

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 6, Number 6

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008

On-going

• Cardio Dance Class. \$5 per class, MWF at 8:30 am @ the Rec Park (downstairs).

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

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Call 828-526-1FIT.

Every Monday

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

Every Wednesday

• Gospel of John Bible Study using the Efirid Bible Study Series with Wednesday Supper at 5:30 and Bible Study at 6:15 - 7:15.

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

Every Thursday

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

Every Saturday

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

Thursday, Feb. 7

• Super Fives Rotary Bingo at the Highlands Community Building from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 8

• ITC LIVE! at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

Saturday, Feb. 9

• Spring Soccer Registration at Highlands Recreation Park from 2-4 p.m. Cost is \$40 for fall registered players, \$50 for new or non-registered players. Call Christy Weller at 526-9931.

• Highlands School Fifth Grade Class is having a raffle at Bryson's Food Store from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to raise funds for its annual class trip.

• ITC LIVE! at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2.5 mile strenuous hike on the south face of Whiteside Mountain. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations.

Tuesday, Feb. 12

• HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow for those interested. Call 526-4038.

• "Take Charge of Your Health" Lecture series by Cashiers-Highlands Chiropractic & Acupuncture presents a lecture series – "Inflammation and your diet." All lectures are FREE. Call 828-743-9070 or 828-526-3709 to make a reservation.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
50-34°F	42-24°F	39-19°F

'No' to outdoor merchandise display

After countless meetings and endless discussion, the Town Board ruled unanimously to only tweak the current outdoor display of merchandise ordinance instead of drastically changing it.

At the Feb. 6 Town Board meeting, Town Planner Joe

Cooley made it quite clear that something had to be done about the ordinance prohibiting the display of outdoor merchandise because as it's now written, it's not enforceable.

It currently reads, "It shall be unlawful for any commercial busi-

ness to display goods, wares, or merchandise outside the building in which said business is conducted, except for merchandise which is of such a nature that it ordinarily remains out of doors after business hours, such as produce, fire-

• See OUTDOOR page 8

Northland suing HCG for damages

By Sally Hansen
Reporter

On Feb. 5, a jury in Macon County district court was asked to decide in dollar terms, how libel Highlands Cable Group LLC was to Northland Cable Group for compromising their cable plant on Duke utility poles outside the Highlands town limits.

"The question isn't if Highlands Cable Group LLC is libel, it's already been determined it is libel," said Judge Dennis J. Winner. "The question is, is it libel for doing this one time or 100 times. That's for the jury to decide."

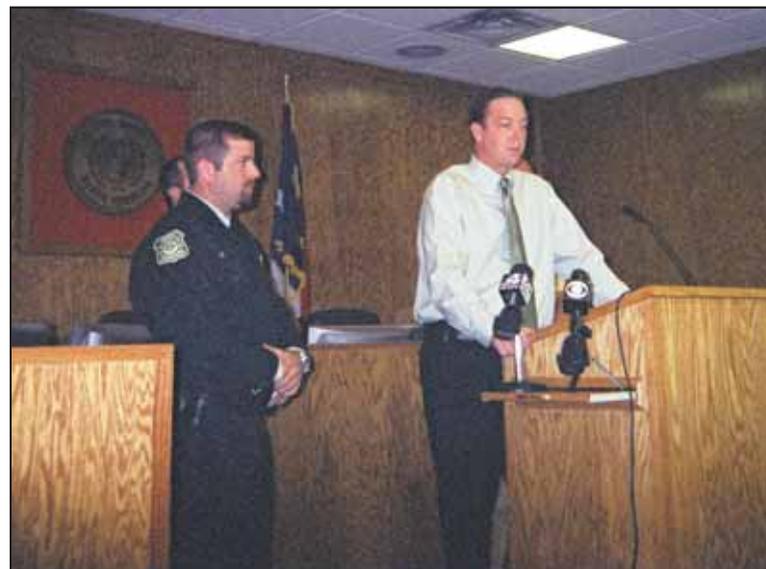
Northland Cable is suing Highlands Cable Group LLC — one of three entities linked to owner of the Highlands Cable Group entity, Nin Bond. The other company is Highlands Cable Group, a limited partnership.

Bond is one of three individuals in the Highlands Cable Group LLC and owns 99% of the company.

It took most of Monday to select the jury but Tuesday morning proceedings began. As of Wednesday night, deliberations continued, with culmination possible the end of the week.

Attorney for the plaintiff, Northland Cable, Larry McDevitt, of the Van Winkle Law Firm of Asheville, took some time explaining the breakdown of the Highlands Cable Group enterprise to the jury.

• See NORTHLAND page 2



Sheriff Robert Holland, with Brian Southard of the USFS, Edwin Grant of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and Sheriff Deputy Brian Leopard at the press conference Monday afternoon.
Photo by Kim Lewicki

Last week's discovery of skeleton and body have law enforcement officials busy

On Monday, Feb. 4, a North Carolina medical examiner confirmed that skeleton remains found in the woods behind a USFS gate off Old Murphy Road in the Nantahala Forest Saturday night are those of John Bryant.

Husband and wife hikers John, 80, and Irene Bryant, 84, of Henderson County, went missing in the Pisgah National Forest in Transylvania County in October. Irene was later found dead and authorities have been looking for John ever since.

The body of Irene Bryant was found Nov. 9 in the Pink Beds area of the Pisgah National Forest where she was presu-

ably killed Oct. 21 with a blow to her head.

Though Gary Michael Hilton, 61, was convicted recently of the beating death of Georgia hiker Meredith Emerson, 24, and is also a suspect in the death of Irene Bryant, authorities couldn't confirm a connection between John Bryant's remains and Hilton at this time.

"This case, as it has been from the onset, is being considered a homicide and is being investigated as such," said Sheriff Robert Holland at a press conference Monday afternoon.

Bryant's skeletal remains
• See SKELETON page 2

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Occupancy Tax group finished

The Occupancy Tax Study Committee met for the third and final time Wednesday, Feb. 6 and is ready to present a recommendation to the Macon County Commission.

After much deliberation, the group unanimously agreed to create three Tourism Development Commissions (TDC) — one representing each area of the county — Franklin, Highlands and Nantahala — effective July 1, 2008.

The TDCs will be controlled by the county and responsible to the county not a chamber of commerce which is the current case in Franklin which has had a TDC committee as a subcommittee of its chamber for some time.

Each TDC board will consist of 7-9 members representing retail, restaurants, property management, two accommodations — one less than 10 rooms and one 10 rooms or more, attractions, a chamber of commerce board member, a town board member, a county commissioner and the director of each chamber, who will be a non-voting member.

"Now of course this is just a recommendation and it will be up to the county commission to decide," said Commissioner Bob Simpson who co-chaired the committee with Commissioner Brian McClellan.

County Manager Jack Horton said it would also be up to the
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... NORTHLAND continued from page 1

"This is point in time where the attorneys make opening statements to you. Not evidence. What I want to tell you is what our case is about and what we hope to prove to you. Northland Cable Company, the plaintiff, is a corporation owned by stockholders that invest in the company by buying stock, and it is run by board of directors and officers. Northland is a plain, old, garden, variety, corporation," he said. "There are three defendants — Highlands Cable Group which is a Limited Partnership run by one group and there's Highland Cable Group LLC which is a Limited Liability Company. It's a partnership that's treated like a corporation. One reason people have corporations is because if they get sued, you can't sue the owners, the stockholders have to sue the company so liability is limited.

"With a partnership, if you are sued all partners are liable, not protected by partnership limit. An LLC is a creature created by law that says you can act like partnership but liability is limited like a corporation. This LLC was the general partner that managed the Limited Partnership — the one that owned the cable system and received money from the cable system.

"Mr. Bond, the third defendant, is the individual who owns 99% of Highlands Cable Group LLC.

"Our case before you today is basically going to be that the defendants as a group did things with our poles, our lines and our equipment that they shouldn't have done and it damaged us," said McDevitt. "You don't have to decide that, we're not putting evidence about that. Their liability for doing that has already been established. We're going to be talking about poles that the

group tampered with. We're going to talk about how much we were damaged as a result of what they did to our poles, lines and equipment.

"What we're talking about is how much we are owed for damages to our lines and poles," he said.

Northland contends that while Highlands Cable Group was installing its cable plant on Duke Power poles outside the Highlands town limits, it moved Northland's lines and put them out of compliance and devalued their plant.

"Our evidence will show that we share with Highlands Cable Group 518 poles. Our contention is that there are 408 poles on which Highlands Cable Group caused problems which cost us approximately \$474,976 in damages," said McDevitt.

David Harris, with Custom Communications, who formulated the original pole attachment ordinance for the Town of Highlands in 1997 and who drafted the Town of Highlands and Northland Cable Company and later the Highlands Cable Group franchise agreements with the town, was called as an expert witness by Northland to explain the particulars of stringing and attaching cable.

Harris said a pole attachment ordinance is merely a town's rules or law for doing business within the town on poles they own. It outlines all of the standards from the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) concerning distances between wires, roadway and field clearances, the permitting process, construction standards and sets all rules for doing business in town and their poles.

"There are rules about where you have

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... SKELETON continued from page 1

were found in pieces in the woods — the skull lying some distance away from the pelvis and the spine.

Hunter Mike Waldroop spotted the remains and called 9-1-1. The Macon County Sheriff's Department responded and secured the area throughout the night.

Sunday morning the scene was processed by the N.C. Bureau of Investigation as well as the USFS, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, the FBI, the Macon County Sheriff's Department and a forensic anthropologist from Western Carolina University.

"Due to the dense woods and darkness, a decision was made Saturday night to resume the search and processing of the crime scene the next day," said Sheriff Holland.

He said he could neither confirm nor deny any connections between John Bryant's remains and Gary Michael Hilton, who is a suspect in the October slaying of his wife Irene, nor could he confirm the cause of death.

"All of it is still under investigation," Holland said. "We are treating it as a homicide and conducting a thorough investigation."

The sheriff said it is not yet known how long John Bryant's body had been in the woods off Old Murphy Road.

Last week, Hilton, 61, plead guilty to Emerson's murder and was sentenced to life in prison.

Sheriff Holland said John Bryant's remains are not connected to a woman found dead Friday morning in the parking lot of the Whiteside Mountain Trail in Highlands.

"There is absolutely no connection to the two bodies," said Holland. "The preliminary autopsy indicates the female died of exposure. The medical examiner has determined there was no foul play."

However, the case is still under investigation and the Sheriff's Department is awaiting a toxicology report from the state medical examiner.

About 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 1, the body of a female, 48, from Alabama, was found next to her vehicle in the parking lot of the Whiteside Mountain Trail. A woman who was housesitting in the area was walking her dog and found the body.

Initially, it was thought the woman was beaten or shot, but the state medical examiner has determined she died of exposure.

"That's what lying on the cold ground in rain, sleet and cold will do to a body," said Sheriff Holland. "We suspect she got caught on the mountain as the weather rolled in and reached the parking lot and her vehicle when it was dark. We know she locked her keys and cell phone in the car and based on markings on the ground around the car, it's clear she tried to get inside."

He said no one knows how it is she ended up on the ground. "Hypothermia can do strange things to the brain," said Holland. "Even in the first stages of hypothermia, people don't think straight. She was probably soaking wet and freezing cold by the time she reached the parking lot."

Holland said he couldn't release the victim's name but said she was known in the area.

USFS authorities offer several hiking tips.

- Whenever possible hike with at least one other person;

- Weather changes very quickly in the mountains during all seasons. Know the forecast, and be prepared for any weather by bringing rain coats, sun screen, extra clothing and appropriate footwear. Keep an eye on the weather as you travel, be prepared to turn back if you are not ready for the weather;

- Always leave a trip itinerary with family or friends. Include number in party, vehicle description and license number, trails you will be using and when you plan to be back. Check in with whomever you left the itinerary with so they know you have returned safely;

- Dress appropriately and wear suitable footwear;

- Do not get too close to trail edges near cliffs. Stay on the trail for your sake and the for the protection of the ground. There is a lot of slippery footing due to loose rocks, wet or mossy rocks and steep slopes on mountain trails;

- Do not overextend yourself. Be aware of when the sun will set and set up camp if you will not be able to return in time. Do not travel after dark;

- Pace yourself. Know your physical and mental limitations in the outdoor setting;

- Always carry these essentials: a map, compass, extra food and clothing, a first-aid kit, flashlight and extra batteries and a bulb, fire starter, a lighter, waterproof matches, sunscreen, a pocket knife and a whistle for signaling help, a lightweight plastic tarp or poncho for shelter and water;

- If you are lost STOP (Stop, Think, Observe, Plan). Do not attempt further travel unless you are absolutely confident you can do so safely...do not risk hypothermia or getting further lost. Leave enough daylight to set up a camp;

- Most importantly, do not panic. Observe your surroundings...you may be close to a road or other help if you stop and listen;

- Make staying warm, tending to any injuries and keeping hydrated your top priority if you need to spend the night in the woods;

- Make yourself visible to rescuers by camping in the open or building a fire or using other signaling devices.

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please email letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands' Newspaper

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• OBITUARIES •

Margaret Jane Crane Montague

Margaret Jane Crane Montague, 71, of Seneca, S.C., formerly of Highlands, N.C., died on January 27, 2008 at Oconee Memorial Hospital. Margaret Jane was born February 22, 1936 in Highlands, N.C., to her devoted parents, Frank and Effie Miller Crane who, along with two brothers, Clarence and Carlton Crane, preceded her in death.

She was married to Daniel D. Montague who survives her. Her three sons also survive: Gilbert (Amanda), Frank S., and Robert (Peggy) Montague. The love and devotion of her sons to her was a testimony to her goal in life of being the best mother to her children.

Grandchildren are Danny (Courtney) Montague and their baby Addison Claire, Jennifer Montague, Eddy (Becky) Looney and their children Devon and Ashlyn; Renne (Ned) Thomas and their children Brett and Chandler,

and Greg (Jessie) Looney and their children, Issac, Caleb and Ethan.

Her four brothers are Oscar (Kathy) Crane of Highlands, Frank McCloy (Marie) Crane of Six Mile, S.C., Chester Lee (Fredda) Crane of Seneca, S.C., and Rober (fiancée Ethelene) Crane of Seneca, S.C. One sister Lassie (Smokey) Buchanan of Cashiers, N.C., and sister-in-law, Eloise B. Crane of Highlands, N.C., also survive.



Margaret Jane Crane Montague

Services honoring Margaret Jane were held Wednesday, January 30, 2008 in Seneca with the Reverends Stand Rankin and Baker Crane officiating. Entombment was at Oconee Memorial Gardens.

To reflect her love for children and her devotion to them, the family requests that any memorials are made to your local school for supplies in her memory.

• MILESTONE •

Schmitt makes Dean's List



Alec Schmitt, Highlands School Class of 2007, made the Dean's List for the Fall Semester, 2007.

Full time students with outstanding academic achievement with a grade point average of 3.5 are placed on the Dean's List at Cape Fear Community College.

... NORTHLAND continued from page 2

to be attached to a pole," said Harris. "Also, there is a permitting process with whoever owns the pole and a make-ready plan must be submitted to them to show how and where you plan to attach. If you make everyone out of compliance when you attach, you are responsible for a new pole if it's too short. If someone wants to come on, they must get permission and get an attachment location."

When called to the stand by Highlands Cable Group attorney Zeke Sossomon, of Highlands, Harris explained that whoever puts a line out of 18-foot range, for instance, is responsible for a few things - "If the pole was not tall enough they would have to put a new pole in there to make it high enough and they are responsible for paying for the reattachment of phone, cable and power lines."

McDevitt called Northland Cable Company Regional Manager Bill Staley to the stand to explain Northland's position.

"Lines were moved from position, equipment was damaged, guy wires were removed, cable was cut, drops, splitters and distributors were taken as were house boxes and anchors," said Staley.

Sossomon cross-examined him to determine exactly how many infractions occurred and exactly how Northland determined their monetary value.

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at Its New Location**

... OCCUPANCY continued from page 1

county's legal department to outline how the occupancy proceeds can be spent by the TDCs and to draft a binding contract between each TDC and the county.

"There will have to be audit reports, a plan of work and an explanation of how the money will be spent," he said.

The plan is still to return occupancy tax proceeds to the areas from which they are collected -- Highlands, Franklin and Nantahala -- but the money won't go solely to the chambers of commerce anymore.

Turns out both chambers use occupancy tax money to finance some of the salaries of both their directors, as well as their part-time and full-time employees.

Simpson and Horton said there will have to be a clear delineation as to what percentage of time is spent on tourism work versus chamber of commerce work whose main job is to promote the business of its due-paying members.

But Commissioner McClellan said as long as it's clearly defined as having to do with tourism it's OK.

Assuming the county commission accepts the committee's recommendation, Simpson said three candidates from each sector on the new TDCs should be given to the county commission who will ultimately decide who will sit on each TDC.

Commissioner McClellan asked Linda

Harbuck and Bob KIELTYKA, directors of the Franklin and Highlands chambers of commerce, respectively, how much of their time is spent promoting tourism.

"If you take the tourism aspect out of our job, you would only need one part-time person to run the chamber," said Harbuck.

KIELTYKA said he spends 60% of his time on tourism affairs. "I oversee the visitor center and activities that utilize the occupancy tax money," he said.

In the TDC scenario, organizations, including the chamber of commerce, would come to the TDC to request funds to promote tourism-related activities.

Commissioner Simpson reiterated County Attorney Lesley Moxley's warning that there can be no co-mingling of funds concerning chamber of commerce business and visitor center and tourism business.

Highlands Commissioner Hank Ross suggested the chambers use a time-sheet to delineate functions and time spent.

Mike Gruberman, the town of Franklin representative on the committee, will present the committee's recommendation at the Monday, Feb. 11 commission meeting.

Absent from the final meeting were Ron Baker, Nantahala's accommodations representative and Josh Drake, Franklin's accommodations representative.

• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Intestinal Fortitude, Inc. Finally, toilet humor without the "P" word!

There is a small but growing segment of angry Highlanders who are sick, tired and fed up with me because of my columns on toilet humor. On the other hand, there is an overwhelming majority of Highlanders who love and encourage my toilet antics. What's a writer to do? How to keep everyone happy would require a King Solomon-type decision on my part. I have not displayed that kind of wisdom since I told little Amy Perkins to put her panties back on and get out of my tree fort back in '44.

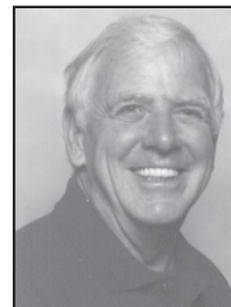
Of the small but growing segment of sick and tired Highlanders, a sizable majority of those could live with an occasional tacky column on toilet humor if I would refrain from using the "P" (poop) word. Although they still find the subject distasteful, (har har) they are mostly offended by the "P" word. If I could discipline myself to only write toilet humor, like...say, every fifth column and never use the "P" word, I might someday be known as King Fred!

Soooo, this will be my first attempt at pleasing everyone. Write in and tell me if you're offended or pleased...or neither.

There are many reasons not to live in South Florida during the winter months and I am sure you know most of them. For example, there's the relentless traffic, rude people, suffocating weather, high crime and...did I mention rude people? Well, I have one you haven't thought of. It's called animal restrictions. Yes, people living in South Florida are required to bring little plastic bags with them when they walk Fido so they can scoop up the dog doo-doo and take it home with them. Subsequently, there are thousands of well dressed millionaires walking around the Palm Beaches with little see-through bags filled with disgusting dog doo-doo.

Oh, by the way, my new non-offensive word is "doo-doo," not be confused with dodo which is an extinct bird that couldn't fly because it was so full of...well, you know. That was one mean bird. Also, don't confuse "doo-doo" with another form of dodo, something I have been called many times. Isn't doo-doo" a nice replacement for the "P" word?

Because so many people are walking



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback
is encouraged!
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

around South Florida with little see-through bags filled with various colors of you know what, I have decided to go into a new business. It took much courage to do this so I named it "Intestinal Fortitude, Inc." Clever, huh?

Here's the real poop on....oops, sorry....here's how my new service works. You call and tell me the route you take with your dog and the approximate times of your walk. I will mail you personalized little flags hooked to wire with your dog's name on them.

Then, when your little pooch does his thing, you merely mark the site with a personalized flag and walk away. No muss, no fuss, no mess, no degrading little bags. As one lady told me, "I always felt like my dog was laughing at me as he watched me struggle to get it all in the bag and close it without getting it on my fingers." She loves my new service. By the way, there's a surcharge for Great Danes, Mastiffs, etc.

Within eight hours of my customer's dog walk, I swoop in with my vacuum controlled super-duper "P" scooper and clean the area. Then I spray the area with a sanitizer which pleases your neighbors who are constantly offended by your dog and want to choke you. When I know my customer is getting low on flags, I mail another batch with my bill. My phone is ringing off the hook.

I always wait eight hours after your dog's deposit so the sun can dry the whole mess out. Here's my theory: older dog doo-doo is like older women; easier to pick up. You might want to write that down.

When I get back to Highlands, I will push hard (ha) for a town ordinance requiring everyone to pick up after their dog. Uppity summer folks in Highlands for the summer are just like uppity Palm Beachers in that they hate carrying those little bags filled with doo-doo. I could park at beautiful Pine Street Park and make a fortune by offering my services without even using the flags.

For information about my exciting service, call 1-800-GOT-POOP (Sorry, I'm hopeless).

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

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Fatherly mishaps

The high point of my week is the moment I announce to Lizzie, "I've got my column!" I never know from where inspiration will spring.

This week, the moment arrived on the trip back from Beech Mountain. Bull had skied well, enjoyed his best finish to date, and we were all jubilant. Earlier in the weekend, Bull had used a quiet moment on a chair lift to recite my faults as a father. It was all in good fun. Bull loves to make me squirm. If I were a pet worm, he would house me in a hot skillet. As he repeated the list in the car, I said, "That's it Lizzie. I've got my column."

When Bull was an infant, we carried him in a sling. In primitive cultures mothers use the sling so that they can care for their young while they pound grain into flour or chop sugar cane. Besides, day care is hard to find in Chad. We adopted it because some celebrity pediatrician claimed that it aided in the bonding process, and we wanted to bond with our new son.

The contraption resembled a hammock slung over the shoulder, child dangling in front. Bull was usually nestled deep and safe within the sling, usually, but not always. He was in the sling when we went to the barn to get a bucket of food for the fish pond. He was in the sling when I stuck a scoop into a large barrel and transferred it into a bucket. He was still in the sling as I repeated the process several times. He remained in the sling until he fell, head first, into the bucket. Fish food is softer than the floor and the little guy hardly cried at all, so we finished feeding. Lizzie noticed, questioned, and commented on the residue on his forehead. That was my first careless error.

Bull was still a tiny little guy when we found ourselves at the beach flying a large kite. The kite resembled a fluorescent tri-plane with streamers on the tail and wings. It was bigger than Bull so, of course as any good Dad would, I volunteered to pilot it. If I gathered string, looped it on the ground, and released it suddenly, the kite would tumble toward the earth. When the string tensed again, the kite righted itself and resumed normal flight. Bull and I loved the game. If we were too aggressive the kite would crash onto the beach. Usually, however, the string snapped taught just in time to arrest its precipitous fall. Things went well



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
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until Bull stepped into a loop of kite string. The razor sharp string closed like a snare around his little ankle. I didn't notice immediately and wondered why my little guy was crying in the midst of such fun. The wound produced a scar which is visible and frequently displayed, even today Number two and counting.

When we lived in the Clemson area, I frequently took Bull to Littlejohn Coliseum for Tiger basketball games. I should have

been watching more closely when he said that he wanted to visit the Tiger mascot. A moment later the Tiger and Bull were gone. It was easier to spot the Tiger in the crowd than it was to find my son. With help from an EMT and the play-by-play announcer, we found Bull seconds before the crowd left the building after the final horn. Bull was in the company of a woman who seemed eager to take him home. During the ordeal, I tried to imagine how I would tell Lizzie that I had lost our son. Nearly as frightening was the thought of friends who had attended the game mentioning to her that they had heard the announcement about a missing three-year-old child named Bull. Both Bull and Lizzie still remind me of that one.

A few years later, Bull and I were boarding a chair lift at Catalochee when he slid off the seat. I grabbed his wrist and managed to pull him to safety, but only after he had dangled several feet above the ground for seconds that seemed an eternity. I think I earned points for that one, but Bull scored it differently and included the incident in his litany of fatherly flaws.

Catalochee made the list a second time. An out of control, novice skier plowed into Bull, driving him several feet down the hill. Bull might have whimpered a little, but didn't cry. I suggested a hot coco break, but he wanted to ski. The thought of stopping never occurred to me. It is significant that this all happened on Saturday. It was not until Wednesday evening, after five days of dismissing the severity of the injury, that I asked Lizzie to bring Bull to our orthopedic clinic on Thursday for x-rays. Had there been no fracture, this particular episode might not have made the list. Jim McGeorge, one of my partners, applied a forearm cast in Duke blue. Bull and I were walking down the

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• SALONS & SPAS •

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

What Sustains You?

I spent part of January re-reading *Middlemarch*, by George Eliot. "Mr. Eliot" was in fact a pseudonym for a woman named Mary Anne Evans (1819-1880). The novel is set in a middle-sized manufacturing town in England in the 1830s, and is, as its subtitle proclaims, a Study of Provincial Life, encompassing the lives of both the aristocracy and the merchants. As I read the book this time I thought that one of the purposes Eliot had in writing it was to chronicle the beginning of the end of the class system in England. The major heroine, a member of the landed class,

cares nothing for money or the niceties of a lady's life. She doesn't want the leisure of the aristocracy; she wants a fulfilling life of action. She ends by renouncing her fortune and descending in rank to marry the man she loves who she knows will be a force for good in the world.

As I read I found myself singing the traditional song "The Wagoner's Lad:" "Hard is the fortune of all womankind/ She's always controlled/She's always confined/Controlled by her parents until she's a wife/A slave to her husband the rest of her life."

I like English novels by female authors — Jane Austen and the Bronte sisters — but I like George Eliot the best because of the nature of her heroines. These women are constrained like all women of those times, but unlike, say, Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice* who is extremely intelligent but seems to completely accept her role as a woman, Eliot's heroines want to act in the world as a man does.

In *Middlemarch* the heroine loves to draw plans for worker's cottages and conceive of ways to help the poor live better, with no interest in the typical woman's pursuits like music and embroidery. After speaking with her, a male character thinks to himself wondering that here was a woman that a man could be friends with — an almost unimaginable prospect! In another Eliot novel, *Adam Bede*, the heroine is a saint-like woman who preaches and serves the poor in a mill town, seemingly unconcerned with womanly things like marriage.

Eliot is a master of complexity. I have never read a novel that had so many main characters with fully fleshed-out personalities. In one sense, nothing really happens in *Middlemarch*, but what it does cover is the wealth of human experiences that make up the human condition: ambition, frustration, passion, greed, failure, desire to do good, temptation, love. People marry the wrong people. People have noble dreams but fail because of their weaknesses. And there is one person who by her goodness inspires others to be better people. She does no great deeds, but "her finely-touched spirit had still its fine issues, though they were not widely visible." I feel as I did when I read *Adam Bede*, that Eliot's books inspire me to be a better person — you don't have to do great acts to be a force for good. It is sufficient to be the best person you can be in the world you inhabit.

A couple of passages from *Middlemarch* caught my attention this time. I liked this metaphor for the effects of our ego on our perception of events: "Your surface of polished steel, made to be rubbed by a house-maid, will be minutely and multitudinously scratched in all directions; but place now against it a lighted candle as a

center of illumination, and lo! the scratches will seem to arrange themselves in a fine series of concentric circles round that little sun. It is demonstrable that the scratches are going everywhere impartially, and it is only your candle which produces the flattering illusion of a concentric arrangement, its light falling with an exclusive optical selection. These things are a parable. The scratches are events, and the candle is the egoism of any person..."

The other passage contained a potent question. A character asks another: "What is your religion. I mean — not what you know about religion, but the belief that helps you the most?"

I put the book down and asked myself the same question. What is the belief that helps me the most? What sustains me in times of trouble?

The answer was immediate: my strong conviction that there is nothing but God.

If, underlying everything, there is only God, how bad can anything ever be? How far can I fall? How bad can I fail? Not very!

Before I had come to understand this principle, which underlies what I have been calling the Oneness philosophy, I believed I could fall hard. Either there was heaven and hell, or oblivion, but in either of those cases I could fail irretrievably. That created an existential terror that I might have rarely been conscious of, but which nevertheless influenced all my thoughts and feelings.

Now my belief that there is nothing but God has given me a peace that never leaves me.

On the bulletin board at my elbow is a quote from St. Theresa (1515-1582), found after her death on a bookmark in her prayer book: "Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, All things are passing. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices."

I think it's fair to say these words were in her prayer book because they sustained St. Theresa. What belief sustains you?

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



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• HIS & HERS •

I am an unabashed TV junkie. There. I've said it. When I lived in Paris, and then New York, I met people in social situations who really ticked me off. "Oh, I don't watch television," they would say, noses firmly in the air. "We don't even OWN a television," Jean-Claude/Irving/Anne-Sophie/Monica would sneer. "We don't even read magazines," one couple added, snidely, wrinkling their noses as if something nasty had just entered the room. "We read BOOKS," they explained, as if they were talking to a five-year-old. Well, la-dee-da. I'm here to tell you folks that I watch television, but I also read newspapers, magazines, books, and back of cereal boxes. So sue me.

Tortured intellectuals love to tell you that there's a lot of crap on television, and I'll be the first one to admit that there is a lot of stuff on these days that's not particularly uplifting. Like everything else in life, you have to pick and choose. I don't understand the whole concept of network loyalty. John, for example, is a Fox news junkie. Five minutes of Fox News is about my limit. The forced smiles, the capped teeth, the bleached blond hair, the simpering smiles, the lip gloss – hey, and that's just the guys!

The whole concept of Americentric news coverage seems to be such an insult to the rest of the world. I remember one particular example of a missing person -- a missing American person -- whose disappearance took up approximately 20 minutes of a 30-minute news program. Just before closing, the news presenter brought up another item, almost as an afterthought. "Oh, and by the way, over 500 people died today in India during some of the most severe monsoon weather on record," he tossed off, as if reporting a story on a lost pet. Call me an aging hippie, but I don't think dead Americans are more dead than dead Australians, Germans, Canadians, or Koreans, and that their deaths are more of a tragedy than the loss of people of other nationalities. How about a little perspective here?

Every weekday, I have a standing date with Dr. Phil. Have you ever watched his show? Watching Dr. Phil is often like watching a road accident. First of all, you think, "Where does he get these loonies?" and then, "Thank God it's not me!" Folks who put up with abusive partners, parents who are terrified of disciplining their children, people who are hooked on



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 John_Armor@yale.edu

Fun with Phil and Judy

drugs or digging themselves into debt – it's an endless parade of human misery and stupidity. Unfortunately, several realities keep popping up. People are having children who shouldn't even be trusted to raise a goldfish. People are spending money they don't have. People are staying in relationships that aren't good for

them because they think they can't do any better. On top of everything, there's another reality that comes home by just looking at his guests. So many of them are not only fat, they are obese. There seems to be an endless pool of fat people whose lives are out of control, and who can't wait to get on Dr. Phil's show, hoping he can sort them out.

Hey, don't think I'm being overly harsh here. Let she who has no excess weight cast the first donut, that's what I say! But, honestly, you wonder what drives these people to come onto national television to air their dirty laundry. I admire Dr. Phil, for two main reasons. He is the voice of calm and sanity in a sea of televised wackiness. He also adores his wife, and makes no bones about how important she is to his life. My vocabulary is even peppered with a certain amount of Dr. Phil-isms, the main one being, "And how's that workin' for ya?" to the great annoyance of John, who occasionally sneaks in with his Slimfast to watch the program on the sly.

Another straight shooter is Judge Judy. That lady really tells it like it is. Her sassy quips and facial expressions are a delight. "Do you see it say stupid here?" she growls, pointing to her forehead. The smirks, the eye-rolling, the head-shaking! Oh, it makes me miss New York, it really does. Behind the theatrics, however, is a savvy lady with lots of common sense. Get a job. Be a grown-up. Stop having children you can't raise. Get married before you start a family. Don't blame other people for your dumb decisions. Live within your means. In our culture where so many people excuse their bad behavior by portraying themselves as victims, Judge Judy preaches personal responsibility. Amen.

Don't get me wrong. This isn't all I watch on television. I'm a great PBS junkie, too. I know many people can't get excited over This Old House, but I will tune in for weeks to watch some lucky family rip out the old plumbing and redo

their roof. Hey, I'm the granddaughter of an architect and a carpenter! It's in the

blood. Tartan TV reminds me of my years in Europe, spending two weeks every summer in Scotland. Antiques Roadshow teases me with the thought that maybe

•See HIS & HERS page 22

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Farewell to the General

It is common knowledge that Robert Montgomery Knight is a huge Frank Sinatra fan, and if you know anything about the man that they call "The General" you know what his favorite song is.

"My Way" would be the perfect way to describe the end of a career full of national championships, coaching accomplishments and embarrassing controversy that has been synonymous with Bobby Knight since the day that he tossed his chair on the court in Puerto Rico decades ago.

The Knight that we all know and love (or loathe, depending on the person) would never follow a blueprint when making the decision to hang it up and call it a career. Knight's announcement came out of nowhere during a season that has been somewhat under the radar nationally, as his Texas Tech Red Raiders have been somewhat mediocre, but still in contention for a bid to the NCAA tournament.

As the backlash and opinions about this decision come fast and furious in the coming days, many will remark about Knight's legacy, as well as the assertions that he either abandoned his team this season or did the honorable thing by stepping aside and giving his son the chance to succeed. (Pat Knight was named as Bob Knight's eventual successor a few years ago).

As far as coaching accomplishments go, Knight's are simply staggering. He will retire as the all time wins leader in men's college basketball with over 900 wins in his coaching career. Knight also possesses three national championship rings, an undefeated season, and the legacy of coaching the 1984 Olympic Team to a gold medal.

While Knight's personal accomplishments are astounding, his reputation off of the court is equally astonishing. Knight's career has been defined by his legendary temper and his outbursts of fury with players, officials and media members alike. He was fired by the University of Indiana, where he won his three national titles and was a beloved figure, due to his behavioral problems off of the court. Despite his reputation among the general public, Knight's former players vehemently support the man, and his fellow coaches have a tremendous amount of respect for the man considered the greatest teacher of basketball not



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named Dean Smith or John Wooden.

When you consider these factors, Knight appears to be a true enigma. Savvy and under control enough to parlay his reputation into commercials (with a wink and a nod towards his fiery personality, that Nutrasweet commercial he did was a classic), yet unruly enough that he lost his job and

endangered his career.

Knight had the respect of millions for his abilities as a coach, yet his personality is despised by all generations of those who have observed him. The ironic thing is that Knight himself could care less, as evidenced by his famous speech about being buried upside down so that his critics could kiss his nether regions.

What I will always remember about Knight, aside from his admittedly funny tirades, is that his kids always played extremely hard for him. The reason for this could be respect, or it could be fear -- but no one could contest the fact that his players wanted to go to war with the General. I also believe that because of this, Knight cared only for his players -- and no one else. When history, writers like myself, society, etc., look at the career of Bob Knight, you can rest assured that Knight will not be looking back at them.

... OUTDOOR continued from page 1

wood, fertilizers, or garden plants; such merchandise shall in no way obstruct a public walkway required by the North Carolina State Building Code."

"If you don't want to change this, I suggest you extend the list of items but be specific," said Cooley. "We need something we can enforce."

All along Commissioners Hank Ross and Dennis DeWolf have been for some sort of outdoor merchandise display, but when Commissioner Larry Rogers made a motion to accept the ordinance recently suggested by the Planning Board, the motion died for lack of a second.

It read, "The area to be used for outdoor display of merchandise must be located immediately adjacent to the establishment displaying the goods and entirely upon the establishment's own property. Sidewalks, building entrances and exits, driveways and streets shall not be obstruct-

• See OUTDOOR page 20



Western Carolina University Chancellor John W. Bardo (right) presents a replica of the Christa McAuliffe Excellence in Teacher Education Award to Dan Brigman, superintendent of Macon County Schools, one of WCU's public school partners.

WCU honors school system partners

Western Carolina University recently honored Macon County school system representatives for their district's help in preparing university students for careers in the classroom.

At Jan. 18 ceremonies in Asheville, WCU Chancellor John W. Bardo gave a replica of the prestigious national Christa McAuliffe Excellence in Teacher Education Award to each of the districts involved in WCU's school-university partnership. After the American Association of State Colleges and Universities presented the McAuliffe award to Western in October, the university decided to share that distinction and publicly thank all 100 partnering schools.

Accepting the award for Macon County schools was Superintendent Dan Brigman.

"This award recognizes how much our school partners contribute to the success of Western's teacher preparation program," said Michael Dougherty, dean of the College of Education and Allied Professions. "Participating schools welcome our students into their classrooms and send their teachers to Cullowhee to share their knowledge with us. They are more than colleagues. They are our friends. We work together to help the children of Western North Carolina learn to high standards. And, together, we do that much better than we could alone."

Partnering schools in Macon County are Cartoogechaye Elementary, Cowee Elementary, Cullasaja Elementary, East Franklin Elementary, Iotla Elementary, South Macon Elementary, Franklin High, Highlands School and Nantahala School.

The Christa McAuliffe Award is present-

ed annually by AASCU, whose 430 member colleges and universities prepare about 50 percent of the nation's teachers.

"This award is named for Christa McAuliffe, who was chosen to fly on the space shuttle Challenger in 1986. She had been selected from among 11,000 teachers nationwide to be the first teacher – and the first private citizen — in space," Bardo said. "Because of her courage and dedication to the teaching profession, Christa McAuliffe's memory will live forever. Through this prestigious annual award, she continues to inspire and motivate educators and those who aspire to follow in her footsteps in classrooms across the nation."

The ceremony in Asheville was sponsored by AT&T North Carolina with support provided by Wachovia and AdvantageWest.

For more information about Western's teacher education program, contact the College of Education and Allied Professions at (828) 227-7311.

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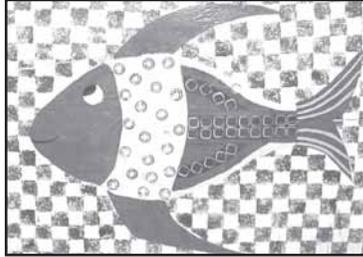
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Dwight Bryant assists the foster home children with the pen making project.

Bryant Art Glass special event for Bolivian Mission marks mission's 10th anniversary

Dwight Bryant has always been a faithful supporter of the Bolivian mission. Last year he came to see the mission's work first-hand as the foster home held a special interest in his heart. He will be joining the mission for two weeks this year and to help raise money to support the home, Bryant Art Glass is donating all of the proceeds of sales from his shop on the hill, to the mission on Saturday, February 16, 2008.

This does not include sales of silver objects, but it does include the items made by the boys in the foster home, which include pens, corkscrews and letter openers. All the money collected from the sale of those items goes to the education fund for the boys when they leave the home to enter college.

Please come and enjoy shopping and helping the mission at the same time. Bryant Art Glass is famous for the original design of art glass in all shapes and sizes. Many of his pieces are proudly displayed in museums and in the collections of many collectors, but his work also graces the tables of local people and Floridians. The shop is open for this special event on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This is the tenth anniversary of the Highlands Bolivian Mission. Joanna and John Baumrucker went to Montero, Bolivia in 1998 to do a needs assessment to see if Highlands could get involved in a compassionate mission to this poor country. They were satisfied that many avenues of service could be accomplished. The following year four houses were built and eventually a foster home for street children, orphans and abandoned boys,

was built. The main focus of the mission remains this home. Medical and dental support has been another major focus with more than \$1,000,000 in medical equipment having been donated over the ten years of the mission. However, little did they know that the mission would become a national and even international mission. People have joined the mission from Sweden, Switzerland and Canada in addition to the colleges mentioned below.

Every year, in addition to the usual projects, a special project has been done. Three years ago the mission did an AIDS awareness program, testing more than 1,000 Bolivians for the HIV virus, while last year's focus was providing money for 50 families who lost their homes to the floods that ravaged the country from December to March in the lowlands. This year's focus will be a project developed by UNC-A to test lead blood levels in children and also test soil, drinking water and river water for contamination of both lead and mercury.

As the first adventure of UNC-A's "Mountains To The World" project. Fifteen students and two faculty members will join the mission to perform these tests and other projects that the students have developed, including music and dance programs and soccer.

At least two of the participants were on the UNC-A woman's soccer team. Following the UNC-A group will be one group of medical students from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, about 12, and 10 students from the Honors College at the University of Mississippi. This will be the

•See BOLIVIA page 22

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Keep the faith – if you can

By the time you read this, Tsunami Tuesday will have come and gone but as I write it, I don't know the outcome. Two things I do know, however. One is that North Carolinians will have no say whatsoever as to who the nominees will be for either party since our primaries will be held on May 6th. The chance of our still being in play is possible, but very slim. Why we are so late in the process is the subject for another day.

The other is that John McCain will be definitely in play and probably leading the Republican delegate count. I am having an extremely hard time of it politics wise these days. If I look at things on a comparative basis, I have great difficulty seeing McCain in the same league as Mitt Romney. Putting everything but political office experience aside, the requirements of a governor are much greater than that of senator, which might explain that, while very few senators are elected president, governors frequently are.

Going beyond political office, Romney's success in very high level business pursuits and resurrection of the 2002 Winter Olympics require talents and abilities that would be helpful in holding executive office. While certainly

McCain exhibited great courage in his military service, his incarceration probably didn't prepare him for the broad range of issues the president faces daily. In the business world, McCain worked for his father-in-law's beer distributorship in a public relations capacity.

McCain is currently involved in a campaign for president. Because of his age, this is undoubtedly his last hurrah. In spite of a long list of legislative actions to the contrary, McCain is now appealing to conservatives as one of them. He also says that he can "reach across the aisle" to do business with the Democrat side. Let's review some of his recent "accomplishments."

McCain partnered with Russ Feingold, one of the Senate's most liberal members, to conjure up a bill that regulates the financing of political campaigns. The law, becoming effective in 2002, instead of increasing the visibility and limiting the amount of donations, contained a loophole that allowed the creation of Section 527



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

organizations defeating its original purpose. It also stifles free speech affecting message content prior to elections. Bad idea.

McCain joined hands with Ted Kennedy, another of the Senate's most liberal members, to formulate an Immigration Reform Bill which critics say provides amnesty to illegal aliens. The Heritage website says it better than I. "Immigration reform is necessary, but it

will succeed only if it enhances national security, promotes economic growth, and protects freedom and liberty. The only practical solution is a comprehensive plan that addresses internal enforcement of immigration laws, the origins of illegal integration, and border security. The Secure and Orderly Immigration Act introduced by Senators McCain and Kennedy does not achieve these ends." Bad idea.

In 2005, McCain sponsored a bill called the "Climate Change Act." His co-sponsors were Joe Lieberman, Barack Obama (the most liberal Senator) and Olympia Snowe (the most liberal Republican Senator). The title reads: "A bill to provide for a program to accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States by establishing a market driven system of greenhouse gas tradable allowances, to limit greenhouse gas emissions in the United States and reduce dependence upon foreign oil, to support the deployment of new change-related technologies, and ensure benefits to consumers." McCain is evidently a proponent of Al Gore's "system of greenhouse gas tradable allowances." Garbage. Bad idea.

McCain's statement that the detention center at Guantanamo Bay should be closed seems to stem from his very unpleasant experience in the Hanoi Hilton.

I imagine his opposition to "waterboarding" also comes from the torture he endured. As understandable as that may seem, do we want a Commander-in-Chief that is more concerned with the comfort of those who live to kill us than our safety? Does this sound like a conservative to you? Or does it sound like someone trying to appease our critics.

As a matter of fact, does his "reaching across the aisle" approach to the most liberal legislators sound like a

•See CONSERVATIVE POV page 21

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Paper hearts & dollars for Haiti



Kedra McCall, Sydney Potter, and Grace Maybin add hearts to the "Hearts for Haiti" bulletin board. Several years ago Highlands School became a partner with LaPleide School in Cange, Haiti. For each dollar a heart is added to the board. This money helps buy books, school supplies, and instructional materials for the school.

2008 Little League Baseball signups on through Feb. 22

Highlands Little League registration applications will be collected through Feb. 22 at Highlands Rec Park. They will have registration forms there if you did not get one from school. Please leave a completed application w/ birth certificate and money. Checks need to be made payable to "Highlands Little League." The cost of registration will be \$40 for the first child and \$35 for each additional child playing in Highlands Little League.

Once Little League registrations are complete, you will be notified about the teams and schedules. We anticipate that the practice season will begin by the second week of March as games will begin around the end of March or first week of April.

The age groups that we will have are: 5&6 year olds: T-Ball (Must be 5 by April 20, 2008).

7&8 year olds: Biddie League
9&10 year olds: Minor League
11&12 year olds: Major League

13&14 year olds: Senior League
All age groups, except T-Ball, will inner league with Franklin teams.

Half of the games are played in Franklin and the other half will be played in Highlands at the Zachary Fields off of Buck Creek Road.

For more information please contact Monica Vinson at 526-9107 or Rebecca Shuler at 526-8425,

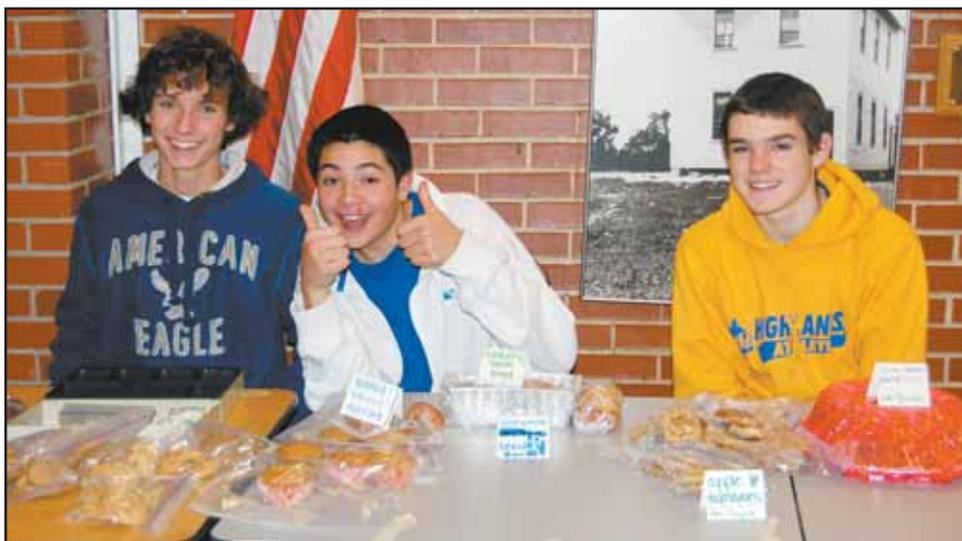
Soccer signups ongoing

Spring Soccer Registration at Highlands Recreation Park Feb. 9 from 2-4 p.m. and Feb. 20 from 5-7 p.m.

Cost is \$40 for fall registered players, \$50 for new or non-registered players. The season is April through June. Games will be played on Sunday afternoons. Age divisions are determined by the child's age as of July 31, 2007.

All new players need a copy of a birth certificate. For more information, call Christy Weller at 526-9931.

9th Grade raises \$2,300



The Highlands School 9th Grade Spaghetti Dinner/Bake Sale at the Jan. 31 PTO meeting was a great success, raising \$2,300 toward their eventual Junior/Senior prom and graduation. Photo by Thomas Bates

... NORTHLAND continued from page 2

"The pole-by-pole basis to repair has been estimated at \$474,906.30," said Staley.

Sossomon spent a lot of time discussing the Town of Highlands pole plant and compliance issues there, but Staley said Northland was only discussing damages on Duke Power poles outside the Highlands town limits.

Sossomon also questioned the ownership of and verification of work done concerning lines run underground to houses outside the town limits in the Wildwood and Cold Springs subdivisions.

Sossomon suggested that in the construction of many new houses, the builder installs conduits underground for electricity, telephone and cable systems outside the house to the point of connection at a pole.

Staley said that practice happens on the occasion, but it's a rare thing. "However, I'm not familiar with it happening with any of the systems in the Oconee, Greenville, Pickens, Saluda communities. I don't think it happens in the Highlands area, but I'll have to refer that to plant manager," he said.

"Do you know if any of these underground lines were installed by a builder and not Northland?" asked Sossomon.

"My plant manager told me we installed them," said Staley.

"Is there possibility he could be wrong?" asked Sossomon. Staley said there is a possibility.

"Is it possible that the homeowner himself dug the ditch, dropped the cable in the ditch, and you simply connected to his cable?" asked Sossomon.

Staley said in a few cases Highlands Cable Group switched customers from Northland but allegedly used the underground wires and distribution points originally installed by Northland. "Highlands Cable Group does not have the right to take

possession of Northland equipment," said Staley.

Sossomon asked if the lines installed by the homeowners underground up to the poles at a connection point would be Northland's property or the homeowner's property.

Staley said it would belong to the customer if the customer actually put it in, carried it out to the pole and if the customer bought the wire, put it in the ground and carried it out to Northland's distribution plant. "In that case, I don't see how I could claim possession of that piece of cable," he said.

Throughout deliberations, diagrams, and photographs were used by both sides.

On Wednesday, graphics depicting line placement on various poles were distributed and testimony was given by a Highlands Cable Group employee, Mr. Baty, who when asked by Sossomon, verified distance specifications between communication lines, power lines, transformers and other services. Depending on the type of lines, distances varied from 12 inches apart to 30- or 40 inches apart.

Baty was cross-examined by McDevitt, who used an overhead projector to show photos previously distributed to the jury. The photos depicted measurements taken by Baty, showing his tape measurer in the photograph, which by his own admission, came short of the required spacing he previously mentioned on the stand.

With Highlands Cable Group liability already established, attorneys are trying to determine how many violations are actually Highlands Cable Group's responsibility and ultimately how much money should be awarded Northland Cable.

The trial is expected to wind up later this week.



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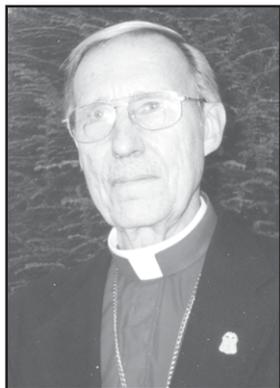
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

How much is all this worth?



+The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding
Senior Pastor, Chapel of Sky Valley
Sky Valley, Georgia

As we enter into yet another election year and are bombarded with the endless rhetoric of politicians with promises of a better nation, I am reminded that many years ago Daniel Webster asked a question, and the question is, "How much is all this worth?"

- How much is it worth to live where one wishes?
- To work at what one wishes?
- To worship as one wishes?
- To have the right to live with loved ones?
- To listen to the laughter of children?
- To be unafraid of approaching footsteps?
- To walk home and find the welcome of beloved faces unafraid?
- How much is it worth to own personal property?
- How much is it worth to have personal privacy?
- How much is it worth to preserve human dignity?
- How much is it worth to choose leaders?
- How much is it worth to vote in an open and honest election?
- How much is it worth to have a voice in making and administering the laws of the land?
- How much is it worth to come and to go, to think and to speak, to read and to search, and to have an education offered everyone?
- How much is it worth freely to express an opinion, fearlessly to move from place to place, with an openness of life, a free ranging of the mind; an enjoyment of the great and good earth that God has given, with peace of mind and quiet conviction?
- Despite all encroachments on freedom, and all unwise giving up of some rights, still blessed beyond belief, still precious beyond price, is the freedom our forebears paid for — the freedom which is God-given, which yet has to be everlastingly earned and deserved over and over again, and can never safely be permitted to become commonplace.
- How much is all this worth? All this must be worth the willingness to work, to defend, to give allegiance, to be a loyal participating part, to live with honor, justice, and respect for law, and to keep the commandments, for "No free government," wrote Andrew Jackson, "can stand without virtue in the people and a lofty spirit of patriotism...."
- Thank God for liberty and for the privilege of preserving it at any price.

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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

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

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
Rev. Cass Daly • Office – 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion – 11 a.m.
(Highlands Community Center on. U.S. 64 next to the ballfield in Highlands
Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m. at First Baptist Church
Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship; 6:30 p.m. High School Group
Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Supper (free for kids 8th grade and under); 6:15 p.m., Adult Bible Study; 6:30 p.m. programs for students.
Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study

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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Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m. (nursery provided)
Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.; Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15
Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.; Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Mark Kayser, Interim Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun.School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers
Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Senior Pastor Todd Struble; Asst. Pastor Mike Harris 526-3376
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m. Youth Group
Wed: Supper; 6; 6:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA
Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30
HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

LITTLE CHURCH OF THE WILDWOOD
Services at the Church in the Wildwood in Horse Cove. Sundays at 7 p.m. through Labor Day. Dress is casual. Old fashioned hymn-sing.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Rev. Tien, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
(through last Saturday of October)

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Evening Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Rev. Wayne Price
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
828-369-3633
Lay Led Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL •

Boys bring in a win number five against Swain

Varsity Boys

The boys beat Swain at home Tuesday, Feb. 5 78 to 65.

Top scorer was Michael Shearl with 22

points, followed by Ezra Herz with 16, Jake Heffington with 14, Andrew Billingsley with 13, Michael Baty with 9 and two each by Luke McCellan and Robbie Vanderbilt.

Highlands slammed Swain in the first and final quarter with 20 and 27 points, respectively. Highlands' season record: is 5-19. Its conference record is 2-1.

The next home game is Monday, Feb 11 against Nantahala at 8 p.m.

Varsity Girls

The girls weren't as lucky at the boys against Swain but they played a hard game making a final push the fourth quarter scoring 19 points. The final score was 53 Swain, 30 Highlands.

Their season record is 1-23 and their conference record is 1-2. They play Swain at home, Monday, Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Taylor Buras and Jessica Gagne were top scorers with 6 points each followed by Brie Schmitt with 5, Marlee McCall and Kate Marie Parks with 4 each, Devon Potter with 3 and Sarah Power with 2 points.

What it costs to stay warm and to keep wheels rolling

By Sally Hansen
Reporter

Punxatawny Phil has predicted at least six more weeks of winter, and for some this means paying higher prices for the propane needed to heat homes. But what has caused the increase in prices from this time last year?

According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), propane is simply a byproduct from the processing of natural gas and the refining of petroleum. The price of propane is mostly affected by the prices of crude oil because other oil-based products are its major competitors. Price can also be influenced by supply and demand for the fuel.

Residential propane used to heat homes is unique in that it is more in demand during the colder parts of the year, while not nearly as much gets used in the summer. However, the quantity of the fuel that is produced throughout the year remains fairly constant, with the summer surplus being stored for future winter use.

According to the American Petroleum Institute (API), decreases in domestic oil or gasoline production can drive the price of propane up, no matter what time of year these decreases occur. This is because the U.S. can only produce so much each year, much like it can only refine a finite quantity of gasoline.

Early cold spells can drain the propane supply and drive already high prices even further upward. If the supplies get low enough to prompt the importing of propane, prices can rise even higher as it takes several weeks to actually get an additional supply where it needs to be from overseas, which makes the remaining quantities even more expensive.

The increase in propane prices has been felt locally, as well. In September, Wilson Gas reportedly delivered fuel at \$1.99 a gallon. Three months later the price had risen to \$2.54 a gallon, and by mid-January an additional 10-cent increase took the cost up to \$2.64. Amerigas in Franklin delivered propane at the rate of \$2.19 a gallon in August of 2007, while during the cold weather a week before Christmas their prices were up to \$3.39/gallon.

The national price of propane has been increasing since the start of the cold season

last fall. In October of 2007 the national average was about \$2.13 per gallon, while at the end of December a gallon cost around \$2.50. The price has continued to climb through January and is currently at a national average of \$2.59/gallon.

Last year at this time the average cost of propane was \$1.99/gallon, and according to the EIA the average range of prices for propane for the 2006-2007 winter season was from \$1.89-\$2.06 a gallon.

Currently, the average national cost of a gallon of gasoline is also up a substantial amount from where it was in February of 2006. Last year, a gallon would run an average of \$2.20 a gallon, whereas right now national averages are hovering right around \$3 a gallon.

The price of a gallon of gasoline depends on several factors, but state and federal taxes make up a good portion of the price paid at the pump.

According to the API, the average national tax on a gallon of gasoline is 47 cents. The average state gas tax is 28.6 cents, and the federal tax is 18.4 cents. North Carolina's total tax is 48.6 cents, while Georgia's is 44.4 cents and South Carolina's is 35.2 cents per gallon.

To make things even more confusing, the individual state taxes are made up of several factors that can change every six months. For example, total state taxes for North Carolina are 30.15 cents per gallon.

The API reports that this number includes a 0.25-cent inspection tax, while the state excise tax is a flat rate of 17.5 cents per gallon plus a variable rate of 12.35 cents per gallon. Some sources have reported North Carolina's tax rate as being 30.2 cents per gallon, which is simply the number given when 30.15 is rounded up.

Additionally, the API's website states that the single most important thing that consumers can do to conserve gasoline is to "Plan well and be sensible about how much you drive. Conserve by avoiding unnecessary trips, combining errands, and carpooling." They also recommend driving slower to conserve fuel. For example, going 55 mph instead of 65 can reduce fuel economy by up to two miles per gallon.

For more tips to save on the high costs of both propane and gasoline, visit www.api.org and eia.doe.gov



Above and below the boys beating Blue Ridge at Blue Ridge 74-37 on Jan. 24. Above Andrew Billingsley fights for the ball. Below, Jake Heffington takes the ball up the court flanked by Ezra Herz and Michael Shearl.



Photos by Noel Atherton



Lenten Sermon Series at Highlands United Methodist Church

*Tempted, Tried, Tested, and True:
The True Marks of Christian
Disciples.*

Sunday, February 10:

"Tempted" (Mark 4:1-11)

Sunday, February 17: "Tested"
(John 3:1-17)

Sunday, February 24: "Thirsty"
(John 4:5-42)

Sunday, March 2: "Tried"
(Ephesians 5:8-14)

Sunday, March 9: "Troubled"
(Psalm 130)

Sunday, March 16:

"Triumphant" (Matthew 21:1-11)

Sunday, March 23: "True"
(Matthew 28:1-10)

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Church**

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CHESTNUT HILL IS CURRENTLY SEEKING A RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT in a 26-bed ASSISTED LIVING CENTER. Benefits. Pre-employment drug screening and background check. EOE. Please apply in person at 64 Clubhouse Trail. Highlands, NC 28741 or call for an appointment at 828-526-5251.

THE LITERACY COUNCIL OF HIGHLANDS is seeking an Assistant Director to help with all Council activities including program direction, office management and grant writing. Applicant must have both written and oral Spanish knowledge and be available Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Please call Breta at 526-9938, ext 240, for more information. Job begins in January.

CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS seeking a courtesy officer. Benefits, pre-employment drug screening and background check. EOE. Apply in person at 64 Clubhouse Trail. Highlands, NC 29741. (828) 526-5251.

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EMERGENCY ROOM RN'S NEEDED AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. One Full-time and two Part-time positions available. 12 hour night shifts. Shift and weekend differentials. BCLS and ACLS required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Tal-

ley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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CNA OR CNA II AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full-time, Part-time, and PRN positions for day and night shifts. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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EXPERIENCED FINISH CARPENTER: Call Alfredo at 828-349-1590

CLEANING OR RESTAURANT WORK WANTED: Contact Gloria at 828-371-5806

LOOKING FOR A HOUSEKEEPER? Call Manuela at 828-526-9586 Call Janet at 828-399-9693 or 828-526-9709

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VACATION RENTAL

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

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

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

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT FOR SALE, .90 acre, drive graded, 2 bed septic approved, Shared well, off Turtle Pond and Dendy Orchard Road, 4 miles from center of town \$39,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261

SCALY MOUNTAIN Building lots, views, creeks, wooded. 2-5 acres, start at \$150,000 by owner, owner financing available. (404) 831-0222 or gonzobean@aol.com. 3/6/

08

LOTS FOR SALE IN SHELBY PLACE. \$110,000 each. Call 828-526-2874.

MOUNT VERON, SOUTH GEORGIA -- 126.88 +/- acres. 4 BR/3/BA, home, creek, lake. \$460,000. Call: 478-552-6677 or 706-401-9035. Taylor Group Realty. www.landofgeorgia.com

TENNILLE, CENTRAL GEORGIA - 58.71 acres. 5 BR//3.5 BA, brick home, 7-board fencing, barn pecan orchard. 11-acre lake. \$799,000. Call: 478-552-6677 or 678-313-5090. www.landofgeorgia.com

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

BUCK CREEK; 1600 sq.ft. finished basement, creek front.Handicapped accessible w/elevator; 3 BR 2 large BA.\$329,000. 828-524-6038

WELCOME HOME TO MOUNTAIN GROVE & FRANKLIN, NC - Unprecedented opportunity to own 100 acres in picturesque and historic Mountain Grove, (1A5) Macon County, NC! Combine the pleasures and opportunities of a secluded high mountain valley (elevations from 3100 to 3400 feet) with unusually easy to access land. Live on your own farm with 30 acres of pastures, two barns, a remodeled main house, and a new log cabin for guests. Streams, creeks and hiking trails throughout. Perfect for a family and equestrian retreat. Tremendous investment/development potential! All within 20 minutes (via a soon to be paved State Road) of the historic downtowns of Sylva and Franklin. Nothing like it in the whole region! Contact Tim Ryan at (828) 349-4465 or ryan@sanctuarync.com for more information or visit our website at www.sanctuarync.com/farm_for_sale6.ht

IN TOWN - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, stream, large level yard. Easy walk to Main Street. \$450,000, by owner. Call 828-226-6123. 12/21

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

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

HOUSE FOR SALE - HFCC 2 story

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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

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

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

NC. OTTO, 38 ACRES 10 miles from Georgia State line, high elevation, big views, driveway and homesite cleared call owner, 770-952-9100

IN TOWN – 3/2.5 log home. The cottages llakeside at Harris Lake. Less than 2 years old. \$319,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

LOTS – Exclusive RiverRock, Tuckasegee Village: 2.1 acre Lot 48, great building site, adjoins horse farm. \$364,900; and THE premier view Lot 34, best view lot development. \$799,900 Call HUTCH (706) 831-0892 owner/agent.

ITEMS FOR SALE

PIANIST NEEDED for sweet little mountain chapel. Holy Family Lutheran Church, Highlands, is seeking a pianist for one service per week, Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Piano/keyboard only, no organ, no choir. Will pay stipend plus mileage. Please contact Chaplain Margaret Howell at (704) 516-7893.

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

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

WATERFALL PUMP - New Berkeley SC9, 1.5hp, 220v, have manual, pumps over 10,000 gallons per hour! Paid \$1100, will sell for \$650. 828-526-8584

TWIN BUNKBEDS \$150.00. 526-9107.

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.

SEARS WASHER & DRYER. Washer 3 years old, dryer, older, Both in great condition. \$350. 526-3647.

ANTIQUE FURNITURE FOR SALE. Double size spool bed \$300. Queen Anne sofa, 2 side chairs and rocking chair \$1,000. Will sell separately. Call Bob at SweetTreats 828 526-9822 or 828 369-6263.

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

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

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

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

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

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

GENERATOR, portable Briggs & Stratton 10,000 Watt 18 HP 8 Gal Fuel Tank 3 years old. never used. New \$2,199. Now. \$1,000. Call 828-526-4784 or 404-255-4894.

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

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

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

DINING ROOM TABLE & 8 CHAIRS – (7 w/o leaves) Great for Mountain Home. Nearly New. Good Condition. Leather & Upholstered chairs. \$1,000. Call Linda at 526-1517.

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

MEDICAL LIFT CHAIR – Used one week. Paid \$615, asking \$500. 526-5558.

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

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

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

CUSTOM DECK SET – Painted alu-

minum Love seat & club chair with laminated waverly cushions. \$125. Call 526-1078.

REDUCED! MAHOUGHANY CHINA CLOSET. 6-ft plus, mirror back, 4 glass shelves. \$125. Must see. Call 787-2307.

CHINA CABINETS desk, rope-bed, trunk framed artwork, quilts, and more. Call 828-526-3836.

ANTIQU 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.icwoodworking.info)

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

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

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

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

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

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2002 TOYOTA TACOMA TRUCK – Good Condition. 67,000 miles, new battery, wipers, tires. \$7,000. 828-526-216
'98 VW CABRIO. Black with brand new convertible top. \$4,200 or OBO. Call Lisa at 770-842-3784.

2/7

2004 ROCKWOOD POP-UP CAMPER. Sleeps 6, mattresses, Heated, Air Conditioned, Awning, Outdoor Grill. Very Good Condition \$3200. 828 342 1999, 706 782 9579.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE FOR SALE – 2002 Discovery – 38P Cat 330 HP. Immaculate. Double Slide. Smoke/pet free. Original owner. All options Electric awnings. W/D. Six new batteries. Extended warranty. Brake Pro. Falcon Hitch. 27,000 miles. \$90,000. Call 743-5593.

2006 SUZUKI DR 200SE MOTORCYCLE – 29 miles, only, perfect condition, 1-cylinder, 4-stroke, 199cc. \$3,000. Call 828-342-6789 or home at 828-526-5507.

SERVICES

AFFORDABLE HOME IMPROVEMENT – Tile, Painting, Decks, Siding, Repairs Etc. Licensed & Insured

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

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID TREATMENT – By J&J Lawn and Landscaping services. NC Licensed Applicator, Highlands, NC 828-526-2251.

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

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

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

MARK'S SEDAN DRIVING SERVICE – All airports – Atlanta, Asheville, scenic tours, parks, special occasions, restaurant trips, auto delivery. Town Car. Call 828-524-0424 or cell (239)-292-3623. 10/25

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

HIGHLANDS RADIO SHACK IS FOR SALE! Own a successful year-round business on Main Street. Asking \$399,000. Call Thea or Chuck at 828-526-3350.

WANTED

WHITE MALE, AGE 48, looking for female companion, cook. Call Donny. 706-335-6496 or write P.O. Box 411, Ila, GA 30647.1/24/08

LOST

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

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

- Cardio Dance Class. \$5 per calls, MWF at 8:30 am @ the Rec Park (downstairs).
- 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.
- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.
- At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.
- "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodward room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.
- First Mondays**
 - Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.
- Every Monday**
 - Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.
- Every Tuesday**
 - Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.
 - Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.
 - Open Studio Night Figure Drawing: Informal instruction available for beginners. Bring your sketch pad or paint box for a leisurely session of figure drawing/painting.

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

Feb. 8-14

FOOL'S GOLD rated PG-13

Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7

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

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

JUNO rated PG-13

Mon – Thurs: (4:05), 7:05

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

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

RAMBO rated R

Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:15

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

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

THE BUCKET LIST rated PG-13

Mon – Thurs: (4), 7

Fri: (4), 7, 9

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

Cost is \$12, \$10 for "Friends" of the Gallery.

Every Wednesday

- Gospel of John Bible Study

Pastor Todd Struble is leading a study this spring on the fourth Gospel (using the Efirid Bible Study Series) Wednesday Supper begins at 5:30 with the Bible Study at 6:15 - 7:15.

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

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

Every Third Wednesday

- Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Every Thursday

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

Every Friday

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

Every Saturday

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

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

Thursday, Feb. 7

- Super Fives Rotary Bingo will be on Thursday, Feb. 7 at the Highlands Community Building from 6:30-8:30 .pm. Super Fives features a final Super Bingo game prize of \$500 for a full card Bingo in 55 number calls or less - \$250 if more than 55 calls.

Friday, Feb. 8

- Improv has returned to the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. 2007 was a sad year for our little village, not an improv game to be played anywhere. Now to fill that awful void The Instant Theatre Company presents an all new show, ITC LIVE!, and playing every Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m..in February. For tickets and further information please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.
- MOVIE NIGHT at Grace Community Church at 7 p.m. featuring "The Second Chance?" Michael W. Smith stars as Ethan Jenkins, the rebellious son of a successful suburban pastor who is sent on sabbatical to Second Chance Church, the inner-city church his father started years before. Admission and refreshments are free, and all are welcome. For more information, call the church at 743-9814.

Saturday, Feb. 9

- Spring Soccer Registration at Highlands Recreation Park from 2-4 p.m. Cost is \$40 for fall registered players, \$50 for new or non-registered players. The season is April through June. Games will be played on Sunday afternoons. Age divisions are determined by the child's age as of July 31, 2007. All new players need a copy of a birth certificate. For more information, call Christy Weller at 526-9931.

No Problem casting a tenor for HCP upcoming play!

The opera manager in HCP's production of *Lend Me a Tenor* may have his troubles finding a tenor to borrow, but play director Annette Coleman had no

problem finding an actor for the role. She is married to a tenor and actor, Wayne Coleman, whom she has cast in the role of Tito Merelli, world famous opera singer.

Annette and Wayne have known each other for awhile. They were high school sweethearts in Reidsville, Georgia, where they performed together for the first time in a school play. Eventually, they married and headed to the University of Georgia, where Annette worked toward a graduate degree in Drama while Wayne finished his degree in Journalism. Then on to Atlanta where the couple started a family, and Wayne, a medical products company. Twenty years passed by before theater entered their lives for a second time. Then Annette began acting again, wrote scripts, and directed, with Wayne as her leading man, singing in a number of the big musicals of the times—"Sound of

Music," "Music Man," "Fiddler on the Roof," "My Fair Lady" and many others in Atlanta.

The Colemans became full time residents of Highlands in 2004 and were soon involved with the Highlands Community Players. They both sing in the Presbyterian Church choir. Wayne is a member of the Performing Arts Center Male Chorus and has performed for the Highlands Playhouse as Teyve in *Fiddler*



on the Roof.

Now Annette is once again directing her husband, this time in a Highlands Community Players production, and, though he does talk back once in awhile, they make a great team.

Lend Me a Tenor opens at the Performing Arts Center on Thursday, February 28, and runs through Sunday, March 9. The box office opens for season subscribers on Thursday, February 12, and for the general public on Saturday, March 1. More information is available on the Players web site, www.highlandscommunityplayers.org.

- Highlands School Fifth Grade Class is having a raffle at Bryson's Food Store from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to raise funds for its annual class trip.

- Improv has returned to the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. 2007 was a sad year for our little village, not an improv game to be played anywhere. Now to fill that awful void The Instant Theatre Company presents an all new show, ITC LIVE!, and playing every Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m..in February. For tickets and further information please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2.5 mile strenuous hike on the south face of Whiteside Mountain, descending (and ascending) the steep rocky path used by rappellers and climbers, to walk under the awesome cliffs towering above. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or the Whiteside parking lot at 9:45 a.m. Drive 10 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear gloves and boots. Extreme caution must be used on this difficult rocky trail. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations

or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- Holly Springs Community Blood Drive at Holly Springs Baptist Church, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Please call Karen Stiwwinter at 524-5200 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors can enter a drawing for free flowers for a year!

- A special concert will be held Saturday at the Holly Springs Baptist Church in Franklin, NC. featuring Blue Ridge. The concert will begin at 7 p.m.

- FREE ARTSATURDAY FOR KIDS. The Arts Council holds its monthly ARTSATURDAY for creative kids 10 a.m. to noon, in the Mayme Keith Children's Wing of the new Macon County Public Library, 189 Siler Road in Franklin. Make-and-take projects include Valentine cards and decorations. Paper artist Sandy Essex directs this workshop. Children should wear play clothes and come for any part of the session. No pre-registration is needed.

Tuesday, Feb. 12

- HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For more information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. The Assault on Reason by Gore. Coordinator, John Gaston

• "Take Charge of Your Health" Lecture series by Cashiers-Highlands Chiropractic & Acupuncture presents a lecture series – "Inflammation and your diet." All lectures are FREE and held at Cashiers Chiropractic & Wellness in Laurel Terrace just east on U.S. 64 from the crossroads. Please call 828-743-9070 or 828-526-3709 to make a reservation.

Wednesday, Feb. 13

• Squares will host their Graduation Dance this Wednesday night at the Macon County Community Building from 7-9 p.m. 12 new dancers will be welcomed to the world of square dancing and given their diploma by their instructor Jim Roper of Cornelia GA. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344 or 706-782-0943.

Thursday, Feb. 14

• Franklin Community Blood Drive at First Baptist Church (69 Iotla Street, Franklin) 12:30-5:30 p.m. Please call 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors can enter a drawing for free flowers for a year!

Friday, Feb. 15

• Improv has returned to the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. 2007 was a sad year for our little village, not an improv game to be played anywhere. Now to fill that awful void The Instant Theatre Company presents an all new show, ITC LIVE!, and playing every Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. in February. For tickets and further information please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

Saturday, Feb. 16

• Improv has returned to the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. 2007 was a sad year for our little village, not an improv game to be played anywhere. Now to fill that awful void The Instant Theatre Company presents an all new show, ITC LIVE!, and playing every Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. in February. For tickets and further information please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

• Hot Dog Supper & Blue Grass Music Benefit at the Satolah Fire Dept at 5 p.m. Benefit for Junior and Margie Crowe. Featuring Curtis Blackwall & the Dixie Bluegrass Boys and The Foxfire Boys. Raffle tickets on sale for an antique rifle (Sears Roebuck 1st edition single-shot), a load of crusher-run gravel, or a \$50 gas certificate from the Clayton Food Mart (old Twenty-Penny.) Cakes and homemade goodies also for sale.

• Free Health Tracks Mini Fair at the Highlands Civic Center from 10:30 am. to 1 p.m. For more information on the month's events, call HealthTracks at (828) 526-1FIT (1348), Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-mile moderate hike on the Appalachian Trail to the Wayah Shelter and return on the Bartram Trail and the Jones property road. Meet at the Westgate Plaza in Franklin

(opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m., returning 2-3 p.m. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Larry Jelley, 524-4200, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, Feb. 17

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5-mile hike on Black Mtn. in the Jones Creek area on forest service roads with an elevation change of 300 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Tuesday, Feb. 19

• HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For more information, please contact Creighton Peden 526-4038. SNOW DAY; or "Taking Science on Faith" by Paul Davies. New York Times, Nov. 24, 2007. Coordinator: Creighton Peden.

Wednesday, Feb. 20

• Spring Soccer Registration at Highlands Recreation Park from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$40 for fall registered players, \$50 for new or non-registered players. The season is April through June. Games will be played on Sunday afternoons. Age divisions are determined by the child's age as of July 31, 2007. All new players need a copy of a birth certificate. For more information, call Christy Weller at 526-9931.

Thursday, Feb. 21

• Health Tracks Open House, featuring a light buffet lunch to kick-off its new Heart Smart program. Heart Smart mini fair at Highlands Civic Center from noon to 2 p.m. For more information on the month's events, call HealthTracks at (828) 526-1FIT (1348),

• See EVENTS page 21

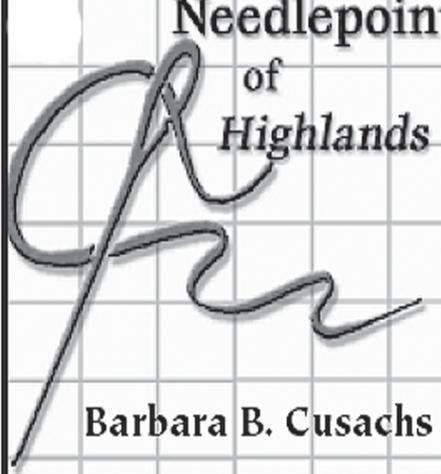
ITC LIVE! starts this weekend!

Get your brain set on "Ha-Ha" for the opening of ITC LIVE! Today's studies suggest that by enjoying humor, playing and exploring, we can better understand ourselves, others, and the world we live in.

What's more those changes last and help us during hard times. So limber up your mind and wise up by having a laugh. Make your reservations now.

ITC LIVE! plays February 8th, 9th, 15th, 16th, 22nd and 23rd. Six performances only at 8 p.m. Call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197. Tickets are \$20. The show contains some mature content.

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... OUTDOOR continued from page 8

ed by outdoor display.”

Cooley had suggested a similar ordinance but included zoning districts B1, B2, B3, B4 or B5. He also suggested the displays be limited to areas immediately adjacent to the front and sides and within a number of feet (to be determined) of the principal building.

“I like that one and if you had made a

motion to adopt that I would have,” said Ross to Rogers. “I’d like to see some display of merchandise but not a lot. I also think that the use of the outdoor area to display merchandise should require more parking because you’re using the outdoors, too.”

In the end Commissioner Buz Dotson suggested the board reaffirm the original ordinance with an amended specific list of

allowable items.

Commissioner Amy Patterson has been against the outdoor display of merchandise all along.

“Philosophically, why are we allowing this?” she asked. “Some people have space to display and some don’t so they can’t do it so it’s discriminatory. Plus, over the years we have made a point of dealing with the appearance of Highlands – col-

ors, siding, signage. We’re trying to, in a general way, make Highlands have an appearance. What are we trying to do and why are we changing this? Let’s clean up the definition instead of changing the philosophy.”

Clothing and other merchandise currently displayed on Highlands’ streets will no longer be allowed.

• SERVICE DIRECTORY •

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

Friday, Feb. 22

• Improv has returned to the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. 2007 was a sad year for our little village, not an improv game to be played anywhere. Now to fill that awful void The Instant Theatre Company presents an all new show, ITC LIVE!, and playing every Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. in February. For tickets and further information please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

Saturday, Feb. 23

• Improv has returned to the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. 2007 was a sad year for our little village, not an improv game to be played anywhere. Now to fill that awful void The Instant Theatre Company presents an all new show, ITC LIVE!, and playing every Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. in February. For tickets and further information please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

• Highlands Annual Chili Cook-off, Salsa, & Cornbread Competition is scheduled for Saturday from 6:30-9:30 pm. at the Community Building.

Saturday, Feb. 23

• Free Health Tracks Mini Fair at the Cashiers Community Library from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information on the month's events, call HealthTracks at (828) 526-1FIT (1348), Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5 mile hike to Whiteside Mountain and the Devil's Courthouse with an elevation change of 250 feet. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or the Whiteside parking lot at 9:45 a.m. Drive 10 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Monday & Tuesday, Feb. 25-26

• Southwestern Community College's Small Business Center will present ServSafe from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Bradford Hall Room 100 at the Jackson Campus. This National Restaurant Associate-approved course will cover all aspects of safe food handling in a food service environment. Registration deadline for the course is Friday, Feb. 8. The cost of the course is \$55, with a \$99 materials fee. Interested participants can call the Small Business Center at 828-488-6413.

Tuesday, Feb. 26

• HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the

Hospital to host Heart Month activities in February

February is American Heart Month and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is planning a number of activities to help encourage heart-healthy lifestyle changes.

Two mini-heart fairs are planned for Saturdays later in the month, which will feature healthy cooking classes, as well as information and advice from health experts. And HealthTracks, the hospital's fitness and cardiac rehabilitation program, will hold a special open house on Thursday, Feb. 21, featuring a free "light" buffet lunch to kick off its new Heart Smart program.

All of the special Heart Month programs are completely free to the public.

The first mini fair will be held Saturday, Feb. 16 at the Highlands Civic Center, from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.. A similar event will take place the following Saturday (Feb. 23) at the Cashiers Community Library in Cashiers.

Former Cashiers chef David Sanborn, who until recently owned and operated Sid and Charlie's restaurant at the Mountain Laurel Shoppes in Cashiers, will be preparing several good-tasting, yet healthy, recipes that will be part of a free brunch to be offered at noon. Sanborn recently joined the hospital staff as part of a major push to improve food service for patients and residents. He will be assisted by one of the two nutritionists on staff at the hospital, who will offer practical advice on how to make your recipes health-

ier for your heart. The cooking class begins at 11:30 a.m. The brunch will immediately follow.

Copies of healthy recipes will also be available. In conjunction with Heart Month, area libraries are also featuring displays on healthy cooking books available in their collections.

In addition to the cooking demonstrations, the mini fairs will have several information booths, a blood pressure screening, and vouchers for a free cholesterol test. Area cardiologist Carl Curtiss, MD, FACC, will be on hand to answer questions and provide information, as will the staff of HealthTracks.

Similar information will be available at the HealthTracks open house on Feb. 21, but participants will have the opportunity to see the facility, talk with staff, and try out some of its exercise equipment. Several exercise demonstrations are also planned for the "drop-in" event, which begins a noon and lasts until 2 p.m. Staff will also be available to answer questions about the new Heart Smart program, which is especially designed to help those with cardiac risk factors reduce their risk and minimize or even avoid coronary artery disease in the future.

For more information on the month's events, call HealthTracks at (828) 526-1FIT (1348), Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

discussions. For additional information, please contact Creighton Peden 526-4038. "Our Biotech Future," by Freeman Dawson. The New York Review of Books, Vol. 54, No. 12, July 19, 2007. Coordinator: Ed Gettys.

• "Take Charge of Your Health" Lecture series by Cashiers-Highlands Chiropractic & Acupuncture presents a lecture series - "Cholesterol - good fats, bad fats, essential oils - oh my! All lectures are FREE and held at Cashiers Chiropractic & Wellness in Laurel Terrace just east on U.S. 64 from the crossroads. Please call 828-743-9070 or 828-526-3709 to make a reservation.

Thurs.-Sun., Feb. 28-March 2

• HCP's "Lend Me a Tenor" at the Performing Arts Center.

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9

• HCP's "Lend Me a Tenor" at the Performing Arts Center.

... CONSERVATIVE POV continued from page 11

conservative to you? It might if the liberals' idea

didn't always prevail. Well, currently, he is reaching across the philosophical aisle, trying to secure the conservative vote, which he will need if he is to go all the way.

If McCain prevails as the Republican nominee, he will be a better choice than the opposition, who will be a tax raising, big government socialist. If we need a change, that isn't the change we need. Keep the faith.



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... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 5

hall, hand in hand, toward my office when he looked up at me. "Dad, he asked, "Don't you have to take a test to become a doctor?"

"Yes, many," I answered. "What did you do, cheat," he asked, and continued, "I'm a doctor's kid and I have a broken arm for a week before I get a cast." Arguing that it was a mere five days seemed futile.

I was in charge of watching Bull and a friend at the swimming pool, and I was doing a terrific job. I hadn't looked away from my charges for hours. Then a friend pulled into the parking lot. "Hey, Henry, want a beer?" I walked to the fence and took a bottle. We couldn't have chatted for more than a few seconds when he asked, "Where's Bull?" I turned just in time to see Bull break the surface like a Polaris missile. He had gone under, but was able to bounce off the bottom

and reach the surface. I took over from there. I did a fine job pulling him from the water and comforting him.

There was minor frost bite in the Canadian Rockies for which I accept responsibility, and a minor attack by a feisty goose for which I don't. Bull blames me for all of them. My defense is that if I didn't spend so much time with my kid, there would be less opportunity for misadventures.

There have been other minor examples of reckless parenting, but I've covered the most egregious. At the end of the disclosures, Bull enjoyed a good laugh at my obvious discomfort, then added with a smile, "You're the best Dad in the world." The kid might have hit his head harder than I realized when I dropped him in the feed bucket. Maybe I should have taken him for an MRI. Maybe next time.

... HIS & HERS continued from page 7

John and I have treasures in our place, along with all the clutter. When Rick Steves travels around Europe, I want to be there, too. Don't even get me started on all the cooking programs. I get hungry just thinking about them. And the murder mysteries? Nobody really murders with the style of the Brits, do they? Masterpiece Theater still holds pride of place for intelligent, well-done drama, even though I miss Alastair Cooke, whom John and I met years ago.

I'll spare you the rest of my television schedule, except to mention that I wouldn't miss an episode of House, Boston Legal, or Dancing with the Stars. Oh, and I'm hooked on all the "dead shows" (as John calls them) -NCIS, CSI, CSI:NY, and Bones. You may recall that I lived outside the United States from 1975-1994, so I'd probably not do well on American television trivia on Jeopardy, the only quiz show I watch. After all, I'm someone who's never watched an episode of Cheers, Seinfeld, or Frazer, and only

seen MacGyver and Dallas dubbed in French. Like millions of others in France, I waited with baited breath to find out the answer to that burning question, "Qui a tiré sur JR???" (Who shot JR?)

So, call me just another TV junkie. I love nothing better than to hunker down at night, with some logs crackling away in the fireplace, a couple of sappy housecats cuddling on the sofa with me, and John typing away on the computer. So we're not reading War and Peace. Personally, if Masterpiece Theater did it, and called it CSI: Moscow, I'm sure it would be a winner.

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She lives on top of a mountain near Highlands. Michelle is a member of the Highlands Writers Group. Despite evidence to the contrary, she does not intend to be buried with the remote.

... BOLIVIA continued from page 10

third year that students from the University of Mississippi have joined the mission. Students from Ole Miss have graduated and have spread the news about the mission in Montero and the result this year is the group from Johns Hopkins. Shannon Shea was our first translator in 1998 and she is now a senior and Robert Wicks, who organized the first group of Ole Miss students, is now a freshman.

These students will be able to deliver babies, with supervision, and assist in the ER and operating room as well. Also they will be involved with the lead prevention project and the mobile medical clinics that were so popular last year. Please come to see the wonderful objects of art at Bryant

Art Glass and help the mission at the same time

The Pizza Night fundraiser during the divisional NFL playoffs turned out to be a great success, raising \$1,200 after expenses. Because of the nasty weather, we had only two pizzas ordered from the inserts in the various church bulletins, but finally we delivered 30 pizzas. The mission wants to thank all those who purchased a pizza and a special thanks to Charles Robinson of "The Pizza Place" who donated all the dough, pepperroni and cheese. Thanks to Bryson's who sold the rest of the ingredients at cost and especially all the team members who worked for eight hours making and delivering pizzas on an icy dangerous, day.

HIGHLANDS POLICE, FIRE & MACON COUNTY SHERIFF REPORTS

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the weeks of Jan. 31-Feb. 4. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 31

- At 6 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at N.C. 28 and Cherokee Drive.

Feb. 1

- At 7:35 p.m., a motorist at N. 4th Street and Foreman Road was cited for speeding 45 mph in a 25 zone.

Feb. 2

- At 7:25 p.m., a motorist a N. 4th Street and Foreman Road was cited for speeding 40 mph in a 25 zone.

- A little after midnight a motorist at N. 4th and Laurel streets was cited for speeding 40 mph in a 25 zone.

Feb. 4

- At 9 a.m., officers were called to the Macon Program for Progress on S. 6th Street where a fish and fish food had been taken.

- During the week officers issued 2 warning tickets.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Jan 31-Feb. 6

Jan. 31

- The dept. responded to an alarm at the Cullasaja Club Fitness Center. It was false.

Feb. 1

- The dept. responded to an alarm at the Cullasaja Club Fitness Center. It was false.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Laurel Street where a woman had fallen. She was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call to the Whiteside Mountain Trail parking lot where a body had been found. The dept. stood by.

Feb. 2

- The dept. responded to a vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road at the convenience center. There were no injuries.

Feb. 3

- The dept. responded to a call of a possible chimney fire at a residence on Dog Mountain Road. The fireplace damper was closed.

Feb. 4

- The dept. responded to a call of a possible chimney fire at a residence on Holt Knob Road. The fireplace was overloaded with burning wood. It was removed and the fire extinguished.

Feb. 5

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical

call at a residence on Queen Mountain Road where a man had fallen. He was transported to the hospital.

The following is the Macon County Sheriff Dept. log entries for the Highlands Township for the week of Jan 22-Feb. 4.

Jan. 22

- At 7:45 p.m., Larry Edward Houston, 44, of Highlands, was arrested for second degree trespassing at a residence on Buck Creek Road.

- At 9:30 p.m., William Claude Houston, 53, of Highlands, was arrested for assault on a child under 12-years-old at a residence on Buck Creek Road.

Jan. 27

- A little after midnight, deputies responded to a call of an aggravated assault at a residence on Buck Creek Road.

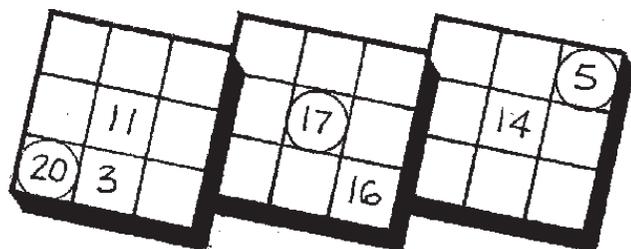
Feb. 4

- At 11:07 a.m., deputies investigated a suspicion event in the crawl space of a home in Scaly where a large amount of blood was found splattered about the room. Deputies believe it was due to an animal who had gotten in a fight and run into the crawl space.

- At 1:58 p.m., deputies responded to an alarm activation at a home on Flat Mountain Road. All was secure.

• FUN & GAMES •

PseudoCube[©]



DZ1D – Level of Difficulty – Moderate

THE SETUP:

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

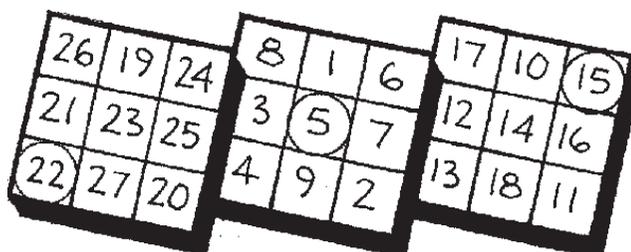
THE CHALLENGE:

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

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

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com

Solution to #BZ4C in Jan. 31 issue



N-Cryptoku[©]

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

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

Mystery Word

"Edible tree seed combination"

Across

1. Colorado native people (3)
2. Food can coating (3)
3. Faint (light) (3)
4. Gender (3)
5. Fine mesh fabric (3)

Down

6. North Dakota (abb.) (2)
7. Emergency Medical Services (abb.) (3)
8. Male humans (3)
9. And (Fr.) (2)
10. Impersonal pronoun (2)

'U		'E	N		D	X		M
	'N			U			D	
		S	²	I				U
	U		T		S		M	
M		X		D		U		S
	S	³		⁸		U	⁹	X
		U	⁴	E				I
	X	¹⁰	D		T		U	
⁵	N		T		I		D	X

Solution to Jan. 31 puzzle

A	I	F	N	D	S	E	O	H
H	D	N	I	O	E	S	A	F
S	E	O	A	H	F	I	D	N
D	N	H	E	S	A	F	I	O
F	A	S	H	I	O	N	E	D
I	O	E	F	N	D	H	S	A
E	F	I	D	A	N	O	H	S
O	H	D	S	F	I	A	N	E
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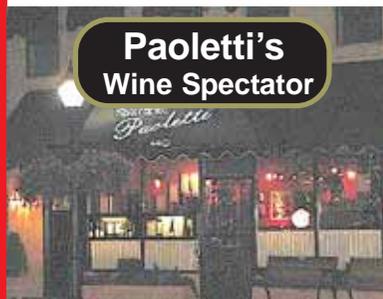
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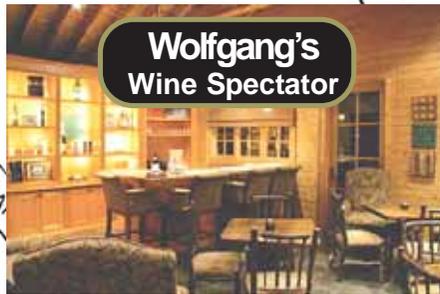


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1 Cyprus	1 Acorns	1 Buyer's
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3 Golden China	3 Bear Mt. Outfit.	3 Country Club
4 Log Cabin	4 Chintz Antiques	4 John Cleaveland
5 Madison's	5 Dry Sink	5 John Schiffl
6	6 JacksonMadeleine	
7 Oak St Cafe	7 Raspberry Fizz	1 Bryant Art Glass
8 Paoletti	8 Silver Eagle	2 Tino Gallery
9 Pescado's	9 Shiraz Rugs	3 Twigs
10 Rib Shack	10 Village Kids	4 Scudders
11 Wolfgang's	11 Wholesale Down	5 Summit One