

# Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 6, Number 23

PDF Version – [www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)

Thursday, June 5, 2008

## On-going

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

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

## Mon. & Wed.

- Pilates classes Level 1 Jane Woodruff Clinic at the hospital at 4 p.m. Call 526-5852.

## Mondays

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

- At the Nature Center, Animal Feeding Time 11 a.m.-noon, all ages welcome: Come and observe what each of the Nature Center's animals eat and learn how they feed.

## Tuesdays

- At the Nature Center, Family Nature Activity 3-4 p.m., ages 4 and up: Activities vary, but may include critter searches, discovery walks, or nature games \$1 per person.

## Wednesdays

- At the Nature Center, Nature Show & Tell/Storytime 2:30-3 p.m., all ages: Come for a nature lesson based around a children's storybook using items from the Nature Center.

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

## Thursdays

- At the Nature Center, Zahner Conservation Lecture Series 7 p.m., 12 and up: An evening seminar series featuring leading scientists, historians, writers and artists on a variety of environmental topics (schedule available at [www.wcu.edu/hbs](http://www.wcu.edu/hbs)).

## Fridays

- At the Nature Center, Botanical Garden Tour 10:30-11:30 a.m., all ages: A guided walk through the Highlands Botanical Garden, featuring native plants.

## Friday & Saturday

- Live music at The Rib Shack every Friday and Saturday night from 7-10 p.m.

- Live piano music at Oak Street Cafe.

## Saturdays

- At the Nature Center, Featured Creature 11:30-noon, all ages: come and learn more about one of the Nature Center's live animals up close.

- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant at 9:30 p.m.

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

## Sundays

- Old-fashioned hymn-sing at the Little Church of the Willwood at 7 p.m. Call Kay Ward at 743-5009. Dress is casual.

## Through June

- At the Book Worm in the basement of The Peggy Crosby Center, most hard cover books are \$1. Hours are Wed.-Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Through June 11

- FREE sports physicals given to any athlete that will be playing Highlands High School or Middle School sports in the 08-09 school year. Call Coach Lamb at Highlands School at 526-2147.

## Thursday, June 5

- At Highland School at 6:30 p.m., a community meeting for middle and high school students, parents and concerned citizens concerning youth driving under the influence, teen suicide and other issues.

- Audubon Field Trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Meet at the public parking area next to the Highlands Town Hall at 7 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the Parkway. Call leader Brock Hutchins at 787-1387.

- The Inn Keepers Tour in Highlands, Wed. from 1-5 p.m. Stop by the Chamber for directions to specific inns.

- Open House with Meadows Mountain Realty at RiverWalk 5:30-7:30 p.m.

## Fri. & Sat., June 6-7

- At Vivace ...up the hill on 4th Street, a Trunk Show by jewelry designer Louise Abrams. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Fri.-Sun., June 6-8

- At Acorn's on Main Street, Planet Clothing Trunk Show and Safia Day Jewelry Trunk Show.

## Saturday, June 7

- The plateau's second annual Land Trust Day! Treat yourself to a day of shopping and dining for in support of the Highlands-Cashier Land Trust's mission to "save the places we all love." Call Julie at 526-1111.

## Sunday, June 8

- HCP's auditions for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," at PAC at 2 p.m. The performance is Aug. 20-30.

- The St. Andrew's Academy Choir concert at the Community Bible Church. at 2:30 pm. It's free but donations are welcome.

- A memorial service for all who have died June 2007-May 2008 at 2:30 at the Cashiers United Methodist Church, on Hwy 107 South in Cashiers with a reception to follow. RSVP to 526-1402.

## Monday, June 9

- HCP's auditions for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," at PAC at 5 p.m. The performance is Aug. 20-30.

- At CLE, Virginia Groves Beach speaks on "Garden Statuary" Call 526-8811.

- All about coyotes at 7:30 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Potluck supper at 6:30 p.m.; program following at 7:30 p.m. Call Brock Hutchins at 787-1387.

- At Lakeside Restaurant, Spring Fling from 5:30-7:30. \$20 per ticket. Rain date June 16. RSVP to 526-2112.

## Wed.-Sat., June 11-14

- At ITC, "The Return of Herbert Bracewell" at 8 p.m. For advance \$20 tickets, call 828-342-9197. At the door are \$25

## Wednesday, June 11

- At CLE, Timeless Tips for Landscape Design with Mary Palmer Dargan. Call the CLE office at 526-8811.

## Town Board business varied

Like the county, the town is trying to put the finishing touches on its budget for fiscal year 2008-2009.

At the June 4 Town Board meeting, Town Administrator Richard Betz announced that instead of raising town taxes to cover an anticipated deficit, the Fi-

nance Committee decided to take \$350,000 out of the town's unreserved fund balance.

Finance Committee member Commissioner Amy Patterson said it's also a case of recycling funds that weren't used last year instead of reappropriating more

•See TOWN BOARD page 16

## Val and Sal named for 2008



At Wednesday morning's High School Award ceremony, senior Kyle Lassiter was named Valedictorian and senior Sally Wheeler was named Salutatorian for the Class of 2008. Lassiter plans to attend Clemson University and Wheeler plans to attend UNC-Chapel Hill. Pictured with them is Macon County Schools Superintendent Dan Brigman and Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

## County scrambles to meet financing deadline

The county's budget process is nearing its end but requests for project funding for fiscal year 2008-2009 continue to come in.

The result has been numerous continuation commission meetings held over the last several weeks, the latest being Tuesday at 11:45 a.m.

Last Thursday, May 29, the Town of Franklin, the Macon County Historical Society, The Main Street Project, the chambers of commerces, the school board, the Sheriff's Department, the Ma-

con County Fair Association, and others solicited the county for funding.

Everyone's request was granted with commissioners voting, though not unanimously, to fund projects from the fund balance, debt service and the Economic Development Commission Reserve Fund, if EDC money doesn't have strings attached. Finance Director Evelyn Southard was instructed to investigate EDC funding allowances.

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## Workforce housing a near reality

"The result of an affordable housing study is that there is a need for affordable rental units in the Highlands area because the cost of homeownership is so high."

So reads the 51-page analysis prepared at no charge for the Highlands Affordable Housing Task Force by Kristy Carter, community development planner with the NC Dept. of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance.

At the June 4 Town Board meeting, commissioners heard the report of the task force which has identified a location, has preliminary renderings, construction costs and rent prices in mind for "Shortoff Woods," Highlands first partially subsidized apartment complex for its workforce.

Though it might not be necessary, the taskforce may ask the town to contribute \$100,000 toward the \$6.5 million project but not until the 2009-2010 budget year. The majority of the funds needed for the project are available through grants and tax credits from the Housing Finance Authority.

•See WORKFORCE page 16

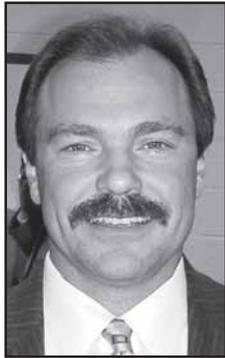
## Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
85-62°F	86-63°F	84-62°F

# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • FORUM •

### The state of education in Macon County



**Dan Brigman**  
Macon County  
School Superintendent

In March, I attended the North Carolina Association of School Administrators' annual conference in Greensboro, N.C. During the conference, I heard Marian Wright Edelman of the Children's Defense Fund give a speech on a report from that organization – *Cradle to Prison Pipeline* (available at [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)). Some of the statistics were very thought provoking for the educators in the audience.

In 2006 more children were living in poverty – over 13 million, or one in every six children – more than in 1968 or even in 2000. North Carolina ranks 10th in the nation for the most children in poverty – over 430,000. An African-American boy has a 1 in 3 chance of going to prison and a Latino boy has a 1 in 6 chance. North Carolina, like most of the nation, spends more than three times as much (\$23,487) to incarcerate prisoners than it spends to educate its children (\$6,562) per year. There are 9.4 million uninsured children in America with over 280,000 of them in North Carolina.

Ms. Edelman challenged educators to take action in their communities. I am proud of our educators and community leaders for taking action over the last few years in Macon County. Several exciting initiatives are making a difference.

- The Macon Early College – a reinvention of the high school model that has proven successful as we prepare for the third year in operation;
- Southwestern Community College – construction of a new facility for a growing institution that is having a sig-

• See EDUCATION page 12

## • HAWK'S EYE VIEW •

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K Hawk 2008

## • FORUM •

### The high price of energy

By Paul S. Horvath  
**Lets Lower The Price of Gasoline**

We can reduce the cost of our energy by increasing our supplies if we implement a non-political Comprehensive Energy Policy. The Clean Energy Act that was recently enacted is a good start but it does not address the supply issues. Our current energy policy does little to protect our national security and is having a disastrous effect on our economy. It is past time that our elected officials put in place a Comprehensive Energy Policy as well.

We are currently importing more than 10 million barrels of oil per day. A significant disruption, because of terrorism or OPEC policy changes, would endanger our security and devastate our economy. Even without a disruption, foreign oil consumption adds approximately 1 billion dollars a day to our trade deficit and pads the pockets of some countries that are hostile to the United States interests.

#### Energy Sources Are Available In The USA

There are abundant federal lands available, both offshore and onshore, that contain numerous and various energy sources. In fact, our government estimates that our undiscovered recoverable reserves are 85 billion barrels of oil and 419 trillion cubic feet of natural gas from the offshore. Additionally, we have enough undeveloped coal to supply this country with energy for 200 years. We have developed ways to burn this coal cleanly in an environmentally responsible way by capturing the CO2. This country has oil shale reserves estimated to be 2 trillion barrels and we have the technology to develop and refine this oil.

A Comprehensive Energy policy must also include the building and modernizing our refineries, nuclear power plants, utilize clean coal and develop energy from; solar, wind, hydrogen, the oceans, bio- fuels and finding a more efficient production process for developing ethanol since it currently takes 4 acres of corn and a significant amount of water to produce enough fuel to run just one sport utility vehicle for a year.

If we were just to increase our domestic production of oil by 4 million barrels per day, which is achievable, at today's cost for a barrel of oil, that would generate over 400 million dollars per day. Our government (MMS) would receive more

• See ENERGY page 15

### LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

## Highlands' Newspaper

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Email: [HighlandsEditor@aol.com](mailto:HighlandsEditor@aol.com)

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

Adobe PDF version at [www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)  
265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

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## Annual 'Tea Party' ends year of learning in speech therapy lab



The goal for the children in the speech therapy program is communication skills and continued progress in the regular education classroom. On Wednesday, May 28, there was a TEA-riffic Speech Tea Party to give the children a fun opportunity to practice their best speech sounds and language skills which they have been learning and practicing all year. Everyone drank the hot tea (with lots of milk and sugar, of course) or strawberry lemonade. The students love the hats and jewelry that teacher Karen Brooksbank has collected from antique stores over the years, and she said she has never had a tea cup broken. It was a day of fun and took everyone to another time when "dressing up" and "taking tea" was a part of everyday life

Photo by Kim Lewicki

### • LETTER •

#### "The Problem with Suffering is: It's a Problem"

Dear Editor,

C.S. Lewis was right when he said: "Human suffering raises almost intolerable intellectual problems." It does!

After reading Katie Brugger's column in the May 29 issue of Highlands' Newspaper entitled; "The Problem of Pain," I decided to write a few of my own thoughts. What I did was dig through the archives and re-read some old sermons on how I addressed the subject way back when. One of those messages was delivered about 20 years ago and has been followed by a cancer operation, a diagnosis of Crones disease, the passing of both parents, and a season of family and professional difficulty.

In that sermon I said: "Suffering for the Christian is different than for the unbeliever because there is purpose in it." I believed it now more than ever! Writing on this subject reminds me of the debate that exists between the one who practices homeopathic medicine and the doctor who thinks it is "quackery." The same can be said for suffering.

Two world views come into conflict when dealing with this topic. As in the case of Dr. Bart Ehrman, the scholar who

was quoted in the article, his position falls in line with the "Enlightenment" thinker. You will remember that the "Enlightenment" elevated human reason to the place of supreme authority for determining truth. The other world view holds to traditional Biblical thinking. When it comes to understanding this subject both sides are deeply entrenched.

Those of us who follow a Biblical world view believe that the problem of suffering is just that-a problem. Coming to grips with a belief in a loving God who is all powerful and yet allows things like a tsunami that killed more than 250,000 people is not easy for us to understand and we are the ones who believe in the God of the Bible. So I can feel for those who do not hold to a similar world view and the difficulty they have in coming to grips with a plausible explanation that satisfies them. "Reason" begs the question: "If God is God why does He allow bad things to happen to good people"? Philosopher J.L. Mackey, in his book "The Miracle of Theism" states the problem this way:

"If a good and powerful God exists, he would not allow pointless evil, but

•See LETTERS page17

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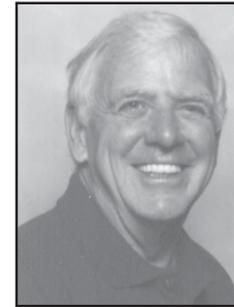
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## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

### Come out, come out, wherever you are!

Let the games begin! Drum roll please! The search for our very first ever City Manager is about to begin. Somewhere out there in this scary world is a poor unsuspecting conehead who will be snookered into taking the job. Fun, fun, fun, that is, unless you happen to be a town employee. In that case, I know you're sweating bullets. Here's my advice. Don't sweat it. You have options.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback  
is encouraged!  
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

Wait, before you pick up the phone to have me fired...again, hear me out. I want to go on record and announce I approve of the town making this transition. I have never worked for anything but a City Manager controlled government, otherwise the politicians would have fired me long before I retired. City Managers are, or should be, a buffer between the lowly employee and the politicians who sometimes have hidden agendas.

Department heads only have to keep one guy happy, not the entire board. Some of the politics will be removed from their lives and that trickles all the way down to the bottom of the employee list. Notice I said some. The hierarchy is less flat and that's good for the bottom of the barrel employees. One of the problems for department heads is that "new broom" managers usually want to sweep out the old department heads and bring in their own who will be loyal to the new broom. This gets real tricky when the new broom wants to dismiss a department head who is either related to or has a rabbi on the commission. Circus music, please.

Highlands is growing fast. This transition should have been done several years ago but the board got cold feet. This really can be a good thing. Again, notice I said can be. The "can be" part depends on who is selected for the job. You know I detest micro-managers so let's hope they don't select one of those. Years and years ago I owned several rentals and learned fast the difference between a profitable, cost effective business and an outright hellish nightmare situation is the selection of the tenant. It's the same with the selection of a City Manager. Pick the wrong guy and we are in for a nightmare. Pick the right guy and our growing town will run more efficiently. I hope they keep

that in mind as they're waving goodbye to Betz.

I am going to assume this new person will be college educated but knows diddle-squat about Highlands. I hope they pick someone with deep pockets. I've done the math. After he buys a house, pays taxes and insurance, fills up his gas tank, shops at Mountain Fresh and Bryson's several times, he won't have enough money left from his salary to buy a \$14 hamburger at Madison's.

He will probably only last two years.

That brings me to the next issue. I pray the selection committee will make it a requirement the manager live within five miles of the town limits. You can't manage anything well while living in Climax, GA except maybe a climax.

If the selection committee needs help, I would be glad to design a questionnaire sheet for applicants to fill out. The first question would be "Why were you fired from your last job?" Next question would be, "If you left your last job for personal/family reasons, then state the reasons the town asked you to leave or be fired." How about this one and it's a beauty? "List the names, addresses and phone numbers of the last five people you fired." Oops, I almost forgot, managers hate the "fire" word. Substitute "career change" instead.

I'm already nervous about this process because the "consultant" word has already been mentioned. I hope they meant head hunter and not consultant. Are you aware that most consultants still live with their mothers and have worry beads in their briefcases?

Finally, I cannot figure, for the life of me, why the board wants to wait until all those pesty summer people are here before passing the resolution to change our government. Hello...summer people don't have Highlands' voter cards in their pockets and don't give a hoot about any of this. They have their own agenda and it has nothing to do with government.

Sooooo, if you are a town employee and are still worried after reading this column, then I have one word for you: UNION.

• Why does Fred want to be a "Flag Man?" Read his book, *I'm Moving Back to Mars*.

# • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

## There are reasons for choices

The lights in the bedroom closet started flickering several weeks ago, but Lizzie hadn't complained, so I left well enough alone until Thursday morning when I stumbled into the closet in near total darkness and needed a flashlight to find matching socks.

Our bedroom closet has a fluorescen fixture. I retrieved a tube, measured it carefully, recorded the number, and noted the shape and position of the fittings on the end. After work I went to Reeves Hardware to buy the four-foot long tubes. I rummaged through my pockets but realized I had left my note on the kitchen counter. I found the light bulb aisle without assistance and was relieved to find 48" F 40 tubes. I picked up four tubes before noticing the price: \$13.99 each. It was only then that I realized that General Electric offered several choices.

There was "Ecolux Technology" designed for aquaria and plants. I don't keep fish or grow marijuana in the closet and our hermit crabs survive on natural light, so I moved on. The F 40 that I had originally picked, "Kitchen and Bath" was designed to make food look fresher and skin tones more attractive. It seemed a strange combination, unless you want to date a pork chop, but that's what the package said. I need light to find my socks, but I'm nor interested in being flattered by the light while I rummage through the drawer.

The "Daylight" model is useful wherever cool natural light is desired. Prices for these specialty lights ranged from \$6.99 to \$13.49 and all promised a nine-year life. I left with the cheapest bulbs, the "Residential" at \$3.99 each, and a six-year life span.. I wasn't about to buy a bulb that was likely to outlive me. I took the six-year light and if I'm too feeble the next time the closet goes dark, I'll hold the ladder for Lizzie.

I was pretty proud of myself. I don't shop often, and the experience had gone pretty smoothly. My pride evaporated when I described the excursion to Lizzie. She has two traits which I suspect are fairly common among wives. Whenever she asks me to do a job, she tells me how to do it. Although I've explained hundreds of times that if she is so knowledgeable, she might consider doing the job herself, she persists in giving me instructions every time. I don't know how she knows so much about my jobs, none of which she has ever actually done. She reads a lot. Maybe that's the secret.

The second problem, and I guess it's



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.  
email:**

**hsalzarulo@aol.com**

actually my problem, is that I never do a job to her satisfaction, even something as simple as buying light bulbs. I'd saved a little money and I'd avoided buying something that might outlive me. I feel the same way about 50-year roofs and puppies. There comes a time when a man has bought his last dog. I sure don't want mine hanging around my grave mourning. I'd rather mourn him.

I had no sooner announced my triumph than

Lizzie said I should have sprung for the \$15 model. I guess she likes General Electric more than I do, or doesn't want the folks at Reeves thinking her husband is cheap. She wasn't crazy with the idea of climbing the ladder when it came time to change the lights again, and wasn't thrilled with the thought that in six years, I'll be retired and sleeping until well past dawn and may give up socks altogether.

I might have been OK if I hadn't mentioned the flattering light. I couldn't imagine wanting flattering light in the closet. That's when she told me that there was a full length mirror in there. I don't know how I missed it for all these years or how could I could have been unaware that my wife dresses in the closet. I had no idea that one fluorescent light was any different from any other, but after I installed the cheap ones, I noticed a distinct yellow glow. "Hey, Lizzie, Where is that Mandarin collar dress? This light will make you look Oriental."

I suspect that Spencer Gifts, if that strange mall chain still exists, has black light tubes that would fit in my closet. Lowe's may have even more choices and better prices, but I don't need more choices. There were too many at Reeves. If they had they had only one tube, I couldn't have erred, but would have missed an adventure. And with the cost of gas as high as it is, and the sheriff's department stopping cars, looking for Mexicans, I can do without an extra trip to Franklin. I was stopped yesterday, rolled down my window and said, "Hola!?"

I would have continued the joke, but Lizzie pulled the registration from the glove compartment and whispered, "It expired in April." So I switched languages and said, "Good afternoon, officer. How can I help you?" He let the expired registration pass, wished us a good day, and I swear as we drove away said, "Buy local and buy expensive." On the other hand, it might have been Lizzie looking sensational in natural light.

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# Boynton-Anderson descendant visits Highlands

By Ran Shaffner

More than a century has passed since Charles and Rebecca Boynton and Dr. William and Sudie Anderson came to Highlands during the early years of its founding. And now one of their descendants has come all the way from California to see the town her pioneer ancestors helped to settle.

Sue Ovel and her father, Bill Rusher, arrived last week from Elk Grove and Lodi, Calif., respectively, and stayed at the home that Sue's great-great-grandfather Capt. Charles Boynton built in 1882, known today as Main Street Inn. Over the years the Boynton home was variously known as the Norton, Crisp, Potts, Paxton, Tate, and Phelps house, where hundreds of visitors enjoyed Highlands's special hospitality.

In addition to his home, Charles Boynton, a millwright and machinist, also built the first church in Highlands, the Methodist, where the Baptist Church exists today. And behind it on Mill Creek he constructed a huge lumber mill and factory. There his two sons, Frank and Charlie, known as the Boynton brothers, worked as carpenters, builders, and contractors for very early Highlands homes and stores.

It is through Charlie that Sue Ovel is descended. Both brothers, Charlie and Frank, were eventually invited to landscape the Biltmore Estate in Asheville. Indeed, it was when the Biltmore Estate sent Charlie to Lodi, Calif., to find Western plants that would also grow in the East, that Charlie set his sights on moving to California. It may be that one of the plants he brought back to try in Biltmore Gardens was a graft from California's famous Tokay grapevine, but another vine his granddaughter Davene Boynton Rusher (Sue's mother) factiously claimed he also brought back, but shouldn't have, was poison oak!

Davene decided last year, shortly before she died, to donate Charlie's meticulously detailed botanical journal to Biltmore Gardens, and it was this donation that brought husband Bill, a retired accountant, and daughter Sue back East as guests of Biltmore Gardens. They plan also to visit in Asheville with their cousin April Sprinkle, a direct descendent of Frank, who like Charlie, was also a botanist and helped rediscover *Shortia galacifolia*, now famous as the extremely rare galax-leaved plant that was "lost" for a hundred years.

In addition to Sue Ovel's being a great-great-granddaughter of Charles and Rebecca Boynton, she is also a great-great-granddaughter of Dr. Will and Susanna "Sudie" Anderson, who came to High-

lands from Ohio in 1883. Not only is she named after Susanna Anderson, but she apparently inherited enough of Dr. Anderson's medical genes to qualify her as a sonographer and vascular technologist, whose forthcoming work, *Comprehensive Ultrasound Review Book and CD* will be published by Elsevier in December to prepare aspiring sonographers for the Board Exam.

It was Sue's ancestor Dr. Anderson who lauded the pure air and water and the wild and picturesque beauty of the Highlands plateau as "the most healthful climate in the world." He described it as "too distressingly healthy" for the benefit of his medical profession to the point that "people never die but live on and on till they finally dry up and blow away." He even reported on one 82-year-old lady who could "turn 'a double summerset,' and then jump up and crack her heels together twice."

Dr. Anderson bought the 20-acre Webb orchard just south of Satulah and set up his doctor's office in Central House, today's Madison's Restaurant, where he practiced as Highlands's second major physician, after Dr. Charles Frost, until 1911.

It is through the Andersons that Sue Ovel is cousin to Roy, Bill, and Jim Lowe and their sister Joy Lowe Dooley in Highlands.

Below: Bill Rusher, Sue Rusher Ovel, and Joy Lowe Dooley reviewing photo albums at the Highlands Historical Museum.

Photos by Ran Shaffner and Kim Lewicki



Above: Bill Rusher and Sue Rusher Ovel relax on the porch of the Main Street Inn, one of the many Highlands' structures their ancestors built.



## • REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

### Great Smoggy Mountains National Park

Twelve years ago my husband and I began filming our nature series The North Carolina Mountain DVDs, and during that year we spent a lot of time in the Great Smoky National Park and on the Blue Ridge Parkway filming vistas.

This year we purchased a high-definition camera and set out again to some of those same spots, excited about capturing those incredible views in the higher clarity that hi-def affords. We were (sadly) used to the smoggy scenery of mid-summer that we have experienced in the last several years, but we were shocked and disheartened to discover that now, even in early spring, the air is fouled.

Our new rule: don't even bother leaving the house with the camera unless it's the day after a major front has come through — and I mean *major* weather system.

Last week the first Zahner Lecture Series of the season was given; it was a tribute to Bob Zahner and his conservation legacy by Paul Carlson, director of the Little Tennessee Land Trust. One of Paul's slides showed a family hiking with gas masks on and the caption read, "Summer in the Great Smokies." Paul said that when he first moved to North Carolina Bob had taught him about the disease (Dogwood Anthracnose) killing our native dogwood: that we were probably going to lose the dogwood completely and the cause could be attributed to air pollution — the acidity of the rain ate away at the tree's bark, opening it up to the invasion of the fungus.

Just last week there was an article in the Washington Post warning that our air pollution problems are possibly going to get much worse.

The Bush administration is on the verge of implementing new air quality rules that will make it easier to build power plants near national parks and wilderness areas, according to Environmental Protection Agency scientists who oppose the plan. The new regulations, which are likely to be finalized this summer, rewrite a provision of the Clean Air Act that applies to 'Class 1 areas,' federal lands that currently have the highest level of protection under the law.

Congress passed the Clean Air Act in 1970, establishing a national policy for preserving, protecting, and enhancing air quality. Amendments in



Katie Brugger  
k-brugger@hotmail.com

1977 designated all national parks that exceed 6,000 acres as mandatory Class I areas worthy of the greatest degree of air quality protection. Also under the Act, Congress mandates the federal land manager "protect air-quality related values," including visibility, flora, fauna, surface water, ecosystems, and historic resources. It further directs

the land manager to "assume an aggressive role in protecting the air quality values of land areas under his jurisdiction... In cases of doubt the land manager should err on the side of protecting the air quality-related values for future generations."

The Washington Post article quoted Jeffrey R. Holmstead, who now heads the environmental strategies group at the law firm Bracewell & Giuliani, who helped initiate the rule change while heading the EPA's air and radiation office. He said agency officials became concerned that the scientific staff was taking 'the most conservative approach' in predicting how much pollution new power plants would produce (in other words, doing their jobs as mandated by the Clean Air Act). The article stated that, "For 30 years, regulators have measured pollution levels in national parks, over both three-hour and 24-hour increments, to capture the spikes in emissions that occur during periods of peak energy demand. The new rule would average the levels over a year so that spikes in pollution levels would not violate the law."

As we all know, air quality is increasingly poor in our mountains which were once famed for their clean healthy air. I went to the national park website for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and found a page specifically about air quality (www.nps.gov/grsm/naturescience/air-quality).

This quote is from the website: "Views from scenic overlooks at Great Smoky Mountains National Park have been seriously degraded over the last 50 years by human-made pollution. Since 1948, based on regional airport records, average visibility in the southern Appalachians has decreased 40% in winter and 80% in summer. These degradations in visibility not only affect how far one can see from a scenic overlook, they also reduce how well one can see. Pollution causes colors to

•See BRUGGER page 17

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• HIS & HERS •

**The War about War**



**Michelle Mead & John Armor**  
michiemead@aol.com  
John\_Armor@yale.edu

I'm not going to name any presidential candidates in this column. But it is true that the question of whether or how we should conduct a war against terrorism is a part of the national debate now going on. Nor am I talking just about politicians.

There is a discussion group in my church (Episcopalian) who read with favor the works of an Irish theologian who believes that Christianity's purpose is the creation of a pacifist, secular government on Earth. This, however, is not a new concept. The same idea, that all war is "unChristian," was present at the time of the American Revolution.

The Quakers in Pennsylvania in 1776 were also pacifists. They published a letter asserting that they would not fight, and that they owed allegiance to the established authorities under the Crown of England. Thomas Paine, who was also a Quaker and had just published Common Sense, the book that led the American Revolution, wrote the reply as an "Epistle to the Quakers."

He began with this observation, "To God, and not to man, are all men accountable on the score of religion. Wherefore, this epistle is not so properly addressed to you as a religious, but as a political body, dabbling in matters, which the professed quietude of your Principles instruct you not to meddle with."

He continues, "the love and desire of peace is not confined to Quakerism, it is the natural, as well as the religious wish of all denominations of men." Then, Paine warms to his task, "Beneath the shade of our own vines are we attacked; in our own houses, and on our own lands, is the violence committed against us. We view our enemies in the characters of highwaymen and housebreakers, and having no defence for ourselves in the civil law; are obliged to punish them by the military one, and apply the sword, in the very case, where you have before now, applied the halter."

Paine questions the sincerity of the loyalist Quakers with these words, which apply equally to modern pacifists who direct their anger at the leaders of the United States, and make their protests in the safety of this nation, "Wherefore, if ye really preach from conscience, and mean not to make a political hobby-horse of your religion, convince the world thereof,

by proclaiming your doctrine to our enemies, for they likewise bear arms. Give us proof of your sincerity by publishing it at St. James's, to the commanders in chief at Boston, to the admirals and captains who are practically ravaging our coasts, and to all the murdering miscreants who are acting in

authority under HIM whom ye profess to serve."

Paine makes the real-world observation that, "Kings are not taken away by miracles, neither are changes in governments brought about by any other means than such as are common and human; and such as we are now using." Substitute "dictators" for "kings" and there is no difference between Paine's (and America's) circumstances in 1776 and American circumstances in 2008, except that our circumstances today are not (yet) remotely as perilous as in Paine's day.

George Orwell wrote similarly about the pacifists in World War II. Those who will not fight when their own survival is at stake, necessarily advance the cause of their enemies. Pacifism, then, is a luxury of democracies. Those who will not fight are protected, and fed, by those who will fight.

Such wars against war are common in democracies. They are less common in American history than they are today. The pacifists in WW II, for instance, were America First, a movement led by Charles Lindbergh, whose purpose was to keep America out of the "European" war. After Pearl Harbor, the U.S. declared war on Japan. Japan's ally, Germany, then declared war on the US. American First then collapsed.

It seems that lessons in the war about war are paradoxically harder to learn, when we have more history to teach them. This may be a product of declining teaching of history in colleges generally, especially in journalism schools. As Thomas Jefferson wrote, "If nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."

• About the Author: John Armor practiced law in the U.S. Supreme Court for 33 years. He now lives in Highlands, NC, and is working on a book on Thomas Paine. John\_Armor@aya.yale.edu



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• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

**Big rigs on U.S. 64, the town budget and more**

As everyone in our area knows, the Gorge road, Highway 64, between Franklin and Highlands is dangerous for 53-foot tractor trailer trucks. About a month ago I wrote a letter to the Department of Transportation expressing our concerns about the approval of these vehicles use of that road. Several days ago I received good news from the State Traffic Engineer of the North Carolina DOT. Even though the Attorney General's office has advised the DOT via statutory interpretations that these trailer trucks may legally travel on US 64, the through movements of these vehicles are currently being prohibited by the DOT based on safety concerns.

The DOT is currently revising its maps to reflect any changes to routes available to 53-foot trailers because of these safety concerns. Following complete safety analyses and field investigations, the movement of 53-foot trailers will be

prohibited, where appropriate, based on safety issues.

For now, these trucks are prohibited on the Gorge Road and soon this will be a permanent prohibition. I will request the Sheriff's department of Macon County to enforce this safety ruling of the DOT. As far as I am concerned this road should not be used by any large commercial vehicle at all and I will attempt to convince DOT of this. The original intent of this road was for private vehicles and small trucks only, and that is the way it should remain today.

As I stated last week, the Board of Commissioners is continuing the budget process for the '08-'09 fiscal year. The fact that we did not get enough grant funding for the Harris Lake Sewer Improvement Project, a critical \$2.4 million project which must be done this coming year,



Mayor Don Mullen

has a large impact on the tax rate for the coming year. It is also critical that we maintain the superior town employees we currently have by keeping their pay in line with the appropriate guidelines.

Many of these employees must travel a distance to work because they do not live in town and the cost of fuel has hit their personal budgets hard.

This has hit us just like it has hit the other parts of the economy. We are continuing to look at the budget for the coming year and in the meetings in June we must finalize it. It appears now that a two- to two-and-a-half cent millage raise is inevitable.

It is my hope that everyone will support the four performances put on by the Highlands Playhouse this year. They have a wonderful assortment of material to

work with this year which starts June 19<sup>th</sup> with "Always Patsy Cline" followed by such great plays as "On Golden Pond" and "Inherit the Wind." There will also be a salute to Broadway musical. For us to continue to have such fine performances as these we must support the Playhouse. Highlands is blessed with good performances in many areas which include the Playhouse. Let us all get out and continue to support them.

Speaking of performances, I saw an incredible performance of the Smoky Mountain Brass Band this past Sunday afternoon at the Performing Arts Center. This performance was the kickoff of the season for the Center for Life Enrichment (CLE). If you are not familiar with this organization, you should be. Their mission is to enrich the lives of adults who have a mutual interest in intellectual stimulation and cultural enhancement.

• See MULLEN page 11

• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

**Welcome to Obamaramaville!**

I promised myself I'd lay off Obama for a week and write about something cheery, but unable to think of anything cheery, I find myself breaking a promise to myself, which might be as low as a man can go. One of the reasons I feel I need to pass along information is that SpellCheck insists on redlining Obama (there, it did it again) when both Clinton and McCain come through unscathed. Is that prophetic or what?



**Don Swanson**  
Feedback is encouraged. Email [swansonson@dnet.net](mailto:swansonson@dnet.net)

Well, in case you haven't heard, the messiah has proclaimed that either his Grandpa or his uncle or his cousin or his second grandson on his aunt's side was with Patton's Army when we liberated Auschwitz and Treblinka. Now, I'm sure whoever it was is a fine person, but the likelihood that Obama's story is factual is slim, really slim, very slim.

For openers, Treblinka was closed by the Nazis in 1943. And, since both are located in Poland, the Russians weren't partial to any American involvement in the liberation of anything in Poland. Therefore, we have no idea what he was talking about. Perhaps, if he escapes assassination long enough, he may enlighten us. Now don't jump on me for mentioning the "a" word, since Mrs. Clinton brought the idea to the public in a recent speech.

Not that the Clintons would entertain such a thought.

And then, Obama took the opportunity to use Memorial Day to give a speech, as a politician should. Unfortunately, he used the opportunity to say the following: "On this Memorial Day, as our nation honors its unbroken line of fallen heroes –

and I see many of them in the audience today – our sense of patriotism is particularly strong." This proves he is the messiah – he can see dead people in the audience. It also is clear that he has no clue what Memorial Day is all about since he speaks of the living while we honor the dead. He was pandering for votes instead of commemorating U. S. men and women who perished in their military service.

And then, on May 8, during a speech he gave in Oregon, Obama disclosed that he had visited 57 states thus far in his campaign, again proving he is the deity, since, not only can he

bring dead people to life, he evidently can live in the future at will, and at sometime down the road the U.S. will have at least 57 states, since his handlers won't let him visit either Hawaii or Alaska. Perhaps a Harvard education isn't what it's cracked up to be.

So, what's going on in the rest of the world worthy of our attention? I'd like to give some clarity to the state of the Democrat party,

but, unfortunately, thanks in part to Rush Limbaugh, it is in chaos, and its future is scrambled beyond my ability to see through the smoke. Time will have to tell on this one. Of one thing I am reasonably certain; an Obama/Clinton ticket won't happen. Obama would have to constantly look over his shoulder should they be elected.

Not that the Clintons would entertain such a thought.

Not that the other side doesn't have its problems. I am truly baffled about something and I don't see it being resolved. The hard-core conservative talk show hosts continue to bash John McCain unmercifully. I am not a huge fan of his, but certainly he must be better than the alternatives. I guess I just don't see the big picture. Unless they covertly have agreed on a last minute third-party can't-miss candidate to offer, would they really want a proven socialist with a friendly, spineless, self-absorbed Congress?

Certainly McCain has his warts. His agreeing with the human-caused global warming crowd at best is politically inspired and at worst, sincere. His advocating the cap-and-trade scheme certainly torques me no end. His willing-ness to adopt the point of view of the other side is disconcerting. While his age is a minimal factor, he is no Reagan in the stud department.

On the other hand, he should be strong on national security, his immigration stance notwithstanding. He will win the war the others seem dead set on losing. I believe he is a true fiscal conservative and would be tough on earmarks and all forms of pork. I think he would strive to extend Bush's tax policies.

I realize he's not what we conservatives would like to see in a candidate. I think that was blown when we realized too late that Romney was the man.

Oh, by the way, I don't believe Obama is the messiah; he's just a mess.

## • COACH'S CORNER •

### Random Thoughts - Version 15.0

You know it's going to be a good college football season when fans are already talking about it. My good buddy Marshall Buck (quite possibly the biggest Florida Gator fan in the universe) chastised me for not pumping up the Gators enough in this weekly space. I can tell you that the Gator offense might be one of the best ever, but they are going to have to stop somebody defensively if they want to win another BCS championship this season.

I've schilled hockey endlessly here, but Game 5 between the Penguins and the Red Wings was simply incredible. The Red Wings had all of the momentum, the lackeys were shining up the cup, but the Pens wouldn't quit and were able to force a game 6 back in Pittsburgh.

Unbelievable performance by Pens goalie Marc-Andre Fleury, who turned away 55 Detroit shots in a total of 110 minutes of hockey on Monday night. Fleury's performance was the best that I have ever witnessed by a goalie, and if the Penguins can somehow force a game 7 it will be recognized as one of the greatest games in goal in the last 25 years.

So I tuned into CBS the other night to watch their Elite XC Mixed Martial Arts special. I have been intrigued by Mixed Martial Arts somewhat, having seen some of the fights online, etc. Additionally, I wanted to see Kimbo Slice in action -- the guy is a terrific story, having gone from living out of a car to making six figures for beating the crap out of people -- he appears to be one bad mother (shut my mouth).

The card was ok -- particularly the women's matchup as well as the title fight that they had advertised, but Kimbo's match didn't exactly live up to the hype. Kimbo was supposed to make short work of James "The Colossus" Thompson (and his repulsive cauliflower ear) but was unable to score a knockout despite landing some extremely heavy blows. The fight was eventually stopped controversially in the third round after Slice busted Thompson's ear (disgusting, even without HD). It will be interesting to see if Kimbo's career continues to rise despite this lackluster showing. He's training with some of the best that the word has to offer, but he is 34 (and that's a hard life 34 as well), and it remains to be seen how much he can develop and improve in the upcoming months.

Some quick hitters to close us out this week. Nate McClouth continues to



Ryan Potts

tryanpotts@hotmail.com

tear it up for the Pirates. The world continues not to care.

Last week the title of my column was supposed to have the "Devil" in Devil Rays in strikethrough font...because they aren't called Devil Rays anymore, but something got mixed up and therefore confirmed what many of you have known all along -- I have no idea what the

heck I am talking about. Anyone else as excited about the Olympics as I am? I can't wait for Olympic basketball...and archery. (I'm a huge archery geek...or just a huge geek.)

The Pistons fired Flip Saunders this week, how long before they decide to make some major changes to a roster that has been pretty static for the last few years?

The NBA draft is coming soon-how many of UNC's big three will end up staying in? (I predict Ty Lawson and Wayne Ellington are gone, Danny Green returns.)

Vince McMahon is getting pretty desperate, giving money away in an attempt to boost ratings. However, I will be glad to boost his ratings for a million dollars--it's the least I can do. Vince-I know you are reading-hook a brother up!

... MULLEN continued from page 9

Over the summer they sponsor over 60 lectureships and performances from stimulating talks on world conditions and political involvement to art, bridge and literature. Their association with Western Carolina University has had an incredible influence of the quality of their presentations. The current president, Dr. Mark Whitehead, and the current board has taken this organization to a new level.

The Recreation and Pine Street Park Committees of the Town of Highlands are working hard to come up with a physical plan for the new Pine Street Park. The input from the art class of Ms. Taylor at Highlands School was both rewarding and a lot of fun for all concerned. Many good ideas came from the students with four model versions of possibilities, many of which will be used in the final plan which the Town Board will have to approve. Hopefully, this process will be completed by the end of June and we can proceed with final fund raising for the project. The Town appreciates all who have had input in this important recreational project for our town.

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... EDUCATION continued from page 2

nificant impact on the students in Macon County and our community;

- New School Construction – South Macon Elementary School and Cartoogechaye Elementary School have provided much relief for our students since their construction more than seven years ago;

- Smart Start and More at Four – a state initiative, but a local collaboration of the Macon Program for Progress (MPP) partnership for young children and the school system;

- Revising the Facility Improvement and School Construction Plans – a partnership between the Macon County Board of Education and Macon County Commissioners for continued support of school construction;

Union Academy – expanded services to provide alternative learning opportunities for middle and high school students;

- Renovations to East Franklin Elementary School – Phase I of two phases is nearing completion and will provide a safer, modern environment for teaching and learning;

- Job Corps Partnership- that includes shared resources and greater access to programs targeting high school students;

Construction of a Fiber Optic Loop – providing students and teachers access to high speed technology that surpasses most metropolitan areas;

- Eleven schools that are committed to raising student academic achievement

and closing gaps.

The citizens of Macon County can be proud of the support of local politicians and school board members. Each of these initiatives has been successfully expedited while maintaining a very low tax rate and operating on a flat-lined budget for our school system for a third consecutive year. Our numbers are at the state and national averages; however, there is much work to be done.

All organizations are perfectly aligned to the results they are getting; therefore, to change our results demands realignment within the organization. As we move forward with improvement efforts, many decisions must continue to be made from facilities to personnel. As superintendent, many of those decisions often fall within my scope of responsibilities and will con-

tinue to be made with the best interest of students in mind. This past spring, we revisited our district's vision, mission and Strategic Plan. Our goal is for these revisions to soon place our school system in the top twenty districts in the state in terms of student performance and efficiency ratings. To accomplish this, I recognize the need to identify successful programs that currently exist and carry those initiatives throughout the district. This process often requires the reassignment of personnel to effectively plan and deploy such programs in targeted locations. Restricting a successful program to one facility is clearly an injustice to students and sharing resources and ideas is known as a "best practice" in education.

Since Nov. 2006, efforts have been made to establish a two-way communications model throughout the district involving students, parents, staff members, and local business leaders in the decision-making and planning process. We are very thankful for the continued participation of each member of the Superintendent's Communication Councils. One priority of these Councils is to clarify assumptions that may exist out in the schools and community. With local media printing anonymous quotes and articles targeting decisions and efforts for improving the school district's performance, this task is growing harder each day as inaccurate or hostile messages are posted for public review that undermine the integrity of the Board of Education and school leadership. It is my hope that readers will realize that opinions expressed through these avenues are often inaccurate or based on limited information.

My office is open to any individual who may be unclear about the decisions made by school leadership or our Board of Education. Personnel issues are often confidential; therefore, specific facts cannot be released to the public. Efforts to improve programs and student performance can be disclosed to interested parties.

Since departing the military 18 years ago, education has been my profession and passion. In addition, being one of five children raised by a public school teacher just across the mountains in Madison County, I hold a high level of respect for the teaching profession and teachers as individuals. My goal in Macon County is to provide the best educational experience possible for every child that enters our doors. I continue to extend an open invitation to anyone who desires clarification behind the decisions that impact students and our organization. We now look forward to the close of another academic year and wish each student, staff members and the community a relaxing summer break.

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• THANKS •

Community supports club's mission

Dear Editor,

The members of the Mountain Garden Club would like to thank the communities of Highlands and Cashiers for making our annual Memorial Day weekend plant sale the most successful in our 26 years of hosting this event.

We appreciate the wonderful response from people who allowed us to dig plants in their gardens.

Special thanks go to the following local business people who provided invaluable services of time, talent, and supplies: David Sims—Highlands Lawn and Garden; Buddy Dean—Hilltop Gardens, Inc.; Cashiers; Linda McCall—McCall's Nursery; Michael David Rogers (Bud)—Landscaping; Jamie Rold—John M. Lathrop Electrical Contractor, Inc.; Eric NeSmith and Melody Spurney—The

Highlander Newspaper; Chuck and Wanda Cooper—WHLC, FM 104.5; Kim Lewicki—Highlands' Newspaper; Wiley Sloan—The Mountain Laurel Magazine; Katie Brugger—'Heart of the High Country' on Northland Cable TV channel 14.

And to all of our shoppers, many thanks for your faithful support! Please recycle the empty black plastic pots from our sale by dropping them off at Highlands Lawn and Garden.

Ann Maxwell  
President, Mountain Garden Club



**Clear Creek Baptist Church**  
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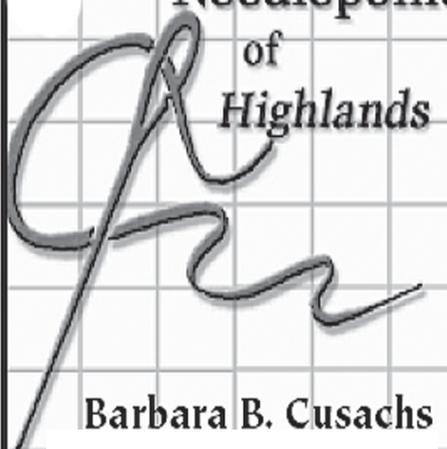
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## • ANOTHER POV •

### Truth is Binary

The truth is binary. A thing is or it is not. The truth is black and white. There is no grey in the true, the real truth; or at least there shouldn't be.

In March of 2003, the United States invaded Iraq due in part on intelligence reports that Iraq had purchased or attempted to purchase uranium yellowcake from the Africa country of Niger. Four months later Ambassador Joseph C. Wilson IV, who had been Senior Director for African Affairs on the United States National Security Council, provided information to the New York Times based on his knowledge of intelligence in Africa. Wilson had concluded that the George W. Bush administration twisted intelligence to "exaggerate the Iraqi threat."

Coincidentally, the week after the article's publication, Robert Novak disclosed Wilson's wife's classified covert CIA identity as "Valerie Plame" in his syndicated *Washington Post* column. The timing of it all was all rather coincidental.

The administration was saying Wilson was incorrect in his intelligence analysis and they had nothing to do with the outing of his wife's CIA identity. On the other side, Wilson said the outing was directly related and part of the Bush administration's attempts to discredit his report and his integrity.

How could this be? Was the report not clear? Was it not real? How can a report, a report so vital to justifying one nation's armed aggression against another, not be so clearly accurate that it would stand all scrutiny? Certainly, a document such as this would easily stand on its own merit and no false accusations need to be made by its backers to protect or shore up its meaning or content.

Enter now the shades of grey. A Special Counsel was authorized to investigate allegations of the administration's role in "Plamegate" as it came to be called. Two years, five months later, in October 2005, as a result of that investigation, Lewis "Scooter" Libby was indicted for lying to a federal grand jury and obstruction of justice.

In March 2007, one year and five months after being indicted, and after the government's spending of \$2.8 million, Libby was convicted on four federal felonies. Three months after that, in June 2007, President Bush commuted Libby's sentence.

Enter more grey. Three years after Valerie Plame was outed (March 2003), and 18 months after the Libby was in-



**Matthew G. Eberz**  
Feedback is encouraged  
Email: [mgeberz@verizon.net](mailto:mgeberz@verizon.net)

dicted (October 2005), Scott McClellan, White House spokesman and President's Bush's press secretary, announced his resignation on 19 April 2006.

Now, nine months after President Bush commuted Libby's sentence, on April 21, 2008, Scott McClellan published his recollections while in the Bush White House from 2003 to 2006 entitled, *What Happened: Inside the Bush White House and Washington's Culture of Deception*.

According to Mr. McClellan the White House was involved in the leaking of CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity to the news media in the summer of 2003. McClellan says he was ordered to say that White House aides Karl Rove and Lewis "Scooter" Libby were not involved in leaking Plame's identity.

Two years after resigning from his post in the White House, Scott McClellan has written of what he knows of the White House's involvement in "Plamegate." But from July 2003, when this happened until April 2008, McClellan said nothing. For five years he was silent and now, all of a sudden, he is willing to testify before Congress. Was it an epiphany that caused him to suddenly find the courage to speak the truth? Or was it that his book hit number one on the best seller list, and more press would cause more book sales?

My guess, it was the latter — just like George Tenet. Gutless bureaucrats who hid under the veil of secrecy while they were in the job, said nothing, walked away, and when the mindset of the public was clear — that is, found those responsible — they suddenly step forward and say, "Look at me. I'm the brave one standing up for the truth."

I don't know about you, but that doesn't wash for me. I think we all know; it's all about the money.

In October of 2007, Valerie Plame Wilson released her book entitled, *Fair Game: My Life as a Spy. My Betrayal by the White House*. She received over \$2 million for the book (George Tenet got \$4 million).

It is a sad commentary when one person in a group casually says about politicians, "They all lie," and none of us disagrees. Politics and politicians are anything but binary.

By the way, my new book *Very Public Data* was released last week, and I didn't get a \$4 million advance.

• Eberz is signing copies at Cyrano's on Saturday from 1-3 p.m.

## ... ENERGY continued from page 2

than 66 million dollars per day or more than 24 billion dollars a year in royalties alone. This does not include the revenues the MMS would receive for the leasing of the Federal lands and that would generate billions of dollars a year as well. In 2007 the MMS received royalties of over 7 billion dollars from the offshore and more than 2.5 billion from the onshore.

Notice there is a double benefit to such a Comprehensive Energy Policy in that our revenues are increased by more than 24 billion dollars a year and our trade deficit would be reduced by over 146 billion dollars a year. How wonderful that would be, talk about a stimulus package, WOW!

### **Power Generation and Distribution**

To maximize efficient clean coal use, we should construct power plants in the areas where these vast reserves exist. To efficiently distribute this energy to where the needs are, we will need a new network of power lines. Additionally, slurry pipelines could be constructed to provide our existing power plants with the clean coal that is needed, along with getting the slurry coal to our major rivers from where it could then be barged.

Nuclear power generation is clean and advanced technology has made it much safer. A good example of what can be done is France This needed power is necessary to help bridge our transition to the energy fuels of the future.

### **Invest In Our Infrastructure**

To help reduce the use of oil, gasoline, and diesel we need to modernize our existing railroad system. It should be an infrastructure that is similar to our interstate highway system. Just imagine the number of vehicles that would no longer be burning gasoline and diesel fuel if we had such a system. The railroad system could be powered with the electricity provided by the newly constructed power generation plants. The railroad right-of-ways could also contain the power transmission lines and railroad crossings could be eliminated with over or underpasses and, therefore, would no longer be impacted by vehicles crossing the tracks. We could essentially have a high speed railway system. Eventually, we could have bullet trains and perhaps even a magnetic levitation rail system as well.

### **Conclusion**

We all recognize that our country needs to find and develop alternative energy sources and we should continue to research and develop the generation of energy from bio-fuels, hydrogen, wind, solar and the oceans as well, but it is unlikely that these sources will be significant suppliers of energy for decades to come. Oil, natural gas, nuclear and coal are the horses we need to bet on for the next 20 to 30 years. In the short term, plus or mi-

nus the next 25 years, we absolutely must find and develop the fossil fuels that we have in our country. Just as a reminder, in the early 1970's OPEC raised the price of oil and not only did the price of gasoline go up but we had to wait in line to get it. One of the reasons we were able to break OPEC's strangle hold on us was because in the free world, non-OPEC countries, we were able to establish production and get oil domestically from Prudhoe Bay, and internationally from Mexico's and the North Sea, just to mention a few.

I'm convinced that all the above can be accomplished with a minimum impact on our environment. As an example, some were concerned that the pipeline from Prudhoe Bay would damage the environment and affect the migration of the Caribou, yet it has been shown that neither the environment nor the Caribou were impacted. In fact, utilizing pipelines is the cleanest, best and safest way to move products. Many are concerned that drilling and production in ANWR or the offshore Eastern Gulf, the East and West Coasts would have an environmental impact on our environment, yet fishing in offshore Louisiana and Texas is better now than it ever has been since the platforms provide reef like protection for the marine life. There have been no oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico since 1980 not even when major storms like Katrina came through. Over the years technology has evolved in all facets of energy producing industries. We can protect the environment while becoming more energy self sufficient thereby preventing our country from the disaster we are heading for if we continue to do nothing to supply us with the energy we need for growth and national security.

It can be clearly seen that we can lower our energy costs and stimulate the economy if we would just implement a Comprehensive Energy Policy. That can only be done if we, the consumer, insists on it. I am convinced that if Congress would just start talking about considering such a supply side Energy Policy that the price of oil would immediately drop and therefore be much more affordable. Such a Policy along with continuing to improve on the fuel efficiency and emissions of our energy consuming products and vehicles is also a must.

• Paul is retired and has a BS in Earth and Planetary Science from the University of Pittsburgh. He has 33 years of worldwide experience in exploration and research with a major oil company and spent 8 years as an independent looking for and producing oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico.

References for all the materials and facts cited above can be provided upon request. paulko1@aol.com



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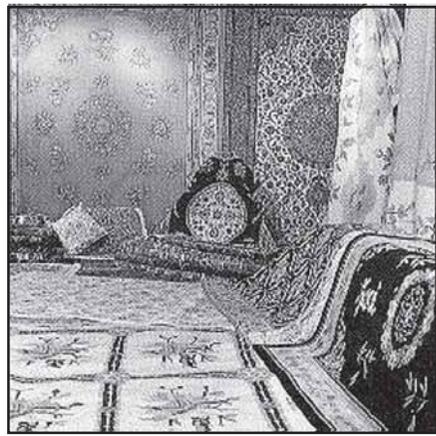
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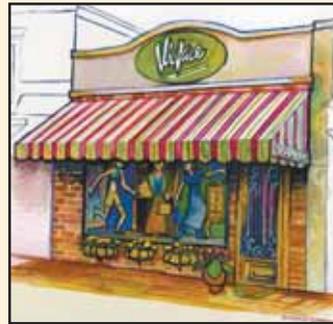
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## ... WORKFORCE continued from page 1



Shortoff Woods rendition for a 24-unit building by Crosland.

At its meeting Monday, the hospital board agreed to sell six of its 40 acres for \$750,000 and Affordable Housing Task Force Chairperson MaryAnn Sloan said a legal agreement to option the property is in the works.

Called "workforce" housing, this apartment project will consist of 48-units — mostly two-bedroom apartments mixed with a few one-bedroom and three-bedroom units on the southwest portion of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital property bordered by Buck Creek Road, U.S. 64 west and Chestnut Hill.

Half the project will be rented to people who qualify for subsidized rents and the other half will be rented at market value which will be "whatever the market can bear," said Sloan.

Though the exterior of the apartments in the complex will look the same, the interior amenities of the "market value" units will be more upscale.

Rents charged for units will depend on the percentage of income an applicant earns based on the Area Median Income (AMI) for Macon County. For instance, a person who makes 30% AMI would pay \$265 for a one bedroom; a person who makes 60% AMI would pay \$530.

According to Linda Browning with Macon Program for Progress, families want to move to Highlands to be closer to their places of work, but high rents prevent them from doing so. "I think the proposed project would rent up easily," she said.

Since it's on hospital property, the project can access the hospital's water and sewer service it receives from Highlands — a factor that is key to the ability to build such a complex in Highlands, said task force member Bill Nellis.

The fact that the proposed location is close to Highlands services including grocery stores, healthcare, education and parks and recreation is a plus. A downside is the lack of sidewalks for pedestrians.

Surveys indicate workers drive to work in Highlands because they can't afford to live here because the wages don't offset the high cost of living. Now with gas prices so high, the need to live near work is even greater; as is the need for affordable housing, said Carter.

Carter said if the apartment complex is a success, the next step could be an affordable home-ownership program.

Preference for the below market value units will be given to employees of the hospital, the school, Chestnut Hill and the town, but they must still meet specific in-

come qualifications, as well as a credit check and criminal background check.

The tax credits affording the construction of the project dictate that the "affordable" units stay "affordable" based on AMI for 30 years while rent of the market value units can change.

Blocks of apartments can't be rented by a particular organization or company, nor will transients be able to live in the complex since a one-year lease is required.

The taskforce is working with Crosland, a company with a 75-year record of building housing with an affordable housing division.

The tax credit application for the project will be submitted January 2009 and hopefully awarded August 2009 which means the project could be completed late 2009, early 2010.

"It's important that we educate the community as to the importance of this," said Mayor Don Mullen. "This will be workforce housing, not low-income housing and it will be a first class building, not a project."

The Affordable Housing Task Force is Pat Boyd, Lee Hodges, Christy Kelly, Dick Lawrence, Jill Montana, Bill Nellis, MaryAnn Sloan, Bob Wright and Don Mullen.

## ... TOWN BOARD from 1 money.

"Instead of a two-cent tax increase, we will use the money that was unspent last year so we don't have to regenerate it this year," she said. "This allows us to keep our tax rate the same without hurting our funds."

For instance, The Greenway requested \$100,000 be allocated each year, but only used a fraction of it for 2007-2008.

Betz also presented calculations for 5% and 6% COLA increases for town employees with an additional one percent for merit and longevity increases built in. The scenarios would cost the town \$21,000 and \$46,000, respectively. Commissioners said they will make a decision shortly.

Urging from 41 of the 43 homeowners on Wyanoak Drive has the Town Board rethinking its policy concerning paving roads.

Town Attorney Bill Coward said the town only has to change its policy regarding rights-of-way regulations and participation percentages to pave Wyanoak.

In Sept. 2006 the board agreed to waive the rights-of-way requirement and to pave the road to its existing wear width but was still requiring property owners to dedicate

•See TOWN BOARD page 20

### ... LETTER continued from page 3

because there is much unjustifiable, pointless evil in the world, the traditional good and powerful God could not exist. Some other god or no god may exist but not the traditional God." The problem with this reasoning is just because you can't find a reason why God would allow something painful to happen doesn't mean there can't be one.

### ...BRUGGER continued from page 7

appear washed out and obscures landscape features. Pollution typically appears as a uniform whitish haze, different from the natural mist-like clouds for which the Smokies were named.

"Ozone exposures in the park are among the highest in the East and in recent years have exceeded levels that threaten human health. On average, ozone levels over the ridgetops of the park are up to two times higher than in nearby cities, including Knoxville and Atlanta.

The park receives the highest sulfur and nitrogen deposits of any monitored national park. These pollutants fall to the ground not only as acid rain, but also as dry particles and cloud water. The average acidity (pH) of rainfall in

Dr. Alvin Plantinga, the eminent professor of philosophy at Notre Dame, illustrates the argument this way: If you look for a Saint Bernard in your pup tent and you don't see one, it is reasonable to assume there is no St. Bernard in the tent. But if you look into your tent for a "no-see-um" (an extremely small insect with a bite out of proportion to its size) and you

the park is 4.5, 5-10 times more acidic than normal rainfall (5.0-5.6). Clouds with acidity as low as 2.0 pH bathe the high elevation forests during part of the growing season."

You can easily see for yourself the decrease in visibility over seasons and years at the national park service website. Two webcams were set up in the park and the website has archived daily photos dating back to, in one location, Feb. 14, 2000 and the other, Aug. 19, 2003. Each day's photo gives an estimate of the viewable distance.

I'm sure President Bush has lots more presents like this in store for us as he prepares to leave office.

All of Katie Brugger's columns are available on her website: [www.kathleenbrugger.com](http://www.kathleenbrugger.com)

don't see any, it is not reasonable to assume they aren't there. Because, after all, no one can see 'em. Plantinga then asks: "Many assume that if there were good reason for the existence of evil, they would be accessible to our minds, more like a St. Bernard than like no-see-ums, but should that be the case.?" Good point!

Like all pastors I have had to deal with hurting people who want to know why God allows suffering to happen when he has the power to stop it? Does the Biblical world view get God off the hook? Yes it does! Why? Because, as Dr. Peter Kreeft points out, it was the Christian God who came to earth to deliberately put himself "on the hook" of human suffering. The reality is we live in a fallen world that experiences the consequences of humanities fallen-ness, a reality God himself has experienced.

Dr. Tim Keller, in his book "The Reason For God", writes: "Why does God allow evil and suffering to continue?" and we look at the cross of Jesus, we still do not know what the answer is. However, we now know what the answer isn't. It

can't be that he doesn't love us. It can't be that he is indifferent or detached from our condition. God takes our misery and suffering so seriously that he was willing to take it to himself."

For the suffering the Christian faith offers hope. And a promise from God that: "All things work together for the good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28. I'll end with a thought from Dostoevsky:

"I believe like a child that suffering will be healed and made up for, that all the humiliating absurdity of human contradictions will vanish like a pitiful mirage...something so precious will come to pass that it will suffice for all the hearts, for the comforting of all resentments, for the atonement of all the crimes of humanity, of all the blood that they've shed; that it will make it not only possible to forgive but to justify all that has happened." Like a child I believe this too! God is in control like it or not!

Steve Kerhoulas  
Pastor of Christ Church, Sapphire Valley

## Girls' Clubhouse goes to Myrtle Beach

Members of The Girls' Clubhouse spent last weekend in Myrtle Beach, SC combining community service and fun. While picking up litter at Huntington Beach State Park, they toured Atalaya, the Moorish-style winter home of artists Anna Hyatt and Archer Huntington, sculptress and philanthropist, respectively, who left the park and adjacent Brookgreen Gardens as their legacy. The girls also went to a show at the Carolina Opry, swam in the ocean, ate dinner at Olive Garden and Key West Grill and shopped at Boardway on the



Pictured are Alex Michaud, Jackeye Reyes, Kristen Hedden, Gabrielle Tilson, Autumn Chastain and Shelby Houston.

Photos by Kim Lewicki

Beach. The trip culminates a year of community service performed by the girls each Friday afternoon. Thanks go to Nancy Welch, Kilwin's, OEI, Ms. Wood, Sarah & Wiley Sloan, Bob Fisher and the folks at Jolie's for making the trip possible.



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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## Sharing



**Rev. Cass Daly**  
Christ Anglican Church

Recently I have been thinking about sharing. All of our lives we've been told the importance of sharing - what we have and what we know - with others. From our earliest days most of us can remember Mom, Grandma, a teacher, saying, Now, be nice and share...

In many areas we do a splendid job of sharing. If we read a good book, see a good play, eat at a good restaurant - we quickly share that special 'news'. I think that it also speaks well of us when those of us who have found solace and comfort in our faith - also share our faith. In a world that is often filled with disquiet and uneasiness shouldn't we tell people if we've been blessed with a sense of peace; Christian peace?

Let me share a story with you that I read years ago. On a street corner a small boy was holding a mirror in his hand, reflecting the light of the sun toward a house and was trying to center the light on one particular window. The boy's next-door neighbor watched and became irritated at the flashing light. He came out and said sharply, 'What do you think you're doing?'

The little boy smiled and said, 'My brother has been very sick and that's his room up there. Since the sun never reaches his room, I was trying to reflect a little of it there. The light makes him feel a little better. One of the things we should be doing is reflecting (sharing) God's light to others.'

Sharing our faith should be as easy as telling folks about that good book, play or restaurant. In Matthew's Gospel, in the 10th Chapter, Jesus is sending out his disciples and gives them some instructions (as they are about to share). One instruction has always struck me for it's simplicity and it's power: 'Freely you have received - freely give.'

Permit me to 'share' one more story with you. Towards the end of his life, the actor Steve McQueen discovered that he had cancer. He was known for his many movie roles, in which he had been, often, a heroic character. This is a story of another form of heroics on his part (at least in my estimation).

Knowing that his cancer was very serious, a friend shared his own faith story with Mr. McQueen and took him to a Billy Graham crusade. After the evening's altar call, Steve McQueen asked if he could meet with Dr. Graham. The actor shared with the evangelist that he was struggling with the thought of God giving eternal life to a man who had such a checkered past. Billy Graham shared a verse with McQueen and the actor asked for a piece of paper so that he could write it down and remember it. Instead Dr. Graham gave McQueen his own Bible (with the passage marked).

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 21

# • PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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

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

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

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

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

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH**  
Corner of Spring and Third streets  
Sundays: 11 a.m.  
**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Everett Brewer

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Prayer - 6:30 p.m.  
Evening Service - 1st & 3rd Sunday -- 7 p.m.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands  
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;  
6:30 p.m. High School Group  
Wednesdays: Dinner 5 p.m.-6 p.m.; 6 p.m. programs  
for all students; 6:15 p.m., Adult Bible Study  
Thursdays: Women's Bible Study 10 a.m.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**  
The Rev. Brian Sullivan - Rector: 526-2968  
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School  
10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)  
Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.  
Monday: 4 P.M. Women's Cursillo Group  
Tuesday: 8 A.M. Men's Cursillo Group  
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry  
Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice  
Thursday: 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)  
10:30 A.M. Daughters of the King

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.  
**FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN**  
Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977  
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.  
(nursery provided)

Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.  
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's  
Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;  
Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.  
Small groups available throughout the week.

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

p.m.; Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Mark Kayser, Interim Pastor  
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175  
Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun.School - 9:30 & 9:45.  
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Bible Discussion &  
Breakfast

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers  
Choir - 7

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
Sixth Street  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7  
**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Senior Pastor Todd Struble; Asst. Pastor Mike Harris  
526-3376  
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;  
5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: Supper; 6; 6:15 - children, youth, & adults  
studies; 6:15 - Adult choir  
(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)  
Thurs: 12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)  
**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA**  
Chaplain Margaret Howell  
2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741

Sundays: Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Adult discussion  
group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion - 10:30  
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**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Choir - 6 p.m.

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

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

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

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

**SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Rev. Wayne Price  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7  
**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**  
828-369-3633

Lay Led Sunday School 10:15 a.m.  
Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.  
**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11



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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



**F. Augustus "Gus" Dozier  
MD, FACS**



**William J. "Billy" Noell, Jr.  
MD, FACS**

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 (later 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.

To make an appointment with Dr. Dozier or Dr. Noell, call **Mountain Medical & Surgical Group at (828) 526-2371**.

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- *Laparoscopic and Open Gallbladder Surgery*
- *Liver Biopsies*
- *Lymph Node Removal*
- *Melanoma Removal*
- *Removal of Skin Cysts and Lesions*
- *Spleen Surgery*
- *Thyroid Surgery*
- *Treatment of Abdominal Pain*



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... COUNTY continued from page 1

For instance, Commissioner Jim Davis wanted funding for the Macon County Historical Society to come out of the room tax money since representatives said it draws hundreds of tourists and visitors. But the

vote was 4 to 1 to fund it through the EDC.

The chambers wanted an answer concerning room tax allocations, but the commission agreed to a 90-day extension so it has more time to investigate ramifications of forming three Travel & Tourism Commissions to disburse room tax money.

Town of Franklin Aldermen and Town Manager Sam Greenwood solicited the county to fund all the requests made by Franklin-area organizations saying it will be good for Franklin and the county as a whole.

The Sheriff's Department requested funding for another deputy.

The School Board requested about a \$1 million for current expenses – not to be confused with capital expenses. Additional monies requested for capital facilities expansion weren't discussed until the June 2 and 3 continuation meetings.

Last Thursday, commissioners acknowledged that current expenses for the school system had been flat-lined for the last 2-3 years – a process that couldn't continue. To help offset its request from the county, the school system is using \$300,000 from its unreserved fund balance. In the end, the commission agreed to match the county's \$300,000 and require it to cut \$460,000 from its current expense budget.

On the evening of Monday, June 2, there was another continuation meeting, this time to discuss a "last minute" request from the school board concerning capital

facilities funding which came in from the architects Bowers, Ellis & Watson.

Though accusations of "poor planning" or "padding" were made, following a conference call in County Manager Jack Horton's office with architect Mike Watson and School Superintendent Dan Brigman, commissioners were able to cut most from the new request, which totaled an additional \$3 million.

"The bids presented prior to last evening consisted of actual construction costs alone," said Brigman. "The latest request represented over-planning rather than poor- or under-planning on the architect and school system's part. These additional needs were discussed over numerous meetings in the past."

Since the bids for East Franklin expansion and the new 5-6 school came in much less than projected, in his final request, Watson presented internal needs such as technology (computers & active boards), furniture, and other necessities, which were left off of the original project bid but will have to be addressed as funding is acquired in the future.

However, since the "interior" needs won't be used for at least 18 months, commissioners didn't think it necessary to fund them through debt service.

Of the 12 additional requests for the 5-6 school only four were considered for a total of \$1.108 million. About \$300,000 was cut from the additional requests for East Franklin with another \$500,000 to be funded.

"Although needed items have been removed from the financing package, the needs still exist," said Brigman. "Our intent is to transfer as much furniture and computers from existing schools to equip the new 5-6 without stripping essential labs and other equipment."

The result of the conference-call meeting and Tuesday morning's continuation meeting was the omission of items that didn't focus primarily on building the structure.

"We will have to access the funds for technology, furniture, computers, and active boards as we move toward project completion," said Brigman.

Brigman said architect fees have been paid since the beginning of the planning process with a balance of approximately 25% of the noted total remaining to be paid – about \$1.2 million.

The school system's last minute requests had commissioners scurrying to figure out how to fund what absolutely had to be funded and still meet the Local Government Commission (LGC) deadline which had to include a bank proposal and final interest rate.

The LGC only considers packages the first Tuesday of each month and requires all the information a month in advance.

Finance Director Southard prepared the Request for Proposal (RFP) based on the latest information with answers requested back from banks by Friday, June 6.

At Tuesday's meeting, commissioners

decided to fund the Southwestern Community College expansion for the Early College High School of \$850,000 — which represents the original \$650,000 estimate plus contingencies which were just included — and \$1.2 million for the Highlands School roof and bathroom renovations out of the county's fund balance.

The \$20 million for East Franklin Elementary School expansion and the new 5-6 school will come from debt service.

"We won't have the final word on next year's tax rate until the bids come in from the banks," said Southard. "Once those come in and we know the percentage rate on financing \$20 million, the commissioners can set a tax rate."

The new rate will likely be discussed at the June 9 commission meeting and public hearing with adoption of the budget likely at the June 16 meeting.

The current tax rate is 24.5 cents – the lowest in the state. County Manager Jack Horton said even with a nominal increase Macon County's tax rate will still be one of the lowest in the state.

... TOWN BOARD from 16

a 30-foot right-of-way which wouldn't be paved.

That requirement has halted the paving because two property owners don't want to dedicate their property to the town.

Commissioner Larry Rogers said he's sure the 30-foot right-of-way is already there, and since it's not going to be paved it shouldn't matter. The board asked Coward to look into the matter.

The issue concerning removing a stop sign at Laurel Wood Lane and Wilson Road has been put to bed. Once Ravenel homeowners learned that the stop sign is on a town road and not a private driveway they withdrew the request to have the sign removed.

Town Planner Joe Cooley presented a draft of the "Display of Outdoor Merchandise," but the board will rule on it at the June 25 meeting.

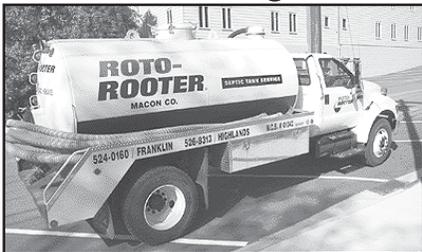
"The essence of the revised draft is the same as in the Planning Board's unanimous recommendation to allow the display of merchandise on private property, just restructured with clarifications as per the Town Attorney's request," he said.

Also, Coward reported arriving at a "reasonable" settlement with Sam Evans of \$68,000 over Bowery Road rights-of-way and believes the town can settle the rest of the cases out of court without any trouble.

The board also asked Coward and Police Chief Bill Harrell to petition the Highway Patrol to crack down on big-rigs traveling the Gorge Road. State Traffic Engineer Kevin Lacy said there is a truck prohibition in effect on the Gorge Road, but there is also a state statutory interpretation that 53-foot rigs can legally travel the road. Commissioners are requesting clarification on the matter.

The June 18 Town Board meeting has been changed to June 25.

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# Amputees sign up for SOAR

By Bill Bathurst

Soldiers Christopher Self and Tim Gustafson have entered the Special Operations Adventure Race (SOAR) set for Saturday, June 14 with the team name of Amputeam. They are both amputees, wounded in Iraq. Amputeam is not asking for any favors and they are focusing on their abilities and not their disabilities. Their participation should be an inspiration to us all.

Both soldiers are stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. First Sergeant Christopher Self is a native of Canton, OH and serving with the 5th Special Forces Group. Staff Sergeant Tim Gustafson is a native of Leavenworth, KS and serving with the 1st Squadron, 278th Regimental Combat Team of the Tennessee National Guard.

These soldiers and their families are being hosted by the Special Operations Adventure Race (SOAR) Committee and Randy Power, owner of the Chandler Inn. The Highlands Plateau community welcomes them as well as all racers.

Adventure racing is a combination of two or more disciplines. SOAR features roughly 60% Mountain Biking, 25% running, 10% paddling, and 5% rappelling. There will be two races: the Elite Race, beginning at 7 a.m., will be 10-12 hours and the Sprint Race, beginning at 8 a.m. will be 5-7 hours. Both races start in front of the Presbyterian Church (corner of Fifth and Main) and end at the Rec Park.

SOAR is an extraordinary event in support of the Special Operations Warrior

Foundation which provides surviving children of fallen Special Operations Forces the college education their parent would have wanted for them. This unique event is one of several local tributes to these very special soldiers, sailors, and airmen. Other activities include a raffle, a dinner and auction at 5:30 p.m. on June 12 at the Community Center and a golf tournament at Burlingame on June 16. Your personal donations may be made to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, P.O. Box 923, Highlands, NC 28741. The Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 charity organization.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING  
continued from page 18

Months later, Steve McQueen died in Mexico while seeking experimental treatment for his terminal cancer. He passed on, reading a shared passage of hope, with Dr. Graham's Bible opened to Titus 1:2 (the verse Billy Graham had shared). It reads, 'the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.' [1] I cannot speak for Mr. McQueen's faith but it is obvious, to me, that he, at last, shared our Christian hope.

So, if you are a person of faith. Especially, from my perspective, if you are a Christian, share your faith; share your story; share your journey. People need to hear it - from you. Our Lord might well be saying to you, at this very moment, Now, be nice and share...

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# POLICE & FIRE LOGS

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for May 25-June 3. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

**May 25**

- At 11:50 p.m., officers investigated criminal damage to property on Oak Street..

**May 29**

- At 4:55 p.m., a motorist at Oak and 3rd streets was cited for operating unlawfully and driving without a seat belt.

- At 5:05 p.m., officers investigated a report of a suspicious person picking flowers on Main Street. The person was waiting for a ride.

**May 30**

- At 8 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 west and Webbmont was cited for driving without a license.

- At 9 a.m., a person notified the police station that he had purchased a Rolex watch off E-Bay for \$5237.87 and it was a fake.

- At 10:10 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 west and

Webbmont was cited for driving without a license..

**May 31**

- At 6:49 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at U.S. 64 west and N.C. 106..

**June 1**

- At 7:45 a.m., Javier Aguilar Garcia, 30, of Franklin, was arrested for various traffic violations.

**June 2**

- At 7:45 a.m., Ivan Castanedol, 28, of Highlands, was arrested for various traffic violations.

**June 3**

- At 8 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at N.C. 28 and Stacey Russell Road.

During the week, officers issued 1 warning ticket.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of May 28-June 4.

**May 29**

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers on

a possible structure fire. Highlands stood by for them..

**May 31**

- The dept. responded to an accident on U.S. 64. There were no injuries.

- The dept. responded to a report of a possible brush fire in the Cullasaja Gorge, but the call was cancelled en route.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Cold Mountain Circle. The victim was transported to the hospital.

**June 1**

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Brushy Face Road where a person had fallen. The victim was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. responded to a call of a brush fire on U.S. 64 west but the call was cancelled en route.

**June 1**

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

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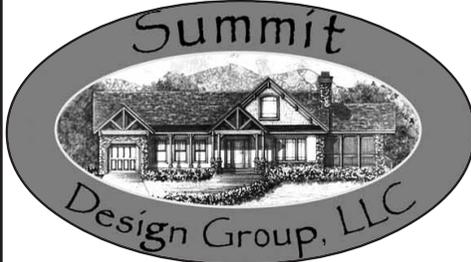
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## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### On-going

• The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series is held each Thursday during the summer months at 7p.m. at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Rd. For a complete schedule, visit [www.wcu.edu/hbs](http://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!

• Book Sale at the Jackson County Library. Bargains galore can be found at the Friends of the Library Used Bookstore which is located at 536 West Main Street in downtown Sylva. All bargain books have been priced at 2 for 50 cents and 2 for 25 cents. The pricing is effective immediately. All the profits from the Friends of the Library Bookstore go to support the Jackson County Public Library.

• The Highlands Playhouse is taking reservations for "Always Patsy Cline," Thurs.-Sun., June 19-July 6; "On Golden Pond," Thurs.-Sun., July 10-20; "70th Anniversary Diamond Review," Thurs.-Sun., July 24-Aug. 10; and "Inherit the Wind" Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 14-31. Please call 828-526-2695 or write or PO Box 896, Highlands, NC 28741.

• Highlands Playhouse is taking reservations for its annual Children's Theatre Mon.-Fri., July 7-18, taught by instructors with extensive experience in theatre education 9 a.m. to noon for ages 6-10, and 1-4 p.m. for ages 11-16. Please call 828-526-

## Davis to play 'Florence Bracewell' at ITC

Madeleine Davis costars with David Milford in the nostalgic, comedic comedy *The Return of Herbert Bracewell* by Andrew Johns. Davis portrays Florence Bracewell, the long-suffering wife of Herbert Bracewell.

Her husband, a lovably senile character actor, has retired to the attic of their home to plan his comeback to the stage. The year is 1909. Florence, thirty years her husband's junior and once a great success as an actress, comes up to the attic to call her husband to bed. She becomes caught up in his production plans, first

with good-humored derision, and then with the suggestion that she join him in the comeback attempt. Through a series of barbs, playful reminiscences and impromptu "performances" by both Florence and Herbert we learn what their relationship has endured, and how it has been sustained by the magic of theatre. You will laugh, you may shed a nostalgic tear or two, and you will leave the Studio on



Madeleine Davis as Florence Bracewell

Endless Summer Studios

Main in love with theatre if you weren't already.

*The Return of Herbert Bracewell* marks the tenth appearance Ms. Davis has made with the Instant Theatre Company. Since 2005 she has been seen in *The Turn of the Screw*, *Little Entertainments*, *Cocktail Hour Theatre*, *Carpe Noctum Theatre*, *My Secret Weapon*, *Diaries of Adam and Eve*, and this season's ITC LIVE! and *The Ice-Breaker*. She holds an M.F.A. in Theatre from the University of Alabama and is the Instant

Theatre Company's incoming Artistic Director.

Opening Wednesday, June 11 at 8 a.m. *The Return of Herbert Bracewell* will also play on, June 12-14 and the 18-21. For reservations call 828-342-9197. Tickets are \$20 with reservations and \$25.00 at the door. The ITC's Studio on Main is located at 310 Oak Square, Main Street, Highlands, NC.

2695 or write or PO Box 896, Highlands, NC 28741.

• Register now for the 2008 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! - a World of

Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "Nature-Works" (ages 7-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-14), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-15). Some camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit [www.wcu.edu/hbs](http://www.wcu.edu/hbs).

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

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

• NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30

p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365 or go to the website: [www.ncmana.org](http://www.ncmana.org).

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

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

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

First Mondays

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

hospital.

Mondays

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

• At the Nature Center, Animal Feeding Time 11 a.m.-noon, all ages welcome: Come and observe what each of the Nature Center's animals eat and learn how they feed.

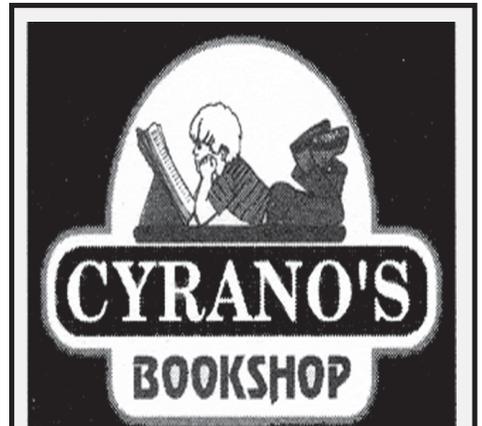
Tuesdays

• At the Nature Center, Family Nature Activity 3-4 p.m., ages 4 and up: Activities vary, but may include critter searches, discovery walks, or nature games \$1 per person.

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

• Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civ-

• See EVENTS page 24



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### Upcoming Book

#### Signings

June 7

1-3 p.m.

**Matthew Eberz**  
*Very Public Data*

June 14

1-3 p.m.

**Don Brown**  
*Black Sea Affair*

June 19

3-5 pm

**Sandra Mackey**

*Mirror of the Arab World*

June 28

1-3 pm

**David Bajo**

*The 351 Books of Irma Acuri*

July 26

1-3 pm

**Charles Martin**

author of

*Chasing Fireflies,*

*When Crickets Cry, May*

August 9

1-3 pm

**Charles F. Price**

*Nor the Battle to the Strong*

## "Let's Have a Ball"



Highlands Playhouse is hosting a costume party on Monday, June 16 at 6:30 pm at "On the Verandah" Restaurant. Come as your favorite character and enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine, and wonderful entertainment. There will be a cash bar offered. Please make your reservations with Marlene at 828-526-2338. Space is limited to 100 at \$85.00pp and you don't want to miss out on this function. What better way to have fun and also support your Highlands Playhouse.

## Ruby Cinemas

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Showing June 6-12

**KUNG FU PANDA**  
rated PG

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

**SEX AND THE CITY**  
rated R

Mon - Fri: (4), 7, 9:45  
Sat & Sun: (1), (4), 7, 9:45

**INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF CRYSTAL SKULL**  
rated PG-13

Mon - Fri: (4:30), 7:10, 9:30  
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:30), 7:10, 9:30

**CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN**  
rated PG

Mon - Fri: (4:15), 7:30  
Sat & Sun: (1:15), (4:15), 7:30

## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

ic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.

• Open Studio Night Figure Drawing: Informal instruction available for beginners. Bring your sketch pad or paint box for a leisurely session of figure drawing/painting. Cost is \$12, \$10 for "Friends" of the Gallery.

### Wednesdays

• At the Nature Center, Nature Show & Tell/Storytime 2:30-3 p.m., all ages: Come for a nature lesson based around a children's storybook using items from the Nature Center.

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

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

### Every Third Wednesday

• Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at

## 'Will Rogers' coming to PAC June 13



Entertainer Lance Brown will appear at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street on June 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. in a revival of the songs, sayings and rope tricks of American icon, Will Rogers.

Programming for the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center has expanded this summer to include such hits as last week's hilarious performance by Gary Carden, and on June 13 and 14 an appearance by Lance Brown who bears an uncanny resemblance to Will Rogers. Brown has assembled all the witty sayings, the radio shows and the newspaper columns of Rogers, one of America's all-time favorite commentators. His performances have left audiences across the country laughing uproariously, shedding a few tears and leaving with new hope for our country. Tickets are available now for \$15 each. Phone 526-9047 or visit [www.highlandsp PerformingArtsCenter.org](http://www.highlandsp PerformingArtsCenter.org) to charge to Discover, MasterCard or Visa credit cards.

## Annual 'Walk in the Park' is June 20-21

Each summer the Highlands Historical Society presents a "Walk in the Park" at the town cemetery – Memorial Park to see actors tell the life stories of people who contributed to the history of the town.

This year in observance of the opening of The Bascom, a Center for the Visual Arts, the "Walk" will feature seven of the many outstanding visual and performing artists who have entertained and inspired residents and visitors of the Highlands community.

Performances will take place on Friday and Saturday, June 20 and 21 at the cemetery with shuttles running from the Community Center on U.S.

64 from 6-7:30 p.m. On Sunday, June 22 the performance will be on-stage at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street, beginning at 4 p.m. Admission to any performance is \$15 with students admitted free. Proceeds benefit the Historical Society.

One of the early settlers was a German immigrant to America, Louis Zoellner, a former university professor and violinist. Zoellner's life story will be told at "Walk in the Park" by local actor, Dean Zuck.

Photographer Henry Scadin, will be portrayed by Hunter Coleman. Jennifer

6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

### 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays

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

### Thursdays

• At the Nature Center, Zahner Conservation Lecture Series 7 p.m., 12 and up: An evening seminar series featuring leading scientists, historians, writers and artists on a variety of environmental topics (schedule available at [www.wcu.edu/hbs](http://www.wcu.edu/hbs)).

### Fridays

• At the Nature Center, Botanical Garden Tour 10:30-11:30 a.m., all ages: A guided walk through the Highlands Botanical Garden, featuring the na-

Royce will portray Polly Knipp Hill, whose etchings of daily life in and around Highlands still sell, even though they were drawn decades ago. Lee Lyons will introduce sculptress and painter Almetta Brooks, a self-taught artist whose first attempts at sculpting were not made until she was over 70. Her sculpture was exhibited locally and regionally. Wiley Sloan



will portray architect Huger Elliott, who spent summers in Highlands, designed the original Hudson Library for Highlands in 1915, and ultimately became director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Josh Diamond will tell the story of Fred Allen, the director of Highlands Community

Theatre (predecessor of the Highlands Playhouse) from 1950 to 1967. Rounding out the program, actress Becky Schilling will present the life story of Louise Bascom Barratt, writer, artist and theatre critic whose family provided the funds for the original Bascom-Louise Gallery, predecessor of The Bascom.

Admission to "Walk in the Park" is \$15 with students admitted free. Advance tickets may be purchased at Cyrano's Bookshop on Main Street in Highlands or on the day of performance at the Community Center or PAC.

Admission to "Walk in the Park" is \$15 with students admitted free. Advance tickets may be purchased at Cyrano's Bookshop on Main Street in Highlands or on the day of performance at the Community Center or PAC.

tive plants of the region.

### Friday & Saturday

• Live music at The Rib Shack every Friday and Saturday night from 7-10 p.m.

### Saturdays

• At the Nature Center, Featured Creature 11:30-noon, all ages: come and learn more about one of the Nature Center's live animals up close.

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant at 9:30 p.m.

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

### Sundays

• Old-fashioned hymn-sing at the Little Church of the Willwood at 7 p.m. Call Kay Ward at 743-5009 for more information. Dress is casual.

### Through June

• At the Book Worm in the basement of The Peggy Crosby Center, most hard cover books are \$1. The Book Worm is open Wednesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Monday-Saturday, June 2-14

• Summer Courses offered at the Highlands

Biological Station. Mammals of the Southern Appalachian Mountains For program descriptions and information about costs, academic credit, instructors, and prerequisites for our summer courses and workshops visit <http://www.wcu.edu/hbs/currentcourses.htm> or call the Highlands Biological Station at (828) 526-2602.

### Through June 11

• FREE sports physicals given to any athlete that will be playing Highlands High School or Middle School sports in the 08-09 school year. To receive the free physical the student-athlete must have the form signed by a parent or guardian at the time of the physical. The forms will be sent home June 6 and other copies can be picked up in the school office. The girls physicals will be given from 10 a.m. to noon and the boys will start at noon. If you have any questions please call Coach Lamb at Highlands School at 526-2147.

### Through Thursday, June 12

• Dovetail and Nail: Southern Furniture Exhi-

## 'Nature by Night at the Highlands Nature Center



Looking for a fun activity for the whole family? Want to learn more about nighttime creatures? Then bring your flashlight and come to the Highlands Nature Center for "Nature by Night" scheduled for the evening of Saturday, June 14.

Head Naturalist Patrick Brannon will lead visitors on a walk through the Botanical Garden. Along the way, participants will learn about different adaptations of nocturnal animals through a variety of fun games and activities. They will also search for creatures such as fireflies, snails, bats, owls, frogs and salamanders.

Participants should meet at the Nature Center at 9 p.m. Ages are 6 to adult. Cost for this event is \$2 per person, and advanced registration is requested due to limited space. To sign up, please call the Nature Center at 526-2623.

## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### 'Red Cherry Rocker' lecture June 9 at The Bascom



'Red Cherry Rocker' lecture Monday at The Bascom on Monday, June 9, at 7 p.m., The Bascom will host "The Red Cherry Rocker," by acclaimed storyteller Anne Doggett and friends. It is an evening of entertaining tall tales and family fables, and the theme is the old red cherry rocker, its mystery and its history. The setting is The Bascom's "Dovetail and Nail" exhibition, a collection of fine old Southern furniture and tools dating back to the 1700s. The lecture will be held at The Bascom (inside the Hudson Library); the cost is \$15 (\$13.50 for Bascom members). For more information, or to become a member of The Bascom and support these and other events, call (828) 526-4949.

hibition is held at The Bascom. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

#### Thursday, June 5

- At Highland School at 6:30 p.m., a community meeting for middle and high school students, parents and concerned citizens concerning youth driving under the influence, teen suicide and other issues.

- NAMI Appalachian South will feature a presentation at 7 p.m. at the Children's Home on Wiley Brown Road in Franklin by Jim Greer, a member of the Consumer Empowerment Team for the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services (MH/DD/SAS). The presentation will focus on opportunities for advoca-

cy within the mental health arena. NAMI, or the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is a national organization that provides support, education and advocacy on behalf of people with mental illness. Following the presentation, we will hold a support group meeting. For further information contact: Mary Ann Widenhouse at 524-1355, or Ann Nandrea at 369-7385.

- Audubon Field Trip: The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a birding field trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Meet at the public parking area next to the Highlands Town Hall at 7 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the Parkway. Call leader Brock Hutchins at 787-1387 for additional information.

- The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series hosts photographer and artist Rosamund Purcel. Rosamund W. Purcell is a photographer, writer, artist, curator and collector. Her photographs have been widely exhibited, and she has published eight books and many articles on aspects of natural and cultural history. Her recent detailed recreation of a 17th century "cabinet of curiosities" has been exhibited in museums in California, New England and Denmark. The series is held each Thursday during the summer months at 7pm at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Rd. For a complete schedule, visit [www.wcu.edu/hbs](http://www.wcu.edu/hbs).

- The Inn Keepers Tour in Highlands is Wednesday from 1 to 5 p.m. Area inns will showcase their rooms and facilities for the public to view. Stop by the Chamber for directions to specific inns or for general information. You may also visit [highlandschamber.org](http://highlandschamber.org) for a list of participating inns. The tour only takes place once every two years.

#### Friday & Saturday, June 6-7

- HIRPT presents Drs. Beverly Harrison and Carter Haywood during the Women's Dialogue segment of HIRPT at the Highlands Country Club clubhouse. They will discuss "Conversations on Religion, Feminism, Ethics and Spirituality - How Can the Well-being of Women Matter More?" The Registration fee is \$120 and covers the program fee, lunch and dinner. It's 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday with dinner at 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. To register, call Dr. Carole Light at 526-9769.

#### Saturday, June 7

- For National Trail Day (June 7) the Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile hike on a national trail — the NC Bartram Trail — ascending Scaly Mtn. and descending to Tessentee Campground with an elevation change of 1,000 feet. Drive 15 miles round trip with car shuttle. Meet at the Scaly Mtn. post office on Hwy. 106 at 9:30 a.m. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

- The plateau's second annual Land Trust Day! Treat yourself to a day of shopping and dining for a great cause. When you support your local participating businesses you will be contributing to Highlands-Cashier Land Trust's mission to "save the places we all love." Participating businesses to be announced. Contact HCLT for more info: 526.1111, [Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net](mailto:Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net), [www.hicashlt.org](http://www.hicashlt.org).

- Sports Physical appointments are still available for Middle grade and High School students who plan to participate in school athletics during

### HCP Audition Notice

#### 'A Funny thing Happened on the Way to the Forum'

Be a part of HCP's first musical production, Stephen Sondheim's *A Funny thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, directed by Ronnie Spilton with musical direction by Robert Ray and choreography by Katie Cochran. This award-winning musical comedy is a rollicking romp through ancient Rome. The plot concerns a crafty slave named Pseudolus who schemes to win his freedom. Bursting with infectious energy and slightly naughty fun, this madcap tale features slaves, masters, dancing girls, chases, and the Roman army. There are lots of parts for everyone. Audition Dates: Sunday, June 8 at 2 p.m., Monday, June 9 at 5 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center (PAC) on Chestnut Street. Those auditioning should be prepared to sing a standard Broadway show tune or a song from the Forum and be prepared to learn a dance routine (dance attire or comfortable clothing and appropriate shoes are needed). Performance Dates: August 20-30, 2008 Contact Ronnie Spilton (828-526-0303 or [rspilton@verizon.net](mailto:rspilton@verizon.net)) for further information.

the next school year. The cost is \$10. For appointments or further information please call Macon County Public Health Center at 349-2081.

#### Sunday, June 8

- HCP's auditions for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," at PAC at 2 p.m. The performance is Aug. 20-30.

- The St. Andrew's Academy Choir will visit Highlands for a concert at 2:30 pm. It's free but donations are welcome. This concert is sponsored by Christ Anglican Church and will be presented at Community Bible Church. The choir hales from the mountains of northern California where they attend school together and study Latin, Greek, Rhetoric, Logic and all the other more traditional subjects one would find in a parochial school. All

the choristers are also fencers on the school's fencing team.

- High Mountain Squares will host their 8th Annual Watermelon Festival and Dance Sunday at the Macon County Recreation Park Pavilion from 2-5 p.m. Ken Perkins from Pelzer SC and Tom Pustinger from Spartanburg SC will be the callers. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943, or [www.highmountainsquares.org](http://www.highmountainsquares.org)

- A memorial service by the Highlands-Cashiers Hospice for all who have died June 2007-May 2008 at 2:30 .m. at the Cashiers United Methodist Church, on Hwy 107 South in Cashiers with a re-

• See EVENTS page 26

### Zahner Conservation Lecture Series "Amphibian Population Declines" Thursday, June 12

Amphibians are disappearing around the world. Sometimes it is just some individuals. Sometimes it is whole populations. Sometimes it is really extinction.

For the last 20-30 years scientists around the world have searched for reasons for the disappearances with some success and a dire warning. Many populations have been destroyed by our own direct and indirect actions (and inactions).

Many other populations and species seem to be crashing in response to one or several new emergent diseases that have swept over the globe in record time. Amphibians have been compared to the miner's canary with the amphibian declines warning us that our environmental quality is declining to such an extent that we must take action now or humans may be the next golden frogs of Costa Rica (extinct!).

Van Devender will address global concerns about amphibian declines, present an overview of the amphibians of the Southern Appalachians and provide a commentary on threats to their

survival.

Dr. Robert Wayne Van Devender has been catching lizards since the age of three. He carried this interest into undergraduate work at Yale University. He did graduate work at the University of Michigan, where he worked on Jesus Christ lizards as part of his doctoral work. Since joining the faculty at Appalachian State University, he has expanded his research interests to include amphibians, mammals and land snails, and has traveled to all of the continents except Antarctica. Most recently, he has been doing herpetological surveys in Vietnam and working with his wife of 34 years, Amy, on the land snails of North Carolina project. In the 30 years Van Devender has taught at Appalachian he has directed over 15 master's students, and developed a substantial teaching and research collection of vertebrates and land snails.

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.

## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### Spring songs can be heard on upcoming Land Trust Eco Tour

You are invited to join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust on Thursday, June 12 for a birding Eco Tour. Led by the Audubon Society's Doug Landwehr, Brock Hutchins and Don Shure, hikers will enjoy a moderate 2 to 2 ½ mile hike to Ranger Falls Trail. Come hear the spring songs of Warblers, Vireos, Indigo Buntings and Crossbeaks this breeding season. Hikers will enjoy lunch by the falls and could learn a thing or two about local birds.

This event is part of Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust's new Eco Tour program. Designed to connect the community with the land and to help participants to gain a better understanding of HCLT and their important conservation mission, the Eco Tours are free to HCLT members and only a \$25 donation per family for non-members. With the \$25 donation, participants will get a year's membership with the Land Trust and will help them to save the places we all love. Call 526.1111 or email [Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net](mailto:Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net) to sign-up. Spaces are very limited for this tour, so call today.

### California School Choir to visit Highlands, Sunday, June 8

The St. Andrew's Academy Choir will visit Highlands for a concert at 2:30 pm. It's free but donations are welcome. This concert is sponsored by Christ Anglican Church and will be presented at Community Bible Church. The choir hales from the mountains of northern California where they attend school together and study Latin, Greek, Rhetoric, Logic and all the other more traditional subjects one would find in a parochial school. All the choristers are also fencers on the school's fencing team.

This a cappella choir is usually made up of kindergarten through 12th grade students and also includes a number of faculty. The youngest students do not travel on tour, but rising middle school students and high school students do, along with two faculty singers, including the choirmaster, Father Brian Foos. They sing choral church music in the English and American traditions, and have also joined their local symphony for Christmas performances. They have sung as far away as Venice and Salerno, Italy, as well as taking a tour of California last summer. The choir had the honor to be invited, last year, to participate in Pepperdine University's Ascending Voice: An International Symposium of Sacred A Cappella Music.

The Choir has produced three CD's in the last three years. Hearty Rejoicing: Evensong with St. Andrew's Academy, Byrd's Mass In Three Voices, and Early American Choral Music. The latter two will be available for purchase after the concert.

St. Andrew's Academy is a young, small, classical, Anglican parochial school in Lake Almanor, California.

ception to follow. RSVP to 526-1402.

#### Monday, June 9

- HCP's auditions for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," at PAC at 5 p.m. The performance is Aug. 20-30.

- At CLE, Virginia Groves Beach speaks on "Garden Statuary" Cost is \$20 each for CLE members, \$30 each for non-members. To become a CLE member and register for courses and events call the CLE office at 526-8811.

- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a program on coyotes by Dr. Chris Mowry, from the Biology Department at Berry College at 7:30 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Chris' recent research on coyotes has involved radiotracking collared individuals in north Georgia to assess the population structure, movement patterns and distributional relationships of different social groups of coyotes. Chris' ongoing studies should add considerable insight into the ecology and behavior of these highly intelligent and adaptive predators. There will be a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. with the program following at 7:30 p.m. Please call Brock Hutchins at 787-1387 for additional information.

#### Wed.-Sat., June 11-14

- At The Instant Theater, "The Return of Herbert Bracewell" by Andrew Johns at 8 p.m. This delightful, nostalgic tale which takes place on a New Year's Eve during the first decade of the 20th century, costars the exciting, new acting team of David Milford and Madeleine Davis, and is directed by Ralph Stevens. For reservations please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197. Advance reservations are \$20. At the door tickets are \$25

#### Wednesday, June 11

- At CLE, Timeless Tips for Landscape Design with Mary Palmer Dargan. Cost is \$20 each for CLE members, \$30 each for non-members. To become a CLE member and register for courses and events call the CLE office at 526-8811.

#### Thursday, June 12

- Join friends of Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust for "Birding with the Audubon Society" This moderate hike includes a trail lunch by the waterfalls. Contact HCLT by June 11 to sign up & for info: 526.1111, [Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net](mailto:Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net).

- The growing international problem of human trafficking will be the focus of a community education forum at the Franklin First United Methodist Church 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is sponsored by the Zon-

ta Club of Franklin, REACH of Macon County and the 30th Judicial District Alliance Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The forum is open to the public at no cost.

#### Saturday, June 14

- Village Green in Cashiers, NC presents Sculpture on the Green 2008 1st Bi-Annual Invitational Exhibition Opening Celebration. Last summer the 12.5 acre park began to integrate sculpture into the landscape and installed 5 sculptures to its permanent collection. Starting this summer, it is hosting a six-month exhibition of 10 works from sculptors from all over the nation. Join us "At the Crossroads" for the Opening Celebration June 14 from noon-4 p.m. The music for the event will be singer/songwriter Ashley Chambliss with Chris Rosser & River Guerguerian. Catering will be provided by Hovan Gourmet, specializing in Mediterranean Cuisine for over 30 years. The exhibition will continue through Nov 12.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will hike the unofficial Bartram Trail in South Carolina, from the state line at Hwy. 28 to Hwy. 107, including parts of the Chattooga River Trail and the SC Foothills Trail. The hike, rated moderate, is 6.9 miles in length with a number of ups and downs along the way. Drive 60 miles round trip. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9 a.m. Hikers coming from Franklin or Cashiers, call the leader for carpool and driving information. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265.

- At the Nature Center, Nature by Night 9-10:30 p.m., ages 6 to adult): Bring a flashlight and learn about nocturnal animals through a variety of activities, games, and observations in the Botanical Garden (advanced registration required, \$2/person).

- SOAR "Silent and Live Auction" at the Highlands Community Building at 5:30. Tickets are \$30 at the door. Featuring a Low Country Boil, live entertainment and a wine tasting with Highlands Wine and Cheese.

- Special Operations Adventure Race at 5<sup>th</sup> & Main. Elite Race Start: 7 a.m., Sprint Race Start: 8

### Local businesses do their part for conservation

On Saturday, June 7, eco-minded businesses in Highlands and Cashiers will show their support for the conservation efforts of Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust by taking part in the second local celebration of Land Trust Day.

In 1992, the first Saturday of every June was named "Land Trust Day" to coincide with National Trails Day. This year, several local businesses will display information about Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and donate a percentage of their sales on this day or will become corporate members, in an effort to recognize how their customers value the open spaces, hiking trails, scenic views and other outdoor recreation areas that land trusts protect.

Highlands and Cashiers residents can show their support by dining at Fressers in Highlands and The Orchard in Cashiers and by shopping at Whole Life Market or Vivace in Highlands and at Victoria's Closet and VC for Men in Cashiers on Saturday, June 7. Additionally, Lakeside Restaurant will donate a percentage of sales to HCLT on Wednesday, June 4 when diners mention they are there to support the land trust. It has never been easier to support community conservation efforts, simply patronize these local businesses on Land Trust Day and beyond. They have set the standard by stepping up to the plate and contributing to the commitment HCLT has made to protect the places we all love.

### The Bascom to hold volunteer party next Thursday

Calling all do-gooders: The Bascom needs your help, and it is holding a special "Making a Difference Volunteer Party" to celebrate your efforts and kick off its 2008 volunteer season.

The volunteer party will be held next Thursday, June 12, at 10 a.m. at The Bascom's art center, inside the Hudson Library. All current volunteers are invited, plus new initiates.

The nonprofit art center has always relied on capable and hardworking volunteers to make so much of its operations possible. In 2007, the art center created a professional volunteer guild, led by Margie Shambaugh. In 2008, the volunteer guild will go even further.

"We are on the cusp of moving into a major, multipurpose visual art campus, and we must make sure our volunteer program is streamlined and ready for all the changes we will see," Shambaugh said. "Our party will help make that happen, plus it will be a lot of fun."

There are various ways people can volunteer at The Bascom: gallery docents, hospitality and special events, clerical assistants, gift shop, visitor services, library assistants, teaching assistants, and movers and shakers (physical activities).

All are welcome to the "Making a Difference Volunteer Party." No reservations are necessary. Simply show up to The Bascom at 10 a.m. on June 12. For more information, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 3#.

## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

a.m. Mary Beth Brody will sing the National Anthem. Come and cheer the racers on!

• Blood Drive from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Otto Community Building. Call Phyllis Caste for an appointment at 524-9307.

### Sunday, June 15

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the Highlands Nature Center and Biological Station trails. Meet at the BiLo Center at 2 p.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Highlands and Cashiers hikers meet across from the Nature Center in Highlands at 2:45 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

### Monday-Saturday, June 16-20

• Summer Workshop at the Highlands Biological Station: Teacher Education Workshop in Mountain Biodiversity Studies. For program descriptions and information about costs, academic credit, instructors, and prerequisites for our summer courses and workshops visit <http://www.wcu.edu/hbs/currentycourses.htm> or call the Highlands Biological Station at (828) 526-2602.

### Monday-Saturday, June 16-28

• Summer Courses offered at the Highlands Biological Station. Biodiversity and Conservation of Birds. For program descriptions and information about costs, academic credit, instructors, and prerequisites for our summer courses and workshops visit <http://www.wcu.edu/hbs/currentycourses.htm> or call the Highlands Biological Station at (828) 526-2602.

### Monday, June 16

• Highlands Playhouse is hosting a costume party at 6:30 p.m. at "...on the Verandah" Restaurant. Come as your favorite character and enjoy hours d'oeuvres, wine, and wonderful entertainment.

There will be a cash bar offered. Please make your reservations with Marlene at 828-526-2338. Space is limited to 100 at \$85 per person and you don't want to miss out on this function. What better way to have fun and also support your Highlands Playhouse.

• Special Operations Warrior Golf Tournament at Burlingame Country Club of Sapphire Lakes. Registration is at 11 a.m. Shotgun Start is at noon. Individual Player, \$100, Teams of 4, Format: Captions Choice. Bag Lunch, Tee Bags, and Dinner. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Door Prizes. For more information call, Bill Horwitz, 526-0224. *All proceeds will benefit the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, a 501(c)3 non profit organization.*

### Wednesday-Saturday, June 18-21

• At The Instant Theater, "The Return of Herbert Bracewell" by Andrew Johns at 8 p.m. This delightful, nostalgic tale which takes place on a New Year's Eve during the first decade of the 20th century, costars the exciting, new acting team of David Milford and Madeleine Davis, and is directed by Ralph Stevens. For reservations please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197. Advance reservations are \$20. At the door tickets are \$25

### Wednesday, June 18

• At CLE, Dr. James Costa gives an overview of the many "Insects of Highlands." Cost is \$20 each for CLE members, \$30 each for non-members. To become a CLE member and register for courses and events call the CLE office at 526-8811.

### Thurs.-Sun., June 19-July 6

• At Highlands Playhouse, "Always Patsy Cline." For reservations, call 828-526-2695.

### Thursday, June 19

• At CLE, Award winning author Sandra Mackey will present "What you always wanted to know

## Signups continue for summer art camp



Registration continues this week for the always popular Summer Art Camp in Highlands. The Bascom is teaming up with The Highlands Art League and the Highlands Recreation Park to present the camp, which will offer an exciting variety of art and craft projects for 5- to 13-year-olds. The day rate for Bascom students is \$5. There will be no additional charge for students enrolled in Rec Camp. Dates are Thursdays, June 19, 26, July 17, 24, and 31. Hours are 1 to 1:45 p.m. for 5- to 8-year-olds and 2 to 2:45 p.m. for 9- to 13-year-olds. For more information or to register, call The Bascom at (828) 526-4949, ext. 4#.

## Lecture on painter Helen Frankenthaler set for June 5

The life and work of painter Helen Frankenthaler is the theme of The Bascom's special lecture by Janet Clanton on Thursday, June 5, at 5 p.m. Frankenthaler is an American Abstract Expressionist Painter born in 1928. The Bascom is presenting the Clanton lecture to celebrate its acquisition of a large, dramatic Frankenthaler painting, anonymously donated to the art center's permanent collection. The lecture will be held at the Performing Art Center in Highlands. Clanton is the associate curator of adult programs at the Orlando Museum of Art. The free lecture is for Bascom members only and will be followed by a wine and cheese reception. To become a member, contact the art center at (828) 526-4949 or [jconnor@thebascom.org](mailto:jconnor@thebascom.org), or show up at the event and become a member there. Annual memberships start at \$35, and all proceeds support the art center's programming.



This large piece, "Untitled" (1978), was included in the first retrospective exhibition in Japan of Frankenthaler's work. An anonymous benefactor donated the painting to The Bascom last year.

about the Middle East." Cost is \$20 each for CLE members, \$30 each for non-members. To become a CLE member and register for courses and events call the CLE office at 526-8811.

• Audubon Field Trip: The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a birding field trip to various birding hotspots around Highlands. Meet at the public parking area next to the Highlands Town Hall at 7:30 a.m. Call leader Brock Hutchins at 787-1387 for additional information.

### Friday, June 20

• At CLE, Author Ron Rash will explore "The Role of Place in Fiction Reading." Cost is \$20 each for CLE members, \$30 each for non-members. To become a CLE member and register for courses and events call the CLE office at 526-8811.

### Saturday, June 21

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 4.5-mile hike from Sloan Bridge to Upper Whitewater Falls. This hike offers great views from the ridge above Whitewater Falls. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 14 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; Reservations are required. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations.

• Annual Reese Family Reunion at the Rec Park at 10 a.m.

### Sunday-Thursday, June 22-26

• Vacation Bible School at Coweeta Baptist

Church. 6-9 p.m. Call 369-7508.

• Vacation Bible School at Clear Creek Baptist Church. 7-9 p.m.

### Monday-Thursday, June 23-27

• At The Bascom, registration continues this week for "Painting With Colored Pencil," a workshop with acclaimed artist Gary Greene. Offered by The Bascom, the workshop is aimed at intermediate to advanced students, but some beginners with art experience will be invited to attend with instructor approval. The workshop is expected to fill up quickly, so The Bascom urges people to sign up right away. The workshop will be held at Chestnut Hill. For more information about the workshop or to sign up, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 4#, or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

### Tuesday, June 24

• Owl Pellets 3-4 p.m., ages 6 and up): Dissect a pellet to discover skulls and bones of an owl's prey.

### Wednesday, June 25

• The Village Nature Series is a free summertime lecture series co-hosted by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust & Village Green. "History, Fun & Safety of the Appalachian Trail" with Morgan Somerville. Everyone is welcome. Lectures are held at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers. Lectures begin at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments follow. There is no charge but donations are graciously accepted. Call HCLT for info: 526.1111.

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**FRESSERS EATERY** – Hiring experienced wait staff. Apply in person at 151 Helen's Barn.

**SCALY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR CENTER** – Now hiring, cooks, dishwashers, wait staff and general help. Call Brenda at 526-3737.

**PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY** – The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation is looking for a part-time receptionist (Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 am-1 pm). If you are interested, please submit resumes to PO Box 729 Highlands, NC 28741.

**RN NEEDED** for upscale retirement community. Oversee health care needs of 26 assisted living residents, including supervising CNAs and med techs. Good public relations and customer service skills needed. Apply in person at Chestnut Hill, 64 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC. Or email your resume to admin@chestnuthillsc.com. Drug screening and background check. EOE. 4/17

**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](mailto:office@cbchighlands.com)

**THE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CENTER OF HIGHLANDS, NC** is seeking part time administrative assistant starting May 1, 2008. Applicant must have both written and oral Spanish knowledge, must be motivated and work well with others. Basic computer skills are necessary. Additional training will be given once applicant begins. For more information please call Jill at 828-526-9938 x 290.

**INPATIENT CODER/CLERK NEEDED AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL** – Full-Time, day shift. Must possess RHIT or CCS certification or working towards certification plus 2 years coding experience in a n Acute Care hospital. Knowledge in Long Term Care and Swingbed coding helpful. Must have strong technical skills and self motivation. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**COOK AND DIETARY AIDE** at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Various shifts and days available. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Salary depends on experience. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**EARN WHILE YOU LEARN!** Are you interested in a new career? Become a Certified Nursing Assistant for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. C.N.A. classes will start on Tuesday, May 27, 2008. Students will be paid while in class Mondays through Fridays for 6 hours a day. Upon graduation and successful completion of the exam, students will become a Certified Nursing Assistant and will receive a substantial increase

in pay. Excellent benefit package after 30 days. Pre-employment substance screening. If interested in joining a dynamic healthcare team, call Robbin Houston at 828-526-1317, or apply online through our website at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**PLANT OPERATIONS MANAGER** is need at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. There will be an overall responsibility for the physical and equipment maintenance operation for all facilities owned and operated by HCH. Four years experience in hospital maintenance with a working knowledge of methods and techniques used in electrical, mechanical, and building maintenance. A minimum of two years in hospital safety management with a working knowledge of current JCAHO standards. C-Well Certification is preferred. Effective leadership and management skills are important. Full-Time, Monday through Friday position. Must be able to take call. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

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

**DIRECTOR OF NURSING** is needed in the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina. Experienced nurse leader for a 24-bed Critical Access Hospital, responsible for managing a budget, quality of patient care, customer satisfaction, and the oversight of management for the Acute Care Unit (Med/Surg), ER, OR, PACU and GI Lab, Hospice,

and Cardio-Pulmonary. Must be able to provide leadership for managers and staff, and conduct recruitment and retention activities. Masters degree with a background in nursing leadership required. This position reports directly to the CEO/President of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, working closely with the QA Nurse Manager and the VP of Operations. 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](http://www.hchospital.org).

**CNA OR CNA II** at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Full-time, positions for night shifts. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. PRN positions are also available with Hospice

Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

### BUSINESS FOR SALE

**FITNESS CENTER**. Downtown Highlands. 100+ members. Great income potential. Business and equipment only. \$49,000. Call Debbie 828-200-9360 or Gene 828-506-4296. 6/19

### YARD SALES

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7 – MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE**. Flat Mountain Estates. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Follow signs up Flat Mountain Road.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7 – FABRIC AND NO-TIONS SALE**. Cut n' Patch Quilts, Strawberry Lane, Flat Mountain Estates, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Follow signs up Flat Mountain Road. Quilts and quilted items also available. 526-9743.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7. HUGE GARAGE SALE**. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 165 Hickory Drive. Turn

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## • CLASSIFIEDS •

on Buck Creek, right onto Short Off, right onto Chestnut, 3<sup>rd</sup> hose on right. What's for Sale? Farmed prints, recliners, tables, lamps, office supplies, toys and children's items. Wood turning lathe, keyboard, TV/DVR, lawn equipment, too much more to list. No pre-sales.)

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14.** Big, fun yard sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oak Kitchen table, porch swing, antiques, books, toys, tools, more. 477 Wildwood Drive off U.S. 64 between Highlands and Cashiers. 200-0737.

### LOST & FOUND

**CANOE FOUND IN MIRROR LAKE.** Call 828-506-0308 for details.

**CANOE FOUND IN LAKE SEQUOYAH.** Call 526-5721.

### RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT

**COMMERCIAL RETAIL OR OFFICE SPACE** - Falls on Main. Only one unit. Upstairs. Available July 1. 1,200 sq. ft. Call 706-782-6252.

**UNIQUE COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY** on Main St Highlands. 800 sq ft retail/office space just in time for the season. Space includes bath & kitchen. Call for details 526-3363.

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

**IN-TOWN COMMERCIAL SPACE WITH OPTIONAL LIVING SPACE FOR RENT.** Charming and supremely convenient commercial building in high traffic district. One block off main, Walking distance to Main Street shopping at Old Edwards Inn. Loft apartment above commercial space. Commercial space \$1,700/month. Loft \$850/month. Call today to schedule a showing! 828-526-2769. Ask for Ralph.

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

**1 BEDROOM,** Living Room, Kitchen, Patio,. 6-month lease. Utilities included except phone. 1 month's security deposit. \$650 a month. Call 526-2679.

**ROOMMATE WANTED** - separate living room, bedroom and bathroom. \$700/month utilities included except phone. Call 828-342-0157.

**ONE BR/ONE BATH FURNISHED APARTMENT** close to town including all utilities except phone. \$750. Contact Tucker or Jeannie Chambers, The Chambers Agency, REALTORS. 828-526-3717.

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

**ON MIRROR LAKE** - Charming 3 bed, 2 bath. Huge sunroom, stone fireplace, 3 decks, canoe, furnished. Available Nov-May. \$1,500 a month plus utilities. Call 770-435-0678.

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

### VACATION RENTAL

**NEWLY DECORATED AND UPDATED 1 BED/1BATH** river view with access to small fishing lack. Weekly \$500, monthly, 1,700. Call 828-524-4311 or 877-682-8855. 7/19

**SUMMER RENTAL** - CABIN WITH LONG RANGE VIEW, 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, 3 Living Areas, Immaculate, \$2,800/month for 3 months. Also available for shorter periods. See [www.vrbo.com/181808](http://www.vrbo.com/181808). (305) 458-0033.

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

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

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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**RV LOT FOR SALE** - Lot 1 The Coach Club. Class A Resort. Downtown Highlands. 200 sq. ft. cedar coach house, landscaped, outdoor kitchen, gas fire pit, overlooking stream. Live the Highlands life. See [Terryhallhomes.com](http://Terryhallhomes.com) click on RV lot. Call 828-787-1014 or 352-258-4187. 6/26

**WALK TO TOWN** - .75 acre off Hicks Rd in Mirror Lake. Beautifully wooded hillside elevation. Water, Electric and driveway. Make an Offer. Call 828-200-9334. 5/29

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

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**LAND FOR SALE** - By owners. Unrestricted,

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**HOUSE FOR SALE IN WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA.** 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath in adorable, quiet neighborhood 2 miles from ocean and Palm Beach Island and 5 miles from downtown. \$450,000. Call 561-379-9151. 7/31

### ITEMS FOR SALE

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**BOOK CASES** - Two book cases, oak veneer, measure 48 in wide x 84" tall with eight adjustable shelves. Picture available. Move forces sale. \$150 each or both for \$300. Can be delivered or local pick up (Need two men to move) Call 828-787-1002 or 219-765-5879 - ask for Jim.

**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** \$725 for both/ OBO 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, rail road ties, stone and mulch varieties, pine straw and soil additives. Call 828-526-2251.

**AT PETRONE'S BARN** - Open again, Antiques, collectibles, and Junk. Open Friday & Saturday. 4 1/2 miles down Buck Creek Road. Call 526-3288.

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

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**BEAUTIFUL BLACK WICKER SOFA** – for porch. Custom cushions. like new. 98" \$400. Call 404-314-4909 or 526-0545.

**JENN-AIRE – DOWN DRAFT COOK TOP.** Like New, Take Out. Originally \$585. Asking \$125. Call 743-7878.

**6-FOOT DOUBLE DOORS WITHOUT WINDOW** – FREE. 526-9107.

**ANTIQUÉ FURNITURE:** Medallion Back Sofa, Louis XV substyle. \$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.

**FRENCH HORN** Recently overhauled Conn 6-D double, excellent condition \$1,500. 828-526-2905 leave message

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

**OFFICE DESK FOR SALE.** 30x60, dark oak finish, 6 drawers. \$150. Call Sandy at 369-6263 or 524-7350.

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

**BARELY USED 30GB ZUNE VIDEO MP3**

**PLAYER.** Comes with leather case. \$150 or best offer. Call Davis at 828-526-9152 for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

787-1515

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

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

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

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

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

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

## VEHICLES FOR SALE

**2006 POLARIS RANGER BROWNING EDITION 700XP.** Has dual gun scabbards, complete cab system, and 4000lb warn winch. Has 78 hours on it. I have \$16,000 invested in it asking \$11,000 OBO. Call cell (828) 421-0730 leave message.

## SERVICES

**CLOCK REPAIR** - Antique or modern, complicated antique clocks are my specialty. Experienced and dependable with housecalls available. Call 706.754.9631 or visit my website at [www.oldclockrepair.com](http://www.oldclockrepair.com). Joseph McGahee, Clockmaker

**WANT TO SAVE ON FUEL?** You can save up to 11% and save on oil changes also, using AMSOIL Products. Call Clay at 342-1603 or 369-9812. 6/19

**COMPLETE CARPENTRY & PRESSURE WASHING** – Painting, decks, water proofing, remodeling, mountain laurel. Complete home care. Fully insured. References. Ask for Kent. 526-1853. 6/14

**AIRPORT SHUTTLE** – Serving ALL airports and ALL out-of-town driving needs. Call Darlene at 524-3265. 6/26

**EXCAVATING** – Road Construction and Maintenance. Tree Service. Forest and Property Management. 35 years experience. Refercnes. Rick Smith. Zotol, Inc. 828-526-4886. 5/29

**MILT'S LAWN SERVICE** – Lawn mowing, weed eating, yard cleaning & light hauling. Call Bill at 828-524-8659 or Milton at 828-421-7919 or 828-369-3569. 6/19

**FIREWOOD** "Nature Dried" Call 526-2251.

**CUTTING EDGE TREE SERVICE** - "Let us go out on a Limb for You." We specialize in tree removal, trimming, Lot/View clearing, under brushing and stump grinding. Quality work and Fully in-







Beautiful BRAND NEW custom built 3 Bedroom / 2 Bath home is exclusive Rocky Knob GATED community! LOT #8 OSAGE. This BRAND NEW home has it all and is 3,700+ feet in Altitude. Great neighborhood! ONLY \$100 YEARLY in fees on 1+- Private Acres!



Call Chris Gilbert • 828-526-5296 or 828-421-3161  
 email: [info@carolinamountainbrokers.com](mailto:info@carolinamountainbrokers.com) • [www.carolinamountainbrokers.com](http://www.carolinamountainbrokers.com)

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sured. For Free Estimate call 524-1309 or 421-2905.

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

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

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

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

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

### FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Notice is hereby given that the filing period for Soil and Water Conservation (G.S 139-6) and School Board will begin on Monday, June 9, 2008 at 12:00 Noon and will close on Monday, July 7, 2008 at 12:00 Noon.

### SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION:

There is one (1) seat open and the filing fee for this seat is \$ 5.00.

This is a NON-PARTISAN SEAT.

### SCHOOL BOARD:

District I: one (1) seat open  
 District III: one (1) seat open  
 District IV: one (1) seat open  
 Unexpired Term: District IV: one (1) seat open  
 All School Board seats are \$5.00.  
 These are NON-PARTISAN SEATS.

Any persons interested in filing may file at the Macon County Board of Elections Office, located in the Macon County Courthouse.

Sara R. Waldroop, Chairman  
 Macon County Board of Elections  
 5/29, 6/5

A Democratic 2nd Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, June 24, 2008 in Macon County, North Carolina to vote on Commissioner of Labor. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Absentee ballots are allowed. Requests for an absentee ballot must be made in writing and received in the Board of Elections office by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2008

The Board of Elections will meet on Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 8:30a.m. and other times as may be necessary for the purpose of approving absentee ballot applications.

One-stop voting will be held in the Board of Elections office beginning Thursday, June 5, 2008 and ending Saturday, June 21, 2008. One-stop voting hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will also be open on Saturday, June 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Canvass Day will be held at 11:00 in the Boardroom of the Board of Elections Office, located on the First (1st) floor of the Macon County Courthouse.

For additional information contact the Macon County Board of Elections at:  
 828-349-2034 or [www.maconnc.org/elections](http://www.maconnc.org/elections).

Sara R. Waldroop, Chairman  
 Macon County Board of Elections

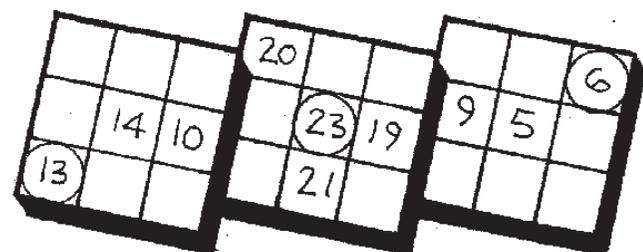
### LEGALS

#### FILING PERIOD FOR SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION AND

#### NOTICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC 2ND PRIMARY ELECTION MACON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

## • FUN & GAMES •

### PseudoCube®



#BN2E – Level of Difficulty – Easy

#### THE SETUP:

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

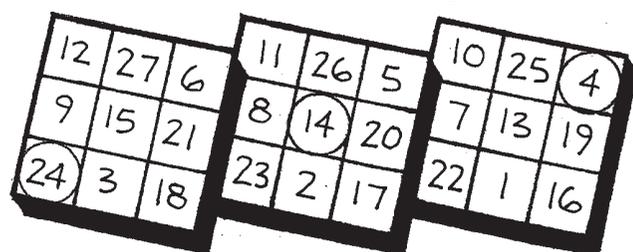
#### THE CHALLENGE:

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](mailto:pseudocube8@aol.com).

Feedback encouraged!

#### Solution to #AN1F in May 29 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](mailto:pseudocube8@aol.com). Feedback encouraged!

#### Mystery Word "Not Republicans"

#### Across

- Graphic period (3)
- Perform (2)
- Despicable rodents (4)
- Fanciful graphic (3)
- "Owie" (4)

#### Down

- Unhappy (3)
- A religion (3)
- Autos (4)
- Grass roots (3)
- Barrier to water (3)

R		E	M <sup>6</sup>	C <sup>1</sup>	D	T
	T		A		S <sup>8</sup>	
		S <sup>7</sup>	<sup>2</sup>	O		A
	O	A	M	D		
<sup>10</sup> D		M		C <sup>3</sup>	A	<sup>9</sup> S
<sup>4</sup>	R			D	M	
		O	R			D
	S	D	A	C		
T	A	M <sup>5</sup>	O		E	

Solution to May 29 puzzle

E	B	U	I	C	P	S	R	L
P	I	L	S	E	R	C	B	U
S	C	R	L	U	B	P	E	I
I	L	S	C	P	E	B	U	R
R	E	P	U	B	L	I	C	S
B	U	C	R	I	S	L	P	E
C	R	E	B	S	I	U	L	P
L	S	B	P	R	U	E	I	C
U	P	I	E	L	C	R	S	B

