

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 6, Number 49

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008

This Week in Highlands

- Collections for men and women overseas are ongoing at Chestnut Hill Retirement community. A wide variety of items currently are needed. Contact Jeremy Duke at (828) 787-2114.

- Raffle of handcrafted Stiefel Botanical Book to benefit The Bascom. To purchase a raffle ticket, call 526-4949, ext. 8#.

- At Health Tracks at the hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

Mon. & Wed.

- Middle School students After School Program from 3-5 p.m. at the Rec Park. Call 526-3556 for info.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

Mondays

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

Thursdays & Fridays

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

Thursday, Dec. 4

- Bingo at the Highlands Community Center 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Sat. & Sun. Dec. 6 & 7

- Christmas Showhouse 1-5 p.m. each day featuring the Joe Webb log-house at 149 Satulah Road. Advance tickets: \$15 each at Cyrano's. Shuttle from Bryson's.

Friday, Dec. 5

- At the hospital a class on vitamins and trace elements. Cost includes a continental breakfast. Call 526-1200.

- Homecoming B-Ball game at Highlands School against Nantahala. Girls-6:30, Boys-8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6

- Annual Christmas Parade 11 a.m. until noon on Main Street.

- The Eastern Star Pumpkin Rolls for sale on Main Street during the parade. \$10 each.

- 'Carol Sing' at First Presbyterian Church after the parade featuring the harp, song, bagpipes and pipe organ.

- Wine Tastings at Old Edwards Inn & Spa in the Hummingbird Piano Bar in the inn. 2-4 p.m. \$20 applies to purchase. Call 526-8008.

- Highlands Alternative Market after the parade until 2:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church. Free lunch and chance to give to area nonprofits.

- Santa will be at the Highlands Visitor Center from 12:30-4 p.m. to hear wishes and for photos.

Thurs.-Sat., Dec 11-13

- The Highlands-Cashiers Players will present its annual free Christmas reading at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street.

Commissioners hire town manager

Wednesday night the Town Board took the final step toward implementing the Manager-Council form of government with the hiring of Town Manager – James R. Fatland.

Fatland, 57, is currently the Director of Finance and Administration for Monroe, N.C., where he basically over-

sees everything fiscal concerning the town.

Mayor Don Mullen said Fatland was the final candidate following a six-month process which netted 75 applications, narrowed to 10, then distilled to three interviews with Fatland the final pick.

Fatland and his wife,

who is a sixth-grade English Literature teacher in Buncombe County, have three grown children, 34, 31 and 28.

Fatland said though he expects to be on the job by the first week in January, his wife has one more year until retirement, so she will move to Highlands at that time.

Prior to taking the job in Monroe last year, Fatland was the Town Manager and Chief Financial Officer of Tryon, N.C., for six years, which he likened to Highlands.

"When you work for a small town, you use the entire experience you've gained in your career and are able to

• See MANAGER page 14

Superintendent seeks calendar change for 2009

Superintendents from seven school districts serving the six far western counties of North Carolina and representatives from SCC, WCU and Tri-County Community College have joined forces to establish a common school calendar separate from the one initiated three years ago by the state.

When NC GS 115c-84.2 was passed to "boost the economy in eastern North Carolina by extending summer for businesses and families," it changed the school calendars across the state.

Macon County has applied for a calendar waiver since the calendar laws changed but since the district doesn't miss 10 school days per year due to snow or inclement weather, Superintendent Dan Brigman said

previous requests have been denied

Due to the location and size of public schools in Western North Carolina, which oftentimes affects course offerings, high school students dual enroll at Southwestern Community College, Western Carolina University and Tri-County Community College to get courses they need and to get a jump-up on college. When the calendar changed, so did course alignment which means a two- to three-week gap between institution offerings.

"The way it is now, students are left hanging when these courses are already in motion which means they are behind," said Brigman.

Consequently, at the Nov. 24 school board meeting,

• See CALENDAR page 21

Illegal criminals tracked

Figures are now in revealing how the Macon County Sheriff's Office is

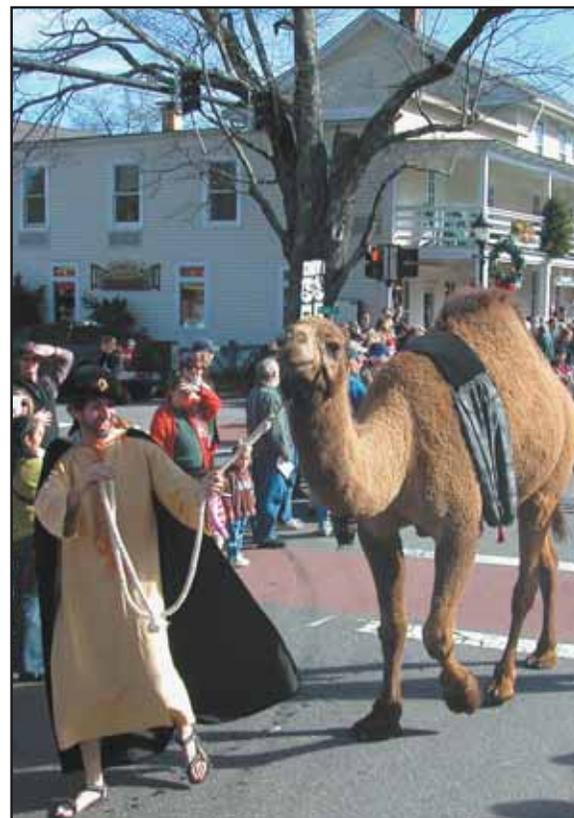
dealing with illegal alien criminals in its system.

From January 1, 2008 through November 7 the Sheriff's Office sent 154 Illegal Alien Queries (IAQs) to the Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC).

This ranked Macon County 13th out of 93 counties in the state and first in Western North Carolina to do

• See CRIMINALS page 15

Camels return for parade



The Highlands Annual Christmas Parade is Saturday at 11 a.m. on Main Street and the Highlands United Methodist Church is sponsoring the return of the camels who will parade with the three wise men. For a yummy treat during the parade pick up a homemade pumpkin roll from the ladies of the Eastern Star who will be selling them on Main Street. Right after the parade there is a Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church featuring harp, song, pipe organ and bagpipes; the Alternative Market and free lunch at the Episcopal church; Santa at the Visitor Center; a wine tasting at Old Edwards Inn & Spa and the Historical Society's Joe Webb Christmas Showhouse from 1-5 p.m.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

• Inside •

Letters	2
Obit	3
Wooldridge	4
Salzarulo	5
On Turtle Pond	6
His & Hers	7
Conservative POV	8
HS Basketball	11
Events	16
Classifieds	18
Police & Fire	23
Fun & Games	23

Middle East expert presents 'Iraq 101'

This is part 6 of a multi-part series which began Oct. 30.

Recap:

Following an hour-long, intense and enlightening presentation by Middle East expert Sandra Mackey on Oct. 20 concerning the ramifications of the U.S. presence in the Middle East, Mackey took several questions from the audience.

Question 1

Can you explain the ramifications of the new American embassy being built in Iraq?

There is a new American embassy which has been under construction since early on in the occupation and it's supposed to be the biggest U.S. embassy in the world. Understandably, this is causing talk in the region.

Everyone wants to know why is it there? It's translating to bad PR and I don't know if it's because what we're doing is unsavory or what, but it's not good PR.

The fact is the U.S. wants to keep permanent bases in Iraq so we can get troops into

• See MACKEY page 20

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
38-19°F	37-18°F	36-17°F

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Reach out to those in need...even in Highlands

Dear Editor,

Before moving to Highlands seven years ago, I lived in Atlanta where I worked with an organization that served the downtown Atlanta homeless population. As anyone who has worked with the homeless knows, there is a high degree of addiction and mental illness among them in our cities.

But surely not in this wonderful town of ours!

I had never seen a homeless and/or mentally ill person on the streets in Highlands until last week and I still don't know what his problem was. I only know that in the midst of all the beauty and splendor that we live in, I saw someone who didn't fit, who seemed to be having mental difficulties and I didn't know how to help him or what to do.

I was heading into High Country Photo in Highlands Plaza when I heard a shout. I looked up and saw a man sitting alone on a bench in front of a restaurant window. He was a young man, dark hair and probably Hispanic. I noticed rather odd abnormal, jerky movements of his arms and legs and he seemed to be saying something to himself, looking down at the bench where he was sitting.

I assumed he must be waiting for someone inside the restaurant but 30 minutes later when I came out of the photo shop, he was still there. I watched him carry on a conversation with an invisible someone as I started my car and drove off. Before I got through town, I knew I had to go back. If I had found a lost animal, I would have called the humane society, but this lost person, I didn't know what to do or whom to call. I didn't know if this man was mentally ill, lost or sick. I went into a few stores to ask if anyone knew him or what could be done and no one knew what to do with him. I called my priest but he was not available at the time. I watched as the young man finally got up and began to walk behind Bryson's Food Store in that same halting, jerky pattern, rubbing his hair and talking to himself.

When I arrived at my home, a return message from my priest suggested that the best thing to do was to call the police. In Atlanta, unless someone was disturbing the peace or violent, we did not do that. But I did. A policewoman

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



asked me to describe the situation and her response was so immediately reassuring. She said she would get into her car right away and drive up to the shopping center and that she would continue to keep an eye out for him. She encouraged me, as I do you with this letter, to always call the police when someone in our midst seems to be in need. He wasn't bothering anyone so the tendency is not to get involved but he needed help.

In this community of so many good people who do so much for so many, sometimes the ones who need our help are right in front of us.

Helen Moore
Highlands

Jackpot's pot brimming over

My dear friends of the Highlands Community,

I have always taken pride in remaining in the background, but your love, prayers and support during my recent surgery has placed me in the forefront. I am not accustomed to being in this situation. Please accept my whole-hearted appreciation for all you've done to help in my recovery.

Love,
Jack Pot

'Shop with a Cop'

Dear citizens,

It's that time of year again when all of us at your Sheriff's office are preparing for our annual "Shop With a Cop" event and as always we're asking for our communities' help! It's your money we're asking for.

With your help, officers will pick up local children at their homes and take them Christmas shopping at WalMart, followed by dinner with the officer compliments of Burger King. Then back to the Sheriff's office or police department to wrap the gifts. The only requirement is that before the child finishes shopping they buy one small gift for anyone they wish. This year's event will include officers from the Macon County Sheriff's Office, Franklin Police Department, Highlands Police Department, NC Highway Patrol, NC Wildlife Commission and the NC State Bureau of Investigations. We all hope to bring big smiles to more Macon County children than ever before.

There are no county dollars used to fund this program which can only be a success with your help. Please send check or money order by Dec. 12 to: MCSO "Shop with a Cop" at 1820 Lakeside Drive Franklin NC 28734.

Thanks in advance
Sheriff Robert Holland

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please email letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands' Newspaper

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School board officials sworn in

On Monday, Dec. 1, newly elected Board of Education members were sworn in by Macon County Clerk of Court Vic Perry. Frieda Bennett, who won the Highlands seat, was sworn in separately when inclement weather prohibited her from being at the ceremony with Bobby Bishop, Tommy Baldwin, and Jim Breedlove.



The next school board meeting is Monday, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.

• OBITUARY •

Nicholas Moschouris

Nicholas Moschouris, 57, of Highlands, NC, died Friday, November 28, 2008 at his residence. He was a native of the burrough of Manhattan, NY, the son of Juanita Porgeotes Moschouris of Highlands, NC and the late Bill Moschouris. He was a restaurant owner and active in the community and in civic affairs. He was a member of Highlands United Methodist Church.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife, Patricia Aldrich Moschouris, a daughter, Theodora Mary Moschouris of the home, and a brother, James Moschouris of Franklin, NC. He was preceded in death by a sister, Irene Sanchez-Colon.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, December 4 at 3 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church, with Reverends Paul Christy and Eddie and Kim Ingram officiating.

Memorials may be made to Mountain

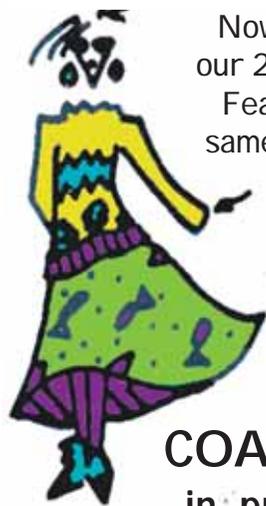
Top Relay for Life or to the Highlands United Methodist Church Capitol Fund, 315 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



Nicholas Moschouris

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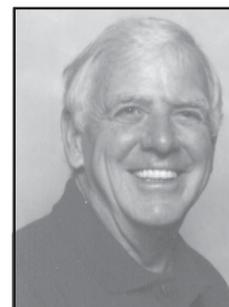


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• **LAUGHING AT LIFE** •

Thank God it's over

On Thanksgiving Day, 14 Wooldridges poured into our home to drink, swim, prepare a sumptuous feast, tell jokes, war stories and then party some more. When things quieted down for the big feed, 16 family members sat down, quietly prayed and gave thanks to God for all we have. That's what we Wooldridges do on Thanksgiving Day.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

Man, oh man, was it exciting as everyone arrived from all parts of the world, smiling, hugging, etc. By Sunday evening I was on my knees in the living room giving thanks they were all gone.

The li'l missus decided she would try to keep it simple this year (ha) and serve turkey breasts instead of the whole bird. How to coordinate the spinach pie setting up in the oven with the turkey breasts being completely cooked while stirring the gravy while watching to see if the biscuits were browning while cooking the vegetables is always a major stress factor for her. This, in the midst of screaming kids running through the house, asking for water, telling her they're hungry and asking when do we eat makes this event a major challenge. Amazingly, she did it well and she's no longer 39 if you haven't noticed.

Max's mom (The Maximus is our latest addition) rolled in with two versions of baked sweet potatoes mash, (that's what I call it.) one covered with marshmallows and the other with some kind of scary stuff that I'm sure clogged my arteries on the first bite. Simply awesome!

Our daughter marched in with her family from the Mayport Naval Base in Jacksonville, FL, to prepare her version of ambrosia. It's a guarded Navy secret so I won't be giving out the ingredients. She also brought a killer after dinner drink containing Bailey's Irish Cream mixed with chocolate liquor and Russian vodka. Hey, if you're going to kill brain cells, that's the way to do it.

Son Jeff and wife Lisa made a drop dead, killer artichoke dip they serve to their friends in Dubai. The dip is served with coarse bread and is supposedly the hit of every party. (Are you writing this down?) By the way, even Max celebrated with a little breast.

No, that's not all the li'l missus served up for her feast. There was turkey

dressing, cranberry sauce, vegetable medley and biscuits, topped off with pumpkin, fudge brownie and pecan pie, five in all. Did I mention it's a family tradition we prepare one dish that never gets served until halfway through the meal? This year it was the vegetable medley, discovered sitting in the microwave and rushed to the table. DUH.

There was a sad moment late Thanksgiving evening.

Our son-in-law, Captain Chuck, left his family behind and drove back to Jacksonville to take his warship, the USS Vicksburg, to sea. Chuck, mister nice guy, stretched Navy rules a tiny bit to allow himself and his crew to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with their families. His orders said he was to leave right before Thanksgiving Day. (Please, don't tell). Everyone might want to take a minute and thank God this nation has men like Chuck who command guided missile warships that help keep us safe from our enemies.

Oh, I almost forgot. I gave thanks for the Nutcracker Ballet at our local playhouse on Friday evening. Some grandkids loved it and some...well, got a little wiggly. And thanks for allowing my son and I to miss that event and babysit Jake, the Jakester dude, age two. We dubbed it "boy's night in" and celebrated by racing Matchbox cars and shooting whip cream straight from the can into our mouths. Awesome!

I was honored to read Don Swanson included me in his things to be thankful for, even though I wound up next to electric toothbrushes on his list. Thanks, Don for your conservative viewpoint even though sometimes I want to choke you for things you write.

Pray we never lose our freedom to express our personal point of view. It is our most treasured freedom. And thanks to Kim for allowing everyone to write their viewpoint and exercise that freedom.

Finally, on Sunday evening, in the quiet of our home, I thanked the Lord for family, for good health, for friends and the freedom to pray in the manner we see fit.

In addition, on this Thanksgiving weekend, I prayed our new president will not take our enemies lightly and will keep us as safe as we have been for the past eight years.

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

The government shouldn't bail out the tobacco industry

Bull spent last week at a ski racing camp in Colorado. Lizzie and I came along for the ride. There are hundreds of kids from around the country. They are accompanied by coaches, and in some cases, family. We were on an elevator with two teen-aged racers from Lake Placid, NY, just back from the hot tub, towels wrapped around their waists. Their coach got on the elevator, looked sternly at one of his skiers and accused, "You've been smoking!"

"No I haven't," he answered. His coach glared at him.

Another passenger broke the tension, somewhat heroically, I thought, under the circumstances, by identifying himself as the smoker. "It's a good thing," the coach added, "or his career would have been over." That's a pretty strong no-smoking policy. I'll bet that with penalties like that, few of his racers violate the rule.

It was recently reported that for the first time since the end of World War I, fewer than 20% of American adults smoke. The decline has been gradual, starting in 1964 with the Surgeon General's first report on the harmful effects of smoking.

Tobacco advertising has been limited by law. Smoking has been restricted or banned in public buildings and work places. Laws have been enacted to ban smoking in, of all places, bars and restaurants. When I learned that smoking had been banned in Irish pubs, I thought the sky might truly fall. Irish pubs have apparently survived and Irish people are probably a little bit healthier. States and individuals have sued tobacco companies. Taxes on cigarettes have escalated. New York State imposes a tax of \$2.75 on every pack. In South Carolina, a tobacco friendly state, the tax is 7 cents. Tobacco companies have experienced a dramatic drop in profits. The industry responded by targeting minorities in this countries and the population of the developing world. But the noose is tightening. Third world countries are fighting back against the exploitation of their people. They are attempting steps similar to those adopted in the West, but with very limited resources and a culture of corruption. At least they are trying, and apparently making a little progress.

The tobacco industry has manipulated the nicotine content of cigarettes in order to make them more addictive. When I was a college student, representatives of the tobacco companies handed out free five-packs to students as they walked from class to class. During World War II the companies gave out free cigs to wounded veterans. When I was in medical school, a vet in the VA Hospital. could still buy a pack for a dime. Maybe it was patriotism. The



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

more cynical might see it as part of a business plan to ensnare as many smokers as possible.

They say that societal costs in the U.S. amount to \$193 billion a year, and that five million people die worldwide each year

from tobacco caused illness. It would be a mystery why the sale of so dangerous drug is still legal, were it not for the realization of the power of the industry in tobacco producing states. Lizzie reminds me that smoking is a choice. It is not the choice of victims of second-hand smoke, or premature and low birth-weight infants, born to smoking mothers. It is arguable if it is even a choice of teens and pre-teens, lured to smoking by the idea that it is mature and sophisticated. It is not the choice of taxpayers who subsidize the cost of health care for smokers. It may be a choice, but if so, it is a very poor one. I'd love to live to see tobacco sales outlawed. It probably won't happen. I'll be satisfied if the government doesn't bail them out when times get really tough.

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• **REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND** •

Status quo we can believe in

OK, I can understand why President Obama is giving Senator Hillary Clinton a Cabinet position (although I'm not sure why she wants it), since she basically tied him for the Democratic nomination. The people who seem most excited about this are the political cartoonists, who get to start attacking the Clintons all over again.



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

column ("Consequences") I accused the Republicans, particularly Sen. Phil Gramm, of tearing down the Depression-era banking regulations which led to the current mess we are in. I was wrong; the Democrats were complicit also. During their tenures as Treasury Secretary both Rubin and Summers urged Congress to remove the regulatory walls between banks, brokerages and insurance companies.

I'm having a lot of trouble with the idea of Obama keeping Robert Gates as Defense Secretary. Obama won the Democratic nomination for president partly because he was the candidate most opposed to the Iraq War and the Pentagon is the place I would expect the most definitive break from the current administration. Obviously, Gates was not Defense Secretary when the war began, but how could Obama possibly keep anyone from the current administration's team? This will be the first time a new president has ever kept a Pentagon chief from a president of the opposing party. Obama calls it a "show of bipartisan continuity in a time of war." Change? Hello?

The biggest problem I'm having is with Obama's economic team. The president-elect's choices for his top economic advisers — Timothy Geithner as Treasury Secretary and Lawrence Summers as senior White House economics adviser — both served in the Clinton White House. They are also both protégés of Robert Rubin, Clinton's first Treasury Secretary and current director of Citigroup. People have been talking about Obama as if he is going to be a reincarnation of FDR and initiate Keynesian economic policies (meaning large government investment).

Yet the policies of "Rubinomics" are nothing like what Obama has talked about; Jared Bernstein of the liberal Economic Policy Institute called them "centrist economic policies which were too concerned with deficit reduction and not focused enough on investment programs for labor and the middle class."

"What worries me is there is not one person in the senior group who is the outsider to this club," said Robert Kuttner, a colleague of Mr. Bernstein's at the EPI, "Where is the diversity of opinion in this economic team?"

Many of my readers may think it's a good thing that Obama has hired economists who are not interested in more liberal "socialist" policies, but I think we can all agree that what we need from the new administration are people who can see clearly how to clean up the mess in the financial world. Here, again, Obama's choices are appalling.

While reading about these men, I found that I need to admit to a mistake. In an earlier

In 1998 Summers testified before Congress that legislation being considered to regulate a new financial instrument called a "derivative" could, in his words, "throw the whole system out of whack." During that Senate appearance, Summers did acknowledge that there could possibly be problems with derivatives; but he wasn't worried because the institutions buying and selling "these kinds of contracts are largely sophisticated financial institutions that would appear to be eminently capable of protecting themselves from any problems with derivatives."

In other words: fear not, the geniuses of Wall Street and the world's financial markets know what they are doing.

Congress went along and deregulated the financial industry and declined to regulate derivatives. Rubin left government to head Citigroup and profited enormously from the deregulation before helping bring Citigroup to the point of bankruptcy. Great mentor.

The *L.A. Times* has a very interesting article about campaign contributions from the financial industry influencing legislation, in particular this fall's \$700 billion bank bailout ("Heavily Invested in the Outcome," Sept. 23, 2008).

"Since 2002, the sector has contributed more than \$1.1 billion to congressional candidates, with Republicans getting an edge during that period, according to federal lobbying records. Democratic nominee Sen. Barack Obama took in \$22.5 million, followed by Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton with \$21.5 million. Sen. John McCain, the Republican nominee, was close behind with \$19.6 million.

"The nonpartisan research organization Center for Responsive Politics studied votes in 1999 on a piece of legislation, the Financial Services Modernization Act, that deregulated the banking sector, allowing commercial banks to compete with brokerage firms in buying and selling stocks.

Those who supported lifting restrictions on how commercial banks, investment banks and insurance companies could go about their business received more than twice as much money in campaign contributions

• See BRUGGER page 10

• HIS & HERS •

One swan a-swimming

Three miles south of Highlands the road to Dillard, GA, goes through a golf course. It is not just any golf course. It is the one that the great Bobby Jones designed just before he created his masterpiece at Augusta.

Jones had a personal stake in the Highlands Country Club course. He built his retirement home straight across the crescent-shaped lake which surrounds the 18th green, from the flag. Like the rest of the course, the 18th is a demanding hole, a chip across the lake to a teacup of a green that slopes away to all sides so approach shots that are only slightly off, "get wet" as the golfers say.

The whole course is demanding. There is water on 14 of its 18 holes. And in the summer when the rhododendrons are in bloom and dropping their large, white petals, it is a fruitless enterprise even to attempt to find a ball that has strayed from the fairway.

But this story is not about the golf course. It is about the swans that lived on that lake for at least 10 years. The perfect picture, which I have preserved only in my mind, not on film, is at the close of the day. The dying sun turns the perfect grass into a glowing, emerald green. It white-washes the wooden front of Jones' former home. And if the timing is just right, it catches the two swans swimming in tandem, across a lake as still as glass, behind the green and in front of Jones' house.

Swans are one of the rarities in the animal kingdom. They mate for life, as did these two. Unlike other birds, where the male is bright and showy and the female dull and camouflaged, the hen and the drake among swans are seemingly identical. I'm sure they knew the difference, but to my untrained eye they were the same.

It was a cob and a pen for sure, because about three years ago they had a clutch of cygnets, who swam with them as they grew that summer. Then in the fall, the children were gone.

On the water, up on the grass, near or in the swan house that was their shelter beyond the low stone bridge across a neck in the lake – anywhere in their small world – the swans were usually together as a pair.

Then, two weeks ago as we drove through the golf course every day on the way to town for the mail, we saw only one swan. For five days, we saw just one. So we stopped at the Club's security office next to the lake, and asked whether anything had happened to the other swan.

It had. One swan had gotten sick and died, of botulism the guard guessed, from something eaten from the bottom of the



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

shallow lake. So, now there is just one swan, a lonely gentleman whose lady has died. Because we cannot tell who died, and who is left behind, I'm sure my lady love would write that the gentleman died, and the lady swan lives on.

When couples are mated for life and one dies, often the other dies soon after, having little reason to go on. It is children, grandchildren, friends, professions and avocations which keep the survivors in such families continuing on. So, how is it with this one swan?

He has no descendants, no friends, no pastimes. He does have his memories of his mate. He must have that, or else how could swans mate for life?

Now, he spends very little time in the water. Most times, he is up on the grassy hillside below the tee of the 18th hole. Does he stay out of the water because he remembers the hours without number when he swam there with her? Does he stay on that hillside perhaps because that is where she died?

There are few things more elegant, evocative and inspiring, than two swans swimming on a still lake, almost always within touching distance of each other.

For the reverse of all the same reasons, there are few things sadder than one swan a-swimming, on a glassy lake, on a golf course, high in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

• About the Author: John Armor practiced law in the Supreme Court for 33 years. He now lives with his lady love on a mountain in the Blue Ridge of North Carolina. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Fixation or obsession?

You may find this hard to believe, but there are a small number of people who think I'm off my rocker. This may be paranoia on my part, but I don't think so.

Personally, I don't think their opinion is worth the emotional energy it consumes, but that's their business. Where does this misconception come from? Some say I'm obsessed with the Global Warming scam. Others say it's a fixation - on the Global Warming scam. Well, I admit to having the subject on my mind from time to time, but I find it hard to forget it when it was 9.4 degrees in Franklin (according to Weather Underground) as we left our house the other day.

An interesting item crossed my radar screen recently, posted on the Telegraph.co.uk website, which I find a reliable and useful source for news concerning US issues. They seem to be outside our media spin machine and actually report news without editorial suasion. This story will only be of interest to skeptics, such as myself, or those with open minds. If the certitude of a crisis caused by man-made global warming has been woven into your religious beliefs, you may want to turn to another column.

I am going to excerpt from their well done article rather than paraphrase it. More credibility don't you know? "A surreal scientific blunder last week raised a huge question mark about the temperature records that underpin the worldwide alarm over global warming. On Monday, Nasa's Goddard Institute of Space Studies (GISS), which is run by Al Gore's chief scientific ally, Dr. James Hansen, and one of four bodies responsible for monitoring global temperatures, announced that last month was the hottest October on record.

"This was startling. Across the world there were reports of unseasonable snow and plummeting temperatures last month (you heard it here first), from the American Great Plains to China, and from the Alps to New Zealand. China's official news agency reported that Tibet had suffered its 'worst snowstorm ever.'"

NOAA registered 63 local snowfall records and 115 lowest-ever temperatures for the month.

"So what explained the anomaly? GISS's computerized temperature maps seemed to show readings across a large part of Russia had been up to 10 degrees higher than normal." Based on an astonishing discovery, "the reason for the freak figures was that scores of temperature records from Russia and elsewhere were not based on



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

October readings at all. Figures from the previous month had simply been carried over and repeated two months running."

Well now, that's precise science. "The error was so glaring that when it was reported, GISS began hastily revising their figures. This only made the confusion worse, because to compensate for the lowered temperatures in Russia, GISS claimed to have discovered a new

"hotspot" in the Arctic - in a month when satellite images were showing Arctic sea-ice recovering so fast from its summer melt that three weeks ago, it was 30 per cent more extensive than at the same time last year.

"A GISS spokesman lamely explained that the reason for the error in the Russian figures was that they were obtained from another body, and that GISS did not have the resources to exercise properly quality control over the data that it was supplied with. This is an astonishing admission: the figures published by Dr. Hansen's institute are not only one the four data sets that the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) relies on to promote its case for global warming, but they are the most widely quoted, since they consistently show higher temperatures than the others.

"If there is one scientist more responsible than any other for the alarm over global warming it is Dr. Hansen, who set the whole scare in gear back in 1988 with his testimony to a U.S. Senate committee chaired by Al Gore." Well, there you are. A spoof of colossal proportions was born and has been perpetuated since by Hansen, who continues to supply erroneous information from the scientific side and Gore, who continues to use this hocus-pocus science for personal gain (big time).

"Last week's episode is far from the first time Dr. Hansen's methodology has been called into question. In 2007 he was forced to revise his published figures for US surface temperatures, to show that the hottest decade of the 20th century was not the 1990s, as he had claimed, but the 1930's."

I realize a single article does not conclusively prove a point, but cumulatively, taken together with all the other solid information I've supplied you with, I believe it's getting hard to deny the fraud.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Imagine Christmas

Clayton Lopez
Associate Pastor
Community Bible Church



I think imagination is shows us to be created in the image of God. Through imagination we can recreate stories and enter into the experience of them. Imagination is a gift we use to give ourselves to others. Through it we sympathize with others; we "walk in their shoes." Used the right way, imagination is a powerful gift we have received from God.

Jesus called it into use in His listeners in the many stories he told. So I also want to encourage you to exercise your imagination. I invite you to use it to better understand the Christmas story.

I believe the Christmas story is not just a legend or a tale. It is a historic narrative of an actual event. It is a portion of God's plan to redeem mankind from our greatest problem. Because of this, it is worth immersing ourselves into it. So follow me as I imagine Jesus being born today in our culture. What would the story be? I offer you the workings of my imagination, bizarre as they might be.

The couple:

Well, it would have been a young virgin and her soon-to-be husband; although I see them with names common to our culture: a Bethany and Michael or maybe even Hunter.

The trip:

A pilgrimage would be in store for them, a long grueling trip. Why? Let's say that the U. S. has lost its way and we are now under the rule of a foreign government and all people are being required to move to keep religion from forming pockets of resistance. Because Bethany (Mary) and Hunter (Joseph) are engaged, (the new law states that they are legally bound) they have to relocate.

The pilgrimage would take them from one side of the country to the other — say, from a small, Midwest town like Sioux Falls, Iowa to a town close to a major city, like Charlottesville, VA, near Washington DC.

They would travel by bus and, of course, she'd be pregnant; but these days it doesn't raise eyebrows as it did then.

Along the way, they encounter numerous check points and it takes them a week to arrive, because the transportation companies are now required to give free rides to the new government "officials" and troops.

They arrive in Charlottesville exhausted and realize that the contacts they were planning on meeting no longer live there. The town has been turned upside down by the new regime. Bethany is now close to giving birth and "it is time!" They search for a hospital, but none will take them in. They have no insurance and no cash left. All clinics are closed.

The inn

An inn and a situation that is unusual would be needed to create more problems for them.

They find a gas station/food mart that will let them use their public restroom and supply room (janitor's closet). The baby is born there; they name him Salvador and lay him in the top of a garbage can and wrap him in clean shop rags to keep him warm and tight.

Of course, the owners of the food mart were surprised to have a baby born in their store.

Star, angels, shepherds?

So what about a star and the angels and shepherds? All would need to be odd and extraordinary, so here goes.

Well, the star was a sign that only foreigners seemed to have perceived in Jesus' time. It was observable to all, but only noticed by a few. Hmm . . . what is later called a "trinary" pulsar (an imaginary name for the alignment of three pulsars) creates a glitch that is somehow picked up by internet programmers that are only allowed to work on the "lower,"

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship

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Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy
Communion each service

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CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Office – 526-2320

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the ballfield in Highlands

Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.

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

at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer

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

Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

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

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6:30 p.m. High School Group

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

Thursdays: Women's Bible Study 10 a.m.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968

Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.

Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

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

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Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

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a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6
p.m.; Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

Sun.: Worship – 10:55 a.m.; Sun.School – 9:30 &
9:45.

Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Bible Discussion &
Breakfast

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers

Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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5 p.m. Youth Group

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

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Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

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

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

... BRUGGER continued from page 6

from those interests as did those who opposed the measure.

"The 195 Democrats who supported the legislation received an average of \$179,920 in the nearly three years leading up to its passage. The 59 Democrats who opposed it received an average of just \$83,475.

"In addition to campaign contributions, the industries also invested heavily in lobbying. During 2008 alone, securities and invest-

ment firms spent \$46,477,562 trying to influence members of Congress."

If you'd like to read something really scary, read "The End of Wall Street's Boom," by Michael Lewis (Portfolio.com, search title). Lewis, who first chronicled Wall Street's excesses in *Liar's Poker*, (published in 1989) profiles some of the people who tried to expose the building scandal — including Meredith Whitney, a little known banking analyst who

declared over a year ago that "Citigroup had so mismanaged its affairs that it would need to slash its dividend or go bust," wrote Lewis. "This woman wasn't saying that Wall Street bankers were corrupt. She was saying they were stupid." And after finishing the article you will agree with her.

Obama has addressed criticism similar to this column by saying, "What we are going to do is combine experience with fresh thinking. But understand where the vision for change comes from first and foremost: It

comes from me."

We'll see. And if you think this is just liberal whining, check out a column of mine from last February ("Just what Do We Mean by Change?"); I really didn't believe Obama would bring "change."

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

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• HS VARSITY BASKETBALL •

Girls and boys beat Hayesville

By Ryan Potts
Varsity Girls

The Highlanders and Lady Highlanders returned from a long Thanksgiving break to earn a pair of hard fought home victories against the Hayesville Yellow Jackets the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 2.

In the early matchup, the Lady Highlanders jumped out to a slight first quarter lead thanks to some conversions off of Lady Jacket turnovers. Both teams were a bit shaky with the ball, but once the rust was shaken off, both teams performed admirably in what turned out to be a close ball game throughout.

The Lady Highlander lead swelled to as many as 7 points in the final minute, but Hayesville rallied to cut the lead to two and sent freshman Emily Munger to the line for two pressure packed free throws.

In this instance, youth was served as Munger sank both free throws and gave the Lady Highlanders a 36 to 32 home victory.

Lady Highlanders coach Brett Lamb was "proud of the girls for a good win early in the season." "There is still work to be done," said Lamb, "but it is always nice to learn while you win."

The Lady Highlanders featured a balanced scoring effort, with six players tallying at least 5 points. Kate Parks pulled down 9 rebounds for the Lady Highlanders and Taylor Buras added 3 steals.

Varsity Boys

In the nightcap, the Highlanders were still stinging from their disappointing effort

against Rabun County and were ready to play after a week and a half layoff.

Highlands started out with plenty of pressure early, using a stifling defense to force 11 first-half Yellow Jacket turnovers on the way to a 31-17 halftime lead.

Unfortunately, the Highlanders saw that lead evaporate away in the third quarter due to some careless turnovers against Hayesville's 1-2-2 zone press. What looked to be an easy Highlander win suddenly turned into a nail biter, as Hayesville tied the game in the closing seconds and forced overtime.

In the extra session, the Highlanders were able to take the lead on a terrific baseline jumper from Michael Shearl and held on for a 59-57 victory.

The Highlanders featured balanced scoring, with Ezra Herz leading the way with 15, followed by Shearl with 13 and Michael Baty and Andrew Billingsley both with 9.

Both Highlander Varsity teams played Andrews Wednesday night in a makeup of the 12/1 game, but results were not available at press time.

Friday night features the conference opener against defending LSMC champion Nantahala.

Friday night is also Homecoming at Highlands High School -- 6:30 girls, 8 p.m. boys. Please come and get Highlands Gym rocking for this crucial matchup for superiority in the Little Smoky Mountain Conference.



Ezra Herz sink a basket against Hayesville.

Photo by Noel Atherton

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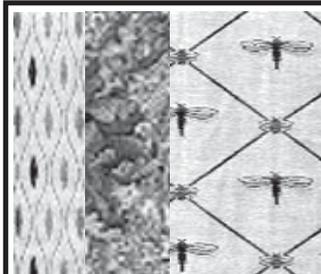
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Club helps prepare for dinner



For the 12th year in a row, The Girls' Clubhouse decorated the tables at the Highlands Civic Center for the annual community Thanksgiving Dinner held the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. This year, Cospers Flowers loaned the club the bud vases for the centerpieces. The girls decorated 30 tables for the expected 240 people, but in the end 260 people came. Pictured from left are 6th graders Veronica Garcia, Ivy Satterwhite, McKinley Mosely, Meredith Garren and Grace Brassard. Not pictured are April Moss and Elizabeth Houston.

Photo by Supervisor Kim Lewicki

Weather Channel puts Highlands, and its weather on the map



Everyone in Highlands knows Father Winter has come early this year with lower than normal temperatures and the first snowfall of the year before the end of October. Now, everyone in the country will know that Highlands can thrive all year long, even with an abnormally cold and snowy winter upon it! Pictured with the Weather Channel News crew, which rolled in Monday night and stayed at the Hampton Inn, is Bob Kieltyka, director of the chamber of commerce. Photo by Jim Lewicki

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This classy mountain cottage stretches out to entertain but keeps the cozy feel of a mountain home. Open plan with cathedral ceilings. A wall of glass to bring in the light from the double porch that overlooks the pond. Sit outside to the relaxing sound of falling water. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, plus a huge open loft. Top Quality finishes and craftsmanship make this an exceptional buy. Offered at \$875,000. mls #65867



Brand new and oozing mountain charm. This 3 bedroom, 3 bath, plus a family room, features spacious rooms and high quality finishes. Large tile and slate in the baths. Plank floors, stone fireplace, custom kitchen with granite and stainless appliances, two large decks. It is located just a shot stroll from the community boathouse. Offered at \$950,000.00 mls #65868



Enjoy a noisy babbling brook off the huge rear deck from this freshly renovated 3 bedroom, 2 bath home located on Laurelwood Lane. It is walking distance to town and in a nice neighborhood. Great privacy as this backs up to the dedicated green space park at Ravenel Ridge. Large covered porch off master bedroom, old fashioned master bath features hex tile and a claw foot tub. Lower level has den, one bedroom/storage room, workshop. Offered at \$545,000. mls #64090



DAZZLING VIEWS FROM THE TOP OF HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB. Distinctively elegant, this 8 bedroom, 8-1/2 bath home is a perfect family retreat. One of its unique features is the Blue Valley View in back and Whiteside Mountain in front. The elevator that serves all 3 floors has a glass wall to allow you to view the mountains. There are 6 fireplaces, a spacious entertaining kitchen with custom cabinets, granite countertops and breakfast island. There is a game room and exercise room. Features include, Lutron lighting system, invisible dog fencing, extensive electronics system, alarm system, generator, Caradco doors and windows and phantom screens. The main living area consists of a formal sitting room with glass front & back, a keeping room, formal dining, kitchen, master bedroom with fireplace and an office. In addition there is an attached guest house at ground level. The grounds are beautifully designed with extensive rock work, cobblestone driveway and additional parking front & back. Membership at Highlands Country Club available, subject to approval. Offered at \$5,500,000. mls #65882



Beautiful setting. Large living area for entertaining with a large stone fireplace as the center piece. 3 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths. Nice open floor plan. Could be used as a full time residence, seasonal or investment property. Lots of potential here. Offered at \$240,000. mls #64859



WALK TO TOWN LOCATION. This is a wonderfully convenient home located in a small residential enclave of homes known as "Pinecrest" and is about a half of a mile from downtown Highlands. Quality construction features custom stained pine floors, 2 gas fireplaces. Vaulted ceilings, smart wiring, professional design in choice colors and finishes. Custom "cooks" kitchen with large island and top of the line appliances. Huge 20 x 20 bedroom with massive bath suite that features walk in shower, marble floors and tile. 2 private guest suites plus an office/den and large exercise/family room. 2 car garage with additional driveway for plenty of parking. A nicely landscaped .72+/- acre lot with 2 fountains, irrigation system and flat grassy yard to enjoy. Offered at \$1,495,000. mls #65565



MIRROR LAKE AREA. This home has just undergone a complete remodel, new heat, new air, floors, walls, electric, plumbing, kitchen and decks. Walk to Mirror Lake or town. Nice, flat lot make this a must see. Offered at \$329,000. mls #64057



Curb appeal abounds from this great cottage located on a corner lot off Wyanoak Road in the Mirror Lake section in the city of Highlands. Real stone fireplace, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths together with an open kitchen/living room on the main level. Lower level has additional family room with bath and guest room. Flat, usable yard is pet friendly. Offered at \$459,000. mls #64038



Sequoyah Lakefront Home- This 3 bedroom 4.5 bath home sits on 1.18+/- acres on Lake Sequoyah. Great in-town location just minutes from Main Street and walking distance to "On The Verandah" Restaurant. Large Master Suite with stone fireplaces in the bedroom and master bathroom. Enjoy the expansive lake views throughout the house, open decks and your own private dock. Start making your family traditions this year on Lake Sequoyah. Offered at \$1,037,900. mls #65872



CUTE DOES NOT APTLY DESCRIBE this great mountain cabin located off Flat Mountain on Viewpoint Road. Wood floors, open rooms. Two bedrooms plus a sleeping area, two baths, real stone fireplace. Huge covered porch. Offered at \$465,000. mls #59751



A GREAT PACKAGE. Located on Windy Hill Road, this charming house sits on a five acre wooded knoll with a ridgeline view into Georgia. The dwelling has over 2500 square feet of heated living area plus a garage and large covered deck. Three bedrooms, three baths with loads of storage. Energy efficient construction with 2 x 6 walls make getting utility bills bearable in winter or summer. Walls of windows bring in lots of light to the living spaces that are well laid out and finished with hardwood floors and lofted ceilings. Propane cooktop and freestanding heater will keep you functioning even during power outages. Offered unfurnished and in move in condition at \$495,000. mls #63172

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**Library
 receives
 nature
 books**

From left is Dixie Barton of the Mountain Garden Club, Hudson Librarian Mary Lou Worley, and Olivia Diamond, an avid reader. Photo by Wendi Diamond.



The Hudson Library has two new books about kids and nature, thanks to the Mountain Garden Club.

I Love Dirt! is a book for young children, parents and grandparents to enjoy. The author, Jennifer Ward, provides simple suggestions for "52 activities to help you and your kids discover the wonders of nature."

Activities are listed by season of the year and include answers to questions kids ask, like "Why does it rain?"

Whatever your age, be prepared to have all your senses delighted when you follow Ward's suggestions. Her powers of observation are great, and she brings a fresh perspective even when writing about familiar activities.

For example, you may have spent time lying on your back on a lawn on a warm summer day, gazing at the clouds. But while you were finding animal shapes in the clouds did you also pay attention to the softness of the blades of grass underneath you? That's the type of detail you can expect from Jennifer Ward in *I Love Dirt!*

The other book donated by the Mountain Garden Club is the new edition of Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*.

Louv's book is a must-read for anyone concerned about the rise in obesity, stress, anxiety, depression, and attention disorders in children. Louv makes convincing arguments that these problems may be linked to daily routines that keep kids indoors, separated from nature.

First published in 2005, the book was updated and expanded earlier this year. The 2008 edition includes summaries of new research, a progress report by Louv, and discussion points for classrooms, communities and book groups.

"We're very pleased to make both of these books available through the Hudson Library," said Dixie Barton of the Mountain Garden Club. "Our club is dedicated to furthering interest in horticulture and conservation. We firmly believe that kids who get outdoors and have fun today will be better stewards of nature tomorrow."

... **MANAGER** continued from page 1

put it to use in helping the council, businesses, nonprofits, and the community," he said. "I'm excited and looking forward to this opportunity."

Highlands is transitioning from a hybrid form of the Mayor-Council government to the Manager-Council form but the transition and all that entails doesn't worry Fatland.

"I've worked through a transition before from an administrative-council form to a manager-council form. It's a matter of keeping the mayor and council apprised of all matters so there are no surprises," he said. "It's about open communication between the council, the employees and the community."

Prior to Tryon, Fatland worked for the Metropolitan Sewerage District in Buncombe County as the Deputy General Manager of Administration and Finance for eight years.

He also worked in the infrastructure department for the county of San Bernardino, California, and as the mayor and a city councilman for the city of Ontario, California.

In addition, he was manager of finance and administration for the Central Marin Sanitation Agency in San Rafael, California,

where he was involved with downtown revitalization and he was a budget and administrative analyst for the Orange County Sanitation District in Fountain Valley, California.

He earned a B.S. in accounting and finance from California State Polytechnic University in June 1976.

The Town Board spoke highly of Town Administrator Richard Betz, who announced some months ago that he would be resigning in March of 2009.

"Richard Betz has been an incredible employee and has been remarkable through this transition over the last six months," said Commissioner Hank Ross. "As a board, we appreciate all he has done."

Mayor Mullen echoed Ross's comments. "There isn't another town employee who has given more in the way of service to this town."

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf said he appreciates the job Betz has done.

"You have given of yourself to this town for so many years," he said. "You have always responded quickly to me and you helped me get integrated as a commissioner. You will be sorely missed."

The next Town Board meeting is Jan. 7.

Donation of 60 turkeys goes fast

On Mondays from 3:30-5:30 p.m., the doors open at the Food Pantry on Church Street Alley and members from 60 families in the community come to "shop" for food for free. This past week, an anonymous donor contacted Debbie Grossman of Fressers and donated 60 turkeys for Thanksgiving. As people left the pantry, they were presented with a turkey. Pictured is Debbie Grossman handing a turkey to a little recipient and her mother.



Photo by Kim Lewicki

... CRIMINALS continued from page 1

so.

The Macon County Sheriff's Office began participating in the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Criminal Alien Program (CAP) about a year ago. CAP focuses on identifying criminal aliens who are in federal, state and local detention facilities to ensure that they are not released into the community.

Sheriff Robert Holland said he is in favor of the program because it helps his department protect the citizens of Macon County whom it is bound to serve.

"This is self-selecting program because illegal aliens who conduct or engage in criminal activity identify themselves. It has nothing to do with the workplace round-ups that you see on television. We haven't taken part in any of that activity," he said. "Again, these are people who we have come in contact with in jail. They are there because they have all been charged with some sort of crime which resulted in them having their name run through the IAQ."

CAP is one component of the ICE ACCESS umbrella of services which also includes the 287(g) program and the Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC)

The mission of the LESL is to protect the United States and its people by providing timely immigration status and identity information to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies on aliens suspected, arrested or convicted of criminal activity.

Though distasteful to some factions in the community, Holland said it isn't just a way to get "illegal aliens" out of the county.

"This program simply identifies people who are committing crimes in Macon County and it has actually resulted in some violent criminals being taken into custody by ICE and removed from our county."

The LESL operates 24 hours a day, seven

days a week assisting law enforcement agencies with information gathered from eight DHS databases, the National Crime Information Center, the Interstate Identification Index and other state criminal history indices.

Pursuant to a North Carolina law that went into effect January 1, 2008, the Sheriff's Office tries to determine if inmates at the Macon County Detention Center are legal residents of the United States. If that determination cannot be made, then an Illegal Alien Query (IAQ) is sent to the LESL.

The LESL sends selected IAQs to the Charlotte ICE CAP office for evaluation.

If the person is not lawfully in the United States then ICE may issue an Immigration Detainer.

"This program identifies criminal aliens, only. We haven't had one person deported who has not committed a crime. Again, this is self-selective. It's pretty simple. They aren't deported or reported, unless they commit a crime. And it's important to point out that ICE only focuses on the most serious offenses," said Holland.

The other seven counties in Western North Carolina also operate ICE 287(g) programs and access the Henderson County database, independent of the LESL, to determine an inmate's immigration status.

The Sheriff's Office will begin a transition to also use Henderson County's ICE 287(g) program instead of the LESL for IAQs.

In 2009 the Charlotte ICE CAP office will transition to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to support the seven ICE 287(g) programs in North Carolina.

This North Carolina model program is the first of its kind nationwide and may become the model for the rest of the United States.

- KL

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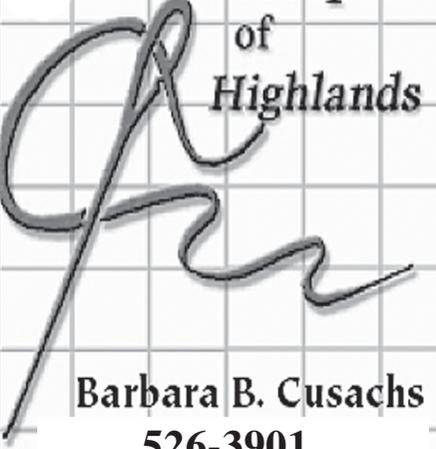
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

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On-going Events

- The Bascom is offering a host of art classes for preschoolers to pre-teens from now through the end of the school year. For more information, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 0#, or visit www.thebascom.org.

- Friends of Panthertown work days, last Thursday of every month (time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258) or friends.of.panthertown@gmail.com or online at www.j-mca.org

- Four churches prepare to "Walk to Bethlehem." The Macon County Public Health Center is continuing a successful faith-based wellness program. Four local churches, with assistance from the Health Promotions Program at the public health center, are embarking on a virtual journey from Franklin to Bethlehem as a part of the "Walk to Bethlehem" program. The four participating churches include First United Methodist Church, Holly Springs Baptist Church, Prentiss Church of God, and Watauga Baptist Church. The Walk to Bethlehem program encourages church members to be more physically active and make healthier food choices. According to the Centers for Disease Control, everyone needs at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity on most days

to stay healthy. As a part of the Walk to Bethlehem program, the public health center provided a pre-event health screening to the churches.

- Collections for men and women overseas at Chestnut Hill Retirement community. A wide variety of items currently are needed, including books and magazines, CDs and DVDs, and small pocket books, which fit neatly in the BDUs (Battle Dress Uniforms). Phone cards, lounge pants, grey or black t-shirts, and cards of encouragement are also in great demand. Consumables such as insect repellent, lotions, and other hygiene products must come new, in original packaging. Monetary donations to fund the flat rate APO shipping at \$10.95 per box should be left at the front desk of Chestnut Hill. The drop point for all items will be under the flagpole at the Chestnut Hill Clubhouse on Clubhouse Trail. For any questions, or to schedule a drop-off, contact Jeremy Duke in our community office at (828) 787-2114.

- Refuge Youth meets every Sun. night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God. If you are in grades 6th-12th then this is the place to be! The church is located at 6201 Highlands Rd. next to Exxon. For more info call youth ministers Matt and Candace Woodroof at 828-369-7540 ext 203, www.cullasajaag.org.

- Raffle of handcrafted Stiefel Botanical Book to Benefit The Bascom. To purchase a raffle ticket, call 526-4949, ext.

8#.

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

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

- NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365 or go to the website: www.ncmana.org.

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

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

Mon. & Wed.

- Pilates Classes Level 1 of Jane Woodruff at the hospital at 4 p.m. \$10 per class. Call 526-5852.

- Middle School students After School Program from 3-5 p.m. at the Rec Park. The program is free and will include a snacks, homework help, arts/crafts, sports, community involvement projects, and mini field trips. Parents will be required to register their child(ren) upon their second day of attendance and children will be required to sign in daily. For more information please call 828.526.3556.

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Christmas Showhouse set for Dec. 6 & 7



Sarah Sloan is one of six decorators now preparing a Joe Webb log house in Highlands to be featured as the Christmas Showhouse, held annually to benefit the Highlands Historical Society.

The Highlands Historical Society will be sponsoring a Christmas Showhouse Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7, 2008 from 1-5 p.m. This year's house is a log home on Satulah Mountain, built in 1930 for the family of Leroy Brown of West Union, S.C. on a 7.5 acre plot that remains intact. The view from the house includes Whiteside Mountain, Big Bearpen and other mountains to the east.

Brown engaged Joe Webb to build the home, using chestnut logs. The house is described in a survey for the National Register of Historic Places as "one of the finest and best preserved of all the Webb homes." Rooms in the house that will be decorated include the kitchen, dining room, living room, three bedrooms and a study.

Susan Jones from The Dry Sink in Highlands will decorate the kitchen;

Barbara Smith the dining room; Nancy Ostema of Cospet Flowers the living room; and Connie Thompson of Basketworks in Cashiers, one bedroom. Sarah Sloan, owner of Antiques and More in the Whistle Stop Mall in Franklin will decorate a bedroom and the study, and quilter Liz View of Cut 'n Patch, who has made a quilt specifically for one of the bedrooms, will decorate that room.

Tickets for the Christmas Showhouse are \$15 each and may be purchased now at Cyrano's Bookshop or on the days of the event in front of Bryson's Food Store, from which shuttles will run to the Showhouse. All proceeds benefit the Historical Society, which maintains Highlands' oldest standing home, the Prince House; the Historical Museum and Archives; and a former Bug Hill Cottage from Dr. Mary Lapham's Tuberculosis Sanitorium.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

Wed., & Fri.

• Open AA meeting noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Tues. & Thurs.

• Dance Aerobics with Susan, 8:30 a.m. at the Rec Park.

First Mondays

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

Mondays

• Open AA meeting, 8 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

• 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.

Wednesdays

• 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-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

1st & 3rd Thursdays

• The local affiliate of NAMI NC (National Alliance on Mental Illness), NAMI Appalachian South, meets from 7-9 p.m. at the Family Restoration Center, 1095 Wiley Brown Road, Franklin. NAMI offers peer support, education, and advocacy for individuals suffering from serious mental illness and their families and loved ones. Contact Ann Nandrea 369-7385, Carole Light 524-9769 or Mary Ann Widenhouse 524-1355 for more information.

Thursdays

• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

Thursdays & Fridays

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

Through Dec. 23

• "Winter Landscapes" exhibition at The Bascom, featuring paintings by John Mac Kah and Deborah Squier. Free public opening reception Nov. 29 from 5-7 p.m. Regular gallery hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. The Bascom is located inside the Hudson Library on Main Street in Highlands. For information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Thursday, Dec. 4

• Bingo at the Highlands Community Center 6:30-8:30 p.m.

• The movie, "The Kite Runner" (2007) tells of the drastic changes in Afghanistan in recent years. After spending most of his life in California, Amir returns to Afghanistan to help his boyhood friend Hassan whose son is in trouble. The movie series is held in the Library Meeting Room, hosted by the Friends of the Albert Carlton - Cashiers Community Library at 7 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 6 & 7

• Sanders' Family Christmas" (sequel to "Smoke on the Mountain") a wholesome musical at 7 p.m. on Saturday at the Dillard Playhouse, in Dillard, Ga. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 11. Call 706-212-2500.

• Christmas Showhouse to benefit the Highlands Historical Society 1-5 p.m. each day. The Joe Webb log-house at 149 Satulah Road will be decorated for the holidays by professional and semi-professional decorators. Advance tickets: \$15 each at Cyrano's. Shuttle from Bryson's.

Friday, Dec. 5

• At Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, Dr. Donald B. McCormick, who is Callaway Professor Emeritus and Chairman of Biochemistry at Emory University in Atlanta, will present a class on vitamins and trace elements at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The class, which can provide medical professionals with continuing education credit, is open to the general public and will be held from 7:45 to 9 a.m. in Suite 103 on the lower level of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus. Cost of the class is \$5 for those who attend without wishing to receive credit, and \$25 for those who want CME credit. The cost includes a continental breakfast.

Saturday, Dec. 6

• Highlands Chapter #284 Order of the Eastern Star is making Pumpkin Rolls again this year. The cost is \$10 each. You may place your order by calling Mary Anne Creswell at 526-2635 or Kathleen Wilson at 526-2852. The Eastern Star will be selling pumpkin rolls outside of Bryson's Food Store Thanksgiving weekend and on Main Street during the Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 6. All proceeds from the sale of the pumpkin rolls are given to local and Eastern Star charities.

• "Carol Sing" at First Presbyterian Church right after the parade featuring the McAllister siblings with harp and song and bagpiper David Landis with Angie Jenkins on pipe organ.

• Wine Tastings at Old Edwards Inn & Spa. Sumptuous hors d'oeuvres amid festive fireside ambiance of Hummingbird Piano Bar in the inn. 2-4 p.m. \$20 applies to purchase if you choose to buy and not just taste! Call 526-8008.

• Highlands Alternative Market immediately following the Christmas Parade until 2:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Free lunch and chance to give to area nonprofits.

• Annual Christmas Parade 11 a.m. until noon on Main Street.

• Santa will be at the Highlands Visitor Center from 12:30-4 p.m. to hear wishes and for photos.

• NANTANAH HIKING CLUB will take a 6-mile moderate hike with a gradual ascent up to the Appalachian Trail from Yellow Patch to Bear Pen to Betty Creek. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations and details on meeting place and time. Drive 36 miles round trip. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, Dec. 7

• NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB will take a moderate 3-mile hike with an elevation change of 200 feet on the

Cliffside Vista Trail to an overlook of Cliffside Lake. Meet in Franklin at BiLo lot at 2 p.m. (Highlands/Cashiers hikers meet at Cliffside Lake parking lot [fee area]). Drive 30 miles round trip and share parking fee. Bring drink, a snack if you wish and wear sturdy shoes. Hike is suitable for hike-experienced children 10 and over. Call leader Kay Coriell at 369-6820 for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• High Mountain Squares will host its 8th Annual TOYS for TOTS Dance at the Macon County Community Building Sunday from 2-5 p.m. Bring an unwrapped gift for infants through teens as your entrance fee. Gifts will be collected by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Smoky Mountain Detachment in a special ceremony. The public is welcome to participate in the gift giving and watch the dancing. Willis Cook from Carnesville, GA, will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-349-4187 or 706-782-0943.

Thurs.-Sat., Dec 11-13

• The Highlands-Cashiers Players will present its annual free Christmas reading at 7 p.m. at the Performing

• See EVENTS page 22

Give the opportunity of a lifetime this holiday season



Don't know what to get that nature or art lover in your life this holiday season? Try a chance both to help The Bascom and to win a one-of-a-kind handcrafted botanical book by artist Rosemary Clark Stiefel. Raffle tickets for the 50-page book, featuring Stiefel's original botanical watercolors, cost \$500 apiece, and you receive a free giclee gift of a Pitch Pine, Solomon's Seal (pictured above), Jewel Weed or Turk's Cap Lily botanical with each ticket. Only 400 tickets will be sold. Proceeds benefit The Bascom's capital campaign. For more information or to purchase a raffle ticket, call The Bascom at (828) 526-4949, ext. 8#, or visit www.thebascom.org/book-affle.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 9

"free" bandwidths of the internet. They realize that this is something they need to search out. The scientific community dismisses it, but it is picked up by some more esoteric researchers in Central Asia that make the trip to DC to inquire about this sign. (By the way, these researchers are part of a scientific consortium of "fringe" disciplines including Intelligent Design).

This group saw the sign for what it was: a miraculous communication.

The shepherds, well they were the outcasts, necessary but not welcomed. They play a vital role in society but do so in ways we would rather not have to face. I think of those in society who have been made slaves of sort. In our day it may be the migrant workers, who through their strong work ethic bolster our society, yet point out many of our cultures' faults and flaws. They hear the good news; it is to them that the angels speak. They come to the food mart and they worship the baby. They rejoice and wherever they go tell the story. Through them a revival begins in the land.

So that's my imaginary story. I imagine you could do better . . .

Why don't you read the story again? It's found in the Bible: In the gospel of Luke chapter 2 verses 1-20 and in the gospel of Matthew chapter 1 verses 18-2:12. Read and let yourself wonder. Imagine how Christmas (Jesus birth) might have been if it happened today. How would it change the way you celebrate Christmas?

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

Showing Dec. 5-11

FOUR CHRISTMASES

rated PG-13

Friday: (4:10), 7:05, 9:10

Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:10), 7:05, 9:10

Mon - Thurs: (4:10), 7:05, 9:10

TWILIGHT

rated PG-13

Friday: (4:30), 7, 9:30

Sat & Sun: (2), (4:30), 7, 9:30

Mon - Thurs: (4:30), 7, 9:30

BOLT

rated PG

Friday: (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

Mon - Thurs: (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

QUANTUM OF SOLACE

rated PG-13

Friday: (4:20), 7:15, 9:20

Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:20), 7:15, 9:20

Mon - Thurs: (4:20), 7:15, 9:20

Santa is here!



On Saturday, Dec. 6, after the parade, Santa will be at the Highlands Visitor Center from 12:30-4 p.m. to hear wishes and for photos.

\$5. for 20 words weekly

• CLASSIFIEDS •

\$2. for each add'l. 10 words

Free Classified Ads for items
(not live animals)
FOR SALE less than \$1,000.
One free ad per person.
All other terms:
20 words for \$5; \$2 for each
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Send check to:
Highlands' Newspaper
P.O. Box 2703
Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-0782

MOVING SALE

NOV. 28-30, FRI.-SUN., 10 -4 - All Clad
Pots, Glass Top Vanity "Rags to Riches!" 2731
Cashiers Road. (US 64 and Flat Mountain Road.)

HELP WANTED

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH is actively seeking a responsible and energetic individual to fill the full-time position of Director of Children and Youth Ministries. Bachelor's degree or five years related experience required. Send resumes to HUMC, P.O. Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741. Attn: Scott Roddy or email inquiries and resumes to humcsc@dnet.net.

MLT or MT needed in the laboratory at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Second and third shifts available with an occasional weekend and holiday rotation. Registry of ASCP or equivalent is required. Must be able to work alone. 3-5 years experience as a generalist with blood banking is preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

PHYSICIAN BILLING MANAGER: needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position available. Responsible for managing all billing procedures for the physician's offices. At least 3 years of office and insurance billing experience. CMA, EMT, or similar training and certification. Current training in coding is required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA OR CNA II at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. PRN positions are available. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

WORK WANTED

WILL DO ODD JOBS, YARD WORK. JUST ASK. CALL 526 8525.

WILL DO MOST ANYTHING - clean houses, baby sit, caregiver. Call 526 8525.

CUSTOM TILE AND SLATE INSTALLATION. 828-526-4889.

PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED CHEF - with 15 years experience in 4 and 5 star restaurants available to prepare custom menus for you and your family. Your kitchen or mine. Will travel for specialty/organic ingredients. Long-term /year around or special event catering available. Special dietary needs accommodated. Please call 743-0649 or email eleanorcrowe@aol.com for consultation or questions.

RETAIL-BIZ SPACE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE NEAR NEW BASCOM GALLERY. Approximately 450 square feet. \$500 includes utilities. 526-5558

SAPPHIRE VALLEY - Beautiful 1,500 sq. ft. available Feb. 1 \$1995/month. Call 743-2299. 12/7

DEVELOPER CLOSEOUT! - Unit at Freeman Center on N.C. 106 available for Rent/Own at \$1,995 monthly or for sale at \$379,900. That's a purchase price of only \$165 per sq. ft. Call 526-5296 or 828-421-3161.

PRIME OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT - 800 sq. ft., air-conditioned, heated, plenty of parking. Call 526-5673.

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

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT, YEAR-ROUND, walk to town. 3/3, oil heat, hardwood floors, small pets ok. \$1,275 includes electric. 526-5558.

TURTLE POND 3bd/2 1/2b, hot tub, furnished, no smoking/pets Lease/lease purchase 828 526 2759 marbago@hughes.net (st. 11/27)

APARTMENT FOR RENT - 1 bed, 1 bath, living area, kitchen and utility room. \$650/month. \$300 security deposit. Rent includes utilities (electric, water, heat, local phone.) one-year lease. Prefer non-smoker. No pets. Unfurnished. Good for 1-2 people. Call 526-9494. (1/1)

AVAILABLE DECEMBER 10TH. Prefer long term. Location: Off Buck Creek Road and Shortoff....Highlands mailing address. 4 bedroom plus bonus room (can be used as bedroom); 3.5 bath...year round house for rent, rent to purchase or purchase. W/D, dishwasher. Walk in closet in Master. Master on main; deck, water feature, two

car garage. Loads of storage. Will rent partially furnished or unfurnished. NO smoking; prefer no pets; \$2,200/mo plus utilities. Require one month security deposit that CANNOT be used as final months' rent. Pictures available upon request. Please call Jim at 828.200.0723 for rental information. 12/4

LUXURY LONG-TERM RENTAL HOME W/ OFFICE - Convenient "Heart of Cashiers." Quiet lake. Furnished 3 bdrm/3 bath with large home office. www.nc-mountainhouse.com \$2,600/month + utilities. (828) 526-3704 or (828) 526-0169. 11/27

LOOKING FOR CLEAN, QUIET NON-SMOKER WITH NO PETS - to rent furnished 1 bed, 1 bath apartment. \$600 includes all basic utilities. Cheaper with one year lease. Call 526-0079.

HOUSE FOR RENT AND SALE - 3/2 w/ office, great roommate plan 1600 sq. ft., gated community, Scaly Mt. half way between Highlands and Clayton, access to 17 acre lake and hiking from 424 sq ft porch or watch sun rise from 424 sq. ft. deck. \$1,200/mo plus utilities. Internet and satellite available. No children, pets, or ATVs; house actively being shown for sale during rental. Call Pat 828-243-9646 re rent or Becky 828-526-2475 re sale. psherrer@mindspring.com

DOWNTOWN APARTMENT RENTAL - One bedroom (Queen), one bath, vaulted ceiling in great room, heat and air with gas fireplace. Fully furnished with W/D, cozy and comfortable. \$750 a month plus utilities. Call 526-2598 or 421-3614.

1 BED, 1 BATH and small room with bunk beds on Lake Sequoyah. Furnished, two boats. \$1,000 a month including utilities except phone. Call Tony at 828-332-7830.

SAPPHIRE NC - 2 Story 3Bed/3 Bath, Yr round views, 2 decks, remodeled, Furnished, 2 car garage. Available yearly or seasonal. 561-626-9556

2 BDRM, 2 BATH CONDO AT HIGHLANDS MTN. CLUB, next to Highlands Country Club. AC, gas logs, hwd floors, fully furnished. One small pet allowed. Deck & screened porch. In city limits. Amenities include heated pool, road & entrance snow removal. \$875 per month. 828-200-0786.

2 BED, 2 BA HOUSE - Carport, Storage, Garage. \$800 a month. In Scaly. Call 423-715-7757.

2 BED, 2 BA, COTTAGE - W/D, 2 miles from town off Cashiers Road. Garage/basement, covered deck. \$925 a month. Call 864-944-1175.

FURNISHED 3BD/2BATH HOUSE IN MIRROR LAKE area available for 6-12 month lease \$1200+ utilities. Call 770-977-5692.

ATTRACTIVE 2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH APARTMENT available for immediate occupancy. Desirable Main Street location features balcony, large kitchen with dishwasher, spacious laundry equipped with washer and dryer. Recently renovated. No smokers and no pets. Call John for details. 526-5587. References required.

3BR, 2BA COTTAGE NEAR MIRROR LAKE - In town. \$1250 per month. Very clean. 770-977-5692.

ON MIRROR LAKE - Charming 3 bed, 2 bath. Huge sunroom, stone fireplace, 3 decks, canoe, furnished. Available Nov-May. \$1,500 a month

plus utilities. Call 770-435-0678.

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

VACATION RENTAL

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

THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE - Fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, No min. Call 828-342-2302.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

OWNERS MOTIVATED! LOWEST PRICED LOT IN DESIREABLE PINCHOT DEVELOPMENT IN CASHIERS. - 3.04 acres. Flat, ready to build. Priced to sell. \$399K. Lot 32B. Call Elaine at 706-746-5220 or Leif at 954-551-9271. 11/27

ITEMS FOR SALE

CHRISTMAS CARDS OF HIGHLANDS SCENES available at Dry Sink and Mill Creek Gallery. Coming soon "A Highlands Autumn, photography by Cynthia Strain. More info at 787-2021.

MAYTAG WASHER & DRYER - \$350 FOR BOTH. ALSO, 13" SONY DIGITAL TV \$75. ALL VERY GOOD CONDITION. CALL 526-2710.

125-Gallon All-Glass aquarium - over 6 feet in length, was a salt-water shark-only tank. Comes with Eheim Pro series-2 external canister filter, and optional mahogany base. Will settle for \$500; base, extras and help moving it are optional but free. Call cell 828-342-2809

HEALTHRIDER N35 RECUMBENT BIKE - Five programmed workouts, heart rate indicator. \$150. After 6 p.m. call 787-1264.

CHRISTMAS TREES. Fraser Firs available on Helen's Barn Ave. between the back of motel and drug store. Between 3rd and 2nd streets.

DRY, HARDWOOD, FIREWOOD - Priced to Sell! Call 828-526-4946 or 828-200-0268.

SMALL EMERALD AND GOLD RING. Originally \$300 Asking \$175. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m.

BABY LOCK SERGER MACHINE with extra spools of thread. \$200.00 828-631-2675 after 5:00 p.m. Sylva area.

REDUCED! 52" BIG-SCREEN TV RCA Home-Theater edition, with guide-plus gold. Moving and its too big to take. \$375 or OBO; this TV is in great condition and has a perfect picture, purchased at Circuit-city. Allows for 480P HD through Direct-tv. Call cell: 828-342-2809

YARD MACHINE LEAF MULCHER - purchased at Lowes. Used only a few times \$350. 526-5056.

SIX CEDAR ADIRONDACK CHAIRS - custom made. \$100 each or all for \$500. Call 526-3824.

LENOX CHINA "AUTUMN" PATTERN - \$125 for 5-piece place setting or sell by the piece at 20% below store prices. Call 526-0498

\$5. for 20 words weekly **CLASSIFIEDS** • \$2. for each add'l. 10 words

3-PIECE BEDROOM SET – Oak veneer, one dresser, one desk, one chest. \$300. Call 526-5772.

STONE AVAILABLE – Assorted. 14 pallets. \$200 per pallet. Call 526-9532

MARTIN-C-1740 UNVENTED GAS HEATER – with oxygen depleting sensing system. BTU 40,000. H. 14 24 3/4 W. 25" D. 13". Fan blower model B35. \$125. Call 526-5640.

BEAUTIFUL, KNOTTY PINE WOOD ENTERTAINMENT CENTER WITH POCKET DOORS. Will hold up to a 31" TV. \$100. Call 369-5863.

TWO 19" PORTABLE TELEVISION SETS. Perfect for rentals or spare rooms. \$20 each. Call 369-5863.

ANTIQUA WOODEN ROCKING CHAIR FROM LATE 1800'S. Fully refinished. \$100. Call 369-5863.

AVON CAPE COD RED GLASS – 8 piece place setting. 64 pieces. \$385. Also, accessory pieces available. Call 828-524-3614.

SET OF 4 ORIGINAL RIMS/TIRES FROM TOYOTA SOLARA – 16" x 6 1/2" with mounted Bridgestone Potenza tires 215-60-R16 M&S. \$500. Call Wolfgang at 526-8396 or 526-4603, evenings.

ANTIQUA WALNUT DINING TABLE with two 10 1/2 inch leaves. \$250; six oak pressed back chairs. Very good condition. \$300. Whirlpool upright freezer, \$100; 80,000 BTU propane central heat unit, \$100 and 60-gallon propane hot water heater, \$75. Call 526-0036 or 421-1159.

DESK (LARGE) WITH MATCHING CREDENZA, oak, leather chair. \$850. Call 743-6869.

4 BOARD PINE DINING TABLE - \$300. Early American New England spinning wheel - \$225. 526-2671

GOLF CLUBS CLASSIC – SET OF MacGregor Tourney 9 irons (2-9 P.W.) 1980. Per-simmon Drivers, new. \$50. Used \$25. Also miscellaneous items cheap. Call 706-746-3046. (Sky Valley).

MR. HEATER – 75,000 BTU. Forced Air Heater. Like New. \$110. Call 526-3206.

TABLE SAW – 9" with 4" Joiner. All one stand. \$75. Call 526-3206.

PFALTZGRAFF "HEIRLOOM" DISHES. Complete service for 8 plus numerous serving pieces, extras and accessories. Too much to list. \$300 Call (828) 631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

JESSICA MCCLINTOCK VICTORIAN STYLE WEDDING DRESS. Very unique. Size 11/12. \$200. Call (828) 631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

MAN'S FORMAL (MID-LENGTH) WESTERN STYLE BLACK COAT. Size 46. Worn once. Bought at Stages West in Pigeon Forge. \$150. Call (828) 631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

8 SOLID OAK, LADDERBACK dining room chairs with woven seats. \$800 for set. Call 526-3048.

UNUSUAL OLD OAK ROCKER. \$225. Call 526-3647.

1930S CHILD'S WICKER ROCKING CHAIR. \$175. Call 526-3647.

1930S WICKER DOLL CARRIAGE. \$200. Call 526-3647.

OLD OAK MIRROR TOWEL RACK. \$85. Call 526-3647.

TWO LOW-BACK SOUTHWESTERN-

LOOKING UPHOLSTERED CHAIRS. \$400. Call 526-5056.

RED WICKER CHAISE LOUNGE WITH PAD. \$250. Call 526-5056.

5-PC BEDROOM SET C.1920 Bed/Chest of Drawers/Vanity-styie Dresser/Stool/Mirror. Rose-wood inlay. Original brass hardware. Good condition. \$995. 828-200-1160 or highlandnative@yahoo.com

CRAFTSMAN 10" RADIAL ARM SAW WITH STAND. Old but used very little. Excellent working condition. \$150. 828/787-2177.

HEWLETT PACKARD 15" CRT MONITOR in good working condition with all connection cord included. "FREE." Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

COLONIAL GLASS – set of 12 Sherbet Goblets, and dessert plates. \$35. Call 526-4063.

TANZANITE LOOSE STONES: I have for sale 10 gorgeous oval cut 1-carat Tanzanite stones which would make beautiful earrings, bracelet, necklace, or a cluster ring. These stones are AAA+++ quality grade. Each stone is priced at \$400 each or discounted for a multiple stone purchase. Call 828-488-2193 and ask for Randy.

WATER PURIFYING CHLORINATOR PUMP with large heavy duty plastic holding tank. Was \$75. Now \$50. Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

PLASTIC OUTDOOR TABLE: Hunter green 36"x36" in like new condition. \$10. Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

DECK CHAIR WITH MATCHING FOOT RESTS – \$20. Call 526-5367.

DRESSING MIRROR – \$5. Call 526-5367.

STEEL TYPEWRITER TABLE – \$5. Call 526-5367.

TWO TWIN CREAM COLORED BEDSPREADS – \$6 each. Call 526-5367.

3-TIERED GLASS CORNER SHELF \$10. Call 526-5367.

TWO ELECTRIC WATER COOLERS for sale. Approximately 38" tall x 12" square. Put bottled water on top. \$50 each. OBO. Call 526-3262

7 JIM SHORE LAMPS BY ENESCO For sale. Call 828-787-1292. Prices range from \$70-\$125.

FREE BRICK FRONT FOR BUILT-IN FIREPLACE. W-68", H-52" Call: 828-349-3320

LENOX SPICE JARS, full set mint condition, original price \$45 each. Also jewelry call 369-0498. 7-9 p.m.

GEISHA GIRL NIPPON TEAPOT, rattan bails handle circa 1891-1921, Creamer/Covered Sugar Set, Tea set/ rice bowls 369-0498 7-9 p.m.

GREEN PRINT VELOUR SWIVEL ROCKER, new, \$250; blue stripe club chair w/ottoman, like new, \$175; large pine armoire, like new, \$200; Simms X-large waders w/attached boots, bought at Highland Hiker, used 3 times, \$250. Call Beatrice or Dennis at 743-5600.

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

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

MISC. ITEMS – Various proof coin sets, old

78 LP, Old Walt Disney movies (never opened); Girls' bicycle; Collectible Basketball Cards (never opened). Call 526-9123.

MASSEY FERGUSON DIESEL DELUXE 35 WITH POWER STEERING. Completely rebuilt, repainted, new tires. Includes scrape blade, and an 8,000 lbs. tandem axle trailer. Sharp Package! \$6,000. Call (828)526-1684 and leave message.

BEAMS, FLOORING AND ENTIRE STRUCTURES: HAND HEWN BEAMS. Beautiful material, large faces, \$3.50-\$4.50 per board foot. Wormy white oak flooring (milled w/ a t&g), 6-12" widths, \$8 per ft. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") \$6/ board ft. Wide barn siding, \$3/ft. Also historic log cabins and barns ready to reassemble. 215-529-7637. Delivery available.

ANTIQUA CHERRY DINING TABLE – drop-leaf. rope carved legs. Seats 4-10 people. \$1,500 obo 828-787-1515

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

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

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

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2002 TOYOTA CAMRY – 7 upgrades, low mileage, excellent condition, priced to sell. \$9,500 or OBO. 706-746-4441 12/11

1997 FORD F250 CREW CAB – 4WD. 75,000 original miles. 460 8 CY, 5 SP, Short WB, Black, one owner. 35" tires. 3" lift. \$8,500 or OBO. Call 526-3824.

1984 JEEP CJ7 – Rebuilt 304. 10,000 miles. 8 CY, 4 SP, 4WD, Front Bush Guard. 35" tires. 6" lift. Headers. Good condition. \$8,500. OBO. Call 526-3824.

02 DUTCHMEN 27' LITE TRAVEL TRAILER. – Slidout. Queen MBR, sleeps 6. \$12,000. OBO. Call 526-3824.

15-FT. DUAL AXLE TRAILER FOR HAULING TRACTORS – Worth \$750. OBO. Call 526-3824.

SERVICES

HANDYMAN SPECIAL – Repairs and Remodeling, Electrical and Plumbing, Carpentry and more. Low prices. For free estimate call 828-342-7864.

RELIABLE CHILD CARE IN MY HOME – Minutes from Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Daily/Weekly. 12 years experience, referemces and Early Childhood credentials. \$5 per hour for first child, \$10 a day for second sibling. Call 743-2672.

CUSTOM TILE AND SLATE INSTALLATION. 526-4889. 1/21

HOUSE & PET SITTING – References

SALE! **All KD Tools on Sale**
Lifetime warranty
Made in USA

Win \$100.00 Gift Certificate

Come in and just make a purchase to have a chance to win
Drawing Dec. 22, 2008

Gift Certificates Available !!!

Centerline 526-3708
AUTO PARTS

Available. Call 443-315-9547. 11/27

DESIGNATED DRIVER – Available now through Jan. 1. Call 526-3824.

HOUSEKEEPING – Saturday and Sunday mornings. Call Kim at 828-482-2105.

LANDSCAPE CLEANUP – leafs, gutters and more. Call Juan at 200-9249 or 526-8525.

COMPLETE LAWN SERVICE - All Levels of Lawn Care at Competitive Rates. Design, Installation, & Maintenance. No Job Too Small or Too Large. 30 Years Experience. For Free Quotes, References, or Scheduling, Please Call: 526-1684.

CLOCK REPAIR - Antique or modern, complicated antique clocks are my specialty. Experienced and dependable with housecalls available. Call 706.754.9631 or visit my website at www.oldclockrepair.com. Joseph McGahee, Clockmaker.

FIREWOOD "Nature Dried" Call 526-2251.

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

J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES – total lawn care and landscaping company. 20 years serving Highlands area. 828-526-2251.

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

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

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Scroll down, click on
NEWS and enjoy!

... **MACKEY** continued from page 1

the Persian Gulf.

We had to get U.S. troops out of Saudi Arabia because the Saudis are having to protect themselves from their own population

which is mad about having U.S. troops there.

We still have air bases there in the case of an emergency so we could get troops back in there if we need to, but it's the time factor. Where we had most of our military presence is Katar which is very small. I mean, it's tiny and that makes us very nervous with good reason.

All of this is why we have to figure out how to internationalize the protection of the Persian Gulf so it's not just about the United States. Because if nothing else, we have to have territory on which to base equipment so if we do have to go in there suddenly, troops won't have to be brought in from the U.S. or Europe.

Question 2

The author of "Three Cups of Tea" is adamant about solving the problem of ignorance

through education and sees that as the solution to everything.

That's an interesting book. What the scuttlebutt is now is that General Petraus is being taken out of Iraq and put in charge of Central Command which is in charge of the entire region. Petraus is the guru of counter-insurgency. The army now is focusing on counter insurgency — and that is one thing I'm doing right now — training people in counter insurgency tactics. Counter insurgency is how you deal with events on the ground — the culture and political tensions that are going on and how you figure out who's who in the whole thing. The feeling right now is that a "surge" in Afghanistan isn't the way to go there. The way to go is to really go in and concentrate on counter insurgency. That's what I was talking about earlier — giving the heroin farmers in Afghanistan a different way to earn income to keep them from dealing with people you really don't want them cooperating with. This really requires a different military response than America is used to. And frankly, the American army is being retrained to not fight wars but to do counter insurgency.

Question 3

How far will Israel allow Iran to go with its nuclear development?

This is a real problem. One of the things that we have to be very, very concerned about is what is going on in domestic politics in Israel. The Israelis for a long time were split right down the middle between those who want to expand the borders of Israel into the occupied territories that are supposed to go to Palestinian for a State — which is the basis of the two-state solution — and the group that doesn't.

The Likud party that wants to expand doesn't want to give any of that territory up but instead wants to incorporate it into a greater Israel. They are the people who send the settlers into the occupied territories to establish communities and then connect them together because the theory is when they get a critical mass on that area they can just take it over.

The other Israelis — the Kadima party — are saying that's not the way to go. They want an agreement with the Palestinians because if they don't have one the Israelis are going to be outnumbered in a relatively short time — say 10-20 years.

Unfortunately, the extreme Zionists are getting more and more political power and the Israelis — the one's we think of from Exodus and the '67 war and so forth — they're leaving.

So there is right now a political period in Israel in which a new leader of the Kadima party is trying to put together a new government. If she can do that, then Israelis will likely follow down the path of the peace process. If she fails, there will be elections early in 2009 and in all probability Binyamin Netanyahu will win that election. He is an extreme Zionist and the people around him are perfectly willing to use Israeli nuclear weapons if they feel like they need to.

A recent study of the Israelis' likeliness to

attack Iran released from the American Enterprise Institute — the nest of the NeoCons — says that it's estimated that Iran's facilities are so scattered and so buried in the mountains it would take a minimum of 1,000 Sorties to even damage them and the Israelis wouldn't be able to finish the job. Their plan, therefore, is for the U.S. to go in and finish the job.

People we have reached a point when we have to accept the fact that Israel is a nation state. It isn't the Holy Land of the Bible. There are times when American national interests and Israeli national interests run parallel. But there are times when they don't. We have one administration after another — republican, democrat — saying that Israel is our greatest ally and we are committed to the defense of Israel. This is fine, but we also have to be willing to draw limits around what we are willing to do. The U.S. has never been willing to do that. We have allowed the tail to wag the dog and that's got to change.

Question 4

What are the implications if the U.S. had no presence in the Middle East?

What's boiled down in the public mind is that either we stay the course or we withdraw. The truth is we can't do either.

The U.S. is a global power and we need to stay a global power, but we also need to make sure we are working in concert with other countries.

The cold war diplomacy was easy. There were the white hats and the black hats, now it's much more complicated because power is more dispersed and we are more interconnected.

Obviously, this is an absolute vital region due to the oil and the geography — it is the literally the land bridge from Asia to Europe — so we have to be in there. But we have to figure out the best way for us to be there so it benefits us and the people of the area and not be there in a way that causes tension and hostilities that come back on us in negative ways.

• Next week in the final part of this series, Mackey will answer Questions 5-10.

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happily announces his
retirement from the
practice of law effective
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... CALENDAR continued from page 1

Brigman asked the board to support a resolution seeking relief from NC GS 115c-83.2 and establishing a common calendar for the benefit of the seven school districts serving the six far western counties of North Carolina including the Qualla Boundary, and Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties, to align with SCC, WCU and Tri-county Community College.

A common calendar will include such things as semester start and end dates, school breaks, holidays and professional development days so districts can reach shared goals of improving access to education and facilitating student success, and share resources to reduce costs, while building bridges from K-12 to higher education.

"The vitality of the 21st century econo-

my is dependent upon a well-educated and technically trained workforce best sought through an integrated and seamless K-16 learning experience," reads the resolution.

"Currently, North Carolina, through legislative action, imposes numerous restrictions and requirements on school calendars including start and ending dates, the number of workdays each year, where a number of the workdays can occur within the calendar, and other requirements," said Brigman. "Such restrictions within our calendar have created barriers for student programs such as timely access to dual enrollment classes, Early College schedule conflicts, and other issues pertaining to misalignment for class starts and finishes. As it is now, class alignments are off by two-three weeks."

Brigman said so far there has been no research substantiating an economic boom to the economy in Eastern or Western NC due to the calendar change, which was the initial reason for the calendar change three years ago.

"Earlier this month, other superintendents and representatives from SCC, WCU and Tri-County discussed the hardships of aligning our schedules to adequately address the needs of our students. The group unanimously agreed to submit a request in the form of a resolution to be supported by each of our boards for a joint calendar waiver," he said. "This will help remove most of the barriers this legislation presents as we continue to address other state requirements for high school reform and expanded course offerings

to all students."

The board voted unanimously to approve the resolution and joining the other K-12 and higher education partners in the Western North Carolina region in the endeavor.

The resolutions will be presented to the State Board of Education and legislators as soon as possible in hopes of adjusting the current draft calendar being developed for 2009-10.

This week Brigman and others also met with Representative Haire, Senator Snow and Representative West to demonstrate a unified front in hopes of getting the waiver.

If the state allows the waiver, Macon County schools would start around Aug. 15, 2009 with the first semester ending before Christmas. - KL

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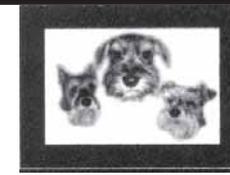
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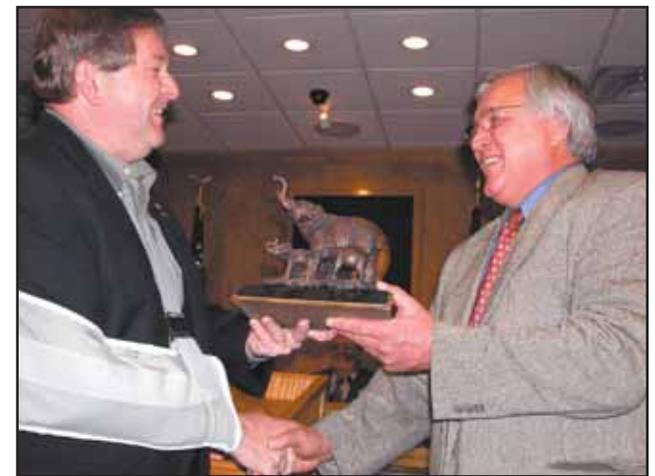
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Judge James Downs conducted the swearing-in ceremony Monday night in the commission boardroom. Both Commissioner Jim Davis and Bobby Kuppers were joined by their wives who each held their personal bibles.

Gary Dills of the MC Republican party, presented outgoing commissioner Charlie Leatherman with an elephant model representing the Republican party.

New MC Commission board is seated Dec. 1

The torch was passed at Monday night's Macon County Commission meeting.

Democrat Bobby Kuppers took the seat of outgoing Republican commission chair Charlie Leatherman whose eight-year tenure came to an end; Commissioner Davis retained his seat.

Judge James U. Downs conducted the swearing-in ceremony during the brief meeting.

"In my 25 years as a judge, I have sworn commissioners in and out and probably been sworn at by some," said Downs. "But it's important to know that we in Macon County appreciate your service and the service of those before you and those to come."

Before swearing them in, Downs had words for both. "Commissioner Davis, you were elected unopposed which means you have either done a fine job or no one else

wanted the job.

"Bobby, you've been coaching and preaching and teaching and now it's time you face the public who elected you."

Once seated, Kuppers said he was honored to be sitting at the table and was surprised at how humbled he was over the entire affair. He said the only agenda he had was Macon County which is the only reason any commissioner should seek a seat. He said he knew how it felt to stand at the podium as a citizen and now that he was on the board he wants every citizen to know that the Macon County Commission board is their board and Macon County is their county.

"Never feel intimidated when you stand at the podium to speak to the board," he said. "Feel like you are standing in your living room because you have a right to speak and a right to be here."

The board quickly elected a chair and vice-chair with Commissioner Bobby Kuppers nominating Commissioner Ronnie Beale chairman which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bob Simpson nominated Brian McClellan vice-chair but the motion failed for lack of a second.

• See BOARD page 22



Commissioner Ronnie Beale presented Leatherman with a plaque and thanked him for a job well done over the last eight years.

Photos by
Kim Lewicki

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Arts Center on Chestnut Street.
Thursday, Dec. 11

• The movie "De-Lovely" (2004) is an original musical portrait of Cole Porter. It is filled with his unforgettable songs. Kevin Kline and Ashley Judd star as Cole Porter and his wife Linda. The movie series is held in the Library Meeting Room, hosted by the Friends of the Albert Carlton - Cashiers Community Library at 7 p.m.

• The League of Women Voters of Macon County will present a program on new development following old patterns in Franklin with Ben Brown who works with Place-makers, a leading national design group that "helps developers and municipalities create places deeply satisfying to both the soul and the balance sheet." He will explain the general principles of Traditional Neighborhood Development or "walking" communities. Tim Ryan is developing Sanctuary Village near downtown, and will talk about the vision and design for that community. The meeting will take place at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. Lunch is available at noon by reservation—call 524-5192. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

Friday-Sunday, Dec. 12-14

• Sanders' Family Christmas" (sequel to "Smoke on the Mountain") a wholesome musical at 7 p.m. on Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday at the Dillard Playhouse, in Dillard, Ga. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 11. Call 706-212-2500.

Saturday, Dec. 13

• Wine Tastings at Old Edwards Inn & Spa. Sumptuous hors d'oeuvres amid festive fireside ambiance of Hum-

mingbird Piano Bar in the inn. 2-4 p.m. \$20 applies to purchase if you choose to buy and not just taste! Call 526-8008.

• Santa will be at the Highlands Visitor Center from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to hear wishes and for photos.

• NANAHALA HIKING CLUB will take a moderate to strenuous 9.5 mile hike with elevation change of 300 feet, from Deep Gap to Raven Rock on the Appalachian Trail. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza (opposite Burger King); drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Don O'Neal, (828) 586-5723, for meeting time and reservations. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will have a trail construction work trip on Saturday. If you are interested in participating please register with Hillrie Quin at 526-2385 or hmquin@verizon.net. We will meet at the Peggy Crosby Center at 9 a.m. for a brief training session and then car pool to a trail section. Participants will be furnished tools and safety equipment. Bring water, lunch, rain gear, a day-pack to hold everything. Boots and clothes that can get dirty are advised.

Sunday, Dec. 14

• Refuge Christmas Party at Cullasaja Assembly of God Sunday at 6:30 pm downstairs. Cullasaja Assembly of God is located at 6201 Highlands Rd. next to Exxon. Food! Gift Exchange! and Awsome Christmas Games! For more information all Call Matt Woodroof -828-369-7540-ext.203 www.cullasajaag.org

Thursday, Dec. 18

• Christmas Sing-A-Long and family movie will begin at 6 p.m. at the Cashiers Library. Details will be announced

later.

Friday & Sunday, Dec. 19 & 21

• Cullasaja Assembly of God invites you and your family to its Christmas Play, "A Word of Wisdom." The play will be on Friday at 7pm and Sunday at 6:30pm. The play is free. Cullasaja Assembly is located at 6201 Highlands Rd. next to Exxon. For more information call the church office at 828-369-7540. www.cullasajaag.org

Saturday, Dec. 20

• Wine Tastings at Old Edwards Inn & Spa. Sumptuous hors d'oeuvres amid festive fireside ambiance of Hummingbird Piano Bar in the inn. 2-4 p.m. \$20 applies to purchase if you choose to buy and not just taste! Call 526-8008.

• Santa will be at the Highlands Visitor Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to hear wishes and for photo.

• Santa will be at the Scaly Mountain Community Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your list to share with Santa, coins for reindeer food and a sweet tooth!

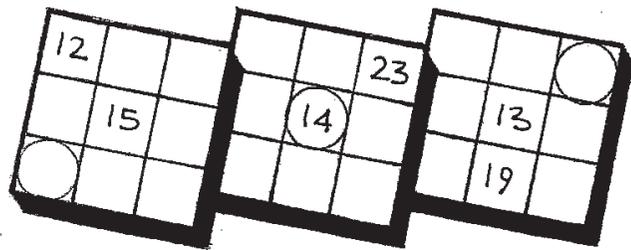
• The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival's Christmas concert "Father Christmas' Favorite Chamber Music" at 5 p.m. at PAC to benefit the Highlands Emergency Council. For tickets call 526-9060.

Sunday, Dec. 21

• NANAHALA HIKING CLUB will take a 2.5 easy-to-moderate hike on the Bartram Trail from Wallace Branch and return loop. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza at 2 p.m. Drive 3 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Kay Coriell at 369-6820 for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• FUN & GAMES •

PseudoCube[©]



#AZ3F Level of Difficulty - Hard

THE SETUP:

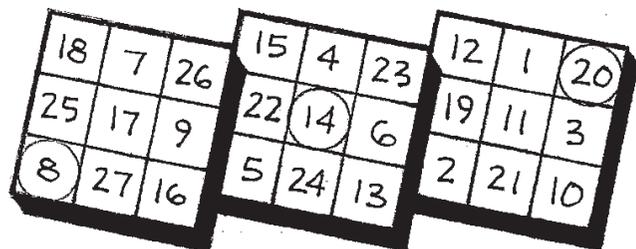
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

THE CHALLENGE:

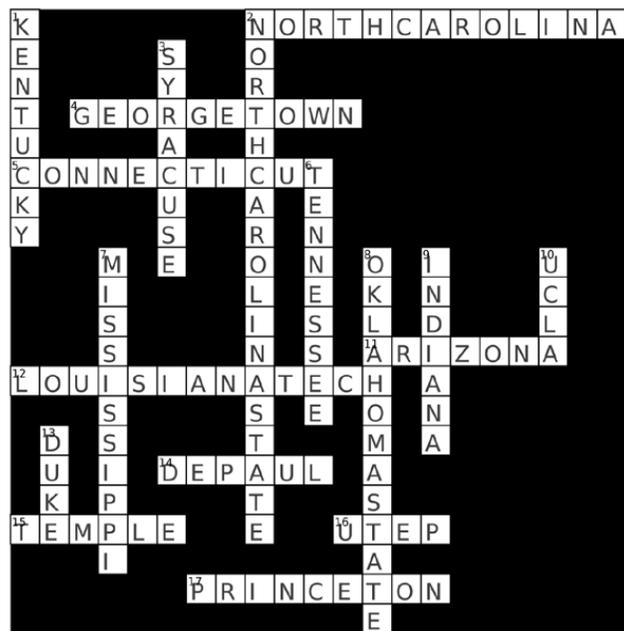
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

Solution to #DN3F in Nov. 26 issue



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 11/26



Sudo-Grams[©] 2008

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

OBJECT:

A mystery word or phrase using all different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words will appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different mystery word or phrase (no spaces). Assign different letters to each square of each column and row. In addition, various cells (six, eight or nine) in the puzzle layout have the same different letters (this is like Sudoku but uses letters instead of numbers).

How to Solve:

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

Mystery Word

#G607

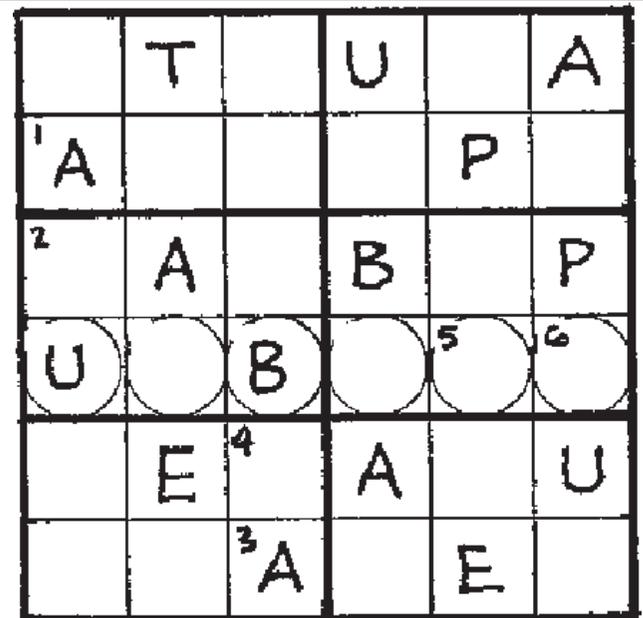
To Proceed (6)

Across

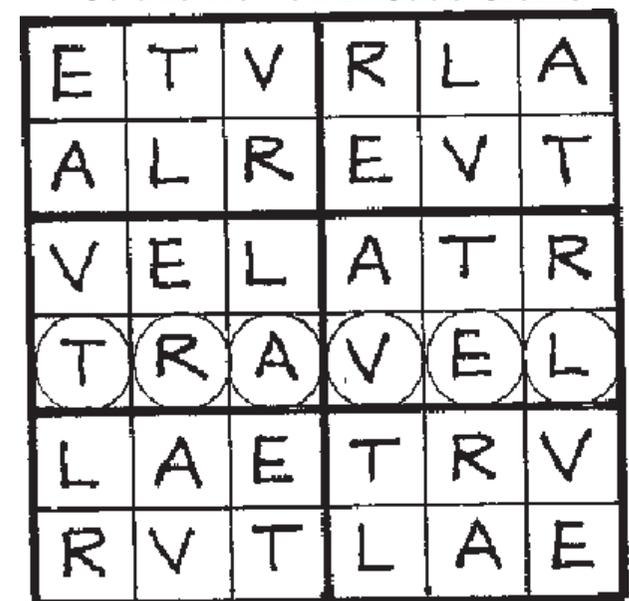
- 1. Lie adjacent (4)
- 2. Consume (3)
- 3. Primate (3)

Down

- 4. Father figure (2)
- 5. Engorged (3)
- 6. Large basin (3)



Solution to Nov. 27 Sudo-Grams



FIRE DEPT. ENTRIES

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Nov. 26-Dec. 3

Nov. 26

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

Nov. 27

• The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Bowery Road. It was cancelled by the alarm company.

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

Nov. 30

• The dept. responded to the call of an accident on N.C. 106 but it was unfounded.

Dec. 1

• The dept. responded to an accident on Buck Creek Road where a vehicle was down the bank. There were no injuries.

• The dept. responded to an accident on Buck Creek and Shortoff Baptist Church where a vehicle had overturned. There were no injuries.

• The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers for a possible structure fire but it was cancelled en route.

Note:

• At the Tuesday, Dec. 2 Fire Department meeting, the 2009 officer election was held. Elected were: Chief: James Manley; Asst. Chief: Ricky Bryson; Captain: Roger L. Wilson; 1st Lt: Trevor Gibson; 2nd Lt: Lenny Metrick; Rescue Capt: Jimmy Tate; Rescue Lt: Eric Pierson; Treasurer: Terry Watson; Secretary: Wayne Henry; Chaplain: Buddy Miller.

... BOARD from page 22

Commissioner McClellan nominated Jim Davis vice-chair which was seconded by Beale. The motion passed 4 to 1. Simpson voted nay.

Business done, various groups presented Leatherman with tokens of appreciation including the Board of Commissioners and county employees, the Republican party, the Academic Foundation and the American Legion Post 108 and VFW post 7339.

Joey Curtis, with the Academic Foundation, announced that ever since the commission agreed to fund a teacher supplement, teacher and commissioner Charlie Leatherman has given his supplement to the foundation. "I hope this is a tradition that will continue," said Leatherman to Koppers, who is a teacher at Franklin High School.

Teachers who need funding for various projects can apply to the foundation for money.

During his outgoing speech, Leatherman said he was proud to be leaving Macon County in better shape than when he came on board eight years ago.

Each commissioner had kind, parting words saying though they didn't always agree with Leatherman, they knew he had the good of Macon County at heart as the basis of every decision he ever made. The next Macon County Commission meeting is Monday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. - KL

