

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 6, Number 15

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, April 10, 2008

On-Going

- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mon., Wed., Thurs. \$5 per class.
- At Health Tracks at the hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

Mondays

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

Wednesdays

- Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

Thursdays

- Live Music with Brad Vroon at Fireside Restaurant in Wright Square from 6-9 p.m. with Tapas Menu.

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

Friday & Saturday

- Live music at The Rib Shack from 7-10 p.m.

- Live music at Fresser's Eatery in Helen's Barn 6 p.m.-closing.

Sundays

- Live Music with Brad Vroon at Fireside Restaurant in Wright Square, noon-3 p.m.

Thursday, April 10

- For National County Government Week, Macon County will host a reception honoring 26 former living members of the Macon County Board of Commissioners on the third floor of the Macon County Courthouse from 6 – 8 p.m.

Thurs.-Sat., April 10-12

- At ITC, Madeleine Davis and David Milford in "The Ice Breaker." Reservations are strongly suggested. Call the ITC Box Office at 828-342-9197.

Saturday April 12

- Art & Luxury Weekend Package at Drake's Diamond Gallery, Summit One Gallery, Instant Theatre and Main Street Inn. Call 526-2590 for reservations.

- Singer/songwriter Zorki performing at Cyprus Restaurant at 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15

- Macon County Democratic Women meeting at the Community Center in Highlands at 6 p.m. and catered dinner. Cost is \$12. Call Sarah Wilks at 349-1792 or Lee Hodges at 526-3363.

Thursday, April 17

- Highlands School Talent Show 6-7:30 p.m. and a dinner benefiting the Highlands School Art Foundation at 5 p.m.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
69-49°F	55-40°F	46-31°F

Trucker strike hits Highlands

Highlands is feeling the affects of the independent trucker's strike.

The Rec Park's new fitness equipment which was supposed to be delivered early this week and set up and ready to go on Wednesday didn't happen — the equipment never arrived.

Diesel fuel has surpassed the \$4 mark across much of the nation and independent truckers in particular are feeling the burn. In Highlands, diesel fuel is going for \$4.04 a gallon

In protest of high diesel gas prices many independent truckers

organized a nationwide strike that started April 1. After paying their monthly truck note, then having to deal with soaring diesel prices, independent truckers said they don't have any money to support their families or pay bills.

• See TRUCKER page 12

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Spring has sprung in Highlands



Spring takes a little longer to get to Highlands, but once it does, it's worth it. This shot is from Steve Potts Park on Harris Lake. In the distance is Lakeside Restaurant and Old Highlands Park condominium project. Monday night the Appearance Commission OK'd developer Bill Nellis's landscape plans for the project which includes low lighting and augmenting standing growth with native plants.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Finance Committee begins budget work

The town took the first steps toward formulating its 2008-2009 budget at the April 2 Finance Committee meeting.

Town Administrator Richard Betz, explained necessary funding for nonprofits, major capital projects, the town's budget requests from other agencies, the town's capital reserve funds, miscellaneous expenditures the board has discussed for the upcoming fiscal year and the budget development process.

He said first he factors in non-

profit requests, then department budgets and by April 30 will have the Treasurer's Line Item Report ready for presentation to the Board.

The plan is to present the budget May 28 and adopt it on June 25 when the 2007-2008 budget will be amended.

Since 2004, the town has capped nonprofit requests at \$50,000. This year the requested amount is \$88,000. Though the board has kept the amount capped, it's unknown if it will do

so for the 2008-2009 budget.

The single capital project for 2008-2009 is the first phase of the four-phase Harris Lake Sewer Project which will cost the town \$1.8 million not including a Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant of \$728,000. The total cost of the project is \$2.6 million.

Since the town is doing the job in-house it will save considerable money – so far a savings of \$225,000 has been realized.

• See FINANCE page 3

Land Use Committee's purpose clarified

At the April 2 Town Board meeting, commissioners clarified the purpose of the newly formed Land Use Committee as well as the sequencing of meetings between its appointed boards and committees.

Mayor Don Mullen opened the discussion when he suggested appointing Planning Board Chairman Griffin Bell to the Town Board's Land Use Committee whose members include Commissioners Hank Ross and Buzz Dotson.

After much discussion, the board nixed the suggestion on the grounds that none of the other Town Board committees include citizens other than town employees or Town Board members.

Commissioners thought they needed to clarify the committee's purpose after a snafu involving the Planning Board's restaurant parking recommendation caused some discourse.

After the Planning Board met in February, it sent its restaurant parking recommendation to the Town Board but before the Town Board met, the newly formed Land Use Committee met and presented its recommendations at the March meeting.

This angered some Planning Board members and led to more discussion at the March 24 combined Town Board/Planning

• See LAND USE page 7

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •

• LETTERS •



Kim Lewicki
Publisher

Whose money is it?

Though it was never discussed in an open session, at the urging of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, the Town Board has asked its architects to reconfigure their proposed plans for the new Town Hall to accommodate the Chamber's need for a 1,500 sq. ft. permanent home.

The question is: Is it legal or even ethical for a municipality to accommodate a private organization in a building paid for by Highlands taxpayers' money?

The Chamber of Commerce is not a visitor center – it's a private organization that charges about \$250 a year in annual dues. It's also a private organization that does not represent all of Highlands' taxpayers, or all of Highlands' businesses that are taxpayers. In fact, many of the Highlands' businesses who are Chamber of Commerce members, aren't Highlands' taxpayers.

In addition, with local membership dwindling and its expenses climbing, the Chamber has opened its membership roles to anyone who will pay the price regardless of where they are from.

Currently, members of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce include businesses from other towns, other counties and other states.

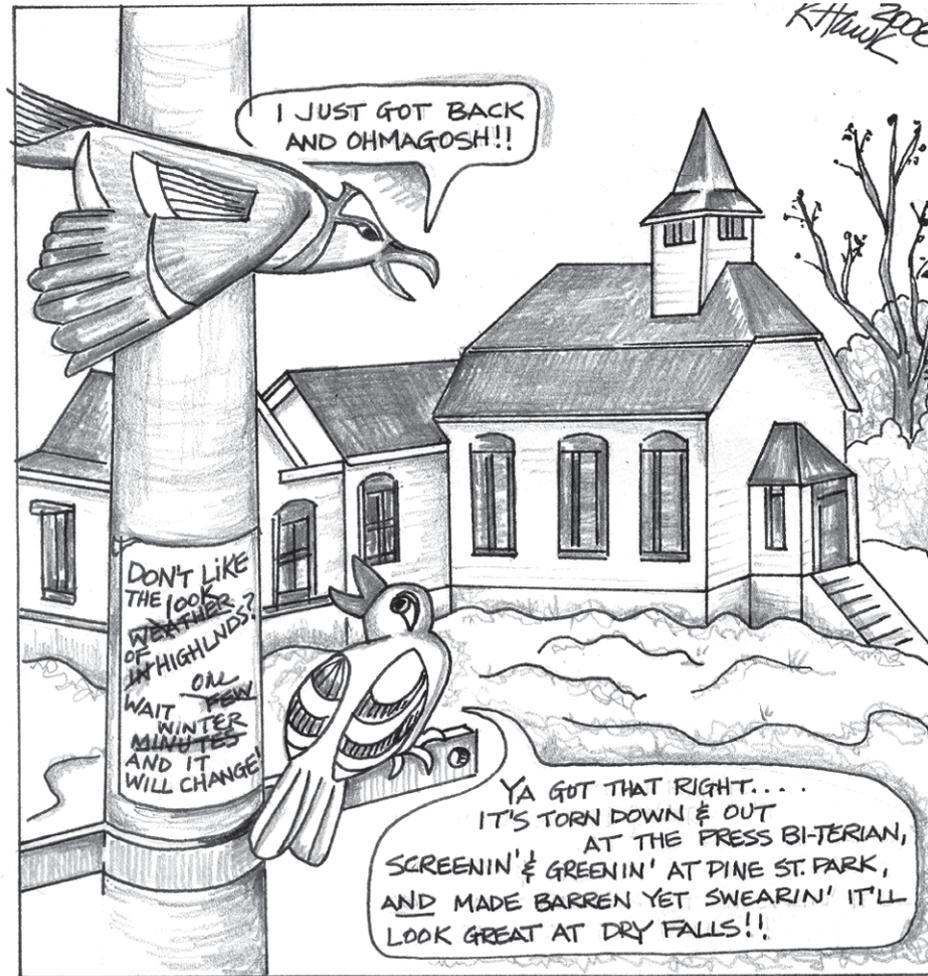
That means, any room tax money collected from a Highlands Chamber of Commerce lodging establishment in Jackson or Transylvania counties, or in Seneca or Walhalla, S.C., or in Clayton and Dillard, GA, goes to those entities, not Macon County.

It also means businesses not directly affiliated with Macon County, the Highlands Township or the town of Highlands have been using the Chamber of Commerce engine, to direct business away from Highlands.

Why should the town of Highlands become a part of this business practice?

Is it because the Highlands Chamber of Commerce can't afford to stand on its own? If it was a viable business organization it wouldn't need to depend on the public dole to function. But when free

•See FORUM page 26



LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or 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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There's still time to keep our small schools

Dear Editor,

Is the horse out of the barn concerning the "new" school plan? The new 5-6 school, to be built on the county recently-purchased property, may be a done deal; however, the rest of the 41 million dollar package requiring the closure of the smaller schools is not, and can be changed! The school plan was flawed from the beginning.

I have heard it said over and over again — protect our natural and cultural heritage. Our smaller schools are a large part of that heritage. The consolidated schools currently being proposed fly in the face of this tenet and do NOT achieve the stated objective.

As the Board of Education set out to tackle the issue, they presented a series of 10 public forums. Notification of these forums to the public was a notice placed in each of the local newspapers. The Commissioners, even though it's not their fault, will tell you that the public turnout was dismal. Why? Because the public felt that their input would not make a difference in the outcome.

On an issue of this magnitude and expense, I would like to have seen things handled much differently. Instead of going out to sell a product or vision I would have liked to see them go to the public to seek the opinion of those who pay for the schools — the taxpayers! Why not send parents a letter, post a notice in the schools, advertise the meetings on the radio, send emails, and get more coverage from our local newspapers? Newspaper ads simply don't cut it when you are talking about spending 41 million dollars and totally revamping our school system.

Even worse, this plan with its huge cost and comes at a time when our nation's economy faces some of the most serious challenges since the Great Depression. I know that when times are tough, I make changes. I cut back. I modify my long range plans to adjust to the situation.

Things have changed and Macon County needs to face facts. The current economic decline is nobody's fault; it's just reality. Look around, folks, things are tough. Where do you think all of the money to pay for this will come from? YOU!

It does not have to be this way. We

•See LETTERS page 26

Gastroenterologist joins hospital's medical staff

Only three months after adding its second general surgeon, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is now adding a gastroenterologist to its staff of physicians.

Dr. Richard F. Carter, FACP, who has more than 30 years of experience in the field, is expected to begin practicing April 14. Until recently Dr. Carter practiced in LaGrange, GA, where he has spent the bulk of his career.



Dr. Richard Carter

"The return of gastroenterology and endoscopy services to our area is huge," said Ken Shull, president and CEO of the hospital. "This is something we've been working very hard to achieve for two years now. Gastroenterologists are very much in demand these days, and we are very pleased to find someone of Dr. Carter's experience and qualifications to serve our communities."

Dr. Carter is board certified in both internal medicine and in the subspecialty of gastroenterology, and is a Fellow of the American College Physicians. He will join general surgeons F. Augustus Dozier, MD, FACS, and William J. Noell, Jr, MD, FACS, in Mountain Medical and Surgical Group, the group practice owned by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The offices of Mountain Medical and Surgical Group are located on Level 1 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus.

Shull said Carter will practice here four days a week, which will actually provide more coverage than had been available locally in the past. He will no longer have a practice elsewhere.

"We fully expect Dr. Carter to become busy very quickly. Since the hospital has been without a gastroenterologist for the last two years, we know there is some pent-up demand locally. Our physicians referral line (526-1DOC) has been getting several calls a week wanting to know when a gastroenterologist is coming," said Shull. "We have also heard many stories of patients who have had to wait up to six weeks to see a gastroenterologist elsewhere."

Anyone wishing to make an appointment should call the offices of Mountain Medical and Surgical Group at (828) 526-2371.

"I am looking forward to working closely with the primary care physicians to provide endoscopy and consultation services to patients with symptoms of gastrointestinal and liver disease that require the care of a specialist. The hospital has wonderful endoscopy facilities here, and I'm looking forward to working with the great O.R. staff," Carter said Wednesday during a brief visit.

Both the hospital's medical staff and the board of directors have already ap-

proved staff privileges for Dr. Carter. He received notice last week that his North Carolina medical license had been approved. He was already licensed in Georgia, Alabama, West Virginia and Virginia.

A Virginia native, Dr. Carter graduated from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA, in 1969 and went on to earn his medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond.

He completed his medical internship and his residency in internal medicine at that same institution, as well as his fellowship in gastroenterology. During his fellowship, he was an instructor in medicine in the G.I. Division of the Department of Medicine.

Upon entering private practice, he joined the staff of the Greenbrier Clinic, located in White Sulphur Springs, WV, where he practiced for six years. He then joined the Clark Hold Clinic in LaGrange, GA, where he practiced for 15 years before joining the large group practice of Atlanta Gastroenterology Associates. He opened his own practice back in LaGrange in 2000. From 1984 until 2005 he was chief of Gastroenterology at West Georgia Medical Center in LaGrange.

Dr. Carter has training and experience in all areas of gastroenterology, including endoscopic procedures such as colonoscopy, esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD), endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatogram (ERCP), sphincterotomy, stone extraction, stent placement, ultrasonography, and liver biopsy.

In addition to being a fellow of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Carter is a member of the American Gastroenterology Association, the Georgia Gastroenterology Society and the Medical Association of Georgia.

• See more Hospital News on pg. 14

... FINANCE continued from page 1

Funding will come from capital reserves, primarily the sewer extension fund and a \$500,000 interfund transfer from the Electric Fund.

Highlands has requested \$500,000 from Macon County for recreation funding, \$14,230 from Jackson County for fire protection and \$10,000 from the Chamber of Commerce for shared costs for the upkeep of the public restroom.

The town has seven capital reserve funds which have been growing steadily over the years totaling \$3.175 million.

Last year's budget was \$14.3 million, up from the 2006-2007 budget of \$10.9.

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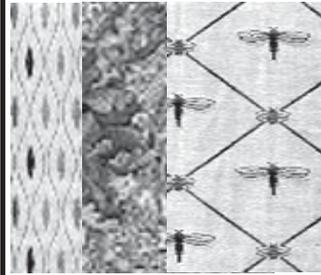
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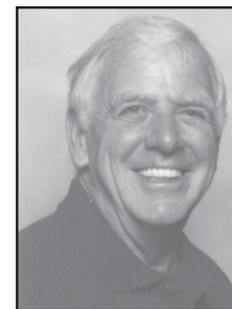


HunterDouglas
Gallery

• LOOKING AT LIFE •

'Show me a good loser..'

I roamed this planet for almost 50 years before I discovered Green Bay Packers' legendary coach, Vince Lombardi, did not, I repeat, did not invent the popular quote "Show me a good loser and I'll show you a loser." DUH! All this time I have been showering this man with kudos for his brilliance. Then a scholar told me the quote is from the Shakespearian play, "Henry VI." DUH again. Darn, that was my most cherished thing to say.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

columns, I don't think any of the candidates are worthy to be our next president, especially Obama.

By the way, that expression, "pulling your leg," first appeared in print in W.B Churchward's book "Blackbirding" in 1880. "Blackbirding" is not about Obama shooting Hillary the bird. I know you were wondering.

Allow me to give you a direct quote from Churchward's literature. (Are you falling asleep?)

"Then I shall be able to pull the leg of that chap, Mike. He is always trying to do me." Whoa, he is always trying to do me? Further study is needed.

I guess you think JFK was the first to say "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country." Ha, guess again, turkey-breath.

In 1925 ole Gibran Khalil Gibran bin Mikhael bin Saâd (you can call him Gib.) was quoted as saying, "Are you a politician asking what your country can do for you or a zealous one asking what you can do for your country? If you are the first, then you are a parasite; if the second, then you are an oasis in a desert." Actually, I find that quote more profound. He was, of course, from Lebanon, a country where every kid is required to blow something up by the age of 10. I'm scratching Khalil from my list of heroes so his poster is also lying under my bed on top of the others.

Before you go to sleep tonight, turn off all the lights and ponder this. Would you vote for a person who cooks and eats tree rats (squirrels) from a popcorn popper? Or how about a candidate who honors a pastor who says outrageous things like, "God damn America?" Or would you rather have a candidate who sleeps with lobbyists? I know, I know, you think he didn't, but would the New York Times lie? Don't you believe everything you read in the paper?

Finally, what famous writer said "Elmer Fudd for President?" Answer: Fred Wooldridge, 2007 I'm having posters made that say *You wascally widdle voter.* Do not put it under your bed.

• Read Fred online at www.highlandsinfo.com, scroll down, click on News.

Whodathunkit! Shakespeare, of all people, and at a time when there was no football. They all talked funky back then and said stupid things like, "Thou wouldst thou couldst." Since I am not willing to read the entire play in three parts, I won't quote him. Searching through the playwrite, I did stumble across the part where he wants to kill all the lawyers. Hmmm, maybe I should read it. Anyway, I'm taking Lombardi's poster down from over my bed and putting it under my bed.

This has caused me to hunt for a new hero. I was taking a hard look at presidential candidate Barack Hussein Obama. Would it not be absolutely funny and outrageous to have a president whose middle name is Hussein? Kinda like having a proctologist named Butthurt.

Obama is a Pied Piper because when he plays his tune, thousands follow him, hopefully not over a cliff. It's absolutely fascinating for me to watch the power this guy has over people...and without saying anything important. This is what happens when a whole nation of people become totally fed up with their government. I'm blaming George Bush.

Obama also comes up with awesome quotes and so he definitely fits the criteria as my next hero. Then Hillary Clinton, a lady who has more Pinocchio's than even Pinocchio, pointed out that Obama steals quotes from others. She has videos to prove her point.

Scratch Obama. Now his poster is lying face down on top of Lombardi's poster so it looks like Obama is whispering "Yes We Can" in Lombardi's ear. Is that sick, or what? Hey, I was prepared to vote for the guy just so I could upset all my right-wing friends and make my dad roll over in his grave.

Actually I was only pulling your leg. As you probably know from past

• ANOTHER VIEW •

The road to boycotting China

China is hosting the 2008 Olympic Games, in case anybody cares. The international competition isn't nearly as much fun as it was when it was good versus evil, democracy fighting communism, us against them, hard working amateur kids battling state-sponsored professional athletes, USA vs. Russia.

We whined about athletic factories in the East block countries as if we'd never heard of Florida State?

The most intriguing aspect of the games this time around is the journey of the Olympic torch, which every four years begins its odyssey in Greece, home of the ancient games, and ends up at the city holding the renewal. I've read that the flame will travel 85,000 miles from Athens to Beijing, which must be the long way, considering that the circumference of the earth is a mere 25,000 miles. If the first few days are any indication, the route might have been chosen to avoid water bombs, the way convoys in WWII pursued a zig zag course to frustrate lurking U boats.

There were lusty protests in London and the fun really started in Paris. Who says the French have no guts? Protestors in Paris tried to douse the flame with fire extinguishers and buckets of water.

The torch, a propane fueled version, was whisked to the safety of an apparently water proof bus. Protestors chided the Chinese for human rights violations in general and oppression of Tibet in particular. I don't understand why, with all the oppressive regimes doing business around the world, Tibet gets so much attention. It might have started with a Brad Pitt movie. I tried to watch it, but I guess I wasn't intellectual or compassionate enough. The only thing I remember is boredom. I promise that any car with 10 or more bumper stickers will display one with an image of the Tibetan flag and the words, "Free Tibet." The best bumper sticker I ever saw read, "Free Tibet with a two-liter Coke."

For its journey through Paris the flame was guarded by gendarmes wearing roller blades, which is a nice athletic touch. Was that a subtle appeal to introduce roller blades as an Olympic sport. At several points along the route, organizers extinguished the flame to pacify the crowd. I wondered if they had to send a replacement from Athens, or if a step stool and BIC lighter might do just as well. Those long neck



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

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lighters designed for igniting the grill without singeing eyelids seemed tailor-made for the job. Maybe the roller skating cops were issued one with their blades. Fortunately, French and Olympic officials reassured a nervous world that they kept a spare flame in the event of a strong gust or withering fire extinguisher.

The only appearance in the U.S. was in San Francisco yesterday. That's yesterday from when this was printed, but the day after tomorrow from when it was written. I'm

sorry I didn't give you advance warning. A couple sharp shooters from Highlands might have had a field day with long range Super Soakers and walkie talkies. It should be quite a day in San Francisco. They'll protest just about anything. It wise to avoid places like Greensboro, North Carolina where they once made fabric, or Seneca, South Carolina which was once home to a thriving garment industry, or just about any city in America which has seen its jobs exported to China.

I don't think the unemployed steel workers in Pittsburgh care much about Tibet, but I'll bet they'd love a chance to embarrass the Chinese. Maybe they could borrow a tanker from the forest Service and douse a whole city block in fire retardant. It's hard to go into WalMart and pick up anything that was not made in China. I bought some bird seed that was "Made in USA," but that's about it.

The flame's long journey was intended to draw attention to the growing economic and political might of China. Protests are growing, along with demands to boycott the games. Senator Clinton has urged President Bush to boycott the Opening Ceremonies. George is too great a fan to miss such an event, and he still seems to think that trade with China is a good idea, despite child labor, low wages, sweat shops, human rights abuses, massive environmental pollution, displacement of American workers, and destruction of American industries.

But without the Chinese, where would we get tainted tooth paste, poisoned pet food, and cheaply made toys? Perhaps the Chinese secretly organized protests stressing oppression in Tibet to deflect attention from what really makes us mad. I'd go to San Francisco, but Bull's Chinese-made Super Soaker would probably fail just when I had an clear shot.

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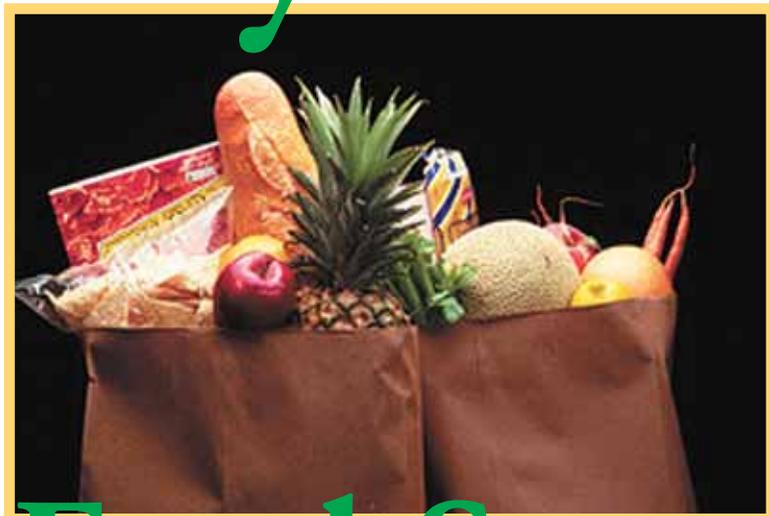
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• COOKING ON THE PLATEAU •

It's time for strawberries!

Strawberries and Fresh Mozzarella with Mint Drizzle

Yield: 24 servings

Mint Drizzle:

- 3 cups extra virgin olive oil
- 1 oz. mint leaves
- 3 lbs. 12 oz. stemmed and sliced California strawberries
- 2 oz. sugar
- 6 lbs. fresh mozzarella cheese slices, 1/2 inch thick
- 1/4 cup Balsamic vinegar
- as needed - mint sprigs

In blender, combine olive oil and mint. Process until smooth. Cover and refrigerate.

In bowl, combine strawberries and sugar, cover and set aside.

For each serving:

Plate 4 ounces mozzarella, overlapping slices. Spoon 1/2 cup sugared strawberries around cheese. Drizzle 2 tablespoons Mint Drizzle and 1/2 teaspoon balsamic vinegar over cheese



and strawberries. Garnish with mint sprigs, as desired.

Source: California Strawberry Commission

Strawberry Tarts

Yield: 6 Servings

- 6 puff pastry shells
- 1/2 c Heavy cream
- 1 tb Sugar
- 1 Container (3-1/2 oz) mascarpone or cream cheese
- 1 tb Cherry-flavored liqueur
- 1 pt Strawberries, hulled and halved
- 1/2 c Strawberry jelly

Preheat oven to 400. Bake puff pastry shells according to directions. Cool on wire rack. Meanwhile, in medium bowl, with electric mixer on high, beat heavy cream and sugar until stiff peaks form. In medium bowl, combine cheese and liqueur; beat until soft. Fold whipped cream into cheese mixture. Place a few strawberry halves on the bottom of each shell; fill with cream mixture. Top with strawberry halves cut into fan shape. In small saucepan, over medium-low heat, cook jelly with 2 tsp water until melted. Brush jelly over strawberries. Garnish with remaining strawberries. Source: Sharon Stevens

Strawberry Spring Salad

Yield: 4 Servings

- 3 tb White wine vinegar
- 3 tb Water
- 1 tb Honey
- 2 tb Extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/8 tsp Salt
- 1/8 ts Pepper
- 3 c Strawberries, quartered
- 10 oz Italian Blend salad greens
- 4 ts Pine nuts, roasted

Combine first 6 ingredients and stir well with a whisk. Combine strawberries and green. Add the vinegar mix; toss to coat. Sprinkle with nuts.

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Marpril Madness? Who Knew?

So, here we are on April 1 (I'm writing this last week) and March madness continues. How does this happen? Has the world gone crazier than it used to be?

It used to be that March madness used to take place in March, didn't it? On the other hand, doesn't Octoberfest take place largely in September, and hasn't it for centuries? I suppose you've noticed that I'm raising a lot of questions with no answers. That's because I have no answers to any of the world's vexing problems.

In keeping with the theme, whatever happened to the guy who took the pictures of the UFO over the telephone pole? The last I heard, some crackpot organization located in the UK had hired two PIs to track him down. Have they found him? I haven't heard, have you? Here's an interesting fact (quoting Wikipedia): "In 1973, a survey found that 95 percent of the public reporting having heard of UFOs, whereas only 92 percent had heard of President Gerald Ford in a 1977 poll taken only nine months after he left the White House." There you are.

I understand that "60 Minutes" interviewed Al Gore. Leslie Stahl did the honors, so you can imagine the tough questions he faced (wink-wink). It came out that he is in the process of creating a \$300 million commercial project promoting fear of global warming. It is estimated that he has a maximum of \$10 million to personally contribute to the project. From whence comes the balance? One of my news sources tells me that the Chinese and Indian governments as well as governments of Arab countries are supplying the funds. Why? To force the U.S. to regulate business to either spend billions to comply with the UN's edicts while China and India get a pass, or relocate their manufacturing facilities to other countries. The desired result is to continue to cripple our economy and ship jobs elsewhere. Oh yeah, he profits hugely in the process. What a patriot.

And then there is the school district that decided that it was inappropriate for students to wear their drawers down around their hips and lower so as to expose the underdrawers and more. The ACLU took exception to the SB telling the twerps to PULL UP YOUR PANTS. Discrimination, don't you know?



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

Meanwhile, the right reverend Wright blames the white race for purposely creating AIDs to wipe out the black race, but he gets get out of jail free card because he's Obama's right-hand spiritual guru. By the way, does any one know where Wright is hangin' these days?

All quiet on the bimbo front.

Getting back to the important issues, by the time you read this, the truth will be known. Kansas will have won the NCAA final four, just as I prophesized months ago. If I'm wrong, I really didn't mean it, however if I'm right, I told you so. Also, you can put a shekel or two on the Braves winning the National League East. I'm not committing to what year, but this year is lookin' good. You heard it here first.

While we are on my ability to see into the future, let me remind you that, months before the primaries actually commenced, I advised readers that neither Rudy and Hillary, both of whom enjoyed 20-30 percent leads over their respective announced brethren, would win their party's nomination. Giuliani was an easy call. His strategy was fatally flawed from the outset and couldn't succeed. Hillary's problems were two-fold. One was foreseeable. The more she exposed herself to the voting public, the greater her negatives were bound to rise. She is shrill, condescending and not very likable. Bill hasn't helped, either. It isn't over until it's over, but it's looking like she's toast (to quote one of my political advisers).

The other was her total lack of a plan after Feb. 5 since she thought it would be over by then. Who knew?

Now, here is some bad news. A noted medical expert says using cell-phones will double the incidence of brain cancer. I am not making light of such a serious health issue, but I do feel that there is some connection between cell-phone use and mental deficiency.

In 1996, my wife and I were having lunch in a restaurant in Helsinki, which overlooked (we were on the second floor) a major pedestrian intersection. Practically everyone was on a cell-phone (Nokia is headquartered there). Did I see the trend coming to the U.S.? Did I buy Nokia stock or Ericsson stock at give-away prices?

But I have seen UFOs.

... LAND USE continued from page 1

Board meeting and the ordinance amendment that will be heard April 16 prior to its presumed adoption.

Commissioner Ross said the problem involving the Planning Board and the Land Use Committee was one of sequencing. In the future the Land Use Committee will meet after the Town Board but prior to the Planning Board. The Land Use Committee will deliver the Town Board's message so the Planning Board understands its views on matters.

Typically, Town Board committees function as an extension of the Town Board – dealing with details prior to Town Board meetings which streamlines discussion.

The Town Board hopes the new Land Use Committee will alleviate the acknowledged breakdown of communication between the Planning Board and the Town Board.

The Land Use Committee is not to be confused with the Land Use Planning Committee which over the last 10 years has outlined a plan from which the town's ordinances have been developed and which includes of Planning and Appearance board members.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said it's about better communication. "It's about us filtering information which we then send to the Planning Board so its members un-

derstand what it is we need of them," she said.

"Information should come from the horse's mouth, and the Land Use Committee and the Town Board is the horse not the other way around," said Commissioner Patterson.

She said the Town Board asks the Planning Board to comment on things discussed during Town Board meetings. "So first we are asking members of the Town Board's Land Use Committee to provide the Planning Board with the necessary clarity because most of the time the Planning Board doesn't understand what we're asking them to do," she said.

Everyone agreed sequencing of meetings is key.

The Town Board said it doesn't want to take away the function of the Planning Board but

"The problem is its members don't hear or know the context of our discussions unless they come to the Town Board meetings," said Commissioner Patterson. "This way the Land Use Committee can impart the information to the Planning Board prior to its meetings."

All the Town Board committee meetings are open to the public. The next Land Use Committee meeting hasn't been set yet.

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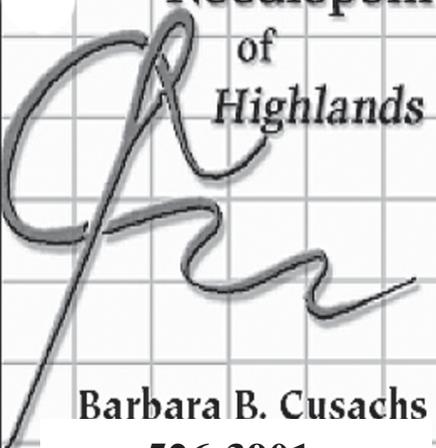
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'Soylent Green is People!'

Charlton Heston died this week at the age of 84. He had two careers and both were "larger than life." His family used that phrase in the statement they issued about his death. They spoke the simple truth. With his furrowed brow, his chiseled chin, his stentorian voice, he was cast in heroic roles from early in his career.



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

But he took on similar roles in life, as the head of the National Rifle Association for five years, but also as a campaigner for issues that mattered to him, such as color-blind rather than color-driven civil rights. He was a major contributor to the Martin Luther King Memorial in Los Angeles.

The part of his career that moved seamlessly from the silver screen to real life and back, was the role of the hero, standing up against all odds. Speaking the truth. Facing death unafraid, for a worthy cause. There is entirely too little of that kind of leadership in American society today. It is nearly unknown in civilian society, though still commonplace among the military and in police departments.

Heston was a student of history, and of the citizens who created this nation, 232 years ago for the Declaration of Independence, 221 years ago for the Constitution. He knew that the signers of the Declaration mutually pledged "our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor" by their approval of that "treasonous" document.

Of course, modern students aren't encouraged to read the Declaration of Independence. First, there is the tendency of high school history classes to discard all of American history prior to the Civil War. Then, there is that pesky reference to "divine Providence" just prior to the mutual pledge. Modern teachers in public schools do not encourage students to ask questions about such subjects as "sacred Honor" or "divine Providence."

By contrast, both the film and real world careers of Charlton Heston were wrapped up in such matters. Charlton Heston was a great man, not because he played great men on screen, but because he was a great man by example. There is tremendous irony in the fact that the Associated Press devoted a paragraph in its obituary of Heston to talk about Michael Moore's contretemps with Heston.

photograph of Heston on his website, the years of his life, and Heston's family's request that donations be made to the Motion Picture and Television Fund. The AP had the lack of class to include in Heston's obituary Moore's website address and the fact that Moore had declined to comment. Michael Moore had the decency to recognize

the difference between him and Heston. The AP lacked that decency.

Most of Heston's roles placed him at turning points in history ("The Ten Commandments" and "Ben Hur") or worse, at points after history had turned ugly, explaining the loss after the fact ("Planet of the Apes" and "The Omega Man"). I prefer to use one of his lesser films to explain his essential role on screen and in real life.

"Soylent Green" (1973) takes place in the crowded, brutish and nasty world of 2022. Natural foods like vegetables and meat have disappeared, except for the very wealthy. Heston plays Police Detective Thorn, investigating the murder of an official of the Soylent Corporation, which manufactures "food" for the 40 million people now in New York, and across the world.

Sol Roth is a researcher and friend, played by Edward G. Robinson. He discovers the beginnings of the terrible truth, and then he goes to one of the Death Centers, where he gets his favorite colors, favorite pictures, and favorite music, as the poison courses through his body. Thorn then follows the corpse of his friend to the manufacturing plant where he discovers that "Soylent Green is people!" He states that with his arm upraised from his stretcher as he is carried out of a tattered church the floor of which is filled with sick and dying people.

In short, great men see beyond the here and now. Great men warn us about the vile futures that await us if we pay too little attention to where we are headed. In most instances, great men die unheeded, and the awful visions they foresaw, then tragically come to pass. A prime example of this was Winston Churchill and his warnings about Adolf Hitler when there was still time to stop him with minimal bloodshed, though Churchill did live to lead his nation through the war that should have been avoided.

Was Charlton Heston in a league

Moore had the class to post a

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

What is happiness? A dictionary definition of happy is: "Enjoying, showing, or marked by pleasure, satisfaction, or joy." That seems simple enough, so why is happiness so elusive for many of us?

An interesting new book explores these questions in an entertaining and thought-provoking way. *The Geography of Bliss*, by Eric Weiner [910.4W], is an account of the author's travels around the globe, experiencing life in some of the happiest — and unhappiest — places, trying to decipher what it is in the underlying cultures that promote happiness or its absence.

Mr. Weiner, a longtime correspondent for NPR, gives his qualification for the project in the subtitle to the book: "One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World." He doesn't come off so much as a grump as a cynic, which might be expected in an experienced foreign correspondent. Amusingly, he says his last name is

pronounced "whiner," so perhaps that is the best descriptor of his personality.

The book starts in the Netherlands, where a professor named Ruut Veenhoven is compiling all the research on happiness into a database, called the World Database of Happiness (you can peruse it at www.worlddatabaseofhappiness.eur.nl).

The database ranks countries according to the level of happiness of their citizens, and Mr. Weiner uses this as a basis for deciding where to travel.

He didn't have to travel anywhere for his first subject: the Netherlands is also one of the happier countries on the list.

The Netherlands: happiness is tolerance.

He travels next to Switzerland, one of

Happiness is...



Katie Brugger

k-brugger@hotmail.com

the happiest countries. While in Switzerland Mr. Weiner set up a blog to solicit comments about happiness from the Swiss. A notable comment: "Maybe happiness is this: not feeling like you should be elsewhere, doing something else, being someone else. Maybe the current conditions in

Switzerland...make it simply easier to 'be' and therefore 'be happy.'"

Switzerland: happiness is contentment.

Bhutan, a small Himalayan country east of Nepal, was an obvious stop, because their King came up with a new economic concept: measuring Gross Domestic Happiness in addition to Gross Domestic Product (more on this in

another column). As soon as Mr. Weiner got off the airplane in Bhutan, he was struck by the way the Bhutanese approach life. His first experience of this is the way they shake hands, cupping both hands over one of his and lowering their head in a half bow. "It is a very deliberate, present action ... I would learn to appreciate the Bhutanese handshake and, come to think of it, the way they do nearly everything — cross the street, wash dishes — so deliberately, so attentively."

Mr. Weiner asked himself, "What does my two-year-old daughter want?" She wants love of course, "but what she really wants is my attention. Pure undiluted attention...Perhaps love and attention are really the same thing. One can't exist without the other. The British scholar Avner Offer calls attention 'the universal currency of well-being.' Attentive people, in other words, are happy people."

Bhutan: happiness is being present.

• See BRUGGER page 20

• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

Sports Page



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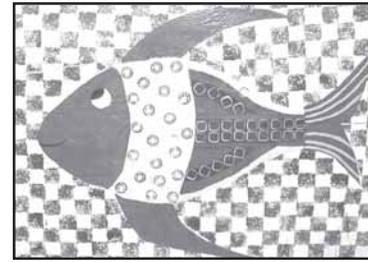


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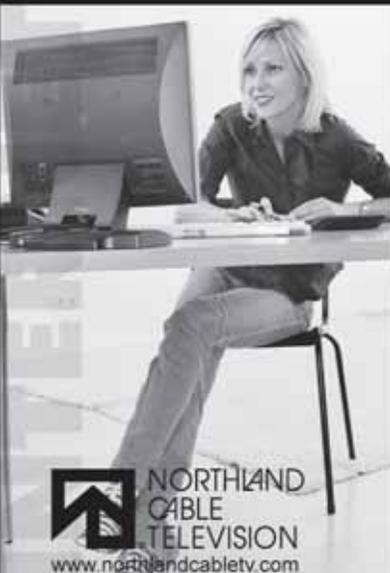


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• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

Mirror Lake area paving to begin within a few months

Good news!! We have obtained from the state the additional funds for the paving of the roads around the Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah and Mirror Lake. With the addition of this \$253,000 the Town of Highlands has now been granted a total of \$520,000 for the paving of Hickory Hill, Chowan and Cullasaja Roads. We are grateful to our representatives in the NC State Legislature, Senator John Snow and Representative Roger West, for requesting these funds from the contingency fund of the NC Board of Transportation and we certainly also thank the state for their assistance in this critical matter.



Mayor Don Mullen

We have contacted the NC DOT in western North Carolina and we feel certain that within the next few months construction on this important project will commence. This should diminish considerably the amount of silt that is washing into the lakes and make travel on these roads not only more comfortable but safer. Now, if we can get the funding for the removal of the silt from Big Creek, we will be in good shape in our attempts to not only preserve our precious water supply but also improve the function of our pumps in that area.

Our hospital has searched far and wide for nearly two years now for a gastroenterologist and it looks like we now have one. Dr. Richard Carter, who practiced for many years in Georgia and had retired a year ago, has decided to reactivate his practice and come to Highlands. Dr. Carter is boarded in both Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology and has been chief at his former hospital in LaGrange, GA., for the past twenty years.

The loss of Dr. Carter Davis two years ago left a void in our ability to care for patients with GI problems. Now we feel whole again. That specialty is one that many people in the area have demanded and I am sure he will be busy from the start. This is an important step in giving the people of the Highlands-Cashiers plateau the quality care that they not only demand but deserve. We commend the President of the hospital, Ken Shull and the chairman of the Physician Recruitment Committee, Dr. Jim Rothermel, for their tireless work in bringing both surgeons and now potentially a gastroenterologist to

Highlands. We are fortunate in having people like that around.

I am sure everyone has noticed the major construction going on in town at the corner of 5th and Main on the Presbyterian Church property which will significantly improve that area. The new building going up there will be the Faith

and Fellowship center of the church and will bring together the old historic church sanctuary, also recently expanded, and the new facility. It will sit farther back on the property and allow for more green space on Main Street in addition to providing a new and efficient facility for education, administration and fellowship in the church.

The centerpiece of that new building will be Coleman Hall, a large fellowship hall named in honor of Hunter Coleman, the recently retired minister. With the Highlands Community Child Development Center having been constructed on Church Street three years ago, capital improvements for the church property will now be completed. This three-phase project has enhanced not only the church but the entire area.

I hope everyone had a chance to see the high school play at the Performing Arts Center this past weekend. It was called "Get Bill Shakespeare Off the Stage" and was a new venture between the school and the Highlands Community Players in staging plays for both experience and enjoyment. This type combined activity enhances the schools of our area performing arts programs and was a joy to see. To say this play (which involved a number of performers from area schools) was a resounding success is an understatement. I am sure this is the first of many such performances and we all look forward to repeat performances from very talented students under the direction of experienced performers.

... HIS & HERS continued from page 8

with Winston Churchill? I don't go that far. Was he a far greater man than most who aspire to and hold public office today? Beyond a shadow of a doubt.

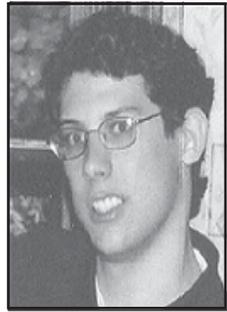
Charlton Heston, 1924-2008.

• About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years.

• COACH'S CORNER •

Kansas is redeemed

As I was sitting in the car riding home with my brother after the Final Four, the silence in the car was a bit eerie. For the previous two hours I had sat in stunned silence as I watched my brother and his UNC brethren throw remotes, scream at the TV, scream at Roy Williams, scream at...everyone before finally succumbing to despair.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

frontcourt did much of the same against Memphis --outscoreing the Tigers 32 to 16 in the paint and dominating the inside. While it was the bruising frontcourt that controlled the game, it was the guard play of Sherron Collins and Mario Chalmers that made the difference at the end. When it looked like Memphis was going

to pull away as national champs, Collins came up with a steal and buried a three-pointer from the corner to cut the lead to 4 and the comeback was on -- capitalized by one of the most clutch three pointers in college basketball history coming from the fingers of Mario Chalmers.

College hoops fans throughout the years have been accustomed to seeing poised teams make rallies at the end of games and pull them out in inspiring fashion -- they just are not used to seeing the name "Kansas" on the jersey.

In retrospect, what happened Monday night should not have been all that surprising. A great game from two teams that were similarly loaded with talent and expectations, but it was more than just a great game for Kansas fans.

For those who have grown up rocking and chalking and jayhawking their way to San Antonio this weekend - - this was redemption.

Redemption for all of those March failures that have haunted them...redemption for Roy Williams leaving them and winning the title at UNC that he never could for them...redemption for the media folks that predicted that they would fold when the chips were down...but mostly, redemption for the team that they knew that they had all along. The team that caused me and my brother and fans around the globe to say, "Yeah, Kansas is really, really good."

However, as UNC fans found out Saturday night, and Memphis fans found out Monday night this is not the typical Kansas team.

This Kansas team played ever so close to its tantalizing potential -- absolutely smoking UNC with its athletic post players and slashing wings. The Kansas frontcourt buried Tyler Hansbrough and company under an onslaught of dunks, put-backs and drop steps. Then, Monday night, the Kansas

frontcourt did much of the same against Memphis --outscoreing the Tigers 32 to 16 in the paint and dominating the inside. While it was the bruising frontcourt that controlled the game, it was the guard play of Sherron Collins and Mario Chalmers that made the difference at the end. When it looked like Memphis was going

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Don't miss the Highlands School Talent Show, April 17 at Highlands School. It starts at 6-7:30 p.m. following a dinner benefiting the Highlands School Art Foundation at 5 p.m.

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... TRUCKERS continued from page 1

Filling the gas tanks of a big rig can cost as much as \$1,000 — about \$300 more than it cost this time last year.

That is having a significant impact on the 500,000 independent truckers, who say it has become hard for them to stay afloat. Independent truck drivers aren't reimbursed for rising fuel prices, so they must eat the extra cost.

Most truckers who work for big companies get reimbursed for fuel by their employer, but most independent truckers don't. Those who do get only a small surcharge and they said they can't take it anymore.

Truckers believe that if enough truckers stop working, it could bring the nation's economy to a grinding halt. But the truckers say they don't want to stop working, they just want some help.

Many truckers spread the word through Internet blogs and over their CB radios, encouraging everyone to put their trucks in park and send a message to U.S. oil companies and the federal government.

Joining together to take rigs off the road could mean shortages at supermarkets, convenience stores and retail outlets in America because everything that gets delivered to a retail store is eventually delivered by a

truck.

The blog entry that follows encouraged a national trucking shutdown:

"April 1, 2008 is when my trucking company and thousands of others are shutting down at 8 a.m. From that time on we will no longer accept any loads at any price until such time as our federal government admits and puts into action a plan that will give us some help. Here is what I would like to see happen:

- Suspend all federal and state fuel taxes until the economy is back on its feet,
- The federal government create an oversight committee to oversee insurance premiums charged for Class 8 truck insurance,

• Stop allowing large trucking fleets to self insure. This would make a more level playing field for all trucking companies,

• Enforce federal regulations for brokers and shippers that are enforced with a set maximum amount they can charge.

• Standardize fines from coast to coast for safety violations. If a log ticket cost \$50 in Missouri then a log ticket in California should only cost \$50.

I will not return to hauling until our government and the people we put into office get off their butts and do something to help this industry."

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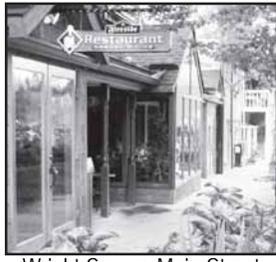
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Wright Square Main Street

Cushing Syndrome gets national attention

By Sally Hansen
Reporter

April 8 was the third-annual National Cushing's Syndrome Awareness Day. Cushing's Syndrome is the name given to any condition in which excess cortisol is present in the body. Further differentiations are made depending on the cause, but treatments are all aimed at bringing elevated cortisol and other affected hormones back within an acceptable range.

The source of excess cortisol can be either an increased production by the adrenal glands or treatment with steroid medications. But why are cortisol levels important?

While infomercials for diet pills have implicated cortisol as a stress hormone that causes people to store fat, it can be responsible for more than just bothersome weight gain. It helps the body regulate blood pressure, react to physical and emotional stressors, and properly metabolize food.

Cortisol is produced by the adrenal glands. When the body senses a low level at the appropriate time of day, the hypothalamus in the brain secretes corticotropin releasing hormones to tell the pituitary gland to produce adrenocorticotropin hormone (ACTH). An increase in levels of ACTH is what actually initiates the production of cortisol by the adrenal glands.

In a normal person, cortisol is secreted in a diurnal pattern with levels being the highest around 8 a.m. and being almost negligible around midnight. This helps maintain a relatively normal sleep-wake cycle, and it's also a somewhat effective way to diagnose someone with a cortisol regulation disturbance because this diurnal rhythm is lost. These people tend to have higher cortisol levels at midnight, which can cause sleep disturbances, and lower-than-normal results for 8 a.m. tests.

Anecdotally, people who work night shifts or establish different sleeping patterns can also experience a loss of diurnal rhythm.

The effect of prolonged exposure to high corticosteroid levels on tissues throughout the body can be just as devastating in Cushing's Syndrome, as uncontrolled blood sugar can be in diabetics.

The three causes currently recognized as the most common for Cushing's symptoms are tumors of the pituitary gland, tumors of the adrenal gland, and extended treatment with steroid medications.

Many symptoms have been identified in Cushing's patients, including central obesity in which most of the excess weight is carried in the torso and abdomen while the lower arms and legs are thinner in proportion. Patients can have a rounded face, swelling and water retention and thin skin that bruises easily and heals poorly. Pinkish-purple streaks on the skin that resemble stretch marks can appear on the abdomen, thighs, arms and lower back.

Women can show signs of androgen

excess in Cushing's Syndrome. This includes symptoms like menstrual irregularities, acne, increased facial hair, and hair loss.

While the physical symptoms are distressing enough, Cushing's patients can also experience muscle weakness and muscle wasting, high blood pressure, osteoporosis, increased blood sugar or even type 2 diabetes, and headaches.

Cognitive difficulties can also be a part of Cushing's, often referred to as "brain fog." Patients might have difficulty remembering things or concentrating. They are also more likely to suffer from anxiety, de-

pression and emotional instability.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of public awareness and support in patients' own families, Cushing's patients are often seen as lazy hypochondriacs who simply need to watch what they eat and exercise more. This perception can certainly contribute to mood swings and depression.

The human endocrine system is made up of components all over the body, and because of its complexity any endocrine disorder can be difficult to diagnose. The main function of the endocrine system is to produce and regulate hormones that control many functions in the body.

The nature of the endocrine system can make identifying the hormones that are out of balance especially difficult. Intricate positive and negative feedback loops control most of the hormone levels, and sometimes a particular hormone's only function is to signal a certain gland to produce either more or less of another hormone.

Therefore, even if you have a test result that is in range it doesn't always mean that there isn't a problem with the regulation of that particular hormone. Many hormones also fluctuate greatly over time, which makes the testing time an important piece in the puzzle.

Cortisol levels can be measured in several different ways, including via blood samples, 24-hour urine collections and even saliva samples. The timing of these tests is crucial, and sometimes patients test for years before achieving diagnostic results.

Treatment varies depending on the source of the cortisol excess. Tumors of the pituitary can be removed by a neurosurgeon using minimally-invasive techniques, and because most tumors aren't at risk of spreading, much of the pituitary gland can be left in place to continue functioning. However, some patients with pituitary tumors don't experience a cure and end up having repeat surgeries.

Cushing's patients with adrenal tumors often have one or both of the adrenal glands surgically removed. While this is curative in many cases, lifelong supplementation with the proper adrenal hormones is required.

It is important to remember that many of the "symptoms" of Cushing's Syndrome are common themselves and even if more than a few of them are evident in one person, it certainly doesn't mean there is a serious endocrine disorder. Anywhere from 15-20% of people are discovered to have pituitary tumors upon autopsy, and most are benign and likely never caused the patient any symptoms.

For more information, visit www.cush.org, the website of Cushing's Understanding Support & Help Organization (CUSH). CUSH is a 501-C non-profit organization committed to bringing information regarding Cushing's and its related illnesses into awareness to help facilitate early diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

Inhofe designates 'National Cushing's Syndrome Awareness Day' April 8

U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) designation of April 8, 2008 as "National Cushing's Syndrome Awareness Day." Inhofe's resolution (S. Res. 498) creating the designation passed the Senate by unanimous consent. Inhofe introduced this resolution to broaden public awareness and show his continued support for those suffering from this disease.

"Cushing's syndrome often goes undiagnosed or misdiagnosed, many times leading to death, because the initial symptoms are shared with a number of milder illnesses," Inhofe said. "Since awareness is low, doctors do not always run the tests necessary for diagnosis, and patients do not know to ask for them. It is my hope that 'National Cushing's Syndrome Awareness Day' will help Oklahomans and everyone suffering with this disease to receive the best possible health care."

Cushing's Syndrome is an endocrine or hormonal disorder. It is caused by over-exposure of the body's tissue to high levels of the hormone cortisol. An estimated 10 to 15 people per million suffer from this debilitating disease. Common symptoms include abnormal weight gain, skin changes, fatigue, diabetes, high blood pressure, and depression.

Over-production of cortisol is commonly associated with the treatment of asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, and lupus. Additionally, delayed treatment of Cushing's Syndrome significantly reduces treatment options, such as radiation therapy. Thus, it is imperative that both doctors and patients heighten their awareness of Cushing's Syndrome.

For more information visit:
www.cush.org

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Gastroenterology is back.

Welcome Richard F. Carter, MD, FACC

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is proud to welcome gastroenterologist Richard F. Carter, MD, FACC, to its Medical Staff. Dr. Carter is board-certified in gastroenterology and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. **Beginning April 14**, he will bring his 30 years of experience diagnosing and treating diseases of the gastrointestinal tract to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Offices with
**Mountain Medical
& Surgical Group**

Suite 104, Jane Woodruff Clinic,
209 Hospital Drive,
Highlands, NC 28741

(828) 526-2371



• HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL NEWS •

Cannon Foundation makes \$100,000 grant to hospital

The Cannon Foundation, Inc. of Concord, NC, has awarded a \$100,000 matching grant to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation to go toward the cost of the hospital's new nuclear medicine equipment and remodeling of the accompanying suite.

"This grant from The Cannon Foundation is a major step forward in the Foundation's efforts to help the hospital pay for this vital new diagnostic equipment," said Russell Harris, executive director of the hospital Foundation. "We are very pleased that the board of The Cannon Foundation recognized the importance of the role of this new equipment in meeting a very real medical need in our community."

Although it is perhaps one of the least known parts of a modern radiology department, radionuclide scanning (or nuclear medicine as it is commonly called) has become an important tool for refining or confirming the initial diagnoses for a number of serious, in some cases potentially life-threatening illnesses. That's because it can "see" how certain organs function by producing real-time images. It is used to study the heart, gallbladder, liver and spleen, kidneys, lungs, veins, bones, thyroid, and several different glands by measuring tiny amounts of radioactive isotopes that are introduced into the body

through ingestion, inhalation, or injection. By combing the isotopes with different materials that are absorbed differently by specific organs, technologists can exactly target the part of the body they wish to study.

The new equipment began serving area patients last fall.

Prior to installing its own nuclear camera in a newly remodeled room adjacent to the existing radiology department, the hospital utilized the services of a regularly-visiting mobile unit. That service was not always available when patients needed it, however.

Remodeling and purchase of the camera cost a total of \$530,000, of which the hospital's Foundation has already raised approximately \$280,000. After the addition of the Cannon grant, only \$150,000 remains to be raised.

"We are hoping a major donor, or donors, will now come forward to provide a match for this very generous grant, as well as to help us complete the remaining part of the nuclear medicine campaign," said Harris. "This equipment is already proving its worth by helping to diagnose disease and potentially save lives, and now we need those in the community to help pay for this kind of state-of-the-art technology."

•See HOSPITAL page 19



Nuclear medicine technologist Alex Lane, CNMT, RT (R,N) talks with Russell Harris, executive director of the hospital's Foundation about the importance of nuclear medicine.

RBC Centura supports Hospital Foundation



Sue Gorski, manager of the Highlands branch of RBC Centura, presented a \$1,000 check to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation last week, the fourth installment from the Highlands and Cashiers branches in their five-year commitment to support the hospital. Accepting the check was Russell Harris, executive director of the foundation. Gorski pointed out how vital good health care is to the entire community and that the hospital serves the entire area, not just Highlands or Cashiers.

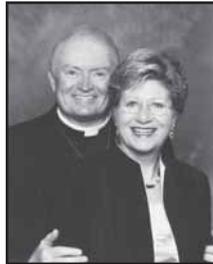
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

**Winning the race,
Hanging in there!**



Fr. Cass Daly and wife

Rector of Christ Anglican Church in Highlands

Last night one of my favorite actors, Charlton Heston, died. He often seemed larger than life (you might too, if everyone thought of you as Moses). I was reminded of a story that I read a number of years ago. Mr. Heston was talking about his title role in 'Ben-Hur'.

After learning the basics of driving a chariot for the movie's race scene, Heston had his first chance to race around the movie's track. After circling the track a few times, he asked for a meeting with William Wyler, the director. The actor said humbly, that he'd never be able to win a race in this contraption. It had taken, he explained, every effort and all of his strength just to hang on and not get killed. Mr. Wyler told him that he, Wyler, was the director and to just listen to his directions. Heston's job was to 'hang on'. It was Wyler's job to see that he won the race. As Christians, it is sometimes our job – just to hang on. After all, we also have a director who gives us directions. Like with Charlton Heston, we just have to listen to (and follow) the directions. It often seems that we live in changing times socially, culturally, religiously and politically. We all need anchors to keep us headed in the right direction. This can also be true spiritually – the need for anchors, that is.

For us, as Christians, this anchoring usually means turning to the Scriptures. They are the primary source for us. In fact, the Scriptures are the prime source around which all decisions, choices and assessments are formed. Because, there is, we believe, God's inspiration of the Holy Word: 'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...' (2 Timothy 3:16). We also believe that Scripture has an over-riding purpose: '...so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.' (2 Timothy 3:17)

Another way that we 'hang on' is through prayer. Besides helping us to be faithful, prayer brings us ever closer to the Lord. This can be in private, along with others, in meditation, worship, thought, reflection, contemplation – you name it. Prayer can be the balancing factor in a hectic and unbalanced modern life schedule. Prayer is, we believe, a part of God's healing process. 'Is any of you in trouble? He should pray.' (James 5:13)

To help us hang on, to be faithful, we have been empowered. The Holy Spirit is with us, among us, guiding us and strengthening us to persevere, persist and to keep trying. Our Lord promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with us – along with an extra, special promise, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' (John 14:27)

So, stay on the chariot! That's our job. The 'Director' will see that you win the race. If you listen to the directions...

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY
Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
Rev. Cass Daly • Office – 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion – 11 a.m.
(Highlands Community Center on U.S. 64 next to the ballfield in Highlands)

Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m. at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

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
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
6:30 p.m. High School Group

Wednesdays: Dinner 5 p.m.-6 p.m.; 6 p.m. programs for all students; 6:15 p.m., Adult Bible Study

Thursdays: Women's Bible Study 10 a.m.
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.

Monday: 4 P.M. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 A.M. Men's Cursillo Group

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

Thursday: 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

10:30 A.M. Daughters of the King

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

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977

Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.

(nursery provided)

Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's

Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr 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 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. Mark Kayser, Interim Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun.School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers
Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Sixth Street

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

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Senior Pastor Todd Struble; Asst. Pastor Mike Harris
526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;
5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: Supper; 6; 6:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult choir

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

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

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Choir – 6 p.m.

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

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Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

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

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Parish office, 526-2418

Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.

(through last Saturday of October)

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

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

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

828-369-3633

Lay Led Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

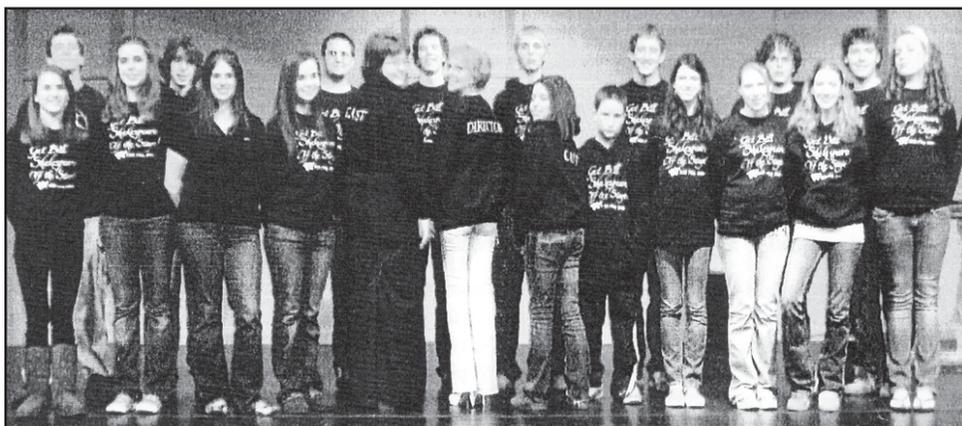
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Paul Harris member noted



Angie Williams, member of MountainTop Rotary, was recently awarded special recognition as a Paul Harris Fellow, one of Rotary's highest honors. It was noted that Angie is a devoted Rotarian and outstanding leader of Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society, a great community service. One thousand dollars was awarded in her honor to the Rotary Foundation by Curtis and Vangie Rich of Highlands MountainTop Rotary. Vangie is a Paul Harris Fello and Curtis is a charter member of the Paul Harris Society. From left is Vangie Rich, Angie Williams and Curtis Rich.

• A REVIEW •



The cast of 18 with directors Spilton and Gordon

Highlands School production showcased talent and promise

It looks like Highlands School drama productions are back on track.

A long-standing senior play tradition ended with the Class of 2003, but thanks to the Highlands Community Players, the board of the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, Highlands Rotary Club and directors Ronnie Spilton and Jim Gordon, drama productions at Highlands School are on again.

Last week's four-performance run of "Get Bill Shakespeare Off The Stage" was a delight showcasing the talent and dedication of Highlands School high-school students.

The cast of 15 – which ranged from 8th to 12th grade — showed what could be done with ingenuity, dedication and camaraderie.

Every single student showcased talent, skill and enjoyment – all of which are key to a successful production – actually this "production" within a production.

Though some students had bigger parts than others, each part was integral to the play.

Considering half the students had never acted on stage before, the show went off without a snag. It was engaging,

entertaining, fast-paced and funny.

Nine of the 15 cast members have acted in productions in Highlands for Highlands Community Players, The Highlands Playhouse and Highlands School; the rest were new to the stage, but it would have been hard to know that without looking at the program.

Directors Spilton and Gordon pulled out all the stops, demanding and receiving what was needed to make this show a success.

Every student who wanted to participate in the production, including three students who were integral off stage performers, were given a part to play in a production that each of them could relate to as student performers.

Over the last several months, 18 students learned the basics of theater including participation in technical and stage combat workshops.

If this production is any indication of what's to come, the Highlands School Drama Club's initial first step was a great success.

– Kim Lewicki

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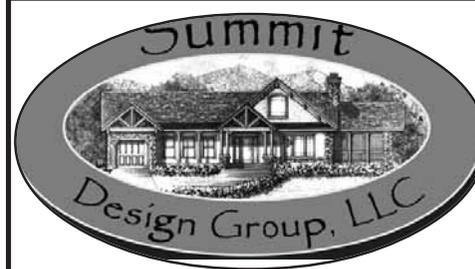
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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL NEWS •

Highlands School Kindergarten Registration is May 6

Kindergarten Registration is a special time for both parents and students. On May 6, Kindergarten registration for the 2008/2009 school year will begin, for parents, at 10 a.m. in the school's media center. The itinerary is listed below. To make the transition from preschool to Kindergarten as fun and positive as possible, we would like to offer the new students a taste of great things to come by providing transportation to and from Highlands School for registration.

At approximately 10:15

Perfect Attendance

4th Six Weeks 2007-2008

K - J. McClellan

Lydia Clark
Chela Green
Colby Harris
Emma Weller

GB - J. Chalker

Drew Chalker
Grace Crowe
Gracie Forrester
Joshua Kennedy
Sydney Potter
Jared Shearl
Maggie Sullivan

2nd - C. Cox

Ben Avery
Manuel Contreras
Ana Damian
Olivia Diamond
Kimberly Feria
Taylor Welch

3rd - C. Murphy

John Murphy
Adam Schiffli
Megan Vinson

4th - D. Struble

Whitney Billingsley
Chase Grant
Jesse Machuca
Adriann McCall
Randall McCall

4th - D. West

Chance Gilbert
Sarah Henry
Marcus Maybin
Sierra Nylund
Colin Weller

6th - S. Mayer

Ellie Cate Beavers
Javier Montalvo
Emily Shuler

7th - E. Woods

Kalyn Billingsley

on May 6 Highlands' school bus driver, Jack Philpot, will begin picking up students aboard one of our activity buses starting at the United Methodist Church. He will stop at each day care center to pick up students and all should arrive at Highlands School by 10:35. PTO volunteers will be on the bus to help with the students. Students not enrolled in a day care center may meet before 10:15 at the Highlands Community Child Development Center, Inc. located at 89 Church Street,

Corbin Hawkins
Becca Johnson
Nati Pioquinto
Rogelio Pioquinto
Parker Sims
Austin Vinson
Lindsay Wagner

8th Grade

Jenny Coram
Clayton Creighton
Tim Goble
Kaitlin Lewis
Kim Machuca
Alex Michaud
Cory Ramey
Cody St. Germain

9th Grade

Amy Fogle
Elizabeth Gordon
Ben Kennedy
Marlee McCall
Danielle Potts
Will Ramos
Ricky Reyes
Samuel Wheeler

10th Grade

Tiffany Billingsley
Katie Durham
Beverly Nix
Brie Schmitt
Chris St. Germain

11th Grade

Carolyn Hornsby
Matt McClellan
Danielle Reese
Griselda Sanchez Velasco

12th Grade

Carly Alexander
Jessica Dryman
Thomas Forrester
Michael Grabe
Kyle Lassiter

Highlands, to catch the bus.

Riding the "school bus" is an exciting experience for the students. Please encourage your child to ride to school on the bus that day whether or not you plan for your child to ride during the school year. Please note: the bus will be returning students to the day care centers.

Every child riding the bus on May 6 must have a permission slip. Permission slips are provided in each registration packet. Extra registration packets and bus permission forms will be available at the Child Development Center and at Highlands School.

Please fill out all of the following registration forms completely and bring them with you on May 6th:

- Student Information Management Sheet (pink)
- Macon County Schools Consent Form and Internet Policy (goldenrod)
- Home Language Survey (white/triplicate)
- New Student Library/Lunch Form
- Kindergarten Admission Information—Parent's Rating
- Kindergarten Survey
- North Carolina Kindergarten Health Assessment Report (blue)

ment Report (blue)

• Macon County Schools Child Nutrition Services Diet Modification Request (if applicable)

Any forms (except the Health Assessment) not returned will need to be completed on May 6.

A Kindergarten Health Assessment is mandated by law for all children entering kindergarten. Kindergarten Health Assessment forms must be turned in prior to the first day of school. Please make sure that ALL the information on the Kindergarten Health Assessment Form is completed.

In addition to these documents, the following items should be presented at registration on May 6 for photocopying:

- Social Security Card
- Certified Birth Certificate
- Proof of Residency (i.e., electric bill, lease agreement, or water bill, as long as your physical address is noted). Post office boxes are not acceptable.
- Any legal documents necessary if you are not the biological parent of the child enrolling. (i.e., custody papers, name change documentation, adoption

papers or educational domicile affidavits)

Please feel free to call us at 526-2147 should you have any questions.

10-10:10: Parents arrive and meet in Media Center

10:10-10:40: Overview and Orientation

10:20-10:35: Buses Pick up Students at Pre-K's

10:40-10:45: Parents

meet up with children 10:50-11:15: Parents and children eat lunch

11:15-11:35: Parents and children tour school in 3 groups

11:35-11:40: Children to buses and Parents to Media Center

11:40-noon: Complete registration forms and Goodies

Honor Roll

4th Six Weeks 2007-2008

4th - D. West

"A" Chance Gilbert
"A" Sarah Henry
"A" Colin Weller
"AB" Remy Adrian
"AB" Chase Harris
"AB" John Iannacone
"AB" Ben Potter
"AB" Dylan Vinson
"AB" Ali Mae Walsh

4th - D. Struble

"A" Whitney Billingsley
"A" Carrie McClure
"AB" Anilu Diaz
"AB" Ahzah
Kennemore
"AB" Randall McCall
"AB" Carter Potts
"AB" Allie Wilkes
"AB" Zack Williams

6th - S. Mayer

"A" Ellie Cate Beavers
"A" Emily Gabbard
"A" Emily Shuler
"AB" Carli Calloway
"AB" Sydney Harris
"AB" Nadya Rogers
"AB" Tatiana Schmitt
"AB" Ryan Vinson

7th - E. Woods

"A" Rebecca Johnson
"A" Xan Potter
"AB" Kalyn Billingsley
"AB" Cheyenne Fleszar
"AB" Corbin Hawkins
"AB" Cristell Ruiz
"AB" Troy Vinson
"AB" Lindsay Wagner
"AB" Skyler Wagner
"AB" Sydney Wagner

8th - Massey & Lane

"A" Isaac Beavers
"A" Kaitlin Lewis
"A" Kim Machuca
"A" Emily Murphy
"A" Cai Roman
"AB" Juliane Buras
"AB" Copeland Hardin
"AB" Danielle Shomper

"AB" Cody St. Germain
9th Grade

"A" Tucker Bates
"A" Ana Damian
"A" Amy Fogle
"A" Avee Graham
"A" Marlee McCall
"A" Sarah Power
"AB" Paige Baty
"AB" Taylor Buras
"AB" Clayton Lassiter
"AB" Katie Nix
"AB" Devon Potter
"AB" Stephanie Puchacz
"AB" Courtney Rogers
"AB" Bevan Schiffli
"AB" Cord Strawn
"AB" Justin Watson
"AB" Samuel Wheeler

10th Grade

"A" Katie Durham
"A" Brice Jenkins
"A" Shelby Johnson
"A" Beverly Nix
"A" Kate Marie Parks
"AB" Jamie Bolt
"AB" Aaron Burton
"AB" Will Mathiowdix
"AB" Bobbi Jo Talley

11th Grade

"A" Luke McClellan
"A" Griselda Sanchez
"A" Michael Nix
"AB" Alex Hedden
"AB" Carolyn Hornsby
"AB" Casey Jenkins
"AB" Matt McClellan
"AB" Lucy Ruiz

12th Grade

"A" Ashley Higgs
"A" Kyle Lassiter
"A" Taylor Stinson
"A" Katie Pierce
"AB" Jessica Dryman
"AB" Michael Grabe
"AB" Adam Hedden
"AB" Jake Heffington
"AB" Amanda Parmalee
"AB" Vicky Smith

Highlands playing a tough year



Highlands Kate-Marie Parks during the game at Franklin, Monday, March 31. Highlands lost but to Franklin -- a 3A team. Highlands is a 1A team. Photo by Noel Atherton

• HOSPITAL BOARD SUMMARY •

Combined March meeting

To keep the news media and the public better informed about Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, we are providing you with a summary of the more significant actions and discussion items coming before the hospital's board of directors at its most recent meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2008.

- Vice-chairman Don Mullen presided at an abbreviated regular board meeting, which was followed by a special strategic planning "mini-retreat."

- Board members heard a report by President and CEO Ken Shull on the meeting earlier in the day of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation. Acting on the recommendation of a joint task force composed of members from both the hospital and foundation boards, and the hospital's attorney, the foundation board unanimously approved moving ahead with updating the foundation's articles of incorporation, and with amending its bylaws and other legal documents to resolve some technical legal issues dating back to 1993.

- Finance Committee Chairman Charlie Sheehan and CFO Mike Daiken reported that February was a much better month financially than anticipated in the annual budget, largely due to positive adjustments in reimbursement due the hospital since last October. As a result of the additional revenue, the hospital showed a loss in February of approximately \$8,000, significantly less than what had been budgeted for the month. That put the hospital virtually on budget for the fiscal year (which began Oct. 1). In other good news, the resident census at the Fidelia Eckerd Center is again on the rise, although the center is still not completely full.

- During the Governance Committee report, the hospital board voted to approve revised articles of incorporation and bylaws for the hospital, most of which involved changes in the board's committee structure and updates in language. Committee Chairman Don Mullen also announced that the board's annual retreat will be held June 2 at The Mountain Retreat and Conference Center in Highlands. Members of the foundation's board have also been invited to attend that retreat. Bill Pully, president of the NC Hospital Association, will be the keynote speaker. Mullen also invited hospital and foundation board members to attend a special meeting May 19 of trustees and directors of all the 16 member hospitals that comprise the WNC Health Network. The speaker at that meeting in Asheville will be nationally-known expert on hospital governance Barry Bader.

- During the report of the Performance Improvement Committee, Vice President for Operations and Compliance Officer Frank Leslie gave an overview of some of the hospital's more comprehensive quality control measures that are designed to identify pa-

tient care issues and correct them. He also said the hospital has been conducting mock visits that simulate what will take place during the upcoming reaccreditation survey by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Also, two additional members have joined the PI Committee. They are board member Griffin Bell, Jr., and anesthesiologist Mark Shoptaugh, MD.

- Chief of the Medical Staff Robert T. Buchanan, MD, reported that the hospital medical staff has voted to require all of its physicians to become certified in advance life support techniques. At present, only physicians who work in the hospital emergency room have had to complete ACLS training. Buchanan reported the medical staff also recommended renewing the staff privileges of four physicians and one ancillary surgical assistant. The board affirmed that recommendation, renewing privileges for Herbert K. Plauché, MD, FAOOS (orthopedics); Debra A. Wagner, MD (internal medicine); William W. Wharton III, MD, FACC (cardiology); and Russell E. Dodds, MD (pathology).

- Among the items in his written and verbal reports, Shull told the board that the hospital's two general surgeons are off to a good start. The number of procedures being performed at the hospital is growing, despite the time of the year (10 general surgery cases were performed at the hospital last week, for example). To date, general surgeons William J. Noell, Jr, MD, FACS, and F. Augustus Dozier, MD, FACS, have had patients referred by all of the area's primary care physicians, he said. And after some unexpected delays, progress is once again being made on bringing a gastroenterologist to the area, he added. An official announcement is expected within the next few weeks.

- In a move designed to strengthen orientation, training, and precepting of new and temporary nurses, Shull said the hospital is promoting long-time hospital employee and educator Karen Hendricks, RN, to a new position as director of nursing education. Shull also said that the well-publicized troubles of another WNC hospital that recently lost its certification from Medicare and Medicaid is likely to have the effect of increasing the focus of state and federal regulators on all North Carolina facilities, particularly in the area of nursing. While this hospital has always emphasized quality and performance improvement, Shull said those efforts are being re-emphasized in the wake of the headlines from other areas.

Shull reminded board members the hospital will soon begin another intensive season of free health screenings, including five community screenings for the public (one more than last year), five club screen-

•See HOSPITAL page 26

... HOSPITAL continued from page 15

The Cannon Foundation, Inc. began in 1943 as a corporate foundation focused on giving to projects based largely in communities where Cannon Mills plants were located. Following the 1971 death of its founder, Charles A. Cannon, and the subsequent sale of the Cannon Mills Company, the Foundation evolved into an independent foundation. Virtually all of its giving is in North Carolina, and over the past few years has expanded from just the local area (Cabarrus County) to reach community organizations from Manteo to Murphy.

Historically, the principal grant fields have been health care and education, especially independent liberal arts colleges in the Piedmont and western regions of the state.

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... BRUGGER continued from page 9

Qatar was the next stop, an oil-rich nation on the Persian Gulf, a country so wealthy that no Qatari works. Mr. Weiner had trouble even finding a Qatari to talk to, because you couldn't just stroll into a store or bar and strike up a conversation with the clerk or bartender — they were all foreigners.

"Social scientists estimate that about 70% of our happiness stems from our relationships, both quantity and quality, with friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors... So the greatest source of happiness is other people — and what does money do? It isolates us from other people. It enables us to build walls, literal and figurative, around ourselves."

Qatar: proof that money does not buy happiness

After the heat of Qatar he traveled to the opposite extreme — Iceland — one of the happiest places on the planet! The World Database of Happiness says that all things considered, colder nations are happier. Mr. Weiner's theory is that cold climates require more cooperation and the resulting relationships (see above) produce happiness.

He found Iceland a very dynamic and creative place, and mused: "The great thinkers have long pointed to a connection between creativity and happiness."

Iceland: happiness is creativity and the freedom to fail and reinvent self (made easier by a generous European welfare state).

Thailand is famous for its peoples'

smiles, and he found that Thais think westerners spend far too much time thinking about life and why they aren't happy, and analyzing themselves and everything else.

Thailand — happiness is not thinking and not taking life seriously.

Moldova is one of the unhappiest places on the planet, and a stark example of the toxic effect envy has on happiness.

India — happiness is acceptance, particularly of contradictions, not either/or but both/and (acceptance made easier by the belief in multiple lifetimes — if this life is bad the next one will be better).

When Mr. Weiner was going through customs in Great Britain the official got very suspicious when he said he had come to research happiness! He in fact was going to a town where a group of happiness researchers had done an

experiment to see if happiness could be taught to a core group who would then spread it to others in the town. The findings: teaching people how to be happy appears to have dubious results.

America — happiness is home. I thought Mr. Weiner copped out because he didn't talk about the relative happiness level of Americans. Perhaps it is too difficult to be objective about one's own culture. But here's the surprise of the book: the best spot for home is... Asheville North Carolina!

And here's a happy last thought: "Researchers have found that happiness forms a U-shaped curve over the course of a lifetime. We're happiest in youth and old age."

• All of Katie Brugger's columns are available on her website: www.kathleenbrugger.com

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Weekend of Art and Luxury in Highlands Weekend package

Join The Main Street Inn, Drake's Diamond Gallery and Summit One Gallery for a weekend of art and luxury. Beginning with a Friday night stay at the nationally rated Main Street Inn and then on Saturday, April 12 luncheon at "The Galleries" with artist Jonas Gerard and a special jewelry trunk show by Alwand Vahan, as seen in Vogue and Town & Country magazines. Designer, Alwand Vahan says, "I create jewelry (sterling silver, gold and precious stones) like I would a film set: with mood, drama and my customers wear the jewelry like actresses". Attend only the champagne luncheon for \$25.

At 4pm in the courtyard at "The Galleries" watch Jonas Gerard's "Performance Painting". Gerard was featured on ABC's 20/20 in January. Gerard's enthusiasm, passion and energy is contagious. Painting to lively music Gerard will complete a painting as everyone enjoys the creativity, the dance, the energy and the painting. Followed by a reception at 5pm where everyone will be able to meet and talk with this nationally known artist. Open to the public. "The Galleries" is located on South Second Street, Highlands.

Ending the day of art is the



The Galleries at 2nd Street and Helens Barn Ave.

performance by Madeleine Davis and David Milford in "Ice Breaker" at the Instant Theatre Company, 8pm.

The Ice-Breaker, a new play by David Rambo, opening April 10th at the ITC's Studio on Main deals with today's compelling and alarming issues of climate change.

For information about the entire weekend package (or the champagne luncheon only) call the Main Street Inn, 828.526.2590. For information about the Jonas Gerard, call Summit One Gallery, 828.526.2673. For information about the Alwand Vahan Trunk Show call Drake's Diamond Gallery, 828.526.5858. For information about "Ice Breaker" call the Instant Theatre Company, 828.342.9197

On-going

- Book Sale at the Jackson County Library. Bargains galore can be found at the Friends of the Library Used Bookstore which is located at 536 West Main Street in downtown Sylva. All bargain books have been priced at 2 for 50 cents and 2 for 25 cents. The pricing is effective immediately. All the profits from the Friends of the Library Bookstore go to support the Jackson County Public Library.

- The Highlands Playhouse is taking reservations for "Always Patsy Cline," Thurs.-Sun., June 19-July 6; "On Golden Pond," Thurs.-Sun., July 10-20; "70th Anniversary Diamond Review," Thurs.-Sun., July 24-Aug. 10; and "Inherit the Wind" Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 14-31. Please call 828-526-2695 or write or PO Box 896, Highlands, NC 28741.

- Highlands Playhouse is taking reservations for its annual Children's Theatre Mond-Fri., July 7-18, taught by instructors with extensive experience in theatre education 9 a.m. to noon for ages 6-10, and 1-4 p.m. for ages 11-16. Please call 828-526-2695 or write or PO Box 896, Highlands, NC 28741.

- Registration is now open for the 2008 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! - a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 7-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-14), and "Junior Ecologists"

(ages 11-15). Some camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.

- Yoga at the Rec Park, 7:30 a.m Monday and Wednesdays. Call 526-4340 for information.

- Yoga in the bottom floor of Jane Woodward Building. 10:30 a.m. Thursdays. Call 526-4340.

- 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.

- At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

- "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodward room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

First Mondays

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

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

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

- 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.

Wednesdays

- Adult handbell rehearsals at Highlands United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. Call Carroll Harris at 526-3376.

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

- Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

Every Third Wednesday

- Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian 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.

1st & 3rd Thursdays

- The local affiliate of NAMI NC (National Alliance on Mental Illness), NAMI Appalachian South, meets from 7- 9 p.m. at the Family Restoration Center, 1095 Wiley Brown Road, Franklin. NAMI offers peer support, education, and advocacy for individuals suffering from serious mental illness and their families and loved ones. Contact Ann Nan-

drea 369-7385, Carole Light 524-9769 or Mary Ann Widenhouse 524-1355 for more information.

Thursdays

- Live Music with Brad Vroon at Fireside Restaurant in Wright Square from 6-9 p.m. with Tapas Menu.

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

Friday & Saturday

- Live music at The Rib Shack every Friday and Saturday night from 7-10 p.m.

Fridays

- The Girls' Clubhouse meets in the school cafeteria 3-4:30 p.m. All 6-8 grade girls are welcome. Come have fun while serving others. For more information, call Kim Lewicki 526-0782.

Saturdays

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

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

Sundays

- Live Music with Brad Vroon at Fireside Restaurant in Wright Square, noon-3 p.m.

Through April 12

- At The Bascom, a "Young Artist Program" which opens Friday from 5-7 p.m. and runs through April 12.

Wednesdays, through May 7

- Sick and Tired of being sick and tired? The Macon County Cooperative Extension Service is offering a 6-week chronic disease self-management program to help you improve your health one step

• See EVENTS page 22

Take a wildflower hike through the Hambridge Center with the H-C Land Trust

The kick-off for the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust's schedule of summer Eco-Tours is a very special treat for wildflower lovers on Thursday, April 17. The Hambridge Center, located between Dillard and Clayton, Georgia is a center for Creative Arts and Sciences situated on 600 acres of pristine natural forests, woodlands and streams of the North Georgia Mountains. In the spring the hillsides are covered with many varieties of trillium, ferns, trout lilies, and many, many varieties of ephemeral native flowers. To see them is truly a joyful experience.

In addition to being able to walk through 600 acres of wildflowers, participants will have an opportunity following the hike to browse through a special showing of pottery entitled "Art in Nature" by resident potters. Potters, visual artists, writers, weavers, composers, dancers and other artists have pursued their crafts in the solitude of Hambridge Center since 1934 when the center was founded by Mary Hambridge. Since that time it has remained a non-profit sanc-

tuary for the arts.

Join us as we take pleasure in hiking through the woodlands with guide Edwin Poole who will identify for us the varieties of wildflowers. Be sure to bring your camera as there will be many opportunities for sensational photographs. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a walking stick, if you like. We will leave from the Bryson's parking lot at the Highlands Plaza at 9:15 a.m. and car pool to Hambridge. Reservations are required and space is limited so reserve your spot early by calling HCLT at 526.1111 or email Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net.

The event is free for HCLT members and only a \$25 donation for non-members. This is a fantastic deal as non-members not only have the opportunity to participate on the tour and receive a complimentary lunch but will also receive a membership to HCLT. Members are encouraged to bring a friend along and have a great time while helping to grow the support for your land trust. Working together, we can accomplish our mission to "Save the Places We All Love."

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Audubon Society to dedicate Highlands Plateau as 'Important Bird Area' May 10

The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society and Audubon North Carolina announce the dedication of the Highlands Plateau Important Bird Area (IBA) at a ceremony and program to be held Saturday, May 10 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Highlands Nature Center, 930

Horse Cove Road, Highlands, NC. The public is welcome. The event will be held rain or shine.

The Highlands Plateau is recognized nationally for its unique bird habitat and the crucial role it plays in the survival of certain bird species of special conservation concern such as the Canada warbler, peregrine falcon, black-throated blue warbler, hooded warbler, rose-breasted grosbeak, golden-crowned kinglet and red-breasted nuthatch.

Curtis Smalling, Important Bird Area Coordinator for North Carolina and Chris Canfield, Executive Director of Audubon North Carolina, will discuss the importance of the Highlands Plateau to bird and habitat conservation efforts in the state. Attendees will take a short walk to Sunset Rock where awards will be presented to six organizations and individuals who have made important contributions to preserving bird and wildlife habitat on the Highlands Plateau, including:

- Town of Highlands, Mayor Donald Mullen
- Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Gary Wein, PhD, Executive Director



- U. S. Forest Service, Nantahala Ranger District, Mike Wilkins, District Ranger, Nantahala National Forest

- Patrick Bran-non, Director, Highlands Nature Center
- David Bates, Executive Director, Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance

- Cindy Trevathan, President, Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau

Participants will enjoy mountain music, light refreshments, conservation exhibits by local conservation organizations and the opportunity to speak with state and local experts on bird and habitat conservation issues.

An optional bird walk for both beginners and experienced birders will be led by expert birders at the Nature Center beginning at 7 a.m. Those wishing to attend the bird walk should call (828) 787-1230 prior to the event. Transportation to and from Sunset Rock will be available if needed.

The mission of the National Audubon Society's North Carolina State Office is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and North Carolina's biological diversity.

The mission of the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society is to provide opportunities to enjoy and learn about birds and other wildlife and to promote conservation and restoration of the habitats that support them.

at a time. Wednesday mornings at the cooperative extension office 9:30 a.m. to noon. To register call Sherrie Peeler at 828-349-2046 or Mary Barker at 828-586-1962.

Wednesdays through May 14

• A series of seven classes covering the Principles and Elements of Design meets every Wednesday at the Highlands Rec Park from 1 to 4 p.m. Each class will include a brief informative introduction to an element or principle, a fun and quick exercise, and an art project using a variety of materials. Classes include instruction on a variety of painting and drawing materials, as well as Balance, Emphasis, Contrast, Proportion, Repetition, Rhythm and Harmony. Call Donna Rhodes at 828.526.4949, 4#.

Thursday, April 10

• League of Women Voters of Macon County presents the Macon County Commission primary candidate forum. The meeting will be held at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in down-

town Franklin. Lunch will be served at noon. Call 524-5192. The forum will start at 12:15. Questions for the candidates will be accepted.

• Macon County will celebrate National County Government Week (NCGW) April 6-12 hosting a reception honoring the 26 former living members of the Macon County Board of Commissioners on the third floor of the Macon County Courthouse from 6 – 8 p.m.

Thurs.-Sat., April 10-12

• At ITC, Madeleine Davis and David Milford in "The Ice Breaker" by David Rambo is a thought provoking drama following in the footsteps of such plays as Arcadia, Proof and Copenhagen. Reservations are strongly suggested. Call the ITC Box Office at 828-342-9197.

Friday, April 11

• Artist Elizabeth Ellison donated her original Bucket of Flowers watercolor painting to the Southwestern Community College Foundation. Tickets to be eligible for the drawing are \$5 and will bene-

fit student scholarships. The drawing will be held during the foundation's fundraiser Friday on the Jackson Campus as actor Bill Oberst Jr. performs "Lewis Grizzard: In His Own Words," a tribute to the late author and humorist. For tickets call SCC foundation director Sonja Haynes at 586-4091, ext. 218.

Saturday April 12

• Art & Luxury Weekend Package at Drake's Diamond Gallery, Summit One Gallery and Main Street Inn. Noon champagne luncheon at The Galleries, a Trunk Show by Alwand Vahan at Drake's Gallery, Performance Painting with Jonas Gerard at Summit One, "The Ice Breaker" at the Instant Theatre and lodging at Main Street Inn. Call 526-2590 for reservations.

• The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited will

offer a 4 hour seminar for men and women 16 years and older. The instruction will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will include casting, entomology, knots and equipment. The seminar is designed for folks who want to get started in the pleasure of fly fishing for trout. The location will be at the Rabun County Recreation Center and can accommodate 25 students and the cost of \$25 per person will include lunch. In addition to the 4 hours of instruction, each participant will receive a packet of information including a copy of TROUT magazine, a map of trout streams of Georgia, information about local TU chapters, various sheets of worthwhile information and a copy of Curtis Creek Manifesto book. To register, contact Charlie Breithaupt knc615@windstream.net or (706) 782-6954.

Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale to feature iris beauties

Don't miss the annual Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale on Saturday, May 24! Two types of splendid vibrantly colored iris will be featured. Many Frilled Enchantment Iris (*iris ensata*) and Yellow Flag Iris (*iris pseudacorus*) were donated for the sale by a generous anonymous donor.

The Yellow Flag Iris, sometimes called the Louisiana Iris, is the only yellow iris grown in the United States. The flowers usually grow 3 to 4 inches across on a robust stalk with sword-like leaves. In the Highlands area, the Yellow Flag Iris usually blooms in late May.

The Frilled Enchantment Iris is a Japanese iris with large flowers, often 5 inches across. The flowers are white with purple ruffled edges. Many have double blooms, giving lots of frilly ruffles. They are the latest iris to bloom, with the blooms lasting 2-3 weeks.

Both types of iris have been growing by our donor here in our native soil. Thus, they are hardy and ready to add color and beauty to your yard. Just plant these iris where they will have full sun exposure and lots of water. They grow best with "wet feet", where the soil is consistently wet or very damp. Areas around ponds and where water regularly drains are good places to plant them.

In Japan, iris are often planted in rice fields when the fields are heaviest with water. The fields are plugged to keep the

water in place to nourish the iris as well as the rice. The more the water, the taller and more beautiful the iris!

At the Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale, gardeners will be available to provide buyers with additional advice about growing iris and other perennials in our area.

At the Sale, in addition to iris, you will see locally-grown hostas and other perennials, including asters, false indigo, goldenrod, and liatris. Mountain Garden Club Members spend weeks digging and potting plants from local gardens for the sale.

If you have plants you would like to donate to the Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale, please call Anita Williams at 828-526-9713. Club members will come at your convenience to dig and thin plants at your direction. Proceeds from the Sale will support college scholarships and local public gardening projects.

This year's Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale will be held Saturday, May 24, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., at the Baseball Park on the corner of Highway 64 East (North 4th Street) and

Hickory Street, in Highlands. The rain date is Sunday, May 25th, from p.m. until 4 p.m. Come early for the best pick at this once a year sale!



Filled Enchantment Japanese Iris



Yellow Flag Iris

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Celebrate Earth Day, Sat. April 19

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association, and Whole Life Market are hosting the annual Earth Day celebration at the Village Green in Cashiers on Saturday, April 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 pm. The event is FREE and will be held rain or shine.

Celebrate Earth Day in the Mountains will feature live music, interactive demonstrations, and food. There will be games for the young and the young at heart.

The Balsam Mountain Preserve will be present between 12 and 2 with hawks, falcons and bald eagles. The event is an opportunity for local organizations and businesses to showcase their environmental interests. If your organization or business would like to participate, please contact Jackson-Ma-



con Conservation Alliance at 828-526-9938 ext.256, or stop in to pick up a reservation form. The deadline to reserve space is this Friday, April 13. Space is offered on a first come, first served basis!

Commercial sales will not be permitted at this event.

2007 marks the 36th anniversary of Earth Day, an event that is celebrated worldwide. While land use patterns are shifting and natural resources are becoming more and more threatened, there has never been a better time to show

appreciation for the uniqueness and natural beauty of the western North Carolina mountains! Join us on Saturday, April 19 to celebrate the earth and learn about what is happening locally to protect it.

For more information please contact any of the above listed organizations.

Tuesday, April 15

• Macon County Democratic Women are having their meeting at the Community Center in Highlands at 6 p.m. and reservations for the catered

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

Showing April 11-17

COLLEGE ROAD TRIP

rated G

Mon - Thurs: (4), 7

Fri: (4), 7, 9

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

LEATHERHEADS

rated PG-13

Mon - Thurs: (4:15), 7:05

Fri: (4:15), 7:05, 9:15

Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:15), 7:05, 9:15

NIM'S ISLAND rated PG

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

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

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

21 rated PG-13

Mon - Thurs: 7

Fri: 7, 9:20

Sat & Sun: 7, 9:20

DR. SUESS' HORTON HEARS A WHO rated G

Mon - Thurs: (4:05)

Fri: (4:05)

Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:05)

dinner need to be made by April 7. Cost is \$12 and for directions or more information call Sarah Wilks at 349-1792 or Lee Hodges at 526-3363. We invite all Democratic Women to participate in "Souper Tuesday" by bringing non-perishable food or paper products for Care-Net to the meeting.

Wednesday, April 16

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a mid-week 4.5 mile easy-to moderate hike to Rough Run and High Falls with a small elevation change of less than 200 feet and some scrambling over rocky terrain near High Falls. Meet at the post office/library parking lot in Cashiers at 10 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Thursday, April 17

• Highlands School Talent Show is 6-7:30 p.m. and there will be a dinner benefiting the Highlands School Art Foundation which will begin at 5 p.m.

• Franklin Community Blood Drive at First Baptist Church 12:30 pm to 5:30 p.m. Please call (828) 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors can enter a drawing for a trip to Disney World!

• Take a Eco-Tour with the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust at the Hambridge Center - a center for Creative Arts and Sciences on 600 acres in the North Georgia Mountains. The event is free for HCLT members and only a \$25 donation for non-members. Reservations are required and space is limited so reserve your spot early by calling HCLT at 526.1111 or email Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net.

Fri.-Sat., April 18-19

• At ITC, Madeleine Davis and David Milford in "The Ice Breaker" by David Rambo is a thought provoking drama following in the footsteps of such plays as Arcadia, Proof and Copenhagen. Reservations are strongly suggested. Call the ITC Box

Office at 828-342-9197.

Friday, April 18

"Movie Night" at 7 p.m., Grace Community Church will be showing the movie, "The Ultimate Gift," starring James Garner & Brian Dennehy, and based on Jim Stovall's best selling novel. Admission and refreshments are free, and all are welcome. For more information, call the church at 743-9814.

Saturday, April 19

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

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a special wildflower hike in the Whitewater River Gorge where at least a million trillium should be in bloom.

The 3.5 mile hike is rated moderate with a descent of 800 feet, requiring some cautious footwork in steep places. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. and the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:50 a.m. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations.

• At The Bascom, a "Regional High School" exhibition opens from 5-7 p.m. and runs through April 26.

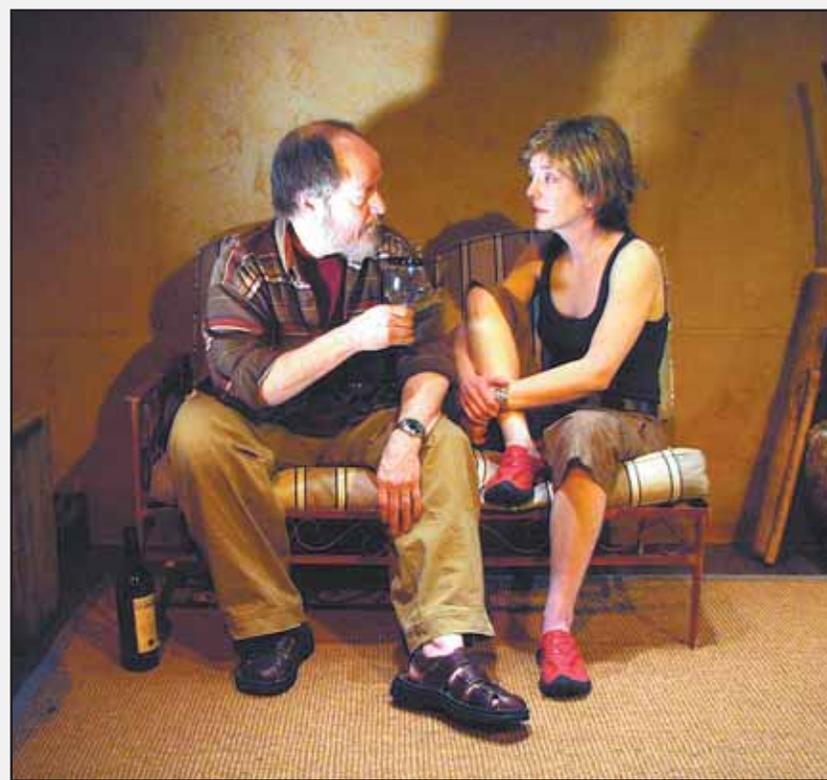
Sun.-Wed., April 20-30

• Highlands United Methodist Church trip to the Holy Land Trip: Please speak with Pastor Mike or Pastor Todd for more details.

Sunday, April 20

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4.5 mile easy-to moderate hike to Rough Run and High Falls with a small elevation change of less than 200 feet and some scrambling over rocky terrain near High Falls. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765 for reservations.

'Ice Breaker' opens April 10 at ITC



David Milford, as Dr. Lawrence Blanchard, and Madeleine Davis, as Sonia Milan, costar in *The Ice-Breaker*.

Very rarely does a new play come along that not only is thought provoking, romantic and entertaining, but also proves to be totally relevant to our future on this planet. The Instant Theatre Company is proud to present the North Carolina premiere of such a play. David Rambo, best known for writing the hit TV crime drama CSI, gives us *The Ice-Breaker*.

Rambo has a knack for blending scientific information with intimate human drama and his writing gives *The Ice-Breaker* both an intelligence and a warmth of human character, which is brought to life by veteran professional actor David Milford and Highlands favorite actress Madeleine Davis. Be pre-

pared, while you get all warm and fuzzy about two people finding themselves and each other, that our knowledge of global warming is just the tip of the iceberg. The LA Drama Critics Circle has said, "The script's top notch. Rambo plucks the discussion of climate out of the forum of politics and careerism and places it in a more humanistic context, one to which we can more readily relate."

The Ice-Breaker will play in the Studio on Main April 10-12 and also 17-19. All performances are at 8 p.m. For reservations call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197. The ITC's Studio on Main is located at 310 Oak Square, Main Street, Highlands, NC.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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HELP WANTED

PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY

The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation is looking for a part-time receptionist (Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 am-1 pm). If you are interested, please submit resumes to PO Box 729 Highlands, NC 28741.

RN NEEDED for upscale retirement community. Oversee health care needs of 26 assisted living residents, including supervising CNAs and med techs. Good public relations and customer service skills needed. Apply in person at chestnut Hill, 64 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC. Or email your resume to admin@chestnuthillslc.com. Drug screening and background check. EOE. 4/17

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FOREMAN for a Highlands area company. Duties include overseeing yard maintenance for high-end properties. Chance to grow with company including bonuses and retirement. Call 828-526-8953.

WHY KNOT KNIT HIGHLANDS is seeking a manager for its knitting retail shop. Must be courteous, dependable and know how to knit. For more info, contact: Beki at #404-542-2904.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH is accepting resumes for an Office Assistant. Computer skills, people skills and creative abilities are required. 828-526-4685 or office@cbchighlands.com

THE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP



BlackRock is looking for a few

GREAT (licensed) BROKERS for
our new expanded Main Street
Highlands office and our new
Pilot Knob Sales office in Glenville.

Contact Doug at
doug@doughelms.com or by phone
at 526-0000.

All communications confidential.

CENTER OF HIGHLANDS, NC is seeking part time administrative assistant starting May 1, 2008. Applicant must have both written and oral Spanish knowledge, must be motivated and work well with others. Basic computer skills are necessary. Additional training will be given once applicant begins. For more information please call Jill at 828-526-9938 x 290.

SERVERS AND COUNTER HELP NEEDED at SweeTreats, Highlands. Call 526-9822.

MAINTENANCE ENGINEER POSITION AVAILABLE at Hampton Inn/Highlands Inn. Year Round/Full time. Must have basic knowledge of electronics, plumbing, minor electrical and construction. Send Resume to P.O. Box 1060 Highlands, NC 28741 or email to info@hamptoninn-nc.com. Call Sabrina for interview 828-526-5899.

HOUSEKEEPER needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position available for days. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RNS at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Full, Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

EMERGENCY ROOM RNS needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. One Full-time and two Part-time positions available. 12 hour night shifts. Shift and weekend differentials. BCLS and ACLS required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

DIRECTOR OF NURSING is needed in the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina. Experienced nurse leader for a 24-bed Critical Access Hospital, responsible for managing a budget, quality of patient care, customer satisfaction, and the oversight of management for the Acute Care Unit (Med/Surg), ER, OR, PACU and GI Lab, Hospice, and Cardio-Pulmonary. Must be able to provide leadership for managers and staff, and conduct recruitment and retention activities. Masters degree with a background in nursing leadership required. This position reports directly to the CEO/President of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, working closely with the QA Nurse Manager and the VP of Operations. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time position with 8 and 12 hour shifts. Responsibilities include taking call and

being able to respond within 20 minutes. Also must be able to intubate a patient. Current registration or certification in North Carolina, along with current BCLS and/or ACLS required. Experience with rehabilitation and disease prevention preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position available Monday through Friday. Must be North Carolina certified. One year experience in hospital setting and CPR certification is preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA or CNAII at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Full-time, positions for night shifts. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

UNIT CLERK needed at Highlands Cashiers Hospital. Performs clerical duties and acts as receptionist for the nursing unit. Experience in a hospital setting preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

WORK WANTED

RESPONSIBLE CAREGIVER - Available night shifts. (possible live-in) Call Clara at 828-342-1603 or 828-369-9812.

HOME DUTY SITTER available for elderly, caring, experienced with references. Please call for hours available and specifics. Denise - 369-3813

EXPERIENCED FINISH CARPENTER: Call Alfredo at 828-349-1590. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290

CLEANING OR RESTAURANT WORK WANTED: Contact Gloria at 828-371-5806. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

LOOKING FOR A HOUSEKEEPER? Call Dora at 828-200-1038. Call Janet at 828-399-9693 or 828-526-9709. Luz Maria at 349-2735. Cira at 349-1838. Erica at 864-886-9986. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290

EXPERIENCED TRUCK DRIVER SEEKS FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT: Call Mike at 828-524-4052. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT

RETAIL SPACE FOR LEASE, Hearthstone

Center on busy Hwy 64 beside the old Hardee's, 2,052 sq ft, High visibility, Plenty of parking, Great retail location ready to be occupied, central heat & air, carpet, excellent condition, Busy shopping center, Call 828-243-2939 or 828-743-9454 for more information.

RETAIL/OFFICE SPACE - 800 - 3,000 Sq Ft. Located in Highlands Plaza. Entrances on Hwy. 28 & 106. Great Visibility. High Traffic. Abundant Parking. Reasonable Terms. Best location in town. Call 864-630-0808 for info.

RESIDENTIAL SPACE FOR RENT

CONVENIENT IN-TOWN LOCATION - Charming Loft Living on Spring Street. Fully Furnished Apartment 1 block off of Main Street. 1 Bedroom, Large Bath with Jacuzzi Tub, Stocked Kitchenette, \$850./month, no pets. Please call 526-2769. 5/1

DOWNSTAIRS APARTMENT with shared kitchen. one bedroom, living room, bathroom. Close to Town. \$700/mth, utilities included. Call 828-342-0157.

GREAT 3 BDR/2 BATH COTTAGE IN MIRROR LAKE AREA, less than 1 mile to town, front porch, back deck. Rents monthly for \$1200+utilities, call 770-977-5692. 4/3

ONE BR/ONE BATH FURNISHED APARTMENT close to town including all utilities except phone. \$750. Contact Tucker or Jeannie Chambers, The Chambers Agency, REALTORS. 828-526-3717.

1BED/1BATH 900sq.ft. \$825/month includes utilities.\$300 deposit. Unfurnished.Non-smoker preferred. Walking distance to town. (828)526-9494

3 BEDROOM-2 BATH APARTMENT on Main Street. 526-0388.

ON MIRROR LAKE - Charming 3 bed, 2 bath. Huge sunroom, stone fireplace, 3 decks, canoe, furnished. Available Nov-May. \$1500 a month plus utilities. Call 770-435-0678.

COTTAGE FOR RENT - 1BR, 1BA in town @ Chestnut Cottages. Private, screen porch, Heat/AC, FP, extra sleeping loft, furnished or unfurnished. 6 month lease - \$750. monthly plus utilities. Call 526-1684.

VACATION RENTAL

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB - Sorry, golf and club privileges not available. \$2,495 a week. Call 912-230-7202.

THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE - Fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, 3-day min. Call 828-342-2302.

ON LAKE SEQUOYAH - Three master suites with jetted tubs and showers, sleeping nook with private bath, 4 fireplaces, 2 living areas, newly renovated. Private dock with canoe and firepit. Call 828-342-2302.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

BEST DEAL IN SCALY - 1+/- acres on Buck Knob. Septic and water systems installed. House site leveled and ready. Views and waterfall sounds. Approx 3,400-3,500 elevation. No modulars or trailers. \$49,999 MLS 64785. Ann James. Cabe Realty 526-2475 www.caberealty.com 5/1

• CLASSIFIEDS •

HOUSE FOR SALE IN WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath in adorable, quiet neighborhood 2 miles from ocean and Palm Beach Island and 5 miles from downtown. \$450,000. Call 561-379-9151. 7/31

MOTOR COACH SITE - DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS. With Cedar shake Coach House. Gated. Private. Overlooks active stream. Short walk to shopping and dining. Located at the cor. of Fifth and Chestnut Sts. For all info. visit at your leisure: www.JTIMMS.com/HIDDENCREEK or contact owner directly at 828-526-5333.

LOTS FOR SALE - .85 AC lot off Turtle Pond. Backs to USFS. Views. \$30K; .90 AC lot, drive cut in. \$30k. 2-bed septic approved. Ready to build. New shared well for both. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

UPPER CLEAR CREEK ROAD AT CORNET LANE 1.20+ acres less than 4 miles to Main Street. Paved Access. Some winter views 3 sided corner lot has old logging road as your driveway. \$62,500 Call 526-9021 or 787-2307.

HOUSE FOR SALE (ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA) - Two bedroom, one and 1/2 bath conch house for sale at Mile Marker 86, near Founders Park on Oceanside. House sits on a 8,520 square foot lot in a great subdivision with a public boat ramp on the next street over. Founders Park, which is across the street, has a park with a boat ramp, marina, pool, beach, tennis courts, etc. Great deal - owner moving out of state. \$475,000. Call 305-852-4369 for more info.

OCEAN FRONT - Beautiful home in Surf City, N.C. zoned residential/commercial. Walk to pier and town. 7-bed, 4 full baths. Separate apartment. Good rental income. Call 919-340-2280.

HOUSE FOR SALE - HFCC 2 story split, 3/2, large lot, lake, golf course, mountain views, membership available but optional. \$795,000. Call 526-4154.

LAND BY OWNER - 3/4 acre lot. Close to Town. Very, very, level building lot. Community water available. \$79,000. Call Ginger at 828-526-4959.

OCEANFRONT LOT KEY LARGO, FLORIDA - Cleared, buildable with all services. Last unimproved lot in Silver Shores subdivision. \$599,900. For information and photos call Frank (954) 964-7649 or email ft442@bellsouth.net.

ITEMS FOR SALE

STONE CARVING - Reproduction piece 15" high, from the Olmec Era (1,200 years old). \$40. Call Alex (828) 332-0138

RADIAL SAW - Craftsman, 10-inch, model # 113.199200. Excellent condition. \$200. Call Fred at 828-743-6108

KODAK EASYSHARE DX6340 with printer dock 6000, camera case, all manuals and cables. \$50.00 Call Sandy at 524-7350 or 369-6263.

ANTIQUÉ FURNITURE: Medallion Back Sofa, Louis XV substyle. \$300. Matching Lady's and Gentleman's Chairs, \$400 set. Rocking Chair, Lincoln Type, upholstered. \$175. Sold separately or all for \$750. Call Sandy at 524-7350 or 369-6263.

FRENCH HORN Recently overhauled Conn 6-D double, excellent condition \$1,500. 828-526-2905 leave message

GREEN PRINT VELOUR SWIVEL ROCKER, new, \$250; blue stripe club chair w/ ottoman, like new, \$175; large pine armoire, like

new, \$200; Simms X-large waders w/attached boots, bought at Highland Hiker, used 3 times, \$250. Call Beatrice or Dennis at 743-5600.

OFFICE DESK FOR SALE. 30x60, dark oak finish, 6 drawers. \$150. Call Sandy at 369-6263 or 524-7350.

JEEP RIMS - 17-inch aluminum factory rims off 2005 Jeep Liberty 4x4. Brand new! Complete set of 4 \$800. Valued at \$265 each. Call 706-982-2254.

KING SIZE BEDROOM SET - Complete set includes two nightstands, two chest of drawers, large dresser with mirror. Like new. \$500. Call 706-982-2251.

PAIR OF DESIGNER WING BACK CHAIRS - Fabric with velvet trim. Neutral colors in Brown, cream/gold muted \$375. Coordinating area carpet roughly 8 x 10 (can be cut to size) 526-4340 8-5

BARELY USED 30GB ZUNE VIDEO MP3 PLAYER. Comes with leather case. \$150 or best offer. Call Davis at 828-526-9152 for more information.

BALDWIN ACROSONIC PIANO Excellent condition. \$300. Call 743-5151.

TWO SIT-ON TOP KAYAKS. Orange. Paddles included. \$500 for both. Call Lisa at 770-842-3784.

THREE "HOUSE OF DENMARK" BOOKCASES - walnut, 3' x 6', containing TV, tape player, turn table, radio/CD. Sold as an entertainment unit including 2 Advent speakers. \$550. Call 526-9273.

2 BATHROOM LAVATORIES with brass faucets; 1 water closet - all almond finish \$25.00 each; 1 steno chair - black with mustard color back and seat \$15. 526-2671

MISC. ITEMS - Play Station 2 \$75; Old Walt Disney movies (never opened); Indoor plants; Girls' bicycle; Collectible Basketball Cards (never opened). Call 526-9123.

SNOW TIRES For Ford Expedition 03-05 factory rims. Complete set of 4 only \$400. Size 17 x 75 J. Call Wolfgang at 526-8396.

POOL TABLE - Peter Vitalie 8' x 50" pool table, burl wood rails, upgrades leather pockets, new upgraded felt - oak in color - \$3,400. Table located in Cashiers, Call 770-313-0899.

BARBOUR COAT Burghley Duster. \$350. Call 526-9027.

MASSEY FERGUSON DIESEL DELUXE 35 WITH POWER STEERING. Completely rebuilt, repainted, new tires. Includes scrape blade, and an 8,000 lbs. tandem axle trailer. Sharp Package! \$7,500. Call (828)526-1684 and leave message.

SEII BUNK BED SET - Very Nice Desk; One 11X15 rug, Lt. in color, very good condition; Mountain Bike w/car carrier, helmet. Call 828-526-4064.

ANTIQUÉ ORNATE WALNUT Victorian gold velvet sofa and blue chair. Call 369-0498 and leave message.

BEAMS, FLOORING AND ENTIRE STRUCTURES: HAND HEWN BEAMS. Beautiful material, large faces, \$3.50-\$4.50 per board foot. Wormy white oak flooring (milled w/ a t&g), 6-12" widths, \$8.00 per ft. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") \$6/board ft. Wide barn siding, \$3/ft. Also historic log cabins and barns ready to reassemble. 215-529-7637. Delivery available.

DINING ROOM TABLE & 8 CHAIRS - (7 w/

o leaves) Great for Mountain Home. Nearly New. Good Condition. Leather & Upholstered chairs. \$1,000. Call Linda at 526-1517.

KING-SIZE HEADBOARD \$40; new glass fireplace screen, (still in box,) polished brass finish, fits fireplace opening Height 24 3/4" - 29 3/4". Width 30" to 37 1/2," \$125. Call 828-371-2999

ANTIQUÉ CHERRY DINING TABLE from Estate Sale. Double drop-leaf. Rope carved legs. Seats 4-10 people Extends to 4x10 ft \$1,500 obo 828-787-1515

DOG KENNEL. 10' x 10' x 6', heavy gauge chainlink. Like New. \$175, was \$270. call 828.389.2722 Hayesville, NC

DELUXE VENTED GAS heater high btu, slightly used, \$100. 524-6038.

CUSTOM DECK SET - Painted aluminum Love seat & club chair with laminated waverly cushions. \$125. Call 526-1078.

ANTIQUÉ BEAMS, FLOORING AND STRUCTURES: Hand hewn beams in oak and yellow pine. Beautiful material, large faces, \$3.50-\$4 per board foot. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") \$6/board ft. Also selling entire log and timber frame structures. 215-529-7637 (www.jcwoodworking.info)

BEAUTIFUL FLOORING: Wormy white oak flooring, resawn, milled and ready to lay w/ t&g, 6-12" widths, \$8/sq. ft. 215-529-7637

LOG CABIN KIT - 32 x 24 8 1/2 inch yellow Pine logs. Walls only. \$9,999. Call 526-0241.

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

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

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

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2002 CHEVROLET TAHOE - 4-dr, 63,500 miles. Green with tan leather. Excellent condition. \$14,000. Call 828-743-6946.

2002 4WD, LS ISUZU TROOPER - 71,000 miles with all the bells & whistles. New car coming. Reduced to \$7,600 OBO. Call 526-3262.

EUROPEAN CAR OWNERS - Most European manufacturers require synthetic oils and fluids in their vehicles. AMSOIL has a complete line of oil products to improve mileage and maintenance intervals. Synthetics last longer, reducing environmental waste. AMSOIL is proven #1 and does not void your warranty. Call Clay (828) 342-1603 or 828-369-9812. 4/10

1992 TOYOTA CELICA ST - White, AT, 164k, in good shape. Call 828-200-0465.

2002 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER, Blk/tan leather, NAV, wood-grain, 6 CD, 80,400 miles w/ ext. warranty to 116k miles. \$25,000. 770-965-6551

2003 VOLKSWAGON JETTA GLS SEDAN - 4-door, 5-speed, AC, Power Everything. Cruise, Premium Sound System, Moon Roof, Leather Seats, 85,000 miles. \$10,500. Call 526-3606.

2002 TOYOTA TACOMA TRUCK - Good Condition. 67,000 miles, new battery, wipers, tires. \$7,000. 828-526-2416.

2006 SUZUKI DR 200SE MOTORCYCLE - 29 miles, only, perfect condition, 1-cylinder, 4-stroke,

199cc. \$3,000. Call 828-342-6789 or home at 828-526-5507.

SERVICES

CLOCK REPAIR - Antique or modern. Complicated antiques are my specialty. Experienced and dependable with house calls available. Call 706-704-9631 or visit my website at www.oldclockrepair.com. Joseph McGahee, clock-maker.

MILT'S LAWN SERVICE - Lawn mowing, weed eating, yard cleaning & light hauling. Call Bill at 828-524-8659 or Milton at 828-421-7919 or 828-369-3569. 4/10

FIREWOOD "Nature Dried" Call 526-2251.

CUTTING EDGE TREE SERVICE - "Let us go out on a Limb for You." We specialize in tree removal, trimming, Lot/View clearing, under brushing and stump grinding. Quality work and Fully insured. For Free Estimate call 524-1309 or 421-2905.

TREE SERVICE - From view clearing to the most complicated tree removal, under brushing, stump removal/grinding/brush chipping/hauling and storm clean-up. For good quality, dependable services, fully insured, give us a call at 828-526-2251.

HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID TREATMENT & FERTILIZATION - Great Results by J&J Lawn and Landscaping services. NC Licensed Applicator, Highlands, NC 828-526-2251.

J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES - complete lawn and landscaping service, spring cleanup, gutter cleaning, under-brushing, tree removal, lot clearing, storm cleanup, rockwork, retaining walls, flowerbeds, firewood. 828-526-2251.

SHIPPING SERVICES - STORK'S WRAP PACK & SHIP UPS Ground & Next Day Air services and large furniture shipping available. Packing services and/or supplies. Gift wrapping and fax services. 323 Hwy 107 N., Cashiers, NC (1/2 mile from crossroads) (828) 743-3222.

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

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

HIGHLANDS RADIO SHACK! Own a successful year-round business on Main Street. Asking \$399,000. Call Thea or Chuck at 526-3350.

LOST

LOST DOG IN BUCK CREEK/SHORTOFF RD AREA. Australian Shepherd. Blue Merle. Female. No tale. No Collar. Needs seizure medicine. Reward. Call 704-560-2911 or 704-365-9614.

LOST DOG "SALTY" - Black and white female Lab mix. Medium-size. Missing from around Owl Gap Road on N.C. 106. Please call 828-526-4575.

LEGALS

Public Notice of the May 6, 2008 Primary Election

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 for all Federal, State, Judicial, Legislative and County Offices. The Polls will be

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 26

... FORUM continued from page 2

money consistently arrives with no correlation to production or success -- upwards of \$250,000 each year for the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center -- complacency tends to set in as well as a sense of entitlement.

So the question arises: Is Town Hall space open to any private business that can't afford to stand on its own?

If the Town Board is determined to support a private organization and business by housing it in its municipal complex that Highlands' taxpayers pay for, then some changes are in order.

First, a hybrid Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center should be formed and should become part of the Highlands government. The Chamber board should be dissolved and Chamber and Visitor Center employees should become employees of the town and should work under the direction of the Town Board just like the planning, electric and recreation departments.

Second, the Chamber of Commerce should only represent Highlands-area businesses and it should cease to be a membership organization. Instead it should represent every single business in the Town of Highlands for free. After all, it's their tax money the town is using to fund its infrastructure.

Third, with the county's room tax money available for the operation of the visitor center -- which the Town planned for in its most recent Town Hall plans -- annual dues should not be required of any business in any of the affected townships -- Highlands Township, Flats Township and Sugarfork Township.

Fourth, the Chamber of Commerce

should be required to advocate bringing business to Highlands year round -- January through December -- not just during the months its current board members' businesses are open.

Fifth, the Visitor Center should be required to be open on weekends all year not just during select high-traffic months and it should be manned by the people who are employed for that purpose, not volunteers.

Sixth, Town Board members, and Chamber and Visitor Center employees must realize that Highlands isn't a part-time town, peopled by part-time, second-home owners, it's a living, breathing town which has also become a destination frequented by short-term and long-term vacationing families, and day-trippers from cities within a three-hour drive -- all who spend the same green stuff!

The Town Board should be very careful when it quietly decides to be cavalier with Highlands taxpayers' money.

Minutes of the March 19 Town Board meeting disclose that each Board member (and the press) had received a letter from the Chamber dated March 19, which had been discussed earlier in the day at the Chamber retreat, requesting 1,500 sq. ft in the new Town Hall complex.

At the March 19 meeting, Town Administrator Richard Betz asked if the letter would be discussed and Mayor Don Mullen said the issue would be discussed at another time.

At some point -- not during the open session or during a publicized closed session agenda item -- the Board agreed to forward the letter to the architects for the Town Hall project.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. To vote in this election you must be a registered voter of Macon County.

Registration Deadline:

Citizens that wish to vote in the 2008 Primary Election must be registered to vote by Friday, April 11, 2008. (G.S. 163-82.6(c)). Voters of Macon County who need to update, or make any changes to their information must also do this by the same date. This does include name changes, party affiliations changes, or address changes. Registration forms if submitted by mail must be postmarked or delivered in person by this day. Registration forms are available at the Macon County Public Library, Highlands Civic Center, Hudson Library in Highlands, Highlands Town Office, Macon County Public Health Center, and the Macon County Board of Elections Office.

Absentee Voting By-Mail:

Absentee voting will be allowed pursuant to G.S. 163-302(b). Absentee voting by mail begins on Monday, March 17, 2008 and will end on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 (G.S. 163-230.1 (a2) (3)). These requests may be made in person at the Macon County Board of Elections Office or the voter may request an application by writing to the Macon County Board of Elections at 5 West Main Street, Franklin NC 28734. All requests must include the name, address, party affiliation (due to this being a Primary Election) date of birth of the voter and must be signed by the individual voter. If the voter is unable to request an absentee by mail or in person a near relative may also request an absentee ballot using the same format as listed above, and must also include the relationship to the voter, and the near relative's contact information. (Near relative includes: spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, or stepchild). All absentee voted ballots must be returned to the Macon County Board of Election Office by Monday,

May 5, 2008 (G.S. 163-231(b)). These ballots must be received by mail, commercial courier service, in person by the voter, or by the voter's near relative 5:00 p.m. on this day.

One-Stop Voting:

One-Stop Absentee Voting will begin on Thursday, April 17, 2008 (G.S. 163-227.2) and it will end on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. One-Stop Voting will be available at the Macon County Board of Election Office. The Board of Elections office is located on the 1st floor of the Macon County Courthouse. The hours for One-Stop voting will be Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and in addition to regular office hours the office will also be open on Saturday, April 19, Saturday, April 26, and May 3, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. One-Stop Voting will only be held during these hours, if you do not vote Absentee By Mail or One-Stop you must go to your polling location on Election Day to cast your vote. In-Person One-Stop Registration is for resident that have missed the deadline for voter registration. A resident must fill out a voter registration application and prove residency by providing appropriate identification with current name and current address. In-Person One-Stop Registration is ONLY for ONE-STOP voters, this process is NOT allowed on Election Day.

If you have any questions regarding election matters you may contact our office at 828-349-2034 or visit our web site at www.maconnc.org/elections

Sara R. Waldroop, Chairman
Macon County Board of Elections
3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

5 WEST MAIN STREET
FRANKLIN, N.C. 28734
828-349-2034

Pursuant to G.S. 163-230.1(c1) the Macon County Board of Elections will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Election Board Office on the following dates to take action on applications for absentee ballots and other election business for the May 6, 2008 Primary Election. Tuesday April 15, 2008, Tuesday April 22, 2008, Tuesday April 29, 2008 and Tuesday May 6, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. The Board is not required to hold any of the prescribed meetings in said statute unless there are applications or election business to be passed upon.

Sara R. Waldroop, Chairman
Macon County Board of Elections
4/10, 4/17, 4/24

... HOSPITAL continued from page 19

ings (one more than last year), four screenings for MasterKey members, and one for employees.

• In his report, Russell Harris, executive director of the foundation, told the board that the hospital has received a check for \$100,000 from the Cannon Foundation, Inc. It represents a matching grant for the hospital's recent purchase of new nuclear medicine equipment.

• Following the regular meeting, board members adjourned to another venue for what became a two-hour planning session, facilitated by board Chairman Bud Smith. Held to brainstorm new initiatives that could generate additional income for the hospital and improve service to the community, the session produced more than a hundred suggestions. Board members had been asked in advance to come prepared with at least one item to discuss, and most had more than one. The topics brought up encompassed a wide range of ideas, both inside and outside the medical field. The suggestions will be grouped, prioritized and referred on to the appropriate board committee for further study.

... LETTERS from page 2

can still unite our citizens and their government. We can stem the tide of red ink that we, the citizens of Macon County, will bleed. It will require everyone's involvement and an open (and listening) ear from our County Commissioners.

I urge everyone to vote in the upcoming elections. It is the only way you can let your voice and opinion be heard. Let's rethink this issue. Let's adjust to a changed situation. Let's retain the natural and cultural heritage that each of us loves about this wonderful county.

Norm Roberts
Franklin

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POLICE, FIRE, & SHERIFF DEPT. LOGS

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the weeks of April 1. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 1

- At 10:30 p.m., Eugenie Paz Ortiz, 21, of Seneca, S.C., was arrested for DWI and driving without a license at U.S. 64 east and Poplar Street.

April 2

- At 1:06 p.m., a motorist on N.C. 28 South was cited for speeding 50 mph in a 35 zone.

- At 4:56 p.m., a motorist at N.5th and Laurel streets was cited for driving without a license.

April 3

- At 7:48 a.m., a motorist at Main Street and Horse Cove Road was cited for speeding 38 mph in a 25 zone.

April 7

- At 7:10 a.m., a motorist on U.S. 64 east was cited for driving left of center.

- At 10:50 a.m., a motorist on U.S. 64 was cited for speeding 53 mph in a 35 zone.

- At 2:20 p.m., a motorist on N.C. 28 South was cited for speeding 48 mph in a 35 zone.

- During the week officers issued 2 warning ticket.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of April 2-9.

April 2

- The dept. responded to a vehicle fire at Gold Mine Road. It was extinguished.

April 4

- The dept. responded to a kitchen fire at a residence on Mt. Lori Road. It was extinguished.

April 8

- The dept. responded to a motorcycle accident on U.S. 64 west near Bust Your Butt Falls. There was an injury and the victim was transported to Angel Medical Center.

- The dept. responded to a brush fire on View Point Road. It was a controlled burn that got out of control. It was extinguished and the episode was reported to the Fire Marshal.

April 9

- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at the Old

Edwards inn that was set off by workers.

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

- The dept. responded to a carbon monoxide alarm at a residence on Worley Road. It was cancelled en route.

- The dept. was inspected by the State Fire Marshal for its six-mile fire district rating. The dept. will receive results within 61 days. The is for the department's Class 9S rating.

The following is the Macon County Sheriff Dept. log entries for the Highlands Township for the week of March 31.

April 2

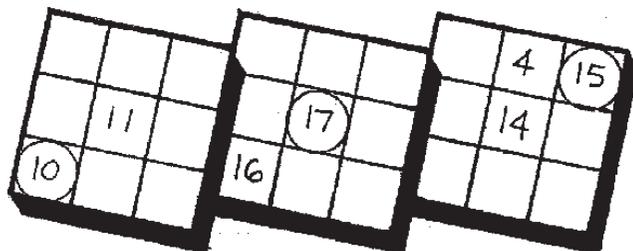
- At 11:19 a.m., deputies investigated a larceny of PVC pipe valued at \$600 from a residence on Skyline Lodge Road.

April 3

- At 9:15 p.m., deputies responded to a burglar alarm at a residence on Painted Turtle Lane. There was no problem.

• FUN & GAMES •

PseudoCube[©]



DZ4D - Level of Difficulty - Moderate

THE SETUP:

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

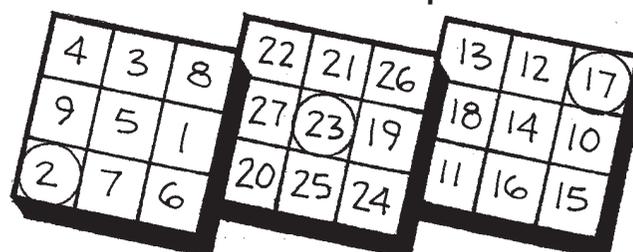
THE CHALLENGE:

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

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

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com

Solution to #BZ3D in April 3 issue



N-Cryptoku[©]

Object: Assign 9 different letters to each cell of 9 columns and 9 rows. In addition, nine 3 x 3 cells in the layout have the same nine different letters (this is similar to Sudoku but uses nine letters instead of nine numbers). A 'mystery word or phrase' using all nine different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different 'mystery word or phrase' (no spaces).

How to Solve: Determine the nine different letters among those given. Try to solve the mystery word using the clue given and write it in. Other small words will appear in the puzzle. As in conventional crossword puzzles, a list of meanings for these ACROSS/ DOWN words is given and number positions shown. Doing them will speed up your solution to the puzzle. Using your powers of induction, inference and insight, place missing letters in all blank squares according to the rules noted above. Focus attention where the least number of letters are needed to complete a line, column or 3 x 3 cell.

Mystery Word
"Dark-colored canines"

Across

- Disreputable suitor (3)
- Conjunction (2)
- Young man (3)
- Roots of grass (3)
- Not good (3)

Down

- Mature (3)
- To cry (3)
- Common Atlantic fish (3)
- Sixth musical note (2)
- Same as 1

1	C		D		2	S		G		B
		B	3	A		G			S	6
7			G		B	10	D			
	O		S		G		K		D	
		L		8	C		D		G	
	D		K		L		B		A	
	G	4	O	D		K	9	L		C
		K			O	5			D	
	A			G		L				K

Solution to April 3 puzzle

A	O	Y	H	T	P	S	E	N
E	P	H	S	N	Y	A	T	O
N	T	S	O	E	A	H	P	Y
H	E	T	A	S	O	Y	N	P
P	A	N	T	Y	H	O	S	E
Y	S	O	E	P	N	T	A	H
S	H	E	N	O	T	P	Y	A
O	N	P	Y	A	S	E	H	T
T	Y	A	P	H	E	N	O	S

Find It All On This Map

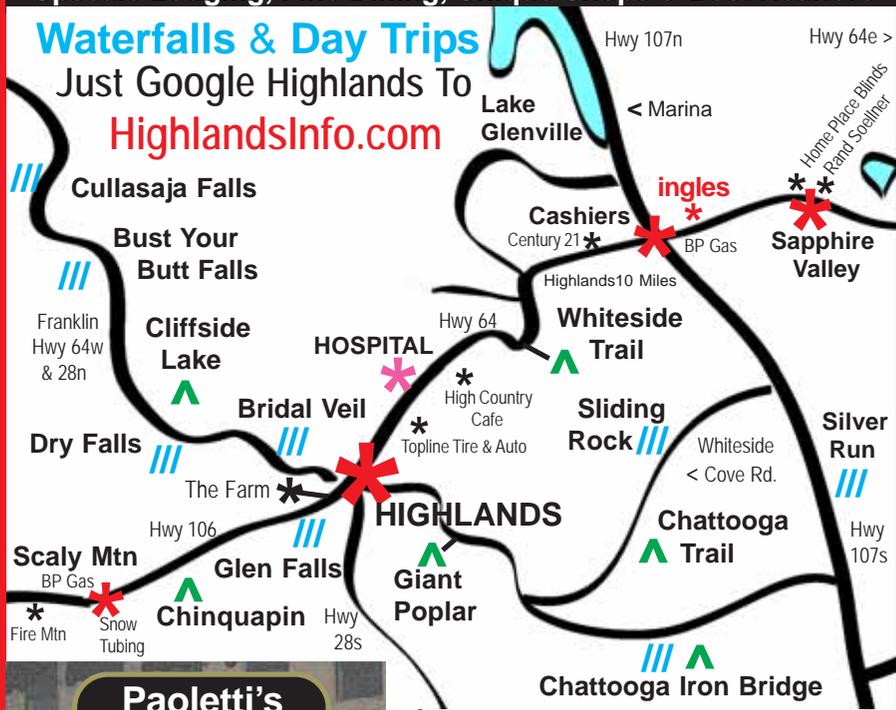
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2008 Highlands Map

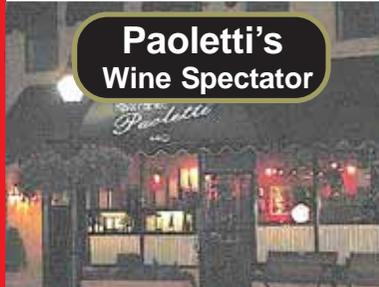
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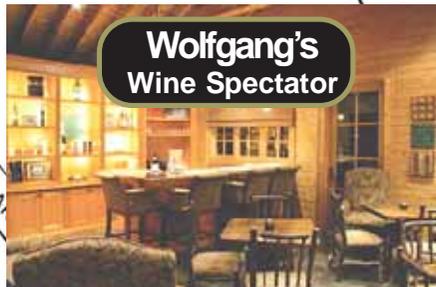
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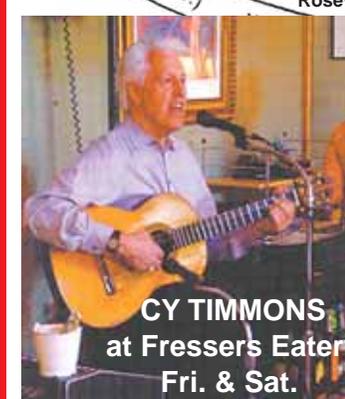
Wolfgang's Wine Spectator



Madison's Wine Spectator

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DINING	Shopping	Real Estate
1 Cyprus	1 Acorns	1 Century 21
2 Fressers Eatery	2 AnnaWear	2 Country Club
3 Log Cabin	3 Bear Mt. Outfit.	3 John Cleaveland
4 Madison's	4 Chintz Antiques	4 John Schiffl
5 Nick's	5 Dry Sink	5 Meadows Mtn.
6 Oak St Cafe	6 JacksonMadeleine	
7 Paoletti	7 Raspberry Fizz	Galleries
8 Pescado's	8 Silver Eagle	1 Bryant Art Glass
9 Rib Shack	9 Shiraz Rugs	2 Tino Gallery
10 Sports Page	10 Village Kids	3 Twigs
11 Wolfgang's	11 Wholesale Down	4 Scudders
		5 Summit One



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