

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 6, Number 10

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Register by March 13

• Beginning April 2 join fellow seekers for a 12-week book study group on "Awakening in Time, The Journey from Co-dependence to Co-creation" at The Conscious Connection. Using discussion, journaling, guided imagery, artwork, to release old patterns. Details: 526-8885.

On-going

• Cardio Dance Class. \$5 per class, MWF at 8:30 am @ the Rec Park (downstairs).

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

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

Every Monday

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

Every Wednesday

• Adult handbell rehearsals at Highlands United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. If you're interested call Carroll Harris at 526-3376.

• Gospel of John Bible Study. Pastor Todd Struble is leading a study on the fourth Gospel (using the Efrid Bible Study Series) 6:15 - 7:15 at HUMC.

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

Every Friday & Saturday

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

Every Saturday

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant on N.C. 106 at 9:30 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9

• HCP's "Lend Me a Tenor" at PAC on Chestnut Street, 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinee. For tickets call the box office at 526-8084.

Saturday, March 8

• Tennessee Jed and his band will play at the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main at 310 Main Street Oak Square at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Call 828-342-9197.

Sunday, March 9

• "Sing in the Spring" concert at First Presbyterian Church with the WCU music department faculty showcase at 4 p.m. It's free with a reception to follow.

Thursday, March 13

• Highlands School PTO and Junior Class Rib-eye Steak Dinner fundraiser at 4:30 to 6:30. Adults are \$10 and children under 12 are \$6. Reservations required. Call 526-2147.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
40-26°F	38-19°F	45-25°F

Dry Falls funds not drying up

For renditions see page 18

Despite recent reports to the contrary, the revamping of the Dry Falls park site is right on track.

"There are no problems with money drying up," said Ranger Mike Wilkins, with the U.S. Forest Service. "We've let the contract

for the first phase and sometime in 2008-2009 we might begin on the phases across the road but those could involve phases 2, 3, 4, and 5, we just don't know at this point."

Wilkins said USFS obligated

the money for contract work on Phase 1 plus contingency funds. "So running out of money in the middle of the job just isn't a possibility," he said. "It's been obligated." The project at the Dry Falls

• See DRY FALLS page 18

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Plans for Town Hall complex firming up

See renditions on page 8

Commissioners agree the latest Town Hall Complex rendition, is even better than the first.

At the special Feb. 26 Town Board meeting, architects Mitch Sorin and John Fisher unveiled their new concept which incorporated the commissioners' suggestions and allowed for potential Town Hall growth.

Sorin said the new plan takes into account all of the board's concerns: including the Town clock and bell, the use of Maple Street, the percentage of stucco, parking for fire and rescue personnel, more Town Hall office space and space for future expansion using the lower level, an office for the GIS IT employee (which was left out in the original plan), more space for the Town Engineer (which was clearly insufficient in the original plan), a more central location for the mayor's office, an additional small conference room near the board room and the mayor's office, relocation of the billing clerk's office, a more circular approach to office layout and traffic, and more public restrooms.

By excavating the proposed site and eliminating the proposed space set aside for the chamber of commerce offices, the lower level was expanded to include record storage, mechanical space and

• See TOWN HALL page 8

Demolition begins at First Presbyterian



Around 1 p.m., Friday, Feb. 29, the walls of the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall came tumbling down. Mike Bryson, of Bryson Grading & Trucking, said the demolition process will take up to two weeks. Interestingly, his great-granddaddy may have been one of the contractors to build the Fellowship Hall. A new "corner friendly" fellowship hall which will blend with the new First Presbyterian annex will eventually sit on the site.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Gantenbein trial continued for fourth time

The felony jury trial of Larry and Michael Gantenbein, which was set to begin Monday, March 3 in St. Tammany Parish in Louisiana has been continued until May 5, 2008.

Following the pre-trial ar-

raignment on Feb. 26, 2007, at which both men plead not guilty, felony jury trial proceedings have been continued four times. Trials had been scheduled for April 9, 2007, June 25, 2007, Sept. 10, 2007 and March 3, 2008.

Most recently, on Feb. 22, 2008 motions were filed by the defense in preparation for the March 3 trial. Larry Gantenbein's lawyer, Edward LeBlance filed five motions — a motion for labora-

• See GANTENBEIN page 25

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

• LETTERS •

Risky behaviors to be identified



Dan Brigman
Superintendent
Macon County Schools

As each of you is aware, our school district experienced a very challenging week this week with the loss of one of our students at her home here in Macon County. In response to this incident and our knowledge of other risky behaviors among our youth, the Macon County School District has partnered with the Macon County Sheriff's Department and other key individuals to plan and expedite an awareness program. A meeting was held today to begin the planning process to target students, parents, school employees and other community members in an effort to increase the awareness level of such activities among our young people.

We will be conducting the first presentation aimed at parents and students titled "Risky Behaviors and What Every Parent Should Know" on March 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Franklin High School Fine Arts Center, Franklin, North Carolina. The program will consist of research, personal experiences, and recommendations directly from an area family that lost a child in similar circumstances and the community agencies that were involved in dealing with the tragedy.

In addition to this initiative, planning is underway for possible presentations in the communities of Highlands and Nantahala. Plans are also being made to improve awareness of school staff and the development of educational programming for students that will continue on an annual basis. Your assistance with getting the word out to the public about the March 17th program at FHS is greatly appreciated. Feel free to contact Dan Brigman, Superintendent of the Macon County School System or Sheriff Robbie Holland of the Macon County Sheriff's Department for more information about this upcoming event.

See more on the "Choking Game" on page 4.

Automatons on the rampage

Dear Editor,

I can't believe they're at it again; insensate automatons driving up and down the roads and streets of Highlands wielding towering vertical bush-hogs raping, shredding, splintering, destroying and annihilating every living plant, shrub and tree within their reach.

I can't believe they've done it again. I thought after last year's butchering that even they, the automatons, realized they had overstepped and gone too far. I did not speak out then because I thought it was so obviously offensive, destructive and blatantly unnecessary that it would not be repeated; that any fool, any idiot could see it was a mistake.

I understand and acknowledge the need to keep the roadsides and banks cut back. I understand the need to keep shrubs and trees from protruding into the roads. But there is absolutely no need whatsoever to be so extreme about it; to cut, nay; to shred and disfigure, shrubs and trees that pose no such threat because they are too far back from the roadside.

I simply can't believe they've done it again. And this time it's beyond personal. I didn't think it was possible

to damage or disfigure the Bowery Road any more than was done several years ago when it was denuded and defoliated and raped and turned into a generic, boring, ugly strip-mall of a road. But why stop at insult when injury can be added?

In a vain and no doubt foolish effort to restore some natural beauty, my husband and I planted five native Vaseii azaleas high on the bank of our barren roadside, making sure their location would not impede even the largest and widest truck nor the most determined commuter speeding toward Atlanta. Considerable cost, time and labor was involved. Every three or four days, for one whole year, we carried buckets of water from the house to the road and climbed up the bank to water those plants, back and forth, back and forth. They survived the drought and established themselves, five lonely beacons of hope amidst general desolation. This morning, along comes the vertical bush-hog butcher and shreds them into splinters.

I can't believe they're at it again, all over Highlands. Does anyone else mind?

Alice Nelson
Highlands

The forgotten angry white American man

Dear Editor,

I recently read an article about how a white man feels being left out of the mainstream, especially in the on-going political battles for nomination and eventual election to the highest office of these United States, President. The author, Gary Hubbell, had his profound and timely comments printed in the Aspen Times Weekly, dated Feb. 9, 2008, for those interested in how most white men truly feel in the present day.

I, like most angry white American men, have been sitting back and biting my tongue, afraid to comment publicly and, in some instances, in private groups, about how I feel about the way this once great country is beginning to repeat the mistakes of other great fallen nations. We are failing to learn from their mistakes and therefore are destined to collapse, just as they did. The true tragedy is that we have the greatest foundation of any nation but we, through our courts, special interest groups, radicals and politicians, are gradually destroying what sets the United States apart from any other nation in the history of mankind, The Constitution of The United States of America.

As an angry white American man, I have had my rights trampled upon and my rights to freedom of speech either restricted, or prohibited, by this asinine "Political Correctness" culture in speaking my mind for fear of some "hate crime" violation. Well, I'm tired of being "shut up."

The current political campaign for the presidency is truly unique in the history of this country. For the first time we have a white female and a black male vying for candidacy of the Democratic party and hopefully, President of the United States. And for the first time, we angry white American men are faced with an even more difficult dilemma as to what we can say about either politician.

We cannot point out the long history of corruption, lies and deceit practiced by Hillary, although between the two of them, Bill and Hillary would make a great modern day "Bonnie & Clyde." Bill Clinton gave away a large portion of our economy when he enacted the NAFTA agreement and went even further when he made China a "permanent preferred trading partner". Hillary wants to take this country down the same disastrous path as other Communist countries with her give-away programs and for that, we would be "anti-feminist."

We cannot point out that Barack

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

Highlands' Newspaper

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

Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

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



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

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• MILESTONES •



Kelsey Schmitt with Peabody representatives.

Schmitt to help judge Peabody Awards

Kelsey Schmitt, a 2005 graduate of Highlands School, has been chosen to be a student judge for the 2008 Peabody Awards.

Established in 1940 and administered by University of Georgia's (UGA) Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, the Peabody Awards are the oldest honor in television and radio. The Peabody Awards now recognize distinguished achievement and meritorious public service by TV and radio stations, networks, producing organizations, individuals and the World Wide Web.

The initial evaluation of entries – more than 1,000 this year — is done by committees comprised of two UGA faculty or staff members and a selected student. They're charged with screening the submissions – from entertainment programs to documentaries to public-service campaigns – and delivering written recommendations to the Peabody Awards board of directors, a 15-member panel of scholars, critics and media-industry professionals that will meet at UGA from March 26-30 to make its final deliberations.

"The work of the student and faculty/staff committees is crucial to the efforts of the Peabody Board," said Horace Newcomb, director of the Peabody Awards. "It's a key aspect of our careful judging process."

All entries become a permanent part of the Peabody Archive in the University of Georgia Libraries. The collection is one of the nation's oldest, largest and most respected audio and moving-image archives. For more information about the Peabody Archive or the Peabody Awards, visit www.peabody.uga.edu.

The formal awards ceremony will take place June 16 in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. Kelsey will be interning with a public relations firm in New York City during the summer of 2008 and is making plans to attend the ceremony.

Schmitt is the daughter of George and Gabrielle Schmitt of Highlands and Katrina and Tim Laverty of the Yellow Mountain community, currently in her third year at UGA with graduation scheduled for December of 2008. She is a double major in Public Relations and Sociology as well as Public Relations Cabinet Chair for the Zeta Phi Chapter of Delta Zeta Sorority.

Highlands School graduates make high marks at college

Class of 2006 Highlands School graduates, Claire Frederick and Jackie Reed were both named to the Chancellor's List at UNC-Greensboro for the Fall 2007 semester.

...

The following Highlands students were named to the Dean's List at Western Carolina University for the Fall 2007 semester: Gina Dahl Billingsley, Cheryl Tydings English, April Dawn Hicks, Victoria Susan Ryan, Mark Andrew Salisbury, Allen James Shearl, Rebecca Ramey Shuler, Pamela Gail Ward, and Allison M. Winn.

hadley's cottage has moved!

Hadley the springer says "spring is just around the corner and so is our new location, just go north on 107 and look for us on the left".

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The Center for Life Enrichment (CLE) is seeking an Administrative Director. The position is for a year round employee who is energetic and enjoys interaction with the public. Hours vary by season.

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For full details please contact:
Mark Whitehead at 828/526-5370
Or Lynn deVille at 828/526-3449

Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

Parents: Be aware of the 'Choking Game'

By **Ronnie Castle**

Highlands Police School Resource Officer

What is "The Choking Game"? First of all, the Choking Game is not a game, it is very deadly, and it is not new. Last year, 83 deaths or injuries were attributed to it, according to Deadly Games Kids Play.com.

In most cases, the child was alone when he or she attempted the choking game and died before rescue but it is often played in groups, as well.

The object of the 'game' is asphyxiation, as in, to apply pressure to restrict oxygen and blood flow to the brain of the victim therefore creating a desired 'floaty,' 'tingling,' or 'high' sensation.

The 'high' sensation is occurs because the cells of the brain are seizing and beginning the process of permanent cell death. When the victim becomes unconscious, the pressure is released and the secondary 'high' of the oxygen and blood rushing to the brain is achieved.

If the victim is alone, upon uncon-

sciousness there is no one to release the pressure and the victim's own body weight continues to tighten the ligature usually resulting in death.

Unlike other risk-taking behaviors, self-choking often occurs among well-adjusted, high achieving students looking to have a sensational experience. The most common age is 9-16 and it is predominantly male participants. Although as in last week's case involving Sarah Leann Beck, 13, of Franklin, there have been reported cases that involve younger and older adolescents along with females.

What is the attraction? A brief sense of euphoria, an altered state of consciousness, peer Pressure of a dare or game of chicken, enhanced erotic feelings, and entertainment peers lose consciousness/behave erratically.

Experiences that can cause the same experiences are: hanging upside down, pressing arms against immovable barriers,

• See CHOKING page 27

• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Hey Doc...You can kiss my muscle

After being escorted into a small cubicle, the nurse handed me a green paper gown and said, "Put this on and the doctor will be with you momentarily." After stripping down to my birthday suit, I slipped on the gown. Of course, the open part exposed my entire backside to the blowing air conditioning ducts just above me. There were paper ties but I couldn't reach them due to the severely pulled muscle in my shoulder which was the reason I was wearing this stupid gown in the first place. Who invented those things anyway? I'm betting his name wasn't "Bubba."

Using my one good arm, I gathered the gown together behind me as best I could and attempted to sit on an examining table that was so high, I had to climb onto a small stool to reach it. Sliding my good hand down lower on the gown, I was able to cover my fanny and salvage what tiny bit of dignity I had left. I slowly turned myself on the tiny stool and sat on the table. No sooner had the paper touched the paper when Doctor Butthurt walked in and said, "Okay, Mr. Wooldridge, stand up and let's have a look at that shoulder."

"Hmmm....ah huh....okay....you can sit back down. You have a severely strained muscle in your shoulder. How did this happen?"

"No DUH," I thought to myself as I stared at the examining table and then elected to sit on a small chair in the corner of the room. "Workin' out," I proudly announced. Doctor Butthurt frowned,

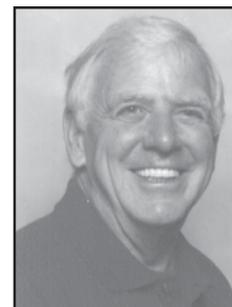
"Working out....as in exercising?"

"Yes, at Bally's; I have a membership. I'm in there five days a week," I boasted. Doctor Butthurt looked at my chart.

"You're 54 years old. What the hell are you doing working out? Are you aware there's nothing you can do after the age of 50 to develop or maintain muscle mass? You must stop this foolishness immediately."

I sat in shock. A physician had just ordered me to stop exercising. I couldn't believe it. Would he next recommend I take up smoking? I left the doctor's office with a script for pain and headed back to Bally's for a lower body workout. In time, Dr. Butthurt died and I never had to face him again.

As you know, I spent a huge part of



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

my life living with violent people. There's just no getting around it, if you worked the streets as long as I did, you're going to come in contact with violent people....often. Fortunately, I was blessed with muscles, not huge, but enough to protect me. This was good because, even back in my days, shooting people was a no-no and only used as a last resort.

There were no Taser weapons or electronic gadgets being offered for use as there are today. There was the cop, his muscles, and the bad guy.

You probably already know from past columns I detest....hmmm, that's too strong a word....let me re-phrase. I frown upon fat....hmmm, that's also too strong a word....let me re-re-phrase. I frown upon overweight, mushy cops. I don't see how they get by. I was in at least a dozen foot chases a year. During my era, if you ran from a cop, you were in deep doo-doo when you got caught. I know, I know, today they call that police brutality but in my era it was called justice and supported by the citizenry.

At the height of my career, I trained continuously. I was proud to have created my department's first physical training program that angered many of the mushy officers. At my retirement gathering, the mushy cops held their mugs high and cheered my exit. Most retirees drink booze to celebrate their retirement, but I ran on the beach sand with friends.

Once retired, I headed for Highlands to open a rappel business, an occupation that definitely requires a few muscles. No problem, I still had plenty. I worked the cliffs of Highlands for 13 years before retiring again.

Now, having reached geezer status, I have finally taken doc's advice. Except for walking and swimming, I no longer work-out. During my entire adult life, something was always hurting somewhere on my body but now, when I wake in the morning, there is no pain. The first time that happened, I thought I was dead. Thank you, Dr. Butthurt, for the good advice. Of course, I'm now turning into a fat slob!

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

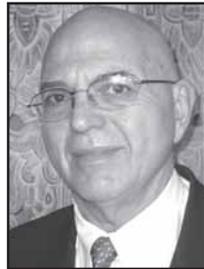
• ANOTHER VIEW •

It is March and most of the New Year resolutions have been abandoned and all but forgotten. We can dredge up memories of promises to exercise, lose weight, stop smoking, walk the dog, and buckle the old seat belt. We could, but we'd rather not.

We might have pledged to be kinder to our spouses and kids, to read more or watch television less. Just memories, and annoying memories at that. Regular readers might remember that I urged you to strike out on your own, avoid the New

Year rush, recognize the areas of your life that needed tuning up, and resolve to improve on your own time table.

Today is as good a day to take stock as any, and may be a fine day to decide that you really want to change your life, and I am convinced that the key to success is making that decision. Success is not often found in the herd, except among herd animals. Change is difficult and difficult change is impossible unless and until we really want it. Joining a gym at the urging of a friend usually results in an unused gym membership. I am not suggesting that support from friends cannot be a valuable aid in success, but only if the friends must share a common



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

Make it a lifelong resolution

goal and a firm commitment.

Do not despair in January's failure. Resolve to try again, when you are really ready for change. Don't bother to try because friends or family urge you, or to fit into a favorite dress. The inevitable consequence is a garment that is too small again in a few weeks, one that is hidden in the back of the closet.

The most important condition for success is a strong commitment backed by a good plan. A willingness to risk failure is essential. One who fears failure more than he craves victory will remain unchanged. A person who is satisfied with himself, even if he and the world know that his life is self destructive, has no incentive to change, and will not have to until he coughs blood or experiences chest pain; until his boss threatens to fire him for intoxication or his spouse threatens to leave him for neglect. One can only hope that by that time, it is not too late to change.

We refer to a that as a "Teachable Moment," an epiphany, a moment of truth, that instant in which both the

need and the solution are revealed.

We may try and fail, but must try again. Even if we succeed, we may find tragedy in the end. The recovered alcoholic may be killed by a drunken driver. The former smoker may develop cancer years later either from his smoke or that of others. The health nut may suffer a heart attack or be stricken by a

car on his morning jog. A woman who has been devoted to her husband may lose him to another.

There is little in life that is certain and nothing is guaranteed, but I can promise that you can enjoy the pride and satisfaction that comes only with gaining control of your life. It is a feeling worth experiencing, whatever the eventual outcome. We cannot foresee the future, but it is within our power to conquer the present.

• SALONS & SPAS •



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Town to tighten up several trash collection regulations

Residents and businesses will have to make some changes in the way they put their trash out for collection, said Town officials, or face stiff fines.

"We're continuing to have problems with residents putting their trash out in plastic bags, instead of approved containers," said Town Administrator Richard Betz. "This attracts both stray dogs and bears."

Newer homeowners or part-time residents may be unaware of some of the Town's regulations concerning trash collection. All trash is required to be placed for collection in heavy plastic or metal containers with tight-fitting lids, no larger than 32 gallons in capacity. Trash should NEVER be left out for collection in plastic bags.

"Bears can get into most trash cans with a little effort, but plastic bags are an open invitation to both bears and dogs. Our Sanitation Department has instructions not to pick up any trash that is simply placed in plastic bags," said Betz. "We also urge resi-

dents to wait until the morning of collection to place their trash out for collection."

According to Betz, many of the bear problems in recent years have been eliminated from the downtown commercial areas. Dumpsters at area restaurants have been retrofitted with heavier steel lids instead of plastic lids, and owners have cooperated in keeping the tops closed and chained. Grease barrels have also been replaced with bear-proof containers.

Under new State ABC regulations that went into effect on January 1, restaurants are also required to recycle their glass, and should be making arrangements to do so through a private collection service since the Town does not have the resources for curbside recycling. The regulations are enforced by the ABC Commission, and could result in ABC licenses being revoked.

Betz said that the sanitation crew has also experienced continuing problems with

•See TRASH page 19

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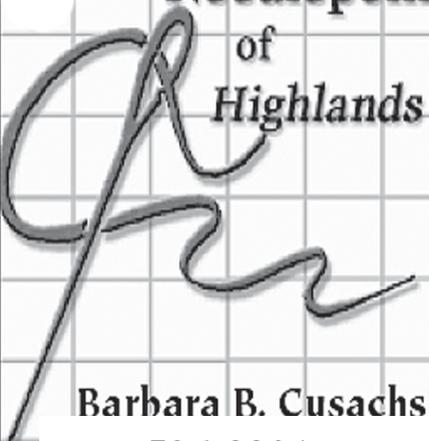
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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

**Needlepoint
of
Highlands**



Barbara B. Cusachs
526-3901
800-526-3902
210 N. 5th Street • in Village Square

Recently I watched "Time Bandits," a clever and silly film by some of the Monty Python troupe. The time bandits had found a way to travel through space and time and were having a grand time popping in and out of places stealing treasure. They were tempted to the castle of the "evil one" by the promise of "the most wonderful thing in the world." When they reached the castle, another temptation was added to ensure they were ensnared: if they kept going they would find "the answer to all your problems."

I think that's what we all dream of: finding the land of no problems. If I won the lottery, I would enter the land of no problems. If I found my dream job I'd live in the land of no prob-

No Problem



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

lems. Heaven is eternity in the land of no problems.

The funny thing is, many of us fill our leisure time by *creating* problems for ourselves to solve! We do crosswords puzzles or play video games. Most hobbies, from woodworking to painting to photography to gardening, involve setting up challenges for ourselves; the fun comes from navigating our way through problems to the finished product. If it was simple we wouldn't enjoy it as much.

So why is it so hard for us to look at life's challenges in the same way?

A friend once sent me to a Kabbalah webpage (Jewish mysticism), and one thing I got out of it was what they call the formula:

1. An obstacle occurs
2. Realize your reaction is the real enemy
3. Shut down your reactive system and let the light in.
4. Express your pro-active nature.

What this formula means to me is that the obstacles and challenges of life are not the cause of the sufferings we associate with the word "problem." The suffering comes from our negative reaction to the presence of an obstacle or challenge, from our resistance to the existence of the obstacle.

When I am faced with an unforeseen obstacle my most common reaction is to get angry, or depressed, or resentful, and this reaction — my resistance — is what actually causes the problems I experience.

The movie *Pleasantville* taught me some things about conflict. This is a wonderful film about a 1950s black-and-white sitcom world in which there are no problems. When two kids from the 90's are beamed in, their questioning attitude creates the new experiences of sensuality and sexuality and brings about the appearance of art and literature. As a few brave young people explore this new world they turn from black-and-white to color and can perceive color for the first time. What was most interesting to me, though, was that in this world of color there was conflict. In the black-and-white

world there were no disagreements, no differences, no trouble. Conflict is inseparable from a world of color (of interest, of something happening). Lack of conflict makes for a black-and-white (boring) world.

I had always thought happiness was found in the absence of problems and conflict. Now I know happiness is not to be found in the place of no-conflict; it is found in the experience that conflict is the fundamental force of change of the universe, and that conflict/change is what makes us alive. It is the resistance to change that brings me unhappiness. Acceptance is happiness.

This winter I was envisioning embarking on a new venture. In the past when I have dreamed about a new project I have thought "if this works I won't have any more problems." But this time I instead said to myself, "there will be problems, and they will be solved." And there have been plenty of obstacles; in fact I am embroiled in major problems as I write this.

Some time ago my mother had an experience of her female ancestors going back through the generations from her mother to her mother's mother and so on like nesting matryoshka dolls. My mother created a genealogy chart for her three daughters tracing these women's lives. Looking at it I had a profound vision of all these women living their lives, encountering problems and solving them, until the day they died. It gave me a strong sense of peace, that I would do the same thing: solve my problems until the day I encountered the one I couldn't solve, and that would be the day I died.

All of Katie Brugger's columns are available on her website:
www.kathleenbrugger.com

• THANKS •

Our Father was just recently in Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for a few weeks and went on to be with the Lord and his loving wife Lona on February 14th.

I would like to say that we could not have asked for better care for him during his stay. The nurses were all so loving and caring and treated him with such respect and they all took very special care of him. The night before his passing, they brought soft drinks on ice and snacks on a cart for the family, and afterward we were all treated with respect and concern for our needs. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to the entire staff of nurses at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

John and Frieda Munger

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• HIS & HERS •

The Candidate's Wife

They say that when one person in a couple is expecting, both people are expecting. It's kind of that way when one person in a couple is running for elected office. John is in the running to be the Republican candidate for the 11th Congressional seat from North Carolina, but in a real sense, we're both expecting this baby.

It's not the first time that John and I have collaborated on a project. In the early 1970s, when we were first engaged, John was representing a class action lawsuit for the residents of Beacon Terrace, near Baltimore. I was 21, in my senior year of Goucher College, and trying very hard to project an image of maturity and gravitas. For this particular occasion, all the stops had been pulled out, trying for a look of worldly sophistication. I had shown up in a rabbit fur coat and matching hat, suede skirt and boots. I thought I looked like Ursula Andress. I probably looked more like Thumper.

I mingled with the homeowners, trying to make what I thought was witty and erudite banter. I found myself standing next to a rather shy gentleman and his wife. Pointing in the direction of John, he asked, "Are you his wife, or his secretary, or what?" "Oh, Harold," his wife chided, "She's an 'or what' if I ever saw one!"

Jump forward more than 30 years. John and I were attending the Buncombe County Republican Convention in early 2006. Word had gotten out John had a new lady in his life, and it was rather clear that folks were going to be checking me out. One feisty lady in particular wanted to see for herself that I wasn't some air-headed bimbo half John's age. Yes, I was younger than John, but in my fifties, and I had my share of baggage, and the figure to prove it.

This brings me to my first observation about politicians. What's with all of the younger wives? Doesn't a candidate think that middle-aged female constituents are not going to be thrilled by a candidate whose wife puts him through law school and raises his children, replacing her with eye candy younger than his own kids when he's an old coot running for office? Have you seen photos of Fred Thompson and his wife? John and Cindy McCain? Dennis and Elizabeth Kucinich? What's this all about? No child bride left behind?

Another thing that makes me wince is the parade of virtues. I wonder how many spouses sit in the audience squirming as



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

their candidate husbands recite the long list of reasons why they are wonderful, and why people should vote for them. At a recent political meeting in Brevard, sheets were provided on every table so that people could submit questions in writing to be posed to the candidates. I winked to the lady across from me. "Ask them if they pick

up their dirty socks, and put them in the laundry hamper," I whispered. I already knew the answer to that one in our household.

It seems that there are three major floats in the parade of virtues – military service, religion, and family. My father was a World War II veteran, but neither my brother nor his son has served in the military. My cousin, Rick, did two tours of duty as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam. My Uncle Pierre served in Vietnam, too, but it was called Indochina then. He was serving in the French Army, and was made a POW at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu. Both of the candidates who are running against John served in Vietnam. I respect and admire their service. Those of us who are old enough to remember that tragic time may also remember that the American people were divided over that war as many are divided by the current war in Iraq. There used to be a time when almost all candidates for political office had served in the armed forces. This is less the case today.

Perhaps there is nothing that gets my dander up as much as bringing religion into the political area. In my lifetime, I have sung in the church choir, created and run a church bookstore, been a lay reader and an usher, and most recently, the church librarian. Does this mean I'm a good person? I'll be honest. Some of these roles I took on because I was face-to-face with a very persuasive person who signed me up before I could change my mind. John and I recently attended the CPAC Conference in Washington. On leaving the conference on the final day, we met the charming wife of a minister. In that marvelous way that you can open your heart to complete strangers, she told us of her family's recent financial woes. They had taken out a home loan from a man who had marketed himself as "a good Christian," and who had turned out to be a scammer and con artist. They were now struggling to make the payments to keep a roof above their heads.

• See HIS & HERS page 19

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... TOWN HALL continued from page 1

space for growth.

With the new configuration, the Town Hall side and the Police Department side will be split by a main lobby/reception area and the mayor's office and conference room which could also be used by the police department or Town Hall personnel.

The 88-seat boardroom will be downstairs jutting out onto a public terrace area which will include a welcoming staircase off U.S. 64 east which connected by a covered walkway and plaza across the front of the building to the corner of Fourth and Oak where a clock and bell structure are proposed in a public courtyard setting.

An 8-10 stall public bathroom situated inside and downstairs will be accessible from the covered walkway along U.S. 64 but will be inaccessible from inside the building.

"This addresses the need for public toilet access day and night but also keeps the Town Hall complex secure," said Sorin.

Additional public restrooms will be available upstairs for use during the day.

Also included downstairs is a ticket kiosk accessible from the covered walkway and also from inside the building and a community room with a small kitchenette. Elevators and a stairway are included for easy access between floors.

The police side of the complex will include a reception area, offices, interview room, and locker room upstairs and a workout room, storage, evidence room, electrical and mechanical rooms and a police garage downstairs.

"You've done a fine job incorporating the concerns of the board without altering the simplistic design of the exterior," said Commissioner Dennis DeWolf. "The idea of creating the porch and having it open to the public is very inviting."

Commissioner Amy Patterson said the initial design didn't have enough room for Town Hall operations. "Now you've given them what they need and given us what we need," she said. "Having enough public toilets and making them accessible was critical."

Town Administrator Richard Betz said the new design incorporated all concerns admirably well.

Commissioner Hank Ross said he really liked all the exterior spaces around the building suggested by the team. "It adds to the feel of a public space and it's a lot more exciting," he said.

However, Commissioner Ross was very concerned over the loss of space for the chamber of commerce. Initially, the chamber requested 2,200 sq. ft. of the Town Hall complex. Now Chamber of Commerce Director Bob Kieltyka said the chamber would accept any amount of space commissioners might offer.

"I wish there was a way to fit the chamber into the bottom of the building," said Ross.

The plan does include a ticket area accessible off the covered walkway plaza where visitors could buy tickets or get information about the town and its activities.

Commissioner Patterson said the board doesn't have anything against the chamber, but felt the space needed for Town Hall business should be taken into account and considered first. When the chamber of commerce space was included on the bottom floor of the initial plans, there was little room for Town Hall growth or enough room for storage and mechanicals.

Initially, the ballpark figure for the complex was pegged at around \$2.5 million but with the proposed excavation and slight size increase to 15,000 sq. ft., it's expected to be more than that.

The architects said prices would also fluctuate depending on how "green" the board wants to go. "When it comes

to green technology, it's a balancing act between square footage, quality and cost," said Sorin. "There's light green, medium green and dark green."

So far Sorin and Fisher have been paid \$20,000 for their efforts. Betz said the town has \$240,000 in the Town

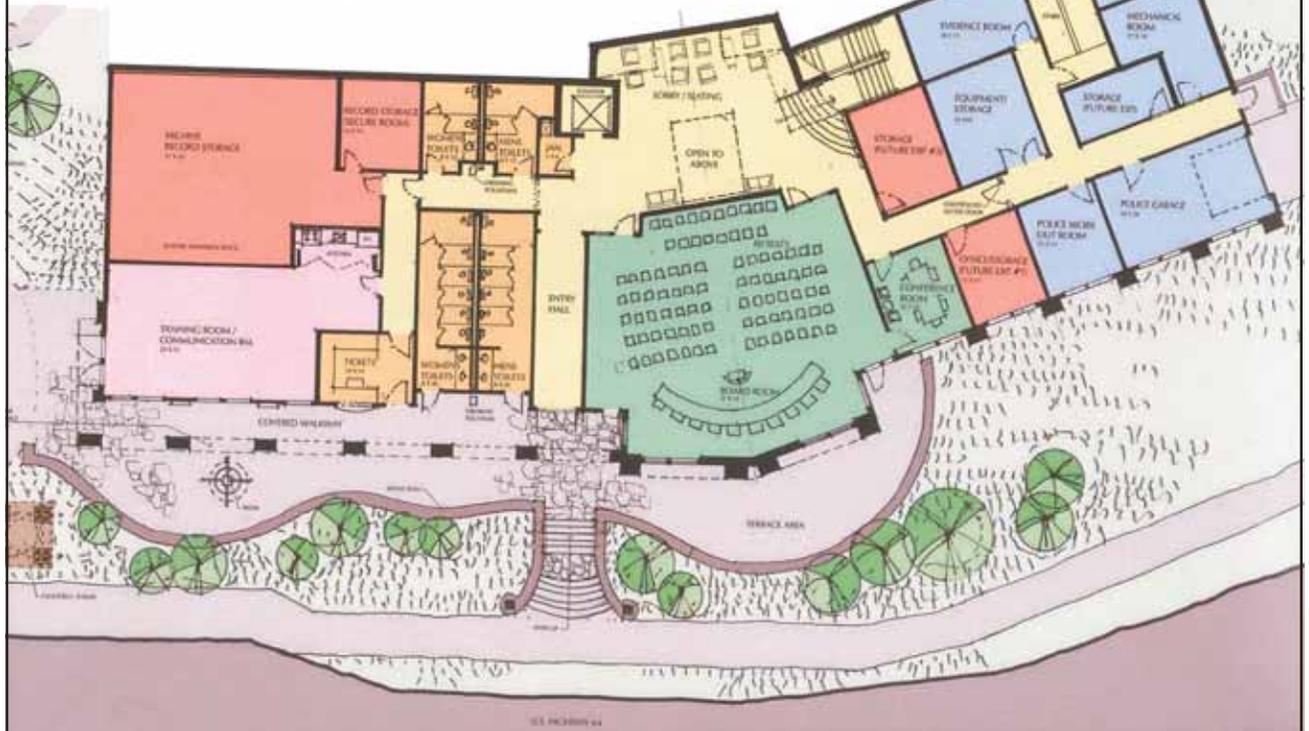
Hall Complex renovation fund and will put between \$120,000 and \$150,000 in the fund each year.

On big plus for the board was the architects' claim that temporarily relocating while the complex is built would not be necessary because it could happen sequentially.

The upper level of the proposed Town Hall Complex with town functions to the left and police functions to the right



The lower level of the proposed Town Hall Complex with town functions to the left, police functions to the right and board room center.



• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

Last Wednesday night the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Highlands had a special meeting primarily to review ongoing plans for a new town hall. The firm of Sorin and Fisher in Asheville has been hired to achieve the goal of developing a plan which would be right for Highlands. The first plans which came to us several months ago were a good start but needed revision after comments from the commissioners, the staff and me. At the last meeting we made the decision not to house the Chamber of Commerce in the new building and they agreed that their present facility was adequate for their needs. Thus the new plan excluded them and allowed space for expansion on the lower floor.

We are all pleased at what the architects have done with our suggestions. Not only does it allow a more pleasant and convenient entrance from both sides of the building but also

Dry Falls completion not in jeopardy

gives the opportunity for a generally more pleasing outside appearance with covered portals. There were changes in the arrangement of spaces and rooms. We are getting close to what we wanted in this new building which we hope will fulfill the needs of Highlands for many years to come and make the centerpiece of the Town of Highlands a new and beautiful town hall of which we can all be proud.

One other main feature of the building will be a much more usable and convenient board room with plenty of room for the public and a much more visible head table with podium from which people can make presentations to the board along with an efficient speaker



Mayor Don Mullen

system. Also, the police department will be within the same building. The police chief was pleased with the arrangement as well. This would allow for expansion of the emergency services in the building currently occupied by the police department on the other end of the block on Oak Street.

Another very important great feature is that the current Town Hall can continue to be utilized while this new building is being constructed since it will be just north of the present site on 4th Street. We will continue to have the bell tower in a very visible location emphasizing our heritage from the school building which used to be on the present site. We will be calling on the public to help us design the new

bell tower. The Playhouse will not be affected in all of this, and, in fact, there will be more parking space for them, too.

One of the primary issues the town will be dealing with over the next month will be land use priorities. There was some discussion of these this past Wednesday night and the decision was made to have a combined Town Board of Commissioners and Planning Board meeting in March so we can all be on the same wave length not only in our priorities but in the essence of the plan. Our new Planning and Development Director Joe Cooley has been quite helpful in this process as we move through such decisions on parking, impact fees, streetscape and tree ordinances, and steep slope and development erosion issues.

I have talked to the forest ranger, Mike Wilkins, who is in charge of our area, and he assures me that the Dry Falls

•See MULLEN page 19

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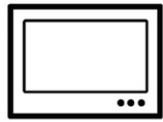
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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

What's it all about, Barry?

In recent weeks, we have probed the warts and foibles of presidential hopefuls Clinton and McCain. In an effort to be fair and balanced, we thought Barack Obama should be scrutinized through the same prism. By the time you read this, the results of the Texas and Ohio candidate preference opportunities will be known. Obama quite likely will have emerged as the presumptive Democrat nominee with at least a 50-50 chance of becoming the most powerful leader in the world. What do we know about him?

I've got to be honest, doing the research on this subject was unusually difficult.

Obama's public service has been minimal, serving his first term in federal office.

I don't know what his service in the Illinois Senate tells us about his ability to be Commander-in-Chief, if anything. His personal history seems to be the only way we have to get to know him, and here is where the problem surfaces. Practically every element of his life is subject to debate as to its authenticity according to the available information.

There should be nothing so certain as a man's name, yet even Barack Hussein Obama, Jr.'s name creates controversy. Recently, somehow using his middle name is taboo. Bill Cunningham, a right-wing Cincinnati talk-show host warmed up a crowd waiting to hear John McCain, used Obama's middle name, and has been excoriated for doing so. I'm not sure how he can outrun his name.

Born in Hawaii to a Kenyan father and a Kansan mother, his parents divorced when he was two, she remarried, the family moved to Indonesia, his stepfather's homeland, and here is where the confusion begins. Some say there was a Muslim influence in his home life; he says both his parents were atheists. Some say he spent some of his early years in a Muslim school; others say it was multi-cultural.

Obama's drug use as a young man cannot be denied since he wrote about it in his book *Dreams from My Father*. He said he used marijuana and cocaine to escape the confusion created by his mixed-race heritage and other issues. Some suggest that his involvement went deeper than use but there is no proof that I've seen.

One of his associations has raised some eyebrows lately. Bill Ayres and Ber-



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

nadine Dohrn founded the Weathermen, a violent radical left-wing group that declared war on the United States. They expressed their hatred for their country by bombing several government buildings, trying to create the revolutionary overthrow of the Government. Failing in their purpose to do so, the group imploded.

Ayres has since become a professor at the University of Illinois, Dohrn a law profes-

sor at Northwestern. So who cares? Obama's political career was launched at a meeting in Ayres' home. But the Weatherman thing is ancient history. Yet in 2001, Ayres told the New York Times, "I don't regret setting bombs; I feel we didn't do enough." When David Axelrod, close Obama advisor, was asked Obama's current relationship with Ayers, he responded "they're friendly."

Tony Rezko is a Chicago businessman who is being tried this week. Fraud, extortion and money laundering are among the charges brought against him.

Obama was involved in a real estate deal with Rezko where he seemed to benefit unduly. Obama says the deal may have created the appearance of impropriety, and stated, "I consider this a mistake on my part and I regret it." It is reported Rezko has raised \$60,000 for Obama's campaigns.

It is not for me to challenge Obama's faith. That is a two-person arrangement and I'm not one of them. I do wonder about his pastor, mentor and spiritual leader, Jeremiah Wright. Wright pastors a mega black church in Chicago and gives us reason to think he's a black separatist if not a racist. Wright will tell you he and Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, traveled together to Libya to pay Muammar Gaddafi a visit in the past. Wright conferred on Farrakhan a lifetime service award and Farrakhan conferred his endorsement for President on Obama.

Just how liberal is Obama? How would his extreme liberality affect his governing if he should be elected? Does a Muslim heart beat in his body? A Christian heart?

An atheist heart? Will he look to people like Bill Ayers for guidance? How much of Jeremiah Wright's philosophy will influence his governing? Will Farrakhan have his ear?

Obama says he's the "change agent." Change to what? I don't know much about him and what I know I don't like. Besides, I've gotta admit, I don't like the sound of President Obama.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The Fear of God

"Then a voice came from the throne saying, 'Praise our God, all you his servants and those who fear him, both small and great.'" (Revelation 19:5, NKJV).



Rev. Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church

From Genesis to Revelation the phrase, "fear of God" is used constantly. It means having that awe and reverence for God which serves as the beginning of wisdom, as seen when one begins to make a decision to follow God. It represents the respect that a person has for God when he begins to realize who God is and what a lofty and powerful position God holds as the Creator and he sees the dependence, he as the creature, has on God.

This idea of fear is not one of cringing in terror before God or dread of, or hatred and rejection toward God. As the fear of God develops in a person's life it comes to a place where it is expressed in the reverence and obedience that comes from true faith. This is exactly what John is saying, when he says, "those who fear Him." The multitude seen here in Revelation praising God are the redeemed of the church of Christ. They are now in a place where there is, nor never will be, any need to dread God. These "bond-servants" are now in God's very presence and therefore under his great protective wings, where no harm can come to them for the rest of eternity. They are here because they did "fear Him," because they did revere him, because they did obey him, during their time on this earth, and they do so even more gladly, now.

But, how does the "fear of God" help us today? In Proverbs 1:7 we are told, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (NKJV). If a man is to come to the understanding and knowledge of his lost condition before God, of his need for a Savior and need of total dependence upon the grace of God, it will be as he comes to see the holiness of God. As he begins to recognize God's holiness he will understand his own sinfulness. Grasping his own sinful condition will cause him to see his need of a Savior. So, it is the "fear of God," the understanding of God's Holy character, that brings him to the foot of the cross.

After he has received Christ as his Lord and Savior the "fear of God" continues to cause him to study and learn more of God. The "fear of God" causes man to obey God's Word, not out of terror, but out of love and respect for who God is and who man is before God. The "fear of God" is a gift that comes in the new heart. It is God's loving grace that provides each believer with what he needs to help him grow in the knowledge and understanding of his loving Heavenly Father.

"In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death." (Proverbs 14:26,27; NKJV).

Without a healthy fear of God, a strong recognition of God's holiness, there will be no foundation of hope, no

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 16

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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Tuesday: 8 A.M. Men's Cursillo Group
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry
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Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.

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Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
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Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers
Choir - 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Senior Pastor Todd Struble; Asst. Pastor Mike Harris
526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;
5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: Supper; 6; 6:15 - children, youth, & adults
studies; 6:15 - Adult choir

(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs: 12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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Choir - 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.

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Parish office, 526-2418
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Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.

(through last Saturday of October)

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price
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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

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Girls' Varsity Soccer at Highlands School



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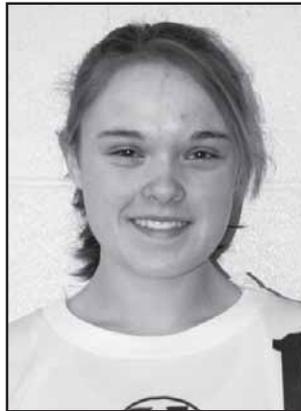
Ana Damian



Katie Durham



Amy Fogle



Jessica Gagne



Carolyn Hornsby



Jesse Johnson



Shelby Johnson



Marlee McCall



Kate-Marie Parks



Danielle Potts



Stephanie Puchacz



Danielle Reese



Leticia Reyes-Jiminez

Highlands wins first game at home against Swain



Marlee McCall, Marisol Ruiz and Kate-Marie Parks against Swain, Monday, March 3 at home. Highlands won 4-1. Ana Damian scored first with a PK - then Shelby Johnson, Katie Durham and Marlee McCall scored.
Photos by Noel Atherton



Lucy Ruiz

The next home games are:
March 14 vs. Franklin
March 17 vs. Murphy
March 18 vs. Brevard
March 24 vs. Murphy
March 28 vs. Rabun Gap



Marisol Ruiz



Bevan Schiffl



Paige Strahan

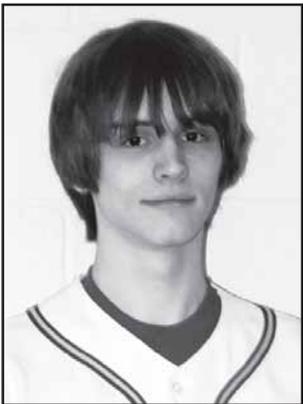
Boys' JV Baseball at Highlands School

Upcoming home games

Mon., Mar. 10 at 5:30 p.m. vs. Andrews
Wed., Mar. 12 at 4:30 p.m. vs. HDam
Sat., Mar. 15 at 2 p.m. vs. Tamasee-Salem
Tues., Mar. 25 at 4:30 p.m. vs. Robbinsville
Thurs., Mar. 27 at 5:30 p.m. vs. Haywood
Christian Academy

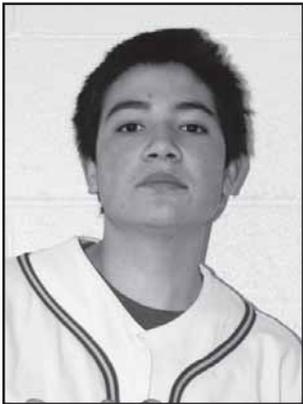


Coach Noel Buras

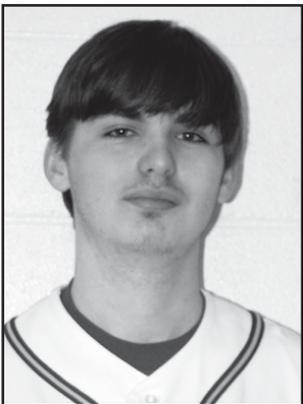


Michael Baty

Photos by Noel Atherton



Josh Delacruz



Adam Hedden



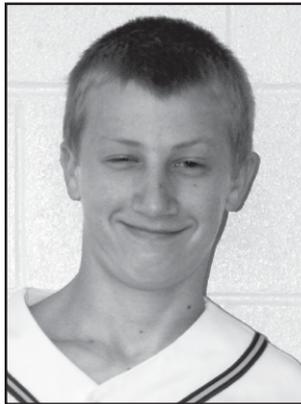
Cody House



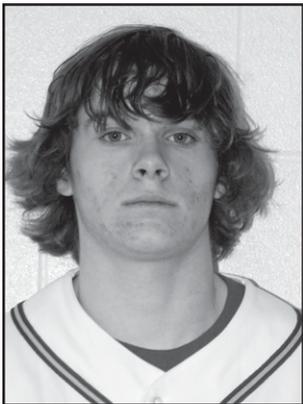
Clayton Lassiter



Hunter Leffler



Mikey Lica



Luke McClellan



Casey Molinary



Spencer Nadler



Olen Schiffli



Michael Shearl



Robbie Vanderbilt

Middle School Co-Ed Baseball will be featured in the March 13 edition.

Pastor accepts life-long, worldwide commitment to ministry

Highlands United Methodist Church now has two ordained pastors – one whose allegiance is to his community church, the other whose allegiance is to God's ministry wherever it may lead him.

Pastor Mike Harris recently made the next-to-final step in the process to be ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church which represents a lifetime commitment.

The final step takes place June 7 with a ordination service at Lake Junalaska where the bishop will lay on hands.

"With all the work and effort that goes into the process, it feels great to be nearly finished," said Harris. "I feel 100 pounds lighter with the weight of the exams done. Now is a time of celebration and praising God."

In the United Methodist Church pastors must first complete seminary then write papers in three categories totaling more than 50 pages: "Theology and Preaching," "Exegesis and Bible Study" and finally "Call and Disciplined Life."

A few weeks ago, Harris completed the step of going before the Board of Ordained

Ministry to defend his papers and perform oral exams related to his work. Having successfully completed the process Harris is now a Probationary Elder, also referred to as an Elder in Residency.

During his third year of residency he must write papers in the same three categories again, only this time relate to how the practice of ministry over the past 2 1/2 years has affected the way he might answer the questions. Once again he goes before the Board of Ordained Ministry which is divided into three categories, to defend his papers and again answer oral exam questions.

"The process in the Methodist Church is so lengthy, a lot of people get bogged down and frustrated," said Harris. "It truly

is a significant accomplishment to make it through to this point. Now with the process nearly complete with the fulfillment coming in the ordination service in June, it is one of the most important accomplishments of my life."

In the Methodist Church, the Ordination to Elder in Full Connection is a lifetime commitment which affirms a pastor's call to ministry.

"When I began ministry, I was commissioned to do ministry in the local church and my authority currently lies in the local church I serve. But once ordained, I can serve in ministry, administer the sacraments,

marry, etc., anywhere that I am legally allowed," said Harris. "My connection is no longer limited and is truly a ministry to all the world."



Mike Harris

The ordination process of the United Methodist Church has changed since Pastor Todd Struble was ordained in 1995.

Then a candidate seeking ordination was first examined and approved to be ordained as a deacon. After a probationary period of no less than two years, an ordained deacon would then be examined again (including papers and sermons and oral exams) by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. If approved, a deacon would then be ordained as a full elder. It was a two-step ordination process.

"The 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church changed how we view and practice ordination," said Struble. "Presently, a United Methodist dealing with a call to ordained ministry must choose either to be ordained as a deacon or as an elder. The two-step process of ordination has been eliminated. There is still a probationary period which follows a 'comissioning' process, but ordination is a two-tract option now."

Pastor Harris has been approved by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry to be approved as a candidate worthy of being a Fully Ordained Elder in the Methodist denomination.

"Honestly, I think the average United Methodist sees this all as splitting theological hairs — a preacher is either ordained or he or she is not ordained," said Struble. "I will have to admit the two-step process by which I was ordained was rather confusing to most people and it made you wonder what was the real use of being ordained as a deacon if it was nothing more than a stepping stone to becoming ordained as an elder."

Struble said if anything, the new process (adopted in 1996) has elevated the significant role that ordained deacons have in the Methodist Church, and it allows room for those who feel called to ordained ministry, but who do not necessarily feel that calling to be as a local parish pastor with the primary duties of preaching, officiating the Sacraments, and administering the life of a congregation.

Ordained deacons serve in a number of settings, including Christian education directors, chaplains, parish nurses, and ministers of music."

At the Annual Conference Session In June, Pastor Harris will be voted upon twice – once to be ordained as an elder and once to be a member of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference.

"When Mike is elected as a member of the conference, he is no longer a member of any local church. His church "membership" is with the WNC Annual Conference," said Struble. "Ordained United Methodist pastors are never members of a local church. The theology behind this is to uplift the unity that is to exist between pastors and to enhance the itinerant system of ministry whereby pastors are ap-

• See MINISTRY page 26

• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

Sports Page

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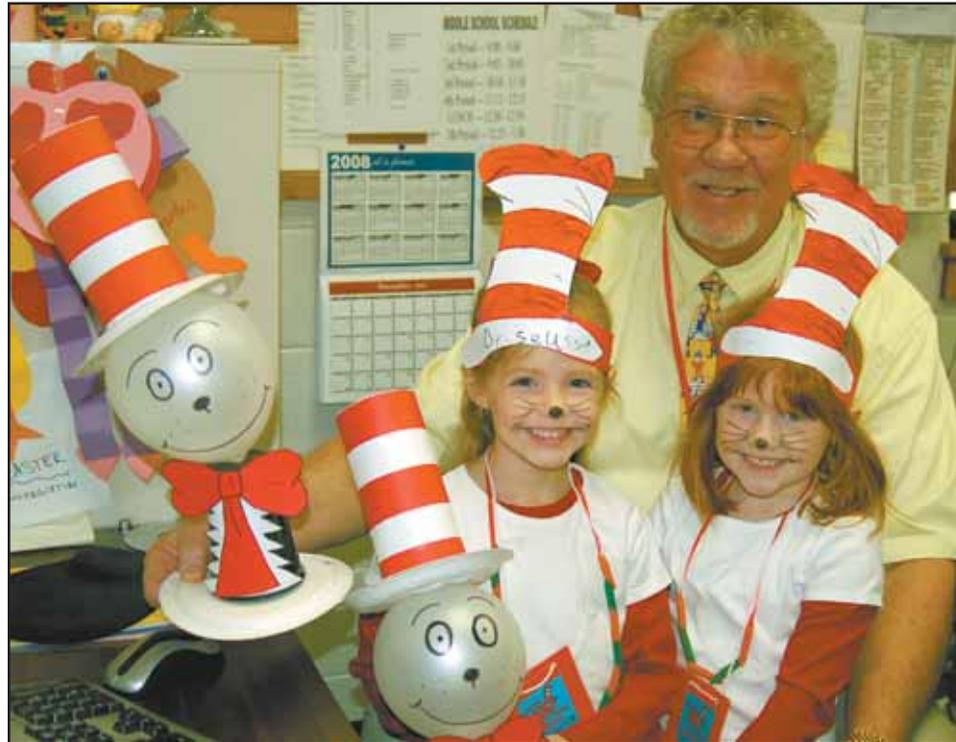
Mountain Brook Center • 526-9822

Dr. Seuss turns 104 year old!

On Monday, March 3, Ms. McClellan's kindergarten class celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday which was Sunday, March 2, with special activities and a birthday cake.

Students started the day with a green eggs and ham breakfast followed by face-painting, Cat in the Hat balloon puppets, special cat hats, a One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish Blue Fish Jello Bowl, even a Cat in the Hat pinata. In honor of Dr. Seuss and his Cat in the Hat, all the students wore red and white. Highlands School will be celebrating Dr. Seuss and his contribution to literacy all week.

Left: students Cydni Coppage and Emma Weller presented Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter and Asst. Principal Jim Draheim with an assortment of hand-made crafts.



Kindergarten teacher Ms. McClellan and parents Ashely Coppage and Kristy Weller cut up the Dr. Seuss's Birthday Cookie Cake. Left, mom Ashley Coppage holds up a "Pull String" Cat in the Hat pinata for student Matthew Campbell.

Photos by Ashley Coppage



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• OBITUARIES •

Daniel Dean Montague

Daniel Dean Montague, 93, of Seneca died Saturday February 23, 2008. He was born in Jacksonville, FL. and was the son of William Claudius and Emily Hunter Montague. He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, three sisters and his wife of 53 years, Margaret Crane Montague who died on Jan. 27.

Surviving are sons, Gilbert and wife Amanda Montague of Seneca, SC., Frank Montague of Seneca, SC, and Robert and wife, Peggy Montague of Anderson, SC.

Grandchildren, Danny and wife, Courtney Montague, Jennifer Montague, Eddie and Greg Looney, Renee Thomas also survive. He has eight great-grandchildren. Entombment services were at 2 p.m. Monday, February 25, 2008 at Oconee Memorial Gardens Mausoleum Chapel with Rev. Baker Crane officiating. The family requests donations be made to a charity. Brown-Oglesby was in charge of arrangements.

Samuel Hardin Hendricks

Samuel Hardin Hendricks, age 94 of Highlands, NC died Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at his residence. He was born in Murray, KY, the son of John Hendricks and Ona Wadkins Hendricks. He moved to South Florida with his family when he was 10 years old. He lived in Jacksonville, FL for most of his career, working for the Navy Department as a Systems Analyst.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Charlene; a son, John Bryant Hendricks of Highlands, a daughter-in-law, Karen, and two grandchildren, Hannah & Joshua. Mr. Hendricks was a Christian and his life as a Christian was very important to him. At one time, while living in Jacksonville, his peers gave him the honor of naming him the most outstanding "Layman of the Year" award in the Christian churches in the state of Florida.

A memorial service will be held in his honor at the Community Bible Church at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 15. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Hospice, PO Box 190, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

• COACH'S CORNER •

Nothing important happened today

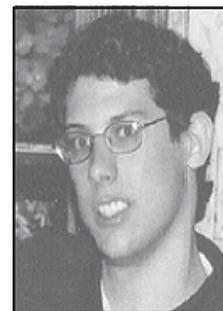
Nerd Alert; Probably my favorite show in my short lifetime of television was The X-Files. The show combined smart dialogue with a tremendous story-arc that held the show together despite repeated forays into "stand-alone" type episodes.

One of my favorite episodes was titled "Nothing Important Happened Today," with the inspiration being that of King George's famous (rumored) diary entry on the day of the American Revolution. The episode explores the irony of how certain life-changing decision's can seem meaningless to those not actively involved.

Brett Favre retired from football on Tuesday, a decision that seemed to send shockwaves throughout the NFL and sent ESPN's lovestruck heart into palpitations. It was amazing to see the number of talking heads emerge from their February hibernation to discuss every aspect of Favre's career and the impact that this decision would have on the National Football League.

As I watched the network frenzy from my comfortable position at home, I thought to myself, "I really should be interested in this, but...meh."

As you can see, the importance of this decision is lost on someone such as myself. I am a lowly Saints fan, and even though I have always "liked" Favre, I can never say that he was must-see TV for me in the way that watching Randall Cunningham or Steve Young was. However, living many miles away from the cheese-heads of Wisconsin, I cannot possibly un-



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

derstand the visceral feelings that many Packers fans throughout 'Sconsin have for a player of Favre's caliber. Favre's place in the annals of football history is secure -- he holds the career record for TD passes as well as consecutive games played-the guy was simply a football machine. Most importantly, Favre was *their* football machine -- a rare player in

the age of free agency that becomes totally representative of a franchise. Despite all of the changes in Green Bay over the last 15+ years, Favre was the constant face of the franchise...the security blanket for the fans in Green Bay that would comfort them.

Now Favre has decided to ride off into the sunset, and while he didn't quite go out on top (losing in the NFC Championship to New York) he did go out while still playing at an extremely high level. Favre led his team to the second best record in the NFC and all the way to the NFC Championship game in a season where he also broke the all time TD pass record and added to many of his other career statistics. In a voicemail left to numerous sportswriters (that was replayed more times than the Roger Clemens steroid trials) Favre claims that he can physically still play, but was mentally tired and couldn't justify coming back for anything but a Super Bowl ring. If last season was any indication, Favre still had plenty left, but with the odds of winning a Super Bowl so slim, it is no wonder that he made the choice he did.

•See COACH page 27

...ON THE VERANDAH

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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 11

fountain of life. When troubles come and life overwhelms there will be no place of refuge, no escape from the ravages of sin, from the terrors of hell. Jesus Christ is the refuge of the believer. Jesus is the One God sent into this world to do for his people what they could never do for themselves. He lived the perfect life, died the atoning death, won the resurrection victory and sits at the Father's right hand to intercede for his brothers and sisters.

You can know Jesus only when you understand your own lost and hopeless condition before God. When you see yourself lost and without hope you will understand God's great and awesome holiness and you will tremble in fear at the prospects of spending an eternity separated from him. Show yourself to be wise, open your ears and listen to the message of hope brought into this world by Jesus Christ, let

it penetrate your heart and be a fountain of life and wash away the smell of death.

King David knew this fear of the Lord and in his great Psalm about the Shepherd of his soul he declares concerning death, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil..." (Psalm 23:4).

To David, death had become nothing but a shadow. He knew he would pass through this shadow into the presence of his God. This is the great gift of the "fear of God" in your life. How can you know this fear? Read the Bible and believe on the One it says can save your soul. Acknowledge your sinful heart and ask God to work in your heart, so that can know him and fear him. Show that respect by living your life in such a way as to show him your love and appreciation for all he has done for you through Jesus Christ.



Nurse Jane Pressler swabs the hand of one Summit Charter youngster last week as part of a demonstration about germs and the importance of hand washing to kindergarten and 1st-grade students. Samples were taken from students before and after washing their hands and cultures were developed at the hospital's laboratory. Two days later students saw what was growing in the Petri dishes, providing a graphic reminder to wash one's hands often, and especially before eating or after using the restroom.

Hospital offers tips for keeping the flu at bay

With cold, flu and intestinal viruses running rampant in recent weeks, officials at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital say there are several simple measures one can do to help avoid falling victim to this season's insidious band of "bugs."

The hospital's emergency room began seeing confirmed cases of flu in early February, but several non-flu viruses appear to be making the rounds. Over the course of the last several weeks, the hospital has been averaging around four to five patients per day who come to the ER complaining of flu-like symptoms, says Cindy Barloga, RN, who heads the hospital's infection control and employee health department.

"Only 14 were actually confirmed flu cases as of last Wednesday, Feb. 27," she says. Those who come down with influenza usually experience a sudden onset of symptoms such as respiratory congestion with cough and often intense chest pain, a fever of 101-102 degrees, muscle aches, and tiredness. Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea can also accompany those other symptoms, but are more common in children than adults with flu. Due to the fever, many patients can end up dehydrated, sometimes severely dehydrated, she cautions.

The flu can also lead to a secondary infection, such as pneumonia or bronchitis. While pneumonia is often treated at home these days with modern antibiotics, severe cases can still require hospitalization. In fact, three patients with severe pneumonia have had to be admitted to the hospital

in recent weeks.

Flu aside, there are still several nasty colds and stomach bugs making the rounds right now. Regardless of the type of virus, Barloga says a few simple precautions can significantly reduce your chances of becoming ill, starting with frequent – and thorough – hand washing.

"It sounds too simple to really do much good, but it has been shown over and over again that this is the most effective means of stopping viruses from spreading from person to person," says Jane Pressler, RN. Pressler and hospital colleague Kathy Egan, RN, recently visited Summit Charter School in Cashiers to teach kindergartners and first-graders the importance of hand washing. To make their point, they swabbed student hands, desks, doorknobs and other surfaces before and after washing and disinfecting, and cultured the results in the hospital's lab. The results, shown to youngsters two days later, made an impression.

"I think it really grossed some of them out to see what was growing all around them, but it made the point," says Pressler.

It's especially important to wash one's hands if you have been around anyone who is sick, particularly if you have touched that person or anything they might have handled. If soap and water isn't available, waterless hand cleaner is a good substitute, say officials. Scrubbing thoroughly for 10-15 seconds will do the trick, but Pressler says that's longer than it seems. It's equivalent

Highlands School Junior Class Rib-Eye Steak Fundraiser Dinner March 13 • 4:30-6:30 p.m.

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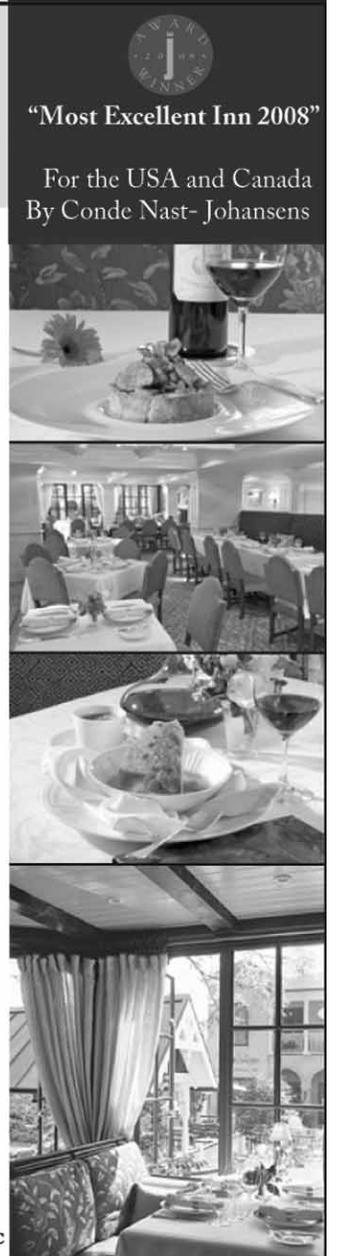
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... DRY FALLS continued from page 1

site cost \$818,000.

Improvements to the Dry Falls site include pouring a concrete footer, and using fill to raise the parking lot eight to 10 feet, a two-stall vault bathroom and a re-engineered entrance and exit to the park site.

Contractors have until October to complete Phase 1 – work began last October. "But they could finish up sooner, possibly by July 4," said Wilkins.

Work at the site stopped during the winter due to the weather and because contractors had to wait for the dirt used to build up the parking lot to dry out.

Unless the soil dries out it won't pass the compaction test or hold up the retaining walls of the raised parking lot, said Wilkins. He said it's a layering process of footers, soil, gravel and more soil all within a rock retaining wall.

Raising the grade of the parking lot will enable the parking lot to be expanded to 26 spots and it will make the entrance and exits to the site a lot safer.

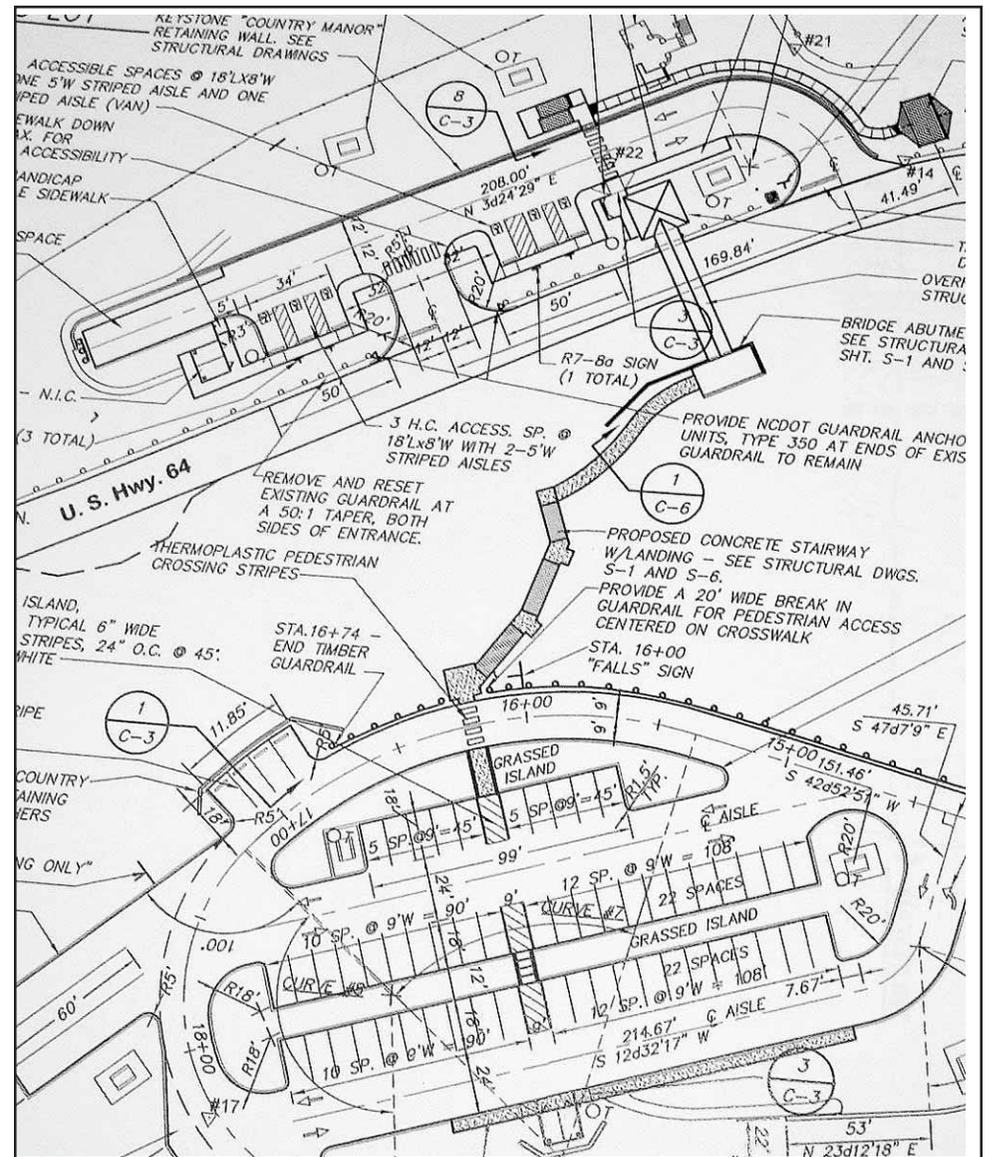
Previously one steep drive led into the parking area off U.S. 64, while another led

out and the parking lot itself was far below the U.S. 64 road level.

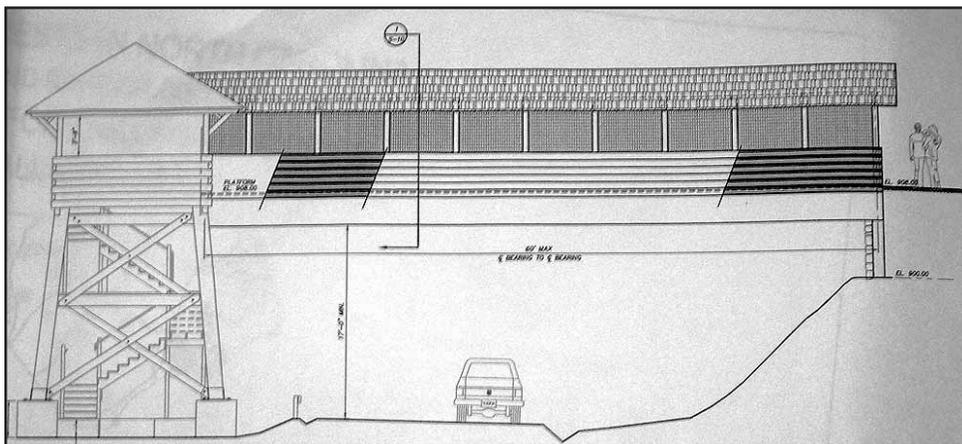
Planned for the future is fire tower at the Dry Falls site connected to a pedestrian bridge, which will span U.S. 64 and link the property on which the McCall cabin sits to the Dry Falls site.

A ballpark figure for subsequent project is \$1 million, but Wilkins said it's too soon to say and the job hasn't been bid out yet. "This is phased project and will take time," said Wilkins. Eventually, in the vicinity of the McCall cabin, will be host site, a parking lot, another restroom, a picnic area, a path to the pedestrian bridge across U.S. 64 leading to the fire tower and a handicap accessible observation deck to see the falls. Wilkins said whether or not the McCall cabin will fit into the scenario as planned several years ago is still unknown.

The restrooms will have two vault toilets – known as Sweet Smelling Toilets (SST) which use heat from the sun as a catalyst. They will be pumped out regularly just like at the USFS shooting range and horse camps.



The above rendition represents the overall vision for both properties -- that of Dry Falls and the area in the vicinity of the McCall cabin off Walden Way across U.S. 64 west. The only phase in-progress for which funds have been obligated is Phase 1 -- the Dry Falls renovation which is slated to be completed by October 2008 but possibly as early as July 4.



Eventually, a fire tower-like structure will connect to a covered pedestrian bridge spanning U.S. 64 and USFS property across from Dry Falls. This aspect of the Dry Falls renovation will involve several phases planned for the future.

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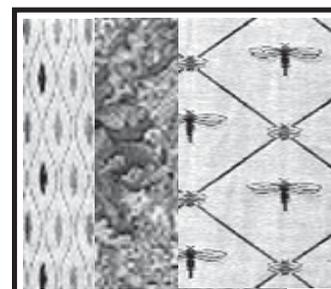
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... HIS & HERS continued from page 7

Personally, I am very uncomfortable around people who use their church attendance as proof of their virtue and character. As a dear friend and clergyman, the late John Buchanan, used to say: "Churches are not showcases for saints. They are hospitals for sick souls."

The last thing that sticks in my craw is the dragging out of one's progeny for the happy family photo op. Woe be to the candidate who has no family, or whose spouse and children are not photogenic! I confess to seeing footage of candidates and their families, and thinking that they should have chosen better genes. But, come on, folks! Is it the job of our children and grandchildren to get us elected? Do we have to drag out the grandkids in their best Garanimals and orthodontics to get Gramps into Con-

gress?

Don't get me wrong! There's a lot about campaigning that I enjoy. The people we meet are often fantastic individuals, each with an interesting story to tell. We also get to drive through some of the most beautiful countryside in this state. I just wish Highlands wasn't so far from many of John's speaking gigs. We seem to live at least two hours from everywhere! And don't get me started on the potluck suppers - there are some great cooks out there, and their masterpieces are a serious challenge to our waistlines. There is nothing like getting up close and personal with voters, and hearing what concerns them - real concerns - not what some political party may be peddling as its latest sound bite issue.

Some candidates have spouses who

are content to nod and smile. I'm sure sometimes John wishes he had one of them, not his feisty, opinionated "or what." There are other times when I know he appreciates my feedback - even if it's not always flattering. I'm not "the little woman," in any sense of the word. And I guess that's okay, too. After all, John is running for Congress in the 11th District of North Carolina. I don't think it includes the town of Stepford.

P.S. Yes, I know. There are plenty of candidates out there who are women, and the supporting spouse is probably a guy who's great with deal of pride in his

lady, and an uncanny ability to microwave.

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She lives on top of a mountain near Highlands. Michelle is a member of the Highlands Writers Group. She is the *aide de camp* and greatest fan of Congressional hopeful, John Armor. John has gorgeous children and grandchildren. Their pictures are in our wallets, not on the Internet.

... MULLEN continued from page 9

construction will continue on schedule and that funds are indeed available for completion of this project. He said there must have been some misunderstanding in the published piece in The Highlander newspaper which had the project in trouble from lack of funds. The only delays have been weather related and the project will be completed on time. That is good news because Dry Falls is one of our major tourist attractions at a beautiful site on the Gorge Road. Anything to enhance the beauty and convenience of that site will be good for Highlands. We thank Mike Wilkins and the forestry service for that and apologize to him for the misunderstanding.

Copper has increased in value over the past year, and the crooks are loose in

stealing all they can. All across the country copper wire is being stolen and Highlands is not the exception.

Almost a mile of copper wire has disappeared on the Horse Cove Road from Highlands to Rich Gap Road. Citizens are asked to be on the alert to any unauthorized activity on or near our utility poles.

It could affect us all and certainly is a very dangerous activity which can result in the electrocution of perpetrators on the spot.

... TRASH from page 5

some merchants and residents placing their trash next to the public trash cans along Main Street, which is a violation of the Town's Solid Waste Ordinance. Cardboard boxes are also not allowed to be placed out on the sidewalk for collection. Cardboard must be taken to one of the cardboard disposal bins and broken down properly for recycling.

"It is surprising to me," Betz said. "Many of our residents come from other communities where there is mandatory recycling, and they are accustomed to strict trash collection rules elsewhere. And with the new planters and benches on Main Street, we have worked hard to make the downtown area attractive. It only takes a few bags of trash piled on the sidewalk to undo all of that work."

Residents who continue to place their trash out for collection in unapproved containers, or who simply deposit it next to a trash can on Main Street, could be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined \$50, Betz warned.



Lenten Sermon Series at Highlands United Methodist Church

Tempted, Tried, Tested, and True: The True Marks of Christian Disciples.

Sunday, March 9: "Troubled" (Psalm 130)

Sunday, March 16: "Triumphant" (Matthew 21:1-11)

Sunday, March 23: "True" (Matthew 28:1-10)

Highlands United Methodist Church

315 Main Street (526-3376)
Services Begin at 11:00

Todd Struble, Senior Pastor
Mike Harris, Associate Pastor
Les Scott, Minister of Music

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Register by March 13

• Beginning April 2 join fellow seekers for a 12-week book study group on "Awakening in Time, The Journey from Co-dependence to Co-creation" at The Conscious Connection. Using discussion, journaling, guided imagery, artwork, to release old patterns. Details: 526-8885.

On-going

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First Mondays

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

at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

Every Monday

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

Every Tuesday

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

• Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.

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

Every Wednesday

• Adult handbell rehearsals at Highlands United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. If you're interested in playing call Carroll Harris at 526-3376.

• Gospel of John Bible Study Pastor Todd Struble is leading a study this spring on the fourth Gospel (using the Efirid Bible Study Series) 6:15 - 7:15 at HUMC.

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

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

Every Third Wednesday

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

Every Thursday

• At-Anon Meetings, noon in the First Presbyterian Church basement at Fifth & Main Street.

Every Friday & Saturday

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

Every Friday

• The Girls' Clubhouse meets in the school cafeteria 3-4:30 p.m. All 6-8 grade girls are welcome. Come have fun while serving others. For more information, call Kim Lewicki 526-0782.

Every Saturday

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.

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

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9

• HCP's "Lend Me a Tenor" at the Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinee. For ticket information call, the Highlands Community Players' box office, 526-8084.

Friday, March 7

• Amercian Red Cross Blood Drive at South Macon Elementary School. (Addington Bridge Road; Franklin, NC) noon to 5 p.m. Please call Sandy Keener at 524-9492 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.

Saturday, March 8

• Tennessee Jed and his band will play one performance in "the best little concert hall in western North Carolina" at the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main at 310 Main Street Oak Square in Highlands, at 8 p.m. All tickets are \$15. For reservations, which are strongly suggested, call

828-342-9197.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6 mile hike in Oconee State Park and on the SC Foothills Trail to Long Mtn. Fire Tower, Tamasee Knob, and the old water wheel in the park. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9 a.m. Drive 45 miles round trip. If coming from Franklin, call leader for alternate car pool meeting place. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• Mountain Christian Singles will host a Game night to be held this Saturday night, from 6-9 p.m. at Scotts Creek Baptist Church in Sylva, NC. Instead of providing a meal, we are asking everyone to bring their favorite finger food, soft drinks to share and their favorite board or card games. We will carpool from Franklin, meeting at the bowling alley at 5:15 p.m. For more information call, 828-369-7311 (Macon & Rabun Co) 828-631-5041 (Jackson & Swain co) or check out our website at www.mtnocs.org

Sunday, March 9

• "Sing in the Spring" concert at First Presbyterian Church in collaboration with the WCU music department faculty showcase at 4 p.m. Star vocal students will perform. It's free with a reception to follow.

Starting Monday, March 10

• Family-to-Family free 12-week Education Program will be offered by NAMI Appalachian South at Southwestern Community College, Macon campus from 6:30-9 p.m. The class is for family members of loved ones with a mental illness. NAMI Appalachian South is an affiliate of the State Nation-

al Alliance on Mental Illness. Please contact Ann Nandrea 828 369-7385 or Mary Ann Widenhouse 828-524-1355 to register or for more information. Some comments from previous participants: "Valuable information about Brain Disorders," "Let me know that I am not alone." "Learned more about coping." "That there is help and hope."

Tuesday, March 11

• Free lectures at Cashiers Chiropractic and Wellness Center. "Eating Out: Making the right choices." To register, call either the Highlands office at 526-3709 or the Cashiers office at 743-9070.

Thursday, March 13

• Highlands School PTO and Junior Class Rib-eye Steak Dinner fundraiser at 4:30 to 6:30. Adults are \$10 and children under 12 are \$6. Reservations required. Call 526-2147.

• Senator John Snow will speak at a program sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Macon County at noon on Thursday at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Franklin. Among the topics he will address are tax reform, campaign finance reform, death penalty moratorium, redistricting, immigration, and education. He will review accomplished and pending legislation as well. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask Senator Snow their own questions and to talk with him personally. Lunch will be available at noon, by reservation. Call 524-5192. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

Saturday, March 15

• St. Paddy's Day Dance at ITC. Come and jig your heart out at The Studio on Main as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day a wee bit early. The Lisa Price Band will have all the lads and lassies on their feet with their spirited blend of classic rock and country as well as a bit o the more modern. No reservations are required. The doors open at 7:30 and the dance

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Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7

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

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

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Fri: (4:10), 7:10, 9:10

Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:10

THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES

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Mon – Thurs: (4)

Fri: (4)

Sat & Sun: (2), (4)

Tennessee Jed at ITC Saturday night

This Saturday night March 8 brings Highlands a premiere musical experience that will satisfy the country soul that brought us here and keeps us here. You don't have to leave Highlands to fulfill your yearning for the blend of guitars, mandolins, banjo, fiddle, bass and harmonizing vocals that makes up bluegrass and country music.



Tennessee Jed

Add some drums to change up some rhythms and the body starts to tingle. Locals seldom get a chance to hear fresh, new bluegrass-country music stepped up a notch, and played live by top musicians you would usually have to travel miles to hear. At 8 p.m.

Tennessee Jed and his band will present Jed's original music that is blended with tradition, spiced with southern rock, and peppered occasionally with reggie and swing to make the perfect auditory cocktail. The Instant

Theatre Company is presenting Tennessee Jed in concert (dancing is allowed around the seating area for those who can't contain their feet) for this one show. Make a reservation now to assure you an experience far outside the box of humdrum. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Admission \$15

The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main is located at

310 Main Street, Oak Square in downtown Highlands. Reservations are not required (but highly recommended).

The Box office number is 828-342-9197. Beer, wine, water and soft drinks are available for purchase. Email the ITC at instanttheatre@verizon.net and request the newsletter to keep up with the companies offerings of plays, concerts, dances, improv, standup comedy, literary readings and the occasional movie.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

begins at 8 p.m.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 4.5 mile hike from Sloan Bridge to

Upper Whitewater Falls with beautiful wintertime views along the way. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 14 miles round trip.

– A Review –



Carla Gates as Diana and Wayne Coleman as Tito Merelli in HCPs "Lend Me a Tenor" playing at PAC March 7-9.

Every so often a production becomes a showcase for one actor in particular and such is the case for Stuart Armor in the Highlands Community Players "Lend Me a Tenor" playing at the Performing Arts Center March 7-9.

A familiar face on the HCP stage, Armor usually plays a key supporting character but this time, the show is his.

We watch him (Max) evolve from an insecure, sniveling boyfriend, and "possible" son-in-law, to a top-notch opera singer, the object of outrageous female attention and a man secure in his position in life.

Armor's portrayal of Otello with his blackened face, curly black wig and yes, Armor's signature eye-glasses, make this show funnier than playwright Ken Ludwig could ever imagine.

Breta Stroud (Maggie) and Carla Gates (Diana) are really too much as over-the-top fans of opera singer Tito Merelli played by Wayne Coleman, and don't mind baring it all (well, almost all) for the him or the audience.

Newcomer to the HCP stage Bob Tietze (opera manager Henry Saunders) does a fine job feigning disgust, frustration, anger and humility as Max's boss and Maggie's father.

Rounding out the cast are Diane Rosazza who plays Tito's volatile, emotionally charged overly Italian wife; Jody

Read, plays chairperson of the Opera Guild; and Dean Zuch, the zany bellhop.

The story:

World famous tenor Tito Merelli is scheduled to sing at a gala fundraiser for the Cleveland Grand Opera. Opera manager Henry Saunders orders his assistant and soon-to-be son-in-law Max to keep a close eye on Merelli, who is known for his drinking and his delight in the fairer sex who delight in him as well.

Shortly before the opera performance, Merelli is unable to go on, and there is a wild scramble to find another tenor to replace him. This is when the plot's twists and turns really get funny.

All goes haywire, of course, which is the reason this show is funny and as is the plan, it doesn't really swing into action or rather complete mayhem, until the second act.

The first act introduces all the characters, depicting their relationships and literally setting the stage for what follows in the second act.

Every actor is key to this performance which is just plain fun.

For tickets, call the box office at 828-526-8084 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shows are at 7:30 and 2:30 for the Sunday matinee.

– Kim Lewicki

Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettle, 743-1079, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• Smoky Mountain Beekeepers' one-day beginner bee school 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Swain County Extension Center/Southwestern Community Center (old Almond school) just west of Bryson City, in Swain County. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. There is a \$10 charge, payable at the door. Lunch and resource materials will be provided free of charge.

Sunday, March 16

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5-mile hike around the historic Tessentee Farm, preserved by the Little Tennessee Land Trust. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors' Center on Hwy. 441 near Otto. Drive 6 miles round trip. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Monday, March 17

• "Risky Behaviors and What Every Parent Should Know" 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Franklin High School Fine Arts Center, Franklin. The program will consist of research, personal experiences, and recommendations directly from an area family that lost a child in similar circumstances and the community agencies that were involved in dealing with the tragedy. The program is co-sponsored by

Macon County Schools and the Macon County Sheriff's Dept.

Tuesday, March 18

• Hunting Heritage Super Fund Auction and Dinner will help benefit the National Wild Turkey Conservation at 6 p.m. at the Dillard House Conference Center in Dillard, GA. Tickets are \$55 and help support wildlife management on public, private and corporate lands and preserve hunting as sport.

Friday, March 21

• 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

• 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 Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9 a.m. Drive 16 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader, Walker Taylor, 743-6977, for

• See **EVENTS** page 24

'Sing In' – a Spring concert at First Presbyterian



The music committee of First Presbyterian Church and the music department of Western Carolina University are co-sponsoring a faculty showcase concert entitled "Sing In the Spring" at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 9.

The program will be a festival of songs and arias featuring faculty members Bill Martin, tenor, Bradley Martin, piano, and showcasing several of Western Carolina University's finest vocal

majors. Many of these students are recent competition winners in the statewide National Association of Teachers of Singing auditions.

The program will offer an attractive blend of selections from musicals, classical songs and arias, as well as songs of faith. The free concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main Street. A reception will follow the performance.

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

SERVERS AND COUNTER HELP NEEDED at Sweet Treats, Highlands. Call 526-9822.

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@hamptoninn-nc.com. Call Sabrina for interview 828-526-5899.

CNA or CNA II for ER and Acute Care at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time positions for 12 hour shifts. Unit clerk skills preferred. Must be able to provide quality patient care, be professional, and be self motivated. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

EMERGENCY ROOM RN'S needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. One Full-time and two

Part-time positions available. 12 hour night shifts. Shift and weekend differentials. BCLS and ACLS required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

DIRECTOR OF NURSING is needed in the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina. Experienced nurse leader for a 24 bed Critical Access Hospital, responsible for managing a budget, quality of patient care, customer satisfaction, and the oversight of management for the Acute Care Unit (Med/Surg), ER, OR, PACU and GI Lab, Hospice, and Cardio-Pulmonary. Must be able to provide leadership for managers and staff, and conduct recruitment and retention activities. Masters degree with a background in nursing leadership required. This position reports directly to the CEO/President of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, working closely with the QA Nurse Manager and the VP of Operations. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST 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.

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

YARD SALE

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., a multi-family sale, household goods, a little bit of everything. At ...on the Verandah, 1536 Franklin Road.

WORK WANTED

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

EXPERIENCED FINISH CARPENTER: Call Alfredo at 828-349-1590. 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 864-886-9986. 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 RENT

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.

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

RESIDENTIAL SPACE FOR RENT

SAPPHIRE MOUNTAIN CLUB - Furnished River Run II Condominium, access to all amenities! \$600 monthly plus utilities. First month and \$400 Security deposit required. Contact Kim 342-8490 - 3/20

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

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

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

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

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

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

VACATION RENTAL

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

THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE - Fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, 3-day

min. Call 828-342-2302.

ON LAKE SEQUOYAH - Three master suites with jetted tubs and showers, sleeping nook with private bath, 4 fireplaces, 2 living areas, newly renovated. Private dock with canoe and firepit. Call 828-342-2302.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

MOTOR COACH SITE -DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS. With Cedar shake 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.JTIMMS.com/HIDDENCREEK or contact owner directly at 828-526-5333.

LOTS FOR SALE - .85 AC lot off Turtle Pond. Backs to USFS. Views. \$30K; .90 AC lot, drive cut in. \$30k. 2-bed septic approved. Ready to build. New shared well for both. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

SCALY MOUNTAIN Building lots, views, creeks, wooded. 2-5 acres, start at \$150,000 by owner, owner financing available. (404) 831-0222 or gonzobean@aol.com. 3/6/08

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

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

HOUSE FOR SALE (ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA) - Two bedroom, one and 1/2 bath conch house for sale at Mile Marker 86, near Founders Park on Oceanside. House sits on a 8,520 square foot lot in a great subdivision with a public boat ramp on the next street over. Founders Park, which is across the street, has a park with a boat ramp, marina, pool, beach, tennis courts, etc. Great deal - owner moving out of state. \$475,000. Call 305-852-4369 for more info.

OCEAN FRONT - Beautiful home in Surf City, N.C. zoned residential/commercial. Walk to pier and town. 7-bed, 4 full baths. Separate apartment. Good rental income. Call 919-340-2280.

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

LAND BY OWNER - 3/4 acre lot. Close to Toan. Very, very, level building lot. Community water available. \$79,000. Call Ginger at 828-526-4959.

OCEANFRONT LOT KEY LARGO, FLORIDA - Cleared, buildable with all services. Last unimproved lot in Silver Shores subdivision. \$599,900. For information and photos call Frank (954) 964-7649 or email ft442@bellsouth.net.

ITEMS FOR SALE

PAIR OF DESIGNER WING BACK CHAIRS - Fabric with velvet trim. Neutral colors in Brown, cream/gold muted \$375. Coordinating area carpet roughly 8 x 10 (can be cut to size) 526-4340 8-5

BARELY USED 30GB 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. \$300. Call 743-5151.

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

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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.

ANTIQUA FURNITURE FOR SALE. Double size spool bed \$300. Queen Anne sofa, 2 side chairs and rocking chair \$1,000. Will sell separately. Call Bob at SweetTreats 828 526-9822 or 828 369-6263.

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

MISC. ITEMS -- Play Station 2 \$75; Old Walt Disney movies (never opened); Indoor plants; Girls' bicycle; Collectible Basketball Cards (never opened). Call 526-9123.

SNOW TIRES For Ford Expedition 03-05 factory rims. Complete set of 4 only \$400. Size 17 x 75 J. Call Wolfgang at 526-8396.

POOL TABLE -- Peter Vitalie 8' x 50" pool table, burl wood rails, upgrades leather pockets, new upgraded felt -- oak in color -- \$3,400. Table located in Cashiers, Call 770-313-0899.

BARBOUR COAT Burghley Duster. \$350. Call 526-9027.

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SEII BUNK BED SET -- Very Nice Desk; One 11X15 rug, Lt. in color, very good condition; Mountain Bike w/car carrier, helmet. Call 828-526-4064.

ANTIQUA ORNATE WALNUT Victorian gold velvet sofa and blue chair. Call 369-0498 and leave message.

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

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ANTIQUA CHERRY DINING TABLE from Estate Sale. Double drop-leaf. Rope carved legs. Seats 4-10 people Extends to 4x10 ft \$1,500 obo 828-787-1515

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

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

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SLEEPER SOFA -- Neutral Plaid. Like New. \$145. Call 864-972-8525.

SOLID DARK OAK DINETTE CABINET. 19"x64"x84". 3 glass windows on top. 3 drawers on bottom. 2 bottom doors with keys. Imported from Belgium. Excellent condition. \$1,500. Call 369-3250.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

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2003 VOLKSWAGON JETTA GLS SEDAN -- 4-door, 5-speed, AC, Power Everything. Cruise, Premium Sound System, Moon Roof, Leather Seats, 85,000 miles. \$10,500. Call 526-3606.

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2006 SUZUKI DR 200SE MOTORCYCLE -- 29 miles, only, perfect condition, 1-cylinder, 4-stroke, 199cc. \$3,000. Call 828-342-6789 or home at 828-526-5507.

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... LETTERS continued from page 26

Town should control use & design of security gates

Dear Editor,

Why are so many unmanned so-called security gates being installed in the residential areas of Highlands? Do we have a severe crime problem? Do these gates add anything to the quiet rural mountain atmosphere of Highlands, or do they detract from it? Do they offer real security or a false sense of security? Or as someone else had written; "Unmanned gates are simply a faddish and pretentious accouterment to make ordinary homeowners feed extraordinary." Security from what? Are they designed properly? Will these gates open automatically and remain open during a wide

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

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LOST DOG "SALTY" -- Black and white female Lab mix. Medium-size. Missing from around Owl Gap Road on N.C. 106. Please call 828-526-4575.

LEGAL

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 pled in bar of their recovery. 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., 28741
3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27

TOWN BOARD AGENDA

The next regular meeting of the Town Board was re-scheduled from March 5 to March 12 in the conference room of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

The agenda:

I. Call to order.
II. Approve agenda.
III. Approve minutes of Feb. 27
Special Board Meeting and Regular Board Meeting.

IV. Public Comment Period.

V. Reports.

1. Mayor.

2. Committees.

3. Town Attorney.

4. Engineer/Public Services

Administrator.

5. Police Chief.

6. Recreation Director.

7. Planner/Zoning Administrator.

8. Treasurer.

9. Town Administrator.

VI. Old Business.

1. Outdoor Display of Merchandise.

VII. New Business.

1. Proposed Zoning Amendments - Offsite Parking.

2. Proposed Parks & Recreation Use Policy.

3. Bids on surplus vehicles.

4. Bids on Police unclaimed property.

5. Budget requests to Macon County, Jackson County, and Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

6. Final subdivision plat - Riverwalk Phase III.

VIII. Adjourn.

power outage, so emergency vehicles can enter, and residents exit?

I am writing this letter to ask Town Officials to think about these questions and to issue a moratorium until a study is conducted on the design of these obtrusive devices.

The Town Ordinance should be amended to take into account proper design requirements. Perhaps this topic could be placed on the agenda for the next Planning Board and Town Board meetings. Unmanned gates should not obstruct a right of way, cause a traffic back-up onto a main road or impede emergency vehicles. They also need a

large turn-around area for at least a forty foot delivery truck.

Every home caretaker, landscaper, cleaning person, UPS & FedEx driver, contractor, electrician, plumber, carpenter, etc., from Brevard to Clayton would know the entry code or have access to it through friends. You might as well post the entry code on the bulletin boards at Brysons Store or the Post Office. Where is the security? Security from what? Unmanned security gates are more of a detriment than an asset.

Paul Thompson
Highlands

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Sunday, March 23

• First Presbyterian Church will host an old-fashioned hymn-sing at 4 p.m. Those attending may choose a hymn from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. The song leader will be Stell Huie and Angie Jenkins will play the piano.

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.

Thurs.-Fri., March 27-29

• Parallel Lives II/Graceland at ITC. This talented group of ladies (plus others) will be presenting two nights of fun and entertainment with Graceland / Parallel Lives II, directed by Mary Adair

Leslie. A joint effort of the Highlands Community Players and The Instant Theatre Company, many familiar faces will grace the stage from last year's sell-out performances of Parallel Lives as well as some new talent. The women will play all roles, both male and female, and include Mary Bynum, Katie Cochran, Bonnie Earman, Carla Gates, Jenny King, Mary Adair Leslie, Dianne Rosazza, Ronnie Spilton, Breta Stroud, and Sandie Trevathan.

Graceland, by Ellen Byron is the story of two of "The King's" biggest fans on the day that Graceland opens to the public. A poignant and funny one-act play, Graceland stars Mary Bynum and Carla Gates. Contains adult language and situations. Reservations are strongly suggested. Call the ITC Box Office at 828-342-9197.

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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Art Center unveils new name: The Bascom

New logo, website also launch

In keeping with its new multi-million-dollar facility and a top-notch lineup of 2008 classes and exhibits, the community's art center now has a new name, logo and website to match.

The Fine Art Center/Bascom-Louise Gallery has now become The Bascom, a center for the visual arts.

"It's no longer such a mouthful," said Bob Fisher, chair of the board of directors. "In the past, people didn't know whether to call us The Fine Art Center or the Bascom-Louise Gallery, or FAC or the BLG. We feel our new name truly reflects our mission, plus respects the historical roots the Bascom family provided so many years ago."

Deciding on "The Bascom" involved the work of a subcommittee. Members immediately agreed that the name should pay homage to the art center's history, but they were adamant that it be easy to say and easy to remember.

The subcommittee unanimously liked



The "b" of The Bascom is reflected in this unique, hand-drawn letter.

The Bascom from the start, and they wanted to make sure the name was a good match for the art center. They engaged a design firm, Design One in Asheville, to help research the name and develop a fitting logo.

"We surveyed our board members, a sample of community members and other interested parties to find out what they thought our name should reflect," said Pat

Patrick, chair of The Bascom's naming/branding subcommittee. "Time and again, what we heard convinced us that The Bascom was the right name for our new art center."

The logo is unique – a hand-drawn, rustic artistic representation of the mountain art center. The "b" of The Bascom and the brown tones of the logo are designed to reflect the natural beauty of the mountain landscape.

And the redesigned website, <http://www.thebascom.org>, which launches this month, highlights the art center's many offerings, including information on art classes, rotating exhibitions, events, new facility and more.

"2008 is going to be an amazing year for us," said Linda Steigleder, The Bascom's new executive director. "Please explore our offerings and, if you are not already a member, join us. It's the best way to support art in this community."

Attorney Sossomon's license in jeopardy

The N.C. Bar Association has suspended Highlands attorney Creighton "Zeke" Sossomon's license to practice law for one year due to a violation of the professional rules of conduct, officials said Monday.

Following a two-day hearing held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 29 and March 1 in Raleigh, a three-person panel of two lawyers and one lay person found Sossomon

failed to adhere to established conflict of interest regulations.

However, until the written report ordering the suspension has been issued, Sossomon is free to practice law, said officials.

Collaboration between the state's attorney and Sossomon's attorney concerning the working of the order is taking place and could take three days or longer, they said.

The order can be modified, by agreement of all parties before it is signed, so the final order may not be exactly like the announced result on Saturday. The order can also be appealed, in which case there would be no suspension until the appeal is decided.

The grievance against Sossomon was filed with the N.C. Bar Association by Sanders Dupree because Sossomon represented two parties during the closing of a real estate transaction concerning the a tract of

land on U.S. 64 where a multi-story condominium is planned.

Sossomon said he represented Linda David, when she sold the parcel to Sanders Dupree and was also asked to represent Dupree when he sold it to the developer of the condominium. Problems arose over details of the deed concerning covenants and allowances on the property which caused relationships to become strained.

Sossomon claims he verbally told both parties he was representing them, but "The panel ruled that I failed to follow the letter of conflict requirement because I didn't get written consent," said Sossomon. "I cannot dispute what happend."

Once the written order is agreed upon by both the state attorney and Sossomon's attorney and subsequently finalized, Sossomon will have 30 days to wind up his practice.

**Century
21 Mtn.
welcomes
new
agent**



Kay Britton

CENTURY 21 Mountain Lifestyles is pleased to announce the following agent has joined its firm as a sales associate, specializing in residential sales: Kay Britton to the Highlands Office.

Born and raised in the Mid-West (Missouri & Illinois), Kay lived for 12 years in Colorado, where she was the Director of Sales & Marketing for upscale hotels there. After that, Kay moved to Lake Keowee, SC, then recently to Highlands, where she is happy to be back in the mountains. Married to a real estate developer, Kay enjoys hiking with her Chesapeake Retriever, Lucy, as well as golfing, practicing Pilates and cooking gourmet foods.

... GANTENBEIN continued from page 1

tory discovery, a motion for discovery, a motion to suppress evidence and/or motion to quash, a motion for bill of particulars and discovery and inspection and a state's motion for discovery.

Michael Gantenbein's lawyer, James E. Moorman, III, filed a motion for discovery and inspection of the state's motion for discovery on the same day.

The prosecuting attorney is Julie Knight. The presiding judge is Reginald T. Badeaux, III.

The men are facing felony drug pos-

session and distribution charges stemming from a traffic stop on Interstate 12 near Covington, LA, in January 5, 2007.

Louisiana State Troopers found more than 300 pounds of marijuana in the trunk of a car being towed on a roll back truck owned by Michael Gantenbein.

Larry Gantenbein, who was driving the vehicle at the time of the arrest, was pulled over for improper lane usage.

Both men claim they didn't know what was in the car they were hauling from Texas to Alabama.



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... FLU continued from page 17

to singing one verse of "Twinkle, twinkle little Star, Happy Birthday, or reciting your ABCs – though doing so out loud may draw more than a few inquisitive stares from strangers, or even loved ones, who are within earshot.

Barloga says putting a little distance (about three feet) between you and another person also helps cut down on the chance of infection. And if you are sick, the best thing is to stay home to reduce the chance of spreading the virus to others. With flu or anything else, cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. If you use your hands for that purpose, go wash them immediately. Respiratory droplets coughed or sneezed onto surfaces is the way viruses typically spread.

Of course, there is no sure-fire means of inoculating oneself from the flu or other types of viruses.

However, it's still not too late to get a flu shot, she adds. While the three vaccines in this year's batch aren't very good matches against the strains of influenza currently making the rounds, it still offers what's called "cross protection" to the recipient.

"Even though they may not keep you from getting the kind of flu that's out there right now, the antibodies your body will build up in response to the vaccine can help keep you from getting as sick," she explains.

Remarkably enough, the Fidelia Eck-

erd Living Center has yet to see its first case of flu this season. Still, officials are asking family members and visitors not to visit family members in either the Living Center or the hospital if they have any symptoms of illness, or even if they have anyone at home who is ill.

That's because adults can pass influenza on a day before they actually experience symptoms, and up to five days after becoming sick. Children may be infectious for longer than seven days, according to the Center of Disease Control. And a few people can have the flu virus, and be contagious, without actually experiencing any symptoms.

If you do start to experience flu-like symptoms, see your primary-care physician as soon as possible, says Barloga. A simple test can determine if it is the flu, and your physician can prescribe an antiviral drug, such as Tamiflu®, which can block an enzyme that enables the influenza virus to spread from one cell to another. On average, it can reduce the duration of symptoms by one and a half days. But the catch is that treatment must start within the first 48 hour from the onset of symptoms.

Like all viruses, antibiotics aren't effective against the flu. They can, however, help knock out secondary bacterial infections such as pneumonia.

Community asked to fill out Macon County Schools survey

Each year, the Macon County Board of Education and Administration conducts a review its progress toward established goals and priorities as a school system.

To ensure current input from various stakeholders within the county, an annual survey is conducted. Your assistance is needed!

The data collected from these surveys will assist with the development of the district and school level goals for the upcoming year.

At the district level, survey results will also help to provide valuable information for budget development and staff training.

Parents, students and staff have been provided surveys through email and other

processes to ensure the greatest level of participation from those stakeholders. The final group to be provided access to the stakeholder survey process is members from the community and local businesses.

Business and community members are invited to complete the short, voluntary electronic survey through March 14, 2008. All surveys will be kept anonymous and will only be used as a group census.

To access the Macon County School System Community Stakeholder Survey, please go to: <http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB227CP4ZX825>

Stakeholder surveys may also be accessed on our district web site at www.mcsk-12.org.

... MINISTRY continued from page 14

pointed to a church to serve for a number of years and then move or 'itinerate' to another community of faith."

Pastor Harris is committing himself to a lifetime of moving from church to church to church, and, since he will never be a member of any of those churches, he cannot vote on any committee or church matter.

"Pastor Mike has many good years of

service to render to our conference, but the itineracy insures that only some of those of years will be spent in Highlands," said Pastor Struble. "Who knows? He could be such an effective pastor that one day he'll be my district superintendent and I'll have to answer to him! The wise Methodist preacher burns very few bridges. You never know when you might have to cross them again."

... LETTERS continued from page 2

does not salute the flag of the United States, does not recite the "Pledge of Allegiance", belongs to a "church" that prohibits whites, or that he took his oaths of office on the Koran. We cannot point out that Barrack had suspicious real estate dealings with an indicted political fundraiser or that Mrs. Obama, for the first time in over 45 years, she is 'finally proud to be an American,' and in her senior year thesis while attending Princeton University, expressed her belief that all blacks should band together, since they are treated differently and segregated, we would certainly be labeled "racists."

The likes of Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton can march into any area of "civil unrest" and create turmoil, generate racial tension, all under the guise of black Christian leadership, get their 15 minutes of media/TV exposure and leave, letting the situation fester. They can lie, make false allegations, publicly indict an innocent person and never have to be accountable for the harm and damage they have done. Neither are they accountable to the IRS for their livelihood, the source of their income or how they spend this money. While I, on the other hand, as an angry white American man, having worked all my adult life and paid my taxes will be accused of "racism" for daring to criticize these black "Leaders."

The angry white American man educates himself on the issues and positions of the individuals seeking nomination/ election to public office. He does not act like a "lemming" and just follow the "crowd" or the "party" line. He evaluates

each candidate on their individual merits or past history, and does not blindly accept what the "spin" offers. He is not swayed by an "orator" that only renders speeches, he looks for the essence of the message. He gets truly angry when, as is the present day practice, his views and questions are never given the light of day or response.

Basically, the angry white America man is not racist, but he does get angry when politicians and self-appointed "leaders" stir up public unrest without fear of repercussion. He gets angry when corrupt politicians get away with bribery, abusing public trust and in some cases, murder. He gets angry when less qualified, illegal workers take away jobs. He could be either Democratic or Republican, he works hard, pays taxes, provides for his family and has a deep love of his country. He does not look for a hand-out, he makes his own way, the way his father did. He would be hard-pressed to apply for welfare. He wants a level playing field where he and his children have the same opportunities as everyone else and the same benefits. And he expects those elected to office to represent him and not the interests of lobbyists and special interest groups. He salutes the American flag out of love and respect, gets a lump in his throat at the National Anthem and believes the Constitution is the solid and only basis upon which this country was founded.

Joseph F. Hall
Franklin, NC

• See LETTERS page 23

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FIRE & MC SHERIFF

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Feb. 27-March 5.

- Feb. 27
 - The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical cal at a residence on Dog Mountain Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- Feb. 29
 - The dept. responded to an alarm set off by workers.
- March 3
 - The dept. responded to a brush fire on Short Off Road that started as a controlled burn. It was extinguished.
- March 5
 - The dept. responded to a vehicle accident on N.4th Street where a motorist slid on black ice.
 - The dept. responded to a three-car accident on Buck Creek and Cole Mountain Circle where motorists slid on ice.

The following is the Macon County Sheriff Dept. log entries for the Highlands Township for the week of March 3.

- March 3
 - Deputies responded to an alarm activation at a residence on Flat Mountain Road. It was set off by weather.

... CHOKING from page 4

holding your breath, breathing rapidly, hang gliding, parachuting, the rush of doing something on the edge.

What are the results for such actions? Bruises, concussions, broken bones, seizures, brain damage, retinal hemorrhaging, stroke and death.

Though sometimes no warning signs are apparent, warning signs of the Choking Game — include: frequent often severe headaches, inexplicable bruising or red linear marks around the neck, bloodshot eyes and Petechiae (tiny red dots) on face, changes in attitude overly aggressive), disorientation and grogginess after being alone,un usual demands for privacy, curiosity about asphyxiation as in asking how it feels and what happens if?

Signs in the home may include: locked or blocked bedroom or bathroom doors, ligatures (bed sheets, belts, tee-shirts, ties, ropes, dog leashes) tied in strange knots or found in unusual places, internet history of websites or chat rooms mentioning asphyxiation or the Choking Game, wear marks on furniture (ex: bunk beds, closet rods)

Common slang names include: 5 minutes of Heaven, 7 Minutes 'Til Heaven, Airplaning, America dream(ing), Black out, Black Hole, Breath Play, California High, Choke Out, Chocking (Game), Cloud Nine, Dream (Game), Elevator (Game), Fainting game, Flatline game, Flat liner

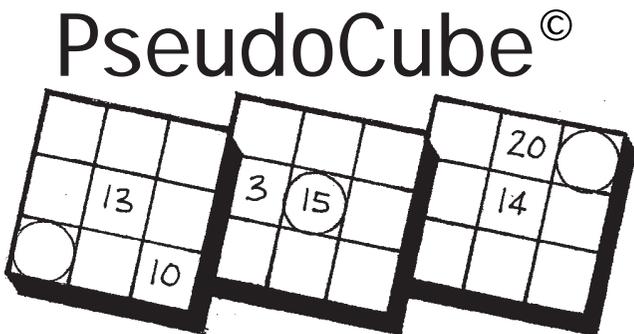
(Game), Funky Chicken, Gasp (ing) (Game), Hang (ing) Game, Hangman (Game), Harvey Wall banger, High riser (Game), Hyperventilating, Knock-Out (Game), Lions and Tigers, Pass(ing) –Out, Purple Dragon, Natural high, Rising Sun, Rush, Sleeping Game, Sleeper Hold, Snuff (Game), Something dreaming, Space cowboy, Space monkey, Speed Dreaming, Suffocation (Game), Suffocation roulette, Teen choking game, Tingling game, Twitching Game.

If anyone suspects a child of participating in these kinds of games, they should intercede and if needed, notify an authority figure – law enforcement, minister, doctor or counselor.

... COACH from page 16

While it is impossible to know how the Packers will fare next year in the hands of Aaron Rodgers, it is certain that there will be a void this season at Lambeau Field. I imagine that I will get the same feeling when Coach K decides to retire—that's about the only legendary icon that is "one of mine" so to speak. Fortunately, that day has not arrived yet, so I will fail to understand the feelings of Packer fans. While Tuesday was just another day for many of us in the sports world, for fans in Green Bay, something truly important happened that day.

• FUN & GAMES •



#AZ1D – Level of Difficulty – Hard

THE SETUP:

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

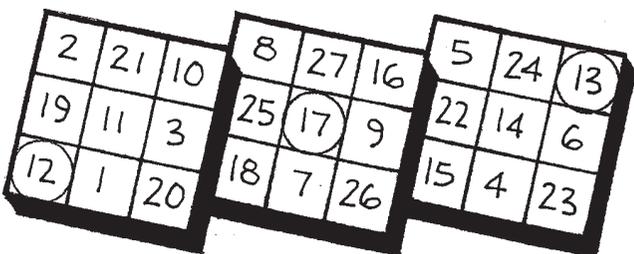
THE CHALLENGE:

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

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

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com

Solution to #DZ2D in Feb. 28 issue



N-Cryptoku

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

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

Mystery Word

"To Use Artistic Representation"

Across

1. To _ or not to _ (2)
2. Exists (2)
3. Elizabeth (abb) (3)
4. Wizard of __ (2)
5. Conjunction (2)

Down

6. 'The' (Fr. masc.) (2)
7. Business (slang) (3)
8. Polynesian flower necklace (3)
9. 'Them' (slang) (2)
10. Personal Pronoun (2)

I		Z	M		Y	⁶ L		O
	M			B			I	
		B			Z			Y
	Z	²	S		M		O	
S			M	⁷	O	⁸	I	⁹ E
	O	³			E		Y	
		⁴ O		E			¹⁰ S	
	S		O	B		E		
Z	E		M	⁵	O		B	

Solution to Feb. 28 puzzle

T	U	R	L	S	H	P	O	E
S	O	P	E	U	T	L	R	H
H	L	E	R	O	P	U	S	T
O	S	T	P	R	E	H	U	L
U	P	H	O	L	S	T	E	R
E	R	L	H	T	U	O	P	S
P	H	S	T	E	O	R	L	U
L	T	U	S	P	R	E	H	O
R	E	O	U	H	L	S	T	P

Find It All On This Map

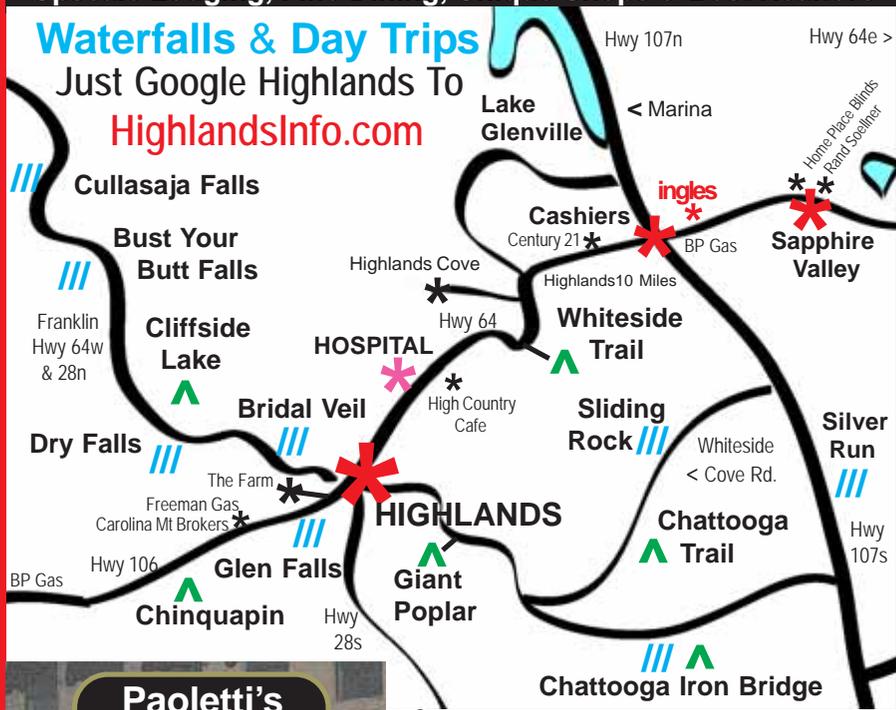
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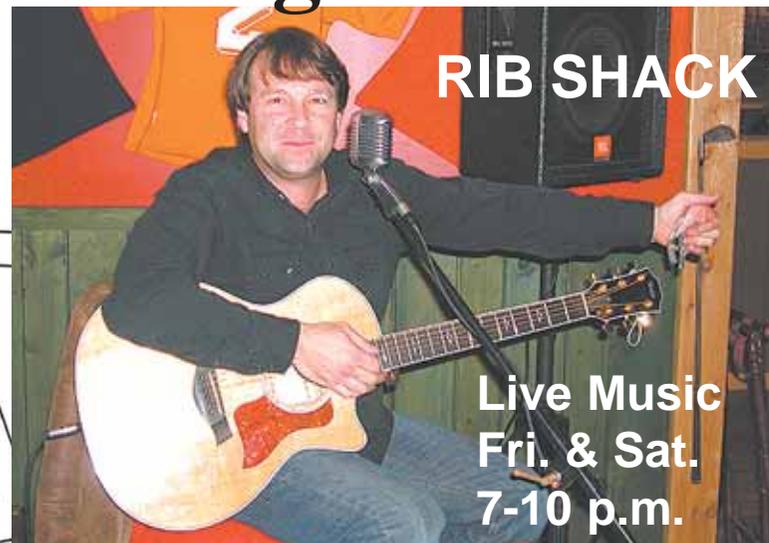
Waterfalls & Day Trips

Just Google Highlands To

HighlandsInfo.com

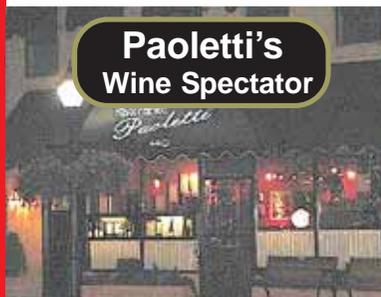


2008 Highlands Map

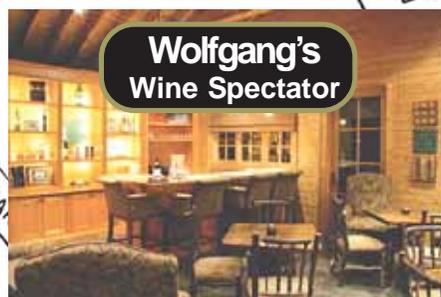


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Wine Spectator

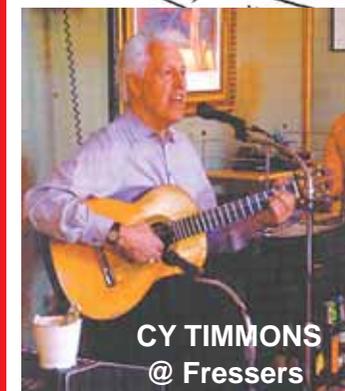


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DINING	Shopping	Real Estate
1 Cyprus	1 Acorns	1 Century 21
2 Fressers	2 AnnaWear	2 Country Club
3 Golden China	3 Bear Mt. Outfit.	3 John Cleaveland
4 Log Cabin	4 Chintz Antiques	4 John Schiffl
5 Madison's	5 Dry Sink	5
6 Oak St Cafe	6 JacksonMadeleine	
7 Paoletti	7 Raspberry Fizz	Galleries
8 Pescado's	8 Silver Eagle	1 Bryant Art Glass
9 Rib Shack	9 Shiraz Rugs	2 Tino Gallery
10 Sports Page	10 Village Kids	3 Twigs
11 Wolfgang's	11 Wholesale Down	4 Scudders
		5 Summit One



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ABC

Police

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ATM Bank

Bank ATM

Carolina Way

Wayah Insurance

Rainy Day Golf

MovieStop

Brick Oven

Cimarron

MAPLE ST.

OAK ST.

SPRUCE ST.

LAUREL ST.

SPRING ST.

CHURCH ST.