Big Creek silt removal plan set

The town now has a precise plan for removing the silt from the Big Creek Arm of Lake Sequoyah; all it needs is the money.

At the Wednesday, March 18 Town Board meeting, Max Kimel representing Altamont Environmental, Inc., outlined the procedure for removing 42,000 yards of sediment from Big Creek. Included in the project, which will ultimately cost $2 million, is dredging the silt once it’s removed and the transportation of it to a disposal site.

In a multi-phased study, Altamont first mapped the sediment in the Big Creek arm using a contour map from 1907, collected sediment samples and analyzed them for pesticides and metals, developed sediment removal and disposal options, met with NC DHEC, and its municipalities to get to a final plan for removing the silt. Registration is now open for the 2008 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered. Call 828-526-2695 or write or PO Box 896, Highlands, NC 28741.

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53-ft. semis may not be allowed on The Gorge

By Sally Hanson

Reporter

The prospect of 53-foot long tractor-trailers traversing U.S. 64 triggered outrage by citizens and county and town officials. Thanks to that outcry, DOT officials are reconsidering the notion.

At Tuesday night’s meeting between the county commission, the Town of Franklin and the Town of Highlands, County Manager Jack Horton said “It looks like the subject will be averted for now.”

MC Commissioner Ronnie Beale echoed Horton’s comment. “Conrad Burrell, who sits on the N.C. DOT board, said it’s not likely the new, longer 53-foot rigs will be allowed on The Gorge Road.” Unfortunately, the possibility of meeting an 18-wheeler on the road, particularly at the steepest, curviest part, will likely still happen.

Sgt. Charles McMahan of the NC State Highway Patrol, said it is illegal for semi-trucks to use The Gorge Road to get to places that can be reached via other routes, such as Highway 107 from Jackson County to Cashiers. N.C. 106 from Dillard to Highlands and Buck Creek from the Franklin side of U.S. 64 to the Cashiers side of U.S. 64—and tickets can and are issued toproducts if they are caught. However, he said 18-wheelers...
Something to think about
Johnny Got His Gun’ by Dalton Trumbo
“if not now, when?”– Hillel

By Karen Hawk

On this fifth Anniversary of the American War in Iraq and the soon to be seventh in Afghanistan, is it ironic to suggest the contemplation of PEACE by reading a book about war?

Suggest I will and the book is Johnny Got His Gun by Dalton Trumbo. I am grieved at the timelessness of Trumbo’s book. It was written in 1938 in the aftermath of World War I, “the war to end all wars” and published two days after the start of World War II in 1939 and earned a National Book Award that same year.

During the Vietnam War era (1971) Mr. Trumbo adapted his book to the screen and both wrote and directed the movie version. At the Cannes Film Festival he was awarded the International Critics Award and the Special Award.

Dalton Trumbo was the most famous member of “The Hollywood Ten,” and while his social consciousness dominated his life and work, he was a highly successful screenwriter. Some of his screenplays include Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo, The Brave One, Sparticus, Exodus, Hawaii and Papillon.

Johnny Got His Gun is a powerful story that slowly unfolds through the recollections, dreams and thoughts of Joe Bonham. The reader accompanies Joe in his dawning realization as to the extent the war has forever changed him.

The journey is disturbing. The book reminds me of a phrase “Comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable”. This is Trumbo’s method. The book is divided into two books with the first entitled The Dead, the second The Living.

The following is an excerpt of the entire chapter ten which ends book one. This chapter contains Joe’s thoughts as he awakens to the fact that he is the spokesperson for all people killed in any war.

Chapter 10

“Lying on your back without anything to do and anywhere to go was kind of like being on a high hill far away from noise and people. It was like being on a camping trip all by yourself. You had plenty of time to think. You had time to figure things out. Things you’d never thought of before. Things like for example going to war. You were so completely alone on your hill that...
Jonathan Chamberlain Williams

Jonathan Chamberlain Williams, age 79, of High Holly Road, Scaly Mountain, NC passed away Sunday, March 16, 2008 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was born in Buncombe County, NC the son of the late Thomas B. and Georgia Chamberlain Williams. He was a US Veteran of the US Army. Mr. Williams was a writer and publisher for Jargon Society Inc. He received grants from Guggenheim Foundation and National Endowment for the Arts.

He is survived by his lifetime companion, Thomas Meyer of Scaly Mountain, NC. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, PO Box 190, Highlands, NC 28741. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

be prohibited from taking up permanent residence on Main Street. Driving into town today the view of the otherwise charming small town shopping district was, as usual, dominated by the sight of this big yellow truck. In my opinion it should be parked elsewhere.

Arthur Hancock
Highlands

Auditor dodges fund balance issue

Dear Editor,

A local paper opened a column with the following: “The county’s finances are in good health, said Macon County Commissioners, but some residents in the county are under the impression that the county has been holding on to a 41 per cent fund balance, ‘and that, simply put, is not the truth’ said Chairman Charlie Leatherman, at Monday’s county commission meeting.”

One assumes Mr. Leatherman hasn’t read “Management’s Discussion and Analysis” which is the introduction to the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007. The management referred to is Macon County’s management, which produces this analysis for the benefit of the Commissioners.

On page 9 appears “As a measure of the General Fund’s liquidity, it may be...”

See LETTERS page 15

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I sat in silence and tried to gather my thoughts. I was not ready for what Mike had told me. Finally, I spoke. "We have both taken enough psychology classes to know that recurring nightmares such as these are a cause for alarm. We also know that they are just dreams. Have you considered you are throwing away your career because of dreams?"

He grabbed a nearby chair and pulled it close to my desk. I was surprised to see him sit. He leaned forward, placing both elbows on my desk.

"I have, but this is more than a dream. I have a demon inside me and I feel he is warning me if I don’t quit, I will be shot."

I became annoyed. "You are confused. There’s no demon in you, besides, so-called demons don’t warn people they’re about to be killed. Get a grip. I’ll take you off the street for a while."

"You’re recommending I see the departmental shrink? He’s an idiot. It’s all supposed to be confidential but by the next day the entire department knows about your visit because of those bitches in his office. Everyone who is forced to see him winds up looking like a clown. You think I can solve this problem with Goldstein?"

Mike looked at me in shock. Oh, how I wish I hadn’t said that.

"You’re recommending I see the departmental shrink? He’s an idiot. It’s all supposed to be confidential but by the next day the entire department knows about your visit because of those bitches in his office. Everyone who is forced to see him winds up looking like a clown. You think I can solve this problem with Goldstein?"

"Give me a break!"

I lowered my head in shame. What was I thinking? 8:28 - 743, 5451

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Fred Wooldridge

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Part three of “The Demon” will be published next Thursday.

• Read Fred online at www.highlandsinfo.com, scroll down, click on News.
The art of giving

I recently received an e-mail request from a buddy in Connecticut. My friend, an amateur triathlete and professional attorney, had committed to ride a stationary bike for six hours in order to raise money for breast cancer research. His e-mail linked me to a site where I effortlessly, if not painlessly, donated a hundred bucks. Within an hour, my buddy e-mailed his gratitude for my generosity. It’s easier to contribute than be thought a tightwad. Anyway, the money wasn’t for him, and the fight against breast cancer is a worthy battle. The exact link between his six hours in the saddle and my contribution eludes me, but what the heck. A request for liniment or aspirin might have been more sensible, but less noble. This guy usually takes days to respond to an e-mail, so the prompt reply was really impressive. A few days later I received a follow up note announcing that my friend’s team had accounted for $100,000 of a total of $455,000 raised by the event. Wow! If you ever want to raise money, Wilton, CT may be the place.

Several years ago, one of my partners announced that he was part of a group planning a ride from Seneca, South Carolina to Charleston in an attempt to raise money for an organization which provided “counseling and support, but presumably not discounted abortion services,” for young, single, pregnant women. Todd was neither fit nor a cyclist, so I decided that he needed extra incentive. Instead of pledging a dollar for each mile of the 250 miles, as he had requested, I pledged five dollars for each of the last fifty miles of the ride, assuming that Todd would be in the sag wagon by then. Todd claimed that he finished the ride, and although I doubted it then and still don’t believe it now, I couldn’t find anybody to refute his account and wrote the check. It’s not that I think counseling unwed moms is more important than breast cancer. It’s just that I have to see Todd every day.

I hate the fund raisers at school. I don’t think that friends and family should subsidize my decision to send my kids to a private school, they’ve already paid for a public school education with taxes. I’ve never been able to ask friends and family to buy gift wrap. We just buy it and store it. We could paper the living room if the stuff had glue on the back. We give some to Lizzie’s Mom and Bull’s Godmother, but we still have enough to last until 2015, even if we didn’t buy every year. I love Girl Scout cookies, but I’d rather buy them from an anonymous Scout, or an anonymous Scout’s Mom, selling from a folding table in front of Ingle’s, than from somebody at the office. We ate a lot of pop corn when Bull was a Cub Scout. My sister didn’t ask that I buy the $50 deluxe (chocolate lovers) tin from her son, until my son was no longer in scouting. She called the other day reminding me that I hadn’t picked up last year’s tin, which probably means that it’s almost time to re-order. You can buy a lot of Orville Redenbacher’s for fifty dollars. What really bothers me is that the kids get prizes for selling, which is money that doesn’t go to the Scouts.

Too many charities raise far too little for the intended recipients while enriching professional fund raisers. There are actually companies who run campaigns in exchange for a large percentage of the take. I use to give a few bucks every year to the Houston Fraternal Order of Police. In return they sent a bumper sticker which I hoped would make a cop think twice before writing a speeding ticket. Some nosy reporter discovered and reported that 97% of the money collected went to the fund raiser. That left 3% to buy circus tickets for poor kids, which isn’t many seats, even at a discount.

NPR is the worst. They don’t offer me something that I neither want nor need if I contribute, they withhold something I really want in an attempt to blackmail me for a donation. Twice a year they interrupt programming while begging for money to continue operations. They add insult to injury by offering a coffee mug for a pledge at the $30 level. I’d send a little something if they merely threatened to suspend Morning Edition, instead of actually doing it. Because I actually interrupt programming during their annoying fund drive, I listen to classic rock for a week, and return when normal programming resumes.

Several years ago, a friend took me to a service at a Pentecostal church. After the ushers finished the collection, the pastor drummed the proceeds on a table and counted it. “That ain’t enough,” he said. “We went rent to pay. We got electric bills. It ain’t cheap to run this church. Try again.” He sent the ushers back a second, then a third time, before he was satisfied.

- See ANOTHER VIEW page 18
“I thought I had fun on St. Patrick’s Day. Then I went shopping at Twigs and whoaaa! Now that was fun!!!

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Forbidden Hollywood — Is That a Joke?

A collection of films from the “pre-code” era of Hollywood have been released this month under the title “Forbidden Hollywood.” In the 1920s, the free-wheeling scandal-plagued film industry began to censor itself in order to stave off the imposition of government controls. The Motion Picture Association adopted the Production Code in 1930, which spelled out what was morally acceptable for a movie.

It’s amusing to read the provisions of the Code today — it seems so naive and innocent when you consider the content of modern films. For example, here is the first general principle: “No picture shall be produced that will lower the moral standards of those who see it. Hence the sympathy of the audience should never be thrown to the side of crime, wrongdoing, evil, or sin.” I’m thinking of “Pulp Fiction” — the entire point of that wildly popular and much-imitated film seemed to be to glamorize crime.

The Production Code’s first act of censorship was the 1934 film “Tarzan and His Mate,” in which brief nude scenes involving a body double for actress Maureen O’Sullivan (who plays Jane) were edited out. I have seen that film with those scenes back in and they are exquisitely beautiful. Jane dives into a pool in the jungle and her dress pulls off as she hits the water. She and Tarzan then swim together in what can only be described as an underwater ballet. There is nothing “dirty” about this scene.

The week I watched one of the Forbidden Hollywood films, “Babyface,” starring Barbara Stanwyck. Lilly (Baby Face) sleeps her way up, literally floor by floor, to the top of a New York bank. The film is about using the power of sex to get ahead and about the conflict between the desire for security and for love. (There’s a very young John Wayne as the first man she hooked in New York.) And it seems quite sophisticated in its treatment of these (still very relevant) themes compared to a lot of films made today.

Production Code enforcement weakened as the decades passed and by the early 1960s big studios were releasing films that violated the code, so the MPAA came up with a rating system: G, M (now PG and PG-13), R, and X (now NC-17).

Have you ever wondered how these ratings are decided, and by whom? The documentary “This Film is Not Yet Rated” asks those questions and finds some disturbing answers. The film’s conclusion is that the ratings system has two chronic biases: it favors films from the big studios over independent movies; and it favors violence over sex. For example, the filmmaker found that four times as many films are rated NC-17 for sex as for violence. Look at the film that won this year’s Best Film Oscar, “No Country For Old Men.” It is an orgy of violence with nary a hint of sexuality.

Most other countries are completely opposite us (as usual). Their film ratings are done by government agencies, not the movie industry, and they find violence much more offensive than sex. In Britain, Germany, Ireland, Finland, Hong Kong, the Philippines and most of Canada, no one under 18 could watch “Saw,” the grisly horror film that was rated R in the U.S. (In the age of the Cineplex an R rating means nothing — I have watched young teenagers leave a PG-13 film to go to an adjacent room showing an R film and no one paid any attention.) And in this Cineplex age an NC-17 rating is the kiss of death because there are almost no alternative venues.

In the last week I also watched “Lenny Bruce,” the film about the comedian’s life. Bruce has the reputation of being “obscene,” but one of his major points was this: in our culture sex is dirty but violence is fine. He is quoted in the movie as saying “killing is what I find obscene.” American culture is extremely violent. We love watching movies and television shows about murder. I found this statistic striking (April 2008 Harper’s Index): Minimum number of homicides committed in the last full season of the three Law & Order TV shows: 83. Number of actual homicides last year in Manhattan: 69.

I watched “Fatal Attraction” last night for the first time because I was working on this column. There is a perfect example of our twisted concepts of sex and violence. A man, married for nine years, has a one-night fling in the first 20 minutes or so of the film, and then the next hour and more is a tension-filled buildup to extreme violence. Instead of exploring the common human experience of feeling sexual desire for another while being...
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... GORGE ROAD continued from pg 1

– for now 48-feet long and under – can use the Gorge Road if they can verify that their destination is Highlands.

“...it’s just a case where businesses have to be served,” he said.

Signs are posted in Franklin and in Highlands warning trucks of the narrow curves and mountain terrain and diverting them to other routes, but as many residents know, drivers don’t always heed these warnings.

The problem is The Gorge Road is the shortest distance from Franklin to Highlands on a dispatch map. “Dispatchers route their trucks that way,” said Commissioner Charlie Leatherman.

While U.S. DOT announced its new map showing 1,896 miles of roads open to trucks, including curvy mountain roads like U.S. 64, and the fact that the department was considering increasing allowable length from 48 to 53 feet, local officials became concerned.

Commissioner Brian McClellan suggested the county voice its concerns. “It’s just not appropriate to send 48- to 53-foot trailers up or down the mountain,” he said.

However, Charlie Diahl, president of the N.C. Trucking Association, said to keep commerce moving in North Carolina, 53-foot trailers – which have become the industry standard – must be allowed to take the same routes as the older 48-foot units.

Though they didn’t think it would do much good, at the March 10 Macon County Commission meeting, the board agreed to send a resolution to the state attorney general, N.C. DOT and other county governments denoting its outrage.

At its March 12 meeting, the Highlands Town Board followed the county’s lead and drew up a resolution both against the increased length allowance and the fact that tractor-trailers are allowed on The Gorge Road at all.

Commissioner Hank Ross said the only way 18-wheelers can navigate the curves on many parts of The Gorge Road is to drive left-of-center.

“Driving left-of-center is illegal, so I don’t see how the state can allow them to drive the road if they have to drive illegally to do so,” he said.

Sgt. McMahan said in 2007 there were four reported accidents involving tractor-trailers in The Gorge. “I don’t know how much of a problem there is with these trucks traveling the road,” he said. “We do not have large numbers of accidents involving these trucks.”

Far more than accidents are near misses. Most people who travel the road on a regular basis have had near-misses while passing these trucks. Sometimes there are only inches between a car and the tractor.

---

Chorus Girl

It’s one of those things you are never supposed to confess. In these days of political correctness, you are viewed with disdain if you come out and say that you don’t really play well with others. But here it is, folks, I don’t.

Perhaps it goes back to childhood, the way most things do. In elementary school, I was one of the last kids to be chosen for kickball, or softball, or Red Rover. I was among the last ones picked during recreation, along with Ruth W., whose bad breath could strip the chrome off a ’57 Chevy.

It still hurts.

I was not a popular girl, in a small Southern town where being popular meant everything. To this day, I can’t quite put my finger on why other kids didn’t want me on their sides. Perhaps it was because I was smart, and didn’t hide it. While other girls giggled behind their hands, and simmered whenever a boy walked in the room, I stood my ground. My mother did not waste vast amounts of money dolling me up, and parading me around like a poodle. I was not told constantly that I was a little princess, and that everything I did was wonderful. My brother and I got a modest allowance for doing actual work, not just showing up at the dinner table and looking cute. Maybe I was a little too real.

My two great joys were books and music. I had five years of piano, and would often play the same tune over and over, full of teenage angst. On entering high school, I made a discovery which would change my life forever – I started singing in a choir. Helen M., was the same age as my brother, and had a huge crush on him. Obviously, she thought that befriending baby sister would get her into our home, where she could just happen to bump into him. This never happened. What did happen was that this rather lonely girl finally found a team. Helen dragged me along to choir practice at St. John’s Episcopal Church, and I fell in love with choral music.

I’d had a bad knee for as long as I could remember. High School Physical Education was a nightmare. In baseball, I could hit, but couldn’t run. In basketball, I could shoot, but couldn’t dribble. In volleyball, I could serve, but couldn’t volley. In choir, however, it was the 1960s, and the core of our service music was the Rev. Ian Douglas Mitchell’s “An American Folk Song Mass.” The choir director was a rather zany, fun guy with an eclectic taste in music. Along with many old American folk melodies, he had us doing old English carols and traditional classical fare. We had a lot of fun, in the midst of working hard. For someone who was not a team player, this was the first real taste I had of working with a bunch of similarly-minded people toward a goal. I also had a great lesson of humility taught to me by a fellow chorister.

To my great amazement, I was chosen to sing a solo at Christmas Eve mass. Let me rush in here, and tell you that I am NOT solo material – I am content to sit with my section, and try to blend in with everyone else. A dear friend, who is a choir director, once described what comes out of my mouth as “a pleasant little voice,” and I think she was being very kind. The idea of doing a solo filled me with total panic. Upon reflection, it must come as a shock to my fellow singer, Becky B., who could have expected to get the role instead of me. In a show of great class, Becky took me aside, and helped me rehearse. When I confessed to being terrified of not reaching a high note, Becky devised a plan. “Just a second before you are supposed to sing that note, I’ll sing it into your ear, so you get it,” she promised. And she kept her promise, too. I got my high note, and delivered a performance which, if not brilliant, was more than adequate. I was especially proud that my parents were in the congregation, making the performance even sweeter.

Jump forward many years to my choir days in Paris, singing in the choir of the American Cathedral for eight years. What wonderful music we made! I even got to sing at Notre Dame (the cathedral, you know, the one that doesn’t have a football team) for a
In order to keep the news media and the public better informed about Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, we are providing you with a summary of the more significant actions and discussion items coming before the hospital’s board of directors at its most recent meeting on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008.

Cindy Barloga, RN, head of the hospital’s Infection Control and Employee Health Department, made an educational presentation to board members on infection control measures at the hospital.

In addition to presenting routine revisions to the hospital’s infection control policy, she talked about the recent influenza outbreak that has been sweeping the country and Western North Carolina, and an overview of staph infections. Barloga said the hospital’s emergency room has seen 14 confirmed flu cases since the first patient of the season on Feb. 3. However, many other patients have come to the emergency room with flu-like symptoms.

Barloga also monitors the number of cases of Methicillin-Resistant Staph Aureus (MRSA), or staph infections, treated at the hospital. MRSA cases have been in the regional news lately. Of the patients who came to the hospital with staph infection-like symptoms, 16 percent tested positive for MRSA, compared with 63 percent nationally, she told board members. And the hospital has not had any cases of hospital-acquired staph infections in the last several years, she said.

In his report, Board Chairman Bud Smith took a few moments to recount the progress the board and the hospital overall has made over the past two, often challenging, years. Relations between the hospital’s Medical Staff and the board (and administration) are better than they have been in many years, he said. The hospital has been successful in recruiting two general surgeons in many years, he said. The hospital has brought in two national consultants to review its practices, and has made significant progress in divesting itself of unused assets (such as the Chestnut Hill property, the medical building in Dillard, GA, and the former Toxaway Medical Center), and has reinvested the proceeds in other assets, such as new equipment, or through the foundation.

Chairman Griffin Bell, Jr., chairman of the Audit and Compliance committee, reported that the committee had met for the first time in January with Melanie McMaster of Dixon Hughes, PLLC, to review the annual audit for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2007.

The hospital received a clean, unqualified audit, and no management issues were found, he said. The board accepted the audit as submitted. Copies of the audit are available to the public for review during regular business hours in the administration offices, which are located in Suite 103 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus.

A summary of the information contained in the audit and accompanying report will be published in the hospital Annual Report to the community in all area newspapers later this month.

Charlie Sheehan, chairman of the board’s Finance Committee, reported that the hospital experienced a larger than anticipated loss in January, which resulted in a year-to-date loss that was greater than budget projections through the fourth month of the hospital fiscal year.

A major factor in the January numbers was a significant rise in expenses, due largely to one-time startup costs for the general surgery program. Income from the program is not expected to cover the cost of the startup period and part because of the time of year, was not enough to offset expenses at this early stage, Sheehan said. The committee had carefully scrutinized the January numbers and will continue to monitor the situation.

During the Governance Committee Report, Chairman Don Mullen reminded board members that it will soon be time to nominate new board members. That process will begin this spring and summer.

He also said the committee is in the process of trying to schedule the board’s annual retreat, hopefully in June. That day-long retreat is held in the area.

Programs and Facilities Committee Chairman Julian Franklin reported that the committee had reviewed and discussed a staff report on the proposed new Cashiers Medical Office Building that recapped the history and need, and financial viability of the project as developed so far. Several years ago, the hospital purchased the old Oakmont Lodge Property on NC. 107 north, with the idea of using a portion of the tract to build a new medical office building. The hospital has had architects working on plans for the facility. A major question is whether or not the hospital’s Foundation could raise enough money through contributions to complete the project.

In a separate report, Executive Director Helen Deery told board members that it will soon be time to discuss the hospital’s record keeping and insurance issues. She said the hospital’s Infection Control and Employee Health Department have been working on a strategy for taking the hospital to the next level of accreditation.

The hospital’s Medical Staff and the board (and administration) are better than they have been in many years, she said. And the hospital has not had any cases of hospital-acquired staph infections in the last several years.
I'll start this column by providing evidence of my NCAA Tournament credentials. As of today I have correctly picked 100% of the opening round of the NCAA tournament. It took a lot of courage to pick Mount St. Mary's, but I am definitely a courageous person. With this evidence of my mastery of the NCAA tournament, I have no choice but to proclaim myself a "tournament expert" and provide you, the lucky reader (and I mean reader in a singular sense, as in the one person that reads this column) with some thoughts on the tournament.

Players to watch

Obviously, the guys like Tyler Hansbrough and Michael Beasley are going to be on this list, but here are some names that you may not have heard of that can carry their respective teams to a victory or two in March.

Mike Green – Butler

Green is the engine that makes the Bulldogs go. An excellent finisher around the basket, as well as a terrific three point shooter. Green gives the Bulldogs the one-on-one player that every team needs to succeed in March.

Josh Young – Drake

While Adam Emmenecker gets the pub for the Drake, Young is the guy that takes, and makes, all of the big shots for the Bulldogs.

Sundiata Gaines – Georgia

Gaines completed a miracle run in the SEC tournament to get a bid thanks to the play of Gaines. Gaines is extremely strong around the basket and is a streaky shooter who can go for 30 every time he steps on the floor.

Donte Christmas – Temple

Christmas shows up every night for the Owls, averaging over 20 points a game and giving them a legitimate go-to guy to complement the solid play of Mark Tyndale.

Edwin Ubiles – Siena

Ubiles is a powder keg ready to go off every time he steps on the floor, having scored over 20 points 12 times this year. Ubiles shoots over 44% from the three point line and at 6’6” is a difficult match-up for most teams.

Michael Jenkins – Winthrop

Jenkins has a silky smooth jumper and can really get hot from behind the three point arc (as evidenced by his 6 threes in the Big South Championship).

Jeremy Goode – Mount St. Mary’s

Goode’s team isn’t going to upset North Carolina, but I recommend you tune in to watch the PG battle between Goode and Ty Lawson, who are two of the fastest PG’s in the nation.

Teams to watch

This is a little more difficult than it used to be, mainly because the NCAA Tournament Committee is rewarding strong mid-major teams with higher seeds than they have in the past, so the upsets are not nearly as striking as they were in recent years of March Madness.

Davidson Wildcat

Davidson lost by single digits to UNC, Duke, and NC State and held an 18 point lead against UCLA before going cold out on the west coast. The Wildcats are led by stud shooting guard Stephen Curry and PG Jason Richards. They have the senior leadership, experience and talent necessary to make a deep run in the tournament — provided they beat Gonzaga in the first round.

Drake Bulldogs

As one of the highest seeded mid-majors in recent history, it would be tempting to call the Drake overrated, but they certainly have the resume to back up their high seeding — led by a balanced attack that features great guard play from Adam Emmenecker and Josh Young, inside scoring from Jonathan Cox, and plenty of outside shooters all over the court. Drake shoots 37% from three point range and has the firepower to take down anyone in the nation, provided they are hitting shots.

Pittsburgh Panthers

This could be the year that Pitt makes the run they have been capable of. Finally healthy after a plethora of injuries, the Panthers have great talent at guard with Levance Fields and Ronald Ramon to go with inside forces Sam Young and Dejuan Blair. Pittsburgh defends with intensity and has been on a roll since they have overcome their injuries.

Oklahoma Sooners

Another team ravaged by injuries, the Sooners finished the season strong, winning 6 out of their last 8 games. Oklahoma is in this list because of their draw in the tournament. St. Joseph’s will be vulnerable to the Sooners punishing style of defense, and Louisville is vulnerable as well to a team like Oklahoma that can grind them to a halt. Keep an eye on super-fresh Blake Griffin for the Sooners, who has exceptional talent.
Summit Charter School hires new director

Beginning July 1, Dr. John “Jack” Talmadge will become the new director of Summit Charter School. The school has been undergoing an intensive search process since the death of former director, Christopher Home, in November. There were four very strong finalists that were interested in the school and community.

Dr. Talmadge rose above the others with his experience, insight, and strong communication skills. The school couldn’t be more pleased with the decision.

Dr. Talmadge is an Atlanta native. His undergraduate degree is from Hampden-Sydney College in biology, and he holds a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership and Administration, and a Doctorate degree in Administration and Policy Studies from The George Washington University. He is employed at Blessed Sacrament Huguenot School near Richmond, Virginia, which is Pre-K through 12th grade. He began his career in education there 15 years ago as a math and science teacher, and has risen to his current position as Principal. He is the director of faculty and curriculum for all grades, as well as manager of all school operations. Dr. Talmadge's educational philosophy is very much in line with Summit’s mission and vision. He is a supporter of place-based education and realizes the importance of putting children on the path to become lifelong learners. During his visit to Summit last month his immediate connection with the students and the faculty was very apparent.

“Summit’s future is very bright. Dr. Talmadge will bring great energy and excitement to the school. We couldn’t have asked for a better fit for our current needs. He sees our potential and will take us to great heights” said board chair, Nancy Bruns.

Dr. Talmadge remarked, “For over twenty years I have been enchanted by the beautiful streams and hiking trails of Cashiers, Highlands and Brevard. I cannot even begin to express the level of excitement and gratitude the Talmadge family possesses in its invitation to join such a charming community. We now have new mountains to climb and new paths to explore, paths that will take Summit Charter School on exciting adventures of educational opportunity and growth.”

Summit Charter School is currently constructing a new campus on 25 acres off of Zeb Alley Road in Cashiers. Dr. Talmadge is excited about the future of the school at the new site. Summit has recently begun an environmental education program that will be further developed at the new property where outdoor learning centers in multiple ecosystems will be available for hands-on instruction.

Dr. Talmadge is 38 years old, he has a wife, Beth, and 3 young girls, Lily (2), Maddie (3), and Rylie (7). The school looks forward to welcoming the whole family to Cashiers this summer.

Summit Charter School is a K-8 public school, located in Cashiers, open to all North Carolina children. For more information please call 743-5755.

... GORGE ROAD
continued from page 8

trailer which is usually way out of its lane. Besides potential accidents and near misses, the wear and tear 18-wheelers inflict on the road, as well as the potential for two semi-trucks meeting each other at one of several curves.

Officials say the problem with enforcing the rules is manpower issue. The Gorge Road is out of the jurisdiction of both the Highlands and Franklin police departments, and it doesn’t fall under the Macon County Sheriff’s jurisdiction. Instead it’s up to NC Highway Patrol and Sgt. Johnson said while any state trooper can enforce the laws associated with the road, “We are stretched pretty thin.”
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**The town listens to its citizen**

Very important visitors came to see us at Town Hall this past week. People from the United States Army Corps of Engineers came by to see us in support of obtaining funds for removal of silt from Lake Sequoyah. The Corps, due to the Water Resources Development Act passed by Congress this past November, now has the authority to be more involved in important environmental projects such as dredging critical lakes.

The Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah is certainly a critical area for the town of Highlands because it is the source of our water supply. The effect of the sedimentation in the lake has resulted in the diminished quality of the town water and it is critical that we either get funded from other governmental agencies or significantly raise our own tax base in order to take care of this situation.

After our consultation with these three individuals from the Corps of Engineers, they made a site visit to the lake and the next day visited Congressman Shuler’s office in Asheville in support of our request for funding. Recent thorough appraisal of the project by Mountain Engineering put the price of this project at $2 million.

I have talked with Congressman Shuler previously about this project and had several conversations with his office this past week. The request for this funding officially was faxed to his office Friday and they have stated to me that they will do everything they can to obtain these funds for us. In the past we have had little luck with the federal government even though both the previous mayor, Buck Trott, and I have made trips to Washington to seek congressional approval for funding.

Unfortunately, in the past most of these funds have dried up before we could get anything. Let us hope this time we are successful.

We emphasized to both the Corps and the Congressman that we will be taking care of most of the source of this silt later this year with the paving of the three roads surrounding Big Creek. These two projects are critical to Highlands and I am now optimistic that something good is going to happen.

The recent decision by the NCDOT to allow trucks as long as 53 feet to come up and down the gorge road was most unfortunate if not very dangerous. Everyone who uses that road to and from Franklin knows why and most have been inconvenienced by large trucks either getting stuck, slow or literally going over the edge. Both the County Commissioners and the Town of Highlands Commissioners have written a letter of protest to the State and have been supported by our State Senator John Snow. Apparently DOT is not allowed by state law to bar these trucks from this highway. If that be the case, the state law must be changed before lives are lost on this very beautiful passageway which is quite dangerous with large trucks on it.

This week our board of commissioners had a joint meeting with the county commissioners. We are looking forward to open dialogue with them regarding our common concerns and hopefully we can make this a quarterly occurrence. I have talked with the new county manager Jack Horton on several occasions and he has been to Highlands to visit us. We look forward to future good relationships with our county counterparts. The chairman of the county commissioners, Charlie Leatherwood, has also been open to this communication.

The decision by the town to allow certain commercial activities sponsored by not-for-profit organizations in recreation facilities such as the Civic Center and the new Pine Street parking was a good one. There are some things the town can do to boost our economy in a year which threatens to be a recession time. However, with that said, we must still primarily use these facilities for the non-commercial recreation activities to which they are intended. Uses will be limited to Macon county residents and must be applied for at least 30 days in advance of the project.

Next week the commissioners will be having an important joint meeting with the Planning Board to hopefully come to an agreement on outdoor displays and restaurant parking. Those two issues have been hot topics at our board meetings and we must come to a decision before our busy season begins in May. We have had many comments from the public and I can assure everyone that these comments will be taken into serious consideration. The wheels of government roll slowly, even on local issues, but these two issues have taken too long to work out because of the many ramifications which affect many businesses.
Girls soccer team beat Swain and Murphy

Ana Damian scores a penalty kick against Swain at the March 3 game. Highlands won 4-1. The next home games are March 24 against Murphy; March 27 against Hiwasee Dam and March 28 against Rabun Gap

Photos by Stephanie McCall

Highlands beat Murphy - a conference opponent — 4-0 at the March 17 game. “Goal Shock” registers on freshman Stephanie Puchacz’s face after her very first soccer goal. A Murphy opponent can’t hide the look of disgust on her face.

Photos by Noel Atherton

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Fairness Doctrine? I Don’t Think So

Talk Radio definition:
“Broadcast radio programming consisting of talk shows, often including telephone conversations with members of the audience.”

For many years, the major television networks, ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, etc., controlled the news that almost all of us received. That news formed the thinking of those who were not founded in a strong conservative philosophy. The filter through which we learn what's going on was and is unarguably biased to the left; therefore, logically, most people's thinking, especially politically speaking, was and is influenced in a liberal direction.

During the same period the print media, newspapers and news magazines, had the same influence with the same outcome. Because of the availability of TV news coverage and the willingness and ability to read dwindling, and because more time was spent commuting, allowing less time for reading, evening newspapers soon disappeared, as well as many news magazines. I learned to read at the age of four, sitting on my daddy's knee, reading TIME magazine. I’m not sure TIME is still published and I don’t care enough to Google it to find out. It had turned into a far left rag the last I saw.

While it may take a while to happen, all vacuums will eventually be filled, and the lack of conservative news outlets was finally fixed. When so much time commuting became a fact of life, it cramped TV watching time, and it expanded radio listening time. When I was young, pre-TV, we got our news from the newsreels at the movies, and the 10 p.m. 15-minute newscast on radio. At least in my life radio more or less became irrelevant. Now we have 24/7 news. How times have changed.

In 1996, FOX News Network was born, providing an alternative to CNN’s liberal slanted news coverage. At the time CNN was a distant second to BBC in worldwide exposure but dominated cable news (thus Cable News Network). It has been asserted that FOX has right-leaning tendencies, obviously by those who are on the opposite side of the political spectrum. I see an ironic twist here. Since FOX heard CNN’s crack in viewership, that must mean many more people choose to have their news delivered from a fair and balanced (conservative) perspective.

At the same time FOX emerged on the scene, widespread use of the internet was underway. Slowly but surely, this medium, through blogging, began to be a news source (Drudge Report, World Net Daily, seemingly all traditional news outlets, etc.) and now is replacing newspapers as a source of news and opinion. Frankly, even though USA Today comes from the wrong side, I enjoy paging through it where I see stories on subjects I wouldn't look for on the net. Blogging enables other anonymous individuals to express their thoughts and beliefs, for what they are worth.

In 1949, the Fairness Doctrine became policy at a time we were fighting Communism. Its purpose was to level the media playing field and to give equal time to contrasting points of view. In time, it became a political tool and the Kennedy Administration used it vigorously to squash conservative radio content by demanding like time to the liberal point of view. Radio stations were required to provide the “equal time” at no cost, which, of course, was an economic hardship on the station and network owners. The answer was to not present political commentary of any persuasion.

After a series of judicial and legislative maneuvers, in 1987 President Reagan vetoed a bill that would have codified the “Fairness Doctrine,” and an attempt to revive it in 1991 was killed By Pres. Bush I. Not surprisingly, the conservative voice started to be heard following the Gingrich-led Republican dominated election of 1994. Talk radio began to grow and prosper on a national scale led by Rush Limbaugh and others. The revival of radio, as a valued source of information, flourished and provided a conservative offset to the slanted offerings of newspapers and TV.

As the popularity of conservative talk radio boomed, the liberals cried foul. Their attempt to compete (Air American Radio) was launched in 2004, lost $41 million by 2006 and filed for bankruptcy. Their lousy on-air talent compounded the fact that liberal broadcasts are by nature depressing so nobody listened. Failing to compete, the libs are back on the “Fairness Doctrine” drumbeat headed by Sens. Richard Durbin, John Kerry, Barack Obama and Media Matters, Hillary’s mouthpiece.

If they are allowed to succeed in passing a new and improved “Fairness Doctrine,” you can kiss talk radio goodbye and free speech as well. It is a disaster in the making.
... HOSPITAL continued from page 9

fund construction of the multi-million-dollar building. Board members agreed to further develop some architectural renderings of what the project might look like as part of an upcoming fund-raising feasibility study.

During the report of the Performance Improvement Committee, Vice President for Operations and Compliance Officer Frank Leslie gave an overview of the hospital's ongoing efforts to reduce or eliminate medication dispensing errors. The issue is very much in the news these days, he said, because of the problems of another healthcare provider in the region. Leslie said Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has an aggressive program in place, and recently conducted a special in-depth study. The medication dispensing error rate for the Fidelia Eckerd Nursing Center was only 0.01 percent. For the hospital it was 0.2 percent, well below the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' threshold of 5 percent. Leslie said none of the errors represented life-threatening events. In the case of both the nursing center and the hospital, the largest category for errors was that of omission, where patients or residents did not receive their medication dose, rather than instances where patients or resident were given wrong medication.

In his report, President and CEO Ken Shull reported on the various activities the hospital conducted during American Heart Month (February) around the area. Two mini heart fairs were conducted (one in Cashiers and one in Highlands) which drew an estimated 80 participants. Healthy cooking demos, information booths, blood pressure checks, and vouchers for cholesterol screening lab work were offered. Health Tracks, the fitness and cardiovascular rehabilitation program at the hospital, also held an open house. As well as a special luncheon for its cardiac rehab patients during February.

The board also passed a resolution recommended by Shull in support of a joint effort by the WNC Health Network, Mountain Area Health Education Center, and Mission Hospitals, to persuade the state university system to create a program that will allow third- and fourth-year medical students to work in Western North Carolina as part of their medical schooling. Supporters hope that will help possibly convince those students to come back to WNC to practice when they graduate.

Shull reported that Emergency Medicine Director Tony Fisher, MD, will soon be leaving the hospital’s emergency room to work full-time at Park Ridge Urgent Care in Fletcher, NC. Other physicians will be picking up the slack in staffing, so coverage will not be affected. The hospital already has begun looking for a physician who is board-certified in emergency medicine to take on the duties of ER director.

The hospital’s recent push to improve the quality of its food service is paying initial dividends, Shull told directors. Chef and former Cashiers restaurant owner David Sanborn was hired last month as part of the hospital's food service management team. He is the hospital's kitchen manager. Shull said the number of complaints about the hospital's food -- which accounts for nearly all patient complaints -- has fallen off significantly. And in many instances the food service is getting compliments, he said.

Shull reminded the board that a survey team from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations is expected to visit the hospital virtually any day now to conduct a three-year re-accreditation review.

... LETTERS continued from page 3

useful to compare both unreserved fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unreserved fund balance represents 41 percent of total General Fund expenditures, while total fund balance represents 49 percent of that same amount."

So, if the public can’t rely on the Annual Report, where can we go to get good information.

The commission brought in Bryan Starnes, representing the firm that does the audit for the county. Starnes seemed to confirm everything “some people” have been saying even though the appointment of the auditing firm needs annual confirmation and the commission could fire them on a moment’s notice.

Starnes did a masterful job of dancing but, if one listened objectively, his responses indicated that Macon County is flush with excess funds. The story also explained that Macon County’s policy does not define a 25 percent fund balance in the traditional manner. It further explains that the policy is inescapable for all practical purposes.

The Commissioners are given credit for the lowest tax rate in the state. Knowledgeable citizens know that “some people” have been instrumental in achieving the current tax rate.

Don Swanson
Macon FreedomWorks

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Injectable marinades make it easy to prepare a winning main course in minutes — no overnight soaking, no added fat and no waste — with flavors that really permeate the meat. When you round out the menu with other classic family favorites — a sweet potato and pecan casserole that’s a “must-serve” with ham, and crowd-pleasing bread pudding with rum sauce — your culinary reputation will be secure.

**Honey Praline Ham**
- Prep time: 20 minutes
- Cook time: 1 to 3 hours
- Servings: 25 to 30 (3-ounce) slices
- 1 (8- to 12-pound) bone-in ham or spiral cut ham
- 1 (16-ounce) jar Cajun Injector Honey Praline Marinade with injector
- 1 (3.25-ounce) canister Cajun Injector Praline Topping

Preheat oven as instructed on ham packaging. Pour marinade in measuring cup; warm approximately 40 seconds in microwave. Inject marinade evenly throughout ham using approximately 1 1/2 ounces per pound of meat. After injecting with marinade, cover ham; bake according to package directions. Remove ham from oven; pat topping evenly over ham. Return ham to oven; bake 30 more minutes basting with pan drippings. Remove ham from oven; allow to rest covered before carving.

**Sweet Potato Casserole**
- Prep time: 15 minutes
- Cook time: 35 to 45 minutes
- Servings: 7 (5-ounce) servings
- 1/4 cup evaporated milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 (29-ounce) can Bruce’s Sweet Potato Casserole and (4-ounce) can Pecan Crumb Topping

Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine milk, vanilla, eggs, melted butter and casserole mix, blending well. Place topping in separate bowl, cut in softened butter and mix until crumbly. Pour mixture in 9- by 9- by 2-inch baking dish; sprinkle with topping. Bake 35 to 45 minutes.

**Southern-Style Bread Pudding with Rum Sauce**
- Prep time: 10 minutes
- Cook time: 50 minutes
- Servings: 8 servings
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 3/4 cups milk
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1 box Bruce’s Southern Style Bread Pudding Mix
- 6 cups loosely packed French bread, torn

Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine egg, milk, and butter in large mixing bowl. Add bread pudding mix; blend well. Stir in bread pieces. Pour into greased 8- by 8- by 2-inch baking dish. Bake 50 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Cut into individual portions and cover with rum sauce.

**Rum Sauce**
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 2 1/2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons white or dark rum

Melt butter in small saucepan over medium heat. Mix together sugar and cornstarch; stir into butter. Pour milk in pan; cook stirring frequently until mixture begins to boil. Continue cooking until thick, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; stir in rum. Serve warm over bread pudding.

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- **SAPPHIRE MOUNTAIN.** Unbelievable views. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths Post and Beam home. Golf amenities available. Concrete kitchen countertops, custom lighting, stone fireplace. Offered furnished at $900,000. MLS #64547

- **SEQUOYAH LAKEFRONT HOME.** This 3 bedroom, 4.5 bath home sits on 1.18+/- acres on Lake Sequoyah. Great in-town location just minutes from Main Street and walking distance to "On The Verandah" Restaurant. Large Master Suite with stone fireplaces in the bedroom and master bathroom. Enjoy the expansive lake views throughout the house, open decks and your own private dock. Start making your family traditions this year on Lake Sequoyah. Offered at $1,295,000. MLS #64498

- **HIGHLANDS MOUNTAIN CLUB.** Unit #604, lovely 2 bedroom, 2 bath Highlands Mountain Club Unit has a wooded view with a winter view of a small lake. Light and airy, a great canvas to make your own taste and a great getaway. Offered furnished at $275,000. MLS #64294

- **MIRROR LAKE AREA.** This home has just undergone a complete remodel, new heat, new air, floors, walls, electric, plumbing, kitchen and decks. Walk to Mirror Lake or town. Nice, flat lot make this a must see. Offered at $399,000. MLS #64057

- **MIRROR LAKE HOME.** Listen to the sounds of water spilling over the Mirror Lake Dam or fish from the deck of this charming 3 bedroom, 3 bath cottage with an additional 1 bedroom, 1 bath guest cottage. Only minutes from Main Street this property is a lasting example of quintessential Highland’s Lake House charm. Recent updates to the décor make this one move in ready. Great rental potential. Offered at $995,000. MLS #64244

- **MIRROR LAKE HOME.** This home has just undergone a complete remodel, new heat, new air, floors, walls, electric, plumbing, kitchen and decks. Walk to Mirror Lake or town. Nice, flat lot make this a must see. Offered at $399,000. MLS #64057

- **CULLASAJA CLUB.** Wonderful usable lot with fantastic location features multiple golf holes including the 5th and 6th just off your rear deck and a great view of a lake and the mountains in the distance. Easy access and main level living with this quality home that features 3 bedrooms and 2 -1/2 baths. Wood floors grace the greatroom with cathedral ceiling and fireplace. Nice open kitchen/dining room that opens onto a large screened porch that overlooks the 6th fairway and club lake. Two car garage with a private office to get your work done, lower level has a hobby room, storage area and an additional half bath. Additional potting shed/golf cart storage round out this exceptional package. Offered at $995,000. MLS #64591

- **CULLASAJA CLUB.** Wonderful usable lot with fantastic location features multiple golf holes including the 5th and 6th just off your rear deck and a great view of a lake and the mountains in the distance. Easy access and main level living with this quality home that features 3 bedrooms and 2 -1/2 baths. Wood floors grace the greatroom with cathedral ceiling and fireplace. Nice open kitchen/dining room that opens onto a large screened porch that overlooks the 6th fairway and club lake. Two car garage with a private office to get your work done, lower level has a hobby room, storage area and an additional half bath. Additional potting shed/golf cart storage round out this exceptional package. Offered at $995,000. MLS #64591

- **CHARMING COTTAGE with big view.** Totally renovated inside and out. New furnace and central air, full basement, 2 car garage. Granite countertops and stainless appliances. Close in. Asking $579,000. MLS #63898

- **DESIREABLE IN TOWN Village Walk Condo.** 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with many upgrades including 2 stone fireplaces, eat-in kitchen, screened porch, and beautiful built ins. Must see how lovely this unit shows. Offered at $925,000.

- **CLOSE TO MIRROR LAKE.** Cute cottage on Wyanoak with an extra lot. Freshly renovated cottage with all new kitchen, bathrooms and flooring. Nice starter house in the Mirror Lake that you can start enjoying immediately! Priced to sell at $369,000. MLS #64252
Architect Paul Schmitt chosen for library renovation

By Katie Brugger

The Hudson Library Board of Trustees has chosen local architect Paul Schmitt of Paul Schmitt Architectural Design Studio, PLLC to design and oversee the renovation of the current library building located at 554 Main Street.

Last year local architects were asked to submit proposals for renovating the current library facility and expanding library activities into the space currently occupied by the Bascom-Louise Gallery. Mr. Schmitt’s design was selected because of his commitment to completing the renovation with as little disruption of library service as possible as well as his concepts for using the newly available space and creating a pleasing exterior in keeping with Highlands’ mountain style.

Schmitt plans to make the design of this project an all-Highlands effort, which is in keeping with the special character of the Hudson Library. Landscaping design will be done by James Tate of Tate Landscaping Service, Inc. and interior design will be provided by Jean Macrea of Jean Macrea Interiors, Inc.

The current library building, completed in 1985, must be updated to comply with current accessibility, lighting, and fire protection standards as well as provide key areas of library service considered important by residents and visitors to the Highlands community. The space vacated by the gallery will be used to provide a multi-purpose room for children’s programs, author talks, meetings, lectures, and films; a “library living room” for comfortable reading in front of a gas fireplace; and expanded audio-visual and computer areas.

Schmitt grew up in Highlands and first learned the craft of building design at his father’s firm, Schmitt Building Contractors. After graduating from Clemson University, Schmitt returned to Highlands and joined with Dennis DeWolf to form the partnership Schmitt Schmitt Architectural Design Studio, PLLC.

The Hudson Library, one of the oldest public libraries in the state of North Carolina, was founded 125 years ago by Highlanders and has been nurtured and supported by the community all through its history. The Hudson Library will be hosting an open house on Sunday, April 27, from 2-5 p.m. The public is invited to come see the plans for the renovation and tour the building with the architect and library board members.

The coming year will open an exciting chapter in the story of the Hudson Library.

Renovations will make the library complex more user-friendly.

... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 5

I frantically waved a twenty dollar bill in the air as they made their final pass, hoping it was enough to buy my freedom.

I hadn’t intended this to happen when I started, but columns, like children, sometimes go their own way. If you don’t want me to hit you up, stop reading now. STOP! Many of you are aware of my enduring interest in Haiti, and the hospital and mission in Cange. I received another email last week, this one warning of an impending humanitarian disaster. I don’t know all the details, but apparently waste from the mission is threatening to contaminate the water supply. Clean water is a scarce and precious commodity in Haiti. I’m told that the solution involves a biodigester and harvesting methane gas to use for cooking. Sounds good. Sounds expensive. Feel no need to stammer that you gave at the office. You won’t have to avert your eyes from mine and explain that you gave to Bolivia. I don’t even know who you are. If you would like to help out, I promise that every penny you give will get to Cange, and I promise further to match every contribution. I should send this to my buddy in Connecticut. I don’t think he gets the Highlands’ Newspaper out there. Send contributions to Henry Salzarulo, P.O. Box 2742, Highlands, NC 28741. If you don’t write “Haiti” on the memo line, I might think your offering is a tip for fine writing.

Thank you to Mr. Hickman, Ray Archer and Patrick Herz for their talents on the grill. Thank you to Mrs. McIntyre-Ross and Mrs. Holt for all your hard work, and to Mrs. Zachary for allowing us to use the cafeteria to seat everyone. Our class was blessed with another successful fundraiser for prom and graduation.

Casey Jenkins
President, Class of 2009
Senator Snow address ‘League’ about current issues

By Sally Hansen
Reporter

Senator John Snow was the featured speaker at Thursday’s monthly League of Women Voters’ meeting in Franklin.

Snow said water quality is one of the important issues he has addressed in the past and continues to be of importance. “We have established a few conservation areas out of old watersheds. In Jackson County over 1,100 acres have been set aside for preservation,” Snow said. Another planned conservation area is in the works for Cherokee County. “We have also appropriated $100 million to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund for funds to work on sewer projects that have to do with clean water,” he said.

Affordable healthcare is on the forefront, too. “Health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. citizens. I said the Constitution says all citizens having the right to the pursuit of happiness, saying that health care almost should have been in our Constitution. I don’t think they realized it was going to be a big issue when they wrote the Constitution, but you’re not too happy if you’re not healthy,” he said.

Veterans Day Memorial Service. By Sally Hansen

The city scheduled a Veterans Day Memorial Service and a wreath-laying ceremony at 11 a.m. at the courthouse. The service will include a reading of the names of those who died in military service, a presentation of the colors and a moment of silence. Family members and friends of veterans are invited to attend the ceremony.

Hippity Hoppity Kilwin’s has your Easter candy!

Come guess the number of jelly beans and win a 22-pound milk chocolate Easter bunny!

Spring Hours!

Monday -- Thursday: 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m. until 9 p.m.
Closed Sundays 
(828) 526-3788

NATIONWIDE SHIPPING

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NATIONWIDE SHIPPING
Highlands Clergy Association hosts ecumenical events

Station of the Cross and Sunrise Easter Service

As Christians around the world gather this week for Holy Week and Easter, the Highlands Clergy are offering two unique ecumenical events to help our community celebrate the two most glorious events of our faith – Jesus’ death and resurrection.

The Highlands Clergy Association meets quarterly to determine ways to bring folks of all denominations together for services, projects and fellowship. Some of our lasting accomplishments are the Thanksgiving Service, Baccalaureate Service, Blessing of the School, Sunday Ecumenical Service, and Good Friday Station of the Cross. This year we will continue the Good Friday Stations of the Cross and add to the list what has traditionally been the Presbyterian’s gift to the community, the Sunrise Easter Service.

Stations of the Cross is a traditional custom observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem. Beginning at the ruins of the Fortress Antonia and ending at the church of the Holy Sepulcher, pilgrims offer prayers at significant stops along the road called the Via Dolorosa; translated: the Sorrowful Way. The number of stations has been fixed at fourteen, eight of which are directly recorded in the Gospels. The other six stations are adapted from references in the Gospels and traditional legends. These six are sometimes omitted. This year the procession will include all fourteen stations, divided among the churches we pass in route from Our Lady of the Mountain to Highlands First Baptist Church.

The First station will begin at noon Good Friday, March 21 at Our Lady of the Mountain. While in procession, the newest addition to our churches, Les Scott (director of music at the Highlands Methodist Church) will be leading the music. Our second offering is the Sunrise Easter Service. Easter is one of the few dates in the church calendar that is movable. It was determined at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD that Easter would follow on or after the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox, which is fixed on March 21. Easter can never fall on March 21 or after April 25. Thus, this year’s Easter is the earliest Sunday that it will occur in our lifetime! The next time it will fall on March 23 is in 2228 and the next time it falls on the earliest date possible will be March 22, 2285. Those of you who are 95 years young or older remember the last time Easter was this close to the Equinox. The first Easter Service was traditionally held at sundown the night before Easter Sunday, observing our Jewish origins, which began the new day at sundown. It was a time for new converts to the faith to be baptized sometimes following a three year instructional process. However, it has been become a tradition for many churches to hold their first Easter service at Sunrise.

Sunday March 23 at 7 a.m. the Highlands clergy will be hosting a Sunrise Easter Service at the Nature Center Amphitheatre located at the end of Main Street towards Horse Cove. Please bring a blanket to sit upon. The Rev. Hunter Coleman will preach and Les Scott of Highlands Methodist Church will lead the music, along with help from our local bagpiper David Landis. All Highlands clergy have been invited to participate. After the service the First Baptist Church has invited everyone to its fellowship hall for a free breakfast. It is our hope you will come out and enjoy this unique and powerful morning of praising the glory of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions about the Highlands Clergy Association or would like to participate please email The Rev. Brian Sullivan.

... SEPTIC continued from page 1

program and the impact has been a loss of approximately $270,400 in potential program revenues which represent an increase of the same in county net cost for environmental health services.”

Other changes include a priority list. Failed or failing systems in need of repairs will get first priority; second priority will be hardship situations — people whose homes have burned down or handicapped people; third will be individuals – builders, Realtors, or homeowners — with a firm closing date or construction deadline; and the fourth priority will be given to those without a firm deadline – closing or construction.

For those in the third and fourth category, permitting will be done in chronological order based on the date logged into the system which depends on when the complete application package and payment is received.

In addition, Bruckner said he has encouraged the department to “batch” work. “For instance, if an inspector is going to Nantahala, they will be encouraged to do all the work they can in that area that day.”
Somehow, it was necessary to take place in this way — the crucifixion of Jesus in order to defeat sin and death.

Why would anyone do this? It is almost too difficult to imagine — but it happened.

Who else but the devil could mess with Judas' mind and cause him to betray Jesus? Who else but the devil would try to take out the Son of God in the most gruesome way imaginable?

Jesus took the weapon that was supposed to defeat him and used it, not his end and our end, but to a beginning.

Imagine this:

You have been tried and found guilty of a capital crime. You stand before the judge in the courtroom as he sentences you to death. Then, the judge rises and comes down from the bench. He removes his robe and puts on your orange jumpsuit. He places your shackles on his own hands and feet and allows himself to be led away and put to death in your place.

The devil — they say he is just a fairy tale.

I don't know if I buy into the image of the guy in a red suit with horns and a tail — but I do know that evil, or sin or Satan or whatever you want to call it, is very real.

Who else but the devil could turn the hearts and minds of people against a man of peace to the point that they want to kill him? Who else but the devil could mess with Judas' mind and cause him to betray Jesus? Who else but the devil would try to take out the Son of God in the most gruesome way imaginable? God is nothing if not ironic.

We hear the betrayal, we taste the sweat, we smell the dust and the blood of Christ's passion, and it is so hard, so very hard. It is during Holy Week that we come face to face with the hard reality of what it took to secure our salvation. People often ask, "Why did God chose this way?" It's so brutal! Wasn't there some other way?"

Some people tell me that they don't believe in the devil — they say he is just a fairy tale.

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Why would anyone do this? It is almost too difficult to imagine — but it happened.

Was it awful? Yes. Was it violent and cruel? Yes. Mel Gibson went a bit overboard with that aspect of the Passion, but he made his point — God so loved us that He was willing to suffer as deeply as a human being could suffer in order to defeat sin and death.

Somehow, it was necessary to take place in this way — the crucifixion of Jesus in order to defeat sin and death.

Isaiah, perhaps the greatest of the Old Testament prophets, wrote about would happen in what has been called the "Song of the Suffering Servant" Isaiah 53 vs. 1-5:

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 21

For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground;
He had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
Nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by others;
A man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised and we held him of no account.
Surely he has bourn our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised and we held him of no account.
And like sheep we have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
A dear friend of mine, Rev. Leroy, a man of great wisdom and faith, has endured hard times, but he has never forgotten “who and whose he is.” He has suffered despair and tragedy but has survived it, not by his own strength, but by his faith in God.
He recently told me, "Man stumbles and falls, but Jesus never stumbles and he never falls. When we try and go our own way, we stumble. If we lean on Jesus we never stumble."
The Apostle Paul urges us to “put on the armor of God.”
But even the best armor has a weak place, a chink just big enough for the devil to slip his dagger through. And it can happen to anyone. It is not because the armor isn’t strong enough, it’s because we aren’t strong enough.
By ourselves, we are helpless, but in Christ we are given hope and new life.
And this is the heart of Holy Week. In the sorrow and anguish of the passion, we are reminded of how costly grace really is, and who paid it for us.
May your Holy Week be filled with the joy and peace of believing.
May the blessings of God follow you all the days of your lives. Amen.
... FORUM continued from page 2

your life and maybe die or be crippled why then you've got no rights. You haven't even the right to say yes or no or I'll think it over. There's plenty of laws to protect guys' money even in war time but there's nothing on the books says a man's life's his own.

Of course a lot of guys were ashamed. Somebody said let's go out and fight for liberty and so they went and got killed without ever once thinking about liberty. And what kind of liberty were they fighting for anyway? How much liberty and whose idea of liberty? Were they fighting for the liberty of eating free ice cream cones all their lives or for the liberty of robbing anybody they pleased whenever they wanted to or what? You tell a man he can't rob and you take away some of his liberty. You've got to. What the hell does liberty mean anyhow? It's just a word like house or table or any other word. Only it's a special kind of word. A guy says house and he can point to a house and prove it. But a guy says come on let's fight for liberty and he can't show you liberty. He can't prove the thing he's talking about so how the hell can he be telling you to fight for it?

No sir anybody who went out and got into the front line trenches to fight for liberty was a dam fool and the guy who got him there was a liar. Next time the guy who got him there was a liar. Next time the front line trenches to fight for liberty was a dam fool and hear and talk and eat and sleep with my girl. I think I like that liberty better than fighting for a lot of things we won't get and ending up without any liberty at all. Ending up dead and rotting before my life is even begun good or ending up like a side of beef. Thank you mister. You fight for liberty. Me I don't care for some.

See the March 27 edition for Part 2

... MILESTONE from page 22

County Manager Jack Horton said he was very glad to see the three entities working together and said all three entities need to discuss economics, land use, technology, human services, and public safety issues which they all need to be involved with.

“We need to collaborate to address these issues,” he said. “We’re from different towns, but we all live in Macon County.”

The group agreed to meet three times a year with the next meeting in Franklin sometime in the summer and the following meeting in Highlands during the fall.

“It’s important that we work together,” said Leatherman in closing. “We need to be proactive, not reactive and provide vision, purpose and leadership for the people who elected us to serve them.”

... SILT continued from page 1

DENR, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Dept., and the U.S. Wildlife Services to discuss regulatory requirements.

Having covered all the bases, Altamont suggested hydraulic dredging and pumping with remote dewatering and excavation with over-the-road sediment transport.

Where to deposit silt removed from water bodies is always a problem, but the county has stepped in to help.

After the silt is dewatered in a centrifuge it will be loaded on to trucks and hauled to the Macon County Landfill on Rich Gap Road for use as topsoil once the construction and debris pit is capped.

“This can be done within eight months to coincide with the capping of the landfill,” said Kimel. “The silt will be deposited on top of the right day cap and will remain conducive to vegetative growth.”

Commissioner Amy Patterson asked if it was necessary to dredge all 42,000 yards of silt, but Kimel said getting it all and following up with a sound storm water plan would be best.

“It costs $100,000 just to bring the dredge up here and put it on site,” he said. Commissioner Dennis DeWolf asked if the silt was marketable but Kimel said it wasn’t because it’s gritty, sandy and it erodes easily.

The sediment samples that were analyzed showed normal levels of everything excepted from this region – chromium, and pesticides – but not abnormal levels he said.

“We went ahead and tested samples because we knew somewhere down the line that information would be required. What we found was elevated levels of chromium, which is normal considering the underlying granite, and pesticides which is due to runoff from area golf courses,” he said.

Once the silt is dredged from the creek, it will be deposed on town property directly across from the water treatment plant where two tractor-trailers will be set up side by side. A centrifuge will spin the solids out. Once 50% of the water is removed, it will be transported to the landfill.

Kimel said there will be noise associated with the procedure, but they will only work a normal work day not extended hours and certainly not 24 hours a day.

Due to the Water Resources Development Act passed by Congress this past November, the U.S. Corps of Engineers now has the authority to be involved in environmental projects such as dredging critical lakes. Because of that, the Corps has taken over the project and will act as the lead agency to procure grant money.

Kimel said Washington should look favorable on Highlands’ request since the town has been proactive in enlisting Altamont to prepare a Sediment Evaluation and Repair Estimate and has begun a stormwater remediation and prevention plan.

Mayor Don Mullen said he is following in Buck Trott’s footsteps in trying to get money out of Washington.

“The Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah is a critical area for the town of Highlands because it is the source of our water supply. The effect of the sedimentation in the lake has resulted in the diminished quality of the town water and it is critical that we either get funded from other governmental agencies or significantly raise our own tax base in order to take care of this situation,” said Mayor Mullen.

The town has asked Congressman Heath Shuler to help Highlands get the needed grant money.

Once funded, Kimel said the project would be done during the winter months and would take 4-6 months.
Good Friday Service features ‘Requiem’

Choir members take a break from travel and singing.

Singers of the church choir at Highlands Episcopal Church of the Incarnation are intensely rehearsing for their presentation this weekend of the beautiful music of Brahms Requiem, 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Many of the 26 choir members travel long distances twice weekly to sing under Grammy Award winning conductor Fletcher Wolfe and international prize winning accompanist Robert Henry.

Several of the singers and accompanist Henry come to Highlands from Atlanta and Jasper, Ga. Another soprano comes from Gainesville and four from Demorest, Ga.

Agnes DeHart, longtime choir member from Franklin, N.C. joins three voice students from Western Carolina University, Paul Strube, bass, lives outside Charlotte and Bob Harris, tenor flies up from Florida.

Reverend Brian Sullivan, the church’s rector, says that such dedication to the church’s music program is inspiring and is partly responsible for much of the church’s success in attracting many new young people to the congregation.

The choir and congregation have increased measurably during the past year and Incarnation is proud to note the success.

The music director of the Brahms’ Requiem will gain meaning from corresponding scripture read by church rector, Helen Moore.

The Negro spiritual “Crucifixion” will begin this holy evening’s service and will be sung unaccompanied by African American Opera Tenor Darrel McGhee.

This service is open to the public and everyone is invited to attend. Usually the church’s programs are capacity attended so you may want to come a little early for best seating.

On-going

• 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.


• Highlands Playhouse is taking reservations for its annual Children’s Theatre Mond-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 828-526-2695 or write or PO Box 896, Highlands, NC 28741.

• Registration is now open 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), “NatureWorks” (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/bhs.

• Cardio Dance Class. $5 per calls, MW at 8:30 am at the Rec Park (downstairs).

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

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

• NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365 or go to the website: www.ncmana.org.

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

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

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

Paralel Lives II returns to the Studio on Main. ITC presents a HCP production of Parallel Lives II and Graceland on Friday and Saturday, March 28 & 29 at 8:00 p.m. Actresses include Carla Gates and Breta Stroud (seated) and Bonnie Earman, Jenny King, Diane Rossaza, Mary Bynum (standing) Ronnie Spilton, Sandi Trevathan, and Katie Cochran, (not pictured). Directed by Mary Adair Leslie. Parallel Lives II features all new vignettes, including “Disney Mom’s Therapy Group”... all of the Disney’s cartoon characters’ mothers, who of course, are never seen in the movies. And Graceland is a comedy about two women who meet three days before Elvis’ mansion, Graceland opens for the first time; each woman claiming the first spot in line and why it is so very important for them to be the first one in the mansion. For reservations please call the ITC box office: 828.342.9197
Every Friday
• The Girls' Clubhouse meets in the school cafeteria 3-4:30 p.m. All 6-8 grade girls are welcome. Come have fun while serving others. For more information, call Kim Lewicki 526-0782.

Every Saturday
• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. $10 cover.
• Children's classes ongoing at Bascomb-Louise Gallery - cost is $5 per student.

Friday, March 21
• Beginning at the Catholic church, participants will stop at various places to read an account of the walk Jesus made carrying his cross to Calvary. Familiar hymns will be sung along the way. It takes about 30 minutes and will finish at the Baptist church. If it is raining, bring an umbrella.
• American Red Cross Blood Drive at Angel Medical Center Blood Drive (120 Riverview Street; Franklin, NC) 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors at the Angel Medical Center blood drive will receive a free t-shirt and can enter a drawing for a cruise for two! Eligible blood donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in general good health. Donors must have a form of positive identification in order to donate.

Saturday, March 22
• Easter Egg Hunt at the Highlands Civic Center (Rec Park) at 11 a.m. The event is for ages 0-3 years; 4-6 years; and 7-10 years. The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 5-6 mile hike in Panthertown Valley to four waterfalls and Little Green Mtn. with an elevation change of 300 feet, one stream crossing, and possibly some icy patches. Meet at the Cashiers elevation change of 300 feet, one stream crossing, Valley to four waterfalls and Little Green Mtn. with an age limits 4-6 years; and 7-10 years.

Sunday, March 23
• Ecumenical Sunrise service at 7 a.m. Easter morning at the Nature Center Amphitheatre. If you have any questions about the Highlands Clergy Association or would like to participate please email The Rev. Brian Sullivan at rector@incarnationwnc.org.

Tuesday, March 25
• Free lectures at Cashiers Chiropractic and Wellness Center. "Why do we take the vitamins we do?" To register, call either the Highlands office at 526-3709 or the Cashiers office at 743-9070.

Wednesday, March 26
• Molly Beacham of Democracy North Carolina will be at Buck's at 9 a.m. to discuss congressional and state-level public financing reform, the gubernatorial candidates' campaign reform proposal, and same day registration legislation.
• High Mountain Squares will dance at the Macon County Community Building from 7-9 p.m. Danny Weeks of Conyers, GA. will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, mainstream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943, or www.highmountainsquares.org.

Friday & Sat, March 28 & 29
• Parallel Lives II returns to the Studio on Main. It presents a HCP production of Parallel Lives II and Graceland at 8 p.m. Parallel Lives II features all new vignettes, including "Disney Mom's Therapy Group"...all of the Disney's cartoon characters mothers, who of course, are never seen in the movies. And Graceland is a comedy about two women who meet three days before Elvis' mansion, Graceland opens for the first time; each woman claiming the first spot in line and why it is so very important for them to be the first one in the mansion. For reservations please call the ITC box office: 828-342-9197.

Thursday, March 27
• Democratic women want to serve you a fine supper! Everyone is invited to the "Loaded" potato supper from 4:30-7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Franklin. A great selection of homemade chili, veggies,drinks and dessert are available for adults ($10) and children under 12 ($5). Take out is available. So Highlanders if you are in Franklin and want to support the Women's Democratic movement, please stop by. For more information call 526-3363 or 349-1772.

Sat - Sun, March 29-30
• Auditions will be held at Highlands Playhouse Saturday and Sunday from 2-5 p.m. each day. The plays are "On Golden Pond" and "Inherit the Wind" and anyone interested should come prepared with monologue.

Saturday, March 29
• American Road Cross Blood Drive at Otto Community Blood Drive at the Otto Community Center (Highway 441 South; Otto, NC) 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please call Phyllis Castle at 524-9307 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors can enter a drawing for a cruise for two! Eligible blood donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in general good health. Donors must have a form of positive identification in order to donate.

• See EVENTS page 26

Mountain Lakes 5-K set for May 3

"There's still plenty of time to get in shape for the Mountain Lakes 5-K. That's the word from Race Director Richard Betz. This year's race is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, at 9 a.m., and Betz says that for even casual joggers and walkers, six weeks should be enough time to train for the 3.1 mile event.

"Last year, several age group slots were not filled. For example, any woman between the ages of 40 and 44 could have walked the entire distance and won a first place trophy! In fact, competition seemed to be tougher for men in their 50s, 60s, and 70s."

Most runners want to finish a race in a fairly decent time, however, and Betz said that a training program of increasing distance and speed between now and the first weekend in May would help any runner, from beginner to experienced, to a faster finish time.

"Beginning runners should start a training program by running at a comfortable pace as far as they can, even if it is only a block or two. They should then take a walking break for a minute or two and repeat the running segment, alternating running and walking for two to three miles. Eventually, most avid people should be able to cover the entire distance with only one or two breaks. It is truly amazing how quickly your body will respond to training! And it's perfectly OK to walk during a 5-K."

"Experienced runners will benefit from adding a long run to their training program at least once a week, and also from some kind of speed-work each week. A rest and recovery day between training sessions will also help the beginner or the experienced runner alike to improve," Betz said.

Three years ago, Betz’s wife Martha went from running/walking two miles to running several races, ranging from 5-K to 15-K, eventually completing a marathon in a little over a year. He created a carefully-designed training program to her success.

The annual 5-K event is the main fundraiser for the Highlands Roadrunners Club, a local running group that meets weekdays at 4:30 p.m. in front of the Town Hall and Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Now in its ninth year, the race follows a loop that begins on US 64 in front of the Highlands Civic Center, circles around Lake Ravenel and Harris Lake, and finishes on Laura Street beside First Citizens Bank. Traffic control will be provided throughout the course by Police and volunteers, and those who choose can simply walk the course; since part of the route is on an unpaved gravel road, however, strollers are not recommended.

The entry fee for the race is $15.00 before race day, and entry forms are available at the Town Hall, the Civic Center, and the Visitors Center, or on line at www.main.nc.us/hrc. Each participant will receive a quality T-shirt, and trophies will be awarded to the overall male and female winners, male and female masters winners (over 40), and to the male and female first, second, and third place finishers in five-year age groups. For more information, call Richard Betz at 526-5266.

As in past years, proceeds will go toward fitness-related programs in the local community. The club awards a number of scholarships each year to Highlands School graduates who carry on some type of fitness activities while continuing their education. The club has also used the proceeds from past races to help purchase fitness equipment for Highlands School, HealthTracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and the Highlands Recreation Park. The Highlands Roadrunners Club is a non-profit organization, and entry fees and contributions are tax-deductible.
Satolah firefighters’ benefit needed to raise crucial funds

It’s not all that easy to operate an all-volunteer fire station. Local government support only goes so far, according to James Reed, chief of Satolah (Ga.) volunteer firefighters.

And that’s why he and his fellow volunteers are hoping for a good turnout, Saturday, March 29, for the station’s annual benefit, with food service beginning at 5 p.m., and music at 7 p.m.

"With our own funds, we bought a tanker-pumper truck last year, and we’ve managed to pay off the note," Reed said. "But now we’ve got to try to fill the coffers again."

Raising such funds takes some doing, as the routine cost for properly outfitting just one volunteer takes almost $1,000, he added.

That’s why the annual benefit is an event not to be missed.

The public will have a choice of a chicken plate (grilled by the firefighters) or barbecue plate (the latter provided by Blue Valley BBQ), with all the trimmings (baked beans, cold slaw and roll). Adults, $7, and $3.50 for children. Deserts are extra.

Two local bluegrass favorites will play that night: Country Detour, and The Grass Roots Revue.

As customary, the department also will auction a number of delectable pies and deserts to the crowd, and there will be a raffle as well. Raffle tickets are $1 each, or six for $5— with a chance to win $300 cash, or a Remington 870 12-gauge shotgun, or a Ruger Model M 77 .22 magnum rifle with scope (must be 18 or older to win).

All proceeds go to defray the volunteer station expenses. The station is located 3.5 miles south of the Georgia-North Carolina line on state Route 28 (the Highlands-Walhalla Road.) The public is invited.

• The Mountaintop Rotary Golf Challenge. The player rate is $250 per person or $1,000 per foursome. Call 828-342-9197, for reservations. All proceeds will be divided among local profit/non-organizations supporting Highlands area residents. A $50,000 cash prize hole-in-one contest will be held on the 18th hole. This exciting contest is being sponsored by Country Club Properties. The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary would like to thank the Laurel Magazine for signing on as a sponsor for this great event. Platinum, gold and silver sponsorships are still available to sponsor individual holes and events. Slots are filling quickly, don’t miss your chance to play this historic and exclusive course. Contact Rotarian Bill Zoellner at 828-787-2323.

MountainTop Rotary Golf Challenge set for May 12

In preparation for the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Charity Golf Challenge, which will take place on May 12 at the Highlands Country Club, artist Duncan Greenlee re-created the golf fashions of the Bobbys Jones era. Greenlee, a member of the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary, created the artwork for the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Charity Golf Challenge.

The dream of many golfers to be able to play the course that Bobby Jones made famous and Highlands Mountaintop Rotary is now accepting applications for players and sponsors for the Charity Golf Challenge. The player rate is $250 per player with four players to a team. The format is a four person scramble, but individual or groups less than four will grouped into teams and are welcome to play. So if you’re an individual player, a twosome, a threesome, or a foursome please come on out and play, we will make you a team or part of a four person team. All funds raised will be divided among local profit/non-organizations supporting Highlands area residents.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 3-mile hike up Chimney Top Mtn., with an elevation change of 1200 and a 360 degree view on top. Near the summit the trail requires climbing on hands and knees in a couple of places—not a hike for those with health problems. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 7 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettle, 743-1079, for reservations.

Sunday, April 6

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike along an old railroad bed next to the Tallulah River as well as along some woods trails. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors’ Center on Hwy. 441 near Otto at 2 p.m. There is a small parking fee at Terrora Park. Drive 60 miles round trip with an optional supper out. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Kay Correll, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Thurs.-Sat., April 10-12

• At ITC, Madeleine Davis and David Milford in “The Ice Breaker” by David Rambo is a thought provoking drama following in the footsteps of such plays as Arcadia, Proof and Copenhagen. Reservations are strongly suggested. Call the ITC Box Office at 828-342-9197.

Saturday, April 12

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5 mile hike, with an elevation change of 600 feet, to three falls on the Horsepasture River. Turtle Back, Rainbow, and Stairstep. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Taylor Walker, 743-6977, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Wednesday, April 16

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a mid-week 4.5 mile easy-to moderate hike to Rough Run and High Falls with a small elevation change of less than 200 feet and some scrambling over rocky terrain near High Falls. Meet at the post office parking lot in Cashiers at 10:00 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Thursday, April 17

• Franklin Community Blood Drive at First Baptist Church 12:30 pm to 5:30 p.m. Please call (828) 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors can enter a drawing for a trip to Disney World!

Fri.-Sat., April 18-19

• At ITC, Madeleine Davis and David Milford in “The Ice Breaker” by David Rambo is a thought provoking drama following in the footsteps of such plays as Arcadia, Proof and Copenhagen. Reservations are strongly suggested. Call the ITC Box Office at 828-342-9197.

Saturday, April 19

• The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association, and Whole Life Market are hosting the annual Earth Day celebration at the

The public is invited.

Sunday, March 30

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike on the Park Creek Trail along the Nantahala River at Standing Indian campground where some early spring flowers might be blooming. Drive 30 miles round trip. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Kay Correll, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Monday, March 31

• At the Art League of Highlands meeting at 5 p.m. at the Rec Park, artist David Kroot will show and speak about his work. Due to the years he spent in the forest industry of Oregon, he was inspired by the natural environment and wildlife. His natural talent and ability to capture fine detail in his graphic pencil drawings has landed his artwork in many private and public collections. Following light refreshments, the meeting will begin. Public is welcome. For more information call 526-9245.

Tuesday, April 1

• Birder Friendly Business and Birder Friendly Community Training Program 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Macon Bank Building on US 441 in Franklin. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Cost is $20 includes a light lunch and training materials. The program is designed for businesses and communities near the North Carolina Birding Trail, this training will provide tools and information to market your business and community to birders as they travel the Trail. The program will provide information on special needs for this niche market, as well as specific suggestions and ways to reach this market. Training topics include: birders as clients, enhancing your business and community for birders, hospitality and etiquette, birding basics, and conservation practices.

Wednesdays, April 2-May 7

• Sick and Tired of being sick and tired? The Macon County Cooperative Extension Service is offering a 6-week chronic disease self-management program to help you improve your health one step at a time. Wednesday mornings at the cooperative extension office 9:30 a.m. to noon. To register call Sherrie Peeler at 828-349-2046 or Mary Barker at 828-586-1962.

Wednesdays, April 2-May 14

• A series of seven classes covering the Principles and Elements of Design meets every Wednesday at the Highlands Rec Park from 1 to 4 p.m. Each class will include a brief informative introduction to an element or principle, a fun and quick exercise, and an art project using a variety of materials. Classes include instruction on a variety of painting and drawing materials, as well as Balance, Emphasis, Contrast, Porportion, Repetition, Rhythm and Harmony. call Donna Rhodes at 828-526-4949, 4#.

Saturday, April 5

• Highlands Volleyball Team Fundraiser, 9 a.m. until. Team of 6—$75, individual — $12 (will be put on a team) Donations accepted. Best 2 out of 3 with a 45 minute time limit. High school rules – rally to 25, win by 2. Three men allowed per team.1st and 2nd place prizes. Entry due by April 1. Call Lindsay Gearhart at 371-1017, or 787-1112.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 3-mile hike up Chimney Top Mtn. with an elevation change of 1200 and a 360 degree view on top. Near the summit the trail requires climbing on hands and knees in a couple of places—not a hike for those with health problems. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 7 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Taylor Walker, 743-6977, for reservations.
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

The Bascom offers user-friendly art classes

Have you always wanted to make art, but plunging into a workshop was just too daunting? Have no fear. Easy art is here. The Bascom has the perfect way for you to dive into a friendly, nurturing, foundational program designed especially for beginners and intermediate artists.

A series of seven classes covering the Principles and Elements of Design will begin Wednesday, April 2, at the Highlands Rec Park from 1 to 4 p.m. The class will meet every Wednesday afternoon through May 14. Each class will include a brief informative introduction to an element or principle, a fun and quick exercise, and an art project using a variety of materials. Classes include instruction on a variety of painting and drawing materials, as well as Balance, Emphasis, Contrast, Proportion, Repetition, Rhythm and Harmony.

The second session will cover more drawing and painting techniques, Line, Shape, Color, Size, Texture, Direction, and Value. Because this is an exploration class based on the fundamentals, it is open to all beginners and intermediate students. The instructor will focus on individualized attention. The curriculum is designed to build artistic confidence. Once a student has mastered Elements and Principles, he or she will be ready for more complex courses and workshops.

If you would like to know more about these classes and other exciting programs at The Bascom, visit http://www.thebascom.org or call Donna Rhodes at 828.526.4949, 4#.

Jumpstart your art with this wonderful introduction to the basics, offered by The Bascom. Above, Susan Jaeger works on a piece.

Sun.-Wed., April 20-30
• Highlands United Methodist Church trip to the Holy Land Trip: Please speak with Pastor Mike or Pastor Todd for more details.

Sunday, April 20
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4.5 mile easy-to moderate hike to Rough Run and High Falls with a small elevation change of less than 200 feet and some scrambling over rocky terrain near High Falls. Wildflowers should be abundant. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 1:30 p.m. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• Theatre Lovers Tour XII “Rediscovering Jane Austen”

Jane Austen was a British novelist whose realism, biting social commentary, and masterful use of free indirect speech, burlesque, and irony have earned her a place as one of the most widely-read and best-loved writers in British literature. Highlands Playhouse Board member Joanna Baumrucker is proud to present this ten day tour of Southern England November 1st-11th. Highlights of the tour include: the elegant Georgian city of Bath exploring the restored Roman baths, the lovely city of Winchester, Glastonbury which is famous for its connection to the legend of King Arthur and the Holy Grail, Lacock Village, Thornbury Castle, and a private visit to the Jane Austen home in Chawton. These are just a few of the wonderful things offered. The cost of the trip is $3,250 per person, double occupancy with single supplement at $400. For detailed information, please call 526-5858.

Village Green in Cashiers on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 pm. The event is FREE and will be held rain or shine.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a special wildflower hike in the Whitewater River Gorge where at least a million trillium should be in bloom. The 3.5 mile hike is rated moderate with a descent of 800 feet, requiring some cautious footwork in steep places. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. and the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:50 a.m. Drive 42 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

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HELP WANTED

HIGHLANDS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE seeks a motivated, self-starter who enjoys interacting with the public. Basic computer skills essential. For a part-time position, 30 hours per week. Competitive wages with benefits. Please send resume to president@hIGHLANDScHamber.org or fax to 828-526-5803.

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.org

WORK WITH THE BEST. Local Fine Dining Restaurant seeks full time prep line cook and bar service staff. Excellent work environment. Competitive wages and benefits. To apply, call 828-526-2338.

THE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CENTER OF HIGHLANDS, NC is seeking a 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.

SERVERS AND COUNTER HELP NEEDED at Swee Treet, Highlands. Call 828-892-0010.

MAINTENANCE ENGINEER POSITION AVAILABLE at Hampton Inn/Highlands Inn. Year Round Full Time. Must have basic knowledge of electronics, plumbing, minor electrical and construction. Send Resume to P.O. Box 1060 Highlands, NC 28741 or email to info@hamptoninnnc.com. Call Sabrina for interview 828-526-5899.

HOUSEKEEPER needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position available for days. 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.

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position available Monday through Friday. Must be North Carolina certified. One year experience in hospital setting and CPR certification is preferred. 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.

CNA on 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 full time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

UNIT CLERK needed at Highlands Cashiers Hospital. Performs clerical duties and acts as receptionist for the nursing unit. Experience in a hospital setting preferred. 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.

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position with 8 and 12 hour shifts. Responsibilities include taking call and being able to respond within 20 minutes. Also must be able to intubate a patient. Current registration or certification in North Carolina, along with current BCLS and/or ACLS required. Experience with rehabilitation and disease prevention preferred. 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.

DIRECTIONAL CAREGIVER – Available night shifts. Please call Clara at 828-342-1603 or 828-369-9812.


EXPERIENCED FINISH CARPENTER: Call Alfredo at 828-349-1590. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

CLEANING OR RESTAURANT WORK WANTED: Contact Gloria at 828-371-5806. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

LOOKING FOR A HOUSEKEEPER? Call Dora at 828-200-1038. Call Janet at 828-399-9693 or 828-526-9709. Luz Maria at 349-2735. Cira at 349-1838. Erica at 854-886-9986. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

EXPERIENCED TRUCK DRIVER SEEKS FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT: Call Mike at 828-524-4052. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

RETAIL SPACE FOR LEASE: Hearthstone Center on busy Hwy 64 beside the old Hardee’s, 2,052 sq ft, High visibility, Plenty of parking. Great retail location ready to be occupied, central heat & air, carpet, excellent condition. Busy shopping center. Call 828-243-2939 or 828-743-9454 for more information.


RESIDENTIAL SPACE FOR RENT: FOR LEASE: 56 writings on Mirror Lake. 1.20+ acres less than 4 miles to Main Street. Paved Access. Some winter views 3 sided corner lot has old logging road as your driveway. $62,500. Call 526-9021 or 787-2307.

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB – Sorry, golf and club privileges not available. $2,495 a week. Call 911-230-7202.

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

VACATION RENTAL

MOTORCAMP SITE – DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS. With Cedar shade Coach House. Gated. Private. Overlooks active stream. Short walk to shopping and dining. Located at the cor. of Fifth and Chestnut Sts. For all info. visit at your leisure: www.JTINMS.com/HIDDENCREK or contact owner directly at 828-526-5333.


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

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

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

HOUSE FOR SALE (ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA) – Two bedroom, one and 1/2 bath conch house for sale at Mile Marker 96, near Founders Park on Oceanside. House sits on a 8,520 square foot lot in a great subdivision with a public boat ramp on the next street over. Founders Park, which is across the street, has a park with a boat ramp, marina, pool, beach, tennis courts, etc. Great deal — owner moving out of state. $475,000. Call 305-852-4369 for more info.


HOUSE FOR SALE – HFC2 2 story split, 3/2, large lot, lake, golf course, mountain views, membership available but optional. $795,000. Call 526-4154.


OCEANFRONT LOT KEY LARGO, FLORIDA – Cleared, buildable with all services. Last unimproved lot in Silver Shores subdivision. $999,900. For information and photos call Fran (954) 964-7649 or email i442@bellsouth.net.

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR ITEMS FOR SALE less than $1,000. All other terms: 20 words for $5; $2 for each 10-word increment. Email copy to: highlandseditor@aol.com or FAX to 1-866-212-8913 Send check to: Highlands’ Newspaper P.O. Box 2703 Highlands, NC 28741 828-526-0782
OFFICE DESK FOR SALE – 30x60, dark oak finish, 6 drawers. $150. Call Sandy at 369-6263 or 524-7350.


KING SIZE BEDROOM SET – Complete set includes two nightstands, two chest of drawers, large dresser with mirror. Like new. $500. Call 706-962-2254.

PAIR OF DESIGNER WING BACK CHAIRS – Fabric with velvet trim. Neutral colors in Brown, cream/gold mused $375. Coordinating area carpet roughly 8′ x 10′ (can be cut to size) $524-4340 8-5 BARELY USED 36GB ZUNE VIDEO MP3 PLAYER. Comes with leather case. $150 or best offer. Call Davis at 828-526-9152 for more information.

BALDWIN ACROSONIC PIANO Excellent condition. $390. Call 743-5151.

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

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

2 BATHROOM LAVATORIES with brass faucets; 1 water closet - all almond finish $25.00 each; 1 steno chair - black with mustard color back painted, new tires. Includes scrape blade, and an entertainment unit including 2 Advent speakers. $475. Call 770-313-0899.

215-529-7637. Delivery available.

TENANTEE BEAMS, FLOORING AND STRUCTURES – Hand heaved beams in oak and yellow pine. Beautiful material, large faces, 3.50-4.40 per board foot. Original, reclaim white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16′) $60/bd. ft. Also selling entire log and timber frame structures. 215-529-7637 (www.cwwoodworking.info).

BEAUTIFUL FLOORING: Wormy white oak flooring, resawn, milled and ready to lay w/14′, 6-12′ widths, $89/sf. ft. 529-7637

LOG CABIN KIT – 32 x 24 or 1/2 inch yellow Pine logs. Walls only, 59.99. Call 526-0241.

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 369-3052.

FIREWOOD “Nature Dried” Call 526-2251.


J&J LANDSCAPING & SERVICES – complete lawn and landscaping service, spring cleanup, gutter cleaning, under-brushing, tree removal, lot clearing, storm cleanup, rockwork, retaining walls, flowerbeds, firewood. 828-226-2261.

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) 743-3232.


BUSINESSES FOR SALE

HIGHLANDS RADIO SHACK! Own a successful year-round business on Main Street. Asking $399,000. Call Thea or Chuck at 526-3530.

LOST


LEGALS

ADMINISTRATOR’S NOTICE

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of William Jesse Munger, deceased, late of Macon County, N.C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of Jne, 2008, or this notice will be published in the recovery of their persons. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This the 6th day of March, 2007.

William Fred Munger

P.O. Box 314
Highlands, N.C., 28714
316, 313, 320, 327

Public Notice of the May 6, 2008 Primary Election

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 for all Federal, State, Judicial, Legislative and County Offices. The Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. To vote in this election you must be a registered voter of Macon County.

Registration Deadline:
Citizens that wish to vote in the 2008 Primary Election must be registered by Friday, April 11, 2008. (G.S. 163-82.6(c).) Voters of Macon County who need to update, or make any changes to their information must also do this by the same date. This does include name changes, party affiliations changes, or address changes. Registration forms if submitted by mail must be postmarked by Friday, April 11, 2008. This would also be the deadline for registering a voter in person by this day. Registration forms are available at the Macon County Public Library, Highlands Civic Center, Hudson Library in Highlands, Highlands Town Office, Macon County Public Health Center, and the Macon County Board of Elections Office.

Absentee Voting By-Mail:
Absentee voting will be allowed pursuant to G.S. 163-302(b). Absentee voting by mail begins on Monday, March 17, 2008 and will end on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 (G.S. 163-230.1 (a2) (3). These requests may be made in person at the Macon County Board of Elections Office or the voter may request an application by writing to the Macon County Board of Elections Board at 5 West Main Street, Franklin NC 28734. All requests must include the name, address, party affiliation (due to being a Primary Election) date of birth of the voter and must be signed by the individual voter. If the voter is unable to request an absentee mail by person in a near relative also may request an absentee ballot using the same format as listed above, and must also include the relationship to the voter, and the near relative’s contact information. (Near relative includes: spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, or stepchild). All absentee ballots must be returned to the Macon County Board of Elections Office by Monday, May 5, 2008 (G.S. 163-231(b). These ballots must be received by mail, commercial courier service, in person by the voter, or by the voter’s near relative 5:00 p.m. on this day.

One-Stop Voting:
One-Stop Absentee Voting will begin on Thursday, April 17, 2008 (G.S. 163-227.2) and it will end on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. One-Stop Voting will be available at the Macon County Board of Election Office. The Board of Elections office is located on the 1st floor of the Macon County Courthouse. The hours for One-Stop voting will be Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and in addition to regular office hours the office will also be open on Saturday, April 19, Saturday, April 26, and May 3, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. One-Stop Voting will only be held during these hours, if you do not vote Absentee Mail or One Stop you must go to your polling location on Election Day to cast your vote. In-Person One-Stop Registration is for resident that have missed the deadline for voter registration. A resident must fill out a voter registration application and prove residency by providing appropriate identification with current name and current address. In-Person One-Stop Registration is ONLY for ONE-STOP voters, this process in NOT allowed on Election Day.

If you have any questions regarding election matters you may contact our office at 828-349-2034 or visit our web site at www.macomc.org/elections.
The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the weeks of March 1-14. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

March 1
- At 1:21 p.m., a motorist at N. 4th Street and Carolina Way was cited for speeding 35 mph in a 20 zone.

March 5
- At 8 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 east and RiverWalk was cited for driving without a license at the site of an accident.

March 6
- At 8:10 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Wilson and Harris roads.

March 8
- At 7:45 a.m., a motorist at South and N. 5th streets was cited for transporting a child in the car without a seat belt.
- At 11 p.m., Jorge Horacio Conteras Gaona, 23, of Clayton, was arrested for DWI, driving without a license and speeding.

March 9
- At 9:36 p.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 was cited for speeding 57 mph in a 20 zone.
- At 9:35 p.m., a motorist at 2nd and Main streets was cited for speeding 37 mph in a 20 zone.

March 10
- At 9:38 p.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 was cited for speeding 57 mph in a 35 zone.
- During the week, officers issued 5 warning tickets and responded to two alarms.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of March 12-19.

March 12
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Sixth Street. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. extinguished a small brush fire at U.S. 64 east and Apple Mountain Road.
- The dept. responded to an alarm that was cancelled en route.

March 13
- The Sheriff's department requested the use of the fire & rescue department's drive team to search for a hard-drive that had been thrown in Mirror Lake. The drive was found.

March 14
- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Hickory Nut Gap Road which was set off by lightning.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers to help extinguish a structure fire.

March 15
- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Hickory Nut Gap Road which was set off by lightning.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers to help extinguish a structure fire.

March 18
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Jack Wilcox Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

March 19
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on N. 5th Street where someone had fallen. The victim was transported to the hospital.

The following is the Macon County Sheriff Dept. log entries for the Highlands Township for the week of March 10-20.

March 10
- At 12:30 p.m., Juan Carlos Contereas, 21, of Highlands, was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

March 14
- At 3:30 p.m., John Abner Brown, 30, of Franklin, was arrested for driving without a license.
- At 3:15 p.m., Charles Daryl Cottle, 36, of Scaly Mountain, was arrested for driving without a license.
- At 3:35 p.m., Otto Espitia Sanabala, 25, of Otto, was arrested for driving without a license.
- At 4 p.m., Phillip Eugene Nix, 38, of Clayton, was arrested for DWI and driving without a license.
- At 4 p.m., Velhio Vencio, 28, of Franklin, was arrested for driving without a license.

March 15
- At 10:35 p.m., Jesus Valintin Hernandez, 35, of Franklin, was arrested for contempt of court, perjury and court violations.
- At 11:30 p.m., Emiliano Hernandez Chavez, 25, of Highlands, was arrested for simple assault.

### POLICE, FIRE, & SHERIFF DEPT. LOGS

### N-CRYPTOKU

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

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

**Mystery Word**

“Convert Energy to Another Form”

**Across**
1. Creative expression (3)
2. Two of a kind (slang) (4)
3. Edible sea fish (4)
4. Tuesday (3)
5. Hearing organ (3)

**Down**
6. Trotted (3)
7. Certain (4)
8. Throw (bait) (4)
9. Color (3)
10. Pre-owned (4)

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**PseudoCube©**

**#DZ3D – Level of Difficulty – Moderate**

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

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

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

**Email:** pseudocube8@aol.com

**Solution to #BZ2D in March 13 issue**

```plaintext
2 9 4
7 5 3
6 1 8
20 27 22 13 11 18 14 12 15 16 10 17
25 23 21
```