 2007 Talent Show of Shining Stars, Saturday, March 17 at Highlands School, was a spectacular event.

Talents were showcased by many of every age and grade. The teachers included music teacher Ms. Kristina Kirchner, high school English teacher Abigail Leatherwood, and high school history teacher Simon Hickman.

Some of the skits included singing fa-

vorite songs, dancing the night away, and playing favorite instruments.

There was fifth-grader Cara Hedden and her second-grade brother Wesley who did a skit called "Brothers for Sale" with the help of fifth-grader Carli Calloway and her second-grade brother, Jacob.

Some high school cheerleaders did a fantastic dance. Fourth-graders Katie Ingram and her friend Ali Bolt performed a liturgical dance to "I Can Only Imagine" by Mercy Me.



Toni Schmitt playing hard at the Blue-White All Stars game Friday.

Photos by Sue Aery

Seniors do Highlands School proud

By Stephanie Smathers

On March 16, Toni Schmitt and Alec Schmitt participated in the Western North Carolina Blue-White All-star Basketball Game in Asheville. Many of their fans went to cheer them and their teams on. Both players displayed acts of team-building, sportsmanship, and having fun. Toni Schmitt scored nine points to help her team to victory. She contributed many assists, steals, and rebounds. Alec scored 20 points for his team, but they came up short. He also contributed to steals, assists, and rebounds.

"I was very fortunate to be chosen to play in the annual Blue-White All-Stars game at TC Roberson High School. When I found out the news, I was very excited and honored," said Toni Schmitt. "I was grateful to play with such talented young ladies, who helped me to learn more about the game."

There were three two-hour practices at Tuscola, under Coach Anne Gardner. Competition was high and with lots of running, conditioning drills, learning plays, and team scrimmages.

"The feelings I had were incredible and quickly changed after the first practice," said Toni. "I was wondering if I could keep up with the other girls. On the second day, things went much better and I became more comfortable with the events of the practices. I had a lot of support from my family, friends, and coach who encouraged me to work hard during practices and see through this event."

Toni said Coach Gardner had a lot of love for the game of basketball and her personality was very inspiring. "She is one of the hardest coaches I have ever worked under and is very dedicated to making her players the best while aiming for a winning season," said Toni.

She said the team was down by 17 at half-time but Garner's inspiration helped saw the team winning by seven at the end.

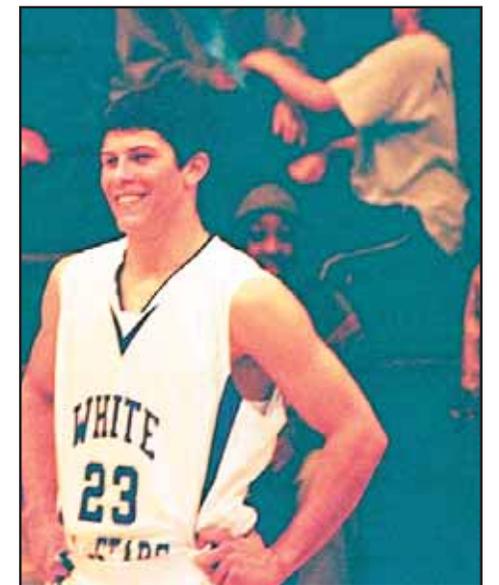
"The entire experience was very memorable and I had a lot of fun," said Toni. "This was a great way for me to end my basketball season for high school."

Alec had a similar experience.

"It was such an enjoyable game since it was very competitive and full of talent," said Alec. "Starting practices just three days before the game and not knowing my teammates, I was a bit skeptical. I was wondering if the team chemistry would be there or not, but that was not a problem. Everyone understood basketball and what it takes and how it should be played. We all worked well together to make for a very intense game."

Alec's team lost by three points but he still enjoyed every moment of his last high school career game.

"I made some new friends and learned a lot. I want to thank everyone who came to support Toni and me. It would not have been the same without my hometown crowd," he said.



Alec Schmitt enjoying every minute of the experience.



Members of the Highlands Rec Park assist Matt Shuler, Highlands GIS engineer plant 25 seedlings at the Rec Park, Friday, March 16. Photo by Kim Lewicki

Chestnut trees to live again on the Highlands Plateau

From a Highlands Historical Society point of view, the re-introduction of The American Chestnut to the plateau is wonderful, says President Walter Wingfield.

"The American chestnut was extremely critical to the survival of many settlers of this area, providing lumber for their homes and food for many wild animals and pigs, which in turn provided food for the settlers. The harvesting of chestnut lumber was an important part of the economy later, and of course was eliminated when the chestnut blight arrived around 1927," he said.

This summer docents at the Highlands Historic Village plan to point out to our visitors that exemplars of this important tree can be viewed next-door at the Rec Park.

In 1904 the chestnut blight disease, caused by an Asian fungus *Cryphonectria parasitica*, was discovered in the Bronx Zoo of New York City. The blight spread quickly by air and on the bodies of insects, birds, and animals.

By the 1930s, almost all the mature chestnut trees in the Carolinas were dying back to their roots. Thanks to soil organisms, however, many of the roots remain alive, sending up small sprouts that constantly die back from the blight even today.

Now, with an approach called backcross breeding, the American Chestnut Founda-

tion and its Carolinas Chapter are working to revive this great King of the Forest.

Chestnut tree societies – The American Chestnut Cooperators Foundation and the American Chestnut Foundation help fund the re-introduction of the American Chestnut.



Though the seedlings planted Friday are only inches tall, Shuler said they could be producing chestnuts in three to four years and in 11-14 years could produce 30-50 pounds of chestnuts. Mature trees grow to 100 feet high. In the south, chestnuts are usually harvested in September.

The town joined the American Chestnut Foundation for \$25 and was able to purchase the seedlings for \$2.25 each. The Rec Park is now home to 25 seedlings and 25 more are planned for the Greenway Trail sometime in the near future.

If you have pastureland with deep, well-drained silt-loam or sandy loam soil where you would like to grow chestnuts for the co-op's breeding program you can call Paul Sisco at 828-281-0047.

Someone has to be on-site at all times to care for and protect the trees from deer and cooperators must sign a Germplasm Agreement that acknowledges that The American Chestnut Foundation retains ownership and control over the trees.

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More Highlands School students on honor roll

Highlands School inadvertently omitted some students from the 4th six-week Honor Roll. They are:

"A"Andrew Billingsley, 10th grade
"A"Brittany Dryman, 12th grade
"A"Nick Kerhoulas, 12th grade

"AB"Zach Raborn, 10th grade
"AB"Toni Schmitt, 12th grade
"AB"Sara Vanderbilt, 12th grade
"AB"Lara Gibson, 12th grade
"AB"Craig McCall, 12th grade

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Why does everybody like Don Leon's ads? Because he is challenging and doesn't take any guff. And we challenge you to come out for Friday or Saturday Prime Rib Dinner Buffet with all the trimmings including Angie Jenkins playing Broadway Piano in Clayton, all for \$14.95. Or you may choose to take a ride on Sunday after church for our Sunday Carvery Luncheon with all the trimmings including ice cream, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. for a wonderful afternoon.

Raspberry Fizz

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The Visitor Information Program airs at 7 am, 9 am, 4 pm, 6 pm, 9 pm, and 11 pm.

• POLITICS AT THE STATE & FEDERAL LEVELS •

Senator John Snow

Representing the 50th Senate District of North Carolina
Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood (part), Jackson, Macon, Swain & Transylvania
<http://www.senatorsnow.com>

March 15 marked the bill drafting deadline in the Senate. It's safe to say this has been one of the busiest bill drafting sessions in the history of the legislature. With North Carolina moving into the 10 most populous states in America, it's easy to understand that everyone is clamoring to get the resources they need to help develop their communities.

Senate members have had requested nearly 2,000 bills so far, and one member of the Senate has single-handedly introduced almost 130 bills. In addition to the state's growth, the Senate rules are a bit more open now with regard to budget requests.

In the sessions prior to my election, all a member had to do was talk to a member of the leadership and request that their pet projects be funded. Now all pet project funding has to have a full and open review by committee and both houses of the General Assembly. A lot of the pork in these bills is being shut out because of the open process, but at the same time, a lot more bills are being introduced with local projects within them. This is why we have larger numbers of bills being introduced.

School Bonds

Over the last few weeks I have written at some length about the several bills that will be coming forward this session to issue bonds to pay for much needed infrastructure investments in North Carolina. The most important one that I have identified is a school bond for school construction. All of our western counties are growing faster than any of us could have imagined 20 years ago, and we have to educate more and more students in facilities that were not designed to hold the numbers we have.

This week I signed on as a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 852. This will authorize the citizens of this state to vote on a bond issue of \$2 billion for school construction throughout North Carolina. Of this \$2 billion the 50th Senate district will receive just over \$44 million for school construction in our counties. Given the way the equation works, the 50th Senate district will get \$4 million more than if the bond money was divided evenly between the 50 Senate Districts of North Carolina. Western North Carolina truly needs top-notch schools which can provide our students with sufficient classroom space. This can be used to bring in the best and most innovative teaching methods as we work to shift our economy.

Family Farms

I am amazed by how many people in our counties have owned their land before

North Carolina was a member of the United States. It is always surprising to see folks pull out the original deeds of trusts given to their family by the King of England. Maybe what is even more astonishing is the dedication that these families have in keeping their land within their families and working it the best of their abilities.

Over the years, increases in property taxes and offers from land developers have been forcing and wooing these generational farms and land owners away from their property. Seeing a new apartment complex standing where a 10th generation family farm had been is robbing our mountains of what made them special. This is why I was very happy to introduce legislation this week to provide \$10 million to the Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. This will help landowners preserve their property and their family's heritage. There are plenty of people in our mountains with 5 to 10 acre farms that do not qualify for the subsidies that exist for larger commercial farms in the eastern part of the state. Our mountain farms will qualify for help through the Farmland Preservation Trust Fund.

Property Taxes

Folks in Macon County have been keeping the postal service busy and my email box full with the letters to me about the property tax increases. Macon County just had their property re-evaluated and this meant a property tax increase for most everyone. The property taxes that we are facing are by and far too high and they are forcing too many people, especially those on fixed incomes, to sell their homes and move where the taxes are lower.

Over the last few weeks I have been working with members of the Senate from the west and the coast about the property tax situation that we have in North Carolina. We have developed a plan and written legislation to decrease property taxes. I will file the bill next week, and the language is entering its final draft. I truly believe that we have a solid proposal that will stand up to the rigors of the legislature. However, we're going to have to work hard to get it passed. Once we have submitted the bill, I will talk a bit more about the specifics of the bill in a later edition of the weekly update.

Ethics

This Thursday was the first time that legislators had to file an economic interests statement with the State Ethics Commission. This filing is new for the General Assembly and is a new requirement of the ethics reform that we passed last year. The short and long of the filing is that it

will show if members of the legislature have a financial stake of \$10,000 or more in any business or profit making organization. The public can view these bills and determine if we are passing legislation because of self-interests. Frankly, I think it is a good thing to know what interests people have when they work here, I don't think this is too much to ask of someone who is working for the public.

Landfills

Last year many of you wrote me about your thoughts on legislation that would limit mega landfills in North Carolina. As you remember the moratorium that we passed on landfills is in effect for one year. That year is coming to a close around July of this year. The group responsible for studying landfills has come back with some recommendations. They include:

- Banning new landfills that are close to wet lands and water bodies
- Requiring an analysis of potential environmental impacts before a new landfill gets permitted; and
- Requiring permit fees for companies that want to build large sized new landfills.

I hope that somewhere in the proposal there is a way to help us improve recycling efforts across North Carolina so we can reduce the amount of garbage going into our landfills.

William Martin

William Martin was a member of the Senate who was first elected in 1982 and served until 2002. William was at the forefront of child advocacy while in the Senate and was always working with and developing new ways to help improve the lives of children in North Carolina. He is responsible for much of the legislation on the books today concerning child welfare. He was thought so highly of by members of the North Carolina Children's Covenant that they named their highest award after him to be given to members of the legislature that introduced and passed legislation that benefited children in our state. I was very honored to receive this award on Monday here in Raleigh from the North Carolina Children's Covenant. A large reason for my selection was because of the work I did on fighting meth and sexual predators in our community.

Despite having won this award, I feel that there is still a war going on against our children. Prior to receiving my award I was talking with our local Guardian Ad Litem director, Mary May, and she gave me some disturbing numbers about the neglect and abuse that children in our 8-county area are going through. The numbers of children

• See POLITICS page 16

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Grace that precedes grace



Father Brian Sullivan
Episcopal Church

Suppose the least understandable thing in our Christian journey is our encounter with GRACE. When we personally experience it, we know instinctively that our experience is a good thing. However, the realist in us wants to know, "why is this happening to me?" With a follow up statement we might add, "I should not be receiving this, because I have done nothing to deserve it." When we see others experiencing Grace, the realist in us says, "This person should not be getting that, they did nothing to deserve it."

As members of this worldly society, we know the harsh realities of what happens when people get things they do not deserve, it harms them and society. However, as people who live in the world, not of the world, we know God's Grace is not at all like a religious welfare system.

Grace is a path that winds us through life. When we look behind us, it is clear where Grace was present. As we stand still we can feel Grace, like the arms of a Father welcoming us home. When we look forward, Grace is always preceding us. This Grace that precedes Grace, is the most important (and typically least glamorous) experience on the journey.

We all know there are times when we wander off the path. Like a boy on a trip with his fellow Scouts, we too can get distracted and lost in the woods. What brings us back is when we "come to ourselves" and realize, I want to be home. Coming to ourselves is the most important encounter with Grace we can ever experience. This encounter with Grace naturally results in a response. Our response is what sends us to the reward that we normally attribute to Grace: welcoming arms, a feast, an act of kindness, a smile or a party thrown one our behalf. So the miracle of Grace is the moment we become aware that home is in the arms of God – the closest relationship we can ever imagine.

The journey is not all about the individual finding home, it is about everyone finding home. Once we have received the gift of God's grace (like any gift we do not deserve) we share it. We need to be aware of those around us who might need us to join them on their journey. We may only need to walk in their shoes for a short time, just long enough to point up the path to the Grace that precedes them — which is exactly what Christ did for us. The path they are on is most likely going to be a treacherous place, even for someone like us who know the way, the truth, and the life of God. However, what better person to be on the path, than one who knows what it is like to be home.

As our Christian journey wind us closer and closer to the cross at the end of Lent, keep looking forward to the Grace that always precedes us. However, do not ignore the voice of a lost sheep. You could be the very person who exemplifies the Grace that precedes Grace by helping that person "come to themselves" and find their way home into the arms of God.

• 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. Erbedding, 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: Womens weekly Bible study at 2 p.m.

Wednesday: Mens Bible study at 8 a.m.

at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Supper last Sunday of each month.

All are Welcome!

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday -- 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Womens Bible Study

Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Students' Dinner (free for kids in 8th
grade and younger);

5:30 p.m. Supper; 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 pm Small Groups for kids

Pre-K through 8th; 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm Adult Bible Study

6pm-7pm Choir Practice

• Small Groups are offered for all ages throughtout 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. - Womens Cursillo Group; 5
p.m. - Evening Prayer
Tuesday: 8 a.m. - Mens 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. – Mens Bible Discussion & Breakfast

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers

Wednesdays: Prayer – noon; Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7

Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m. & 5

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376

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

5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: noon – Mens Emmaus Reunion Group; 4:45 – Childrens

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

– children, youth, & adults studies;

7:15 – Adult choir

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

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

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. Cyprians Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871

Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Tien, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Evening

Worship – 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769

Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

... POLITICS continued from page 14

in the eight counties that I represent that are addicted to drugs are on the rise:

- 34 babies aged 0-1 years are currently addicted to drugs – 6% increase from last year.

- 84 children aged 1-3 years are currently addicted to drugs – 15% increase from last year.

- 56 children aged 3-5 years are currently addicted to drugs – 10% increase

from last year.

- 164 children ages 5-10 are currently addicted to drugs – 29% increase from last year.

While I'm honored to receive the award, I can't help but be concerned for the conditions that far too many of our children are living in. We must continue to fight the influx of drugs into our communities.

U.S. Congressman Heath Shuler's weekly report

The past week, March 11th -17th, was National Sunshine Week, which is a non-partisan effort to bring more accountability and transparency to the actions of government. Started in 2002 by the Florida

Society of Newspaper Editors, it is now a national initiative led by the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

The House joined those efforts by passing five pieces of legislation making the federal government more open and accountable to the American people. The bills were: HR 985, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act; HR 1362, the Accountability in Contracting Act; HR 1254, the Presidential Library Donation Reforms Act; HR 1309 the Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 2007; and HR 1255 the Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007.

All five bills were terrific examples of bi-partisanship and passed with overwhelming support from both sides of the aisle. In fact all the bills had the support of over 300 members voting in favor of the measures.

Here is a brief description of the bills. You can read the full text of the legislation online at, www.thomas.loc.gov.

- HR 985, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act, will override several court and administrative decisions that have undermined existing whistleblower protections. The bill also extends whistleblower protections to several other groups of workers, including: employees of companies with government contracts who report waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars; federal workers who specialize in national security issues; and workers who disclose actions relating to the validity of federally funded scientific research and analysis.

I also supported an amendment that was agreed to on HR 985 that protects federal workers who blow the whistle on instances of retaliation against religious exercise and expression in the workplace. This amendment ensures that federal workers will have the right to do things such as wear

religious emblem, have a Bible on their desk, or express their views to others.

- HR 1362, the Accountability in Contracting Act, builds on the whistleblower protections given to contractor employees, to provide us more oversight on federal contracts. The bill will minimize no-bid contracts by limiting the length of those contracts and requiring public disclosure of the justification and approval documents required for a non-competitive contract. Any contract overcharges in excess of \$1 million would also have to be disclosed to Congress under this bill. HR 1362 also hold federal agencies accountable by requiring them implement plans to minimize no-bid contracts and to use more of their procurement budget for the hiring and training acquisition workforce personnel, contract planning, administration, oversight, audits, and enforcement.

- HR 1309, the Freedom of Information Act Amendments, reaffirms that records should be released to the public if the disclosure is allowable by law and would not cause harm to the nation. It also clarifies that the 20-day window executive branch agencies have to respond to a FOIA request begins the day the agency receives the request and strengthens agency reporting requirements.

- Similarly, HR 1255, the Presidential Records Act Amendments, will provide for better access to the records of presidential administrations. Currently, there is an Executive order that requires both the current and former president to approve the release of presidential records. This review process can last indefinitely. HR 1255 sets a limit of 40 business days for the current and former president to raise objections over the release of records to the nation's Archivist.

- Finally, HR 1254, the Presidential Library Donation Reform Act, will provide

• See POLITICS page 17

THE Summer House

Distinct and Customized Products...

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- Interior and Exterior Lighting
- Collections of Original Art
- Extensive Selection of Unique Accessories
- Gifts
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... BRUGGER continued from page 6

even tries to solve) its problems."

If you can't see Gore's film, you can read his book of the same name. The book is an almost perfect reproduction of the movie so it will give you the same experience. (All books mentioned available at the Hudson Library.)

Gore admonishes against despair; he insists we can solve this problem if we work together starting immediately. Diamond suggests that if we are wise we might find a way to survive. Can you understand my despair now?

But I find an antidote to despair is to listen to Breta Stroud speak. Breta will give Al Gore's presentation on Saturday, March 24 at 4:45 pm at the PAC. After watching Gore's film she went to the movie's website www.climatecrisis.net and responded to an invitation to be trained as a presenter. She was one of a thousand people from around the country to be selected. (The film will be shown at 2:15 pm)

Even little things can add up to a large savings in energy consumption. The average American generates about 15,000

pounds of carbon dioxide every year from personal transportation, home energy use and from the energy used to produce all of the products and services we consume. But if you look at the sidebar you'll see how you can easily whittle this number down.

But I can't stop thinking about the consequences of warming already in progress; say the melting of the Greenland glaciers. Even if we *completely* stop emitting carbon tomorrow massive changes will take place. On low-lying and gently sloping land like coastal river deltas, a sea-level rise of just one foot would send water thousands of feet inland. Hundreds of millions of people worldwide make their homes in such deltas; virtually all of Bangladesh lies in the delta of the Ganges River. We will be seeing a refugee crisis unlike anything we have ever known. Shifts in precipitation will lead to crop failure and mass starvation. Wars will inevitably break out over shifting natural resources.

I'm back to despair.

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• BUSINESS NEWS •

OEI Group names January & February 'Service Champions Awards' recipients

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

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

(\$1,000), silver (\$500) and bronze (\$250) categories.

January 2007:

Gold:

Jimmy Lowe, Security

Bronze:

Eneida Pacheco,
Housekeeping

February 2007:

Gold:

Tim Hanson, Maintenance

Silver:

Kyle Lamm, Front Office

Bronze:

Jody Sosebee, Maintenance

"By setting goals and rewarding the staff members regularly, we encourage positive motivation and set a standard for excellence that is not only attainable, it becomes second nature. This level of service is what sets us apart as the award-winning property that

we have become," said Mario Gomes, Old Edwards Hospitality Group CEO and general manager.

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

Dave Linn:

Fitness Supervisor

David Trail:

Rib Shack Manager

Heather Smith:

Kitchen Manager

Rib Shack

Jared Breedlove:

Front Desk

Supervisor

Chris Huerta:

Chef de Cuisine

George Penland:

Madison's Restaurant

Supervisor

Eckerd Center names new administrator

The executive director of a 60-bed nursing facility in West Virginia, is slated to become the new administrator at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center later this month.

Shawna Mellott will take over the reins at the Living Center March 26, replacing Kurt F. Abshire who left last fall to manage a nursing center in Hendersonville. She is currently the director of the E.A. Hawse Nursing and Rehabilitation Center facility in Baker, WV, which is approximately 35 miles west of Winchester, VA. It is one of a number of facilities owned by American Medical Facility Management, Inc., a privately owned healthcare company.

"Shawna will be a great addition to our management team here at the hospital and we are enthusiastic that she is going to be joining us," said Ken Shull, president and CEO of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. "She is a licensed nursing home administrator in West Virginia and she is in the process of becoming licensed here in North Carolina. While that is not a requirement for nursing homes that are associated with hospitals in this state, we believe in maintaining a higher standard."

A native of Reedsville, PA, Mellott graduated with a degree in



Shawna Mellott

Health Service Administration from Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock. After graduation, she performed an internship in Managed Care Administration at Weed Army Community Hospital in Fort Irwin, CA, before becoming assistant administrator of a 66-bed nursing facility in Ft. Ashby, WV. That facility was part of Genesis Healthcare, a national company with 220 facilities across the country.

She is a member of the American College of Health Care Administrators, and the West Virginia Healthcare Association.

"I look forward to joining the

team at Eckerd Living Center to ensure that the highest quality of care remains a top priority. It is a great honor to be chosen to serve the Highlands-Cashiers community," she said in a phone interview this week.

... POLITICS from page 16

much of the same transparency to presidential library donations as political campaign donations. It requires that all organizations established to raise funds for presidential libraries or related facilities report contributions over \$200 on a quarterly basis. These financial disclosures would be in effect from the time the president is in office until the federal government has taken possession of the library. All this information would have to be made accessible to the public through a free, searchable, and downloadable database on the internet.

If passed by the Senate and signed by the President each of these bills will provide important protections against waste and fraud and make the federal government more accessible and transparent to American citizens.

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(Parking on Church Street and Valet Parking is available at Old Edwards Inn.)

Docents needed at 'Historical Village'

The Highlands Historical Society needs docents. Docents help visitors explore the museum exhibits and the historic House-Trapier-Wright (Prince) House.

Anyone interested in becoming a docent for the Historical Museum is encouraged to contact Carolyn Patton at 828-526-9115 or e-mail highlandshistory@nctv.com. Knowledge of Highlands history not necessary just enthusiasm.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

ITC entertains with 4 zany plays Fri. & Sat.



Above: Madeleine Davis as Laura, Steve Day as Rob, and Becky Schilling, Bill Nellis as TV Woman and Man in "Captive Audience." Left: Scott R. Paxton and Becky Schilling as Horace and May, the mayflies, in "Time Flies."

ITC's Carpe Noctum Theatre presents evening of fun

The Instant Theatre Company's Carpe Noctum Theatre was a walloping success last weekend. Full house audiences were enchanted with the flexibility of the actors as they transformed themselves into one character after another, intrigued with the zany writing of David Ives, and delighted with the lighting and special effects. Four short plays that get and hold your attention, an Interlude with Town Muse, Elmer Peabody, and an Encore of improvisational off-the-cuff games, Seize the Night to create an evening of Theatre that you will remember long after you have left the ITC'S Studio on Main.

Seize the Night! Call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197 for reservations on March 23 or 24 at 8 p.m. Our Studio on Main is located at 310 Oak Square, Main Street, Highlands, N.C. Complimentary wine and



beer are served with performances. Seating is limited and early reservations are suggested.

• A REVIEW •

Carpe Noctum Theatre and its four plays

Witness life in a drop of pond water in "Time Flies." Experience a little bit of Hitchcock in "Captive Audience." Appreciate the time-honored tradition of preparing for a funeral the Polish way in "Lives of the Saints." Witness schizophrenic mating rituals in "Sure Thing."

The Instant Theatre's newest venue "Carpe Noctum" is a refined more professional version of its popular "Little Entertainments." It features some of the same actors - Scott Paxton, Madeleine Davis, Becky Schilling, John Gaston and Bill Nellis and introduces Steve Day - each of whom have a natural comic flair. Though considered amateurs,

each delivers perfectly timed comedic performances - evidence of much work on the parts of producer Scott Paxton and Artistic Director Collin Wilcox Paxton.

Paxton and Schilling transform into twitching and preening Mayflies; Polish parishoners Schilling and Davis schlup around the basement kitchen of a Catholic Church overcooking for a party of 12; Davis and Day play well off each other as husband and wife and later as acquaintances; and "Evenings of Little Entertainments" Elmer Peabody with his musings on town life -- a character created and performed by Dr. Paul Black -- is as always, thoroughly engaging.

Note:
• There isn't a Senior Luncheon at the Rec Park for March. The next luncheon will be April 20 at noon.

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 (Hos-

pice) 526-0727 or Martha Porter (Chaplain at HCH) at 787-1463.

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

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

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

• Children's classes 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 preschool 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.

Through March 22
• The Highlands School Scholastic Book Fair runs through Thursday, March 22 at 10 a.m. There are books, games, and resources for children of all ages.

Fri. & Sat., March 23 & 24
• 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 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 cli-

Excellent entertainment awaits you.

— Kim Lewicki

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

mate 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.

- The Highlands Writers Group presents "Writers in the Round" at 6:30 at the Instant Theater. Admission is free and there will be a complimentary glass of wine and, of course, good stories. We are fortunate to be joined by Delaware's Poet Laureate, Fleda Brown. Fleda will read selections from her latest book of poetry, "Reunion." Fleda is also winner of the "2007 Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry," selected by Linda Gregerson. Fleda is visiting our area because she has been invited to read at Western North Carolina on the 26th of March. So join us the next evening to hear some lovely poetry. Our newcomers, Lonnie Busch, Nancy Reeder and Gina Pauratore will also be there, along with latest members John Armor and Michelle Mead. To join us, please contact Anne Doggett 828-526-8009 or just come to the Hudson Library at 2 on Thursdays. Writers of drama, fiction, short story, creative non-fiction (memoir), poetry and children's stories are all welcome.

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.

Saturday, March 31

- The Satolah, Georgia, volunteer fire department holds its annual benefit, Saturday, at the Moccasin precinct firehouse on Route 28. Food served at 5 p.m. (\$7 per adult plate, children's plates, \$3.50.) The entertainment starts at 6 p.m. with Foxfire, followed by Curtis Blackwell and the Dixie Bluegrass Boys, two of the most authentic bluegrass bands in these parts. Raffle tickets, \$1 for \$350 cash, or a .22 rifle or 20-gauge shotgun. The public is invited to this family-friendly event for a good cause.

- The Cashiers Historical Society in cooperation with the Cashiers Community Center is planning a Heritage Apple Day on Saturday March 31st, 2007 to be held on the grounds of the Cashiers Community Center from 10:30am-3pm. The schedule for the day will be: 10:30 a.m.-noon — presentations and discussion; 1-3 p.m. — Apple grafting demonstration and workshop. Participants will learn about varieties of heritage apples from this area, and will learn how to graft apples.

Members of the community are encouraged to bring their own apple cuttings. Additionally rootstock will be available for grafting at no charge..

April 1

- At Highlands United Methodist Church, worship at 11 a.m. with palm processional

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 5

- Maundy Thursday at Highlands United Methodist Church – Passover Meal and Celebration of Holy Communion, at 6:00 p.m. Reservations are recommended.

April 6

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

April 10-12

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

Every weekend beginning April 13 & 14

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

Saturday, April 14

- 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.

Saturday, April 21

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

Thursday, April 26

Marching for peace, praying for the fallen



On Monday, March 19, citizens for peace marched Main Street from Fifth to Third and on to the gazebo on Pine Street for a candlelight memorial peace prayer vigil for the fallen civilians and soldiers of the Iraq war.
Photo by Kim Lewicki

- 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.

Ruby Cinemas

Playing

March 23-29

SHOOTER rated R

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

BREACH rated PG-13

Fri: (4:10), 6:50, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (1:50), (4:10), 6:50, 9:10
Mon – Thurs (4:10), 6:50

300 rated R

Fri: (4:30), 7:10, 9:30
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:30), 7:10, 9:30
Mon – Thurs: (4:30), 7:10

WILD HOGS rated PG-13

Fri: (4:15), 7:10, 9:15
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:15), 7:10, 9:15
Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:10

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cooks. Please forward your resume to Highlands
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28741, Or email to crawforg@aol.com or stop in
the office on Hwy 106 and fill out an application.
3/22

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tor coach site available for purchase. Downtown
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utive home. 1.5 acres, bordered by 2 creeks and
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es and Lake Glenville. Quiet neighborhood. Ask-
ing \$180,000. Call Linda. Day: 828-743-2948.
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derful mountain view. One mile from Main Street.
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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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**Police Chief warns:
'Beware of telephone scam'**

One night last week, Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell got a telephone call from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T Service Technician (could also be Telus) who was conducting a test on the telephone lines. He stated that to complete the test he should touch nine (9), zero (0), the pound sign (#), and then hang up. Luckily, the chief was suspicious and refused.

Upon contacting the telephone company, he was informed that by pushing 9-0-#, permission is given to full access to the telephone line, which enables the caller to place long distance calls billed to your home phone number.

"I was further informed that this scam has been originating from many local jails and prisons," said Chief Harrell.

After calling Verizon, he was told the same thing has been happening to their customers.

"Do not press 9-0-# for anyone," he said. The GTE Security Department asked Harrell to pass this information on.

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of March 8-21. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

Feb. 28

- At noon, RBC Centura reported fraud involving actions of an employee who allegedly wrote two counter checks to cash from a customer's money market account. The fraud was discovered when the customer reported money missing from the account.

March 8

- At 8 a.m., real estate agents at Country Club Properties reported \$400 cash missing from their possession.

March 17

- At 8 a.m., a m., a motorist at N.C. 106 and Dog Mountain Road was cited for hauling an unregistered trailer.

- At 5:55 p.m., a motorist U.S. 64 west was cited for speeding 50 mph in a 35 zone.

- At 6:55 p.m., a motorist at Main and Third streets was cited for speeding 37 mph in a 20 zone.

March 18

- At 8 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 106 and Cobb Road was cited hauling an unregistered trailer.

- At 10:40 p.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 east and Hickory Street was cited for speeding 42 mph in a 25 zone.

- At 12:04 p.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 53 mph in a 35 zone

... CONDO continued from pg 1

matching building will be constructed there for a total of 40-46 units.

The case is set to go to court early in May.

If allowed, the second condominium building will be built on a knoll of land where the first settlers on the property originally located.

Either way, Shephard is moving forward. "I hope the pending suit goes in the right direction and I can build the second building, but if it doesn't, I will build the one condominium building and a cluster development of 19 homes on the 19 acres instead. I prefer to cluster because it doesn't destroy the environment," he said.

Almost all of the condominium units - 95 percent - will have a view of Shortoff Mountain. Parking will be dug out under the building which will include a spa, indoor pool, meeting rooms and storage rooms for each condominium unit. Condominium units will begin on the ground level of the four-story unit.

Regardless of what ends up on the overall tract, Shephard plans hiking trails, picnic areas and a putting green for the property.

He and his architect, Dan Buncombe of Cashiers, are working up a smaller version of the original plan utilizing wood, stone and timbers.

"I understand height was an issue on the original plans, but it was never going to look like a Miami complex as depicted by some," said Shephard.

As long as he adheres to Macon County's building ordinance height restriction he said the county's planning department is behind the project 100 percent.

There is a moratorium on multi-story buildings capping them at 48 feet. Meanwhile the Macon County Planning Board is working on the verbiage of the ordinance.

"The maximum building height on any building, structure or unit within the jurisdiction of Macon County shall not exceed 48 feet or four stories, whichever is greater," reads the proposed ordinance.

At its planning board meeting in February, Macon County Building Inspector Jack Morgan said the language in the first sentence is confusing. The board is working on its clarification.

Shephard said his sales office will go up in the next three to four months and he plans to pre-sell the condominium units in the first building prior to beginning construction.

- Kim Lewicki

at N.C. 28.

March 11

- 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 14-21

March 14

- The dept. responded to a smell of smoke at a residence on Laurelwood Lane. It was caused by a faulty switch and fuse.

- The dept. responded to call of a brush fire which had been left unat-

... AUDIT continued from page 1

set, but we've become much more conservative or rather more realistic regarding payment," said Patton. "Now the books show what we are more certain of actually getting."

In the "long-term unconditional promises to give" column, for 2006 - after the adjustment - \$296,687 is listed; for 2005 that figure was \$3,856,106.

Much of the uncollected pledges are left over from the 1999-2000 Challenge Campaign where \$27 million was pledged. That figure was rounded down to \$22 million by the time the dust settled. The foundation wrote off \$3.6 million.

Money in the foundation's capital fund is used to purchase equipment and make other infrastructure improvements for the hospital while the interest-bearing endowment principal is untouched.

Typically, including purchases and infrastructure upkeep, the hospital goes to the foundation for about \$2 million a year - but it can be more.

"The hospital requires a subsidy to operate," said Patton. "So far the foundation has had the means to carry the hospital through. We received more donations in 2006 than 2005 and for that trend to continue, we need the confidence and support of the community. We'll need more years like last year to continue."

Patton said it's getting harder and harder to provide healthcare in this country. Hospitals need certainty to continue rather than approaching operations with a "pay as you go" mentality. The foundation supplies the underpinning the hospital needs.

Last year the foundation funded the purchase of the MRI machine. This year the hospital is looking to the foundation for a nuclear imaging camera for about \$500,000 and additional plant improvements.

Included in the foundation's assets column is \$3.7 million that represents the eight acres purchased in Cashiers to expand facilities there at some point. Patton said it's likely the hospital won't need the eight acres and part of that will eventually be sold off.

Due to the backing of the foundation, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital can offer the community services beyond what communities the size of Highlands and Cashiers typically see.

"There is a generosity of the people here who know that for this facility to continue they have to step up to the plate," said Patton. "The community is willing to support at a level not normally seen by hospitals."

Harris agreed. "Highlands has deep donor support. The hospital can be what the community is willing to support. But encouragement is the essential ingredient for people to continue to give and to come back and give," he said.

Hugh Spruill, vice-chair of the foundation board said the more people living in the Highlands-Cashiers area the better it will be for the hospital.

"We have a better chance to have a healthy founda-

tended on Mt. Lori Drive. It was extinguished.

March 16

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

- The dept. responded to a fire alarm on Church Street. It was set off by a bursting water pipe.

March 17

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

March 18

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

tion and a viable hospital as more people move here," he said.

Spruill said the hardships the hospital went through last year represents a period of adjustment that can be attributed to the hospital growing bigger and people expecting a certain quality of care.

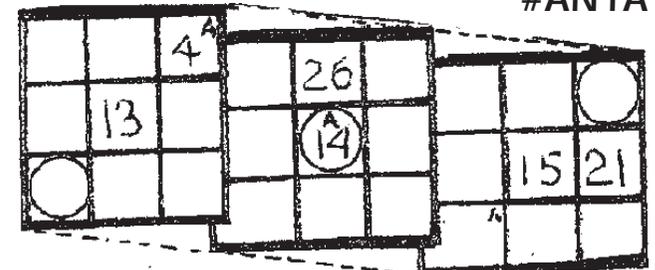
"We have moved into another mode. It's not just enough to have a hospital in town, anymore. Expectations have moved up. But moving up isn't easy. There are growing pains when moving to the next level," he said. "But we have moved successfully to that next level."

Patton said he has great confidence in this hospital. "It was here when I needed it and able to do what I needed it to do. It's the best hospital care anywhere."

- Kim Lewicki

PseudoCube[©]

#AN1A



THE SETUP:

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

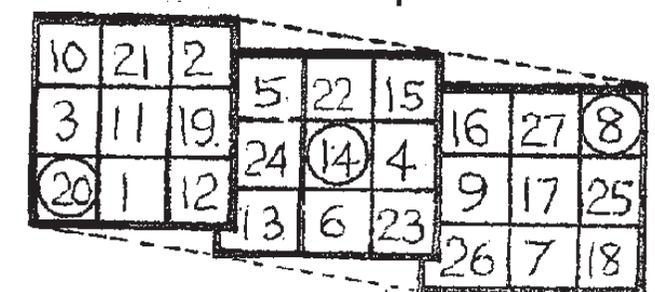
THE CHALLENGE:

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

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

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com

Solution for March 15 puzzle #DN1A



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MAP DOTS	1 Summer House	4 Outdoor Tool	7 Century 21	10 Macon Bank	13 Grinning Frog	16 SMC Realty	19 New 2007 Updates
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|--|---|---|---|

This map is updated every week to insure complete accuracy.

Highlands Map

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