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"Hopefully, the bids will come in much less than the projected costs of construction," said Superintendent Dan Brigham.

Town Board changing form of its government

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For about a year, Mayor Don Mullen and Commissioners Amy Patterson and Hank Ross have been discussing changing the form of government as well as meeting with town personnel and looking at the issues related to a potential management change.

The idea of change came from the management study the town enlisted from MAPS a little over a year ago which took a hard look at the organization of the town government.

Becky Vesey, with MAPS, said making the decision to change formats depends on three things: the amount of services a town offers, not the size of the town; the number of employees and whether a municipality is experiencing growth.

"Above all else, we are looking at changing the form due to growth," said Commissioner Ross.

"Vesey said a community with a lot of growth puts 50% more pressure on employees compared to a

County match secures Sheriff Dept. Highway Safety grant

With a match from the county, the Sheriff's Department can continue the practice of purchasing traffic stop equipment with the goal of outfitting all its cruisers into the future.

At the April 14 Macon County Commission meeting, Sheriff Robert Holland requested a $36,750 match from the county toward the Governor's $99,000 grant.

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Dear Editor,


A chamber of commerce is a non-profit mutual benefit corporation of professionals, businesses and interested individuals working together to enhance the economic and socio-economic health of their community. It is a catalyst agency that brings together forces, both public and private, in an effort to promote the orderly growth and development of the community. Its primary mission is to provide leadership and to promote a favorable business climate by working on issues of community-wide interest.

Since the spring of 1933, Highlands has had a continuously operating chamber of commerce. Many of Highlands’ most influential business leaders have served as directors and presidents. Prior to 2005 and for several years the chamber along with the visitor center rented space in town hall until the town required the space to administer to the community’s needs. As the town explores plans for a new town hall complex consideration is being given to contracting space into the chamber of commerce and visitor center which combined would require approximately 1,500 square feet to operate efficiently.

Over the course of its nearly eight decade existence the chamber’s mission has remained consistent, however, its ever changing activities are influenced by the times in which it functions.

With the general decline of manufacturing and industry in Western North Carolina small business, seasonal homeownership, associated trades and tourism became increasingly important to many local economics. To Highlands, historically a resort community, these businesses were and remain critical to the success of the local economy.

In the mid 1980s, realizing the importance of tourism, Macon County successfully lobbied for legislative approval to impose a 3% room tax upon all county accommodations. The sole purpose of this tax is to promote travel and tourism to Macon County.

Upon Raleigh’s approval to impose this tax, the county commissioners, in their best judgment, voted to distribute this tax money through the county’s chambers of commerce with specific guidelines as to the proper expenditure of the funds and rules for accountability.

The tax money was not given to the chambers because they could not stand on their own, but because they were considered the best vehicle to accomplish the purpose for which the tax was intended. This process was legitimate then as it is now.

True, the chamber of commerce is not a visitor center. However, since 1986, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, a private, non-profit member funded organization, and the tourism promoting Visitor Center funded by the 3% room tax have worked closely together, but separately.

They operate as separate businesses, with separate budgets and are separately audited annually by a certified public accountant the results of which are presented to the County Commissioners. The success of this program is in the numbers. What began as a modest revenue source for Macon County has grown to an estimated $480,000 in the current fiscal year with approximately 60% of the collections generated in the Highlands area.

This tax, collected largely from non resident visitors, did for Highlands and Macon County in 2006 (2007 figures will be available in November 2008) will produce $111,16 million in visitor spending an increase of 8.4% over 2005. It directly provided 1,150 jobs for county residents and produced enough tax revenue to save each Macon county resident nearly $450 in taxation. By any definition this is success.

As times have changed, so has Highlands’ reach. The Highlands economy reaches beyond its town borders. There are many interested parties in the local economy, not all of whom are physically situated within town limits. Nonetheless, they contribute significantly to the health of the local economy, a fact that was recognized several years ago when chamber membership categories were expanded to recognize their contribution to the local economy by affording them the opportunity to join the chamber. Business membership within the Highlands town limits has remained stable with new members and departing members roughly equal.

Currently, we have nearly 400 members. This number in itself reflects businesses recognition of the value of a chamber of commerce working on their behalf.

Highlands – a year round destination – yes, but not equally so throughout the year.

Many Highlands remember when the season began Memorial Day weekend and ended promptly with the last fallen colorful leaf. Visitors are now seen and guided by the Visitor Center every month of the year.

In 2007 more than 45,000 visitors found their way to the Highlands Visitor Center, although in much reduced numbers during the winter months. Even the local newspapers reflect the off season as the number of pages per edition is often half of what is printed during the height of the season.

Increased visitors to the plateau in what used to be the off season are the reason for festivities such as the Chamber and Visitor Center sponsored four-day long Culinary event in mid-November and the Christmas tree lighting and parade leading into December.

When visitor traffic is sufficient to justify payroll expense, the visitor center is open six days of the week and is manned by paid staff on weekends supplemented by our roving volunteer ambassadors who graciously welcome and assist visitors.

The current sitting members of the chamber board of directors is reflective of this extension of the season as eight of the board members manage or operate businesses year round while only two close during the off season for brief periods. I can assure you that as Highlands changes the Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center will stand ready to provide the services required to promote the economy of Highlands. This is your Highlands Chamber & Visitor Center.

Bob Kieltyka
Executive Director
Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce
Dotson makes the grade

Miranda Lee Dotson has been placed on the Dean’s list of Wake Forest University for the Fall 2007 semester. Miranda, a senior at Wake Forest, will graduate in May with degrees in communications and political science. She is currently serving an internship with FOX News in High Point, NC. Miranda is the daughter of Mary and John Dotson of Highlands and is a 2004 graduate of Highlands High School.

Alney H. Owens

Alney H. Owens, age 88, of Walking Stick Road, Clayton, GA died Wednesday, April 9, 2008. He had been in declining health for about a year and half. He was a native of Macon County, NC, and one of eight children of the late Thomas Rile and Rose Lee Owens. He was married to Ruth C. Owens, who died August 9, 1991.

Alney worked as a laborer all his life. He served in the CC Camps during the 1930s and worked from Georgia to California. He worked in construction and yard work until his 60s, then for the Forest Service until he was 85. He said, “I got so old I couldn’t work hard, and I didn’t want to steal their money.” He attended Blue Valley Baptist Church. Alney was preceded in death by a son, Julius, who died April 13, 1987.

He is survived by one daughter, Alma Owens, of the home, and one son, Ellis Owens, and his wife Justine of Arlington, VA; one sister, Ora Sue Watson of Hildebran, NC; four grandchildren, Thomas, Clint, Kelly, and Elizabeth, four great-grandchildren, Nora, Christopher, Dallas and Gage.

Funeral services were held Saturday, April 12 at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands, with Rev. Oliver Rice and Rev. Walter Wilson officiating. Burial will be at Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Calvin Chastain, Jason Owens, Ronnie Owens, Brandon Picklesimer, Dennis Ivester, Kevin Nix, and Mack Chastain.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Louise M. Clark

There will be a memorial service for Louise M. Clark on April 19, 2008 at the Highlands United Methodist Church at 3 p.m. for those who would care to attend.

May’s primary candidates explain platforms at League forum

By Sally Hanson

April’s League of Women Voters’ meeting provided several political candidates the opportunity to speak about some important issues and their ideas for local and state government before the upcoming primary. Avery Friedman, executive director of the Canary Coalition, is running against incumbent Phil Haire for the 119th District, which includes Macon, Jackson, Swain, and Haywood Counties. “I’m running because there are fundamental differences between where Haire and I stand on issues that I feel will define quality of life in western North Carolina and beyond,” he said.

Some topics that Friedman wants to focus on are energy, air quality and climate change. “The Canary Coalition introduced the Clean Smokestacks Act” and Friedman stressed the importance of reducing mercury content, air pollution and greenhouse gases.

“One in three children in Western North Carolina has been diagnosed with asthma,” Friedman said. “We need to reduce greenhouse gases by over 80% over the next few decades and invest in renewable resources like solar and wind power.”

See CANDIDATES page 5
Dinner Settings
Gourmet Kitchenware
Accessories

\[\text{Image} \]\n
\[\text{Image} \]\n
Hi! I have no idea what that has to do with anything in the world, but we'll go with it...

\[\text{Image} \]

Fred Wooldridge
Feedback is encouraged!
e-mail: askfredanything@aol.com

\[\text{Image} \]\n
Remember the television series “Get Smart” starring Don Adams? It was one of my favorites because I’m the kinda guy who also loved Peter Sellers in his “Pink Panther” movie series. That’s my style of humor, making fun of cops who bungle their way through life. I actually knew some real-life Don Adams types. Inspector Clouseau, well, he’s a study unto himself. The fact that Peter Sellers was a Frenchman made his movies even funnier. Here in America everyone loves to laugh at the French. Not me!

I have the utmost respect for French people because, not only can they take a joke, they are smarter than Americans. The fact that we Americans want to make war all the time while the French want to make love all the time proves my point. While everyone hates America, everyone loves France, except maybe the Muslims. Also, while America may make awesome restaurants, the French make awesome wine.

I know, I know, they built an entire city 12 feet under sea level, but don’t forget they were drinking a lot of wine and having loads of sex back in those days. When a Frenchman has loads of sex, his brains drain from his head down to... well, you know.

Wait, here’s more on how smart they are and we aren’t. One hundred and twenty one years ago they sent us the Statue of Liberty, thinking they might want to honor our black Civil War soldiers. Hmmm, maybe not. For certain, immigration was the last thing on their minds. Today, rumors are flying about the first statue being a black woman with broken chains at her feet. Anyway, the French were smart enough not to put an inscription on the statue.

But we dumb Americans, having a burning desire to shoot ourselves in the foot, are not quite as smart. A New Yorker by the name of Emma Lazarus got our government to have her poem inscribed on the statue. While this might have been great for her ego, it proved disastrous for our country. It read: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

I have no idea what that has to do with black Civil War soldiers. When the French heard about the inscription, they freaked out and said, “What are those crazy Americans doing now?” They’re inviting everyone to live there? Are they crazy, or what? Now, because of ole Emma, we are overrun with immigrants while the French are laughing at us while sitting around sipping wine and making love. What were we thinking? A skillion immigrants and 121 years later, we are frantically building walls and sealing borders to keep everyone out and it’s not working.

Maybe we should just relax, sip some wine and make love?

There’s more, French engineers, just clowning around, of course, got together in Hambach, France and said, “Let’s invent a really dumb, stupid looking car with lousy gas mileage and send it to the Americans; they’ll buy anything. We’ll disguise this dumb car by calling it the “Smart” car. The Americans will never know we did this to them because we’ll get Mercedes Benz and the Swatch Company to put their labels on the car. When the Americans find they have been duped, they will blame the Germans and Swiss.”

Sooo in early 2008 the Smart car arrived on our shores in New York Harbor. Did I see one of the cars wink at me when it arrived on our shores in New York Harbor? No, I didn’t. Do the French engineers feel bad about duping the Americans? No, they don’t. They’re French and they really don’t care.

What were we doing? We were making fun of the French. We were duped, they were laughing and we just sipped wine and made love.

While everyone hates America, everyone loves France, except maybe the Muslims. While everyone hates America, everyone loves France, except maybe the Muslims. The fact that we Americans want to make war all the time while the French want to make love all the time proves my point. Today, rumors are flying about the first statue being a black woman with broken chains at her feet. Anyway, the French were smart enough not to put an inscription on the statue.

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Agendas are behind it all

Barack Obama got into trouble last week when he said that voters cling to religion and guns because of Washington’s inability to preserve and restore American jobs. He said that Americans are bitter.

In recent elections, Americans have, in increasing numbers, cast their votes for candidates who oppose abortion, same-sex marriage, gun control, and stem cell research. And who support capital punishment. A good many of those voters are employed, and live, not in the rust belt, but in states which have enjoyed prosperity. These voters are worried about the direction America is taking. They long for the good old days, times that were largely illusory, but which are nonetheless deeply etched in our national psyche.

No one championed the cause of same-sex marriage when gays and lesbians covered in the closet. Rolling back abortion rights was not an issue when frightened young women traveled back alleys to back rooms for dangerous, demeaning, and sometimes lethal, illegal terminations. There was no need to oppose stem cell research before development of the technology offered a glimmer of hope for life saving cures for chronic diseases.

Increasing numbers of guns in an increasingly violent society led some to question the intent and/or the relevance of the Second Amendment. Folks from the heartland, and beyond, terrified by societal evolution, were easy prey for an alliance between fundamentalist Christians and the Republican Party, a marriage of convenience which strengthened both — what the merger and acquisition guys call synergy.

Voters ignored troublesome issues like global warming, loss of American jobs, increasing poverty, a health care crisis, a crumbling infrastructure, and focused instead on a Constitutional amendment defining marriage, or legislation limiting abortion or banning stem cell research.

Christians and Republicans teamed up to distract voters from the problems of America and the legitimate role of government in a secular nation. The Republican Party wanted to make itself the majority party. Fundamentalists needed political muscle to create a Christian nation, to impose their moral view on the rest of us. Unlike radical Islamists, they had no desire to return to the roots of their faith, no intention to sell everything and care for the poor, no thought of giving up their mega-churches, television revenues, and powerful friends.

Unlike the establishment of an “Islamic State,” the dream of Muslim radicals, this “Christian State” would focus on a narrow agenda of symbolic issues which would expand the Republican base and empower the religious right.

The Democrats have finally caught on. Both Senators Clinton and Obama are talking about the importance of faith in their lives, although I’m certain that a good many Southern Baptists cringed at the image of Senator Clinton tossing back a shot and chasing it with a beer. Senator Clinton labeled Senator Obama an “elitist” and “out of touch” for his remarks about small town American voters clinging to guns and religion because of their bitterness.

American voters should be bitter because of a cynical plan to hijack their votes. Citizens should be bitter, not because Washington is incapable of dealing with the nation’s business, but because, with debts to pay to big business, big oil, the wealthy, and big religion, the government chooses to ignore the pressing problems of our time. At least, that’s how it seems to me.

... CANDIDATES
continued from page 3

Haire said that he is running for his sixth term in the House of Representatives, and he currently serves as co-chair of the House Appropriation Committee. The first topic he mentioned was how important it is to plan for the future growth of our state.

“According to North Carolina State Demographics we are projected to become the 7th largest state in the U.S. Right now we’ve passed New Jersey as the 10th largest state, and it is estimated that we are growing by 21 people an hour,” Haire said.

“I was a prime sponsor of the Clean Air Act,” Haire said. “Most pollution in western North Carolina comes from the Tennessee Valley and the upper Midwest. The Clean Air Act empowered the attorney general to act against the TVA to clean up old facilities,” he said.

Haire also pointed out that he helped bring about a successful lawsuit against a
Shine Like A Star

Photos by Kim Lewicki
Macon County celebrated 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 Thursday, April 10. These members are Melvin “Pete” Penland, W.C. “Sonny” Burrell, Siler Slagle, Miles Gregory, Bob Carpenter, Clarence Mason, Bruce Bryant, Dolan Bates, Ralph Sanders, Raymond Shepherd, Jerry Sutton, Neville Bryson, Jerry Stewart, James Carpenter, Wayne Sheffield, Nelse Bates, Sutton Russell, Fred Munger, Jack Cabe, Mickey Duvall, Janet Greene, Harold Corbin, Mark West, Allan Bryson, Jay Dee Shepherd and Randy Gregory.

NCGW, sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo), was first celebrated in 1991 to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation’s counties. Macon County is proud of the variety of services it provides to the community while maintaining the lowest tax rate in the State and invites the public to take a closer look at what the County does and the people behind the services provided.

Macon County is a member of NACo, the only national organization that represents county government in the United States. NACo provides essential services to counties, advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money.

### ...SCHOOLS continued from page 1

“Any savings will be utilized for furniture and technology,” County Manager Jack Horton said it was important to get the bidding process moving. “It’s important to have bids in hand before the final application for financing approval can be submitted to the N.C. Local Government Commission (LGC),” he said. “We have to have all required forms to Raleigh by the first week of June.

The bidding process timeline for the projects began April 15 when the two jobs went out to bid with a deadline for East Franklin of May 15 and the deadline for the 5-6 school of May 22.

Between May 26-30 the bids will be reviewed and the LGC package and contractor contracts will be formulated. If all goes as planned, on July 14 crews will break ground on both projects.

Brigman said this culminates an extensive process among the community, county commission, school board and architects which began in earnest August 2007.

This outcome is not a spur of the moment, one-person plan, but instead, a collaborative process with ongoing input from a wealth of individuals who are genuinely concerned about the schools and the children of Macon County,” said Brigman. “Hopefully, everyone will embrace the district’s plan to improve our facilities and welcome the opportunity to provide safe, healthful schools and classrooms for all of our children.

County Commission Vice-Chairman Ronnie Beale who with Commissioner Jim Davis was a liaison to the school board, said this was an exciting time for the children of Macon County. “We worked on this a good long while and I appreciate all the openness and mindlessness throughout the process.”

Commission Chairman Charlie Leatherman said the commission’s liaison committee kept the lines of communication between the two boards open at all times. “This helped us understand each other and monitor events along established lines of communication. I look forward to this concept becoming a reality,” he said.

At the commission meeting, Brigman asked the county to waive permit fees for the construction projects, but County Attorney Lesley Moxley said since the county currently owns the land and the county would be waiving its own fees the gesture wasn’t necessary. After the schools are completed, they will be turned over to the school district.

The county is funding the East Franklin Elementary School expansion, construction of the 5-6 school, the Early College High School expansion at the SCC campus on Siler Road, and the Highlands School roof, soccer field and bathrooms during the 2008-2009 budget year — estimated to cost $70.8 million, including construction costs, contingencies and architectural and engineering fees.

“These are estimates at this point because we won’t have real numbers until bids are in the end of May,” said County Manager Jack Horton. “We are working on the 2008-2009 budget now and we will have the figures we need before the budget is completed. The actual construction costs are the big unknown and if they come in less than anticipated then the effect will be less to the taxpayer,” he said.

Horton said it’s a pretty competitive market right now so the county is expecting good bids.

“We know what our tax base is and once we know actual costs we can determine what it will cost to service the debt over a series of years,” he said. “We’ll figure out what a penny added to the current tax rate of 24.5 cents will bring in and calculate from there.”

He said every year the county’s tax base increases so each year one penny brings in more than the previous year.

- Kim Lewicki
It Puzzles Me

I like to think I’m a pretty savvy person, and the older I get, the more I think I should know. Still, there are some answers to life’s basic questions that still escape me, and this bugs me like crazy.

First off the bat, why is it that John can look in the refrigerator, have the object of his search right in front of him, and still bellow out, “Honey, where’s the mustard/milk/orange juice/sliced turkey?” My reply is always the same. “It’s behind the mayonnaise.” Of course, it isn’t always behind the mayonnaise. It’s an expression I picked up from comedienne, Rita Rudner, who has the same issue with her husband.

Sure enough, I trot into the kitchen, and there is John, with a puzzled look on his face.

“Here it is,” I say, with an irritated little sigh in my voice, instantly able to put my hand on the missing item.

The object of his search was, of course, so close that it could have bitten him. He scratches his head.

“Gee, I don’t know how I could have missed it.” He shrugs.

Male pattern blindness, John calls it. It doesn’t surprise me. I wind up finding stuff that I misplaced on my own. I find it more curious that I can find things that John has misplaced, and more often than he can.

The other day, it was his inhaler. “Where did I put my…” he began, not even finishing the sentence. I handed him his inhaler. He scratches his head.

“Here it is,” I say, with an irritated little sigh in my voice, instantly able to put my hand on the missing item.

“Where did I put my…” he began, not even finishing the sentence. I handed him his inhaler.

“How do you do that?” he asks.

“How do you not?” I reply.

There is a neat thing about being the person who finds things. It does make you feel rather clever and important. Alas, it also means that you are constantly interrupted from what you are doing to find things your partner has misplaced. I guess it’s a trade off.

I just spent $535 on an airline ticket yesterday. This wasn’t even for a round-trip ticket; this is one-way. Is this a one-way fare to London, Paris, or Rome? Nope. It is the cost to fly from Asheville, N.C., to Charlotte, VA.

This is for the first leg of a journey which I will be taking to attend my 35th college reunion at Goucher College in Baltimore. I pick up Maman, and the two of us fly to Baltimore. The two of us then fly to Asheville, so that John and I can spend a little quality time

Michelle Mead & John Armor
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How do we measure our national prosperity? One of the main measuring devices is something called the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the sum of all economic activity in the country. The concept of GDP was first developed in the early 1930s, and it is understandable that in the depths of the Depression prosperity would have been defined in a purely materialistic way. But 75 years later is this a good measure of the health of our economy?

Now that most of us no longer struggle to feed our families, what is it that makes us feel prosperous? Is it a few more electronic gadgets, or is it leisure time to enjoy our families and explore our interests? When is the last time you lay on the ground and watched the clouds go by?

Eric Weiner, in Geography of Bliss, writes that “GDP is simply the sum of all goods and services a nation produces over a given time.” The sale of an assault rifle and the sale of an antibiotic both contribute equally to the national tally...It’s as if we tracked our caloric intake but cared not one whit what kind of calories we consumed...GDP does not take into account unpaid work, the so-called compassion economy. An elderly person who lives in a nursing home is contributing to GDP, while one cared for by relatives at home is not. Indeed, he may even be guilty of reducing GDP if his caregivers are forced to take unpaid leave from work. You have to give economists credit. They have taken a vice — selfishness — and converted it into a virtue.” (You might want to read my article “Seven Deadly Sins Are Now Virtues” at my website.)

Another example of the perversion of the GDP: imagine you have high-blood pressure and are taking medicine to lower it. But then you go to a new doctor who encourages you to change your diet and exercise so that you lose weight and no longer need the pills. You’re not only lowering your blood pressure, you’re lowering the nation’s GDP because you’re no longer buying pharmaceutical products — your good health is bad for an economy based solely on consumption.

Third-world countries have encountered major problems by using GDP as their standard of progress. For example, by exploiting their natural resources they can appear prosperous, but once those resources are exhausted, the “prosperity” is revealed to be illusory. Haiti’s lumber export companies inflated the country’s GDP until the last of the trees were cut, leaving a denuded landscape and desperately poor people.

In 1972, aware of the problems affecting other developing countries that focused only on economic growth, Bhutan’s newly crowned leader, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, decided to base his country’s GDP until the last of the trees were cut, leaving a denuded landscape and desperately poor people.

King Wangchuck was also concerned about the social conditions of wealthier people. In 1972, aware of the problems affecting other developing countries that focused only on economic growth, Bhutan’s newly crowned leader, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, decided to base his country’s GDP not on GDP but on GNH: gross national happiness.

Singye Wangchuck, decided to base his country’s GDP not on GDP but on GNH: gross national happiness.

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Singye Wangchuck, decided to base his country’s GDP not on GDP but on GNH: gross national happiness.
Pine Street Park on the front burner

A

t the last town board meeting the commissioners approved the new Pine Street Park Committee with Commissioner Hank Ross as chairman upon my recommendation. Other members are Mercedes Helfer, representing the Land Trust, King Young, representing the original Pine Street Park organizing committee and Selwyn Chalker, Highlands, recreation director along with Hank had its first organizational meeting this past Thursday morning. I also attended that meeting and was impressed with the dedication of this group in developing Pine Street Park into something in which we can all be proud.

There are many considerations and different organizations which will be involved in this design process. The Town which now owns the property is primarily interested in a detailed use policy, but also storm-water and stream control, and both recreational and limited commercial usages. Macon Bank which owns the property on the north side of Pine Street along with the gazebo has been cooperative and encouraging in the use of its property. However, a formal agreement needs to be worked out with them. Both the Land Trust and the Greenway Committee along with the Planning Board all have a vested interest in the property as does the Chamber of Commerce.

Program development and property restrictions of the Pine Street Park along with space planning, budget, fundraising and construction planning all are important duties of the new Pine Street Park Committee. This committee will report directly to the Town Board for approval of the projects and uses of the park that are developed. We all look forward to working with this important development committee in the future for the good of Highlands.

The time of the year for budgeting fiscal year 2008-2009 has arrived and the Finance Committee has had their first meeting to begin formulating a plan. The final plan must be completed by the end of June. The request for not-for-profit organizations is higher than usual this year. This number is usually around $50,000 but may go a little higher this year. The largest request comes from the Hudson Library board which has put in a request to be spread over a three-year period. These requests are usually limited to capital projects. One of our biggest expenses this year is going to be the Harris Lake Sewer project since we did not obtain as much from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund as we had anticipated.

Let me just add that the Town of Highlands is in very good financial shape at the present time with an extremely good reserve fund which has grown over the years. Hopefully, we will be able to maintain the same millage as we did last year, but that remains to be seen.

This Wednesday night the Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners had some important decisions which may affect us for years to come. We discussed our way of managing the town. Currently, we have a Mayor-Council form of government. A committee of two commissioners along with outside consultants and I have been gathering data for over a year now as to whether we should go to a Manager-Council form of government or not. This type of government takes some of the responsibilities of running the town off the commissioners and gives more responsibility to the Manager. Currently, the town administrator handles most of the management of the town but with close consultation and approval of the board and without the ability to hire and fire employees of the town. In both forms of government the place of the Mayor is the same. All larger towns have this form of government.

As of this writing (Monday) no decision has been made on the town government but I am sure this paper has the results of that discussion.

... CANDIDATES continued from page 5

US Federal Agency to enforce mercury laws that were on the books but not being enforced. Then he mentioned a project he supports that is being overseen by Duke Energy to refurbish the Cliffside power plant in Rutherford County.

The plant currently has five furnaces that produce electricity in Rutherford County. Duke wants to do away with four of the furnaces and build a new one, then refit the fifth furnace. Haire cited a story that was published in the Winston-Salem Journal and written by Director of the NC Division of Air Quality Keith Overcash. This article praised the plant for its ability to reduce emissions by 80% while doubling the energy production in comparison with the existing, outdated power plant.

Haire also acknowledged that western North Carolina is fortunate to get much of its energy from hydroelectric sources.

"Not all pollution comes from the TVA, "

See CANDIDATES page 13
I know this is a bit tardy, mainly due to the distraction caused by the NCAA tournament and the start of the baseball season, but last weekend I had the opportunity to watch my first Wrestlemania in several years.

Despite being a major wrestling fan in my youth (and therefore receiving my membership to the dork guild) I had gotten away from watching it on a regular basis, not to mention refusing to drop 40 bucks for every Pay Per View. However, as I sat back and watched Wrestlemania 24 (for free I might add, and it wasn't even illegal!) I was able to reconnect a bit and enjoy sports entertainment. Here are a few thoughts from some of the matches that stood out at this year's sports entertainment extravaganza.

Money in the Bank ladder match
The premise of this one is that there is a briefcase above the ring with a contract to challenge any current WWE champion and it goes to the winner -- which I admit is a pretty cool concept. The match itself was quite brutal, with lots of moves performed off of the top of the ladder and several "holy crap" moments where you could definitely see that while the moves were choreographed, the pain was definitely real. CM Punk was the winner of the match, and when a young guy wins a match like this it usually means that they are going to start focusing on him quite a bit.

Batista vs. Umaga
Good to see that they still have Samoans in wrestling. Rule #1 for Samoans is that they must always wrestle barefoot. Rule #2 for Samoans is that they always have the hardest heads of any other wrestler. Rule #3, Samoans must use their derriere on a regular basis. Rule #4, Samoans must always lose matches to bigger names, which is exactly what happened here.

Triple Threat WWE Title Match
I am not a huge fan of John Cena, Randy Orton or Triple H (although my wife and sister are very large fans of all three wrestlers mainly because they have muscles, which are a foreign concept to this particular member of the Potts household) but this match was pretty good. Some good storytelling stuff and a pretty classic matchup as opposed to the earlier eye-candy with the ladder. I'm glad Orton won though, as usually the bad guys don't win at Wrestlemania, so it was something different.

World Title Match
I was really excited about this match because it featured my favorite wrestler, the Undertaker vs. the Champion Edge. I've always considered the Undertaker character to be the most creative character in wrestling history -- he definitely captured the imagination of kids my age when he first debuted. This match saw all of the classic Taker stuff -- the walking on the ropes, the diving over the top rope (which is amazing for a guy bigger than me to do something like that) and the high flying clotheslines. It was also great from a match standpoint because Edge had some great counters for the standard Taker offense. I knew that Taker was going to win, because the build up had been very heavy, so it was great TV to watch from my perspective.

Ric Flair's retirement
Probably the only thing that could steal the show from the Undertaker's match for me was watching one of the greatest ever wrestle his final match. Shawn Michaels was a great choice to take on Flair, as he can still really go but at the same time is a bit older and would have the proper perspective on such an event. Terrific match that told a great story in true Ric Flair tradition. The only thing that was missing was the Flair flip over the turnbuckle, but I can forgive that because the Nature Boy is pushing 60 years old and incapable of doing that stuff anymore. Great ending too, that saw Michaels and Flair both cowering at the end of the match because of the magnitude of the event. This should have been the last match of the card, if only because it was a draining experience watching such a historic event. For a lot of people, Flair was the last link to the old school wrestling that people like my dad watched as a kid -- and it was sad (albeit justified) to see Flair finally ride off into the sunset.

Highlands School Talent Show and dinner is April 17
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.
shaken, and angry. The damaged vehicle is in sad shape, and will cost a pretty penny to put right. Ahead of them, the couple has hassles with the insurance company, and medical bills. These are college students who don’t have money to burn on stuff like this.

In the 17 months that I have lived in Highlands, I have seen some of the most reckless driving I have seen in my 57 years of life. Speeding and tailgating are the worst offenses, but are not the only ones. How anyone can barrel down some of the local roads at breakneck speeds while chatting on a cell phone, guzzling a soda, or turning and talking to a passenger?

In the last three weeks, John and I have been passed by three cars and a motorcycle while we were on a road with a double yellow line forbidding passing. While we often pull over to let faster vehicles go by, it’s not always safe or even possible to do this. It’s April, and soon the roads will be dotted with the cars of our visiting tourists, many of them regular summer residents. Loads of Highlands residents will start writing huffy letters about Lowlanders (especially folks with Florida plates) and their slow-moving vehicles.

Sorry, folks. You won’t find a sympathetic ear with me. I’d rather be behind a slow car than tailgated by a speed demon who feels it’s god-given right to drive as fast as he feels he can take the road. And people who feel justified in intimidating folks by flashing lights, honking their horns, or forcing people off the road are not “aces of the road” – they are dangerous fools who have no business driving.

Oh, and you might keep your eyes out for that white Toyota pick-up truck with the halogen lights. I have a few choice words for its driver, as do a few friends of mine.

* About the Author: Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She lives on top of a mountain near Highlands. Michelle is a member of the Highlands Writers Group. She will soon begin driving in the Highlands area, and asks for your prayers and good wishes.
I try to interject a little news into this column along with some philosophy intended to sway you to or keep you on the right side. It's presumptuous, I know, to think that anything I have to say has any influence on anyone's thinking, but self-delusion has carried me this far, so I'm going to stick with it. I find it amazing that I'm about to write about a non-news event, but here goes.

Howard Dean is a doctor from Vermont who incidentally is the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. I don't know why, but I find it humorous that he received his medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives in 1982, elected lieutenant governor in 1986 and became governor upon the death of the incumbent and served two terms. Actually, his record showed fiscal conservatism, paying off state debt, balancing the budget and lowering the tax rate. Who'd have thought?

Dean ran for president in 2004 and came out of nowhere to become the early frontrunner. He showed an ability to raise money using the internet and attracted a following of young people labeled “Deanie Babies” or Deany Boppers or more aptly “Deanieiacs.” He vigorously opposed the war and showed disdain for Dems that didn't share his enthusiasm.

Going into the Iowa Democrat caucuses, Dean and Dick Gephardt were the assumed leaders however the “Johns,” Kerry and Edwards, prevailed and Dean became unglaed. It was as a consequence of his third place finish that caused him to obscure, he is a screaming success (pun intended).

What appears to be happening is that political parties at all levels are rapidly becoming irrelevant. With the advent of Internet contribution solicitation, Party fundraising has taken a distant back seat to candidates' direct appeal. Likewise Party platforms seem to be less and less meaningful and ignored by most elected officials. But more important, they have pretty much ceased to represent the people and the party and taking what they can get for themselves.

It is increasingly evident that the presidential candidates are all globalists and, while our cultural, fiscal and physical infrastructure crumbles before our very eyes, we place political correctness and sensitivity and tolerance for everybody on earth, and Christians, above all.

Agenda 21, the UN's ongoing effort to impose “sustainable development” on the U.S., is taking hold and is literally coming over the mountain. They want us to eliminate the automobile, walk to work and to shop on “paths” (bicycle travel may be permitted), play checkers on the front porch and relinquish our superpower status.

Meanwhile, Al Gore (who advocated the elimination of the internal combustion engine in his book Earth in the Balance - Ecology and the Human Spirit) moves ever onward to stifle our economy through his carbon stuff. I know it’s intricate, but think about it. The only thing that stands in the way of the new religion of Ecology are those narrow-minded Christians, so let's marginalize them and so we can worship Mother Earth without having to listen to their objections. We weep while the lion roars. If we stand for nothing, we fall for anything and I'd say we're in freefall. Isolationism is sounding better and better to me. Close the borders and pull up the bedclothes.

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and we're not only talking about pollution but also about mercury, arsenic, cadmium and other substances that come out of the smokestacks of coal-burning power plants,” Friedman said. “Duke is convinced that the new plant is the best thing that ever happened, but those are not vitamins coming out of those smokestacks.”

Friedman stressed the importance in investing in energy reduction, increasing economic incentives for alternate energy sources and utilizing wind resources, solar energy and mass transit instead of new roads.

When asked about local taxation policies, such as an extension of the homestead exemption, Haire said that in North Carolina, land values are based on the fair market value, and there is the same standard in all 100 counties. “If we mess with that, there could be problems with county tax revenue.” School buildings, community college buildings, and county facilities have to have money to operate. There is no good solution to adjust this,” he said.

Friedman said that local government should have more say in property values and taxes, and there should be a tiered system in determining property tax rates that take into account whether a person is a second homeowner or someone who lives and works here. “It’s not fair the way it is now; people are losing their homes,” Friedman said.

See CANDIDATES page 16
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
... SHERIFF continued from page 1

Highway Safety Grant Program (GHSP).

The money will be spent on six each — mobile data terminals, dual antenna radars and in-car video cameras, send 14 deputies to Standardized Field Sobriety Training and seven deputies to radar certification training.

“The objective is to impact the traffic crash problem through selective traffic enforcement, training, public information and education and to use modern equipment,” said Sheriff Holland. “The goal is to reduce traffic crashes and reduce the severity of injuries sustained by motorists, pedestrians and bikers.”

The year 2005 marked a significant increase in crash problems in Macon County including increased fatalities, injuries and alcohol related crashes. In 2005 Macon County had a crash ranking of 77. The higher the number the better the ranking. During the previous four years rankings were in the mid-90s. Population increase as well as an increase in vehicles on the roads has attributed to the increased crash problem, said Holland.

In its grant proposal, the Sheriff’s Department says the county is experiencing unprecedented population growth — 26.86% from 1990-2000 and an estimated 9.2% from April 2000 to July 2005. Additionally, part-time residents and tourism cause an annual influx of tens of thousands of people and thousands of vehicles during the spring, summer and fall.

As a direct result of the 2005 GHSP grant the Sheriff’s Department received for checkpoint equipment, beginning October 1, 2005, the number of alcohol related crashes, fatalities and injuries decreased significantly during the first six months of 2006.

The Macon County Sheriff’s Department patrols 677 miles of primary and secondary roads in the 517 square mile county with four shifts of four deputies each.

Since January 2006 the department has conducted 60 checkpoints which have resulted in arrests for drug infractions, DWI and possession of stolen goods.

“For every one we get, 10 get by,” said Sheriff Holland. “But results in this first four months is much higher than this time last year.”

From January 1, 2007 through April 1, 2007, six checkpoints were conducted resulting in 444 traffic stops, 234 citations and 160 warning tickets. Specifically, checkpoints resulted in 15 DWI arrests, 44 speeding tickets, 56 citations issued for driving without a license, 16 citations issued for driving with a revoked license and 4 citations for driving without insurance.

From January 1, 2008 through April 1, 2008, 35 checkpoints were conducted resulting in 786 traffic stops with 489 citations issued and 377 warning tickets issued.

Specifically, checkpoints resulted in 45 DWI arrests, 90 speeding tickets, 118 citations for driving without a license, 27 citations for driving with a revoked license and 4 citations for driving without insurance.

Holland said the equipment purchased protects his deputies while recording all traffic stop proceedings. “I can actually hear what take place one minute prior to the stop,” he said. “This way if anyone disputes what actually happened, I can look and listen to the tape and know exactly what took place.”

- Kim Lewicki

**Highlands high school math students compete at WCU**

On Thursday, April 3, 14 Highlands School students participated in the Western Carolina University’s 38th Annual Mathematics Competition. Highlands School was rated 5th out of 11 schools in its division. This is the first time that Highlands School has participated in the WCU math competition in at least 10 years. The students took exams in the following categories:

**Algebra I:** Marlee McCall, Devon Potter, Amy Fogle, Taylor Burras

**Geometry:** Samuel Wheeler, Avee Graham, Tucker Bates

**Algebra II:** Brice Jenkins, Kate-Marie Parks, Katie Durham, Shelby Johnson, Matt McClellan

**Comprehensive:** Kyle Lassiter, Casey Jenkins
The candidates were asked whether they thought local areas should have the opportunity to have more input into Department of Transportation (DOT) decisions that have a local impact.

Friedman said he was the founder of the Smart Roads group in Sylva, and that it’s frustrating to deal with the DOT. He said “There has to be more autonomy in local communities on what roads we want, and improvements and maintenance. It shouldn’t be determined by outsiders.”

Haire said “If someone hadn’t decided to build a bypass around Franklin, it would be chaos downtown. Someone has to make the decision.”

County Commissioner candidate Jimmy Goodman introduced himself as a good candidate because he runs a small business. “I handle sales, budgeting and bookkeeping to the things I will do as a county commissioner but on a smaller scale.” Goodman has served on the Macon County Planning Board for three years, and he said he would like to unite citizens to work towards common goals.

“I propose an email list to keep citizens informed, and I’d like to see all commissioner meetings on web广播,” Goodman said. He had also suggested that monthly question and answer radio should be effective. “The Board of Education has done it in the past and it was a success,” he said.

Incumbent commissioner Charlie Leatherman said he is seeking a 3rd term. “I have been married 25 years. I have three sons, and I teach 7th grade math at MMS.” He also has a tax business on the side to supplement his income. “I was born here, and I want to die here. I want my sons to be able to do that if they want,” Leatherman said.

Leatherman believes that all issues affecting the county are important. “When you start categorizing importance you fragment the county. The most important issue is quality of life,” he said.

When asked about water supply and quality, Leatherman said that the county needs to impound water for citizens’ use. “Water is contaminated by runoff, and deep wells are not the answer. We need to construct a reservoir for Macon County’s citizens both in the city limits and in the county.”

Goodman disagreed. “The majority of people are on wells, and impounding is a municipal problem,” he said.

Regarding the issue of school expansion and keeping communities involved, Goodman began by questioning the county’s potential to sustain itself. “MMS is a problem,” he said. “But mega-schools don’t work, and we need to keep kids in our communities where their parents can remain involved. As a citizen, I’ll beg to pay more in tax dollars to keep community schools.”

Goodman also mentioned that roads are a serious problem, and returned to the community schools concept. “We can subsidize the pay rate for teachers. If it’s that important I’m willing to do that to keep families involved in education.”

**See CANDIDATES page 27**
Committee ready to get to work on Pine Street Park

With the recent greening of Pine Street Park, commissioners are ready to formalize design plans and perhaps tweak its usage policy.

At a recent Town Board meeting, Commissioner Hank Ross, Recreation Director Selwyn Chalker, Mercedes Heller and King Young were named to the committee which met for the first time Thursday, April 10.

At the initial strategy meeting, members agreed to have a master plan completed by June 10 and to present it to the Town Board at the June 18 meeting. With the main goal to provide a design for Pine Street Park that meets the public needs of the Highlands area community, information gathering has begun.

Commissioner Ross suggested input be gathered concerning stormwater remediation needs, how the park fits into the county’s master recreation plan, how the design and property use affiliated with Macon Bank will be affected, what the Land Trust wants and how the park can address urban needs.

Concerning design, the committee will consider physical constraints, a list of elements and their relationship to each other as well as property constraints. A construction plan will also be outlined to include budgeting, phasing and fundraising.

Committee members were asked to gather input and return with finances at the April 17 meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the Town Board room.

Though the town recently adopted a use policy concerning Pine Street Park, Commissioner Ross said it’s not carved in stone and could change.

High school students in Highlands School art teacher Sally Taylor’s art class will be designing the park as a project and the committee will pick a winner. Ross said it’s not likely the plans will be used by the town, but it’s a great project for the students and a way to engage the community in the process.

- Kim Lewicki

... BRUGGER continued from page 9

countries, as summarized in a study conducted by the Centre for Bhutan Studies: “Empirical evidence strongly suggests that modern economic development has not increased subjective well-being in high-income countries, despite manifold increases of incomes over just a couple of decades. In many countries, people even experience a deterioration of their quality of life as competitive forces grow along with incomes. Stressed at the work place, longer work weeks and less sleep, inequality-induced discrimination and poverty are just a few examples. Rising depression and suicide rates, high incidence of obesity and large-scale environmental destruction are also typical side effects of the pursuit of economic growth.” (bhutanstudies.org.bt)

The four pillars of Gross Domestic Happiness are: equitable socio-economic development, environmental protection, cultural preservation, and good governance.

Bhutanese officials have developed a variety of initiatives aimed at improving quality of life. For example, Bhutan, which had no public education system in 1960, now has schools at all levels around the country and rotates teachers from urban to rural regions to be sure there is equal access to the best teachers.

An example of preserving cultural traditions is that people who enter hospitals with non-acute health problems can choose between Western and traditional medicine.

The idea of measuring economic health using indicators other than money is slowly spreading. Britain is developing an “index of well-being,” which takes into account not only income but traffic, pollution, access to parks, mental illness, civility, and crime rates.

“The evolving concept of GNH could well be the most significant advancement in economic theory over the last 150 years,” is the opinion of Frank Dixon, a Harvard Business School graduate and managing director of research at Innovest Strategic Value Advisors, the largest international financial services firm catering to ethical investment funds.

Modern economics seems to be built on the premise that growth can continue indefinitely. In fact, it seems to require constant expansion. This makes me think of cancer and viruses, which grow until they destroy the host body and themselves.

We need a new economics, one that is based on sustainability and on human values such as love, respect, compassion, and equality.

If you’d like to find out more about Bhutan, the March 2008 National Geographic has an article on the country (available at the Hudson Library). I just watched a wonderful Bhutanese film “Travelers and Magicians,” by a revered Bhutanese Buddhist monk/filmmaker, available through Netflix.

All of Katie Brugger’s columns are available on her website: www.kathleenbrugger.com
Three forms of municipal government explained

Council-Manager; Mayor-Council; City Commission

**Council-Manager Government**

The council-manager government is one of two main variations of representative municipal government in the United States. This system of government is used in the majority of American cities with populations over 12,000.

In the council-manager form of government, an elected city council (typically between five and 11 people) is responsible for making policy, passing ordinances, voting appropriations, and having overall supervisory authority in the city government. In such a government, the mayor (or equivalent executive) will perform strictly ceremonial duties or will act as a member and presiding officer of the council, similar to a chairman. The council will appoint a city manager or administrator who will be responsible for supervising government operations and implementing the policies adopted by the council. The manager serves the council, usually with a contract that specifies duties and responsibilities. Ideally, the manager is apolitical, but this is often difficult.

Municipal governments are usually administratively divided into several departments, depending on the size of the city. Though cities differ in the division of responsibility, the typical arrangement is to have the following departments handle the following roles:

1. Urban planning and zoning
2. Economic development and tourism
3. Public works - construction and maintenance of all city-owned or operated assets, including the water supply system, sewer, streets, stormwater, snow removal, street signs, vehicles, buildings, land, etc.
4. Parks and recreation - construction and maintenance of city parks, common areas, parkways, publicly-owned land, operation of various recreation programs and facilities
5. Police
6. Fire
7. Emergency medical services
8. Emergency management
9. Accounting/finance - often tax collection, audits
10. Human resources - for city workers
11. Legal counsel/risk management - legal matters such as writing municipal bonds, ensuring city compliance with state and federal law, responding to citizen lawsuits stemming from city actions or inactions
12. Transportation (varies widely) - if the city has a municipal bus or light rail service, this function may be its own department or it may be folded into the another of the city departments
13. Information technology - supports computer systems used by city employees, may be also responsible for a city website, phones and other systems
14. Housing department

The council-manager system can be seen to place all power into the hands of the legislative branch. However, a city manager can be seen as a similar role to that of corporate chief executive officer (CEO) in providing professional management to an organization. Council-manager government is much like a publicly traded corporation. In a corporation, the board of directors appoints a CEO, makes major decisions and wields representative power on behalf of shareholders. In council-manager government, the city council appoints a city manager, makes major decisions, and wields representative power on behalf of the citizens.

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is a professional organization for city managers. It was founded in 1914, and has more than 8000 members worldwide.

**Mayor-Council Government**

The Mayor-Council government system, sometimes called the Mayor-Commissioner government system, is one of two variations of government most commonly used in modern representative municipal governments in the United States. The Mayor-Council variant can be broken down into two main variations depending on the relationship between the legislative and executive branches.

**Weak-mayor, or ceremonial, form**

In the weak-mayor form of the mayor-council government, the mayor is not a power struggle. There are just too many things beyond the capability of what five elected people should be doing.” In addition, she said it puts a big burden on the Town Board to take care of everyone’s complaints.

Commissioner Larry Rogers said the change shouldn’t affect anyone’s job. “I wouldn’t be here this if people were going to lose their jobs. It will be the same as it is now, except there will be a direct line between the manager and the Town Board and there will be some reorganization.”

Mayor Mullen said another main difference is that the manager has the authority to hire and fire.

Commissioner Buz Dotson said one plus is the new system will give department heads some management tools to work with.

Commissioner Patterson said she was initially against the change but in the final analysis it’s about efficiency and effectiveness. “We need one person to implement the policies of the Town Board,” she said.

While Coward works on the charter change, the town will begin advertising for a Town Manager.

Once a town’s charter is changed it is irreversible for two years. - Kim Lewicki
... RESTAURANT continued from page 1

“If you want the town to expand and the business season to lengthen, then restaurants have to be open year-round so guests who come in through the winter have a place to come,” he said.

Planning Board member Thomas Craig encouraged the board to adopt the ordinance Cooley and the Planning Board came up with. He said it wasn’t reasonable to wait until a traffic and parking study was completed to amend the ordinance. “It’s important that you do this and don’t put it off any longer,” he said.

Debbie Grossman of Fresser’s Eatery said if the town is going to grow and not stagnate then the board has to support business. “There is plenty of parking available and there is no need to create more. Find ways to share what’s here and let’s work as a community together,” she said.

Jerry Groover, owner of Kilwin’s and on the Chamber of Commerce board said with almost 1,000 public parking spaces in town it seems reasonable to leave people use them and encourage walking to restaurants.

Alan Shultz, owner of Fireside Restaurant, spoke against amending the ordinance on the grounds that he and other restaurant owners, like Marlene Alvarez of ... on the Verandah and owners of Nick’s Restaurant, had to abide by the rules of the day and spend thousands of dollars creating and maintaining parking areas for their customers.

“What is fair?” he asked. “Bringing businesses into compliance would cause fiscal hardship to some and be an unpopular decision, but why have some had to comply, often at great expense, and others don’t? It costs those of us who did comply tens of thousands of dollars to develop town mandated parking, this in addition to acquiring land. Why them and not others?”

Alvarez, whose parents started ... on the Verandah and spent $100,000 on the parking lot 12 years ago said her parents abided by the rules, but rules can and should change. “All restaurants are in need of more parking. It’s important the town move with the times and grow in a sustainable fashion preferably year-round,” she said. “Look with vision toward the future.”

Initially, it looked like the board may go with Commissioners Hank Ross and Buz Dotson who suggested waiting to amend the ordinance until Cooley could determine if simply increasing the seat-to-parking ratio would solve the problem. Currently, a restaurant can have three seats for each parking spot. They suggested increasing that to four or five seats per parking space.

“I do think the number of seats per parking space for the B2 and B3 zones needs to be revised because their needs and their parking times are different from other businesses. But what’s in front of us is evolving very complex in my mind and will be difficult to enforce,” said Ross.

But Cooley said the way the ordinance is written, especially since restaurants can’t establish a vested interest through the ordinance, not only can the town retract it or change it and thereby negate what is offered for something different if necessary, it’s easy to enforce.

Dotson made a motion to table the proposed ordinance until Cooley could research the affect of four to five seats per parking space on area restaurants.

Cooley said he could present the information sometime in May. But the motion failed 2-3.

The Bruns of Wild Thyme, whose parking situation instigated the proposed restaurant ordinance change, said with May approaching they needed an answer or would have to close their business.

But Nancy Bruns said the change isn’t just about Wild Thyme. “You’ve talked about wanting Highlands to be a walking town and not wanting to add more pavement and there’s plenty of parking to use,” she said.

The ordinance was adopted as a stopgap measure until a complete parking and traffic flow study is completed hopefully within a year. Commissioners said, based on the outcome of the study which could cost $25,000-$40,000 to complete, the restaurant ordinance could change entirely and restaurant owners needed to be aware of that fact.

Carter Bruns said he understood that completely. “The ‘no vested interest’ is very clear but if it gets me through another season, I’m thrilled.”

Kim Lewicki
The production now on stage at The Instant Theatre’s Studio on Main is a must see. The topic is timely, the cast is stellar and the set is warm, inviting and colorful.

Sets don’t make a production but since The Instant Theatre is known for its minimal sets, the set for “The Ice-Breaker” is a special treat.

One patron said it made her want to jump up on the stage and hang out.

Co-stars David Milford and Madeleine Davis have honed their chemistry that started with their work together in last year’s production at ITC, “Copenhagen.” It looks like – at least for Milford and Davis – a pattern is developing. When they come together you can be sure it won’t be for anything silly or frivolous. In “Copenhagen” it was about the atomic bomb, in “The Ice-Breaker” it is about global warming and the next ice age. Heavy stuff, delivered in an intelligent, provocative, humorous and thoroughly entertaining way. Called a “psychological climatic love story,” Ice-Breaker is not only fun to experience but educational, too.

Davis makes Sonja Milan – an intelligent scientist-groupie – exciting and adorable. Milford plays the rumpled, scarred, disenchanted scientist Dr. Lawrence Blanchard perfectly.

Playwright David 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. But written plays need actors to bring them to life and that’s exactly what Milford and Davis do.

This is a show that should be seen. Its topic, its intelligence and the caliber of the actors and director’s work will linger long after the show is over.

Luckily it’s on for another three days at The Studio on Main, April 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, in Highlands.

- Kim Lewicki
Mountain Lakes 5K set for May 3

Runners and fitness walkers alike are invited to participate in the Mountain Lakes 5K Race, scheduled for Saturday, May 3, at 9 a.m. The event is the annual fund-raiser for the Highlands Roadrunners Club, and organizers are expecting a good turnout for the race. In its ninth year, the event has already had a lot of out-of-town runners signed up, but would also like to have good local participation,” said Race Director Richard Betz.

“Our goal as a running club is to encourage lifelong fitness, and running or walking is the key to it for a lot of us,” Betz said. “Whether it’s keeping your weight off, maintaining good muscle tone, even having more energy—you name it—beginning and staying with a program of running or fitness walking can definitely help.”

The 5K (3.1-mile) course is a loop that begins and finishes on US 46 in front of the Highlands Civic Center, circles around Lake Ravenel and Harris Lake, and finishes on Laurel Street beside First Citizens Bank. Traffic control will be provided throughout the course by police and volunteers. Betz said that fitness walkers are encouraged to participate, and that the course is relatively easy. However, since part of the route is on an unpaved gravel road, strollers are not recommended.

The entry fee for the race is $15 before race day, and entry forms are available at the Town Hall, the Civic Center, and the Visitors Center, or online at www.highlandslibrary.org. Each participant will receive a quality long-sleeved T-shirt, and trophies will be awarded to the overall male and female winners, male and female masters winners (over 40), and to the male and female first, second, and third place finishers in five-year age groups. As in past years, Powerade will be provided by Coca-Cola company and finish line bananas will be provided by August Produce.

Pre-registered runners can pick up their numbers and race packets at the Civic Center on the morning of the race beginning at 7:30 a.m. Race-day registration will also take place that morning at the Civic Center. Race-day registration will be $17 per person.


As in past years, proceeds from the race will go toward fitness-related programs in the local community. The club awards a number of scholarships each year to Highlands School graduates who carry on with a career in education. The club has also used the proceeds from past races to help purchase fitness equipment for Highlands School, HealthTacks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and the Highlands Recreation Park. Since its inception, the race has raised almost $30,000 for these projects.

The Highlands Roadrunners Club is a non-profit organization, and entry fees and contributions are tax-deductible.

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 Mountain Top 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 supp tells 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, Carol Light 524-9769 or Mary Ann Widenhouse 524-1385 for more information.
- Thursdays
- Live Music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dil-lard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. $10 cover.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 Main St. in downtown Sylva. All bargain books have been priced at 2 for 50 cents and 2 for 25 cents. The price 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;
- “Golden Pond,” Thurs.-Sun., July 10-20;
- “70th Anniversary Diamond Review,” Thurs. - Sun., July 24-Aug. 10; and “Inherit the Wind” Thurs.-Sun., July 24-Aug. 10.

There’s still time to sign up for the spring community health screening being held Saturday, April 26 for residents of the Highlands and Sylah Mountain communities.

The screening, which is one of five community screenings being offered around the area by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, is completely free. Pre-registration is required, however.

As in past years, the screening will be held on the first floor of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus. It will start at 7:15 a.m.

Would-be participants can sign up through April 23 screening by calling the hospital foundation office at (828) 526-1435. They can also sign up on the hospital website at www.highlands-cashiershospital.org (click on the screening menu, and complete the registration form). Those registering on line will receive a confirmation email.

Appointment times will be assigned as part of the registration process to help reduce lines and waiting times.

Participants will be screened for height and weight, BMI (body mass index) and body composition (body fat), blood pressure, blood oxygen saturation level, cholesterol and triglyceride levels, glucose (blood sugar) level, and white and red blood cell counts (to detect anemia and infection). Men over the age of 45 will also receive a blood test to detect prostate cancer (PSA). Dietitians and exercise specialists will be on hand to discuss healthy eating and exercise habits, and a physical therapist will be available to evaluate balance and strength. Hearing tests and ear examinations are also be conducted.

As in the past, those participating in screenings are asked not to eat or drink anything but water after midnight the night before. Confidential results of screening tests will be reviewed by a physician and mailed out to each participant.
The Bascom presents ‘Collective Spirits: An International Wine Tasting’ May 29-30

Wine and fine dining aficionados, cultural tourists and festival-goers are invited for a two-day May 29-30 wine extravaganza. Collective Spirits, a benefit event and program of The Bascom, will be held at Highlands Country Club.

Collective Spirits begins on Thursday, May 29, at 6:30 p.m. with the tasting of carefully chosen international and domestic wines. The kickoff evening includes piano music by Angela Jenkins, plus varied culinary stations.

Collective Spirits continues on Friday, May 30, at 11 a.m. with a bountiful buffet brunch, sparkling wine tasting, lecture by Delia Viader of Viader Vineyards and Michael DeLoach of Hook and Ladder Vineyards, brief discussion of sparkling wines by Vinilanda owner Martin Yolk, and guitar music by Cy Timmons. At 1 p.m. the live auction begins, delivered by well-known auctioneer Dennis Hall. The auction will boast lots of rare and fine wines, as well as numerous trips and tours, resort vacations, dining experiences and handcrafted items. Dozens of silent auction items will include hard-to-find wines, artworks and crafts.

For Friday evening, participants will have a choice of wine dinners at Highlands-area restaurants, among them LakeSide, On The Veranda, Fresco's and Wolfgang's On Main; a wine dinner at Cypress on Saturday night; and a Saturday afternoon winetasting at Highlands Wine and Cheese.

Event patrons at the $1,500 per couple and above levels will enjoy a private dinner party in a spectacular hilltop home with special guest DeLoach.

Corporate sponsors of these two-day festivities include Bank of New York Mellon, First Citizens Bank, Harry Norman Realtors and WHLC FM 104.5.

All proceeds will benefit The Bascom, a nonprofit art and education center and community fine arts school.

Ticket pricing begins at $125 per person for May 29 and $100 per person for May 30, or $200 per person for a two-day combination ticket. The ticket price includes the gift of a Stolzle-USA wine glass per person. The Friday dinners will be on your own at an additional cost, payable directly to the restaurant of a participant’s choice.

“Fine wine and food, event proceeds to benefit an essential arts charity, a mountain village and resort respite – these are reasons for the public to sign up for Collective Spirits and be in Highlands when corks are popped and South American, French, Italian, Australian, Spanish, South African, Californian and a broad range of wines are poured on May 29 and 30,” said Donna Woods, The Bascom’s events director.

For ticket or information on becoming an event patron, call The Bascom at (828) 526-4949 or email info@thebascom.org.
Regional High School Exhibition opens at The Bascom on Friday

Six North Carolina and North Georgia High Schools will participate in the 2008 Regional High School Exhibition, set for April 19-26 at The Bascom, a center for the visual arts.

The public is invited to the free opening reception, on April 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. Participating schools include Blue Ridge School of Cashiers; Highlands High School, Highlands; Rabun County High School, Tiger, Ga.; Rabun Gap Nacoochee School, Dillard, Ga.; Smoky Mountain High School, Sylva; and Tuscola High School, Waynesville.

“This is an exciting year because we have expanded the number of high schools from last year,” said Kaye Gorecki, The Bascom’s artistic director and organizer of the event. “The work of these exceptional young artists is awesome.”

A wide variety of media are represented, including woodturning, ceramics, oil, acrylic, graphics, drawing and more. The exhibitions are free and open to the public. The Bascom is located inside the Hudson Library, on Main Street in Highlands. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information about this or other Bascom events and exhibitions, call (828) 526-4943, ext. 6.

 churches or refrigerators, during that week by calling the Town Office at 526-2118 during business hours, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Tuesday, April 22
• Horsepasture River Reclassification. The Environmental Management Commission, at the request of the Sierra Club, is proposing to reclassify the lower 4.6 mile portion of the Horsepasture River and its tributaries, in Transylvania County to Outstanding Resource Waters. There will be a public hearing at 6 p.m. at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library, 249 Frank Allen Road, Cashiers, NC 28717. Comments are due by June 2, 2008 to Elizabeth Kountis, DENR/Division of Water Quality, Planning Section, 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1617, phone (919) 733-5083 x369.
• All western North Carolina citizens are invited to attend the free Orrville Coward Forum on Public Issues to be held at 7 p.m. in the Gazebo at 553 West Main Street Restaurant in downtown Sylva. The topic, “The Cost of Medical Care as Affected by Court Cases and Insurance”, will be presented by Dr. Randall Provost, well known medical authority who will also answer questions and comments from attendees. Prior to the presentation light refreshments will be served or attendees may arrive early to enjoy dinner at the restaurant. Reservations are requested by April 19th and may be made by check for $10 per person payable to The Orrville Coward Forums and mailed to Republican Headquarters, 482 West Main Street, Sylva, NC 28779. Reservations may also be paid in person at the address above. For information please call Forums Chair, Fran Webster at 828-586-3577.

Thursday, April 24
• The Gem & Mineral Society presents “Paleo-lithic Research Pertaining to the Origins of Man” based on Biblical Archaeology at the Community Building in Franklin on S. 441 at 6:30 p.m. Come enjoy this talk on the Pleistocene Era stone tools and culture with national educator Alex Solimine. For more info, call 828-332-0138.

Friday, April 25
• The Operation Hope Relay for Life Team at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will host an ice cream social on Friday, April 25. In addition to an assortment of flavors of ice cream and frozen yogurt, there will be the makings for sundaes and banana splits. The event will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the surgical center lounge in the hospital. The public is invited. All benefits will go toward this year’s Relay for Life, set for this August in Cashiers.

Saturday, April 26
• Catch the Spirit of Appalachia will host the Traditional Heritage Walk at the upcoming Greening Up the Mountains Festival in downtown Sylva from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. A nonprofit heritage organization, Catch the Spirit of Appalachia (CSA), will bring to this year’s festival artisans who specialize in honoring and saving our local human and natural heritage through their hands. Call 828-631-4587, or go to website www.spiritofappalachia.org.
• Spring Gorge Road Clean Up is from 8 a.m. to noon. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 526-5841.

Attention theatre lovers. Your chance to experience one of the best plays to ever hit the South is slipping away.

The Breaker by David Rambo produced by the Instant Theatre Company starring David Milford and Madeleine Davis will end its critically acclaimed run Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 17-19.

For two hours theatre goers are transported to the American Southwest desert and into the lives of two passionate scientists who meet for the first time. One audience member observed, “You would have to go to the theatre mecca, NYC, to find acting and a production like this.” Audiences have been riveted to their seats until the end of the last scene, when they threw themselves to their feet in thunderous applause of appreciation.

Make your reservations now before it’s too late. There will be no more change, no DVD, it will be gone. Phone 828-342-9197 to reserve your seat in The Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main, “the third largest theatre in Highlands NC” 330 Main Street Oak Square. The play is for mature audiences. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., Curtain at 8.
FREE CLASSIFIEDS FOR SALE less than $1,000. All other terms:
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PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY
- The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation is looking for a part-time receptionist (Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.). If you are interested, please submit resumes to PO Box 729 Highlands, NC 28741.

RN NEEDED
- For upscale retirement community. Overseer 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@chestnuthillsc.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 828-526-9893.

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 404-542-2004.

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 CENTER
- 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 Swee Treats, Highlands. Call 526-9822.

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.

ART ON MAIN STREET
- looking for artists to exhibit. Send checks to: P.O. Box 2703 Highlands, NC 28741. Contact Doug at doug@doughelms.com or by phone at 526-0000. All communications confidential.

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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.

DIRECTOR OF NURSING, RN
- at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Full, Part-time and PRN positiions 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.

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

CNA or CNA II
- 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.

LADIES’ NITE OUT
- Highlands, NC. Fall leave party for women. Call 912-230-7202.

RESIDENTIAL SPACE FOR RENT
- 3 beds, 2 baths. Loft apartment ready to be occupied, central heat & air, carpet, excellent condition. Busy shopping center.

COTTAGE FOR RENT

VACATION RENTAL
- Highlands Country Club – Sorry, golf and club privileges not available. $2,495 a week. Call 912-730-7202.

THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE

COTTAGE FOR RENT
- 180 sq ft., air-conditioned, heated, plenty of parking.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
- 1,600 sq ft. handicapped accessible house. on 2 acres. 3/2 large bath WITH sink s; elevator, finished basement with living room, 2 car carport, new metal roof, native stone fireplace, landscap ing, new hardwood floors. Located near downtown. Approx 3,400-3,500 elevation. No modulars or trailers. $329,000. Call 526-9510

BEST DEAL IN SCALY

HOUSE FOR SALE IN WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA
- 2 bedroom, 2 ½ bath in adorable, quiet neighborhood 2 miles from ocean and Palm Beach Island and 5 miles from downtown.

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.JTMS.com/HIDDENCREK 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 828-577-9251.

UPPER CREEK ROAD AT CORNET LANE – 2.04 acres less than 4 miles to Main Street. Paved Access. Some water views 3 sided corner lot has old logging road as your driveway. $56,500. 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 88, near Founders Park on Oceanside. House sits on a 5,260 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.


1.20+ acres less than 4 miles to Main Street. 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.JTMS.com/HIDDENCREK or contact owner directly at 828-526-5333.

ITEMS FOR SALE

FREE DINING ROOM TABLE. Glass Top, 6 chairs. White. Call 526-5910.

DUMP TRAILER – 12 ft. hydraulic $1,200. Call 526-5910.


ANTIQUE FURNITURE – Medallion Back Sofa, Louis XV substyle. $300. Matching Lady's and Gentleman's Chairs. $40 set. Rocking Chair, Lincoln Type, upholstered. $175. Sold separately or all for $750. Call Sandy at 524-7350 or 369-6263.

FRENCH FURNITURE – 4-D long, excellent $1,500. 828-526-2905

GREEN PRINT VELOUR SWIVEL ROCKING CHAIR. Black and white fabric. $300. Call 526-2905.

BEAMS, FLOORING AND ENTIRE STRUCTURES – HAND HEWN BEAMS. Beautiful material, large faces, $3.50-$4.50 per board foot. $145. Call 864-972-8525.

HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE – Atlanta Airport Shuttle – Drive Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.
“It’s time for New Ideas”!

We need:

MORE CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT:

“We propose web-casts of all County Commission Meetings.”

We can’t all attend all of the meetings all of the time. Wouldn’t it be nice if you could sit at your computer and watch the meetings from the comfort of your own home? That’s just one of the changes I want to implement as your next County Commissioner.

MORE QUESTIONS:

• Do you feel we need more open county government?
• Do you feel your voice is not being heard regarding local issues?
• Do you feel county politicians sometimes operate with hidden agendas?
• Do you feel the county sometimes passes unneeded and redundant laws?
• Do you feel business is stagnating in Macon County as compared to adjoining counties?
• With inflation ravaging your finances, do you feel that Macon County government should have to tighten up, just as you and I have to do?

As YOUR Commissioner I PROMISE to address ALL these issues. Thanks for your time and your vote.

“It’s time for New Ideas”!

Elect Jimmy Goodman – Commissioner

Vote May 6, 2008 – in the Republican Primary
Avoid the crowds: Early Bird voting starts: April 17, 2008

Paid for by: “the ELECT Jimmy Goodman Campaign”
... CANDIDATES from page 16
tion. A big problem in education is the family is not involved, and we need to find ways to keep them involved," he said.

The candidates were asked how county development policies had been affected by increasing fuel costs. Leatherman said that the county can't control the market. "The cost of fuel increases the cost of everything that is delivered by trucking."

Goodman said "I don't have all the answers, but childcare and housing are two important issues. It's wrong when people can't get by on a decent wage." He also mentioned that the old elementary schools could be used for affordable childcare.

Leatherman closed by acknowledging that all the topics that had been discussed were important issues. "The Board of Commissioners don't always agree, but as a board they support the decisions they reach collectively. We decide on the best decision out of all the alternatives." He said that they have to operate within the statutes set forth by the state of North Carolina. "I have tried to do that for the past eight years, and I will try to do that for the next four," he said.

Goodman summed up by saying "It's time for new ideas. I want to serve Macon County, and I want to stay here the rest of my life. We need to work together to unify the county and go forward to make it a better county."

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for April 7-16. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 7
• At 7:10 p.m., a motorist on U.S. 64 east was cited for driving left of center.
• At 12:35 a.m., officers were called to "keep the peace" at a residence on Harris Drive..

April 11
• At 1:15 a.m., Eder Omar De Leon Lopez, 25 of Franklin, was arrested for driving without a license, driving an uninsured and unregistered vehicle with a fictitious license plate..

April 13
• At 4:34 p.m., officers were called to assist another department at a traffic stop on U.S. 64 east..

April 15
• At 5:25 p.m., a motorist at Poplar and U.S. 64 east was cited for speeding 52 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 11-16.

April 11
• The dept. responded to an accident involving two vehicles. There was one injury and the victim was transported to the hospital.

April 12
• The dept. was first responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Talley Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

April 14
• The dept. was first responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clear Creek Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.
• The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Crescent Trail. It was set off by workers.

April 16
• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a business on Church Street. It was set off by a water problem.

The following is the Macon County Sheriff Dept. log entries for the week of April 7-16.

April 7
• The dept. responded to a traffic stop on U.S. 64 east.

April 13
• At 4 p.m., Alberto Perez Morales from Lake Glenville, was arrested for driving without a license.

Fun & Games

PseudoCube©

AZ3D - Level of Difficulty - Difficult

The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 3 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. Each diagonal connects all 3 layers by running through the center number. Each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight puzzles, a list of meanings for these ACROSS/ DOWN appear in the puzzle. As in conventional crossword puzzles, a list of meanings is provided. Every puzzle has a different ‘mystery word or phrase’ (no spaces). Every puzzle has a different ‘mystery word or phrase’ (no spaces).

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 is provided for 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
"Providing required format"

Across
1. Alternative indicator (2)
2. Long way (3)
3. Conditional conjunction (2)
4. Preposition indicating purpose (3)
5. Falsehood (3)
6. Dorothy's goal (2)
7. Fish eggs (3)
8. Edge (3)
9. Easy (abbr.) (2)
10. __ and behold! (2)

Down
10. __ and behold! (2)