

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 6, Number 4

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Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008

- On-going**
- Cardio Dance Class. \$5 per calls, 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, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.
 - "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the hospital at the Jane Woodward room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call 526-1402 or 743-2567.
- 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.
- Every Wednesday**
- "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. The study meets in the Fellowship Hall.
 - 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 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.
 - Children's classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery – cost is \$5 per student.
- Saturday, Jan. 26**
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4.6 mile moderate hike on the Appalachian Trail in the Standing Indian. Call leader Bill Van Horn, 369-1983 for information.
- Monday, Jan. 28**
- The Art League of Highlands' meeting at noon at the Rec Park. Open forum and discussion to follow lunch. For more information, call Caroline Cook at 526-2742.
- Tuesday, Jan. 29**
- HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow. Call Creighton Peden 526-4038.
- Thursday, Jan. 31**
- PTO meeting at the Highlands School and fundraiser dinner at 5 p.m. before the meeting at 6 p.m. Spaghetti, chicken fingers, salad, drinks and dessert and home-made breads, pies and cakes for sale. Adults \$6, Children \$4.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
34-24°F	35-25°F	40-27°F

Highlands agrees to pay EPA \$20,000

Like Elton, N.C., Highlands has agreed to pay the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) \$20,000 for its "presumed" share of contamination at a disposal site in Fayetteville, NC.

At the Jan. 16 Town Board meeting, Town Attorney Bill Cow-

ard advised the board to agree to the settlement which he had negotiated down from \$40,000.

"We could fight this and make them prove we are liable, but the way the law is written, we may end up owing more than what they are willing to settle," he

said.

It all revolves around a company the town did business with in the mid-70s.

Around 1977 Highlands employed the Carolina Transformer Company – an electrical rebuild-

• See PAY page 13

Town ready to fund stormwater upgrades

With a plan outlining specific stormwater projects and their price tags in hand, the town is ready to get started on three of the 30 projects outlined by McGill & Associates in its stormwater proposal.

At the Jan. 16 Town Board meeting, commissioners agreed to ask McGill to conduct a stormwater utility/impact fee analysis for \$8,100; complete a hydraulic modeling of Harris Lake and the Biological Station lake for \$15,800; and decided to form a committee to determine which streams in the area need debris removed.

McGill would charge \$60,000 for the debris removal/stream enhancement study and design and another \$250,000 for the work. But Town Engineer Lamar Nix said he thought the town crews could perform both duties after a committee decides what has to be done. Since the town doesn't own the streams, property owners must give permission for the town to investigate them and clean them out, he said.

The stormwater impact fee analysis project will determine the stormwater capital improvement funding requirements which could be funded by a stormwater utility or stormwater impact fee.

"This would be a like a tax to build up capital reserves for storm-

• See STORMWATER page 22



Chief James Manley with "Fireman of the Year" Trevor Gibson.

Fire Dept. volunteers recognized at banquet

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Department recognized their own, Saturday night at its annual awards dinner.

Members of the 28-member volunteer fire & rescue department spend countless hours serving citizens of the Highlands Township and their far-reaching service is responsible for the area's good insurance ratings.

Trevor Gibson, who has been with the department for five years, was named "Outstanding Fireman of the Year – 2007."

Officers for 2008 are Chief, James Manley, Asst. Chief, Ricky Bryson, Captain, Robbie Forrester, 1st Lt., James Ramey, 2nd Lt., Lenny Metrick, Rescue Captain, Jimmy Tate, Rescue Lt., Eric Pier- son, Treasurer, Terry Watson, and Secretary Wayne Henry.

In addition to thanking the entire department for serving citizens and fellow volunteers during 2007, Chief Manley also thanked

Wayne Henry for serving as 1st Lt. in 2007 and 17 years as an officer, Roger Lee Wilson for serving as 2nd Lt. for 2006 and 2007, and Lenny Metrick for serving nine years as secretary.

Roger Lee Wilson, who has never missed a Tuesday night department meeting in 17 years, once again received the "Perfect Attendance" Drill Attendance Certificate.

Chris Metrick and Matthew Wilson received an Honorable Mention for only missing three attendance drills as did Justin Taylor for only missing four attendance drills.

Jimmy Petrone and Eric Pier- son received service pins and certificates for 10 years of service as did John Crowe, Trevor Gibson and Matthew Wilson for five years.

Also present were Town Commissioners Larry Rogers and his wife Geniveve, who turned 70 Saturday, and Buz and Mary Dotson.

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Chairman Leatherman delivers 'address'

At the Jan. 14, Macon County Commission meeting, Chairman Charlie Leatherman acted on Communication Director for the N.C. Association of County Commissioner Todd McGee's request that county commissions deliver a "State of the County" address the first meeting of the new year.

He said the address should highlight the accomplishments and challenges facing counties and said it would be a good way to educate citizens as to the services provided by their county property tax dollars.

The following is Chairman Leatherman's address:

"With the change of county managers that has just recently taken place in the retirement of Sam Greenwood and hiring of Jack Horton, Macon County will have changes in management procedures, organization and style. And with this major change, it is an opportune time for the county commissioners to change, put in place, or modify policies and practices that will improve effectiveness of our local government and the delivery of services to our citizens.

"Change is indefinable. Some changes, like the seasons and weather are uncontrollable. Other changes are manageable and controllable even if difficult to adjust to in implementation and

• See ADDRESS page 11

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Everything is not 'perfect the way it is'

Dear Editor,

Over the last two weeks there have been a few letters by Mr. Arthur Hancock and Ms. Kathleen Brugger in response to a letter I submitted. I am writing to reply and hope to leave the last word with them.

I had wished to address everything in one letter but I am afraid I will have to split it into two.

The first will be objections to the letters and the second will be a defense of the Christian faith.

Before I begin I would like to thank Mrs. Lewicki for her patience and graciousness.

Mr. Hancock says in his letter that, "no one knows the absolute truth." It would appear that he has made a self-defeating statement because he is saying that he knows the absolute truth that absolute truth is not knowable. If so, then he disproved his own argument. Also, if absolute truth is not knowable then all truth descends into relativism, and any attempt to establish an objective standard of morality will die the death of a thousand qualifications.

Mr. Hancock goes on to say, "that a great many thinking people understandably find repugnant the idea of a separate 'God' lounging comfortably in heaven while his ant-like creations are busily putting one another in gas chambers and threatening to extinct themselves with hydrogen bombs." I too am a thinking person, and I too find that idea repugnant. I suppose that is why I am not a Deist.

So why would a good God create a universe capable of such atrocities? Well, philosophers give us four possible universe models that could have been created. One, God could have chosen to create nothing at all. Two, God could have created a world where people could only choose good. Three, God could have created an amoral world where there is no good or bad. Four, God did create the universe that we now inhabit where we can choose good or bad. Out of these four, the latter is the only one where love is permitted to exist. Why? Because love is only possible where the opposite is also possible. If love is not a choice then it is not genuine because love cannot be coerced. This is where the gift of free-will comes into play.

In The Game of God the authors say that God is love. I agree with that by the way. But if God is love and everything is God, then who is God loving?

Mr. Hancock seemingly challenges the law of non-contradiction when he says, "the nature of Grand Overall Design (G.O.D) to be infinite and finite, unlimited and limited, conscious and unconscious, simultaneously and forever" just to say four paragraphs later that, "awakening is guaranteed." How is it that God could be unconscious forever and yet be guaranteed to awaken? Either God wakes up or God doesn't.

Mr. Hancock goes on to say, "the mafia hit-man may sleep soundly every night and never suffer a moment's conscious remorse but he is insane nevertheless and his experience of life is completely truncated compared to the man with a compassionate heart." Since good and evil both flow from God and, therefore, equally valid, how are we to know that the hit-man doesn't deserve a medal and the compassionate man isn't the one who should be shunned by society? For that matter, who are we to rob God of any experience especially since they are pivotal to God's awakening? After all, shouldn't we encourage the expression of all aspects of God, both good and evil?

Ms. Brugger says, "in Oneness philosophy morality is not based on future judgment but on the realization that everything is interconnected and part of the

One, so if I hurt anything I am really hurting myself." Be that as it may, the question is who defines "hurt"? The government? Our parents? Ourselves? She goes on to write, "there is nothing in Oneness philosophy that says people who commit crimes should not be put in jail; they are just not condemned as evil" Why not? What is so bad about being labeled as evil if it is also a part of God? When one believes that good and evil are equally valid, the line between the two is not only blurred but disappears altogether and everyone becomes a law unto

themselves. It is an inescapable consequence. As G. K. Chesterton once said, "What we need is a religion that is not only right where we are right, but right where we are wrong."

Ms. Brugger misrepresented my point when she says that I wondered, "how the lack of condemnation will comfort, for example a raped woman." I didn't suggest that in the least. Here is what I wrote in context, "She (Ms. Brugger) ended the article by assuring us that there was no need to worry because everything was 'perfect"

• See LETTERS page 19

MLK's dream speaks to all of us

Dear Editor,

"I have a dream" and "Where do we go from here?" These are two very important speeches given in Dr. Martin Luther Kings lifetime. The first, in 1963 was before the passage of the Civil Rights act, the second in 1967 after Pres. Johnson signed the act and

Dr. King had to review what would happen next for American society as he stood at a crossroad. The second speech is not well known but it provides what I believe a compass for all society and is very appropriate for today as we enter a new political challenge and a crossroad:

an. "out of the darkness" moment.

America needs to get the message that "we must assert our dignity and worth" (MLK, 1967) and "stand up amid a system that oppresses" (MLK, 1967) not just the middle and working class but more importantly the American "can do" spirit.

I encourage everyone to take a few minutes and make a list during this election year. Ask yourself what would I do if I were President today? Write it down, (seriously), sleep on it, and revise the next day if you like. Shut off the TV and do some research on the candidates that support what you would do. In other words, THINK for yourself and see if anyone running matches your views. Include the minor candidates, like Dennis Kucinich and Ron Paul, not just the major ones the mass media touts in your search.

You might be amazed or you might be disappointed, but this is what America used to be; Individuals acting in good conscious not fear.

Always remember, "Power without love is reckless" (MLK, 1967). You have a dream so make it happen and vote your heart not what others or your party tries to tell you. If you want change then you must act differently; be the change you wish to see.

Martin Luther King said, "Let us not wallow in despair" (MLK, 1963). For better understanding of that phrase look up the word wallow. Don't be lazy look it up! Let's honor those who took action in the face of adversity and celebrate our individualism and diversity! Do your research; then vote YOUR mind, dreams and heart!

**Lee Hodges
Highlands**

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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Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 526-0782

Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor - Kim Lewicki Cartoonist - Karen Hawk
Reporter - Sally Hanson Circulation & Digital Media
Copy Editor - Tom Merchant Jim Lewicki



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265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

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Officers for 2008 are Chief, James Manley, Asst. Chief, Ricky Bryson, Captain, Robbie Forrester, 1st Lt., James Ramey, 2nd Lt., Lenny Metrick, Rescue Captain, Jimmy Tate, Rescue Lt., Eric Pierson, Treasurer, Terry Watson, and Secretary Wayne Henry. Not pictured are Forrester and Henry.



Chief James Manley with Roger Lee Wilson who has never missed a department meeting in 17 years.



Chief James Manley with 10-year members Jimmy Petrone and Eric Pierson.

2007 Fire Department details

With business up at the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department, some things had to change.

Namely, the hiring of two part-time employees who each can work up to 24 hours per week. Jodie Zachary does mostly building, grounds, vehicles and hydrant maintenance and Robbie Forrester works mainly in the office updating computer fire programs, writing reports and maintaining department records.

Both members give fire and safety presentations at Highlands School and other locations and respond to fire, rescue and first-responder calls.

This year Jackson County paid Highlands Fire & Rescue \$6,713 for servicing Jackson County property owners inside the Highlands town limits.

In addition, Highlands Falls Country Club paid \$3,616, Cullasaja Club paid \$4,900 and Wildcat Cliffs Country Club paid \$1,000 for their Jackson County prop-

erty owners who receive service from Highlands.

The department is down to 28 members – two members retired, one member resigned and two members were elected. The department is two short of its 30-member roster with no applications on file.

Calls were up across the board in 2007. There were a total of 453 calls – up 57 calls from 2006.

Fire and Related class amounted to 293 calls – up 30 from 2006. There were 104 calls (36%) inside the town limits and 189 (64%) outside the town limits.

False fire alarms continue to be a problem,” said Administrative Assistant Bobby Houston. “This year we responded to 85 fire alarms, the majority of which were false. This amounts to almost one-third of our fire related calls.”

As authorized by the town in August 1994, the department charges \$250 per false alarm after the first false alarm in a year.



Chief James Manley with 5-year members, John Crowe, Matthew Wilson and Trevor Gibson.
Photos by Kim Lewicki

In other fire and related calls, the department made 73 mutual aid calls to other departments including Cashiers, Scaly and Satohla; responded to 55 wrecks with hazardous conditions; 42 calls involved investigations involving smoke; 19 brush and woods fires; 12 structure and chimney fires; and 7 vehicle fires.

There were 160 Rescue and First-Responder calls, an increase of 27 calls from 2006.

The majority were first-responder calls to assist EMS – 139; followed by 12 wrecks, 5 falls or injuries; 3 standby calls; and 1 call involving a missing person.

The majority of these calls were inside the town limits – 83 (52%) and 77 (48%) outside the town limits.

In addition to responding to calls, 24 firemen completed 407 hours of training at eight area fire and rescue schools.

Local training and meeting manhours amounted to 1,454; with 2,460 manhours spent on fire, rescue and first-responder calls. Those manhours don't include travel time to calls, meetings or schools.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Department also held an open house serving hot dogs, drink and giving fire truck rides; assisted with the town's annual Halloween trick-or-treating; assisted with the town's fireworks display; participated in the Christmas Parade and assisted with traffic; assisted with the Special Operations Warrior Race; assisted with the town's Christmas Tree lighting ceremony; participated in the disaster drill at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital; conducted several tours of the fire station including safety demonstrations; and conducted several fire safety classes at Highlands School.

– Kim Lewicki

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2007 was a record-breaking year for our Internet Directory with 500,598 visitors - 1,371 per day!

Jan. 1, 2007 through Dec. 31, 2007: 3,387 Weekly PDF Downloads on average.

- Our Lodging webpage had 56,259 Visitors
- Our Dining webpage had 26,404 Visitors
- Our Real Estate webpage had 15,729 Visitors
- Our Shopping webpage had 17,759 Visitors
- Our Day Trips webpage had 16,193 Visitors
- Our WebCam webpage had 31,225 Visitors

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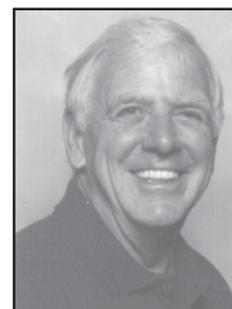
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Police send in 'crack' team

As a writer for Highlands' Newspaper, part of my job is keeping Highlanders informed of important events occurring around the world. Since 90% of all part-time Highlanders are now wimping out in South Florida, I felt it my duty to tell you what's happening. After all, I am part of that 90%.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback
is encouraged!
email:

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Recently, a young Haitian boy decided to get dressed and head down to the Palm Beach mall to hang out with friends. This happens in malls around America all the time. Oh, I almost forgot; being from Highlands you may not know what a Haitian is. These happy-go-lucky people look much like Afro-Americans except Haitians don't have a basketball growing out of their hands. Then again, you may not know what an Afro-American looks like. Anyway, this kid goes to the mall but only in Palm Beach would the police dispatch a helicopter and 20 squad cars, along with their "crack" SWAT teams because of his visit.

What could cause such a stir, you ask? Bank robbery, a shootout or hostage taking would be my guess. Nope, it was saggy britches. Yep, this college student went to the mall with his britches sagging way too low. Spotted by a mall policeman, he was ordered to pull them up. He obeyed, but when he turned them loose, they fell to their original position, revealing the top crack of his fanny. Since he had already been thrown out of the mall several times for the same offense, he was arrested. (To get a visual on how this might look, try to remember the last time your plumber was working under your sink.) TA DA!

That's when the fun began and the brouhaha started. You see, the kid's family, including his parents, were in the mall and didn't cotton to their son getting handcuffed. They objected and that's when the pushing and shoving started. Reinforcements were called in and a police helicopter dispatched to help spot any kids with saggy britches running from the mall. It got so ugly the police called in their "crack" SWAT team to make arrests. (Ask me if I'm happy to be retired.)

Eventually the whole fam-damilly went to jail and peace was restored. One lady, interviewed by the swarming media,

said, "I would like to be able to go to the mall and not have to look at someone's fanny crack. This mall is not what it's cracked up to be, anyway." Puleeeese, where has this woman been living, in Highlands? Doesn't she know fanny cracks are the "in" thing with the bros.? It's a cultural thingy.

Also, this trend can only be practiced by folks with tiny fannies. You will never see personalities like Oprah Winfrey or Hillary Clinton wearing saggy

britches with their cracks showing (Praise God) but world famous personalities, like me, could entertain this cultural practice if I wanted. I have a continuously shrinking fanny and if I live much longer, I won't even have a fanny, just the crack.

Moving on to other important news, a small group of Russian scientists led by Oleg Sorokhtin, for the RIA Novosti, has determined that global warming has officially ended and global cooling will soon start. Hey, don't believe me. Go look it up 'cause I'm not kidding. According to these vodka-drinking goose-steppers, the earth will start to cool on November 6th of this year and it turns out that humans never had anything to do with any of this in the first place. Mark your calendar. I am sure Al Gore was pleased to get this news as he can now leave his 5,000 outside lights and pool heaters on all year. If you have stock in fluorescent lighting, sell now.

I'm bummed out over this news because I live very close to the ocean in South Florida and if global warming continued, I would eventually have waterfront property. Darn! The sad part about their report is that they based their predictions on scientific study and not fantasy, actually proving the earth has stopped warming. Isn't that ridiculous?

Also, in a couple of months I will make my annual pilgrimage to the Middle East and will give them the good news on global cooling. Last time I checked it was 124 degrees in the desert. While there, I will zip over to Saudi Arabia and attend several Saturday morning beheadings for displaying of crack....oops, I mean possession of crack.

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

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Monday was Martin Luther King Day. Our office and surgery center were open. It was business as usual. I want to write about that, but my mind keeps drifting back to April 1968 a few days after Dr. King's murder. Sandra Bartels, a young, beautiful registered nurse, and second lieutenant in the United States Army, wore a black band on the sleeve of her crisply starched, immaculately white uniform. I, an intern, asked Sandra if she was mourning the death of Jimmy Clark, a wonderfully talented Formula One racing champion who had died in a racing accident. It was a clumsy attempt to attract the lieutenant's attention, doomed to failure, as were most of my efforts. Then, as now, I wanted to be loved, but preferred being despised to being ignored.

A few weeks later Sandra lost her mind. I saw her feeding the ducks in Golden Gate Park. Her expression was vacant, tragic. She was still beautiful in the way of a wax statue, rather than a person. She told me that the psychiatrist had given her medicine; that the medicine had made her stop hallucinating. She added numbly, while dropping bits of bread into the pond, that when she was hallucinating, she could say, "I'm Sandra Bartels, and I hallucinate. When they give me medicine, the hallucinations stop and I don't know who I am."

A lot of us were confused in the spring of 1968, not like Sandra, not crazy, but just about as lost. Unlike the national grief that followed the assassination of President Kennedy in the fall of 1963, or the murder of Bobby Kennedy a few weeks after the murder of Dr. King, in June of 1968, reaction was mixed. Many Americans weren't sure that the civil rights movement was a good thing. Many more were certain that it was not. A few, like me, were more concerned with auto racing. There was widespread feeling that Dr. King asked for what he got. I'm sure that he didn't ask for a bullet from a high powered rifle to blow his neck away, but he knew that the possibility existed. He went on with his work, despite the risk. People thought he was reckless, that he was pushing too hard, trying to bring change too rapidly. They didn't admit it, but they were happy with things just as they were. It wasn't the pace of change that disturbed them. It was change.

It shouldn't be surprising that early attempts to establish a day to honor Dr. King failed, or that observance remains



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:
hsalzarulo@aol.com

limited today. Ronald Reagan signed legislation in 1983, creating a national holiday to honor Dr. King. Three years later, in 1986, national observance began. Legislation established the third Monday of January, rather than King's birthday, Jan. 15. Legislators argued that Jan. 15 was too close to Christmas. I suspect that what they really wanted was a three-day weekend. The American people were far more likely to accept a

day honoring a fallen civil rights leader if it were part of an extended weekend.

When Evan Mecham was elected governor of Arizona, his first act, upon taking office in 1987, was to eliminate Martin Luther King Day from the state calendar. Until 2000, state employees in South Carolina could opt to celebrate MLK Day or choose instead from among three Confederate holidays. When I came to South Carolina in 1988, Memorial Day was not widely observed. It was a normal work day at Oconee Memorial Hospital in Seneca. It was, I was told, a "Yankee holiday." The head nurse in the operating room and I were both from Indiana, famous for its Memorial Day Indianapolis 500 Mile Race. We managed to close the operating room to all but emergency surgery, and pretty soon employees forgot the Yankee stigma of the day and began to enjoy the three day weekend. Our interest had nothing to do with honoring war dead. We wanted picnics, swimming, and speed.

Monday passed without mention of the holiday until, after the last case, I asked our young nurses how they felt about the day. Their answers were the same as those heard 20 years ago. Dr. King does not deserve a day. There were many heroes of the civil rights movement. I asked the nurse who made this point to name another person. She answered that there were many, but couldn't think of any names on the spur of the moment. Another remembered her Southern training just in time to coo that she didn't know enough about it to argue with me. I've heard that neither President Washington nor President Lincoln has his own day; that days honoring them have been condensed into a single Presidents' Day.

The argument continues that each is more deserving of this honor than Dr. King. The answer, I think, is that neither Washington nor Lincoln needs a Day.

•See ANOTHER VIEW page 19

• SALONS & SPAS •

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... PAY continued from page 13

transaction costs which would likely far exceed the allocable share of each party, even if liability could be established.

The EPA is encouraging the use of de minimis settlements to expedite the settlement process and relieve minor contributors from liability.

After years of cleanup assessment, contractor proposals and red tape, in January

2002, 301 Environmental Services, of Fayetteville was awarded a contract to treat and remove trace PCBs from over 1,500,000 gallons of contaminated water at the site.

The level of PCBs in the water has now been reduced below 0.5 parts per billion to conform with the discharge allowances of the state of North Carolina to the nearby Cape Fear River. — **Kim Lewicki**

• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

It looks like we're all going to be getting checks in the mail from the U.S. Treasury sometime this spring to spend our way out of the recession that may or may not be happening. Since this is an election year, politicians of almost every description will be falling over each other trying to appear the most concerned about the little guys' pocketbooks.

I find some of this confusing, however. I can understand why Democrats embrace the recession-busting-by-stimulus theory, because it fits within their larger economic ideas. But it's completely opposed to the free market principles that underlie most Republican economic theories of the last forty years. Republicans are always going on about the brilliance of the markets and

the miraculous way the "invisible hand" works for the best, and yet that only seems to apply during the good times. When the market turns down all of a sudden the Republicans are singing a different tune: no more "keep government's hands out of the market" but "bring on the bail-out, and quick."

I just read Alan Greenspan's memoir "The Age of Turbulence" [B Greenspan] and this was an unexplained contradiction in his life also. He is an ardent admirer of free market principles and a disciple of Ayn Rand, so what was he doing as Fed Chairman constantly tinkering with the

Dueling economists

nation's economy by raising and lowering interest rates? Wouldn't a free-market purist abhor such manipulation?

Greenspan's memoir is a surprisingly pleasant read considering the reputation he has for convoluted speech (what he calls FedSpeak). It is an interesting journey through the last 50 years of American history through the eyes of an economist.

Of course I think he is wrong in many of his most basic assumptions. For example, as I read his book I got the strong impression that for Greenspan there is one only good: money. Family, leisure, art, spirituality: all are unimportant considerations when it comes to making economic decisions. He sadly recounts how European nations have created "socialistic" welfare states with universal health care and generous vacation and retirement benefits: their economies do not grow as fast as they could under free-market conditions. But he never stops to consider that perhaps the people of these nations are happy to make that trade-off because they believe that quality of life is as important as money (if not more important once you have achieved a certain level of comfort).

Michael Moore's film "Sicko" addresses this point in interviews with professional people in England and France who perhaps do not earn quite as much as their counterparts in this country but have very nice lifestyles nonetheless.

Greenspan also bemoans the sad state of Japan's economy due to Japanese reluctance to apply strict free market principles and instead allow companies to "save face." Every time I see a photograph of bustling Tokyo I feel very sorry for those poor people stagnating in a bad economy. Here's my favorite example of their suffering: Internet connection. The median U.S. download speed is 1.97 megabits per second — a fraction of the 61 megabits per second enjoyed by Japanese.

Interesting bit of trivia about Greenspan: he served under every President since 1975 except Carter and he loved Ford, seemed neutral towards Reagan (particularly contrasted to the current canonization), *hated* both Bushes, and really liked Clinton.

I also read Paul Krugman's new book, *The Conscience of a Liberal*, [339.2K] last fall. Krugman is a professor of economics at Princeton University and a columnist for the *New York Times*. The two books created a fascinating contrast because Krugman

and Greenspan describe the same events of the last century from completely opposing points of view.

Greenspan waxes nostalgic about the Gilded Age before WWI, when capitalism was truly unregulated, taxes were nonexistent, and life was good. There was a rough spell when the New Deal came through and the federal government was taken over by people who thought it was good to manage the economy, but thankfully in the 1970s the tide turned and the economy was deregulated and privatized and taxes were slashed and the good times are back. Income inequality may be increasing but that's just a byproduct of market forces.



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

Krugman describes the time before the First World War as a time of Robber Barons when the division between rich and poor had grown so severe the Progressive movement arose and began putting in place regulations on capitalism. The New Deal brought about a golden era; the two decades after WWII were the age of the middle-class American, the time of the greatest income equality ever in this country. This was the era of high taxes on the wealthy and corporations. The conservative movement began its rise in the 1970s advocating deregulation and lower taxation. The middle-class has been declining ever since. The peak income year for the bottom 90 percent of Americans was back in 1973 when the average income per taxpayer (adjusted for inflation) was \$33,001. That is nearly \$4,000 higher than the average in 2005. Today the wealthy are doing very well while the middle-class and poor stagnate. The bad times are back.

One of Krugman's main points is that rising income inequality is not a passive result of "the invisible hand of the market; it is the result of politics and policy... International comparisons provide a sort of controlled test. The sharp rightward shift in U.S. politics is unique among advanced countries... The forces of technological change and globalization, by contrast, affect everyone. If the rise in inequality has political roots, the United States should stand out; if it's mainly due to impersonal market forces, trends in inequality should have been similar across the advanced world. And the fact is that the increase in U.S. inequality has no counterpart anywhere else in the advanced world."

Then: Gilded Age or Robber Barons?
Now: Good times or bad times?

Read these books for yourself and decide who has the best take on the fundamental points of economics and the true state of America today.

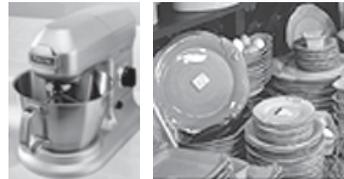
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• HIS & HERS •

Vim and Vigours

John and I had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's. To our delight, we once again heard the pitter patter of little feet in the house. Yes, Maman came to visit. There are things you realize about your home by having to share it with guests. I've gotten used to not having central heating, and we do a good job with our fireplaces, Franklin stoves, and cat power. If you are sneering at the latter, you need only watch a film on TV with a well-fed housecat on your lap to see the advantages of feline space heaters.

I worried about Maman, however. John and I are extremely well-insulated, but my mother is so slight that someone actually suggested that she fill her pockets with rocks to keep from blowing away. These days, we walk arm and arm. Don't think of me as a daughter. Think of me as ballast.

The first night at our house was a toughie for Maman. She froze. We felt awful. Fortunately, we got our acts together, and started hauling logs in from the woodpile with regularity. The house became toasty and inviting. It even reminded my mother of her childhood home in *Les Bordes*, a small village not far from Rambouillet, just south of Paris. (Check out <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rambouillet>)

For me, the hard part now is driving Maman back to her home, wondering how she's going to get along. It's difficult to take her back to that silent house, when you've been sharing meals, going out, seeing the sights. It's funny how we grow up on articles about raising our own kids, but so few stories mention what it's like to have aging parents. We spend our childhoods looking up to our parents as superheroes, only to have them asking for our help, our opinions. At first, this was really scary. My first reaction was, "She's asking me???? Things must really be bad!!!!" Now, it's rather comforting and flattering, but it does take getting used to.

One conversation I always dreaded was the "what are you going to do when living here gets to be too much for you?" Fortunately, that discussion was handled with grace and dignity, the way Maman handles just about everything. She fell down in the house, then later in the street going to a concert. My father died almost 10 years ago, and it's been hard for her, living on her own. Mind you, she plays bridge, volunteers at the local art center, is



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

a member of a book club and a wine tasting group, along with a social group of French speakers. Still, it's not the same as having someone around who can change a light bulb for you, a major problem for a lady of moderate altitude. There is an assisted living facility in the middle of town; it was the original local

hospital, reconverted when a larger complex was built between our town and Staunton. She's signed up for it. We both dread her going there, but realize it's getting to be inevitable. Before you write to ask why she's not moving to Highlands, let me remind you that none of her friends and activities are here. The senior assisted living facility houses many of her oldest and dearest friends, many of them former neighbors. Still, it kills me to think of her not being able to look out the kitchen window at her lovely garden, with its little herb patch – a must for every good French cook.

We had an extra day in Virginia, and decided to go into downtown Staunton, just to show John the sights – Mary Baldwin, the Statler Brothers Museum, the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, and most of all, Stuart Hall, where my mother used to teach French. In her days there, it was a girls' prep school, with a large number of boarders. These days, Stuart Hall School is a college-preparatory, coed day school for students in grades K-12 and girls' boarding school for students in grades 8-12.

On a whim, we decided to go to Stuart Hall, to see if we could visit my mother's old classroom. What a good idea! We were very warmly received by the folks there, and provided with a charming lady to show us around. Not only did we get to see Maman's old classroom, but we got to meet the marvelous young woman who now teaches French to the Middle School students. Alas, J.E.B. Stuart's old battle flag is no longer there (lovingly sewn by his wife, Flora, a former headmistress of the school), but the place retains so much old charm, blended skillfully with the newer parts of the school. They have done a super job, and it's wonderful to have a connection to this fine institution of learning, if even a tenuous one. Oh, and did I have the good fortune to go to Stuart Hall? No, I'm still kicking myself

• See HIS & HERS page 10

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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL •

Teams playing hard, season winding up

Highlander Boys beat Hiwasee Dam at Friday night's home game, 72-56.

High scorer was Jake Heffington with 26 points followed by Michael Shearl with 14 and Ezra Herz with 13.

Next up was Andrew Billingsley with 10 points, followed by Luke McClellan with 3, and 2 each for Mikey Lica and Austin Brooks. Michael Baty and Casey Molinary each scored 1 point.

Highlands' scoring pattern was pretty consistent throughout the game - 17 points for both the first and last quarter and 19 points for the second and third quarters.

Highlands lost Saturday's game against Rabun County 55 to 82. Highlands' season record is 3 wins, 15 losses and for conference the team is 1-1.

At the Rabun game, high scorer was Michael Shearl with 16 points followed by Ezra Herz with 15 and Jake Heffing-

ton with 12 points.

Casey Molinary and Mikey Lica each scored 4 points and Andrew Billingsley and Michael Baty each scored 2 points.

Girls' Basketball

The girls' team lost 27 to 53 against Hiwasee Dam at Friday's home game.

High scorer was Courtney Rogers with 10 points followed by Sarah Power with 6, Taylor Buras with 4 Brie Schmitt with 3 and 2 each for Marlee McCall and Kate-Marie Parks.

"For the first half, we played a great game against the #5 team in the state," said Coach Brett Lamb. "We are coming together on many of the fundamentals of the game and we are continuing to improve as a team."

The team had 28 rebounds.

• COACH'S CORNER •

Super Bowl or Stupor Bowl?

Perhaps the biggest sporting event of the year (I prefer March Madness) is upon us with Super Bowl XLII coming up next Sunday. It's amazing to think that what was once just a championship football game has evolved into the massive multimedia conglomerate that it is today.

For many people, the Super Bowl isn't about the football game itself it is about the spectacle, the pageantry...the commercials.

That's right folks-the Super Bowl is home to the best commercial opportunity on the planet in terms of both quantity and quality. Throughout the years we have seen the best that advertising executives throughout the country have to offer-so without further ado, here are my top five Super Bowl commercials of all time.

5. Michael Jordan vs. Larry Bird in HORSE.

This is one of my first memories of the Super Bowl, as I don't even remember who was playing, but I remember this commercial. Larry vs. Michael was an intriguing concept to begin with, but the people who came up with this idea took it to new levels with both players taking the game to impossible levels. What really made the commercial was that even though it was supposed to be over the top-there was a level of believability to it in that it is possible that Bird and Magic really could bank shots off of the rafters and from impossible angles.

4. The Nissan Pigeons

I loved this commercial because of the Top Gun theme and the cheesy 80's music that accompanied it. What makes the commercial though is the fact that most of us have actually pondered whether or not pigeons mean to drop "bombs" on our freshly washed cars or if we are just imagining things.

3. Cat Herding

I don't even remember what company the ad was for, but I remember how funny it was to see the over the top grizzled cowboys talking about how difficult it was to keep cats in line. The guy with the lint brush was hilarious-and this was before Brokeback Mountain was a cultural reference. I can only imagine what people would think if they saw that commercial today due to the influence of that particular



Ryan Potts
ryanpotts@hotmail.com

movie. (Just a quick aside here-RIP to Heath Ledger. He was one of my favorite actors and had such a grand career ahead of him. I have not been as excited about a movie as I was the new Batman flick where Ledger tries his hand at playing The Joker.)

2. The E-Trade Monkey

I remember what this ad was for because the monkey was wearing the E-Trade shirt and dancing La Cucaracha. The punchline of "we just wasted 2 million dollars" was not only the perfect wrap up to what was happening in the commercial, but it was also refreshingly honest. How many of us have seen a bad commercial and thought to ourselves...wow-they just wasted a lot of money.

1. Terry Tate: Office Linebacker

While my brother blatantly stole this premise for his newspaper column-at least he had the good sense to take from a great idea. The premise of a person brutalizing annoying people in the office is one that I wholeheartedly endorse. The best ideas come from real life, and I can't tell you the number of times I wanted to tackle a co-worker for stealing my food or refusing to stop telling me about his personal life. The only thing that would be better than me tackling Captain Annoyance...a 6'3 250 lbs. linebacker doing the job for me. "You kill the joe...you make some mo' Mitch!"

In closing — all of these commercials are available for viewing on the internet in case you want to reminisce or you missed them the first time around.

Highlands School make-up days

Highlands School is making up the two recent snow days on June 9 and June 10.

From now on it will be a creative use of 2- or 3-hour delays, Saturday school or the use of Spring Break days.

— Principal Brian Jetter

Come support the Highlands School freshman class at PTO dinner fundraiser Thursday, Jan. 31



On Thursday, Jan. 31, There is a PTO meeting at the Highlands School. The Freshman class is hosting a fundraiser dinner at 5 p.m. before the meeting which begins at 6 p.m. Featured will be spaghetti, chicken fingers, salad, drinks and dessert. Home made breads, pies and cakes will also be for sale. The price for dinner is: \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Members of the freshman class are already working hard preparing the meal and goodies for next week.

Applications for serving on town committees now available

Every Spring, the Town Board appoints citizens to serve on its various boards and committees, from the Zoning Board to the Cemetery Committee. Because service on most boards is limited to two terms, there may be as many as 15 openings to fill in some years.

To improve the appointment process, the board has developed an application form, which asks those who are interested in serving to provide some basic information and to answer questions about their experience.

Town Administrator Richard Betz says the new procedure will help the Town Board, which makes all appointments, better fill these vacancies. "Members of the Appearance Commission, for example, should be drawn from folks who have some kind of design experience – architecture, landscape architecture, horticulture, and the like. The board would like to know a little more about the qualifications of the many volunteers who come by the town office

and express an interest in serving in some way."

The Town Board has always valued the participation of its citizens, especially on controversial Planning and Zoning boards. "Some might consider the Zoning Board, for example, to be a thankless job. But these board members are conscientious and fair, and they enjoy the opportunity of making a real difference in shaping new development," Betz said. "We genuinely appreciate their willingness to serve."

Boards like the Advisory Committee for the Scholarship Endowment Fund help make a difference by organizing the annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. The committee has been responsible for raising over \$750,000 over the years, funding scholarships for hundreds of local students.

For those interested in public service, the new application forms are available at the town office, and may also be downloaded from the town's website, www.highlandsc.org.

Local Affiliate of NAMI Forming

NAMI Appalachian South — "Who We Are and What We Do"

If you or a loved one suffers from a mental illness, you are not alone. Mental illness is an illness of the brain like any other illness and treatment works. These are two of the basic messages of NAMI. NAMI is a grassroots organization providing support, education and advocacy for families and for persons with mental illness, such as clinical depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, anxiety disorder, post-traumatic stress and others. Membership consists primarily of family members and friends of people who have mental illness, mental health care consumers, and mental health care professionals. Our financial support comes from member donations, corporate and other philanthropic grants and state grants.

NAMI was established in 1970 in Wisconsin by parents of adults with severe and persistent mental illness who saw a need for peer support. NAMI now has approximately 220,000 members in affiliates across the country.

Along with regular support group meetings, NAMI sponsors a free, 12-week Family-to-Family course that is a tsunami of information covering the nature and treatment of mental illnesses, coping skills, available services and resources. There is also a Peer-to-Peer course for consumers. All leaders are trained by NAMI and have had experiences as consumers or family members.

For more information go to the National NAMI www.nami.org, NAMI

North Carolina www.naminc.org, or, for information about our local affiliate, NAMI Appalachian South, contact Ann Nandrea 369-7385, Carole Light 526-9769, or Mary Ann Widenhouse 524-1355.

Debunking the stigma of mental illness

By Ann Nandrea

Great progress has been made in our understanding and acceptance of mental illnesses. More is needed. The fact that mental illnesses have now been recognized as medical conditions that can be diagnosed and treated has helped with the acceptance of individuals with these diagnoses. Movies such as *Stateside*, *A Beautiful Mind*, and *As Good as It Gets* have had a positive impact. Yet stigma remains and will continue until we can talk openly about mental illness just as we do about other devastating illnesses like cancer, diabetes, Parkinson's, or Alzheimer's.

Here are some important facts about mental illness and recovery:

- Mental illnesses are biologically based brain disorders. They cannot be overcome through "will power" and are not related to a person's character, intelligence or upbringing.

- Mental illnesses frequently strike in-

• See MENTAL ILLNESS page 21

• FEDERAL POLITICS •

House works over legislation

By Representative Heath Shuler

The House returned for the Second Session of the 110th Congress last week and immediately began debate on several important pieces of legislation.

The first action the House needed to undertake was to dispose of the President's "pocket veto" of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, H.R. 1585. This bill had been an example of bipartisan cooperation as both parties had worked together, and with the President, to craft a good bill that strengthened our military and protected our nation. It had passed the House with overwhelming support 370-49. It saw similar bipartisan support in the Senate, passing there by a vote of 90-3. The bill contained several important measures including a pay raise for our brave troops and strong improvements to the military's health care system.

It also contained a section that strengthened the ability of victims of state-sponsored terrorism to seek compensation. This section had never been objected to by Democrats or Republicans in Congress, or by the President. However, the Iraqi government raised objections to President Bush about the National Defense Authorization Act, before he signed it into law.

The Iraqi government claimed that plaintiffs, including former U.S. POWs who had been held captive during the first Gulf War in the 1990s, could cite this section while seeking compensation assets currently in U.S. banks. President Bush then refused to sign the Defense Authorization Act into law, delaying the pay raise for our troops and the other critical initiatives in the bill.

Therefore, the House sent the first Defense Authorization bill back to its committee, made technical corrections that included making the troop pay raise retroactive to January 1st, and passed the new bill. The Senate is expected to act on the new legislation quickly.

The House also passed H.R. 4253, the Military Reservist and Veterans Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2007 this week. This legislation takes important steps to make certain that small businesses owned and operated by veterans and Reservists remain stable and continue operating, especially during a time when many Reservists are deployed overseas.

H.R. 4253 allowed for the increase of military deployment disaster loans from \$5,000 to up to \$50,000. It also improved Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, which provides funding to businesses so they can meet necessary expenses that they could have made, if not for the deployment of a reservist who is one of their essential employees.

H.R. 4253 also increased the funding authorized for the Office of Veteran Busi-

ness Development, which helps veterans, service-disabled veterans, reserve members, and their dependents or Survivors open, expand, and maintain small businesses.

Finally, the House passed H.R. 2768 the Supplementary Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act (S-MINER). This legislation addressed serious gaps in mine safety and health standards. While we do not have many mines in Western North Carolina, mining is a significant part of the economy throughout the Appalachian Mountains and we must protect those who are working underground.

The S-MINER Act adds new safeguards to protect against dangerous mining techniques, strengthened standards to contain explosions and fires inside mines, and included a number of common-sense proposals for better equipping MSHA to respond to emergencies. The legislation updates standards to combat black lung disease and to reduce miners' exposure to other deadly health risks, such as asbestos.

The House is in session every week for the remainder of January.

Author of "Tragedy in Tin Can Holler" to speak

Rozetta Mowery, author of *Tragedy in Tin Can Holler*, will be featured at R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County's Sweetheart Luncheon and book signing on Feb. 5, from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Frog and Owl Restaurant on Main Street.

Mowery is a well known speaker on the destructive effects of domestic violence.

Tragedy in Tin Can Holler is the true story of Mowery's tragic family history which was hidden from public view over a span of 150 years. The story is of a family history of vicious domestic and sexual violence. Mowery's story revolves around deceit, adultery, blackmail, murder and a life of poverty in southeast Tennessee.

Mowery spent years researching the murder of her 37-year-old mother and the lives of her five poverty stricken brothers and sisters who were shuttled to and from orphanages and foster homes.

Mowery's mother was "stomped to death" by Mowery's father.

The luncheon is a fundraiser for R.E.A.C.H., Macon County's non-profit agency which serves victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Tickets are \$50 each and may be purchased at the R.E.A.C.H. Bargain Store in Heritage Hollow, the Chamber of Commerce and by calling 828-369-5544.

Winter fun in Highlands



Despite frosty temperatures in the low teens, the slopes at Scaly Mountain were full of snow-tubers and sled riders, Sunday, Jan. 20.

Photos by Jim Lewicki

... HIS & HERS continued from page 7

over that one. My best friend at the time, Ruth Wylie, swore she'd never, ever speak to me again if I deserted Waynesboro High School for Stuart Hall. This is the same Ruth Wylie whom I've never spoken to since graduating from high school. High school girls. Go figure.

We had another Stuart Hall-connected experience, too. In the mail, we received an invitation to the 90th birthday celebration of Betty Vigour, a former neighbor, who once taught science at Stuart Hall. I'd grown up with the Vigour kids – Tommy, Johnny, Pete, and Barbie. Not only had I babysat for Barbie – now in her 40s, but I'd cat sat their sweet old tomcat, Alleycat. Unfortunately, John and I were going back to Highlands, and would miss Betty's party, but in speaking with Barbie on the phone, we found out they were having a celebration lunch at Barracks Road Shopping Center in Charlottesville that very day. We jumped in the car, and headed over the mountain, arriving at the restaurant just as they were ending their meal. What a delight to see old friends and neighbors! Johnny and Pete are now bearded gentlemen of talent and

substance. Barbie married an Englishman, and is living in Yorkshire. Betty, for all of her years, still has her wits about her, and is as smart and eloquent as ever.

Visits to Virginia are so often just excuses to go to the Red Lobster, Belk's and T.J. Maxx. I'm so grateful that this time was different. Oh, and Maman and I had that other tough discussion, too, the one about funerals and cremation and such. She said I don't have to take her ashes back to France, if I don't want to. Upon reflection, perhaps I should divide the ashes into two parts, so that she can be where her heart desires – the Eiffel Tower and the petites section of **Talbots**.

- 30 -

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, VA, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She lives on top of a mountain near Highlands. Michelle is a member of the Highlands Writers Group. She cannot be found in the petites section of **Talbots**, due to a 6'3" father, and a lifetime career as a dedicated foodie.

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Nanny Nancy saves the day

Just when you thought Speaker Pelosi had learned to quit embarrassing herself and Congress, she hasn't. Caught up in the campaign mantra of CHANGE, she couldn't restrain herself from getting in the act. While there is no end of real needs in the country, needs that she has ignored of late, she saw fit to upgrade the menus of the Capital Hill eateries. Velveeta, Jello, meatloaf and buns have been replaced by brie, raspberry kiwi tarts, mahi mahi and baguettes. Thank God that important issue has been addressed. Of course staffers won't be able to afford the price increases, but Nancy is talking lunch subsidies to avert the crisis.

In the interest of being fair and balanced, I feel the need to lay off the female birdbrains of the celebrity world and take the opportunity to castigate what must be the dumbest male human being that ever beat a murder rap. One would think that, after being cut loose after killing his wife and her friend, he'd crawl under a rock and lay low. Not O. J. He and his cronies were arrested for multiple felonies for busting into a Vegas hotel room for the purpose of stealing back "his sports memorabilia." Brilliant move. After being told specifically not to, he called one of his codefendants to discuss their stories in preparation for their trial in April.

A Nevada judge gave him a severe tongue-lashing and doubled his bail. He's too dumb to live.

On the political front, a new and softer Hillary beat out Uncommitted in the Michigan Democratic primary. Since the State party screwed up in moving the primary ahead of February 5th, they were stripped of their delegation so it was a non-event. She did manage to lose 70% of the black vote, and if that trend continues, she will have lost a valuable voting block.

A big story is that Mitt Romney won the Michigan Republican primary and put himself in the race. McCain could have gone into a serious lead by winning but it didn't happen. At the risk of being disrespectful, I'm afraid he's too little too late (he's short and he's old). Generally, the successful candidate is tall and McCain would be the oldest person elected to the presidency.

Prior to the Nevada Democrat contest, a judge ruled that some caucuses should be held in casinos since so



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

many voters work on Saturdays, largely in casinos. Since Obama had the endorsement of the casino workers union, the Clinton camp took great exception to the ruling and lost a challenge, much to the dismay of the state NEA chapter who backed Hill. Hubby Bill, looking frazzled and acting snarky, verbally beat up a reporter after the ruling went against them and accomplished nothing but

bad PR for the Clinton campaign. With friends like him... It turns out Hill wins Nevada anyway, garnering a large chunk of the Latino vote.

Romney swept Nevada, getting more than 50% of the Republican vote. Only he and Ron Paul spent any time there and it showed. One of the surprises to me is that with his name recognition and national stature, Guiliani only got 4% of the vote.

Moving right along to South Carolina, the Republicans had the stage all to themselves with the Dem's having their primary on Jan. 26th. Huckabee was considered the favorite up until a few days before the primary. As it turns out, McCain wins 33% over Huckabee's 30%. McCain's strength was the large number of military, both active and retired, who vote in South Carolina. Huckabee depended upon the evangelical Christian vote, which was somewhat muted by bad weather in the area he is strongest.

The Dem's race has been reduced to women vs. blacks. Both cards have been played and that will continue. Edwards is done but will stay in to try and get a bone at the convention. Attorney General would be a possibility.

Here's the R's situation as I see it. McCain is strong with moderates, hated by conservatives. If Huckabee couldn't win South Carolina, I think he's over.

Romney has the bucks, the resume and the organization. Guiliani has blown it.

Thompson either has or will withdraw. Ron Paul has plenty of money but a narrow following.

Both parties have primaries in Florida on Jan. 29th although it looks like the Dem's delegation has been stripped of voting power at their convention. It's Rudy's first and last stand. Then on to Super Duper Tuesday, Feb. 5th, when 24 states will hold primaries. More than likely both parties' candidates will be known as a result.

... ADDRESS continued from page 1

practice.

"It is the responsible role of county commissioners to carefully influence and cautiously implement the change necessary to better provide for our citizens now and for those of the future.

"But before plans and procedures are addressed in 2008, I will, in no particular order, appraise some of the highlights, challenges, disappointments and accomplishments of 2007. To end on a more positive note, I want to first look at some disappointments that came about in 2007.

"One of the more recent occurrences was the failure of the bond referendum for certain building projects within the county. All measures of the referendum were defeated. I, as chairman of the board of commissioners, accept the responsibility for that failure.

"There have been many theories as to why the measure failed — the price was too big, the bond was too confusing, the timing wasn't right, the project details were incomplete, and the Land Transfer Tax topic was an emotional issue. All put together it was just too much to be presented to Macon County citizens.

"Perhaps there is some truth in all those reasons. Were there things that could have been done differently? For sure, hindsight is always wiser and there were some things we could have done in a different way.

"Educating the public about the real content of the issues should have been more aggressive. Challenging the distortion of identifying the Land Transfer Tax as the Home Tax should have been done.

"Nowhere in the official legal presentation of that revenue option was it ever referred to as the Home Tax. That was an action taken by those who opposed the option and were willing to do anything to misrepresent the facts to advance their cause in defeating the option. Would the results have been different? Trying to answer that question is time wasted in speculation.

"One thing I want to be clear about is that the vote on the referendum was only for the purpose of a financing package to pay for projects that the board felt was necessary for the continued improvement of local services to our citizens. The vote was not a decision concerning if the project objectives would be ruled defunct. The needs addressed in the referendum still exist and will merely become more expensive when they are finally dealt with at some later date.

"There are those who continually come before this board with their self-appointed representation speaking about the will of the people. They maintain they know what the people want, what the people need, what the people don't want and what the people don't need and why — and have all kinds of solutions for the people.

"But whether you like it or not, whether you want to accept it or not, the factual and official will of the people is represented by the make-up of this board. Those who voted put their confidence in those of us who

were elected by them to perform with their best interests in mind, to make the best decisions out of the options available, to look at the requirements of our county now and try to meet them, to try to look to the future of the coming needs that will impact Macon County and its citizens. The Macon County Board of Commissioners, those of the past, this present board and those yet to be formed, represent the will of people.

"Another item that was recently in the news again, was the nativity display on the corner of Main Street in Franklin on property owned by the county. WLOS TV did contact me on Dec. 26 concerning a letter the county received from United Americans for the Separation of Church and State.

"I explained that Macon County had declared that particular portion of property as a public forum area and any group or individual could make application to use the area to promote feelings they were inclined to support.

"Since the county offices were closed Dec. 26, I invited WLOS-TV representative on 11 a.m. on Thursday the 27. That option was not open for consideration, so I didn't meet with WLOS to simply make a comment, as I felt the real news issue regarding the facts, involved Macon County had done to prepare a public forum area which was being disregarded by both the television station and the UA organization.

"It troubles me when news media of any form only wants to present one dimension of an issue that they feel necessary to promote.

"As far as the complaint filed by the individual to the United Americans organization, I believe Macon County has taken the proper action to allow for displays of any kind to be placed in the forum area. If we are in the wrong, prove where we are in violation. Do not make a long distance summary judgment telling Macon County we are wrong and to remove any display from the public forum area.

"It is annoying that we have received a letter from Washington, DC based group stating we are in violation of a federal law concerning the nativity display based on an unidentified individual's complaint.

"There has been no contact with Macon County to gain knowledge of the action taken to declare that portion of property a public forum.

The county's allowing the nativity display to be erected in an area designated for such purposes is not for the purpose of endorsing a religion. It does, however, allow for the freedom of expression of one's convictions.

"I may disconnect myself from my other board members by my personal attitude concerning this issue, but this is still America in places and by common English Law we have a right to know who our accusers are and to defend ourselves by the actions we have taken to preserve freedom. While this position may lead to a lawsuit, so be it.

Personally, I am someone who would prefer to be taken by another's sword, rather than to fall on my own.

"Will this board cave into pressure to not allow for the freedom of expression to display Christian values and tradition so important and valuable to so many of our citizens? Not on my watch.

"We are already on the attention screen, we have been put there before and the nativity has remained. And I for one will resist the removal of the display even if it ends up in a lawsuit. The freedom to express values and appreciations of Christian principles is a right that many have laid down their lives for — freedom — and it is something that should not be simply giv-

en up.

"This consciousness of strong core values leads well into the New Year we have just now entered.

"What many notice about Macon County is the unusual combination of the old and the new, the traditional and the present, the simplicity of our rich cultural heritage is being merged into the development of the 21st century. Roughly half our county is in long term preservation held in public trust. The other half of the county is open to development and change.

"It is in understanding this fusion of the traditional and modern that begs those who are so inclined to provide for Macon

• See ADDRESS page 15

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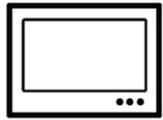
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Of 13 Macon County Schools winners in the Western Mountains Reading Council Writing Competition, seven are from Highlands School. Colin Welleer, fourth grade, wrote "Seuss on the Loose;" Alex Bronaugh, fifth grade, wrote "A Writer's Mind;" Cara Hedden, sixth grade, wrote "Matilda and My Mother;" Tatiana Schmitt, sixth grade, wrote "Junie B. Jones;" Fabiola Diaz, eighth grade, wrote "Something Much More;" Cai Roman, eighth grade, wrote "The Boy Who Lived;" and Highlands School Middle School teacher Michelle Lane wrote "Look Out, World." These state winners and the other local winners will be invited to attend the April meeting of the Western Mountains Reading Council on April 10, 2008 at the Angel Medical Center Dining Room where they will be recognized for their writing accomplishments.

Photo by Carol Bowen

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Southwestern Community College winter graduates recognized

The 68 graduates in Southwestern Community College's winter commencement ceremony were the first class to have graduated from Southwestern since it was rated fourth in the nation in a listing of America's best community colleges, according to Washington Monthly. The 68 graduates include 35 in career technologies, 20 in arts and sciences and 13 in health sciences.

Macon County graduates included:

Highlands

Sarah Marie Hanson, Certificate, Medical Transcription; Justin G. Taylor, AA, College Transfer.

Scaly Mountain

Pablo Escandon, AAS, Culinary Technology.

Franklin

Genevieve W. Bingham, AAS, Human Services Technology and Certificate, Human Services Technology - Substance Abuse Concentration; Martin A. Brink, Certificate, Welding Technology; Melissa Coker, Diploma, Medical Sonography; James Frederick Collins, AA, College Transfer; Renee K. Cooney, AAS, Surveying Technology; Virginia L. Cranfield, AAS, Cosmetology; Jeffrey Andrew Morgan, AA, College Transfer; Patricia B. Rowland, Certificate, Infant/Toddler Care; Tyson Brooks Stager, AAS, Outdoor Leadership; Megan Magdaline Stamey, AA, College Transfer; Jessica Nicole Teem, AA, College Transfer; Tammi Thuy Tran, Diploma, Cosmetology.

Otto

Judi W. Gagliolo, Diploma, Medical Sonography; Jason Paul Hatch, AA, College Transfer; Ray W. Richmond, AA, College Transfer; Wylene Elizabeth Wall, Certificate, Cosmetology.

Topton

Kim Renae Wagner, Diploma, Networking Technology.

CPR courses at MC Health Center

Register and pre-pay
before Feb. 5

An American Red Cross Adult CPR with AED and Infant/Child CPR course will be sponsored by the Macon County Public Health Center.

The course will be held on Thursday, February 7th from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Macon County Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Drive.

Participants must pre-register and pre-pay at the Macon County Public Health Center before Tuesday, February 5.

For more information, please call Jennifer at 349-2439.

And the walls go up



There's something going on all over the Fine Art Center site on Oak Street. The barn is weathered in, bridge work over the creek continues and the walls are rising for the center itself. Photo by Pat Taylor

... PAYS continued from page 1

ing, repair and storage operation — to dispose of town electrical transformers at its five-acre site in Fayetteville.

Transformers are the trash-can size objects attached to telephone poles with power lines running in and out of them.

Since transformers get hot due to electrical activity, oil-like coolants inside keep them cool. For years, the coolant used inside was Polychlorinated Biphenyls — PCBs.

In the 1970s, the federal government banned the use of PCBs because of their toxicity, and tendency to accumulate in human tissue.

Carolina Transformer Company had a storage facility for transformers and other equipment containing transformer oil contaminated with PCBs. In 1982, after 15 years in operation, Carolina Transformer Company closed and the site was abandoned.

However, in 1989, EPA inspected the abandoned site. It established that the oil had not been properly managed, stored or disposed of, and as a result, PCBs made their way into the surrounding acreage and ground water. The land was designated an EPA Superfund site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act known as CERCLA or Superfund.

To reduce and eliminate threats to human health and the environment posed by contaminants at uncontrolled hazardous waste sites, the CERCLA response program was created as was a comprehensive liability scheme that authorizes the government to hold persons associated with the contamination problem liable for the cost or performance of cleanups.

To pay for this, Congress created a revolving trust fund — the Hazardous Substance Superfund — from which the Presi-

dent can draw funds to respond to releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants from CERCLA-defined facilities.

Since the EPA couldn't sue a company that had gone out of business to clean up the site, it has filed a suit in North Carolina and named 300 governmental and private power distributors, including eight agencies of the federal government, liable for the cleanup.

A Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Group has been formed to negotiate with the EPA to settle its \$33 million claim for past and future costs for cleanup at the site. The PRP Group has invited the 300 PRPs in the southeast to join its efforts or risk further action by the EPA.

The EPA can either clean up the site using Superfund money and later recover cleanup costs from PRPs; ask a court to order PRPs to clean up the site; or the EPA can enter into settlement agreements with PRPs that can either require PRPs to clean up the site or pay for a cleanup.

Highlands and many of the other 300 PRPs in the Southeast fall under the de minimis waste contributor settlement category which allows them to pay a discreet amount of response costs to avoid future legal costs.

Highlands can prove through old invoices with Carolina Transformer Company that the hazardous substances it contributed to the site were minimal in amount and toxicity.

The need for de minimis settlements arose because small parties — those who contributed minimally or unknowingly entered into an arrangement with a contributing company — can become overwhelmed with resulting litigation and

• See PAY page 5

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

“How can I keep from singing?”



Chaplain Margaret Howell
Holy Family Lutheran Church

Ever since I was a little girl, I have had music in my head. My mom said I could sing before I could talk, and I embarrassed her on more than one occasion by belting out some jingle for Jell-O or Nestlé's Quick at the top of my lungs from my perch in the cart at the grocery store.

It's not surprising that I became a musician. It seemed like the most natural thing in the world. The music was always with me. We joined the Lutheran church when I was 11-years-old and the hymns, psalms and the lovely liturgies of our faith flowed on through my mind day and night and have been there ever since. I've discovered that my experience is not unique. Why does music “stick with us” so?

Music is said to be the universal language, that miraculous form of communication and expression that transcends human speech and is part of humankind's history from the most primitive times. Virtually every culture on earth, from the most modern praise band to the most ancient aboriginal ritual, uses music as a vital part of the expression of the sacred and relationship with the Creator.

Is it any wonder that songs of faith are remembered for generations even when the spoken word is long forgotten? Such music is hard-wired into our psyche and is a part of us, even if we are unaware of it. Because of that primal connection, music has a tremendous power to touch the body, mind and spirit.

I am a Music Practitioner. When I can, I play the harp and sing and pray at the bedside of the ill and dying. It is a ministry given to me in the days when I myself was bedridden. It is in the places of pain and sorrow that God's presence can be most keenly felt.

I remember playing at the bedside of an elderly lady not long ago. She had Alzheimer's, that dreadful disease that robs you of the essence of the ones you love, even as their bodies live on. Her husband and little grandson were present at the vigil.

When I entered the room, she looked at me with bright bird-like eyes, but said nothing. I introduced myself and then played for her for about 40 minutes. Her husband said she liked “the old hymns” so I played all the ones I knew. At the end of our time together, I thanked her for allowing me to come. She replied, “Oh, my dear, I enjoyed it very much!” We chatted for a few moments, and then I retired to the hallway to put away my harp and music.

As I was about to leave, her husband came out of her room, tears streaming down his face. Alarmed, I instantly thought that she was in distress. Her husband embraced me, crying. Through his tears, he told me that her conversation with me were the first words she had spoken in three months. Something in the music had

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 20

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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

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

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

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

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

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

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

Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens

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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)

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Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

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

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

... ADDRESS continued from page 11

County in the preservation of heritage and tradition that have been valued for 150-plus years. That is one reason that county leaders are working together on a long term project to dedicate an area near the Southwestern Community College and the Macon County Public Library to insure a rich symbolically living memorial to the rich cultural heritage we enjoy will be preserved for future generations.

"While the project is still in the development process, I believe there will be a groundswell of support and interest for the project. There are many dimensions this project will serve and its development has almost too many opportunities to mention. And it is important for all levels of society to always preserve something of value and importance from its past.

"Now for the New Year we are entering. 2008 will have unique opportunities and challenges for Macon County. Some of these we are aware of and others will present themselves as completely original and we will approach them as needs and law require.

"Again, in no particular order, some of the projects we know will be addressed in 2008 for both initial work and completion include things that are both benefits and burdens to Macon County.

"The board will have a revised standard of operations and will have a meeting format including the implementation of a consent agenda. Doing this will speed up the meeting process and allow more time for commissioners to consider issues that need discussion.

"This board will have increased meetings and work sessions. As our county grows and continues to develop there will be increased complex issues we will need to consider. We will need to become more knowledgeable and a better informed board to be able to make better informed decision for the citizens we serve.

"Animal control and the continued development of a shelter and an organizational plan to address animal control issues in Macon County will become more important as the population of the county, both human and animal, continues to grow.

"The extension of our airport runway is an item in which we may want to investigate for alternatives other than what we have tried in the past. We have been very patient in the development of our memorandums of understandings but nothing has worked thus far.

"For years the county has tried to work with the Cherokee to accommodate the extension of the airport runway. To date, we have had no success in reaching an agreement for something that could prove to be a true economic engine for Macon County.

"I think that time is at hand to consider other options to complete the project of the runway extension.

"The mental health system in North

Carolina is broken; the state took a system that was working in our area and broke it and doesn't seem to be able to fix it. Macon County will take the lead role in trying to address the problems created by the state in the dismantling of the mental health system that had a good foundation and service delivery system in our region. I think our area on this end of the state will have to work regionally and in a collaborative effort to rebuild a program that as doing a decent job for our citizens before the state intervened.

"We will better communicate with the citizens of Macon County in the near future. I have spoken with the manager and the county will soon begin a program of educating our citizens as to the factual position of the county.

"The county will release official press releases to the media. Whether the information is used or not will be up to the media, but doing this will hopefully do away with some of the confusion that makes it into the public under the present system now in place. The official information and positions of county activities will also be used on the radio and our website. I would like to see a broadcast email system where interested persons can get the information releases upon request.

"We should consider having our board meetings broadcast in real time for those citizens who can't attend our meetings whether they are in the day or evening times. I think it would be important to have anyone who is interested to be able to hear what is said, and not only what is said but how it is said. We have the technology; the video down-streaming is a very real option that could be used. A better informed public about what we as commissioners are doing and why we are doing it the way we are could only prove to be beneficial to us and the public we serve.

"The subdivision ordinance's review and implementation should be completed soon. Much effort has gone into the development of that project. And when it is put in, will well serve this county just as the high-impact ordinance has done.

"The personnel policy manual is being updated and revised and should soon be ready for final review and put in service.

"We need to have better training for our employees who are held to standards that require renewal credits and certification. It is critical that our employees are up to date on regulatory requirements and have the necessary training to keep their education levels at that which is required by any reviewing agency.

"To provide the official press releases, we need to have a public information officer to maintain our public information releases. We need to continually make the effort to keep our citizens abreast of the happenings within our county.

"We need to improve our Economic Develop Staff effort. We need to develop

•See ADDRESS page 22

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HILL TOP GRILL

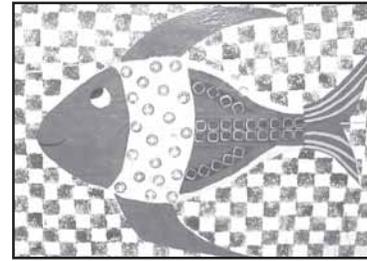


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HELP WANTED

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.

COOK AND DIETARY AIDE AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Various shifts and days available. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Salary depends on experience. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

RN OR LPN NEEDED AT A PHYSICIANS' OFFICE WITH HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time, Monday-Friday position. Requires experience working in a clinic or physicians' office. Cardiology background preferred. Good communication, organizational, and computer skills a must. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RN'S AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full, Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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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.

WORK WANTED

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

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

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

EXPERIENCED TRUCK DRIVER SEEKS FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT: Call Mike at 828-524-4052

You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290

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1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH furnished apartment. All utilities included except phone. In Scaly. \$625 a month. Call 526-0079. 1/31

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

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

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

MAIN ST APT- available now spacious 1/1 with full kitchen, fully furnished, central heat/air, small pets OK, \$700 mo. 1st/last+ \$350 deposit. 526-3363

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

COTTAGE FOR RENT - 1BR, 1BA in town @ Chestnut Cottages. Private, screen porch, Heat/AC, FP, extra sleeping loft, furnished or unfurnished. 6 month lease - \$800. monthly plus utilities. Call 526-1684.

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

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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

FREE '07 HUMMER 3 WITH PURCHASE OF THIS NEWLY REMODELED HOME - 4 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATH HOME WITH BEAUTIFUL LONG RANGE VIEWS, 2 LIVINGROOMS, RECREATION ROOM, GRANITE KITCHEN, FIREPLACE, GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY, CAN BECOME A DUPLEX! \$369,000. CALL 305-458-0033

BEAUTIFUL RV/PARK MODEL LOT - Falls View Resort. Dillard, GA. \$72,000 706-746-0002

LOT - COWEE RIDGE ROAD, Highlands (off Hwy. 64). 4,500 ft. elevation. Great views, Two acres. Southern exposure. 4 bedroom septic installed, community water, paved road, gated community. \$300,000 Firm. Call 478-741-8818. FSBO.

RV LOT - North Carolina Mountains: At Lake Toxaway Lot and 1/2 Beautifully Landscaped with Stone Work and Plantings Yearly Fees \$350. \$120,000. 863-651-1411

COACH CLUB HIGHLANDS NC - Chestnut Street. Gated Motor Coach resort lot in town Very nice 200 sq. ft. Lindal Cedar Coach House. Fully Landscaped with Extensive patio area. Outdoor kitchen, gas fire pit, overlooking 85 ft of stream Rare find. 828-787-1014 or 352-258-4187

CREEK IS FREE! - With the purchase of one or both of these wooded parcels, just off Highway 28 in the NE Georgia mountains within 15 minutes of Highlands. 1.09 acres and/or 1.10 acres on a county-maintained road. Serious inquiries only. Please call 864-710-4577 for information.

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 in-

come. Call 919-340-2280.

LAKEFRONT ACRE IN SCALY - \$25,000 OBO. Details. P.O. Box 260789, Pembroke Pines, FL, 33026.

COMMERCIAL FOR SALE - Log cabin at crossroads in Cashiers for sale or lease. Call 526-4154.

COMMERCIAL FOR SALE - 3 acres. U.S. 64 frontage, cashiers Road. 2 acres, 3 warehouses, good income. Call 526-4154.

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

LAND BY OWNER - 3/4 acre lot. Close to 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, 38ACRES 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 llake-side 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 tour at www.pixelitvideos.com/townhome

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.

MOTOR COACH SITE - Private, luxury motor coach site available for purchase. Downtown Highlands. Corner of Fifth St. and Chestnut St. Gated, restricted. Call 828-526-5333.

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

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.

ANTIQUÉ 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 - Ford Expedition on factory rims. Complete set of 4 only \$500. 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.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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.

ANTIQUA 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.

ANTIQUA 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 chain-link. Like New. \$175, was \$270. call 828.389.2722 Hayesville, NC

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

CUSTOM DECK SET - Painted aluminum Love

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 526-0539.

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 General Contractor For Estimates call Scott @ 828-577-9261

FIREWOOD "Nature Dired" Call 526-2251.
CUTTING EDGE TREE SERVICE - "Let us go out on a Limb for You." We specialize in tree removal, trimming, Lot/View clearing, under brushing and stump grinding. Quality work and Fully insured. For Free Estimate call 524-1309 or 421-2905.

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

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.

UNIQUE BUSINESS FOR SALE in Highlands. Established Market. Call 828-200-0061.

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.

PUPPIES FOR SALE

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.

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Caramel Corn or Brittle
Expires 2/29/08
Equal or Lesser Value

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

Every Wednesday

- "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. The study meets in the Fellowship Hall.

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

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

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

Jan. 25-31

RAMBO rated R

Fri: (4:20), 7:20, 9:20

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

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

CLOVERFIELD rated PG-13

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

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

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

MAD MONEY rated PG-13

Fri: (4) 7, 9

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

Mon - Thurs: (4), 7

THE BUCKET LIST rated PG-13

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

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

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

ITC LIVE! to open Feb. 8 NOT Feb. 1

ITC LIVE! slated to open February 1 has moved its opening date to February 8 because of lost rehearsals during the recent snowy weather. Subsequent performances are the 9th, 15th, 16th, 22nd and 23rd. All shows are at 8 p.m. The ITC's Studio on Main is located at 310 Oak Square, Main Street, Highlands. ITC LIVE! contains some mature content. Tickets are \$20. For reservations call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

For a mind tune-up make a reservation to attend the 2008 Improv Comedy Show, ITC LIVE!, opening at the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main on February 8th.

Two of the players featured in the show are Daniel Osborne and Kaley McCormack. Daniel has appeared in the ITC Improv shows, Little Entertainments and Cocktail Hour



Daniel Osborne

Theatre. He will be happily remembered by improv-going audiences for the numerous, flexible and outrageous characters he created during the runs of those two shows, most particularly his creation of "Pedro," side-kick to the Donkey Rider portrayed by Jillian Burfete.

Daniel is a graduating senior in history at Western Carolina University. Kaley McCormack, a graduating senior in theatre at Western Carolina University, is making her first appearance with the ITC. At Western she has appeared in Children of a Lesser God, Who You Know, That's What I love About You, Nancy Drew, Dogwood's Search, and The Nerd. Following graduation Kaley leaves for Chicago to study advanced improvisation with the Second City and Improv Olympic (I.O.).

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.

Saturday, Jan. 26

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4.6 mile moderate hike on the Appalachian Trail in the Standing Indian area from Long Branch to Glassmine Gap, with an elevation change of 1000 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 10 a.m. Drive 25 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Bill Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Monday, Jan. 28

- The Art League of Highlands' monthly meeting noon at the Rec Park. Open forum and discussion to follow lunch. For more information, call Caroline Cook at 526-2742.

Tuesday, Jan. 29

- 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. For more information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. Coordinator: Martha Porter. *My plan is to give some sort of summary or overview of the talks by Barbara Brown Taylor and Water Brueggeman at the conference in St. Simon the preceding week. It is described as

a 'January Adventure in Emerging Christianity.'

Wednesday, Jan. 30

- High Mountain Squares will dance this Wednesday night January 30th at the Macon County Community Building from 6:30 to 9:00PM. Early rounds will start at 6:30 with Sandy Brown from Murphy NC cueing. Ace McGee from Anderson SC will do the calling. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943.

Thursday & Friday, Jan. 30 & 31

- HCP's Death by Chocolate fundraiser performance for the Summit Charter School at the Sapphire Valley Community Center at 6:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday. Wine, dine and solve the crime. Tickets are selling fast. \$55. Call 828-743-6100 for reservations. Proceeds will help 8th grade students fund their trip to Washington, D.C.

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. Adults are \$6 and children are \$4.

Tuesday, Feb. 5

- i9ngo at the Highlands Community Center next to the ballfield, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Super Fives -- full card bingo -- five down, five across in 55 number calls or less. Pays \$500.

- 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

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 pre-

sents 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. 9

- 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.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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-

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

9:30 pm. at the Community Building.

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 Association-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 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.

Tuesday, March 18

• Hunting Heritage Super Fund Auction and Dinner will help benefit the National Wild Turkey Conservation at 6 p.m. at the Dillard House Conference Center in Dillard, GA. All ticket holders are eligible to win prizes and lots of items will be auctioned off. Tickets are \$55 and help support wildlife management on public, private and corporate lands and preserve hunting as sport.

... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 5

More importantly, our nation does not need a Day to honor them. We do need a Day to honor Dr. King, to be reminded of his dream, to recognize him, those who preceded, and those who will follow him, a Day to reflect on the fact that less than 150 years ago, we were buying and selling human beings in this country, that less than 50 years ago, a black American couldn't use the same rest room or drink out of the same fountain as I.

I remember traveling in the South as a boy and seeing crudely painted signs above the drinking fountains at a Dairy Queen in Georgia, "Colored" and "White." I remember fire hoses and German shepherds. I remember literacy tests and freedom riders, bombings and burning, southern governors defying federal law, congregations singing, "We shall Overcome."

Sadly, I also remember my lack of outrage. I remember feeling detached, of having no desire to march from Selma, AL to Montgomery, join voter registration drives, or speak out against injustice. I didn't care that my neighbors and fellow citizens were victims of inequality.

When I hear acquaintances blame black America for its problems, I answer, "Yes, certainly black Americans must accept some responsibility for the blight and for their plight, but it is ignorant, naive, or racist to argue that we have neither responsibility for creation of the problem nor an obligation to help remedy it." We need Martin Luther King Day not only to honor the greatness and sacrifice of this man, nor as an extra ski weekend, but as a reminder of our guilt and our duty.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

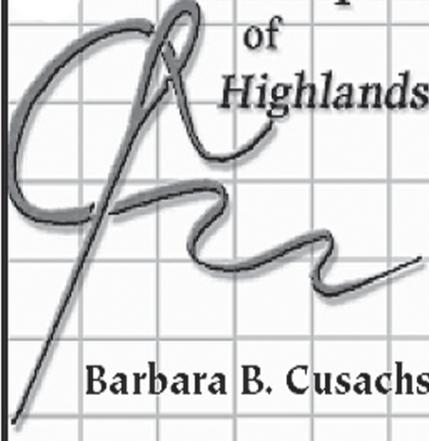
exactly the way it is.' Somehow I don't think that would bring much comfort to the woman that has been brutally raped or the oppressed people on Darfur." That was an illustration that I used to highlight the fact that the idea of everything, which would have to include man, was, "perfect the way it is," doesn't correspond to reality and, if true, is utterly unlivable. Why attempt to change public policy, or worry about pollution?

Man's depravity is manifested on a daily basis. How are we to deal with the

problem of pain? Ms. Brugger says that, "all suffering disappears in the understanding that underneath it all there is only God." I beg to differ. Recently, the evening news told the story of a young mother who was arrested for slapping, choking, and stomping her infant to death while her other child looked on. The human heart is desperately wicked and in need of redemption, not a higher level of consciousness.

Waylon Chastain
Highlands, NC

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Hours are from 9:00 - 5:00, Monday thru Saturday, 4-5 days minimum, including Memorial & Labor Day Sundays plus Sundays in October. Salary is negotiable.

Contact: Katrina Laverty for interview at 800-437-2741 or 828-526-2769. E-mail us for application: slinc@verizon.net.



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... **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** continued from page 14

touched her, connected with her, even though all other efforts and medication had failed to do so. Somewhere deep in her person, the music had harmonized her mind, and reawakened the woman she once was.

That visit convinced me beyond any doubt that music has the ability to reach people when nothing else can. I have been privileged to play many vigils over

the years. I have witnessed people in comas start to exhibit increased brain activity, and silent Alzheimer patients sing the words of an old familiar hymn, becoming more responsive after a vigil. Music touched their very souls.

This "music of the soul" is not about entertainment. It is music of the heart and touches us more deeply than any spoken or written word ever could. Music

of the soul has the power to sooth a baby to sleep or to calm the fears of someone at the end of life.

Music to the glory of God has inspired millions of people to greater faith. Many great composers have written masterpieces to the glory of God that have been heard by millions of people. Martin Luther himself considered music, after to the gospel, to be a most glorious way to worship God. Whether in the cathedral or at the bedside, "music of the

soul" is a gift of God's love in purest form.

"Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?"

(How Can I Keep from Singing? - Robert Lowery 1826-1899)

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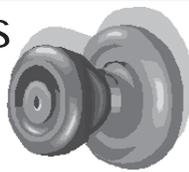
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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Old Edwards Hospitality Group announces 2007 Service Champions of the Year Awards

Old Edwards Hospitality Group is pleased to announce Service Champions of the Year for 2007. The Service Champion Program is utilized to reward and recognize associates who go "above and beyond" the call of duty to meet and exceed the resort guest's expectations.

Throughout the year, associates are nominated for the Service Champion Program. Each month, associates are recognized at an appreciation gathering and Associates with the most qualifying nominations are awarded gold, silver and bronze awards. The year end winners are chosen from this exemplary group of people.

For 2007:

Gold: Dave Linn, Fitness Center Supervisor (resides in Franklin, NC)

Silver: Cori Wooten, Night Auditor for the Inn and Lodge (resides in Tiger, GA)

Bronze: Dayana Rodriguez, Madison's server (resides in Highlands, NC)



Right, CEO Mario Gomes with 2007 Service Champions.

"By setting goals and rewarding the staff members regularly, we encourage positive motivation and set a standard for excellence that is not only attainable, it becomes second nature. This level of service

is what sets us apart as the award-winning property that we have become," said Mario Gomes, Old Edwards Hospitality Group Chief Executive Officer and General Manager.

SCC Foundation Golf Tournament rewards winner



... MENTAL ILLNESS continued from page 9

dividuals in the prime of their lives, often during adolescence and young adulthood.

• The best treatments for serious mental illnesses today are highly effective; between 70 and 90 percent of individuals have significant reduction of symptoms and improved quality of life with a combination of pharmacological and psychosocial treatments and supports.

• Mental disorders fall along a continuum of severity. Even though mental disorders are widespread in the population, the

burden of illness is concentrated in a much smaller proportion — about 6% of Americans suffer from a serious mental illness. This significantly impacts 1 in 5 families in America. (source NAMI)

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is dedicated to the elimination of ignorance, prejudice and discrimination against people with mental illness by changing the public attitudes from fear and rejection to one of community understanding, acceptance and support. A positive public

attitude is critical if people with mental illnesses are to go forward with their lives.

The newly formed local support group NAMI Appalachian South, an affiliate of NAMI NC, offers a program, "In Our Own Voice: Living with Mental Illness."

To arrange for this program for your civic club or other association, or for more information about NAMI Appalachian South, call Ann Nandrea 369-7385, Carole Light 526-9769 or Mary Ann Widenhouse 524-1355.

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... STORMWATER continued from page 1

water projects," said Town Administrator Richard Betz.

Calculations could be based on either non-residential and residential impervious areas or a gross area/land use intensity method.

The impervious method is directly related to the amount of runoff produced on a piece of property.

The gross area/land use method uses a set fee for residential property and elevated fees per acre of non-residential property based on the intensity of land use.

The idea is that new development increases the demand for health and safety services provided by the town, affects the quality of the town's infrastructure and increases the need for public facilities. Stormwater impact fees can help pay for the cumulative impact of new development through infrastructure improvement thus contributing to the town's economic development.

The hydraulic modeling analysis will determine how to create extra space in the lakes and possibly modify the discharge outlet. "In the case of a rain event, the lakes might be able to hold an extra amount of water," said Nix. "That's what the analysis will tell us. How much it could hold without causing problems elsewhere and how much of a benefit it would be."

During the analysis McGill would locate the existing water surface elevation of each lake to determine the normal pool

water surface elevation; determine the exact elevations and dimensions of each outlet control structure for water retention and controlled discharge; and determine specific flood elevations within the banks of each lake as they relate to retention. An extra \$10,000 to \$20,000 would be needed to construct modifications.

With stormwater regulation mandates expected from the state soon, in 2006, the Town Board enlisted McGill & Associates to prepare a Stormwater Master Plan whose construction could be partially funded with a Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) grant money.

Unfortunately, the town will miss the Feb. 1 cut off for CWMTF grant applications for 2008 projects.

"The point is we have a lot of planning to do before construction of these projects," said Commissioner Amy Patterson. "We're too late for construction funding through grant money this year, but we do have money for planning."

The town budgeted \$100,000 for stormwater projects for fiscal year 2007-2008 and will budget more in anticipation of construction in 2008-2009.

The overall plan was presented about a year ago, and included 30 likely projects at a cost of between \$10 million and \$20 million. The projects mainly focused on restoring streams and buffers that would impact the 303(d) status of Mill Creek. Mill Creek is considered impaired due to the

lack of certain aquatic species.

McGill's over all stormwater plan could be used to seek funds from CWMTF on an ongoing basis as well as initiate a funding source through a stormwater utility/impact fee.

The backbone of the stormwater plan is an ordinance to which the town's exist-

... ADDRESS continued from page 15

and recruit jobs for residents. Good jobs with benefits, health insurance and retirement. What NAFTA, CAFTA have done in the United States and especially in the south is now reaching Macon County and we need to do something at the local level to insure that after our children get educated there are jobs for them so they don't have to leave the area if they don't want to, and want to live here for the same reasons we do.

"I have been faulted for saying so, but Macon County has to continue to support our local fire departments. These firemen are people with a deep devotion and commitment to the volunteer departments they work for while putting themselves in danger to serve their fellow man. Their deep sense of service causes them to train and become first-responders to give aid to victims so they can and do save lives. They also spend untold hours keeping the departments they are in certified and their rating up to standards. They do all these things to serve their fellowman All this is done for service - they are volunteers - and it should not be forgotten that the residents of the districts they serve receive reduced insurance costs.

"Our law enforcement that serves and protects our citizens is another program we will continue to support and fund as needed. Many times taken for granted, the services given, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, by those men and women is important for all our residents' security.

"Emergency Services is another area where I have been criticized for saying I will support. But emergency services have to do with the lives of our citizens. What can be more important than protected and saving the lives of the citizens of Macon County? While the costs for these services will increase as time goes by, it remains incumbent for this board and the boards to come to insure that adequate funding is provided so the care of our citizens can be properly handled.

"This board needs to come to some definite decisions and plans for the old library building. I hope it will be possible during this next year to resolve what will be done with that asset.

"We will need to address the Senior Services, the old department on aging, and find ways to serve those who have needs that can't be met by their families. There are those in our population who don't have long-care insurance plans, or have the resources to have in-home care. We should provide a place where there can be caregiver relief. A form of senior day care where

ing ordinances could refer. In December, 2007, the Town Board asked McGill to proceed with a draft ordinance at the cost of \$10,800. The completion date - public meeting and ordinance adoption - is set for the end of March.

- Kim Lewicki

people have adequate care for families with ones who have differing forms of dementia that need supervision.

"{ We need to continue with our school construction needs and continued expansion of the Southwestern Community College campus. The county needs to support the education development for training, and retraining, for our young and adult education. The needs that are here now will not go away, they will not disappear - they will however, continue to exist and worsen as time goes on.

"A long-term project I feel we need to look at is that of providing water to our future citizens. I don't know if the trend will continue, but his year has had the lowest water levels in 70 years. Franklin has no impoundment of water. It is dependent upon the flow of the Cartoogayche. I think it would be worthwhile to investigate the possibility of drafting water form Nantahala Lake and bring it into the Franklin area. This would be a long-term study, it may not happen in my lifetime, but I think it is time to start looking into the future and look for ways to be prepared for the future needs of our county.

"Another lesser publicized effort was to have a re-established post office in the Nantahala Community. I received letters of support from Senators Burr and Dole. But the individual, whose name I can't remember, from the postal service said there was no need for a post office in that area because there has been no growth and there were three businesses in Franklin that sold stamps that the people from Nantahala area could purchase. I don't think the person who wrote the letter has ever been to Nantahala. I think it is an issue that should get more attention.

"I believe we should continue county support of the Veterans Memorial that was begun last year. The sacrifices made and the lives given by those individuals are what allow us to meet tonight. The freedom we enjoy today has come at the high costs of many veterans and the cost of the freedoms we enjoy will continue to be high.

"And lastly, we as a board need to insure we provide whatever is necessary for our employees to continue to do the job they do to serve the citizens of Macon County.

These things I have mentioned will be accomplished as will other various and unknown issues that will come before us, but we as a board have the responsibility to meet them and deal with them as best we can for those who have put their trust in us to act."

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POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the weeks of Jan. 12-23. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 12

- At 9:20 a.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 was cited for speeding 53 mph in a 35 zone..
- At 10 a.m., a breaking and entering with larceny was reported at a home on N. 4th Street. About \$3,500 worth of tools were taken as well as 13 fir trees from the front yard. Paint was also poured all over the back deck and onto the walls of the house. The case is under investigation.

• At 10:50 p.m., a motorist at Webbmont and U.S. 64 west was cited for speeding 55 mph in a 35 zone.

Jan. 14

• A motorist on U.S. 64 was cited for unlawfully operating a vehicle and for speeding 50 mph in a 35 zone.

Jan. 21

- At 8:10 p.m., officers responded to a call of a simple assault at a residence on Saw Mill Road..
- During the week officers issued seven warning tickets and responded to 8 alarms.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Jan 16-23

Jan. 16

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

• The dept. responded to a vehicle accident on N.C. 106. No one was injured, but the driver was assisted out of the vehicle.

Jan. 17

• The dept. responded to a call of a vehicle accident on U.S. 54 east, but it was in Jackson County.

Jan. 14

• The dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident on Billy Cabin Road. There were no injuries.

Jan. 15

• The dept. responded to two separate wrecks on N.C. 106 near Dry Falls. No one was hurt in either accident, which was due to slick roads.

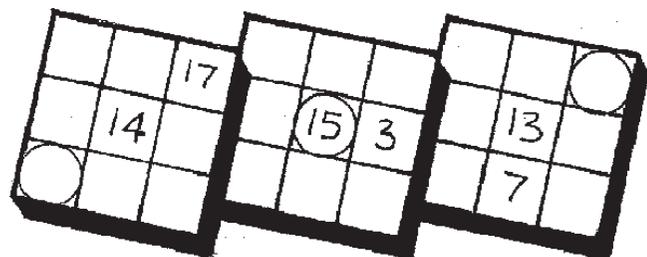
HCP show in the works



Highlands Community Players announce cast for 'Lend me a Tenor' World famous tenor Tito Merrelli (played by Wayne Coleman) belts out an aria while three adoring females (Breta Stroud, Carla Gates, Jody Read) and a not-so-amused wife (Diane Rosazza) look on. On left, aspiring singer (Stuart Armor) tries to keep his fiancé in line, while opera manager (Bob Tietze) contends with a pesky bellhop (Dean Zuch). The hilarious comedy by Ken Ludlow is scheduled for performances Feb. 28, 29, March 1,2,7,8,9 at PAC in Highlands. The play is directed by Annette Coleman with Carol Lucas assisting. Tickets go on sale for season subscribers on Thursday, Feb. 21, and the general public on Saturday, Feb. 23.

• FUN & GAMES •

PseudoCube[©]



#AN2E - Level of Difficulty - Hard

THE SETUP:

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

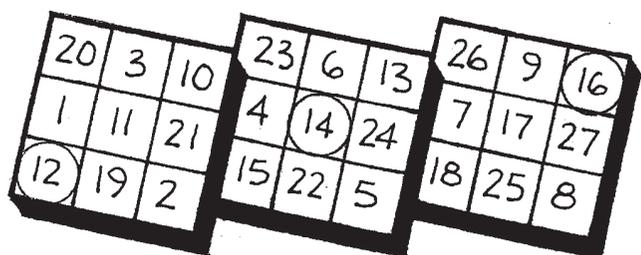
THE CHALLENGE:

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 #DN4D in Jan. 17 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.

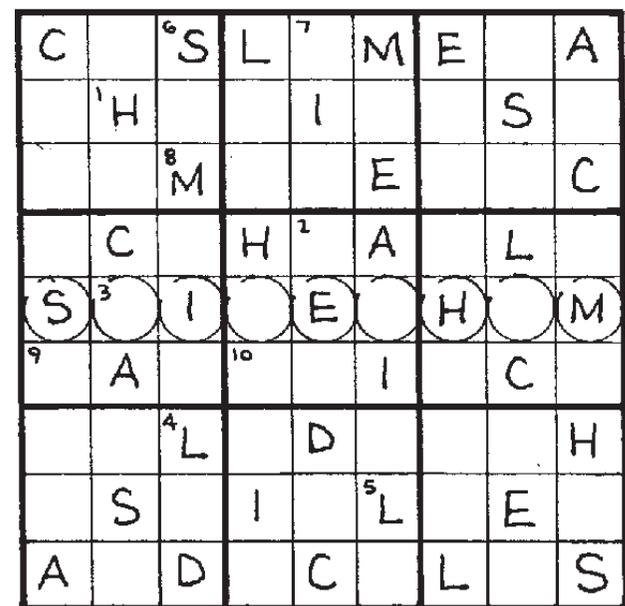
Mystery Word
"Sliced Meat"

Across

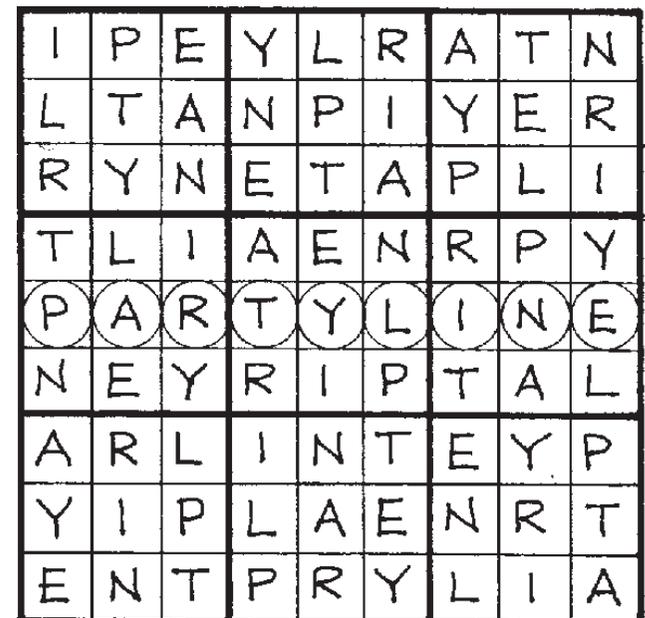
1. Have (past tense) (3)
2. Unhappy (3)
3. Small mites (4)
4. Young men (4)
5. Sixth music note (2)

Down

6. Similar (4)
7. Hello! (2)
8. Personal pronoun (2)
9. Princess ___ (2)
10. Mother (slang) (2)



Solution to Jan. 17 puzzle



Find It All On This Map

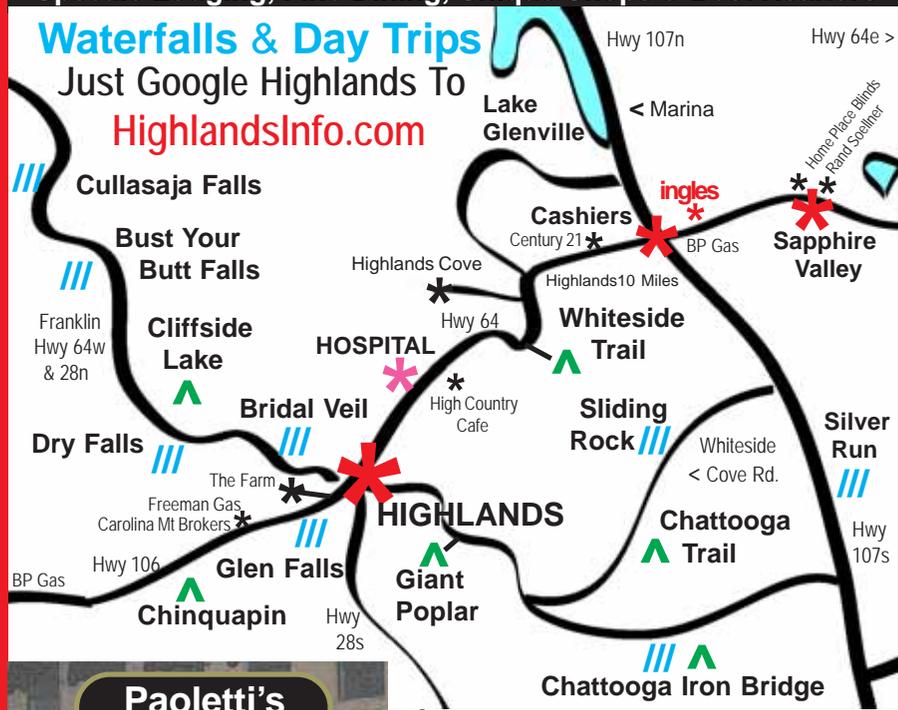
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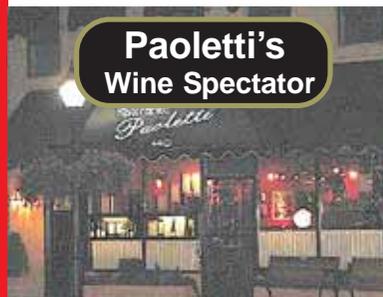


Highlands Map

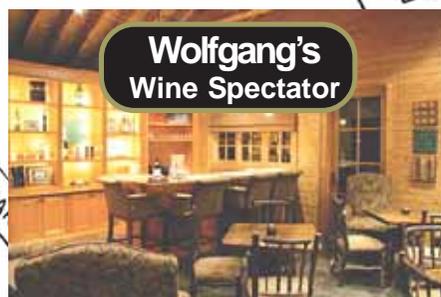
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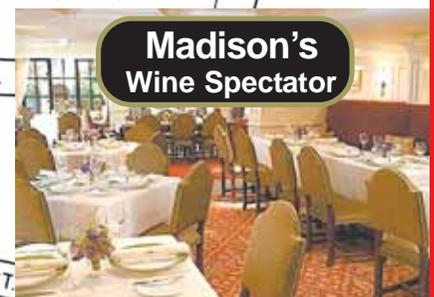
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Paoletti's Wine Spectator



Wolfgang's Wine Spectator



Madison's Wine Spectator

DINING	Shopping	Real Estate
1 Cyprus	1 Acorns	1 Buyer's
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3 Golden China	3 Bear Mt. Outfit.	3 Chambers
4 Log Cabin	4 Bungalow	4 Country Club
5 Madison's	5 Dry Sink	5 John Schiffli
6	6 JacksonMadeleine	
7 Oak St Cafe	7 Raspberry Fizz	
8 Paoletti	8 Silver Eagle	
9 Pescado's	9 Shiraz Rugs	
10 Rib Shack	10 Village Kids	
11 Wolfgang's	11 Wholesale Down	

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