New Town Hall taking shape

Two estimates presented at Wednesday night’s Town Board meeting, put the price tag for the new Town Hall complex between $43 million and $51 million.

“The site costs surprised us,” said Mitch Sorin with Sorin & Fisher Architects. “It depends on how much rock runs through it.”

Between the two estimates, Sorin & Fisher said the job could come in between $175 per sq. ft, and $225 per sq. ft. “We could take 10% out of the cost by trimming here and there, but beyond that would mean a redesign and a reduction of square footage.”

The 17,980 sq. ft. complex would include space for town offices and board room, police department offices, a Visitor Center on the lower level, 71 parking spaces on site and then on street. A possible clock tower and water feature would cost extra.

John Fisher said the project came in higher than first anticipated but the construction industry has had a 20% increase since January with material costs escalating due to transportation costs related to the fuel industry.

Building green was discussed so commissioners requested a “green” cost scenario next time they meet with the architects.

A blooming grand time

Hundreds converged on Highlands July 8-12 for The Bascoms 10th annual Mountains in Bloom, a four-day nature-themed festival designed to raise money for the art center. The flower show drew dozens of entries in two divisions: Artistic and Horticultural. In the Artistic Division, there were 48 entries in eight classes, and in the Horticulture Division, there were 129 entries in 13 classes.

Mental health on front burner

At Monday night’s county commission meeting, the board took the first steps toward providing comprehensive mental health care for the citizens of Macon County.

After hearing a presentation from the Mental Health Taskforce on the state of mental health services in the county, commissioners granted the taskforce’s request for $6,000 for initial funding.

County Manager Jack Horton said the necessary budget adjustment will be made to the 2008-2009 budget to handle the expense.

“When the lack of services affects families, when a mother is crying for needed services, something needs to be done,” said Chairman Charlie Leatherman.

In January, the Macon County Commission formed a mental health taskforce and charged its members to assess the state of mental health services in the county and to make recommendations for service improvements.

Political signs source of controversy

A battle is heating up over alleged illegal political signs and an alleged illegal closed session between town officials and residents.

On May 12 the Rogers/deville family of 165 N. 1st Street was notified by Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward that the Obama logo sign hanging from their upper balcony was in violation.

As per town ordinance, Code of Ordinances, Article 4500, Section 404.1 (H) political signs can’t exceed 16 square feet in surface area. The logo sign was 64 sq. ft. The family was ordered to remove or replace the sign immediately upon receipt of the letter or a civil penalty would be assessed per day until corrected.

Though the logo sign was hung on March 17, the Rogers/deville family said they didn’t hear a “peep” from the town until May 12, after someone complained.

“As soon as we were made aware of the limitations on political signs, we immediately took steps to be in compliance,” said Anne deville. “It was in violation of the political sign ordinance because it exceeded 16 square feet, but we want...”
The Plateau’s Position

In Memory Of “G-540”
North Carolina Highway Patrolman
David Shawn Blanton, Jr.
January 19, 1984 - June 17, 2008

By Sheriff Robert L. Holland
Macon County, North Carolina

During the past few days I have found myself often thinking about the tragedy surrounding the death of one of our own, NC Trooper David Shawn Blanton, Jr. and imaging the events that occurred during that dark night in nearby Haywood County. Still, even today, I find myself deeply saddened at not only the loss of a brother law enforcement officer but of a young man in his prime.

While pondering the chain of events in my mind, each time I conclude by thanking God that such a tragic event did not come any closer to home. It is shameful that such a young Trooper who had a brand new baby boy has had his entire life and career stolen from him. How sad it is to know that the actions of another, has robbed him of the opportunity to see his son grow and the chance to share each and every moment through the years with his young wife. Instead, a little boy will grow up and learn how his father was a brave officer and how he paid the ultimate sacrifice protecting and serving his community.

While attending his funeral with a number of my deputies, I listened to Trooper Blanton’s minister describe “Trooper Blanton as a hero not because he died in the line of duty, but instead, because of how Trooper Blanton lived his life.” What a wonderful tribute for anyone to be remembered by. I heard his friends describe him as the type of person that not only his son could look up to, but all of us. Trooper J.P Henderson, told those attending his partner’s funeral that his friend always had a smile with a “giggle” that was indescribable and was a man who never met a stranger that was always willing to help others.

Trooper Blanton will also be remembered as the first member of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians to serve with the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

To those that cared:
While thinking about the situation of that night, I have found myself being overwhelmingly grateful that citizens rushed to his side and attempted to render aid to the young Trooper. I thank God

An Open Letter to the Highlands Town Board
Dear Gentlemen and Dr. Patterson:

As business owners in town and twenty-two year residents of the Highlands Township, we want to express our concerns regarding your pending decision to provide town water and sewer plus financial support to the Shortoff Woods affordable housing development. First of all, our water supply is a precious commodity and in short supply. According to the United States Geological Survey from the US Department of the Interior, the Highlands Plateau is in severe hydrologic drought. Our rain levels have been far below normal for the past three years and the water table has lowered. With changing climate conditions, no one knows how long these conditions will continue. In addition, how do you justify giving town water to a “for profit” company while denying it to others outside the town limits who would like water and sewer for their own use? Do you not open up a flood gate of requests for water and sewer? It would be a shame to compromise the integrity of our community so people can start their own rental business.

Secondly, we understand from the mayor’s recent column in the newspaper that the town’s sewer plant has the capacity to handle double what it handles today. It is our understanding that the main reason for the expansion of the sewer plant many years ago was to protect our water supply which comes from Lake Sequoyah. There are still many homes around the upstream Cullasaja River, Mirror Lake, and Lake Sequoyah that are not connected to the sewer system. How tragic it would be if sewer capacity for those homes were needed because of septic failures, but was not available. The mayor’s answer to adding others onto the sewer system is to vote three percent added taxes. If property owners in the town limits need the sewer system, do you think it would be fair for them to pay a tax increase plus tap-on fees while the Housing Project only pays tap-on fees and no taxes to the Town?

Third, the corner of Highway 64 East and Buck Creek Road is already a dangerous intersection where accidents have already occurred and near misses happen every day. As one of the two primary routes to Franklin plus the location of the recycling center, this intersection gets an enormous amount of

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.

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Reporter - Sally Hanson • Circulation & Digital Media
Copy Editor - Tom Merchant • Jim Lewicki
Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com
265 Oak St., R.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741
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See FORUM page 15 • See LETTERS page 26

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See FORUM page 15 • See LETTERS page 26
Mary Virginia Crunkleton Hayes

Mary Virginia Crunkleton Hayes died on July 7, 2008 in Tamarac, FL. Mary was born in Highlands, NC on July 1, 1931 to Ralph and Virginia Crunkleton. She is survived by two sisters, Mildred Kessler and Lydia Langell. Mary graduated from Highlands High School in 1949. She moved to Staten Island, NY in 1950.

She is survived by her husband Frank J. Hayes, Jr. In addition to her husband of 55 years, she is survived by two sons, Frank J. Hayes, III and John Thomas and two daughters, Kathleen Ann Hayes Castella and Mary Eileen Hayes Brooks. She is survived by 12 grandchildren and preceded in death by a granddaughter Ann Marie Castella. Mary was an avid bingo player and enjoyed bowling and playing golf. She enjoyed shopping as well. She was a member of the Knights of Columbus Columbietts and of the Red Hat Society. She was retired from Staten Island University Hospital as a head cashier.

Funeral services were held Saturday, July 12, 2008 at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church, with Father Dean Cesa officiating. Burial was in Miller Cemetery. In lieu of flowers any donations to the Highlands Biological Center in the name of Mary Crunkleton Hayes would be appreciated.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of local arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Reed named University Marshal at UNC-Greensboro

Jackie Reed, Highlands School Class of 2006, daughter of Morris and Cindy Reed, of Highlands, was inducted in UNC-Greensboro University Marshals on Sunday, April 13. The University Marshals is an honor and service organization established at UNC-G in 1910. The primary goal is to recognize academic excellence among undergraduate students at UNC-G. They traditionally serve at the University Commencement exercised in December and May, the Chancellor’s New Student Convocation in August and Founder’s Day in October. They are selected from an elite group of students requiring the completion of at least 30 semester hours at UNC-G and a cumulative grade point average of 3.65 or higher.

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in The Galax Theatre
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“A Block Off Main”
Old Highlands Park, a block off Main Street and fronting Harris Lake is Nellis Communities, Inc newest condominium development. A small condominium community with spacious 3BR/3BA floor plans, carports, cathedral ceilings, outdoor fireplaces, & much more. Each building has been sited to maximize privacy and capture views of the lake. Priced at $915,000
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Dinner Friday & Saturday 5:30 p.m. until
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Sunday Champagne Brunch: noon-2 p.m.
Early Bird Specials Friday & Saturday 5:30-6:30
Hal Philips at the piano Fri.-Sun. 7-9 p.m.

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Lunch Buffet: 11-3 • M-Th • $7.25
Seafood Buffet 11-3 • Fri • $8.25
Dinner: Sun-Thur 3-9:30 • Fri & Sat 3-10
526-5525 • Highlands Plaza

**Lakeside Restaurant**

Dinner: Tues.-Sun. 5:30 p.m. Reservations suggested.
531 Smallwood Avenue on Harris Lake • Reservations 828-526-9419

**Fred Wooldridge**

Feedback is encouraged! email:
askfredanything@aol.com

- Laughing at Life -

**Thou shalt not dither**

I just learned I have spent the last 40 years of my life legally dithering.
Wait, just in case you’ve been living on Mars...or
Otto...or Climax, Georgia, let me tell you about the
dither word.

**Merriam-Webster Dictionary**

describes the word in two forms, as
an intransitive verb and a
noun. It means to shiver or
tremble, to act nervously or
indecisively. It also means to
tactitate, to beat in a
highly nervous, excited or
agitated state of excitement
and confusion, like when a guy comes
home at 3 a.m. with his underwear on
backwards.

Most of my illegal dithering occurs
while playing a card game called Bridge.
This game is unmercifully humbling and
requires great concentration, dedication
and skill to be a winner. This is why I am
continuously in last place. I have the
attention span of a bear cub and I’m
constantly eyeing the candy on the front
counter. The only thing I have going for
me is my illegal dithering.

My bridge instructor has a 12-inch
index finger that he hews in my face when
I am caught illegally dithering. Like poker,
one must watch their body language and
facial expressions while playing this game.
This is why, when you walk past a whole
room of bridge players, they all look and
act like a bunch of zombies. They are
trying not to dither.

My Bridge opponents watch me closely
at town budget to see if I dither. If he/
she spots a legal dither, they can take
advantage of me and I get trounced. (This
happens a lot.) If it turns out I made an
illegal dither, I may take a penalty plus get a
12-inch finger in my face. An illegal dither
is one where there is no legitimate reason
to dither. Could I makeup this
foolishness?

Dithering is not just something used
with Bridge. In the real world there is only
legal dithering. Remember the Cuban
missile crisis of 1962? Our war ships
surrounded Cuba while Russian cargo
cargoships were chugging toward the
country. In the eleventh hour, just when
we thought we were witnessing the start of
World War III, dithering saved our butts.
Here is how it happened.

President John Kennedy called

**Nicolas:** I’m moving back to Mars.

**Fred:** You’re not serious?

**Nicolas:** No, Fred, I am serious.

**Fred:** You mean you want to leave your wife and move to Mars?

**Nicolas:** Yes, Fred, I do.

**Fred:** What will you do there?

**Nicolas:** I don’t know, Fred. I’m not sure. But I do know that I want to leave this planet.

**Fred:** Why?

**Nicolas:** I don’t know, Fred. I just feel like I want to leave. I don’t know why.

**Fred:** Well, I hope you find your happiness on Mars.

**Nicolas:** Thank you, Fred. I hope so too.

**Fred:** And remember, Nicolas, if you ever need anything, just give me a call.

**Nicolas:** Thanks, Fred.

Fred Wooldridge

email: askfredanything@aol.com
Now he sounds like a politician

Along with millions of others, I really believed that Barack Obama was different. He said he was, and I hoped it was true. To be honest, I became a little nervous when he started to bicker with Hillary. Turning the other cheek wasn't getting a lot of votes. Tactics, I thought. It's just a tactical maneuver to show that he's tough. A president must be tough. Look at George Bush. I applauded his willingness to meet with leaders of “rogue states.” Refusing to meet with and discuss differences with our enemies never made much sense to me.

There is much rhetoric in international politics. If an Iranian leader, or a North Korean for that matter, is willing to talk with us after our President included them in an “Axis of Evil,” then I think we should be willing to overlook some of the unholy things they've said about us. Besides, so much of the bravado on both sides is intended for home town consumption. Iraq filled out the trail of evil, but I guess they're good guys now that Saddam is gone.

I became suspicious that maybe Senator Obama wasn't as different as he claimed when he started putting conditions on his willingness to meet with the “Evil Doers.” It was a position that wowed liberals, but one with which moderates were uncomfortable, and moderate voters were the next target.

After a historic battle, he bested Senator Clinton and started a quadrennial migration undertaking by presidential candidates for as far back as I can remember. The first priority is to sew up the nomination. A candidate accomplishes this by rounding up the true believers. Once he has secured the nomination, he has them securely in his hip pocket, because where else are they going to go, Ralph Nader? It is at that point that Obama started his rightward drift in an attempt to corral some moderate voters who might lean toward Senator McCain.

The tricky part of the migration is to convince his base that he is not vacillating on positions dear to them, while persuading his new targets that he is not as liberal as they had feared, that he had been misquoted and misunderstood.

He opposes guns, but cheered the Supreme Court's decision that the Washington, D.C. hand gun law was unconstitutional. He is against capital punishment, but bemoaned a court decision which held that executing child rapists is cruel and unusual punishment. Nobody, it seems, not even Candidate Obama, wants to be seen as a friend of those who prey on kids. And why would they, except that if ones believes capital punishment to be inhumane. He must believe it in July of an election year as firmly as he believed it as a junior senator from Illinois.

So Senator Obama does a quadrennial shuffle, and while his early supporters clearly see his feet moving, he tells them that is dancing in place. Maybe it’s a new dance, the Obama moon walk. He wouldn't be eager to give credit to the real originator, Michael Jackson, who has some kid issues of his own.

I'm glad that the Senator is clarifying his positions, and telling me that clarification differs from that politically lethal activity, flip flopping. I don't care if a person, even a candidate, changes his mind. Situations change. Surely we would be sensible change in national policy. I'm not suggesting that Obama ever endorsed a military strike against Iran. The example of our Iranian policy is just the clearest and least likely that comes to mind. Sometimes we are wrong, all of us. I’d vote for a candidate who told me he had changed his mind because he was wrong.

Of course, John McCain is migrating, as well. He's transforming his maverick image a little by backing away from his very public support of comprehensive immigration and opposition to Bush tax cuts and offshore drilling. But the guy needs votes and the guy needs money, and they're all there on the right.

So I came home from church a week ago Sunday and settled in to listen to the Sunday news shows. I was bombarded with McCains surrogates claiming that Obama was flip flopping and Obama supporters leveling the same charge against McCain. When asked to explain apparent changes in Senator Obama's positions, his representative ignored the question and chose instead to condemn similar behavior by his opponent. Then he said it

In a rare moment of candor, he said that the first thing was to get elected. He didn't say that the most important thing was to tell the truth or to stick to one's principles. He didn't say, and obviously didn't believe, that leveling with the electorate was paramount. Nope. Winning. That was the main thing. And suddenly Senator Obama didn't sound different at
I was very surprised when I read about Pine Street Park in the June 26 issue of this newspaper. First, it's not called that anymore — it is now the "Kelsey-Hutchinson Park." "What an ungodly name — it will never stick — and what a ridiculously long name for such a small patch of grass. I'd like to make another suggestion.

I think we should call it "Postage Stamp Park" for two reasons: this name more accurately reflects the park's size and it commemorates the years the Post Office was located here.

Second, and more seriously (although I am serious about the silliness of the name), I was shocked to see that the Town Board had unanimously approved a plan to change the route of Pine Street with no public input. As much

A postage-stamp by any other name...

as people have fought about streets and parking in this town, I am amazed that something this dramatic could be done with just a wave of the commissioners' hands.

I drove down Pine Street last week to try and envision what this curved road would look like and I suggest you try it also. Drive from Fourth Street towards Fifth, and pull over to the right curb just as you reach the grassy park. Now imagine making a sharp turn to the right and then traveling along the edge of Highlands Village Square. It seems like an absolutely insane plan to add only a very small amount of land to the park.

The main rationale for doing this as far as I can tell is to join the green space to the gazebo, which is on Macon Bank property. So let me get this straight: the town is altering the route of a street, making it much more difficult to use, to join a patch of grass to a piece of property it doesn't own and only has a bank manager's promise that the public will be able to use it.

As John Cleaveland said last year about the public's right to that gazebo: "Where's the deed?"

This brings to mind an interesting article Ran Shaffner wrote almost exactly a year ago, when the new town government building was being proposed. ("A Brief History of the Town Government Block,” Highlands Newspaper, July 4, 2007) This line caught my eye: "In August of [1883] they sold [the western portion of the block between Oak, Maple, and 4th Streets] for one dollar to the Ladies Floral and Industrial Society of Highlands, who created a 'permanent' two-acre 'Highlands Park,' where the Playhouse and fire and police stations exist today. The intent of the Ladies Society was to protect and preserve as well as promote the natural beauty of Highlands as the business district grew."

Notice Mr. Shaffner put "permanent" in quotes; a subtle point being made about the permanence of promises? And why isn't this area a park today?

I also noticed the cost of all of this street movement was still to be determined. I believe the cost of acquiring the property was over one million dollars. How much is Postage Stamp Park going to end up costing?

There aren't many things I would say about this, but in the area of parks Cashiers has Highlands beat, and beat badly. I don't think many people in Highlands know the history of the Cashiers Village Green. I didn't until last fall when I interviewed Al Balestiere at an event in the park.

The story begins in the early 1990s, when a motel chain purchased two acres of land at the southwest corner of the Cashiers crossroads. The chain then encountered some financial problems and the project lay dormant for some time. One day Mr. Balestiere was complaining about how horriblhe corner looked, and his wife said, "I'm tired of hearing you complain. Why don't you do something about it instead?" And he did!

With the help of two friends, Elizabeth Davenport and John Lupton, Mr. Balestiere purchased the land from the motel firm in 1992 and gave it to a nonprofit charitable corporation for the Cashiers community.

Today, the park has expanded to 12 ½ acres through gifts and fundraising efforts and it features walking paths, a nationally judged dahlia garden, boardwalks over wetlands, a children's playground, rustic pavilions with picnic tables and grills, a woodlands trail, and sculptures by internationally renowned sculptors. (www.villagegreencashiersnc.com)

If you'd like to see the interview with Mr. Balestiere, check out his effort of the High Country Show 419 from the Hudson Library. This year they have a sculpture exhibit that will run through November 14; if you'd like to see a program on that, check out Show 508.

Highlands has a lot of needs. There is no place to have an indoor event of any size in this town without using the lacy basketball court in the Civic Center. This last weekend The Bascom made a valiant effort to transform the space for their Mountains in Bloom flower show, but you couldn't escape the fact that basketball hoops were hanging from every wall.

There is a splendid piece of property just on the edge of Highlands that could be made into an amazing park/event center: Tugwa Ridge. Many people had the chance to tour this 16-acre property last year when it was a Designer Showhouse fundraiser for many local...
Book Review ‘Blue Blood’ by Art Chansky

Usually I try and stay away from literary recommendations in this space, mainly because people who have a fine appreciation for the art of writing tend to skip straight to Fred’s column. However, this week I completed reading (for the third time) Art Chansky’s fine historical summation of the Duke-UNC basketball rivalry aptly titled “Blue Blood.”

This book is an absolute necessity for folks living in North Carolina who have often wondered what makes this rivalry rank at the top of every sport commentator’s list. Chansky’s argument is presented in a somewhat chronological notation, taking care to provide both details and supporting commentaries from those closest to both universities.

The author’s primary focus is on the immense success of the two programs in addition to the incestuous nature of the rivalry caused by the close proximity of the two universities. The fact that only eight miles separate the two schools means that there is a constant intertwining of communities, fans and participants in a bitter battle for superiority. Chansky does an excellent job of capturing the ebb and flow of the rivalry, from Vic Bubas’ early dominance over Dean Smith and UNC (which will come as a surprise to the fans who think that Coach K started Duke basketball) to Smith’s complete control of the ACC during the late 80s.

Despite being a loyal fan of UNC, Chansky makes a concerted (although sometimes flawed) effort at remaining objective over a topic that provides no safe haven for objectivity. The difficulty of looking at the subject through an untainted eye is apparent in commentaries from Chansky on Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski in particular, but are still even handed enough to appease even the most virulent Duke fan.

Chansky’s efforts are supported from many anecdotes from both Duke and UNC apologists and rivalry participants. The reader will find examples of both admiration and disgust from both shades of blue, with portrayals of Coach K and Dean Smith in particular providing an excellent parallel for the rivalry itself. Overall, this book is an excellent read for both basketball fans and native North Carolinians alike, and can offer a great insight into the world of “the rivalry” that affects almost everyone who lives or ever has lived in this great state. And finally, we will close today with a commercial in honor of the recently retired Billy Packer — I’m gonna miss him.

“Bud Light presents…Real men of genius Cheesy lounge singer guy (“Reeeal men of geeniuuss”). Today we salute you, Mr. Crotchety bitter announcer, (Mr. Crotchety bitter announcnca).

“For years, you’ve “educated the masses” with your harsh and overbearing color commentary, disguising arrogance as “honesty” and “telling it like it is” (things were better back in my daaayyy).

“For you, nothing sets the mood for a contest quite like boorish comments, incessant nitpicking, and the personality of a man who’s been wiping his rear end with sandpaper for the last 34 years. (It’s getting rough down there).

“So here’s to you, oh Crown Prince of Curmudgeon…because if knowing it all is wrong…then you don’t want to be right. (Mr. Crotchety bitter old announcnccaa) Bud Light, Anheuser Busch, Fort Collins, Colorado.

I told you to always shop at TWIGS for all our furniture, art, accessories and gift needs!
The great danger in offering unqualified praise to another person is that you could turn around, do or say something really stupid and make you doubt your original judgment. That’s why the greatest praise for public officials comes when they are safely dead. From that position, they are unlikely to offer any new, public embarrassment.

Still, it’s important to climb out on a limb from time to time. There are three people whose bylines I always follow. I have never ceased to be impressed by any column I’ve read from any of these three gentlemen. (In alphabetical order): Charles Krauthammer, Thomas Sowell, and Mark Steyn. The one I praised today is Krauthammer. By the way, I’ll save the public figure I am attacking for last. Dessert first, liver and onions after.

Krauthammer’s latest column is “The Alter of Soft Power.” He begins with the incredible rescue of Ingrid Betancourt and 14 other long-held hostages from the hands of FARC terrorists in Columbia. It was executed by the Columbia military without a shot being fired. American special forces played a critical role in the intelligence gathering that made the rescue work.

This was, he wrote, a classic example of “hard power.” That means using your military assets to get a result in a confrontation. “Soft power,” on the other hand, means negotiations, resolutions, mild sanctions, but nothing which would be called military or an act of war.

Krauthammer pointed out that in the six years that Betancourt was held in the jungle, all the governments of Europe repeatedly passed resolutions denouncing the kidnappings and urging Columbia to negotiate with the FARC captors. Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez had offered to be a go-between. Only another top official of FARC, but it also captured computers and their files which revealed the truth.

In the Ecuador raid, Columbia killed a top official of FARC, but it also captured computers and their files which revealed that President Chavez was financially supporting FARC and working hand in glove with them. That use of “hard power” was attacked by European (and some American) supporters of talking with rather than acting, against terrorists.

Krauthammer points out that “soft power” is the preferred action by many sources, including the UN and the G-8, against other groups of murderers including Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe, the Sudanese so-called leaders in Darfur, and the dictators in what used to be Burma, who allowed untold thousands of their citizens to die in the aftermath of floods, rather than let in foreigners bringing help (but also lifting the veil of secrecy in that benighted nation).

As usual, Krauthammer made a logical, penetrating analysis of a major public issue. He offered clear, supportable truth, which needs to be pounded into the mushy skulls of many leaders around the world. It is a pathetic commentary that the UN refused, this very day, to support any sanctions to get rid of the murderous Mugabe.

And now we turn to the opposite end of the scale, stupidity in public.

A Dallas County Commissioner in a public discussion of failures of the County’s Central Collections, referred to it as a “black hole.” Documents and money were going into the Bureau, and never being seen again. One black Commissioner demanded an apology, and another one, Commissioner John Wiley Price said that “that type of language is unacceptable.”

Warming to his task, Commissioner went on to condemn in the hearing other terms he considered racist, including the difference between “angel food cake and devil’s food cake.” He also object to the use of the phrase, “black sheep.” And he used the phrase, “I Jew you down,” as an example of a “racist” remark he deliberately would not use, because he is so sensitive to such matters.

To put no fine point on it, Commissioner Price is as dumb as a hoe handle. “Black hole” is an astronomical expression which means a collapsed star with such high gravity that not even light can escape. It was an excellent metaphor for a failed public agency. It is also a reasonable description of the quality of Commissioner Price’s brain, not because he is black, but because he shows world-class ignorance.

The more people we have in the public sphere like Krauthammer, the better off we will be. The more we have who are like Price, the worse off we will be. And, anyone thinking of attacking me as racially prejudiced, before doing so, find out the racial backgrounds of the three people I praised so highly at the beginning.

* About the Author: John Armor practiced law in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. Henow lives in Highlands, NC, and is working on a book on Thomas Paine. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu
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Dr. Dozier brings almost 30 years of experience as a general surgeon to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Prior to joining our staff, he was president of Surgical Specialists of Greater Atlanta. While in Atlanta, he was on staff at several Atlanta hospitals, including Atlanta Medical Center where he held the position of Chief of General Surgery. A former Commander in the US Naval Reserve, Dr. Dozier is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Widely known throughout western North Carolina, Dr. Noell also brings extensive surgical experience to our communities. A graduate of the University of Arkansas College of Medicine, Dr. Noell completed his surgical internships and residency training at Sinai Hospital in Detroit. He practiced at Harris Regional Hospital (latter West Care Health System) for 18 years, including serving six years as chief of surgery, before relocating his practice to Highlands in 2008. Dr. Noell is also a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

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2010 was not a good year...

I'm not going to do this often, but I can't resist sharing the following email story forwarded to me by a friend. If you got it, it won't hurt to read it again; if you didn't, it will be worth your while. It's the text of a speech given in 2003.

2010 was not a good year to be President; just a couple of years prior, in 2008, the country began floundering. We were in the sixth year of the Iraq occupation, and the economy was flat. The mainstream press clearly wanted a Democrat elected.

Although we didn't know it until some years later, oil producing nations had colluded to secretly buy their own oil in the open market, driving oil prices to shocking levels above the true demand price—reaching a high of $162 a barrel in October, 2008, just before the general elections. The purpose was simple: to effect regime change in the United States.

And of course, the U.S. economy was already in a real estate slump and also suffering the curse of stagflation: slow growth and high inflation. There were a million foreclosed homes. Independent truckers went under by the thousands. Airlines failed. Airlines with names now long forgotten: United, Delta, Northwest, American. All now merged into the one lone carrier we love so much: Southwest.

Against this backdrop of weariness of the war on terror, and economic distress, the American people were ripe for a demagogue, and they certainly got one in Barack Hussein Obama. He and his running mate Kathleen Sebelius inspired them with vague notions of hope and change: a world in which diplomacy settled all international problems, of free universal health care, of abundant alternative energy, of peace and love. It was a vision too good to resist.

The Republican nominee is a name you probably haven't heard in years. Yes, it was John McCain, an obscure Senator from Arizona, who had no clue how to run a national campaign, and a platform nearly as liberal as Obama's. The election of Condoleezza Rice as his running mate looked brilliant at first. Unfortunately black voters viewed her as white, and white voters viewed her as one of the guys.

Even so, the McCain/Rice ticket would have won the election if it weren't for the fact that 56 percent of conservative Republicans voted for Bob Barr, another name that's a footnote in history. After Obama's narrow win, thanks to recounts in Broward County, Florida, the country was absolutely giddy: A Democrat House, Senate and President. At last an end to gridlock in Washington. Camelot?

When Congress convened in January 2009, the 44th President of the United States did something unique in history: he made good on his campaign promises.

Certainly most Americans never really thought he was serious during the campaign. But whether because of inexperience, idealism or simply incompetence, he followed through.

In Obama's first One Hundred Days, Congress passed his initiatives, and he signed them into law as he said he would. He repealed the Bush tax cuts, and increased capital gains taxes. He enacted a windfall profit tax and instituted price controls on gasoline and diesel fuel. He passed universal health care, which added 100 million Americans to the rolls, and increased the number of those who would pay an additional 10 per cent tax increase on all working Americans.

He signed the immigrant Amnesty bill that created 12 million new citizens instantly, each with entitlements. He closed the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay and summarily released all the detainees. He repealed the Patriot Act and cut funding for espionage, and eliminated all terrorist listening and wiretaps.

Most important, he began the complete and immediate withdrawal of all American troops from Iraq. He ignored the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who wanted to retain bases in Kuwait and Qatar. Instead, he heeded the recommendation of Secretary of Defense Dennis Kucinich, and ordered all troops back to U.S. soil.

Violat! In One Hundred Days, by May of 2009, it was all done, and the vision was complete. He did exactly what he said he would do. And so it was in the summer of 2009 that things began to unravel for Obama. Of course, the economy needed a tax cut, not an increase, and unemployment quickly rose to 12 per cent. Even attorneys and economists were put in the bread lines. Hard times.

Price controls on gasoline immediately led to shortages and gas lines. The global cooling trend we have seen for the past 25 years first became obvious in 2009, exposing the CO2 global warming fraud. People were justifiably angry. Federal deficits increased massively because thousands of baby boomers, facing job loss and much higher taxes, simply gave up and took social security.

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My friend whispered in my ear, “That’s Obama’s sister.” I glanced around looking for someone resembling the democratic presidential candidate. Failing to spot anyone matching the picture in my mind; I went back to taking pictures of the soccer game.

On the soccer field, two teams kicked up fine red dust under the hot Kenyan sun. The soccer team from the British High Commission was playing a friendly match against a team of young men from Kibera, East Africa’s largest slum, with the hope of raising awareness about Kibera Mpira Mtaani (Kibera Village Football). Mpira Mtaani is a project using soccer to give slum kids something to do as well as an incentive to stay in school and off drugs.

I had come hoping to get an interesting story about the wealthy and privileged reaching out to the poor and underprivileged. Little did I expect to rub shoulders – literally – with Senator Obama’s half sister, the daughter of Obama’s father and his Kenyan wife. I missed Dr. Ouma Obama at first glance, but soon realized she was the pleasant woman dressed in black, with dreadlocks and sunglasses, chatting with the game’s organizers. She and her two daughters cheering on the Kibera team demonstrated her keen interest in programs helping Kenya’s poor.

The teams played a good game with three goals apiece. The British Deputy High Commissioner was pleased, saying, “We came here feeling that we were going to lose, really badly.”

When the game ended with a tie even after a penalty shootout, the organizers asked Dr. Obama to present the small trophy to the team captains.

Her “celebrity” status was a good reminder of Kenyans’ keen interest in Senator Obama’s presidential hopes.

Sarah Clark and her family lived in Highlands for about five years before moving to Kenya. She worked at Kilwins, her father, Larry Clark owned Clark Construction Company and her mother, LaNita worked at the former Kelsey and Hutchinson Lodge. Her brother Gary Clark is an artist and contractor. For several years Sarah and her parents have been doing missionary work in Kenya. She will be writing a column about life there once a month.
Better that that!

A few weeks ago a columnist in this paper expressed an opinion that she was less than appreciative of the job President Bush has done on his watch. Indeed she was “ashamed” to use her word of certain actions that have been done under this administration. In response to that column the Editor followed that expressed her opinion that President Bush has “presided over probably the most difficult time in our country since the Civil War and World War II.”

I don’t have an official ranking by any independent polling or analysis office but I would think that World War I, The Korean War, The Cold War, The Cuban Missile Crisis, The Detroit Riots of 1967, The Viet Nam Conflict, and the fight for Civil Rights were all rather significant periods in our history that were incredibly difficult to lived through, and in some case even survive.

What has made the events of 9/11 so significant, or perhaps more fearsome, is that it happened right here in our house. For the first time since 1865 there were war dead on our soil (unless of course you are an American Indian and they kind of had their way of life ripped apart by a series of wars from 1866 until 1891).

So are the events of 9/11 made less dire because of the events listed above? Absolutely not. But those of us who lived through those events would tell you that they were significant, frightening, and momentous in their effect on America, Viet Nam, the war, and the demonstrations, almost tore this country apart.

This Letter to the Editor of which I speak stated that the columnist “slandered” the President. I have read and reread the column and I can’t find the slander. Going by Webster’s definitions of slander, which is “Words falsely spoken that damage the reputation of another,” the word there is falseness. The column stated that there is a report that outlines abuses at Abu Ghraib that human rights have been ignored at Guantanamo, that the report titled “Broken Laws, Broken Lives, Medical Evidence of Torture by the US” supports those claims.

The columnist reported that a US Major General who conducted an investigation into Abu Ghraib, has accused the President of war crimes. Also reported was that President signed a Signing Statement to allow himself to ignore a law that our Congress had passed and he had signed, which stated that the US does not support torture. Was what she reported true? Yes. Was the column slanderous? Answer, no. Did the columnist express her dissatisfaction with the President? Most assuredly yes.

Now what is open to opinion is whether or not all of that matters to you legally or morally. For some it comes down to “the end justifies the means” or “do whatever it takes.” I personally find the events at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo morally reprehensible, legally unacceptable and believe they have brought shame on the good name and laws of America.

It has been very simply said, that War is Hell. In that hell, captured soldiers have been tortured for information since man first raised up arms against each other. As a student of military history I have read accounts of such ghastly and sickening treatment of captured soldiers to get information that it can only be termed inhuman. As a soldier of the Viet Nam era, I can tell you we were not immune that barbarism.

The question for you now is, if you knew someone had information that if you got it it could possibly save lives, would you torture that person to get it? Or, if you could not do it yourself, would you have someone else do it for you? If the answer to either is yes then I would ask, Shouldn’t we be better than that?

I don’t believe life, at least life in America, is just about survival. It’s about principle.

I am idealist, that’s true. But I am an idealist who has lived through tumultuous times, who understands what happens at the high levels of the military, what we do in the name of liberty, and the sacrifice men and women make. I have seen the best of man and the worst, and yet I believe we are still a nation of honor, a nation that still can be all that our Founding Fathers intended us to be, a society of the people, by the people and for the people – all the people.

There are over 300 million people in America all of whom can be emotional, especially about the tragedy of 9/11 and what has followed. I personally want to get those responsible, make them suffer and then hang them in the town square for all to see. I think we all do. But we cannot justify killing or torturing innocent people to get them.

Feedback is encouraged
Matthew G. Eberz
Email: mgeberz@verizon.net

See ANOTHER POV page 18
to emphasize that it was never our intention to engage in a battle with our town; we simply wish to express our right to free speech to engage in a battle with our town; we simply wish to express our right to free speech within the parameters of the sign ordinance.

To publicize their support of candidate Obama, the family decided to hang five individual signs displaying one letter each to spell out the name O-B-A-M-A. Again, deVille says the town received complaints and once again the family was told it was out of compliance with the sign ordinance.

“At the June 4 Town Board meeting commissioners went into closed session to review scholarship awards, discuss personnel matters, discuss acquisition of property and to consult with the town attorney on possible litigation. Exactly what possible litigation was not disclosed.”

Concerning this matter, according to the published minutes, the Town Attorney Bill Cooley told the board on one potential zoning litigation – which deVille said was about them.

“You may be subjected to a lawsuit to obtain equitable remedies of injunction, abatement, mandamus or temporary restraining orders, and penalties assessed per day until the violation is corrected,” he wrote.

General Statute G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) provides a means for a public body to go into a closed session “to consult with an attorney there is no Need for a Whistleblower.”

“Consequently, the attorney employed by the City about matters with respect to which the attorney-client privilege between the City and its attorney must be preserved, including possible litigation, and to give instructions to the attorney concern

... SWANSON continued from page 11

Although the superb U.S. health care system was thrown into disarray, the bright spot was the creation of the Federal Department of Health Care, and the immediate hiring of 200,000 inspectors and auditors created the only job growth in any economic sector in 2009. By February 2010, the U.S. military withdrawal from Iraq was complete. It was a very expensive undertaking.

And in March, the Shi’ite insurgen-
cies from Iran turned into a true Iraqi civil war in May. Iran-backed militia and the Sunni opposition groups fought for control of areas and quickly took Baghdad. Although the exact number is not known, at least 230,000 Sunni Iraqis died as we stood by. Iran also moved into undeclared and fell. American Jews were appalled at the action. Yes, in 2010 most American Jews were Democrats, but because of 2010, they are aresold Republicans today.

As awkward as it was, everything might have turned out all right for the Obama administration going into the fall mid-term elections of 2010, if it hadn’t been for the dirty bomb in the Port of Long Beach. The administration had cut funding for the inspection of containers, because they felt it showed a “lack of trust” in the international trading community.

And so, in the mid-term elections, Repub-
cicans regained control of the House and the Senate, and the rest is history. The impeachment proceedings against President Obama for “failure to protect and defend” were swift and nearly unanimous. Vice President Biden resigned. Newly elected Speaker of the House, J. C. Watts, became the 45th President of the United States.

But you know the rest of the story well. Republicans finished the war on Islamic fundamentalists, largely by aiming ICBM’s at Mecca and Medina. No Democrat has been elected President since. Republicans have held both Houses of Congress. History of Western Civilization and Economics are now taught in all public schools, and in English only. Marriage is defined as one man and one woman. And there are border fences, north and south.

We old codgers remember the ancient Confucian curse: “May you live in interesting times.” Well, 2010 was an interesting year, but it was not a good year to be President.”
Trooper Blanton had citizens such as those with him. The thought of Trooper Blanton dying alone on that dark roadside would have been yet another horrible image his wife and family would have had to live with. This would have been just one more terrible addition to the horrible images that will already cause them to have many sleepless nights. The truckers and citizens who risked their own lives to help Trooper Blanton are heroes themselves and the law enforcement community thanks each and every one of them for their bravery and compassion for one of our own.

To our community:
I wish to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to "Protect and Serve" you. I know that I can speak on behalf of all of the members of the law enforcement community thanks each and every one of them for their bravery and compassion for one of our own.

To those that serve:
I thank all of our law enforcement officers that “Protect and Serve” our community as well. In whatever capacity you serve, each plays an important role in our society. I believe that law enforcement is not only a profession but a calling. A law enforcement officer must have compassion, integrity, understanding, and lots of patience for your fellow man. As each of you know, once you enter this profession it doesn’t take long to figure this out. With the death of a brother officer, we all feel a sense of loss. With that loss, we should remember that we are also extremely blessed. One reason is because it could have easily been you or someone you work with that died that night. It could have been you that didn’t get the opportunity to check 10-42 that night but during this time of grief I know that each of you have already thought of that. You go to work daily knowing the risks and that is another reason why I am taking this opportunity to thank each one of you for what you do and for the sacrifices you make to be in this profession. Every night when you leave for work, you accept the fact that there is no guarantee that you will come home to your family safely. Today you will put on your uniform, pin your badge on, holster your firearm and tell your family good-bye. You will then go to your patrol vehicle check 10-41 (starting tour of duty) and drive the roadways alone protecting and serving your community just as G-540 did on June 17, 2008. A simple thank you does not seem like enough, but in reality, there are no words to express my, as well as the community’s, true appreciation for what you do.

To the Blanton family: On behalf of my family, my staff, and our entire law enforcement community. Our hearts and prayers are with you as well as Trooper Blanton’s brothers and sisters who worked with him. We thank each of them for their dedicated service and commitment to keeping our families, our community, and our state safe.

To Jesse Blanton and his brothers and sister: While I have never met you, our hearts ache for you. I know your heart is aching like never before with the loss of your brother and for that I am truly sorry. Each of you will continue to be in our prayers. While I heard you describe how proud you are of your brother, know that some of his friends know just how proud Shawn was of you. Continue to make your brother proud, keep his memories alive.

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... FORUM continued from page 2

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... MENTAL HEALTH continued from page 1

“This is groundbreaking,” said Commissioner Ronnie Beale, who was on the taskforce. “This is the first comprehensive report and snapshot of mental health in a county.”

Beale said he personally became aware of the lack of mental health services in the county when another who was having problems finding care for her child approached him at an event.

After nine public task force meetings, it was determined that in Macon County there is a lack of information and communication coordination concerning mental health services and alternatives.

Specifically, there is a lack of psychiatric services; a lack of, or ineffective crisis services; a lack of convenient services; and a lack of a mental health workforce – a problem that plagues most of Western North Carolina, said Jane Kimsey, social services director for Macon County.

Access to mental health services has been an issue in Macon County for a long time and the burden of mental illness on health and productivity in the country has been underestimated, said taskforce members.

It is estimated that 1 in 4 Americans ages 18 years and older suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder – that’s 1,401 residents of Macon County.

Taskforce representative Jim Bruckner, Macon County health director, said not being able to access necessary mental health services is not only detrimental to a person’s overall health, but it has an economic impact on the entire community.

He said it splashes over into housing, employment/income support, social programs, education, the health care system and other community based services and programs.

Suggestions for remedying the problem include a mental health care navigator; a list of available services and providers available on the county’s website, by print and phone; care management services; a Help Line like Ask-a-Nurse; specialized summer programs for children; an explanation on how to appropriately access services; follow-up services; a homeless shelter and more support groups.

One big problem is the county’s inability to attract and retain qualified mental health professionals coupled with a lack of funding with available funding decreasing.

“There is no psychiatrist in the area,” said Bruckner. “Recruiting efforts are underway, but so far no luck.”

Currently, the Balsam Center is the only place to refer or take mental health patients but that means traveling a long way.

“We want to decentralize the Balsam Center and zone out from county hospital emergency rooms,” said Kimsey. “We also would like a drop-in center like the old Smoky Mountain Center – so we can offer drop-in assessment services.”

A 24/7/365 assessment center could be a central receiving site for emergencies, behavioral health evaluation and crisis intervention for people experiencing acute psychiatric symptoms or problems with substance abuse.

This would mean emergency department staffing, a drop-in center, a possible crisis stabilization unit, and a mobile crisis team based in the county to provide services where needed.

Currently, Angel Medical Center in Franklin has a wait time for inpatient mental health beds, but in August, Harris Regional Hospital in Sylva will have 16 beds for mental health patients and in October Cannon Memorial Hospital is supposed to have 10 beds.

A school-based mental health service subcommittee was also recommended as was funding for testing coordinators so guidance counselors can provide school-based mental health services.

“Prevention, early detection and access to help is key,” said Bruckner.

The taskforce also suggested alternatives for transporting mental health patients for involuntary commitment – perhaps involving the county transportation authority. Currently, the Sheriff’s Department is called when citizens need to be transported.

On the recommendation of the taskforce, Healthy Carolinians of Macon County will immediately begin developing a program based on taskforce findings. The $6,000 will be used to fund part-time staff 10 hours a week for 24 weeks ($4,200) and $1,800 will be used to fund program planning, travel, meeting incentives and other activities.

“This needs to be done to serve that segment of the population that needs to be served,” said Leatherman.

During the public session part of the July 14 meeting, Mary Ann Widenerhouse with the National Alliance of Mental Illness that meets from 7-9 p.m. at the Family Restoration Center on Wiley Brown Road in Franklin the first and third Thursday of each month, asked the board to consider placing Healthy Carolinians in the first and third Thursday of each month, asked the board to consider placing the taskforce.

“Their input is vital,” she said. “They have a vested interest in the output of the taskforce.”

She said the candidate would have to self-disclose without risk of stigma, misunderstanding or fear associated with disclosure which could lead to a lack of housing and employment.

Commissioners said they didn’t want to leave anyone out of the process.

By Dec. 31, 2008, Healthy Carolinians will submit a report with program and funding recommendations to the Mental Health Taskforce.

The taskforce consists of Commissioner Ronnie Beale, Bruckner, Kimsey, Sheriff Robbie Holland; Don Sandoval, CEO of Angel Medical Center; Kathy McGaha, program director of Healthy Carolinians; Miek Neidig, a therapist with Mental Health Professionals; Paula Ledford with Macon County Schools; and Rhona Cox and Tammy Keezer with Smoky Mountain Center.
7-year-olds earn State title first time ever!


The Franklin 7-year-old All Star team traveled to Durham, N.C., last weekend to play in the first-ever State Tournament for 7-year-olds. After two games on Saturday, and one on Sunday, The Franklin All Star team qualified for the championship game on Sunday against North Durham which ended with Franklin winning the State Title 17 to 16! The Franklin 7-year-old All Star team, coaches, & parents would like to say thank you to all who made the trip possible. The team has true talent that really stood out this All Star season. Each member played their heart out and never gave up!

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**Success of Playhouse’s ‘On Golden Pond’ due to practice and intimacy**

By Evan Schmidt
Reporter

As we know in America, sometimes actors go into politics. Other times politicians go into acting. Such is the case with Curtis Rich, a former Florida mayor and a lead actor who is performing in “On Golden Pond” at the Highlands Playhouse until July 20. Curtis and his wife, Vangie recently moved full time to Highlands last year from Florida.

After working for a manufacturing company in Miami, Curtis’s political experience comes from his years as mayor of Crystal River, Florida, where he was originally elected in 1990. During their time in Crystal River, Curtis and Vangie also organized other community events like Dale Carnegie lectures, and wrote plays for the theater. “We intermingled a lot of community service with our careers,” said Curtis.

Curtis noted that Vangie had a very different acting background than he did. “Vangie was involved in acting since she was a very small child,” said Curtis. “The first play I was in was when I was five years old,” Vangie said. “I was an only child, so I talked to myself a lot and pretended and played. Even in grammar school I was always in plays.” She was an actor through high school. “When I was a senior in high school I got a lead in the operetta “The Pirates of Penzance,” and I played the part of Mabel, which was the female lead.”

When they lived in Florida, Vangie was involved in acting at the Ocala Civic Theater and the playhouse in Crystal River. “Then one day Vangie asked Curtis to act in a play with her. “I had “Golden Pond” coming up, and I knew I was going to audition, so I asked Curtis to audition, too,” said Vangie. “On Golden Pond” is a play written by Ernest Thompson. The story takes place in Maine and is about Norman and Ethel Thayer and their grandson. Vangie was playing the part of Ethel, the grandmother. Because Curtis recently took an acting course from a University of Florida professor, he felt comfortable enough to audition. “Wedid our first “On Golden Pond” 10 years ago, and it was a tremendous success,” Vangie explained.

Curtis and Vangie didn’t stop there, and their next play was also a great success. Vangie explained, “After that we both auditioned for “Cat On A Hot Tin Roof,” and we got the supporting leads of Big Daddy and Big Mama.” This play was also extremely popular, and people enjoyed the performances of Curtis and Vangie. “The theater received so many requests asking for us to do another play together,” Vangie said. “People were asking for us to bring “On Golden Pond” back.” Needless to say, they have continued acting since then, even after moving to Highlands.

They both agree that the hardest part of acting in “On Golden Pond” is the memorization. “It’s not just the lines, but we have to know where we’re supposed to be at each point,” said Vangie. Even though they have done 30 performances of the show before even coming to Highlands, Vangie said they’ve worked with three different sets and three different directors. “We’ve had to learn it...See SUCCESS page 27
ing the handling of the mediation, pursuant to N.C. Gen.Stat. sec. 143-318.11(a)(3)."

"Thus, it is probably more clear that pending or threatened fits the bill," said Tadych.

Now the Rogers/deville family want a full accounting of the closed session minutes concerning them – though neither Coward, the Town Board or Betz have indicated they were in fact discussed.

"We are officially requesting that you email us a copy of the June 4, 2008 Town Board closed session meeting minutes, which according NC GS 143-318.10, section (e) we are entitled: 'Every public body shall keep full and accurate minutes of all official meetings, including any closed sessions held pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11. When a public body meets in closed session, it shall keep a general account of the closed session so that a person not in attendance would have a reasonable understanding of what transpired.'

Sparse as they are, Town Administrator Coward said the general minutes of the closed session were emailed to deVille. Since town officials haven't responded to emailed questions concerning the legality of events that have transpired, the family has decided to rehang the logo and five component signs which have since been replaced.

"Since you failed to respond to our previous email questions, we plan to repost our lettered signs. Based upon our silence, we assume you will have no problem with this. We respectfully request that you notify us within three business days (July 18, 2008) if your position is otherwise. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that we have your approval," wrote deVille in an email. "We don't anticipate the receipt of any further citations nor litigious actions levied against us as our lettered signs were and will continue to be in compliance with the Highlands political sign ordinance."

At the July 16 meeting, the board went into closed session to discuss a possible amendment to the town's sign ordinance which Coward said was legal. Upon returning to open session, Betz said the board discussed a possible amendment to the sign ordinance and any potential future claim that might come due to that amendment, but no action was taken. No one disclosed who in particular was discussed in the closed session.

-Kim Lewicki

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For information call: Dan Chapman, Country Club Properties at 526-2521.
Relay For Life is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of your American Cancer Society. Teams of family members, friends, co-workers, and others join together each year to raise funds for the American Cancer Society and make a difference in the community. In honor of those who battle cancer 24 hours a day, team members typically take turns walking the track throughout the day and night. For those not walking, there is around the clock action to keep everyone busy. From entertainment, food and games to touching ceremonies and stories of inspiration, there is something for everyone at Relay For Life. Every unique Relay For Life is truly a community event, where new friends are made, old friends are hugged and hearts are touched by the magic that is Relay. It is an event like no other.

At every Relay For Life event, we celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer through our Survivor’s Lap and survivor recognition. The strength of survivors inspires others to continue to fight. We also remember loved ones lost to the disease with our Luminaria Ceremony. At Relay, people who have walked alongside those battling cancer can grieve and find healing. Finally, we fight back against cancer because everyone has been touched by cancer and we want to put an end to the disease. Relay helps individuals make a commitment to save lives by taking up the fight.

In 2007, the Mountain Top Relay For Life raised $159,750 for the American Cancer Society, claiming the number one per capita Relay For Life event in the nation for the seventh year in a row.

Sponsors are Cashiers Crossroads Chronicle, The Highlander Newspaper, Carolina Smokehouse, Fressers Eatery and Sweet Treats of Highlands.

There are a number of Relay fundraisers in which the public can participate. They include:

- RBC Bank of Highlands has an ongoing book sale in the lobby and Friday August 8th there will be a yard sale on the front lawn of the bank.
- Ice Cream Bonanza and Bluegrass every Friday night at the Lake Toxaway Community Center with proceeds benefiting Relay.
- Wachovia Bank – Cashiers will be having a car wash in August.
- Grace Church is having a luncheon after church July 13, Wednesday night supper July 30 and lunch after church August 10 with donations and proceeds going to Relay For Life.
- Relay For Life Stars are available for purchase at numerous various locations including Wendy’s, RBC Bank of Highlands & Cashiers, Wachova Bank – Cashiers and United Community Bank. Luminaries honouring or remembering cancer victims may be donated for only $10 each.
- The best bluegrass, country, and gospel music performed by area musicians will entertain Highlands’ locals, seasonal residents and summer visitors at the Highlands School old gym. Square dancing and clogging will entertain and involve audiences beginning at 6:30 P.M. Concerts will run between 7:30 and 9:00 every Friday. The following free concerts are sponsored by the just for you Relay for Life team.

  - July 18: Appalachian Bluegrass and High Mountain Squares
  - July 25: The Dendy Family and High Mountain Squares
  - Aug 1: Mountain Faith (The McMahan Family) and The Country Kickin’ Cloggers
  - Aug 8: Heart of the South and The Country Kickin’ Cloggers

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is more than just a fundraiser. It is an opportunity to get together with family and friends and celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer and fight back against this disease.
and strive to make the right decisions in all that you do. I know you will always cherish the days you had with him and I'm sure you will hold each of them dear to your heart. Always remember that during the days to come, what God loves you and will always be there for you. I can't explain why God doesn't keep these things from happening but I can only assume that God had a much greater plan for your brother. I pray that someday Shawn will be able to fill you in on what that plan was. While your brother will always be your hero, you'll have to share him because he will always be a hero to us as well.

To Michaela and baby Tye:
We know you have sustained a tremendous loss with the passing of your husband and daddy. We can only imagine the heartache you must be feeling today and we are sorry. We want you to know that our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with you. If we can ever do anything for you please do not hesitate to call on us. We know that Shawn would do the same if it was our family who was suffering from the same type of loss.

To G-540: We are forever grateful for your service to your community, state, and country. You and your family will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers and rest assured our law enforcement community will do our part to help those you loved.

Note:
• More officers are killed in the south than in any other area of the nation.
• NC ranks fourth in the U.S. for officers killed in the line of duty.
• From 1997-2006, NC had 22 officers killed in the line of duty.
• During 2007 the United States had 187 officers killed in the line of duty.
• In the U.S. during the first six months of 2008, there have been 55 officers killed in the line of duty.
• North Carolina had 8 officers killed in the line of duty in 2007.
• So far in 2008, North Carolina has had 2 officers killed in the line of duty.
• Both officers were killed in June and three days apart from one another.
• In the history of the U.S. 18,274 officers have been killed in the line of duty and 458 of the officers killed while serving in North Carolina.
• (Source) Officer Down Memorial Page, Inc.
The American Cancer Society to host prostate, colon research specialists

The American Cancer Society, in conjunction with Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, will host a Cancer Research Symposium and Reception Monday, July 21, at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. The event, which starts at 5:30 p.m., is open to the public.

Two American Cancer Society-funded researchers will discuss their work in the fight against colon and prostate cancer. Speaking will be Dr. Pumima Dubey on the topic of “Supporting the Immune System’s Fight Against Prostate Cancer,” and Dr. Kristie L. Foley on the topic of “Colon Cancer Treatment, Surveillance, and Survival among the Poor.”

In addition to the researchers, Bill Phelps, director of Predclinical and Translational Cancer Research in the Extramural Grants Department at the American Cancer Society’s National Home Office in Atlanta, will speak about the organization’s longstanding commitment to funding research that will one day lead to a cure.

Dr. Dubey, an assistant professor of medicine at Wake Forest University, received $720,000 from the American Cancer Society to study a treatment approach aimed at mobilizing the body’s own immune system to fight off prostate cancer, the second leading killer of American men.

“Cancers have devised many ways to evade the immune system, by secreting substances that can suppress the activity of cells of the immune system and shutting off expression of potential targets that can be used by cells of the body to attack the cancer. In addition, the normal cells of the body form a physical barrier around the tumor, preventing immune cells from entering the tumor,” said Dr. Dubey. “Therefore, there is a constant tug of war between the cancer and the immune system, allowing the cancer to continue to grow.”

Dr. Foley, an associate director of Medical Humanities at Davidson College, was awarded $274,000 to study the disparities between cancer incidence rates and outcomes among poor and underserved populations with a special emphasis on colon cancer survivors.

“Our goal in conducting this research study was to uncover the factors contributing to these disparities by exploring the patient, health services, and community characteristics associated with guideline consistent treatment, surveillance, and survival among poor colon cancer patients,” she said.

The Cancer Research Symposium is being held in conjunction with the Relay For Life of Mountain Top. Over the years, thousands of Highlands and Cashiers residents have participated in the Mountain Top Relay For Life.

“This highly successful event has been recognized as a National No. 1 Relay For Life six years in a row, with funds since its 2001 inception reaching more than $1.3 million,” said Lisa Duff, area senior community manager. “This tradition of generosity will continue with your help.”

This year’s Relay For Life will be held Friday and Saturday, Aug. 22-23, at the Cashiers Recreation Center. In addition to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, other program sponsors include 4½ Street Inn, the Highlander and the Crossroads Chronicle.

A complimentary wine and hors d’oeuvres reception will follow the program. Those wishing to attend are asked to please RSVP by July 16, 2008, to ACS Office toll-free at 866-227-7789 or to lisaduff@cancer.org.
Church representatives called to area

Officials of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announce that two representatives of the Church have been sent to serve in the Macon County area with headquarters in Franklin. Elder Kent Thompson and Sister Sue Anne Thompson will serve as full-time missionaries. They will be in North Carolina for approximately 18 months to teach the gospel to those who are interested and to perform community service.

There is a long tradition of missionary service in the church. The Savior taught, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Of the more than 50,000 thousand missionaries serving in 162 countries, most are from 19- to 21-years old although a growing number—like the Thompsons—have completed a career and decided to serve others. Missions are voluntary, and missionaries are not paid for their service.

Born and raised in Utah, Elder Thompson served a mission in South Australia when he was 19 years old. He earned Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He had previously been a fourth grade school teacher for a few years and decided to serve others. Missions are voluntary, and missionaries are not paid for their service.

Sister Thompson, also a University of Utah graduate, was a full-time mother. She later worked as a social worker before she and her husband were called to serve as missionaries.

The Thompsons are the parents of seven children—a girl and six boys— and are the grandparents of 25 grandchildren. Six of their children have served as missionaries for the church—in Japan, Brazil, England, Nevada, Texas and New York. Their children and families reside from Connecticut and New Jersey in the East to California in the West and Idaho and Utah in between. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints meetinghouse is located at 33 Pine Ridge Drive in Franklin. Sunday worship services begin at 11 a.m.

A Family History Library and research facility is located at the church. There is no charge and all are welcome. The hours for the library are Tuesday and Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. Thursday, 6-8 p.m. (by appointment) and Saturday, 8-10 a.m. (by appointment).

For more information, contact the Thompsons at 526-3376.

See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 22
At the start of each season, Highlands Falls Country Club swings into action. But the ball really gets rolling during the week of the Fourth of July. Activities abound as the week long junior camp kicks off and families flock to the mountains to partake in all of the many activities both in the Club and around town. Once again the camp reached its capacity topping out at 64 children. The week’s activities included gem mining, a trip to the lake, golf, tennis, swimming, the great race on the golf course and our ever popular carnival on the driving range, just to name a few. The campers ended the week with a 4th of July cart parade consisting of golf carts decorated by the campers with just a little help from parents and grandparents. When campers were asked if they had a good time during this year’s camp the overwhelming response was, “We can hardly wait until next year!”
Highlands Playhouse to be recipient from Remington auction

On Wednesday, July 23 at 9:30 p.m., the public is encouraged to turn out for the auction of a Remington bronze entitled “The Rattlesnake” at Scudder’s Gallery on Main Street. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Highlands Playhouse. Pictured with Al Scudder are Playhouse board members Dwight Bryant of Bryant Art Glass and Wanda Drake of Drake’s Diamond Gallery.

... SUCCESS continued from page 18

three different times,” said Vangie. The Rich said that they are very pleased with the other actors and the director, Laura Skaug. Curtis said, “When you’re doing a show like this, the supporting cast is extremely important. It makes the show. They deserve a lot of credit.” Laura has been great to work with,” Curtis said. “We have been very impressed with the way she takes the time to develop each character,” Vangie said.

Curtis and Vangie said they were impressed with David Long’s performance in his role of playing Billy, the grandson. “David does a good job in front of the public,” said Curtis. “He has been before the congregation many times reading scriptures, even at a younger age.” Vangie told the story about how David was hired. “[The director] told us, ‘Nobody has auditioned for this part.’” That was when she thought of David Long. “So, I said I knew of one person that may like to do it, and when they agreed to let him audition, I was excited because I knew he would do a good job, and plus the fact that I wanted to work with him. This gave us the opportunity to help him learn a new skill.”

David says he enjoys being something that is the complete opposite of his personality. He also says he’s happy to have the experience, and it’s something he wants to do again. Concerning how politics and acting relate, Curtis says Ronald Reagan was one of his favorite people, and he says acting contributed to Reagan’s personality. “All politicians act to some extent,” Curtis continued. Curtis also stated that his acting helped him as mayor of Crystal River. Curtis believes that John McCain’s time as a prisoner of war in Vietnam had a big effect on the rest of his life.

“You're imagination has to do a lot with acting and everything in life” Curtis said. To illustrate his point, Curtis told a story of one of McCain’s friends from prison. “One of [McCain’s] friends was in the same prison and practiced at least one round of golf in his mind every day. He was there almost the same length of time. When he came out of prison and he got home, within three weeks he was back on the golf course winning championships, because in his imagination he had played a game every day.” Curtis continued, “That’s acting to some extent - acting through your thoughts. So, your thoughts and your imagination have a lot to do with it. So, I’m sure presidential candidate McCain probably used a lot of those techniques, because we were taught that in service.”

But when asked if he believes John McCain or Barack Obama would be a better actor, Curtis said it would be a toss up.

Don’t miss Curtis’ and Vangie’s polished performance now on stage at The Highlands Playhouse through Sunday, July 20.

For tickets call the Box Office at 526-2695.

Land Trust board of directors changes

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is pleased to announce that three new members have been added to the board of directors for three year terms. All three are well known community leaders both in Highlands and in Cashiers.

Page Bernstein is a retired US Army officer, retiring in 1988. His assignments included over 16 years in Europe and two tours of Viet Nam. He and his wife Sally have lived in the Cashiers area since 1991, and have been full time residents since 1998. He and Sally are the parents of three children and grandparents of eight grandchildren.

Page has been active in preservation of these mountains since retiring. He has worked with others to manage growth through thoughtful land management applications with emphasis on the availability of water. He was a member of the Jackson County Planning Board, the Board of the Cashiers Community Center, Board of the Village Green, and is a multi-year Director of the Cashiers Valley Rotary Club.

Dr. Doug Landwehr is a retired nephrologist, graduating from Tulane Medical School and Cornell University Medical School. He was last employed by Geisinger Medical Center, Pennsylvania State University, where he was the Director of the Department of Nephrology. He and his wife Barbara live in the Queen Mountain Community. They have two married daughters.

Active in the Highlands Plateau Fly Fishing Club and the Audubon Society, Doug appreciates the need to conserve wildlife habitat. He also serves on the Greenway Board of Directors and volunteers for the NC Wildlife Commission with the Peregrine Falcon project. Most recently he was active in the Highlands Plateau being designated an Important Birding Area (IBA) by the National Audubon Society.

David Wilkes has been a resident of Highlands since 1982. He and his wife Carol own and operate the Highland Hiker in both Highlands and Cashiers. Since their two sons, Christopher and Jonathan, both graduated from Highlands School, David was active in many school related activities including PTO and the Educational Excellence Committee. He also served briefly on the board of Summit Charter School in Cashiers. He was president of the Highlands Merchants Association, board member of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, and is currently president of the Highlands ABC board and Trillium Homeowners’ Association.

HCLT is pleased to announce that Charlie McDowell, a member of the board of directors since 1970 has been awarded Emeritus status. Also, Woodrow Wilson, a long time member of the board has been elected to the Emeritus board. It is with gratitude for many years of service that these two distinguished community leaders are added to this rank of distinction.

HCLT welcomes these three new board members who bring added expertise in conservation as we enter a century of land protection. And, we appreciate and honor our two veteran Emeritus board members. HCLT’s mission is to protect and preserve land resources for this and future generations. With the knowledge and skills of three new board members, combined with the experience of our Emeritus board members, we anticipate a record-setting land protection year in 2009 as we celebrate 100 years of saving special places.
Dear Editor,

In reading the July 10 edition of Highlands' Newspaper paper, I noticed and read the column by your ultra-liberal Katie Brugger entitled “It's Up From Eden” where she stated what she believes is the main difference between liberals and conservatives.

I don’t think she is even close in the main difference. I believe the main difference is as follows. Conservatives believe they live in a nation where people can make choices as to how to live their lives. They could choose where to live, to work or not, what kind of a job, whether to go to school and for how long, what to eat, what to buy, what to spend their money on and on and on. And MOST importantly, they realize with choices come consequences of those choices. Some consequences good, others bad. If you spend all your paycheck, your savings will be little. If you eat too much, you get fat. If you go to school, you will have a better job.

Liberals don’t believe we are totally capable of making such choices because they don’t want us to pay for the consequences of bad choices. Therefore, they continue to want more regulation of our lives so those so called bad consequences will be eliminated.

Personally, I would prefer the right to make my choices in life. And I am ok with the consequences of those choices.

Jim Riddle
Highlands, NC

There’s Lots To See At Highlands Cove.

At Highlands Cove, we offer an exceptional variety of homesites: Densely wooded with oaks, hemlocks, laurel and rhododendrons. Panoramic views of the Blue Ridge. Or a site overlooking our golf course. We’re a 430-acre, master-planned community soaring to 4,700 feet above sea level. The average lot size is 4/5 of an acre. The residential area is gated. Our amenities include a clubhouse, a fine restaurant, 18 holes of golf, tennis and a fitness center. And most importantly, choice lots in such splendid mountain surroundings with a Highlands address are more and more difficult to find. Come see for yourself. There’s lots to see.

We’re located six miles east of Highlands on Highway 64. Homesites are priced from $295,000. Single-family homes begin in the low 900,000s. Condominium homes are available from $595,000. For information, visit the sales office adjacent to the entrance gate. Call 828-526-8128 or toll free 1-866-220-2209. Or visit our web site: www.highlandscove.com.

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J im Riddle
Highlands, NC

Affordable housing idea no good

Dear Editor,

The town’s “no brainer” for affordable housing will in 8-10 years evolve into another deteriorating apartment complex. The owners of these failing franchises will, rather than bear the expense of renovation and repair, sell out. The new owners will then exploit this situation to the detriment of our entire community.

The decent people who have brought into this scheme will eventually move out as their living conditions deteriorate. The surrounding community will then beat the mercy of yet another drug and crime infested area. This very scenario happens time and time again and can happen right here in Highlands.

So Mayor Mullen, is the Town Board willing and able to afford additional police to combat the additional crime your proposal will bring to our community? This is a very expensive proposition for all of us.

Jan Knight
Highlands

Unsung Heroes

Dear Editor,

Sunday I arrived at our business complex, Twigs at Highlands Edge at around 9 a.m. to ready our shops for opening at 10 a.m. only to find there was no power at two stores, Twigs on the Rocks and Twigs the Season. I called the appropriate emergency number and the town's utility employees came within 15 minutes and power was restored within 30 minutes. Amazing! We have experienced similar extraordinary customer service from the town’s sanitation group and front office.

We salute each of these people thank you for all you do, often uncelebrated and unnoticed, to keep our town the great place it is.

Mal Phillips
Twigs LLC
Highlands

Brugger is right on

Dear Editor,

Those of us who appreciate Katie Brugger’s calm, carefully reasoned and logical opinions and look forward to them each week in Highlands’ Newspaper, are

Mal Phillips
Twigs LLC
Highlands
The Best of Parallel Lives’ continues Thursday - Saturday at ITC

It’s another hit show! The Instant Company presents another hit by the Highlands Cashiers Players with, “The Best of Parallel Lives.” Playing July 17-19 the cast of 9 women have brought back to the stage all the best-loved vignettes from Parallel Lives I and Parallel Lives II, written by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney.

“The Best of Parallel Lives” is a quirky look at life in all it’s sor did splendor.

Katie Cochran and Jennifer Royce portray a pair of world-weary bar-room philosophers who will win your heart. Other cast members bring to life such characters as Shakespearean actors; a young couple on a first date; and a unique group therapy session.

The talented cast is comprised of Donna Cochran, Katie Cochran, Bonnie Earman, Jenny King, Gloria Paris, Jennifer Royce, Diane Rossa, Ronnie Spil ton and Breta Stroud.

The show is ranked “R” for language and mature content.

All shows are held in the Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main at 310 Main Street, upstairs at Oak Square. The intimate theatre has elevator access. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the performance begins at 8 p.m.

Call the Instant Theatre Company box office to get your reservations for this last performance of “The Best of Parallel Lives,” 828-342-9197.

On-going
• Raffle of handcrafted Stiefel Botanical Book to Benefit The Bascom. To purchase a raffle ticket, call Four different images will be available for sale and for raffle, so people can buy all four images for $2,000 and have four different chances of winning.
• The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series is held each Thursday during the summer months at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Rd. For a complete schedule, visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.
• Oak Street Café is donating a portion of its revenues to the Playhouse from meals purchased prior to show time. Park your car, have a meal, then walk across the street to the Playhouse production!
• 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 888-766-0365 or go to the website: www.ncmana.org.
• Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. $5 per class.

The show is rated “R” for language and mature content.

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James “Popcorn” Manley Owner/Operator

Fisher Estate gardens on tour Saturday

A series of tours of the exquisite Fisher Gardens atop Sagee Woods are underway. The tour is sponsored by the Highlands Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. All proceeds go to the Incarnation Haitian Initiative to build a Community School in Cange.

Leneus Joseph, who is visiting Highlands with his wife and two daughters, is the founder and director of La Pleiade School in Cange, Haiti. There are six hundred-thirty students in this K-12 community school which meets during the week in the village’s small Baptist Church, in Leneus’ home, and under make-shift shelters. When the average annual income in Haiti is $400 and the cost of a school uniform is $20, it is easy to see that the parents and the students believe an education is vital to their future.

The proceeds from Fisher Garden tour will help build the building for the La Pleiade School students. It has been said “so these students will be able to go to school in dignity.”

Saturday, July 19 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. the weather will be perfect for the stroll in a 360 degree view of the Highlands Cahiers Plateau. With so many new plants and features the Fisher Estate is the THE place to be this Saturday! The Fisher Garden Tour Tickets will be on sale at the Macon Bank Gazebo on Pine Street. Tickets are $25.

Always in transition, this series of specific gardens and formal gardens will lead you past rose and dahlia beds, to a cutting garden and formal perennial creative by England’s famous Rosemary Verey. An attractive vegetable garden lies below, followed by a stroll through a pear tunnel into the white garden. A formal boxwood parterre leads you into the terrace garden with a spectacular view of Whiteside Mountain, before you enter the sunken area. After passing the lower guest garden, you will come to shade and stump gardens, featuring favorite wildflowers. After viewing the angel in the reflection garden, you will discover the immaculate croquet garden, featuring a pair of niches from Elizabethan England.

Carpools will leave from the Pine Street Gazebo hourly from 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The dates are July 19, July 26 and August 2 Rain or Shine. Tickets are $25 and are available at the Episcopal Church, 520 Main Street during weekday office hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information call the church at (828) 526-2968. Tickets are also available at the Gazebo prior to the start of each tour time.

Channel 14 Highlands’ own TV channel!

Heart of the High Country weekly show about Highlands

Mountain Home Showcase home tours, design tips, and cooking classes

Visitor Information Program hosted by Blackberry Bear

DVDs of Heart of the High Country available at the Hudson Library and Movie Stop

Northland Cable Television

Manley’s Towing Service
526-9805 or 342-0583
• 24 Hour Service
• Local & Long Distance Hauls
James “Popcorn” Manley Owner/Operator

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

1st & 3rd Thursdays
• The local affiliate of NAMI NC (National Alliance on Mental Illness), NAMI Appalachian South, meets from 7-9 p.m. at the Family Restoration Center, 1095 Wiley Brown Road, Franklin. NAMI offers peer sup-
Three book signings at Cyrano's and a magic show at ITC

Along with three author appearances at the bookstore this weekend, Cyrano's is sponsoring a magic show and reading at the Instant Theatre Company on Sunday afternoon featuring famous magician Diana S. Zimmerman. This special event sure to delight children of all ages starts at 1 p.m. (see below). Other signings highlight a new inspirational book (Saturday), two historical thrillers (also Saturday), and nature photography (Sunday).

Abracadabra! On Sunday, July 20, at 1 p.m. Cyrano's brings you a magic show, reading and book signing at the Instant Theatre Company at 310 Main Street, upstairs at Oak Square. The renowned magician, motivational speaker and author Diana S. Zimmerman will read from her new book "Kandide and the Secret of the Mists" and perform feats of magic. Zimmerman has created illusions for both David Copperfield and Lance Burton, but she has been a headline performer in her own right, billed as the world's foremost lady magician. As a member of the Magic Castle, Hollywood's famous magic club, she and Cary Grant started a program for young magicians. Zimmerman called on her love of mystery to writer "Kandide," the first of a trilogy of fantasy novels - The Calabiyau Chronicles - aimed at children and young adults but appealing to everyone, with lush, beautiful illustrations by Maxine Gadd. To cover the cost of renting the space, there will be an admission charge of $5 for children and $10 for adults for the performance.

On Saturday, July 19, from noon until 2 p.m., Kyle Roberts and Beverly Plimpton will sign "God's Invitation to More: A Divine Invitation to Depth, Dignity & Delight in Christ" which brings Christians to a deep and practical life of faith. It can be read personally or as a tool to help those younger in the faith in one-on-one or in small group settings. "God's Invitation to More" begins with a telling parable: A little girl looks up from a seat on the floor and observes her mother doing embroidery. From the child's point of view, the underside of the embroidery appears a confusing tangle of threads and knots. But when her mother takes the girl into her lap, where she can look down on to the embroidery, the child realizes it's a beautiful scene of a sunset. The authors say that many times we have looked up from our own confused, difficult lives and asked God, "What are you doing?" And God replies, "I am embroidery your lives." Kyle is a Florida native; her degrees are in business and engineering. Bev is from New Hampshire; after nursing school she became involved in campus ministry. Both authors are particularly interested in mentoring women.

M.L. Malcolm will also sign at Cyrano's on Saturday, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. She fills her exciting novels with real incidents and historical figures, and then blends them with her own imaginary characters. "Silent Lies" and its sequel, "Deceptive Intentions" follow the adventurous life of Leo Hoffman from rural Hungary to Budapest, Shanghai and North Africa and span both World Wars and the post-war era. In her pages Hoffman gets caught up in criminal schemes, espionage and the Nazi war against the Jews. "Silent Lies" gives readers a feel for the last days of the Hapsburg Empire, with its glittering social order and urban café society set amidst vast stretches of rural areas that haven't really changed for two centuries. "Deceptive Intentions" explores the inter-war period in Shanghai, when that cosmopolitan city was controlled by foreign governments and native mobsters. Best-selling author Karen White compares Malcolm's writing with that of Susan Howatch and Jeffrey Archer.

On Sunday at Cyrano's from 2-4 p.m., photographer Bill L. Booz III signs copies of "Seasons and Colors of the Appalachian Mountains," his book of stunning photographs, which — as the Philadelphia Inquirer says — favors North Carolina." Booz told the newspaper that "the mountains were bigger; I felt that they were more majestic. They created a better image, as far as the grandeur." And in fact more than half of the pictures were shot in the mountain ranges of western North Carolina. Back in 1999, at the age of 21, the New Jersey native spent seven months hiking the entire length of the Appalachian Trail, and it changed his life. Cyrano's Bookshop is located at 390 Main Street in Highlands, North Carolina. Books can be reserved for autographing by calling (828) 526-5488 or sending an e-mail to cyranos@nctv.com; to learn more about our store please visit www.cyranosbooks.com

Also...
Upcoming Events

‘Clarence Darrow’ at ITC Aug. 1-2 & 8-9

The Instant Theatre Company is proud to present the consummate actor David Milford, as Clarence Darrow, the famous defense attorney known as, the Champion of the People. Clarence Darrow, the one-man, award winning play is written by David W. Rintels, based on Irving Stone’s Clarence Darrow for the Defense. David W. Rintels, in addition to his writing talents, has a background steeped in law. His first scripts were written for TV’s outstanding legal series, “The Defenders.” He has also written for many of TV’s other legal series, among them “Slattery’s People,” “The Senator,” and “Young Lawyers.” Rintels has won the Writers Guild of America Award for Outstanding Dramatic Script, American Bar Association Gravel, and three Primetime Emmys as producer and writer Irving Stone is probably best known as the author who turned the biographical novel into an art form with such memorable works as Lust for Life (Van Gogh), The Agony and the Ecstasy (Michelangelo), Sailor on Horseback (Jack London), The Passion of the Mind (Freud), and Clarence Darrow for the Defense. In his critique of the play for the New York Times, Clive Barnes wrote, “Just Plain Wonderful. I urge every man, woman and child who cares about justice and America to see it.”

Opening August 1st, Clarence Darrow will play the 2nd, 8th and 9th in the Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square, Main Street, Highlands. For reservations call the box office at 828-342-9197. All performances are at 8 P.M. Visit the ITC website at Instanttheatre.org.

Portraits and figures exhibition opens July 19 at The Bascom

“Portraits and Figures” is the next exhibition ideal for Popular culture in the 21st century continues to be obsessed with beautiful people. Ten Best Dressed Women, 50 Sexiest Men, for example. Many of today’s collectors respond to the different ways in which art communicates through figurative works so many different things: great physical or idealized beauty, symbolic portraits, accurate likeness and spiritual beauty. And they include these works in their collections.

The Bascom will host a free public opening reception on Saturday, July 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. The exhibition then runs through Aug. 14. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Bascom is located inside the Hudson Library, on Main Street in Highlands.

For more information, call The Bascom at (828) 526-4949, ext. 1#.
UPCOMING EVENTS

• **Be Green Fair** set for Aug. 1 & 2 at Rec Park

As the cost of home energy bills, groceries and fuel continues to rise, it’s easy to see why the “Green” movement is sweeping the nation. This movement has quickly made its way from “hippie” trend to “mainstream” reality and offers many opportunities to make changes that will fit into any lifestyle.

To provide area residents and visitors an opportunity to become more familiar with the concepts of green living, the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance (J-MCA) is hosting a Green Living Fair at the Highlands Civic Center (aka Highlands Rec. Park), rain or shine. The event begins Friday night, August 1, at 6:30 pm with a spaghetti dinner and a highly anticipated program lead by guest speaker Ned Ryan Doyle, all for a cost of only $5.

Ned Ryan Doyle has been active in sustainable energy and environmental issues for over 30 years, providing presentations and workshops nationwide on topics ranging from composting and green building to solar and wind power systems. Ned has worked first hand on energy efficient housing, bio-fuels, renewable energy and other essential issues for sustainable living. His programs provide options for a sustainable future, making environmental conservation and economic stability ‘two sides of the same coin.’

Doyles level of expertise speaks for itself: Coordinator of the 8th Annual Southern Energy & Environment Expo (www.seeexpo.com), the largest event in the South with 8,000 participants in 2007; host of Thursday morning’s “The News from Back Home” and the Sunday morning “Our Southern Community” public affairs program exploring issues of energy, environment and economics and featuring free downloads of programs exploring current regional utility and energy issues, both on WCW 88.7 FM, Spindale, NC, (www.wcn.org); co-host of the “Green Radio Bistro,” (www.sustainablenow.us); and author of numerous articles in national publications.

Saturday August 2, begins with a producetual garage/gateway held in the parking lot of the Civic Center from 8 – 11 am. It will offer a variety of locally grown produce, honey, eggs, homemade breads, cut flowers and more.

The Green Living Fair will be held from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday. The Civic Center gymnasium will be host to 30+ vendors and conservation groups providing information and goods for easy ways to live green, home products, health, beauty & body care, gardening & farming, conservation, composting, recycling, green homedesign, building & remodeling, indoor air quality, renewable energy, solar power, living off the grid, “green” automobiles and legislative incentives. Food will be available as well.

The venue also offers a separate area for discussion sessions which will be held throughout the day. There will be an area designated for children that will include storytimes, a hand made toy workshop and other projects sure to educate and entertain.

A schedule of discussion sessions and children’s programs can be found at the j-mca website. Additionally, J-MCA will be collecting the following recycled items: old cell phones (with battery), old rechargeable batteries and printer cartridges.

The charge for the event is $5 for adults, $3 for teens, and is free for children. Please visit www.j-mca.org or call (828) 526-9938, ext. 320 for further details. We look forward to seeing you there!

Highness, The Prince of Wales.
Friday, July 18

• Mountain Music will abound in Highlands School old gym featuring, Appalachian Bluegrass and High Mountain Squares. Square dancing and clogging will entertain and involve audiences beginning at 6:45 P.M. Concerts will run between 7:30 and 9 every Friday. These free concerts are sponsored by the Just for You Relay for Life team. This year’s Relay for Life Event will be held in Cashiers on Friday, August 22.

• Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival: Edoardo Catemario, guitarist and The Vega String Quartet; 7:30 PM Highlands Performing Arts Center, 526-9060.

• Ballroom Dance at the MC Community Building, on Hwy. 441 S. in Franklin, from 6:30-9 pm with music by “Swingtime Band,” for information call (828), 369-9155 or 586-6373.

Saturday, July 19–Thursday, Aug. 14

• "Portraits and Figures" exhibition will be held at The Bascom, center for the visual arts, from July 19 to Aug. 14. An opening reception will be held July 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. The art center is located inside the Hudson Library, on Main Street in Highlands, NC. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free. For information, call (828) 526-4940, email info@thebascom.org or visit www.thebascom.org.

• Saturday-Sunday, July 19- 20

• The Summer Colors Fine Art Show at the Rec Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Featuring more than 50 regional artists.

• Saturday, July 19

• At Scudder’s Gallery on Main Street an auction at 11 a.m.
HELP WANTED


PART-TIME CLEANERS NEEDED TO CLEAN BANKS – in Highlands area. Call Linda at 828-691-6353.

HOUSEKEEPER – Needed one day weekly, must know how to iron. Call 526-2258. 717

HIGHLANDS INN AND KELSEY PLACE RESTAURANT now hiring Lunch Servers. Apply in person at 420 Main Street or call for an interview. 526-9300.


AUTO DETAILER NEEDED, EXPERIENCE PREFERRED, Must be neat in appearance and have good driving record. Call Johnny at 743-5813.

IRONER – in private home. One day a week. 5 hours. Sheets, shirts. Call 828-787-2031.

FRESSERS EATERY – Hiring experienced wait staff and line cook. Apply in person at 151 Helen’s Barn.

SCALY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR CENTER – Now hiring, cooks, dishwashers, wait staff and general help. Apply at P.O. Box 219, Highlands, NC 28741.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH is accepting resumes for an Office Assistant. Computer skills, people skills and creative abilities are required. 828-526-4685 or office@cbchighlands.com

LAUNDRY ATTENDANT needed at Highlands Cashiers Hospital. Full-time, day shift position available. Position requires weekend rotation and holidays. Salary based 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 Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

MAINTENANCE MECHANIC needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time position available for day shift. Knowledge and skills in physical plant maintenance: carpentry, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing. Computer experience preferred. Must be able to be on call one week per month, assist with community health screening set up and winter snow removal.

Classifieds

Free Classified Ads for items FOR SALE less than $1,000. All other terms: 20 words for $5; $2 for each 10-word increment.

Email copy to: highlandseditor@aol.com or FAX to 1-866-212-8913

Send check to: Highlands' Newspaper P.O. Box 2703 Highlands, NC 28741 828-526-0782

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Sixteenth Annual Bel Canto Recital will be Sept. 7 and the subscription letter announcing the guest artists to previous subscribers has just gone out. Stella Zambalis, the new artistic director, has been working hard over the winter to get some top-notch performers. W. D. Huie, Bel Canto’s new committee chair has said “We could not be more pleased that an artist of Stella Zambalis’ stature has accepted the position of Artistic Director for our Bel Canto Concert Series.”

Stella Zambalis is a regular guest of leading opera companies and concert stages here in the United States, South America and Europe. Ms. Zambalis has created several new roles, including: Cherubino in The Ghosts of Versailles for the Metropolitan Opera; the Stepmother in Phillip Glass’ and Robert Moran’s The Juniper Tree; The Woman in Robert Moran’s Desert of Roses for the Houston Grand Opera; and the title role in the world premiere of Rachel for the Knoxville Opera, with additional performances in Nashville with Nashville Opera. Opera conductors usually wax poetic about their current projects, but Eastman Opera Theatre director Benton Hess can be blunt. “We’ll do it. ‘It’s our first year, and he asked her what role she would like to play after his company, Mercury Opera Rochester, was starting up, and he asked her what role she would like to play. “This is going to be a big story of God’s message to man. Please come and check it out.”

Friday, July 25

Music Mount will abound in Highlands School old gym featuring The Dendy Family and High Mountain Squares. Square dancing and clogging will entertain and involve audiences beginning at 6:45 P.M. Concerts will run between 7:30 and 9 every Friday. These free concerts are sponsored by the Just for You Relay for Life team. This year’s Relay for Life Event will be held in Cashiers on Friday, August 22.

Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival: Richard Stoltzman, clarinet; Laura Gordy, piano; Cecy Arzenvski, violin; Yasuo Watanabe, piano; Miles Hoffman, viola; Christopher Rex, cello. 7:30 P.M. High-
First Presbyterian ‘Concert Series’ continues

On Wednesday, July 23, the second Musical Intermural Concert of the 2008 season will take place at the First Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. Featured will be Gerald Carper, organist. The Wicks Pipe Organ at the Presbyterian Church was recently featured in “The American Organist” magazine, an international publication. The organ, which was dedicated in 2004, has about 1,000 pipes featuring a landing, a design element popular many years ago.

The Intermural Concert Series is presented by First Presbyterian Church of Highlands and is celebrating its 10th season. Concerts will be presented every other Wednesday through Aug. 20.

There is no admission charge for the concerts, which constitute a ministry in music to the many visitors, members and friends of the church.

The concert will last approximately 45 minutes. Dress is casual. Come as you are.

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DIRECTOR OF NURSING is needed in the
beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina. Expe-
renced nurse leader for a 24-bed Critical Access
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of patient care, customer satisfaction, and the oversight of
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OR, PACU and GI Lab, Hospice, and Cardio-Pulmo-
nary. Must be able to provide leadership for manag-
ers and staff, and conduct recruitment and retention
activities. Masters degree with a background in nurs-
ing leadership required. This position reports directly
to the CEO/President of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital,
working closely with the QA Nurse Manager and the

UPCOMING EVENTS

A little bit of China in the mountains

In this summer
of the Beijing
Chamber Music Festival is bringing a little bit of China
to the mountains. The Vega String Quartet is one of the Festival’s most pop-
ular ensembles, and three of the four members of the group are original-
ly from China.

This weekend the Vega will play the music of two Chi-
nese composers: the hauntingly beautiful Song of the Chi’in by Zhou Long and
“Eight Colors,” by Tan Dun.

The chi’in is a traditional seven-
stringed Chinese musical instrument in the other
family. A chi’in has a range of about four
octaves with the lowest pitch about the lowest note on a cello, and it is played by
plucking. Zhou Long says that the begin-
ing of “Song of the Chi’in” sounds very
much like a ch’inn, even though it is played by
traditional string instruments.

Mr. Tan wrote about his composition “Eight Colors.” “In this work I draw on
Chinese colors and the techniques of Pe-
king Opera. The work consists of eight
short sections, almost like a set of brush
paintings, through which materials are
shared and developed. Both the tempos
and string techniques are developed from
Peking Opera; the vocalization of Opera
actresses and Buddhist chanting can be heard.”

Mr. Tan received international recog-
nition in 1983 when his String Quartet
(FengYa Song) won the Weber Prize from
Dresden, making Tan the first Chinese

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15 years experience in 4 and 5 star restaurants avail-
able to prepare custom menus for you and your fam-
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ic ingredients. Long-term year around or special event cata-
ing available. Special dietary needs accommoda-
ted. Please call 743-0649 or email
elane@hchospital.org

LOOKING FOR A HOUSEKEEPER – Call
Dora at 828-200-1038. References available.

STUDENT ARTIST – I am an art student inter-
ested in painting portraits. Call Ms. Diaz at 828-200-
1038.
Understanding the Black Bear at Village Nature Series in Cashiers

On Wednesday, July 23 renowned nature photographer, Bill Lea, will present “Understanding the Black Bear,” a FREE lecture, as part of the Village Nature Series in Cashiers. Capturing intimate images of wildlife, scenery, wildflowers, and a variety of other natural subjects in “just the right light” has long been the trademark of Bill’s photography. He may best be known for his artistic documentation of deer and bear behavior, the various moods of the Great Smokies, National Forests, and southern ecosystems. Photographing in the Smokies since 1975 has afforded this photographer limitless opportunities to observe and record the flora, fauna, and scenery of the region.

More than 6,000 of Bill’s photos have been presented in an array of books, calendars, magazines, advertisements and other publications. His work has appeared in Audubon Calendars, Defenders of Wildlife, Exploring the Smokies, National Geographic books, Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife, and many others. His third front covers in a row was a first in Field & Stream’s more than one hundred year history. His newest book, Cades Cove – Winning Stream’s more than one hundred year history.

Bill’s photography is a poetry of place on September 24th (August and September lectures will be held at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers.) Mark your calendars for these events! For more information email Julie at julie.eh.trust@earthlink.net or call HCLT at 526-1111.

Montana Skies coming to ITC July 26

A must see live concert experience a duo with the full spectrum of an orchestra crossed with the energy of a rock band. Winners of the Lifestyle Radio Music Awards for Best New Artist of 2004 and Best Contemporary Acoustic Album of 2005, Jennifer and Jonathan Adams create a “new acoustic” sound with their pairing of cello, six-string electric cello, Spanish/classical guitar, and steel string guitar.

These astounding musicians delve into music from Pink Floyd and Rush to Vivid, House of the Rising Sun, and Bach, as well as their own award winning originals that have been featured everywhere from NPR to the Travel Channel.

Montana Skies’ name is taken from one of the first songs Jonathan composed for the group titled “Montana Skies.” The song was written specifically about being in Montana and the joy of inspiration during a crucial turning point in their relationship, the song marked the beginning of the duo’s musical collaboration and their newly found sound. Montana Skies maintains an active touring schedule.

Montana Skies plays in the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main (600 seats) for one performance only. Saturday July 26 at 8 PM. Reservations are strongly recommended. Box office: 828-342-997. Tickets are $25 in advance and $30 at the door. Half price for 18 years old and younger. Visit InstantTheatre.org for all Instant Theatre Company offerings.

... LETTERS continued from page 26

Jonathan felt from its natural beauty. At the time of its composition, he and Jennifer were completing their individual studies of music (he in Montana and she in Italy) and they realized that they would like to be together. Written during a crucial turning point in their relationship, the song marked the beginning of the duo’s musical collaboration and their newly found sound. Montana Skies maintains an active touring schedule.

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Beth Greenlee
Highlands
Free Classified Ads for items FOR SALE less than $1,000.
All other terms:
20 words for $5; $2 for each 10-word increment.
Email copy to:
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or FAX to 1-866-212-8913
Send check to:
Highlands' Newspaper
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Highlands, NC 28741
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737 MANY ROAD. Near Post Office. 2 bed, 1 bath home. $850 a month plus utilities. Annual lease, non-smoking. Central heat/air. Hardwood floors, deck, washer/dryer, basement storage. (828) 526-4073.

3BR, 2BA HOUSE ON LAKE SEQUOYAH.
$1,500 a month + utilities. Call Tony at 828-332-7830

1/2 baths, hot tub. 526 2759.

FOR SALE less than $1,000.

3BR, 2BA
3BR, 2BA
737 MANY ROAD

3BR, 2BA COTTAGE NEAR MIRROR LAKE
– In town. $1250 per month. Very clean.

Bath home. $850 a month plus utilities. Annual lease, $1,500 a month + utilities. Call Tony at 828-332-7830

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– Sorry, golf and club privileges not available. $2,495 a week.

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

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

1,600 SQ. FT. HANDICAPPED ACCESS HOUSE ON 2 ACRES. bdr/2 large bath w/roll under sinks; elevator, finished basement, unfinished workshop shop, 2 car carport; new metal roof; native stone fireplace & landscaping; new hardwood floors, new Pella windows. $300 deposit. Unfurnished. Available November. $1,500 a month plus utilities. Call (828) 877-0480.

MOTORHOME SITE – DOWNTOWN. Time to enjoy the ENTIRE season in downtown Highlands! Give your coach and yourself a rest. Enjoy the comforts of your motor home and the gated privacy of your site and new coach house. Park your coach for the season(s) and stay as many weeks/months as you like; or, plan to commute by car between home and the mountains and spend each weekend in the splendor of this cool mountain setting. Stroll the five blocks of tree lined, side-walked streets leading to shopping and fine dining on Main St. in downtown Highlands. Complete with patio and outdoor kitchen, overlooking a five mountain stream. Private (sorry, no rentals permitted), upscale, beautiful site. For all information, visit the site/ coach house at your leisure through our web page www.JTIMMS.com/ HIDDENCREEK or, call 828-526-5333. While in the area, we invite you to drive by and visually inspect the beautifully landscaped site located at the corner of Fifth and Chestnut Sts.

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, PLUS OFFICE. In Town. $249,000. Lease to own option for qualified.

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**RV SITES FOR RENT OR LEASE IN-TOWN**. Walk to Main Street. Call for details. (828)526-1684.

**HOUSE FOR SALE IN WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA**, 3 bedroom, 2 ½ bath in adorable, quiet neighborhood 2 miles from downtown and Palm Beach Island and 5 miles from downtown. $450,000. Call 561-379-9151. 7515

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**BUNKBEDS**. Primary colored metal, has a ladder. $155. 526-9107.

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

**48" Round Area Rug** – multi-colored. $15. Call 526-5367.

**TELEPHONE TABLE** – wood $15. Call 526-5367.

**8 FT. FOLDING METAL TABLE** – $15. Call 526-5367.

**BARELY USED COMPUTER STUFF** – All-in-one HP Officejet 7110 $75. Call 526-3262.

**NEW COMPUTER DESK**. $50. Call 526-9109.

**ETHAN ALLEN HEIRLOOM CROWN GLASS CHINA CABINET** with a bottom 3-door buffet. Call 828-526-4077. $995

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

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

**ORIENTAL STYLE RUG WITH MATCHING RUNNER** — Gently used Oriental style area rug, 8' x 12' and Matching runner: 2'6" X 8' Black background with beige and soft peach accents. Price $725 for both/OBO. Picture available. Can be delivered or local pick up. Call 828.787.1002 or 219.765.5879 – ask for Jim.

**EXCELLENT USED BUTCHER BLOCK**. Two drawers. Price: $500. Picture available. Can be delivered or local pick up. Call 828.787.1002 or 219.765.5879 - ask for Jim

**LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES** – Variety shrubs, trees, railroad ties, stone and mulch variables, pine straw and soil additives. Call 828-526-2251.

**STUFF FOR FREE** – 5-section sofa, (2 reclining ends). Blue. Nice condition: 8-piece white metal deck furniture, glass top and cushions; two-leaf wood en coffee table; 2 5-ft. shelving units, like new. Call 706-746-0011.


**BARELY USED COMPUTER STUFF** – 5-section sofa, (2 reclining ends). Blue. Nice condition: 8-piece white metal deck furniture, glass top and cushions; two-leaf wood en coffee table; 2 5-ft. shelving units, like new. Call 706-746-0011.

**UPSCALE PINE COMPUTER ARMOIRE** – paid $1,500. Asking $400. Like new. 58" x 78" Call 404-314-9099 or 526-0545.

**BEAUTIFUL BLACK WICKER SOFA** – for porch. Custom cushions. like new. $98. 404-314-9099 or 526-0545.


**ANTIQUE FURNITURE**: Medallion Back Sofa, Louis XV style. $300. Matching Lady’s and Gentleman’s Chairs, $400 set. Rocking Chair, Lincoln Type, upholstered. $175. Sold separately or all for $750. Call Sandy at 369-6263.

**GREEN PRINT VELVET SWIVEL ROCKING CHAIR**. new, $250; blue stripe chair club wotoman, like new, $175; large pine armoire, like new, $200.; Simmons X-large waders w/attached boots, bought at Highland Hiker, used 3 times, $250. Call Beatrice or Dennis at 743-5500.


**BARELY USED 30GB ZUNE VIDEO MP3 PLAYER**. Comes with leather case $150 or best offer. Call Dave at 828-526-9152 for more information.

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

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

**MISC. ITEMS** – Various proof coin sets, old 78 LP, Old Walt Disney movies (never opened); Girls’ bicycle; Collectible Basketball Cards (never opened). Call 526-9123.

**MASSEY FERGUSON DIESEL DELUXE 25 WITH POWER STEERING**. Completely rebuilt, repainted, new tires. Includes scrape blade, and an 8,000 lbs. tandem axle trailer. Sharp Package! $6,000. Call Davis at 828-526-9152 for more information.


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

**VEHICLES FOR SALE**

**2ATVS** – 2007 Polaris, 800x2 Sportsman. Like New, $3,000, and 2007 2x4, $1,500. Call 526-5351. 731

**1998 DODGE RAM PICK UP 2500** – 4WDR, 4WLD, 4WD, Automatic, AC, $8,500. Call 526-5351. 731

**2007 DODGE RAM PICK UP 2500** – 4WDR, Automatic, AC, $8,300; and 2007 2x4, $1,500. Call 526-5351.

**1998 DODGE RAM PICK UP 2500** – 4WDR, Automatic, AC, $8,300; and 2007 2x4, $1,500. Call 526-5351.

**215-259-7637**

**HANDMADE FLOORING**: Wormy white oak flooring (milled w/ a t&g), 6-12" widths, $8 per ft. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") $6/board ft. Also selling entire log and timber frame structures. 215-259-7637 (www.woodworking.info)

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

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PseudoCube©

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

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

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.
Feedback encouraged!

Solution to #AN3F in July 10 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. Email: pseudocube8@aol.com. Feedback encouraged!

**Mystery Word “bracelet” (9)**

Across
1. Prohibition (3)
2. Bunched masses (4)
3. Misdeed against God (3)
4. Filth (4)
5. Ego (2)

Down
6. Asphalt (3)
7. Very small portion (3)
8. --- vs. good (3)
9. -- vs. out (2)
10. Exists (2)

Solution to July 10 puzzle

"How well do you know Highlands?" Crossword Puzzle

Across
6. Had the most famous soda shop in town.
7. One of the founders of Highlands.
11. People used to use their quarters here.
15. Great citizen of Highlands award.
17. Basketball coach of Highlands School.
20. Champion who played Highlands Country Club often.
21. Coke family that built Rec Park.
25. This woman (my grandmother) will feed you.
26. Come to the little church here.
27. Former Waller and Reed employer.
30. Where Highlands is located.
32. Sister City.
34. Remodeled of Old Edwards.
37. People clogged at her barn.
38. Now largest grocery in Highlands.
39. Oldest house in Highlands.
40. Santa mayor.
41. Oldest grave in Memorial Cemetery.

Down
1. Get behind a sightseerer on this road and you’ll be sorry.
2. This Cardinal used to sell ice cream in Town Square.
3. Rhodes Superette.
4. You may have watched fireworks here.
5. Fine dining for particular people.
8. Dry up your car on this former passage into Highlands.
10. Falls on 107.
12 “Salty” Fire Chief.
13. We didn’t build this city.
14. These “lookers” arrive in October.
16. Use these at Harris Lake.
18. Whatta Road.
19. In 1950, 64 went under this.
22. Three score and seven years ago, this was the school.
23. Most prevalent “country” in Highlands.
28. Gotta go to Franklin or Clayton to shop here.
29. Fine dining and a wine garden to boot.
30. Giant tree in Horse Cove.
31. You’ll find this sandwich at Sports Page.
33. Shack (Not a B-52s song).
35. This woman’s name was the first to grace Galax marquee.
36. Hickory St, if you prefer the proper name of this hill.