RiverWalk and Town no longer at odds

The town’s fight with RiverWalk is over. Following a closed session at Wednesday night’s Town Board meeting, the board voted to uphold the December ruling by Administrative Judge Gray and not pursuing RiverWalk $400,000 for sedimentation violations.

“We will not go any further with the suit,” said Mayor Don Mullen. “We accept what the judge said.”

Basically, Judge Gray said that the town didn’t have adequate evidence at the Dec. 6 Town Board meeting to levy the $400,000 fine.

The town, as the respondent in the case and the judge, had the right to appeal Judge Gray’s decision.

Prior to going into closed session to discuss the matter, RiverWalk attorney Billy Clarke objected to the closed session on the grounds that the Town Board was

OEI buys new helmets for fire dept.

Mario Gomes, CEO of the Old Edwards Hospitality Group, recently invited the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department to lunch at the Rib Shack. Much to his surprise, the department made him an honorary fire chief and gave him a helmet that was retired from service.

OEI recently donated $2,000 to the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. to purchase 10 new safety helmets. The dept. purchased another 20 so each of its 30 members has one.

Pictured above from left is Gomes, John McCall with a firefighter helmet, James Ramey, Robbie Forrester, Chief James Manley and Lenny Metrick have officer helmets and Jimmy Tate with a rescue captain helmet.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Saturday school a possibility for Highlands

Franklin High School had its first Saturday school day Jan. 5 and depending on future inclement weather, Highlands could follow suit.

Highlands has more snow days built into its calendar than Franklin which will postpone school on Saturdays for Highlands School for a while, but as it now stands, due to the Thursday, Jan. 3 snow day, Highlands School will end on June 9 instead of June 6 as originally planned.

The next snow day will be made up June 10 and following snow days will be made up on the Saturday immediately following the event.

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter said one reason Franklin had a Saturday school day so soon is because its calendar is different from Highlands’. “First of all, Highlands School isn’t a polling place so that gives us an extra school day Franklin doesn’t have,” he said. “The second thing is due to the size of the school, Franklin administrators need two workdays following the end of a grading period whereas Highlands only needs one, so Franklin doesn’t have any extra days to play with.”

There reason the Saturday snow day must immediately follow the event is because State law mandates that students can’t go to school six days in a week.

Jetter said the crux of the problem – that of extending the school year and conducting school on Saturdays – is because of the overall school calendar that was changed to accommodate the tourist industry. School now can’t

• See SATURDAY page 9

ATMs, OEI parking, and pole violations subject of meeting

ATM Kiosk

Banking ATM kiosks under 800 sq. ft. are now allowed as per the town’s ordinance, but certain details must be ironed out.

At the Jan. 9 Town Board meeting, commissioners adopted the amendment to the town ordinance to waive the 800 sq. ft. requirement for banking ATMs on the grounds that the ATM is needed for county, school and town employees.

The ATM plan that instigated the ordinance change is set for Highlands Plaza but the ordinance waiving the sq. ft. requirement applies to ATM kiosks anywhere in town.

The ordinance reads, “Automatic Teller Machines, whether attached to building walls or freestanding, shall not be subject to the minimum of 800 square feet of floor space required by this section.”

At Wednesday’s meeting, Commissioner Buc Dotson, questioned if the amended ordinance would pave the way for various other kiosks in town.

“What if more than one ATM comes in? What about a Kodak photo kiosk or a real estate with rolling photos?”

The board said it only applied to banking ATMs.

• See SUBJECT page 21
Dear Editor,

In a recent Letter to the Editor Mr. Waylon Chastain lists some objections he had with “The Game of God: Recovering Your True Identity.” As co-author I would like to comment on these objections.

First of all no one knows the absolute truth (a state I believe to be synonymous with “God”). All we mortals can do is speculate about the absolute truth and see how well our theologies translate in reality. No one really knew what the surface of the Moon was like either — until we used our brains and got up there.

Mr. Chastain writes “As a Christian, the thought of God justifying himself to me makes me uncomfortable.”

At no point do the authors suggest that God needed to justify “himself” (we would never say “himself” because we don’t believe in sex-typing the indescribable). We do say that a great many thinking people understandably find repugnant the idea of a separate “God” lounging comfortably in heaven while his antlike creations are busily putting one another in gas chambers and threatening to extinguish themselves with hydrogen bombs. These are the people for whom The Game of God was written — it is they who need to find forgiveness in their hearts for God.

It is our conviction that if the entire universe is not an expression of God in amnesia, if God is somehow completely separate from “his” creation — a creation filled with loneliness, pain, ignorance, child pornographers, and serial killers — then God is indeed beyond forgiveness. If all-powerful God could have intervened and stopped Auschwitz but failed to do so then there is no argument that would lead any rational creature (one who wasn’t terrified of winding up in the mythological fires of hell) to forgive such a deranged deity — much less love “Him.”

Logically the only way God can be completely exonerated (no forgiveness necessary) is this: every expression of mortal agony is actually experienced by God disguised as us; Creator and Creation are ONE. According to our theology, God is brilliantly posing as each and every one of us — and every atom of the cosmos. God is here to experience that which even God cannot experience as God: limitation, struggle, conquest, effort, ignorance, childhood play, falling in and out of love, discovery, loss, death, hitting the jackpot, pain, cruelty and yes, the ultimate psychopathic states of serial killing and death.

We can “forgive” God only when we recognize that there is no “us” at all — there is only the infinite One expressing itself as us for the experience of limitation. The only “suffering inhabitants” of our universe model is God — in a state of amnesia undergoing the supreme adventure called life. We leave it to our readers to determine whether our theory puts God in a more favorable light than the traditional Judeo-Christian model: a Supreme Being who resides in heaven and ceaselessly threatens His seriously flawed and death-stalked creations with eternal damnation if they fail to comply with His precise orders.

As to Mr. Chastain’s excellent question of origin, our theory that the universe is God in a self-induced state of amnesia has evolved in a very profound way since “The Game of God” was published fifteen years ago. We continue to see the universe as God in amnesia but we have eliminated the words “self-induced.”

Albert Einstein once said, “What really interests me is whether God had any choice in the creation of the world.”

Good point! If amnesia was intentionally “self-induced” we found ourselves unable to answer such questions as: Where would the incentive to induce amnesia come from? Surely infinite consciousness is “at rest” in its utter completeness — a state of divine inertia — so from whence would come the stimuli to change? Why would the infinite willfully choose to become finite? Why would the perfect light of absolute truth deliberately devolve into shadowy delusion? Why would a God of love intentionally choose to undergo suffering and evil? Answers like “boredom” or “God has a playful nature” (which we did use in “The Game of God”) seem at best anthropomorphic and at worst flippant.

For us the answer to these questions was that it is simply the nature of Grand Overall Design (G.O.D.) to be infinite and finite, unlimited and limited, conscious and unconscious, simultaneously and forever (G.O.D. gets to have it all!). There is no Grand Overall Designer because the universe was not “created.” The universe is simply a particular level of experience enjoyed by the Grand Overall Design.

As to Mr. Chastain’s objections on meaning, morality, and destiny:

Meaning: We hold that the state of absolute truth exists. Nothing outside the state of absolute truth exists in reality. The illusion of something exists (the universe) but that is all it is — an illusion (Maya). This illusion is a component of absolute truth. To Be (absolute truth) or To Pretend Not To Be (illusion): that is all there is and all there will ever be. What alternatives remain? Heaven or hell? Many rational people find the idea of eternal life as themself (a sort of never-ending celebration in the case of “heaven”) to be the stuff of nightmares. Think about it.

Mr. Chastain: “…when it comes to the question of Destiny, we are told that their worldview doesn’t offer any definitive answer.”

On the contrary, we state emphatically that the destiny of every mote of creation is to ultimately return to home base to awaken; the process of “recovering your true identity” (the subtitle of our book); to meld back into the infinite. That all amnesia will ultimately be reconciled with absolute truth seems a supremely splendid destiny. We unconditionally state that God does not remain lost in amnesia forever. Awakening is guaranteed.

On the subject of Morality Mr. Chastain states: “If there is no system of deterrence, such as retributive reincarnation or purgatory, why choose a life of self-sacrifice over a life of debauchery or hedonism? There can be no distinction between the philanderer and the philanthropist.”

There’s all the difference in the world.

The life of the philanderer is deprived of love and everything it means to be a truly humane being. The philanderer is going through life with the equivalent of blown tweeters — the delicate high-end stuff of nightmares. Think about it.

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**Main Street beautification continues**

On Monday, Jan. 7, town crews began installing 11 benches along Main Street. The black, steel powder coated bench is four feet long. "This is a high quality product for streetscape use and is meant to match the trash cans," said Commissioner Hank Ross. Mountain Findings donated $8,000 to the town which was used to purchase the benches.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

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**Kimeran Armstrong**

On Monday, December 24, 2007, Kimeran Armstrong, 37, departed this earth. Left to cherish her memories is her daughter, Ryan Ann from Cullowhee, N.C.; her mother Marilyn F. Rant of Highlands and Franklin, N.C.; her sister, Robin M. Armstrong of Highlands, N.C.; her father, W. Allen Still from Atlanta, GA; and two dogs, Idgie and Zoie. She also leaves behind two aunts, two uncles and four cousins.

Kimeran, who was both beautifully and painfully sensitive, lead a passionate life. Those who knew her well knew she always wore her heart on her sleeve. Kimeran had an uncanny understanding, empathy, and compassion toward other people. She also had a brilliant mind and with one look into her penetrating green eyes you knew she was wise beyond her years.

Since quite a young age, Kimeran has been an incredible poet, often portraying her vast range of emotions and love of those who were close to her through her poetry. Her poetry also details the extreme depth of feeling involving her lifelong struggle with manic depression. More recently, she was focusing her writing and research to compile a memoir conveying the trials and triumphs of this often misunderstood and debilitating disease.

Kimeran often spoke about being from the “blue planet” and we know in our hearts that she is on her way home. Her warrior spirit is now free and whole and at peace. Asher (daughter who brought Kimeran the most joy in life) put it, she is where “the stars are dancing.” There will not be an immediate funeral, but there will be a memorial service to honor Kimeran’s life in several months. Kimeran’s body has been donated to science, as per her request. The family requests no flowers. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to NARSAD, The World’s Leading Charity Dedicated to Mental Health Research at 1-800-829-8289 or www.narsad.org.

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**Helen Ruth Henry**

Helen Ruth Henry, 82, of Highlands, N.C. died Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at a Highlands-Cashiers Nursing Home. She was born in Rabun County, GA, the daughter of the late Jim and Ethel Wilburn Jenkins. She was married to Wally Henry who died January 8, 1998. She was a homemaker, a loving mother and grandmother. She was of the Baptist faith.

She is survived by her two daughters, Anna Lee Henry and husband, Johnny of Highlands, N.C. and Patsy McCall and husband, James Howard of Statesville, N.C.; four sisters, Effie Hunnicutt of Franklin, N.C., Mary Baby and Rita Baby of Highlands, N.C. and Phyllis Piroon of Walhalla, S.C.; five brothers, Rev. Junior Jenkins of Highlands, N.C., Lewis Jenkins of Walhalla, S.C., Billy Jenkins of Pickens, S.C., Donnie Jenkins of Florida and Tommy Jenkins. Thirteen grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by her son, Larry Webb and a sister, Louise Clark.

Funeral services were held Saturday, January 5, 2008 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands with Rev. Gary McCoy officiating. Burial will be held at Wilson Cemetery. Billy Joe Henry, Terry Henry, Clifford McCall, Keith McCall, Robert Jenkins and Bobby Jenkins will serve as pallbearers.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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**Elsa Emy Norris Dodd**

Elsa Emy Norris, 83, of Highlands, N.C., died Wednesday, January 2, 2008 at her home. She was born in Charleston, S.C., the daughter of the late Dr. Jack C. Norris and Elsa Parsons Norris. She was an artist and was of the Episcopalian faith. She is survived by one sister, Karen Norris Sibley of Atlanta, GA; one brother, Jack Clayton Norris, Jr. of Savannah, GA, and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial services were held Sunday, January 6, at 2 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of The Incarnation in Highlands with Rev. Brian Sullivan officiating. A reception will follow the service at the Church.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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**Burning ban lifted...for good**

After several weeks of rain and Tuesday’s snow in the mountains, U.S. Forest Service officials have lifted the campfire ban in the National Forests in North Carolina.

“Although the burning ban is lifted, people still need to practice caution when building campfires in the national forests,” said Diane Bolt, fire planner for the National Forests in North Carolina. Even with December’s heavy rainfall, the National Forests in North Carolina are still in drought conditions.

“We will continue to monitor weather conditions and may have to reinstate the national forest burning ban if this wet weather pattern ceases,” said the fire planner.

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**Joe Cooley**

Joe Cooley believes his three degrees – a Masters in city and regional planning, a bachelors degree in landscape architecture with a certicate in environmental studies and his juris doctorate in law – will serve him well as Highlands’ new Zoning Administrator/Planning Director.

“It’s a great combination – addressing the landscape and environment aspects with planning which is political and very process oriented,” he said.

Cooley says he knows a lot has been put on the backburner waiting for his arrival but right now he’s trying to get up to speed on the existing ordinance and the issues going on.

He’s already recommended a land use map to accompany the land use plan which will help visualize long range plans. “It will be an opportunity to get a long range view and to see where the town wants to go and should go.”

There’s been talk of consolidating and closing up loopholes in the town’s ordinance and Cooley thinks he can help with that.

“This is a common problem everywhere,” he said. “But since I have been on the other side I know where to look and know where the typical problems lie.”

As a lawyer with the Smith, Gambrell & Russell Land Use Group in Atlanta, GA, he said he’s worked on many cases involving ordinances.

“The key is to keep it clear and definite and to look at how the whole thing ties together, perhaps rewrite it in areas,” he said. “I also have to learn the intent of the council and try to accomplish what it wants possibly by rewriting the ordinance to accommodate.”

He said like Highlands, Georgia’s Cobb County’s stance on growth changed depending on the most recent election. “It’s gone from pro-growth to no growth and back again,” he said.

Cooley said there are environmental issues that will have to be addressed in the future like steep slope development and stormwater concerns, while also considering the projection of population growth 20 years from now.

“You have to make sure the codes and process is taking you where you want to go,” he said. “Long range planning is necessary but you need to know where you want to go before you can get there.”

If an ordinance rewrite is requested, he suggested farming the job out to a legal firm whose eye could spot potential pitfalls. “After we tell them what problems or issues we face, it might be good to have someone

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See COOLEY page 11
I am not making this up. I was sitting by myself in a movie theatre when suddenly the house lights came on and the screen went blank. The manager walked on stage and said, “We are proud to announce we have Hershey bars on sale at the snack stand.” Moments later, an ambulance took two injured children to the hospital, trampled in the stampede to buy Hershey’s. I just sat in my seat because I had just spent my last nickel on popcorn. The year was 1945 and I was only 9-years-old. I will never forget that day.

World War II, something I only witnessed as a small child, had recently ended and things were beginning to return to normal. Bicycle tires would soon reappear at Sears and Roebuck and nightly air raid drills had ended. Boy, were they scary. Soon, gasoline rationing would end and dad would be able to drive again. Mom couldn’t wait to buy her first pair of nylons and real butter would soon be back in the groceries. And then there was the cherished Hershey bar. I had not tasted one in a long time but would now have to wait until my next allowance. The end of a hard life for Americans was coming to an end.

Today, the liberal media hypes the war in Iraq as a great American tragedy. In reality, it is a ho-hum war and unless you have a relative or a good friend fighting in Iraq, probably not on your mind very much. For me, for something to be called “the war” there has to be sacrifices. If you could isolate yourself from the media, you wouldn’t even know we were at war. Do you ever get the feeling we’re being led around by our noses?

Last year, during the three weeks I spent in Dubai, there was no talk of the Iraq war; not in the media and not on the streets. It simply didn’t exist, yet it was just up the road. The Arabs are too busy making money and they control their press.

While there was much dissent about whether this country should get into a war, it ended with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Once Roosevelt made his infamous Pearl Harbor declaration of war speech on radio, this country was united against an enemy who wanted to destroy us. I recommend everyone go to http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/fdrpearlharbor.htm and listen to the speech that will send chills up your spine. After that day, America was united. Men lied about their age and pushed in front of each other in line to join the military. Again, can you imagine that happening today?

More Americans died on 9/11 than at Pearl Harbor, but where is the outrage, the patriotism or unity? I saw a tiny bit of it right after the 9/11 attack, but when Americans were not asked to sacrifice, that soon faded. Our politicians went back to bickering and backbiting. They would rather dig up dirt on each other in line to join the military. Again, can you imagine that happening today?

Are these the seeds of a dying democracy and our eventual transition to fascism? Was Sinclair Lewis correct when he said fascism will come to us wrapped in a flag and carrying a cross? And how will fascism deal with the media? Not well, I’m afraid and they may be facilitating their own demise.
Lessons from Iowa

Iowa is in the books. Here comes New Hampshire. Iowa voters have given victories and massive boosts to the campaigns of Barack Obama and Mike Huckabee. There is a prevailing sense that there is something unfair about Iowa's influence on the presidential process, that Iowa is a mostly rural, mostly white, Midwestern state, is not representative of the country as a whole, and wields disproportionate influence.

Chris Dodd and Joe Biden fared poorly in Iowa and folded their tents. Neither had sniffed double-digit ratings throughout the campaign, and if Iowans killed their candidacies, it was more a case of euthanasia than cold-blooded murder.

It is true that Iowa has only 1% of the U.S. population and exerts influence far in excess of that percentage. I had assumed, along with nearly everyone else that this was a bad thing, that the fundamental notions of one man (person), one vote, and equal representation were being violated, or at least tarnished by Iowa's primacy in the electoral process.

Lizzie, Bull, and I were in the Turks and Caicos Islands last Thanksgiving. We found ourselves seated next to an Iowa couple at a seaside restaurant. They changed my mind about Iowa's role. Our conversation, over Red Stripes and Caicos Islands, turned to politics, and conch fritters, turned to politics, and conch fritters, turned to politics, and conch fritters, turned to politics, and conch fritters, turned to politics, and conch fritters, turned to politics, and conch fritters, turned to politics, and conch fritters, turned to politics, and conch fritters, turned to politics, and conch fritters, turned to politics, and conch fritters, turned to politics, and conch fritters, turned to politics, and conch fritters.

I was amazed with the knowledge of the candidates that those folks exhibited. I was impressed with the sense of responsibility that they felt that their state's unique position in the process thrust upon them. They told us that they were pretty representative of their friends, neighbors, family and co-workers. Each had attended several small meetings with various candidates, questioning and challenging them. They had studied the candidates, the issues, and the aspirant's positions on those issues. In the year leading up to the nation's first test, politics is at least a popular pastime, possibly a consuming passion. They want to get it right.

Mike Huckabee may not fare as well in more liberal, less religious states, but that is the decision of the electorate in those states. If voters choose to jump on the band wagon because of Huckabee's success in Iowa, the fault lies not with Iowa, but with voters in the primaries that follow. Iowa voters have given our candidates. We should be grateful. We should follow its lead, emulate its dedication.

We have attempted to increase participation in the electoral process. We have forwarded the notion of instant registration and mail in ballots. The requirement for positive identification has been viewed as anti-democratic, a nefarious scheme to disenfranchise the poor, the illiterate, the elderly and the ill. We are much more concerned with rights in this country than with responsibility, the right to vote trumps the responsibility to vote intelligently. The right to live freely is more fun than the responsibility to protect those rights. We leave that to the guys and gals over in Fayetteville, or Paris Island, or Fort Benning. We want easy credit, but we want to be protected from those who give it to us. We squander our planet's resources and trust that our children will develop technological solutions to clean up the stew we've left them in.

In Iowa, a state whose population is 94% white, Democratic voters turned out in record numbers, on a bitterly cold night, to vote for a black man to lead our country. In Iowa, voters ignored the millions of dollars that Mitt Romney had spent wooing their support, and voted instead for Mike Huckabee, a straight talking Baptist preacher whose unwavering message stood in stark contrast to Romney's inconsistent positions on matters close to the heart in the heartland.

I don't personally agree with much of what Huckabee believes, but I respect his willingness to tell me the truth. The people of Iowa resisted the manicured machines of Clinton and Romney, and voted instead for candidates whom they trusted to lead in a new direction. In doing so they threw the process up for grabs. They exposed the myth of Senator Clinton's invincibility. They resisted the easy message of the 60-second political TV ad and looked more deeply into the candidates. Young voters joined the process with a fervor not seen since the days of Gene McCarthy or John Kennedy.

I expect that Senator McCain will prevail in New Hampshire. Many disagree with his position on the war in Iraq, but few can dismiss his character. All respect a man who stands up for his principles, even if they are not right.

See ANOTHER VIEW page 22
In last week’s Highlands’ Newspaper there was a letter by Waylon Chastain in which he questioned some of the premises behind the “Oneness” philosophy I have been writing about in this column. Mr. Chastain took the trouble of reading The Game of God, the book my husband Arthur and I wrote and to which I have referred, and I appreciate the seriousness with which he took our ideas in his critique. I also appreciate the chance to further explore Oneness philosophy in this column.

Mr. Chastain used as a basis for his analysis the idea that “for any belief system to have validity, it must give coherent answers to four fundamental questions. These are questions of Origin, Meaning, Morality, and Destiny.”

I completely agree that any philosophy or theology must be able to successfully and satisfactorily answer the toughest questions. That is why I bring up serial killers so often when I talk about Oneness philosophy: if a theology can’t explain the most brutal of murders it’s worthless.

So I am happy to play according to Mr. Chastain’s rules. I will compare the theology of Oneness to that of mainstream Christianity on these four points.

First let me state what I mean by Oneness philosophy. Put most simply, there is nothing but God. That is why I call it Oneness: the world of spirit and the world of matter are of the same substance. This world of separate forms is an illusion; in fact there is only God pretending to be you and me and President Bush and your dog and my cat and the rocks and the streams and the planets and…Everything. Mind you, this is a “God-class” illusion and is thus completely convincing – I still look both ways before I cross the street!

This philosophy is not something Arthur and I dreamed up one day. This is what Aldous Huxley called the “perennial philosophy;” it is the essence of many spiritual traditions, including the Upanishads written almost 3,000 years ago. If you would like to read another version of it I suggest Ken Wilber, in particular Up From Eden. Mr. Wilber approaches this subject with science-like rigor. He describes, as we did in The Game of God, a process of involution and evolution. Involution means God forgets God’s Identity and becomes almost completely unconscious in the world of form. Evolution is the slow reawakening of the annesial God-Identity.

The main difference in my thinking now is that there was no “creation” event. The universe is not something God does, it is something God is. The world of limitation and form is part of who/what God is. I believe this is similar to process theol-
A year of living with grit(s)

As hard as this may be to believe, I managed to spend the first 55 years of my life – 21 of them below the Mason-Dixon Line – without ever eating grits. By the way, after spending 12 years in New York City, I think the Mason-Dixon Line should be replaced by the much more functional Schlepp-Mosey Line.

Do you live above the said line? You schlepp. Live below it? You mosey. After all, who remembers Mason and Dixon anyway?

But for those of you who want a short refresher course in history, here’s what Wikipedia has to say about our old buddies, Mason and Dixon:

The Mason-Dixon Line (or “Mason and Dixon’s Line”) is a demarcation line between four U.S. states, forming part of the borders of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and West Virginia (then part of Virginia). It was surveyed between 1763 and 1767 by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon in the resolution of a border dispute between British colonies in Colonial America. Popular speech, especially since the Missouri compromise of 1820 (apparently the first official usage of the term “Mason’s and Dixon’s Line”), uses the Mason-Dixon line symbolically as a cultural boundary between the Northern United States and the Southern United States (Dixie).

Which gets me back to grits, or rather, the sad lack of them in my life until two years ago. I had come down to spend Thanksgiving 2005 with John. It had snowed profusely. The house looked like that magical winter house in Doctor Zhivago (come on, ladies, you know the one, Omar Sharif and his wet eyes?) I borrowed an oversized bathrobe, and crept down the stairs. There was John, working his magic at the stove. “What are you making?” I asked. “Grits!” was the hearty reply. “Grits?” I said with a voice that held a barely repressed “ewwwww” in it. Forgive me. I grew up in the apron strings of a Parisian mother whose reaction to grits was a raised eyebrow (just one), a wrinkled nose, and the expression “Quelle horreur!” This from a lady who eats snails.

Fortunately, the Snail Lady also taught me that when at other people’s houses, you always take a taste of every dish, no matter how foreign or how foul. This has gotten me through some rough dinner parties, chomping my way through undercooked chicken, and my own personal favorite eating a dish in which the hostess had forgotten to include one of the main ingredients, the one that made it edible, obviously.

So, with the courage that drove pioneer women to pack their best china on their way to live in sod huts, I sat down to breakfast, lifted my fork, and heeded myself to eat my first grits. Those of you with kids may recall that moment when you get your offspring to try a dish they claim to loathe, only to have them smile and ask for seconds. This was such a moment. I didn’t just tolerate grits. I liked them. The next time I saw the Snail Lady, I told her so, too. “I had grits at John’s house” I declared in a hearty voice. “Quelle horreur!” was her reply. She gave me that look that mothers save for children who confess to drug use, dating unsuitable men, and failing to make their beds in the morning. It was clear to her. Darling daughter had gone over to the Dark Side.

I was hurt. What was so bad about eating grits? After all, I’m a dedicated foodie. I watch the Food Channel. I read cookbooks in bed, what one of my Manhattan friends refers to as “food porn”). I’ve sat glued to the TV screen as Giada De Laurentiis (she of the low necked t-shirts) regularly whipped up polenta. As far as I could see, grits were just polenta with attitude.

Growing up, I had heard rumors that you could eat grits two ways. One school of thought had them with sugar. The other served them with butter and salt. It sounded a bit like hot oatmeal, which my other served them with butter and salt. It sounded a bit like hot oatmeal, which my father liked, along with Cream of Wheat (which I misheard as Queen of Wheat, calling it that my entire childhood). Grits conjured up the image of people during The Depression – my father’s finest hour – eating the inedible, “making do,” bravely facing a world without iPods, paid overtime, and toilet paper in really nice pastel shades.

Shame on me. Little could I imagine the wonders of grits! Cheddar cheese grits. Shrimp and grits. Fried grits and ham. Baked grits. Now I’m starting to sound like the Bubba Gump shrimp guy “Forest Gump.”

It isn’t just me. My brother, Eric, spent several days in Highlands with his wife Joyce, just after the Thanksgiving holidays. We went out to dinner several times in Highlands, lift blood, and do the same.

Michelle Mead & John Armor 
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See HIS & Hers page 20
Courtny Rogers had seven rebounds and the team had 22 blocks/tips and every players scored, but still lost to Rosman Friday night, 22-46. “We are continuing to play better and just need to work in finishing the games,” said Coach Brett Lamb.

High scorer was Brie Schmitt with 7 points followed by Courtny Rogers with 5, Marlee McCall with 3, 2 each by Taylor Burns, Sarah Power and Kate Marie Parks. Bobby Jo Talley scored 1 point. The teams stats are 0-15 (0-1).

At Friday’s home game the boys made a long-deserved win beating Rosman 60 to 53.

The majority of points were scored during the fourth quarter - 26. The first quarter netted 10 points, the second and third netted 12.

The high scorer was Jake Heffington with 22 points followed by Ezra Herz with 15 points. Next up was Michael Shearl with 11 points, Michael Baty with 6, and two each for Mickey Lica, Luke McClellan and Andrew Billingsley. Highlands’ season record: is 2 wins and 13 losses.

The JV Boys beat Rosman too, 56 to 52.

The next home game is Friday, Jan. 11 against Hiwassee. The girls play at 6:30 p.m. and the boys play at 8 against Hiwassee Dam.

**Coach’s Corner**

*Live, it’s Sunday night football!*

This week I decided to let you, the (un)fortunate readers, in on my thoughts as I took in the North Carolina-Clemson contest live from Littlejohn Coliseum Sunday evening. Here is my running commentary, live from Sunday night.

7:40 PM - I just finished watching Duke struggle at home vs. Cornell and therefore am mildly depressed at this point. Nothing says a successful season like a tough home game with an Ivy League team.

7:46 - Tim “Book Em” Brando with the play by play. The GGGGGG-G-MAN is in the house on color commentary tonight — I love Mike Gminski.

7:51 - Clemson is hanging tough early, but I don’t like the decision by Clemson coach Oliver Purnell of trying to full court press UNC. Ty Lawson is completely unpressable.

8:06 - Now Danny Green gets his second foul, but Clemson cannot capitalize from the free throw line, and that could be a precursor of things to come for the Tigers, who have been a notoriously bad free throw shooting team.

8:15 - After a good start for Clemson, they begin to struggle on offense and UNC takes a 6-point lead with under 8 minutes to play in the first half. UNC has put on a clinic on the break in the last couple of minutes.

Halftime - Clemson leads by 3 and has 11 offensive rebounds in the first half. Shockingly enough, Clemson has been able to run with the Heels in the first half, but it will be interesting to see if the pace of the game ultimately wears down the Tigers in the second half.

9:04 PM - Clemson has been playing extremely hard on the boards, and their physicality in the paint has been clearly bothering UNC in the early portion of the second half. However, Clemson has not been able to capitalize on their good play and push their lead past 4-6 points...that will come back to haunt them.

9:15 PM - We are at the under eight timeout and Clemson leads by only 3. This game is headed for a close ending, provided Clemson can keep hitting the offensive boards hard and making timely shots. Tyler Hansbrough is going to become a major factor as this game enters the last 5 minutes.

9:20 PM - Neither team can hit an outside shot right now, partly due to the frenetic pace of play and partly due to poor shot selection. We are getting closer to crunch time and shooting percentage is going to play a major factor down the stretch.

9:24 PM - Clemson misses the front end of a 1 and 1 followed by UNC getting Hansbrough to the line on the other end. Hansbrough makes one of two to cut the lead to 4.

9:26 PM - Ladies and Gentlemen, meet Demontez Stitt. I watched him personally torch us at McDowell last year for 30 pts while he was a senior at Butler-no question as to why he was the Player of the Year in North Carolina last year.

9:29 PM - Clemson continues to struggle from the free throw line as James Mays makes one of two. On the other end, UNC gains a point as Hansbrough hits two. If this game comes down to a contest from the charity stripe, UNC has a major advantage.

9:34 PM - Wayne Ellington has been a stone cold assassin tonight, trying to keep UNC in this game with another three to give him 29 points for the evening.

9:36 PM - Clemson misses another front end of a 1 and 1, Danny Green nails a three and UNC is only down one with 97 seconds to play. Clemson is very deflated right now.

9:39 PM - Hansbrough flops and draws a charge with 47 seconds to play - UNC will have a chance to take the lead.

9:43 PM - Ellington misses a three pointer and now Clemson will play for the win or OT with 13 seconds left to play. If I am Oliver Purnell I am going to Stitt right here with the hopes that Mays or Trevor Booker can get a putback.

9:45 PM - Clemson got exactly what they wanted, but Mays missed a point blank putback so we go to overtime.

9:53 PM - We’ve been back and forth in overtime thus far-Stitt has had two crucial turnovers for the Tigers and is looking like a freshman.

10:05 PM - At Stitt hits two huge FT’s to put Clemson up one Ellington nails a three with 1 second left to give UNC what looks like an insurmountable lead. On the play beforehand Marcus Ginyard double dribbled and was not called-huge miss by the officiating crew.

10:07 PM - Clemson throws in away and UNC escapes with a huge road win to remain undefeated. Terrific effort by what looks like the top two teams in the ACC at this point.

That was a great game-both teams played hard and it simply came down to who had the ball last. At this point in the season, it looks like UNC and possibly Kansas will be the two favorites to win the National Championship.
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... RIVERWALK continued from page 1

start before Aug. 25 or end after June 10 which not only affects the administration's ability to make up days but students must take fall semester exams when they return from Christmas break rather than prior to it as before.

Though many grew up with that kind of school calendar, Jeter said school was different then. “Schools weren’t ranked as they are now, nor were there as many benchmarks to hit,” he said.

Superintendent Dan Brigman said since Highlands and Nantahala often missed school due to inclement weather than schools in Franklin, he and the Board of Education allowed principal discretion on the first two snow days of the season but after that Saturday has to be the option for makeup days.

Brigman said school calendars are very complex and have a large number of state requirements that must be addressed. “Within the academic year, we must be in session for 180 total days and 1,000 instructional hours. In addition to the start and end dates, we are required to have a workday immediately following each grading period.” Staff in schools with block schedules typically need two days between semesters to complete grades from first semester and finalize course schedules for second semester.

About four years ago, school systems had 10 workdays built into the calendar which makeup days easy – mostly at the beginning of the school year, Thanksgiving and Christmas break.

“However, since the school calendar legislation changed to extend summer... RIVERWALK continued reviewing a decision made by a lower court.

“I don’t think it’s appropriate and I don’t think the attorney/client privilege stands. This is a public meeting and you are free to do anything you want,” Jeter said.

After the board returned to open session and before the board’s decision was heard, Clarke reiterated his points and said the town’s goal had been accomplished.

“If your goal was to get RiverWalk’s attention in December, you did. The project is now stable and in compliance and has been since the spring. Prior to announcing the board’s decision, Mayor Mullen spoke.

“Mr. Clarke and Mr. Chandler the town of Highlands had a disaster two years ago. The way the project was handled to begin with was very bad and all our notices of violations went unheard.

“The only way we could get action was by doing what we did – fining you $400,000. When we did that, then things began to happen.

“We were getting desperate and this had to happen to straighten out a situation that was very bad. I guarantee you, this will never happen again in this town,” he said.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said the judge agreed that the developers of RiverWalk should have been fined but couldn’t hand down that ruling.

“I was at the Administrative Hearing and I heard Judge Gray say that the developers of RiverWalk were poor stewards of the land and should be fined. But he also said we didn’t have adequate evidence at the Dec. 6 meeting to assign the fine. But we had to do something to get your attention. RiverWalk was not addressing the situation; things were not being done correctly.

“We accomplished our goal to get you to do right but that doesn’t absolve you for doing it incorrectly and we had to learn how to deal with situations like this,” she said.

She said since none of the $400,000 would come back to the town anyway, nor could any of it be used for remediation, fining RiverWalk wouldn’t serve any purpose.

By state mandate, the fine would have gone to the Macon County School Board.

At the end of the meeting, representatives from RiverWalk asked if there was some way they could make monetary amendments – perhaps send the town some money to be used for another purpose. But Town Attorney Bill Coward said if the town accepted money earmarked as the fine, the school board could sue the town, but said the town would discuss the offer.
To close out the year the Town of Highlands was pleased to hear that the Appeals Court ruled in our favor in the ETJ suit. The courts have confirmed what the Town of Highlands has claimed all along, that our appointments of people representing the ETJ areas to the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of the Town of Highlands was done properly and according to accepted procedure. The court has heard the appeal of the ETJ suit by Allan Bryson and the county and ruled in our favor. We hope this closes the door on a contentious discussion with the Macon County board on the method of these appointments and leads to better relations with that board.

I have requested to be on the agenda of the next Macon County Board of Commissioners meeting Jan. 14 so we can discuss the recreation money which has thus far not been sent to us by the county as promised. The agreement this year with them was the same as last year and yet we have thus far not received the $500,000.

My other request of the county board is that Town Board meet with them jointly at least twice a year on a scheduled basis so we can discuss mutual programs and progress. Without direct contact with them, too many misunderstandings are creep up. There is nothing our board would like more than a good relationship with our county counterparts. Men of good will can truly solve many problems when working together in a non-confrontational way. That is what we want. I have made out a schedule of at least two Town Commissioners to go to the county board meeting each month to be available for dialogue or presentations if they are on the agenda. It is imperative that communication in an official way be kept open between the county and the town.

As we look forward into 2008 there are a number of things, in addition to good county relationships, which I would like to see us accomplish. A primary concern of mine is the unpaved
I've got some good news, and I've got some bad news.

The good news first. As you doubtless have heard, Ms. Clinton got whipped in Iowa. The bad news is that he who administered the whipping was Barak Hussein Obama. The who cares news is that Edwards got beat almost as badly as the Hillbabeast. Without putting too much weight on the political activists in Iowa, let's see what we can learn from the results.

We have heard for months that Hillary had the money, the organization, the political muscle to run over any opposition. Edwards has practically lived in Iowa for several years and was very well organized. Both had messages, more or less; Hillary stressed universal health care, Edwards thought his economic fairness theme would resonate. Obviously, neither gained enough traction to sufficiently sway the caucus-goers.

The scary part is that, if Obama had a meaningful message, it didn't find its way out of Iowa. Looking back at the Real Clear Politics' charts of polling results, we see that Clinton had a several point lead over Obama until Oprah's road tour with him at which time the gap started to close. Her star-power seemed to rub off on him and his rock-star status started to pull him closer to Hillary. She, meanwhile, made herself more and more visible to Iowans and evidently they didn't like what they saw.

While Hillary's staff tried to downplay the meaning of her third place finish, conservative pundits damn her suffered a potentially killer blow. Her results may not put her under but she didn't do herself any good. One thing is certain, the air of her invincibility is history. On the other hand, is Obama's shallow, warm-and-fuzzy, "I care about you" non-message going to sell as well outside of Iowa? I don't think so.

On the Republican side, an equally late surge by Mike Huckabee put Mitt Romney in a bad place, at least for now. There is no question that Huckabee's Christian principals stimulated like-thinking caucus participants to turn out in Iowa. On one hand, this is not going to be repeated in many other states, principally New Hampshire. On the other, the fact that Christians had such a dramatic effect in highly visible Iowa should give others an incentive to participate in their state's electoral process.

Did Romney's attack ads prove his undoing? It is said that Iowans don't appreciate such negative goings on while generally speaking, it works. Is he just a little sick for Iowa's rural folk? Or did Huckabee simply connect with the caucus-goers? One myth that was dispelled is that overwhelming financial resources don't always overwhelm the opposition. It is estimated that Romney outspent the Iowa winner by 20-1.

So, what's the deal with the also-rans? Thompson tied with McCain a distant third after finally spending some time campaigning, although not very effectively.

While Thompson is considered the closest to a true conservative on the Republican side, his lukcluster attitude seems to turn voters off. McCain, on the other hand, campaigned marginally in Iowa and was probably satisfied with his showing.

Ron Paul, the hero of the mavericks and the outspoken critic of the ongoing effort in Iraq did OK, getting three times as many votes as did Rudy Giuliani who ignored Iowa entirely. Frankly, I'm somewhat surprised that Rudy, even with his absence in Iowa, didn't draw more support than he did. After all, he was still leading the national polls going into Iowa. Poor Duncan Hunter struck out even though I think he was the right man. I hope he's considered for veep.

What can we learn from the results in Iowa? One thing seems obvious. The Democrats are far more excited about their candidates than were the Republicans.

Frankly, I don't understand what they're excited about. I can't imagine three less qualified candidates. When Obama, an empty suit if there ever was one, turns on the crowd, it's scary. What has he ever done but talk? I guess he does it well.

Bill Richardson was far and away their most qualified candidate and it got him nowhere.

Another thing is what appears to be a rejection of more of the same. I must have heard "I'm for change" a thousand times leading up to the caucuses. It's a change that that bothers me. Both Huckabee and Obama had populist messages, knocking Washington and their parties.

By the time you read this, New Hampshire will have spoken. Romney and Hillary need wins badly. McCain does well there. Thompson needs to or he's cooked. Should be fun.
The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation recently elected six new members to its board of directors.

Two of those appointed are new faces to the foundation board: former Highlands Mayor John W. Cleaveland, and retired BellSouth executive Earle Mauldin, who chairs the annual Bob Jones Golf Tournament held at Highlands Country Club to benefit Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

The four others named last month have previously served on the Foundation board, although in some cases not for several years. Atlanta financial consultant D. Jack Sawyer, Jr., former executive J. David Higgins, Jr., retired Highlands businessman John E. Bauknight III, and Highlands real estate broker John R. Shiffli, Sr., are all returning to the Foundation board.

The new members took office at the December meeting.

Highlands native John Cleaveland, is a retired restaurant owner (The Highlander Restaurant) and real estate broker (John Cleaveland Real Estate), though he continues to be semi-active in the latter. He served as mayor of Highlands for 14 years (until 1996) and prior to that, served as a member of the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners, and prior to that as a member of the town’s Zoning Board of Adjustment. Most recently, he served as chairman of the town’s Planning Board. In addition to his service to the town, he has been active in the Macon County Taxpayers Association, of which he is still president. He has also served on the board of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, and was a founding member of Community Bible Church, where he continues to serve on the session.

He attended Clemson University and is a past recipient of the Robert B. DuPree award for outstanding community service to Highlands.

Also new to the Foundation board, Earle Mauldin is a former president and CEO of BellSouth Enterprises and vice chairman of BellSouth. Mauldin divides his time between his home at Highlands Country Club and Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. In addition to chairing the Bob Jones Tournament Committee, he is also a member of the hospital board’s Finance Committee, and a member of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Board of Directors. He is a former chairman of the board of trustees of The Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and former member of the board of the Atlanta Community Foundation.

A graduate of the Citadel in Charleston, SC, he holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, and a masters of Business Administration degree from the Emory Business School. He spent 36 years with BellSouth companies.

Returning to the board after a short absence, Jack Sawyer is regional president of BNY Mellon Wealth Management in Atlanta and previously was a founding principal of The Arden Group. He specializes in the administration of trusts, estates and private foundations. He currently serves on a number of boards of civic and charitable organizations, including the Center for Disease Control Foundation National Advocacy Council, the Estate Planning Advisory Board for the Atlanta Community Foundation, Open Hand, the High Museum, Zoo Atlanta, the Atlanta Opera, the Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation, and the Georgia Museum of Art. He also serves on the boards of several private foundations.

He is a graduate of the University of Georgia, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration.

A resident of Birmingham, AL, and Cashiers, David Higgins also returns to the Foundation Board, having rotated off the board in 2004. The former CEO of Boxall, Inc., a manufacturer of printed packaging materials. Higgins was also vice president. • See HOSPITAL page 13
Emergency agencies stay prepared

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, along with members of various local and county law enforcement and emergency agencies, conducted a disaster drill Friday, Dec. 26. Despite the inclement weather, hospital staff and emergency workers coped with a series of mock disasters that took place at both the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, and out in the community. The scenarios included a “pretend” fire in the ceiling at the Living Center at the same time there was a water outage, the staged abduction of a resident by an estranged family member during the fire, and a vehicle accident involving an EMS unit on its way to the other emergencies. The hospital’s emergency room was deluged with a number of “victims” as a result. The hospital is required to hold at least two such drills a year to practice its response to possible emergencies, either on campus or off. In addition to the hospital, other agencies or groups participating in all or some of the various scenarios were the Macon County EMS, Highlands Fire and Rescue, the Town of Highlands Water Department, Highlands First Responders, the Macon County Sheriff’s Department, the Highlands Police Department, and the Macon County Emergency Management Department.

... HOSPITAL continued from page 12

of Flextographic Technical Associates during his career. He has served on the Birmingham board of Regions Bank, and the board of the Small Business Council of America. He has been a member of Kiwanis for 33 years. In addition to serving as a member of the board of Boy Scouts of America, and as a deacon and elder of the Independent Presbyterian Church, he has also chaired or served on various committees of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

A graduate of Cornell University in mechanical engineering, he also holds a master’s degree in that field.

By virtue of having been past chairman of the hospital board, both John Bauknight and John Schiffli, Sr., have also previously served on the Foundation Board.

Now retired, Bauknight was the owner and president of Highlands Hardware and Builders Supply in Highlands for many years. Prior to that, he was personnel manager for Cashiers Plastic in Cashiers. He has been active in many civic organizations, serving in the past as president of the Highlands Rotary Club, and coordinating the club’s efforts with Special Olympics in Macon County. He is the current president of the Evergreen Foundation, which benefits Smoky Mountain Mental Health, and is vice president of the Highlands Community Child Development Center. He served on the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Board of Trustees for eight years, including three years as chairman.

A graduate of Georgia Tech, he is an industrial engineer by training.

A fellow graduate of Georgia Tech, Schiffli is a semi-retired real estate broker in Highlands and owner of John Schiffli Real Estate on Main Street, who has several generations of family members in the area. Prior to entering real estate, he owned the Galax Theater in Highlands and was a country club manager.

He has been active in many area organizations, including the cub scouts, boy scouts, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund, the Highlands Historical Society, and the Macon County Taxpayers Association. He has served 16 years on the board of the hospital, including three years as chairman, the last term ending in 1999. He was instrumental in efforts to build the new hospital in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

He graduated from Georgia Tech in 1960 with a bachelor’s degree in Industrial Management.
Sin and its power

When the Bible speaks about sin, it does so with clear language. With words that are hard and uncompromising it says, “He that sins is the servant of sin” (John 8:34).

Sin is a real danger to man. It is not something we can flirt with. To go out and stand near to sin, thinking you can be close and not get drawn in is a fatal error. The Black Widow spider is called the widow because she kills her mate. When the male comes to fertilize the female, he must enter her web on one strand only. If he gets off on any other cord he is eaten. When he has completed his work of fertilization he leaves hurriedly and is caught in giant jaws and made to do that which he really didn’t want to do. Yet, in honesty you must admit that you wanted to do it. It was you doing the act, not the one in control, able to leave whenever we want. When we sin, we are under the power of sin, caught in its web.

You have all felt the shock of realizing you have just sinned. You ask yourself, if you could have really done this wicked thing. You feel as though you have been caught in giant jaws and made to do that which you really didn’t want to do. Yet, in honesty you must admit that you wanted to do it. It was you doing the act under the power of sin.

Yes, this is a terrible truth, that the one caught in sin is the servant of sin.

We all cry out with Paul, “Who will deliver me from the body of this death” (Romans 7:24). Each one of us is plagued with the power of sin in us. As long as we are members of this earthly human race we shall feel the power of sin.

However, my dear friends, there is hope. Yes, hope, for the power of sin is not greater than the One sent by God to conquer sin and death. Our cry goes up with Paul, “I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 7:25).

Sin is a dangerous web that can bind the strongest of men, making them into slaves of their own lust, greed and selfishness. But there is One that Scripture clearly teaches us is greater than sin. He is the only begotten Son of the Father in heaven. The One that has come down to set us free from sin and death. “If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36).
Scholarships offer college-bound students a financial boost

WNC Public High School Seniors Must Act Quickly to Meet Jan. 15 Deadline

It is scholarship season for college-bound Western North Carolina high school students, and those interested in applying for scholarships through The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina should act quickly as deadlines are fast approaching.

The Foundation administers more than 30 scholarship programs, ranging from one-time $500 awards to renewable scholarships worth up to $28,000 over four years. In 2006-2007, the Foundation awarded more than $500,000 in college scholarships to students across the 18-county mountain region.

Those wishing to apply for any of the scholarship programs must contact their school’s guidance office and ask for a copy of the Common Scholarship Application. Students must complete and return materials to their guidance counselors by the scholarship’s deadline. Most deadlines are Jan. 15.

While many scholarships are open to students from the whole region, others are specific to students from certain counties. Scholarship recipients are selected on criteria that vary by program, but generally include financial need, academic achievement, community service, extracurricular activities and work experience.

For more details on the Foundation’s scholarship opportunities, public high school seniors are urged to visit www.cfwnc.org.

Since 1978, Western North Carolinians have relied on The Community Foundation to help them turn their charitable passions into meaningful and effective philanthropy. In partnership with Foundation donors, CFWNC has awarded more than $90 million in scholarships and charitable grants to nonprofit organizations and public institutions across the 18-county mountain region and beyond. For more information, visit www.cfwnc.org or call (828) 254-4960.

Free Dental Clinic offers hope

Dental Assistant Robby Cahill (right) who retired from the Marine Corps and then as executive director of a school for disadvantaged adults, works with Dr. Joe Hilton, one of the retired dentists at the Clinic who volunteers part time. Observing is Melodie Hall, another Dental Assistant at the clinic. Cahill and his wife Jeannie now live in Cashiers. Cahill is busy training as a dental assistant and volunteers at the Free Dental Clinic in Cashiers. It’s on the second floor of the Laurel Terrace office building, just east of the Crossroads. The clinic offers 24 hours a week in dental services. Anyone interested in volunteering or making an appointment can call Clinic Executive Director, Ms. Karen Minton at 743-3393.

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

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

PINE GROVE TOWNHOUSE CASHIERS Two bedrooms two and 1/2 bath. Walking distance to crossroads, restaurants and shopping. Large deck overlooking green lawn $229,000. Call Manuel de Juan 828-743-1021. Owner broker. Visual inspections only. Please call 864-710-4577 for more information.

LOTS — Exclusive RiverRocc, Tuckasegee Village: 2.1 acre Lot 49, great building site, adjoining horse farm. $364,000; and The premier view Lot 34, best view lot development. $799,900. Call HUTC (706) 831-0892 owner/ag.

BY BUILDER – 4/3, new construction. Executive home. 1.5 acres, bordered by 2 creeks and a pond in a new up-scale subdivision less than 5 minutes from downtown Franklin. $485K. Call 371-3669.

ITEMS FOR SALE

THREE “HOUSE OF DENMARK” BOOKCASES -- walnut, 3’ x 6’; containing TV, tape player, turn table, radio/CD. Sold as an entertainment unit including 2 Advert speakers. $550. Call 526-9273.

Buck wood stove with blower, pad, screen fireplace surround and insulated chimney. Can be used free standing or as fireplace insert. $250. 526-3674.

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 Sweet Treats 828-526-9822 or 828-369-6263.

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

MISC. ITEMS – Play Station 2 $75; Old Walt Disney movies (never opened); Indoor plants; Disney movies (never opened); Indoor plants; Case & 4 bits. $500. 828-526-2700 or 828-369-6263.

SERVICES

HAND HEWN BEAMS, FLOORING

6-12” widths, $8.00 per ft. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16”) 60”board ft. Wide barn siding, $3/ft. Also historic log cabins and barns ready to reassemble. 215-529-7637. Delivery available.


LATE KENMORE FLOOR MODEL VACUUM – 6.0 power with 2-motor systems. $149. Call 526-4077.

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.

LARGE BIRDCAVE – 2 1/2 feet high by 1 foot 3 inches wide by 1 foot 2 inches deep. With feeders. $25. Call 526-9245.

DOG KENNEL, 10’ x 10’ x 6’, heavy gauge chainlink. Like New. $1,000. Call 828-389.2722 Hayesville, NC.

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


REDUCED! MAHOGANY CHINA CLOSET – 6-ft plus, mirror back, 4 glass shelves. $125. Call 787-2307.

ARMOIRE & DRESSER W/ 3 WAY MIRROR – Light Maple color. Excellent condition. $600 for both or will sell separately. 526-9107.

VANITY TOP SINK – 22”x37” with 4” back splash cream color. $59. Call 526-4077.

NEW SHOWER DOOR – Still in box. 27” wide, gold color. Call 526-4077. $79.

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

ANTIQUE BEAMS, FLOORING AND ENTRANCE STRUCCTURES: HAND HEWN BEAMS. Beautiful material, large faces. $3.50-$4.50 per board foot. Wormy white oak flooring (milled w/t & g), 6-12” widths, $8.00 per ft. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16”) 60”board ft. Wide barn siding, $3/ft. Also historic log cabins and barns ready to reassemble. 215-529-7637. Delivery available.


2001 CHEVY 3500 EXTENDED CAB & CHASSIS, 4x4, 6 speed, low miles. $16,000 828-526-2874.

MITSUBISHI 2006 RAIDER PICK-UP TRUCK – 4WD, Tool Box, 10,500 miles. $18,000. Call 526-9059.


2006 SUZUKI DR 200SE MOTORCYCLE – 29 miles, only, perfect condition, 1-cylinder, 4-stoke, 199cc. $3,000. Call 828-342-6799 or home at 828-526-5507.

BOXER/BULLDOG/SHEPHERD PUPPIES: 2 male puppies for sale. One of a kind dog that can box, fight bulls, and guard your house! Mother is CKC boxer/bulldog and father is German Shepherd. $200 each. Call 526-2465 after 5 p.m.
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Ruby Cinemas**
Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

**Jan. 11-17**
- THE BUCKET LIST rated PG-13
  - Fri: (4:10), 7, 9:10
  - Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:10), 7, 9:10
  - Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7

- P.S. I LOVE YOU rated PG-13
  - Fri: (4:20), 7, 9:20
  - Sat & Sun: (2:20), (4:20), 7, 9:20
  - Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:10

- NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS rated PG
  - Fri: (4:30), 7:20, 9:30
  - Sat & Sun: (2:30), (4:30), 7:20, 9:30
  - Mon – Thurs: (4:30), 7:20

- I AM LEGEND rated PG-13
  - Fri: 7:15, 9:15
  - Sat & Sun: 7:15, 9:15
  - Mon – Thurs: 7:15

- THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP rated PG
  - Fri: (4:15)
  - Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:15)
  - Mon – Thurs: (4:15)

**I Love Improv**

- Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park.
- 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.
- 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.

**Community Church**

- Women’s interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.
- Men’s interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.
- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. $5 per class.
- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dilin Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m.
- Cardio Dance Class. $5 MWF at 8:30 AM @ the Rec Park (downstairs) Next week: Country Line dancing.
- Yoga at the Rec Park, 7:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesdays. Call 528-4340 for information.

**Highlands Mountain Top Rotary Club**

- Meeting place. Bring water, a lunch, and wear sturdy. If coming from Franklin, call leader for alternate meeting place. Bring water, a lunch, and wear sturdy. Comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 10 people. Call leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

**Friends of the Jackson County Main Library**


**ITC LIVE!**

- Improv returns weekends at ITC starting Feb. 1

**Improv**

- 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! opening Friday, February 1st and playing every Saturday night at 8 p.m. in February.

**Half-Price Sale**

- Half-Price Sale at Jackson County Main Library, 536 West Main Street, Sylva from 4-8 p.m.
- Half-Price Sale at Jackson County Main Library, 536 West Main Street, Sylva from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Half-Price Sale at Jackson County Main Library, 536 West Main Street, Sylva from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

** UPCOMING EVENTS •**

**Macon County Commission meeting**

- 6:30 p.m. in the board room at the courthouse in Franklin. 

**Friends**

- Friends activities. One of the highlight topics will be the latest information about the New Jackson County Library. Friends members are encouraged to bring friends, family and neighbors to find out more about this dedicated group of volunteers.

**Highlands Rotary Club**

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

**Framing**

- CD and miscellaneous items.

**ITC**

- For tickets and further information please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.
Sunday, Jan. 20

• Hymn-Sing at the First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. Choose from hymns in the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. Song leader Stell Huie with Angie Jenkins on the piano.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike on the Bartram Trail from Wallace Branch, including a couple of side trails, with a elevation change of 300 feet. Drive 6 miles round trip. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Tuesday, Jan. 22

• 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 (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. "Once a Soldier" by David Craig. Magazine of Columbia University, Fall 2007, pp. 25-29. Will be circulated at previous meetings.

• 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 (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. The Assault on Reason by Gore. Coordinator, John Gaston Tuesday, Feb. 5

• 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 (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. The Assault on Reason by Gore. Coordinator, John Gaston Tuesday, Feb. 12

• 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 (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. "Take Charge of Your Health" Lecture series by Cashiers-Highlands Chiropractic & Acupuncture presents a lecture series – "Your blood work - What do you need to know?" 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.

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 (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. SNOW DAY, or "Taking Science on Faith" by Paul Davies. New York Times, Nov. 24, 2007. Coordinator: Ed Gettys.

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 discussions. For more information, please contact Creighton Peden 526-4038. “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.

Thursday, Jan. 31

• PTO meeting at the Highlands School. The Freshman class is hosting a fundraiser dinner at 5 p.m. before the meeting at 6 p.m. Spaghetti, chicken fingers, salad, drinks and desert. Also there will be for sale home made breads, pies and cakes.

 Beginning Friday, Feb. 1

• 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 Livel, opening Friday, Feb 1 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.

Friday, March 7-9

• 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 (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. "Our Holy Land Trip: Please speak with Pastor Mike 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.

Thursday, Feb. 8

• “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.
... HIS & Hers continued from page 7

times, and I’m proud to say that he not only ordered grits, but black-eyed peas. I imagine that he doesn’t get the chance to eat them often, living in Colorado. Of course, the grits were a fancy schmancy variety, with cheese and peppers. He must have liked them, because when I finished enough of what was on my plate to start noticing what was on other people’s, they were all gone. So much for asking for a little taste. Next time I’ll be faster.

So, there you have it. Life is supposed to be an adventure, and when you consider how much of your time is spent eating, you might as well be a little adventurous there, too. I have to shake my head when parents tell me that all their kids will eat is chicken nuggets and fries. Shame on them! If it hadn’t been for my parents, I wouldn’t know the joys of spinach (which I love), horsemeat (don’t bother writing in to complain, I didn’t personally dispose of Trigger), and haggis. Then there are people like John, whose favorite vegetable is lima beans. There’s always gotta be one, isn’t there?

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. A number of good meals have gone into making her what she is today. Some of those meals include grits...and snails.

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slaferty@aol.com
For 80 years, Highlands Country Club has been giving back to the Highlands community. A recent survey indicated that the majority of HCC members and staff are involved in over 70 non-profit organizations on the plateau.

Most recently the club won the Most Bountiful Award for its entry in the Highlands Christmas Parade Over 300 gifts were donated by HCC members through their “Christmas in October Party,” and area non-profits were given the opportunity to contact the club to claim the gifts. The recipients included the Highlands Emergency Council, the International Friendship Center, and Highlands Community Child Development Center.

... SUBJECT continued from page 1

“...So you’re willing to change the ordinance to benefit someone else’s business model?” asked Dotson. “Or each time someone wants to build a kiosk you'll change the ordinance to accommodate them?”

Town Administrator Richard Betz said that would have to be the case as the ordinance now stands.

Parking requirements associated with the State Employees Credit Union ATM planned for the plaza will go before the Zoning Board when the Special Use Permit is requested.

Questions came up concerning parking allocations, the ATM will not be a drive-up, so people will have to park in spots already allocated to other businesses in the plaza.

OEI Valet Parking

At Wednesday’s Town Board meeting, much discussion arose over extending Old Edwards Inn’s valet parking allotment.

OEI is supposed to supply 20 spaces per valet spot, it has two spots so 40 spots are required in the lot on Spring Street.

The town waived the requirement temporarily to accommodate OEI’s construction trailer temporarily sitting in the lot. The waiver allows 30 spots instead of 40 to be regained when the trailer is moved.

Commissioner Buz Dotson suggested eliminating one of the two valet spots on Main Street on the grounds that the spot could be better used by others and suggested tying the number of valet spots to the number of rooms in the OEI’s main inn — that of 25.

But Mario Gomes, CEO of OEI, explained that the two, 15-minute valet spots are used for Madison’s Restaurant, the Spa and the Lodge; particularly when guests with reservations go to main inn lobby to register.

“You don’t have to register in the main inn because you can check in at The Lodge but they stop there when they see the OEI sign and come into the lobby to register,” said George Mathis with OEI.

Questions arose as to how much OEI’s valet parking lot is used.

Mathis said there were 5,800 cars in the valet parking last year, 480 a month, an average of 18-20 cars per day.

“...You are looking at this all backwards, said Gomes. "We are taking cars off Main Street and putting them in our lot. If you want them parking on Main Street, that’s fine, we don’t have to provide parking."

The Old Edwards Inn and Madison’s Restaurant are in the B1 zone where parking doesn’t have to be supplied by businesses.

“We’ll use the lot to build a building and they can park wherever they want,” said Gomes.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said it was reasonable to allow the valet parking especially since OEI uses it for the restaurant, too. “They are keeping cars off Main Street,” she said.

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf said OEI’s valet parking was a positive thing.

“They provide parking for two other businesses and since they are in the B1 zone they could park on Main Street.

Commissioner Hank Ross raised the possibility of adding 20 valet parking spots for one spot for one more year at which time the construction trailer will be out of the lot and the correct number of spots — 40 — will have to be designated. The board also agreed to do a study of it’s own to verify OEI’s parking figures.

Pole Violations

The town’s pole attachment ordinance is still in the works, but in the meantime, McGavran Engineering has identified several violations in the town’s pole plant.

Violators are the town, Northland Cable and Verizon and violations include riser/triplex placement, riser transformer placement, triplex placement, vicinity to a street light, communication attachment spacing, ground clearance near street crossings, guying and holes in cable TV poles.

Of the 535 poles McGavran has audited, it has identified violations on almost every one. There are 2,700 poles in the system.

“There are hundreds of violations of this type,” representatives said. “Each pole has two attachies and every other pole has some sort of violation with attachies coming too close to power lines, near homes and where children play.”

McGavran representatives pointed out spots which could cause a fatality as well as potential pole failures. Ed Sullivan, with McGavran, said the problems need to be addressed before someone gets hurt.

“You have an opportunity to respond to this situation and do something about it. These are serious concerns about situations that need to be corrected,” he said.

“...You should take this under consideration and think about expediting this business and get working on what needs to be done.”

Aside from potential fatal situations which Attorney Bill Coward said should be addressed immediately, he said the town can’t take action to enforce violations under the old ordinance. Once the new ordinance is adopted, remediation action can be taken.

A draft of the ordinance was presented but there are numerous technical questions the board wants to discuss with Town Engineer Lamar Nix prior to adoption.
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... SALAZRULO continued from page 5

beliefs, who would rather lose an election than a war. At a time that our country struggles with a growing illegal immigration, John McCain has stood firm in his determination to reach a comprehensive solution to the problem. He has refused to pander to those who vilify the new wave of immigrants.

I’ll be surprised if Barack Obama doesn’t continue his remarkable run. His message of hope and unity are more appealing that Hillary Clinton’s. Barack Obama is still black, even if the people of the white state of Iowa failed to notice. That is something we might keep in mind. Racism may not be as pervasive in America as I had believed. In a country whose population is increasingly hyphenated; African-American, Cuban-American, Mexican-American, and whatever-American, there may be a previously unrecognized longing for a return to the unity that made us a great nation. It would be ironic if a farm state like Iowa alerted us to the fact. I’ll take the opinion of one well informed Iowan over the votes of a hundred intellectually lazy citizens responding to a negative ad, just as I value the opinion of one Shakespearean scholar more than a thousand college freshman who read Cliff Notes the night before a Macbeth exam. I might sound anti-democratic. I might appeal elitist. Mostly, I dream of a day when we don’t talk about Iowa being unrepresentative, when we don’t discuss Asian-Americans in California, Afro-Americans in Detroit, or Latinos in Florida, when we are one, when we are Americans.

... MULLEN continued from page 10

roads around the Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah where we derive our water supply for the Town of Highlands. We are waiting now on word from Senator John Snow as to whether we have been approved for the $280,000 needed for paving of Hickory Hill, Chowan and Cullasaja Roads. If this money is not obtained from the state of N.C. contingency fund, we will have to put this into our budget for the following fiscal year. I talked to Senator Snow just this past Friday and he is working on it. These roads should be a priority in 2008-2009.

In 2008 we also must begin work on our stormwater plan. The first area that needs attention is the Harris Lake-Mill Creek drainage area which includes the new Pine Street Park area. Hopefully we can get started with that soon.

An ongoing project is the development of architectural drawings for a new Town Hall. The Town of Highlands deserves a well built new Town Hall which supplies the growing needs of both the administration and the police department. Both areas are terribly cramped for space as our needs grow each year. I hope we will be able to complete the planning of this building by the end of 2008 and begin to decide how we will pay for it in the next year. The sooner we can make these important decisions the better it will allow our town government to work more effectively.

We are pleased in Town Hall to welcome our newest department head, Joe Cooley, who has taken over the Planning and Development Department. He is in the process of getting up to speed in this job and meeting the people he will be working with on the Town, Planning and Zoning boards. Joe is well qualified for this important assignment with both a Masters degree in town planning and a law degree. He is already fitting in very well in Town Hall as a personable well qualified individual and is working hard to learn our ordinances and systems.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

ness.” As they arise from ignorance humans have expressed madness on countless levels. Remember the torture chambers of the Inquisition—pouring molten metal into a victim’s mouth in the name of Jesus?

As to a more extended karmic judgment Kathleen and I left the door ajar to the possibility of reincarnation. I like to think of the soul as an M&M: the rich chocolate spirit of G.O.D. remains trapped in a thin candy shell of ego at the end of an unenlightened life — and is destined for rebirth (like waking up to “I Got You Babe” in the movie “Groundhog Day”) until the ego-shell is at last dissolved by final renunciation of the false deity of self (the only anti-Christ I am aware of).

In any case, thanks to Mr. Chastain for his thoughtful letter. Those who are interested in seeing our theology presented in much greater detail should check our book out from Hudson Library or order it from Cyrano’s Bookshop.

Arthur Hancock
Highlands
The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the weeks of Dec. 28-Jan. 9. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Dec. 28
- Jose Ordez-Vasquez, 38, of Highlands, was arrested for driving without a license and cited for driving left-of-center at N.Cobb and N.C. 28.
- At 8:50 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 106 and Arnold Road was cited for speeding 51 mph in a 35 zone at NC 106 and Arnold Road.
- At 9:15 a.m., a motorist at NC 106 and Spring Street was cited for driving with an expired registration.
- At 12:20 p.m. officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at the Exxon Station at Main and N.C. 106. The driver responsible was cited for driving without a license, making an unsafe movement and a criminal summons was issued to the owner of the vehicle for allowing an unlicensed driver operate the vehicle.

Jan. 1
- At 1 a.m., Diana Almond, 47, of Highlands was arrested for DWI, possession of drugs, and resisting arrest on N.C. 28.
- At 10:15 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Hickory Hill and Chowan roads.
- At 12:45 p.m., officers investigated an unattended death at a residence on Maple Street. The person died of natural causes.
- At 13:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at N.C. 106.

Jan. 4
- At 1 p.m., officers investigated a broken garage door at a home on Foreman Street to see if the home had been broken into. The door had just come off the track.

Jan. 5
- At 2:15 p.m., Matthew Newton Holt, 17, of Franklin, was arrested for possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia and possession of a knife (concealed weapon, at 555 N. 4th Street.
- At 3:23 p.m., a motorist on N.C. 28, was cited for speeding 50 mph in a 35 zone.
- Over the week, the dept. responded to two alarm calls and issued 9 warning tickets.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Jan 2-5.

Jan. 2
- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Dr.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Dillard Road. The alarm was set off when a furnace kicked on.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Hickory Hill which was set off by food burning.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at OEl Cottage on Church Street. It was set off when a water pipe burst.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at an OEl cottage on Church Street set off by an water pipe that burst.

PseudoCube®
#BZ3C - Level of Difficulty - Easy

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 #AN1E in Jan. 3 issue

N-Cryptoku®

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

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

Mystery Word
“People from the East”

ACROSS
1. Large Amount (3)
2. Decay (3)
3. Chinese beverage (3)
4. After nine (3)
5. Drunken____ (3)

DOWN
6. Negative (3)
7. Walked fast (3)
8. Is (Sp.) (4)
9. Shoe pattern (4)