UDO and recycling topics at TB

The scope and cost of the project has been discussed for sometime and now it’s a go. At the Sept. 17 Town Board meeting, commissioners voted unanimously to allocate the budgeted $100,000 toward a combination Unified Development Ordinance/Parking and Traffic Circulation Study. Town Planner Joe Cooley has been negotiating with Wilbur Smith Associates to combine the projects and build all reimbursables into the project. “The will be more on top of that $100,000 price,” he said. Together the studies could take up to a year to complete. Wilbur Smith Associates and its subcontractor Land Design will do the work augmented by ongoing input from the town’s planning.

MC sheriff defends traffic stops

On Sept. 4 Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland addressed the board of the International Friendship Center in Highlands about its perception that his officers are profiling Latinos in the Highlands and Franklin communities.

Only select members of the press and the community were invited to the meeting.

Highlands’ Newspaper wasn’t invited or informed of the meeting but has talked to the Sheriff’s Dept. after the fact.

“About two months ago, The International Friendship Center (IFC) asked me to come speak to its board because of concerns about how we were conducting business. I had no idea anyone but the board would be there nor did I know members of the community not affiliated with the IFC or that the press would be there,” said Holland. “I was told when I got there that they had invited all these people and asked me if I minded. Of course, I didn’t mind because I don’t have anything to hide.”

Everyone present was supplied a handout depicting the number of male and female drivers stopped over a year, broken down by each offense.

Students remember...

On Thursday, Sept. 11, Ms. Hedden’s 5th grade class raised a special flag in honor of those who have served and for all who have fallen for our country – including the victims of 9/11. Representative Heath Shuler gave Remy Adrian a flag that flew over the nation’s capital in honor of his late father Jack Adrian who was a veteran of the Vietnam War. Prior to raising the flag, Remy read a report depicting his hero and Principal Brian Jetter read Rep. Shuler’s personal letter to Remy.

Photo by Kim Lewicki
Sheriff’s checkpoints proper, not discriminatory

Dear Editor,

As a retired deputy sheriff and one who was recently stopped at a checkpoint on West Palmer Street in Franklin, I can attest to the fact that the check point was properly done, without prejudice, and with officers who were at their best in exercising professionalism. Every vehicle was being stopped in each direction, making it unlikely for any discrimination to occur.

In recent reports, Sheriff Holland articulated the reasons for and the evolution of the checkpoints here in Macon County, leaving no room for any valid accusation of discrimination. As the chief law enforcement officer of our county, Sheriff Holland cannot be blamed outside the four corners of the law for appeasing special interest groups or organizations, and he has not been. While the work of many advocacy groups is noble, they should not suggest the Sheriff do anything other than what he is already doing, public safety and law enforcement.

The fact that most illegal Hispanics in Macon County are hard working and honest people is not relevant to the issue of them driving illegally on the roadway. I have defended those same illegal aliens in another Letter to the Editor when they were unfairly targeted for being suspected of working on the Veterans Memorial project. However, the issue of driving with or without a driver’s license is clear cut and should leave the Sheriff out of the political debate of whether illegal residents should or should not be issued a driver’s license. The fact is, they have entered the country without process and are not eligible to obtain a North Carolina driver’s license.

International Friendship Center’s board member Jeff Butler’s statement that “the increase in checkpoints creates hardships for many people valued in the community who can no longer get valid driver’s licenses” is factual but the Sheriff is not responsible for nor does he have the authority to change existing laws. Sheriff Holland has walked a delicate and fair line with regard to our residents who are illegal aliens.

If we were not so, we would not have any here and we would not see so many driving around. The IFC seems to be a noble organization but perhaps they are barking up the wrong tree when criticizing police checkpoints.

I feel for those Hispanics who are “just trying to make an honest living” but like Thoreau suggested, while civil disobedience is sometimes the way to change things, those willing to violate the law through civil disobedience must be willing to accept the consequences.

I have spoken to many (illegal) Hispanics in the area and they are well aware that they are breaking the law (when driving without a driver’s license) and also aware they are subject to arrest if caught.

As usual, Sheriff Holland engaged, and meeting with the IFC was a good idea. Hopefully that meeting gave IFC members a better understanding of what the Sheriff’s job is, and what it isn’t.

Chris Murray
Franklin

Understand inflammatory distortions for what they are

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to Don Swanson’s “Conservative POV” column published Sept. 4, 2008. In it he quotes one of His favorite social commentators, Mark Steyn. His thesis was that the degree of chaos and violence in a country is directly related to the percentage of its population that is Muslim. My concern is that the words he writes inflame fear and prejudice. The intent to whip up fear in this column is deplorable and all too common in an election year. It causes people to respond and make choices that are ill-informed.

There are other explanations for the trends he reports as facts in other countries. Most important, it seems to me, is a country’s ability to absorb its immigrants, and provide job opportunities. It is poverty and despair that lead to violence.

In America, there are three different sources of Muslims, Muslim immigrants, American converts to Islam, and the children of these groups. Muslim immigrants in America come from a wide variety of backgrounds, among them, African-American, South Asian (India and Pakistan), Arab, SE Asian (Thailand, Indonesia). It is not one group. They are seeking a better life for themselves and their families, as many of our ancestors did, too. Mr. Swanson’s column invites prejudiced conclusions that inflame dissent.

I am concerned, also, that in these hot election times, when lies about Obama being Muslim circulate widely, that stirring up fear about Muslims is the new bigotry. It may be a wee bit more politically correct to overtly denigrate Muslims than Blacks these days...but it may be “code” for fear of having a potential President of color. The price of freedom in our land, is that such inflammatory distortions can be printed. BUT THEY MUST NOT GO UNCHALLENGED.

Carole Light, Ph.D.
Scaly Mountain

‘Letter’ jackets not the whole story

Dear Editor,

I would like to address the featured Highlands School athletes in the last issue of the Highlands’ Newspaper.

While it is commendable that these students “earned” these jackets, it is important to note that there are many more athletes at Highlands School who have the same credentials and chosen not to purchase the jackets (half of the money for the jackets was donated by the Booster Club and the other half by the student’s families).

There are many opportunities to demonstrate school spirit and while these jackets are a fine way to show it, students should not feel any less important or worthy because they chose not to purchase one.

All the athletes at Highlands who letter in a sport should be recognized and recognized for their participation in any of the sports programs offered by Highlands School; not just the ones who happen to purchase jackets. It seems to give the athletes who have jackets a superior attitude.

And really, if the Booster club is placing so much emphasis on the jackets, they should pay for the whole cost of the jacket to any eligible athlete!

Noel Atherton
Highlands

Slanted for DNC

Dear Editor,

After reading Dr. Salzarulo’s Sept. 4 column in this newspaper, I concluded that it should have been prefaced by the following caveat:

“WARNING: This column has been edited and approved by the DNC. All material contained herein is a restatement of the slanderous lies, very low class, unwarranted personal attacks and distortions disseminated by the most extreme leftist socialists of the Barak Obama nation, including the Daily...”
Citizen-demand reason for shortages

Last week, Macon County Emergency Services Director said many gasoline stations have seen a dramatic increase in demand due to unconfirmed reports that have circulated throughout the area that a major fuel shortage exists or that prices will dramatically increase in the very near future.

“According to initial reports from North Carolina Emergency Management, there is no known pipeline problem which would cause a dramatic drop in supply to our area,” said Cabe. “But some suppliers may be receiving a limited amount of contracted fuel supplies due to lingering impacts from hurricanes.”

Cabe said at this time consumer demand seems to be causing the shortage rather than a supply chain issue. “Ultimately the laws of supply and demand dictate the price paid for products,” he said.

Lenny Metrick, manager of Highlands’ Farmers Market and D&J Express Mart said it will be another week before gas distribution levels are back to where they were before the hurricanes but regardless, right now there is plenty of gas to go around. “The fuel is available, it’s just not being released into the pipeline. Over the next week they will be releasing more and more. If customers are just smart about this, there will be plenty for everyone. Don’t go crazy trying to keep your tanks topped off all the time and filling all your five-gallon tanks. Any shortages, consumer driven.” He said being smart includes not driving any more than necessary and combining trips.

Right not prices in town are $4.39 for regular, $4.49 for mid-grade, $4.59 for high-grade and $4.19 for diesel.

“I don’t expect prices to go any higher,” said Metrick. “Once I’m delivered full rather than partial loads the prices will be better and come down.”

Consumers are protected from “price gouging” in times of disaster and should report any gas price spikes to the Attorney General, said Senator John Snow.

Late last week, Gov. Mike Easley declared a state of “abnormal market disruption” which charges the Attorney General with enforcing the price gouging statute. If anyone sees gas prices rise more than around 20 cents a gallon they should report it to the Attorney General’s toll free hotline, 1-877-5 NO SCAM.

Under the law enacted 2006, if there is a presidentially declared disaster outside North Carolina that substantially disrupts its marketplace, the governor may bring our law into effect.

The law makes clear that price gouging is illegal, whether it occurs at the retail level or at the wholesale level.

Kim Lewicki
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Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

Her plan A: She was young, pretty and looking for her soul mate. Hewastall, thin, drop-dead handsome and looking to get... well, you know. They found each other at a party and began flirting with their eyes. It was lust at first sight. They danced, talked and later there were wet kisses and a promise to call tomorrow.

The next night, when they slept together, she went through his pants pockets and found six dollars, the keys to his Wrangler and an unpaid bill marked “Final Notice” from a tanning salon. His wallet had no pictures of women. He was perfect.

They couldn’t keep their hands off each other. Two months later, they married. He was working full time as a valet for the finest restaurant in town and she quit work after becoming pregnant. He wanted to move to California and learn to surf. She wanted to move to Ohio to be near her parents.

Instead of celebrating their second wedding anniversary, they celebrated their divorce. It was a pleasant parting. Hewent to California and she got his 10-year-old Wrangler he cherished more than her. He promised to send a $100 a month to help support their daughter.

Her plan B: She was still young and pretty, but had given up on finding a soul mate. An old girlfriend moved in. There were issues. She moved out.

She wanted stability and maturity in her man, a guy she could spend the rest of her life with. Looks were no longer important. She met him at a political fundraiser in Ohio where she volunteered to help serve drinks. He showed up in a tux with his mom on his arm. He made a sizable contribution. She couldn’t take her eyes off him or his wallet. He was 10 years older than her but who cared?

As he slid a martini from her tray, they made eye contact. He was taken by her beauty and was flattered such a young woman would be interested in him. They talked. He gave her his card and asked her to call. They shook hands.

Six weeks later, when they finally slept together, she went through his pants pockets and found used opera tickets, Mercedes keys, lip balm and mouth spray. In his wallet was a picture of his mom, a subcompact of woman he had given up on finding a soul mate. An old girlfriend...
... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

looked as young as the day she met him. Everyone wanted the embalmer’s name. She passed out cards. With wills and trusts in place, she lived the life of a wealthy widow. She bought a dog and then gave it away when it pooped on her Persian rug. She bought a talking parrot but, in a fit of rage, drowned it because it wouldn’t shut up.

As time passed, she worried about who would take care of her. Her daughter was a total bore. After accidentally setting her apartment on fire twice, they came and took her to a home.

Her plan D: She was old and weakly.

The picture of Sarah Palin that is emerging under the harsh light of media scrutiny is less flattering than her beauty contest photos, her self-proclaimed hockey Mom identity, or her carefully crafted reformer image.

The initial hint of disrespect for her office was the case of her former brother-in-law, a rogue state trooper. She attempted to have him dismissed from the force and when the Director of Public Safety refused, she sacked him instead. It continues to amaze me that so many people miss the point, which is not whether he was a good cop or bad cop, but the Governor’s abuse of power. Like it or not, due process was followed in the case of Trooper Wooten. He was suspended. I might agree with Governor Palin that the penalty was too lenient. However, I’m sure that Wooten wasn’t the only state policeman who ever drank in a patrol car. I’d bet there wasn’t the only one who ever shot a moose with his wife’s license. Many cops speed on their way home or en route to the doughnut shop. Did Sarah go after any of them? There is no evidence that she pursued misconduct on the part of any other officer. Only one cop divorced her sister. A single cop was heard to utter that if Sarah’s father hired an attorney to aid in her sister’s divorce, he would eat lead, or something similar. He might be the only cop anywhere who侮辱ed his son. But to demand that he be fired smack of a personal vendetta, subjects him to a sort of “administrative double jeopardy.” Abuse of power should not be a privilege of office.

The story of Sarah and the librarian is perhaps even more troubling.

For full story, go to www.ontheverandah.com

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Upcoming Events

Monday, Sept. 22, 6 p.m.
Havens wine cellar.
Haven wine cellar.
$35 plus tax and gratuity.

Monday, Oct. 20
Samuel Adams Beer Dinner
Beer and Food Pairings

CUISINE WEEKEND

Friday, Nov. 14
Domaine Serene, Wine Spectrour Luncheon.
Boutique Wines Gala, “Battle of the Sexes”
Women Winemakers vs. Male Winemakers “Bat-
tle of the Sexes” Gala Cocktail Party.
Saturday, Nov. 15
Silver Oak Cellars Wine Dinner with Tom
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Highlands’ Newspaper - Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008 - Page 5
... BOE FORUM continued from page 1

Brian Wendell Bateman candidate for District III and Gregg Jones, candidate of District IV weren’t able to attend the forum.

Brian Wendell Bateman is running against BOE District III incumbent Tommy Baldwin who has been on the school board for 24 years. Bateman was not at the forum. From Highlands are Frieda Bennett and John Shearl who are running for the seat which has been occupied by Chairman Donnie Edwards for more than 20 years.

Roberta Swank
I have lots of experience in the business world and the school district world. I was a consultant for five hospitals for 10 years and was the Child Nutrition Director for Macon County Schools for 20 years. I have chaired numerous boards and committees including Angel Hospital, Friends of the Library, SCC, Macon County Health Board, PTSA, Little League, and the Booster Club. My four children graduated from Macon County schools. As a parent with children in the school system for 20 years, I know how important parents are and that they should be listened to. We have a good school system but we’re in the 21st century and education today is much different than the education I experienced. We have to keep up with technology and look toward the future. Our students and our schools are the future. Whatever Macon County does, it must do as a county. The 20 years I worked in the school system, I thought of it as a whole and that’s important. We have to look at what we can afford to do and work to do it next year or the next. One person doesn’t do it all. I am one of five on the board and we work together. A wheel is as strong as the weakest spoke. I have the time, the energy and the enthusiasm and offer 20 years in the system, so I have some knowledge of the system and how it’s changed.

We need to ask employees for input – they are in the trenches and they have suggestions. With a budget over $40 million, the Macon County school system is the largest employer in the county. Four years back we

* See BOE FORUM page 7
... SHERIFF continued from page 1

male inmates admitted to Macon County Detention Center, the non-race specific criminal histories conducted for arrests, the number of illegal alien queries made — which amounted to about 24 a month — during which only two of 189 were found to be in the U.S. legally.

Furthmore, 22 “Detainers” for illegals were issued by I.N.S. for individuals involved in crimes and seven illegals were sentenced to prison prior to being deported by I.N.S.

Holland said typically only serious felons or those with multiple DWIs are subject to deportation.

“I can guarantee no one has been deported for NOL — no operating license,” he said.

Since check points and traffic stops were cited as profiling tactics, Holland said police are not searching all licenses. “If they are violating the law, they should be arrested and taken before a magistrate,” said Holland.

Since January 1, 2008, the Macon County Detention Center has run ICE Illegal Alien Queries on 189 inmates and ICE has only taken custody of 22 inmates. “ICE has not taken a large majority of those found to be in U.S. illegally,” said Holland.

I.F.C. Board Chairman Hillie Quin and I.F.C. Director Bill Montana said they have seen with their own eyes more members of the Latino community than others being arrested and they have gone to the Macon County Clerk of Courts Office and verified this in the records.

Holland was asked why his officers are arresting more Latinos.

“We don’t know the exact numbers of members of particular groups who are being arrested because we do not differentiate who are arrestng other than White, Black, Asian, Indian, and Other,” he said. “These are the only races listed on state arrest report forms.”

“However, it is my opinion that more members of this group are being arrested simply because this group seems to be violating the law more than others.

“People will not be arrested or receive a citation if they simply follow the laws as every citizen is required to do,” he said. “As Sheriff I have sworn to an oath that I will uphold the laws of this state. I can’t turn my back because I agree or disagree with any particular law.”

Holland said when someone comes in contact with one of his officers they should have nothing to worry about if they are obeying the law.

“If they are violating the law, they should understand that there is no doubt my officers will do what the community expects us to do...our job,” hesaid.

Getting a driver’s license can be difficult for illegals because as of 2006 they must have a social security card. The Sheriff’s department said one person should work on getting a license if he can drive others. If an individual has undocumented workers stopped at a checkpoint and the driver has a valid license, authorities must let it through.

Holland said the law was tightened because law enforcers knew how easy it was to get a driver’s license in North Carolina. In fact, one September 11, 2001 hijacker had a North Carolina driver’s license and he had gotten a ticket in Haywood County at one point.

Holland said he received several calls from Highlands citizens supporting him and his officers.

Kim Lewicki

had a 77% graduation rate. We need to do better. Running the system is a business. Yes, it's about education but we need to apply business principles to the system. Our Early College High School and Alternative School both address needs of certain children. Everyone learns differently. Today, children need individual help. Some can't fit in so we have choices for them. Our facilities need attending to because children need good facilities. I need a principal around every corner. This year I have 4,943 students enrolled, that's 2% more than last year. We need to make sure all our students reach their potential.

Bobby Bishop

I have lived in Macon County my entire life. I have two children in school — a 7th and 12th grader. I'm involved in Little League, sports activities and help the youth of Macon County as much as possible at the school and through church. The future of Macon County is our kids. We need to listen to their parents. Listen to the principals and teachers to make the best school for all.

Everyone running for the board has good intentions for the children. You can't agree with any of them. Robert Swank and Tommy Baldwin know the issues facing the school system — that's something the rest of us have to learn. I work in the Macon County Inspections Department and I am involved with parents with kids in the system. We need to listen to those parents. They hear what the children come home saying everyday. We need to listen and evaluate what the parents tell us. We need to help as much as we can with education. Technology is more and more important. We need new schools — some of these schools were old when I attended them. I will serve the best I can in the interest of the children of Macon County.

Alan Allman

I live in the Burntown community. I'm a retired chemist for Duke Power for 27 years. I graduated from Western Carolina University with a degree in chemistry and math. I was a volunteer economics teacher in Swain County. I have one year of law school and I worked one year for the USFS. Therefore I'm running is my wife is retiring at Franklin High School. I will serve the best I can in the interest of the children of Macon County. We need attending to because children need good facilities. I need a principal around every corner. This year I have 4,943 students enrolled, that's 2% more than last year. We need to make sure all our students reach their potential.

Dwight Vinson

I am a lifelong resident of Macon County and began education in the Otto School. My wife Martha Holbrook has been a teacher at Franklin High School for 16 years. Upon graduation from Franklin High in 1979, I got a job with Drake Enterprises. I soon learned I could do a better job so went to Appalachian State University and graduated in 1986 with a degree in Criminal Justice and minor in Information Systems. I returned to Franklin and began working for Macon Bank. I am now a residential and commercial appraiser. I have a five-year old at East Franklin School. I am blessed to have grown up here. I am proud of Macon County schools. I've been involved with the athletic events, been involved with many organizations and hope to bring all my experiences, background and education to better serve the folks of Macon County.

Construction of new schools is important. I'm all for constructing the 5-6 School and moving those age groups out. It's not appropriate to mix them with the older kids socially and other reasons. The statement "the classroom is where the schools' products are made" is partly true, but in today's world that classroom is every board. Nowhere have I ever said or even thought that parents don't need to be involved. The negative is that students didn't have before. Now they can pick between courses and get more choices learning online without having to choose between courses at school and this is done without taking away parental responsibility. Being an involved parent continues to be important. It's not what the important, it's what's best for the child. It's not what's best for the child, it's best for the child.

Jim Breedlove

I went to E. Franklin Elementary and graduated from Franklin High School. I went to UNC-Chapel Hill and graduated in 1979 with a BA in Business Administration. In 1986, I earned a Masters in Business Administration from Western Carolina University. I have two children who attend Western Carolina University who are a product of the Macon County school system. The fact that they are products of the system is why they have succeeded in college. I have been on the Franklin Chamber of Commerce for three terms and I am involved with the Smoky Mountain Development Corporation whose purpose is to promote small business in Western North Carolina. I also served on the Macon County Foundation Board which disperses scholarship funds and grants to the needy. I also umpire Little League even though I no longer have children that age. My background is in banking. Running the school system involves large amounts of money. We need to look at running the system in that fundamental way.

AYP and No Child Left Behind are two

• See BOE FORUM page 19

... BOE FORUM continued from page 6
Bryson’s Food Store

We have everything you need for interesting meals all year long!

In the Meat Department we have it all and fresh seafood, too. Don’t forget a wine to match.

Visit our Deli Department for the best fried chicken in town, party trays, fresh-baked breads, cheesecakes, organic gourmet desserts, Boar’s Head meats and cheeses, rotisserie chicken, lunch wraps in a variety of flavors – pre-made or made-to-order, and breakfast and lunch croissants, too!

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COOKING ON THE PLATEAU

The essence of Australia: Chic entertaining

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Australian cuisine is about the fusion of flavors and the excitement of cultures mixing and merging into something deliciously different. To incorporate a distinct casual-chic Australian feel to your evening, try pairing these elegant yet easy recipes, featuring McWilliam’s Wines from Australia’s most awarded winery, with some easy, elegant entertaining ideas to create your own memorable get-together.

Grilled Shrimp with Lemon Garlic Drizzle
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: about 15 minutes total
Stand time: 1 hour
Makes 8 appetizer servings

1/2 cup top quality Australian extra virgin olive oil
2 cloves garlic, peeled
1 1/2 lemons, sliced
Pinch sugar or to taste
Sea salt and freshly ground pepper
1 pound large, raw, peeled and deveined shrimp (tails on)

Bamboo skewers, soaked in water
Cedar grilling papers, soaked in water (optional)

Heat oil, garlic and lemon slices in small saucepan until barely simmering, pressing lemons with a spoon to release juices. Remove from heat and let stand for a few hours. Pour through fine mesh sieve into small bowl, pressing to remove as much oil as possible. Season to taste with sugar, salt and pepper. Thread a few shrimp onto the top of each skewer. Wrap 2 skewers in each cedar grilling paper and tie with kitchen string. Grill over medium heat for about 8 to 10 minutes or until shrimp are pink and cooked through, drizzling with a little oil during the last minute of grilling. Remove from grill and place skewers on a platter; drizzle with lemon garlic oil.

Beef Bruschetta with Shiraz Drizzle
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: about 10 minutes
Makes about 1 1/2 cups

1/4 cup sesame seeds
3 tablespoons coriander seeds
2 tablespoons cumin seeds
1 cup roasted, salted pistachio nuts
1 1/2 teaspoons sea salt
Freshly ground pepper to taste

Crusty bread cubes, Quality olive oil

Place sesame seeds in small skillet. Cook over medium-low heat, stirring frequently, until golden brown and fragrant; remove from skillet. Repeat with coriander seeds, then cumin seeds; let cool. Place pistachios and seeds in blender or food processor and process until all ingredients are the texture of coarse crumbs. Serve with bread cubes and olive oil for dipping. May be stored for up to 1 month tight container.

Dukkah Bread Dipper
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: about 10 minutes
Makes about 1 1/2 cups

1/4 cup sesame seeds
3 tablespoons coriander seeds
2 tablespoons cumin seeds
1 cup roasted, salted pistachio nuts
1/2 teaspoon sea salt
Freshly ground pepper to taste

Crusty bread cubes, Quality olive oil
Place sesame seeds in small skillet. Cook over medium-low heat, stirring frequently, until golden brown and fragrant; remove from skillet. Repeat with coriander seeds, then cumin seeds; let cool. Place pistachios and seeds in blender or food processor and process until all ingredients are the texture of coarse crumbs. Serve with bread cubes and olive oil for dipping. May be stored for up to 1 month tight container.
Proceed with good judgment

In my "other life" I was a busy cardiac surgeon for more than 25 years with many thousands of surgical procedures performed. In making surgical judgments and decisions it was necessary that I had all the facts correct about patients and the disease process we were dealing with for the outcome to be good. A wrong judgment or poorly thought-out procedures could easily result in the death of a patient in the kind of work I did. So I tried to always have the facts and procedures correct and understand the situation before I began surgery or other treatment. Thus, my surgical results were quite good but being on the cutting edge of many new cardiac surgical procedures required intensive study and correct information.

In the same way in the public information arena, anyone who speaks out or writes in public about matters of concern to the community should have their facts correct before they speak out or write. We have several controversial issues before us currently in Highlands. Differences are inevitable and need to be discussed openly and honestly and with correct information and with no ulterior motives.

Indeed, we all err in our judgments. However, misunderstood situations and misstatements can lead people astray and result in bad decisions and poor results. I simply plead with people to be sure of their understanding and with correct information and with no ulterior motives.

As I have always said, my door is always open for people to come in and dialogue with me on any subject. Dialogue with members of the board is far superior than first lashing out in a public meeting or in the newspaper about poorly understood situations. I always wear my social shoes, let's keep open dialogue going in a positive and uplifting way so we can all learn from each other.

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**CONSERVATIVE POV**

Judge not - Lest ye goof up

I suppose I’d be the only columnist in the universe who didn’t choose to write about Sarah Palin, so I will, more or less, but perhaps with a different slant.

For months, since the issue was settled, the presidential campaigns have been going at each other, hammer and tongs. Each candidate has a swarm of advisers, consultants, pollsters, speechwriters, fundraisers, surrogates and many categories I haven’t thought of. These hired guns make almost all the decisions necessary to conduct the campaigns leaving the main combatants to show up where they are told to and say what they are told to. I don’t think they make many decisions at all. Some of the more important decisions they do make are assembling the experts at the outset.

The first major decision that falls on the candidates is their choice of vice-president. Since Obama lacks experience and his opponent doesn’t, Obama claims that it’s judgment that counts and not experience. OK.

Now that the dust has settled somewhat, let’s review their choice of running mates.

Obama had the opportunity to enhance the possibility of his election by naming Hillary as his choice. I believe she brings more female votes to the ticket than she repels. How she affects the male vote I don’t know. I can’t get inside his mind to know what motivated him to exclude her. Would she dominate the vote on the campaign trail? Maybe. Did he dread the prospect of Bubba shooting off his mouth with regularity? Maybe. It certainly wasn’t because he felt Biden brought excitement and drawing power to the ticket.

Biden is perfectly capable of doing some serious gaffing himself. Speaking of Hillary, Biden said recently “Quite frankly it might have been a better pick than me.” Well now, when the vice presidential pick (Biden) suggests that the presidential candidate (Obama) used poor judgment in picking his running mate.

One assumes that the principal objective of the candidates at this time is to get elected. If you are not elected, all the platitudes you’ve showered on us are for naught.

Obama talks about change and chooses an ultimate DC insider as his VP candidate. Even with his Hollywood style acceptance extravaganza, Obama’s ticket got very little bounce from his convention that has since disappeared.

McCain believed in the idea of change and picking the ultimate outsider to run with. He turned a lumbering support base into a dynamo with one decision.

If Obama has good judgment, explain this quote from the Financial Times.

“Democratic jitters about the US Presidential race have spread to Capitol Hill, where some members of Congress are worried that Barack Obama’s faltering campaign could hurt their chances of re-election.

“Concern was greatest among first-term representatives who won seats in traditionally Republican districts in the land-slide of 2006. Several of them face a real fight to hold on to those seats.” Heath Schuler might take notice.

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See SWANSON page 13
Politics to nowhere

A month ago hardly anyone outside of Alaska ever heard of Palin and now she is the running mate of John McCain. Who could have guessed? Obviously, no one. From a real conservative's point of view, I suppose she is a great pick. She is against Roe vs. Wade, pro-NRA to the point of not even banning assault weapons, believes only in victory in Iraq but believes it is God's plan, and as far global warming goes she states, “I'm not one though who would attribute it to being man-made.”

From a liberal's viewpoint she is everything we would not want, which is all the more appealing to those that support her. I got all that. What I don't get is how people can get behind this woman with such incredible vigor on the basis of one speech.

People really don't know her, they don't know her record, her views, her character or how she will perform under real pressure. The truly scary thing is that if elected Palin could be the President of the United States. I have to ask those that welcome her to the ticket: Would you feel comfortable with her as President? I'm certainly not. I believe the election of Palin could be a bridge to nowhere.

There are some very serious questions about this VP candidate. She claims ethics yet there is “Troopergate.” She claims she fights pork barrel/earmarked spending and refused the “Bridge to Nowhere” but what of the second bridge? The $600 million bridge from Anchorage to her hometown of Wasilla? So I guess what Palin is saying is that the first bridge was excessive but the Wasilla bridge we really need. I guess that earmark was OK. Can we really believe Palin is ready to meet and negotiate with heads of state that she is capable of standing toe-to-toe with despots like Putin? I know that everyone says some stupid things sometimes, but to rest your international affairs credentials on the fact you can see Russia from your house. Please!

Selecting the President and VP of the United States is not just about “do we share the same views?” I am sure we can find lots of our friends who share the same views as ourselves. But does that alone qualify them for president? The answer is a simple no. I know lots of people who share my views on issues key to me and there is no way I would want them in a position of power, they are just not qualified to be vice president. Our own town is about the size of Palin's, would anyone agree that serving as mayor, even in the executive position, qualifies them for the top office in the land? No disrespect Mr. Mayor, but I think not.

I hate politics and this entire progress. Beyond the fact that it's just too long, the candidates get down right nasty. It even takes good people, like McCain, and turn them into things they are not simply to win some votes. This is a man who once went to South Carolina just to apologize because he did not call for the removal of the Confederate battle flag atop the South Carolina State House acknowledging that his refusal to take such a stance during his primary battle was a “sacrifice of principle for personal ambition” (his 2000 Presidential run).

Now he is doing it again.

The ads claiming Palin refused to accept the “Bridge to Nowhere,” that Obama's comment “Lipstick on a pig” was directed against Palin, and Obama supporting teaching sex education to Kindergarten children, are all known to be completely false, but McCain supports these ads.

This is not the McCain of the past. The other side is also guilty; they know that when McCain said he would stay in Iraq 100 years he didn't mean fight for 100 years. The point is that politics is a filthy business and no one should wonder why more good people do not want to serve.

I know that most people are going to vote just the way they always have, by their party, regardless of the candidate regardless of qualifications and regardless of the candidate's experience. But there are those that think beyond party and actually consider what the candidate will do for the country. I hope that the debates will shed some real light on the candidates and we will all look beyond our emotions and think what is best for America.

These are serious times that require serious people and seriously people. Palin is a bad decision; her election could be a real bridge to nowhere.

Some people have the point of view that Palin is a viable, qualified candidate and that McCain has made a brilliant move to capture the women vote, or more accurately the “not happy Hillary didn't get the nomination vote” group, and will win in November. I have another point of view. I think that Americans will watch and listen to the debates, that the Palin bubble will burst and that the American people will not want another four years of the same. I personally don't think the economy of our town could survive.

Next week I will have Another Point of View.
The Center for Life Enrichment

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Green power

For some years now I have been voluntarily paying an extra charge on my monthly electricity bill. I’m sure some of my readers have thought for sometime there must be something wrong with my thinking, and now it’s confirmed.

What could possibly motivate me to give money away like that? I am part of the North Carolina Green Power program. I spend $4 a month to buy one packet of greenpower, which equals 100 kWh of electricity.

I am paying my utility company, Haywood EMC, to purchase energy from renewable sources. Alternative renewable sources of electricity are more expensive than electricity from coal, but that is partly because of the federal subsidies for fossil fuels which make them artificially low in price. My $4/month is a way of subsidizing the alternative producers, making their energy production feasible.

Currently there are 14,000 North Carolinians participating in the program, annually supporting nearly 40 million kWh of renewable energy generation — the equivalent of 23 million pounds of coal.

This energy is produced by 130 projects, including solar, wind, and methane from both biomass and landfills. There is a producer here in Highlands, generating 1.2 kW (1,700 kWh/yr) through photovoltaic cells.

From their website, ncgreenpower.org: “NC Greenpower is an independent, nonprofit organization established to improve North Carolina’s environment through voluntary contributions toward renewable energy. A landmark initiative approved by the N.C. Utilities Commission, NC Greenpower is the first statewide green energy program in the nation supported by all the state’s utilities.”

The sources of North Carolina electricity are 60% coal, 31% nuclear, 4% hydro (dams), 3% gas, and 2% other. Coal-fired plants produce pollutants that can increase smog (see my article “Great Smoggy Mountains National Park”), acid rain and mercury pollution, and can cause respiratory problems in humans — and other living things. The release of carbon from fossil fuel combustion also contributes to global warming.

NC Greenpower states that the annual reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from one block of greenpower subscribed monthly is equivalent to planting 192 trees, or not driving 3,039 miles. This is approximately 2500 pounds of carbon dioxide, 7 pounds of sulfur dioxide, and 3 pounds of nitrogen oxides. I only buy 1 block, but you can buy as many as you want. The Edison Electric Institute has some statistics on electricity generation and usage in the United States. According to their website (eei.org) in 2007 the average electricity use per customer was 26,319 kilowatt-hours. For $1052 a year all your electrical energy would be green (go to the ncgreenpower site for information on signing up).

What if instead of individuals making voluntary contributions, our nation decided to make a real commitment to energy independence by investing in alternative energy, in particular solar technology? I found a Scientific American article, “A Solar Grand Plan,” from December 2007 that laid out a very attractive scenario: “We present a grand plan that could provide 99 percent of the U.S.’s electricity and 35 percent of its total energy [which includes transportation] with solar power by 2050. We project that this energy could be sold to consumers at rates equivalent to today’s rates for conventional power sources, about five cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). If wind, biomass and geothermal sources were also developed, renewable energy could provide 100 percent of the nation’s electricity and 90 percent of its energy by 2040.

“The federal government would have to invest more than $400 billion over the next 40 years to complete the 2050 plan [which feed when you compare it to the $600 billion we’ve spent on the war in Iraq so far — my comment]. That investment is substantial, but the payoff is greater. Solar plants consume little or no fuel, saving billions of dollars a year after the infrastructure would displace 300 large coal-fired power plants and 300 more large natural gas plants and all the fuels they consume. The plan would effectively eliminate all imported oil, fundamentally cutting U.S. trade deficits and easing political tension in the Middle East and elsewhere. Because solar technologies are almost pollution-free, the plan would also reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants by 1.7 billion tons a year, and another 1.9 billion tons from gasoline vehicles would be displaced by plug-in hybrids refueled by the solar power grid. In 2050 U.S. carbon dioxide emissions would be 62 percent below 2005 levels, putting a major brake on global warming.”

See BRUGGER page 23
Disoriented with jet lag, I drew the curtain back slightly, only to be greeted by a gorgeous view of Loch Linnhe. That's the thing about the kind of tour where you spend a day or two at each location—you wind up with a kind of “if it's Tuesday, it must be Belgium” mentality, except that for me it was “if it's Tuesday, it must be Ballachulish”. (In case you're interested, it's pronounced “ballah-hoo-lish”)

I was curious to see how John would react to the typical Scottish/Irish/British cooked breakfast. This is a real rib-sticking meal, which sets you up for the whole day. The usual fare includes sausages, bacon, scrambled and fried eggs, grilled tomatoes, mushrooms, blood pudding (yup!), toast, and oatmeal, washed down with coffee and tea. That's just the hot stuff. Add to that juices, fresh fruit and fruit salad, cold cereal, rolls, pastries, jams, and jellies. One place even offered smoked kippers—yummy, but boy, do they stay with you! As expected, my bridgroom took to cooked breakfasts like a duck to water, diplomatically refusing to quip, “What? No eggs?"

After the previous evening's “meet and greet”, we had gotten to know our fellow tour group members better. We also learned a bit more about Victor Mitchell, our tour guide and driver. Victor laid down the law from the beginning, “Thou shall not be late!” was made clear to us. Being late would throw us off our schedule, and more importantly, put us at the bottom of the list for our organized visits. We would be the victims of our lateness, and cheat ourselves and our group. Lesson taken.

We piled into our bus, and took off in the direction of Fort William—the place where World War II soldiers arrived by train to begin commando training. There's an impressive memorial to the commandos just up the hill from the village, and from that hill, a sweeping view of the mountains, especially Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles. Known to the locals as “the Ben”, it is accessible by two routes, one fairly challenging, the other doable by lesser mortals. There was proof of this on a whiteboard. Disturbed by the amount of garbage that tourists had left behind at the

... SWANSON
continued from 10

We encourage Obama to continue to exercise the sort of judgment that cost him his lead in the polls, and McCain to continue making winning decisions. OK, let's make it about judgment. I'm all for it.

... MULLEN continued from 9

the individual is too prejudiced or one-sided to even dialogue with the other or has some ulterior motive not based on facts.

Every issue we deal with should be done in that manner. That is also the way public debate should be handled. Know the opposition and their side as much as you know your own. You might be surprised how one's thinking comes out, that is, if one is honest with one's self.

Honeymoon - Part 2

Ben, the locals set about cleaning up the site. The oddest thing found amidst the items left behind was a piano, yes, a piano. It was enough of a curiosity to launch a nationwide inquiry, and finally a lawyer confessed that he and a bunch of his Oxbridge buddies had hauled the piano up the Ben to celebrate their university graduation. Good sports, they paid for its removal.

Spear Bridge has a special place in my heart. Years ago, I'd been visiting the town, and dropped my favorite pen set—a gift from colleagues at Club Med in Sydney. I'd resigned myself to never seeing it again. Imagine my delight, when upon checking into Long Pines Lodge five years later, the lady of the house recognized me. “You're the lady who lost the pens!” she exclaimed. “I knew you'd be back, since you loved the place so much.” And without further ado, she disappeared from the room, returning with tea, cookies, and my long-lost pens.

It wouldn't have been a trip to Scotland without a drive along Loch Ness, and the usual comments about “Nessie”: Victor offered to help us market any and all photos we might take of “the wee beastie”. We arrived in Inverness for a few hours on our own. Unfortunately, as it did during much of our trip, the skies were overcast, making our choices a bit more difficult. I found us a nice pub, and we took our time eating a solid lunch, hoping the rain would die down. It didn't, but we window-shopped nearby in the Victorian Market, an incredible structure rebuilt in 1890 after a fire. A collection of over 40 shops, it was the perfect place to stroll out of the rain, and listen to a busker, a talented young woman playing the harp. Folding our umbrellas and shaking the rain off our clothes, I felt like a tour guide and driver. Victor laid down the law from the beginning, “Thou shall not be late!” was made clear to us. Being late would throw us off our schedule, and more importantly, put us at the bottom of the list for our organized visits. We would be the victims of our lateness, and cheat ourselves and our group. Lesson taken.

We piled into our bus, and took off in the direction of Fort William—the place where World War II soldiers arrived by train to begin commando training. There's an impressive memorial to the commandos just up the hill from the village, and from that hill, a sweeping view of the mountains, especially Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles. Known to the locals as “the Ben”, it is accessible by two routes, one fairly challenging, the other doable by lesser mortals. There was proof of this on a whiteboard. Disturbed by the amount of garbage that tourists had left behind at the
Paging Dr. Potts

One of the newest segments on ESPN lately has been their feature “Dr. Lou,” in which Lou Holtz answers questions from college football personalities under the guise of a football expert. This week, I will blatantly rip off Dr. Lou by playing Dr. Potts but I will do so without spraying spit at all over everyone within twenty feet.

Dr. Potts, I am itching to fire somebody at the end of the season… who scalp am I going to take for my Yankees not making the postseason. Hank S. The Bronx

Well Hank, first of all, I have no sympathy for you, because rooting for you is like rooting for the IRS and/or Darth Vader. The Pirates haven’t had a winning season since was thirteen, and yet you are complaining about a one year playoff drought? Oh here’s the deal… your roster is OLD. We are talking serious age issues… like Mike Mussina helped part the Red Sea with Moses type age issues. Baseball today is a game of youth—which is something that is developed in a farm system, not bought for eleventy billion dollars out on the market. Infuse some youth into your team, and give your manager and players some leeway by not expecting to win right away. This concept has produced considerable success, especially in the American League. Oh, and one more thing Hank, the less that you act like your father, the better.

Dr. Potts, we just got embarrassed on national television AGAIN by USC, and now my best player is still not healthy—what should I do to gain some respect back for my Buckeyes? Jim T. Columbus, Ohio

Listen carefully coach, and do exactly what I say if you want to succeed. Start Terrelle Pryor at quarterback for the rest of the season. I know, you are a conservative guy, and cannot stand to do something that looks like panic—but it is time to panic. You play in a weak Big 10 (+1) conference and can probably win it even with a frosh at quarterback. The next step for you is to get some speed in the secondary and at receiver—because you have been repeatedly exposed by teams with speed all over the field. Oh, and as far as Beanie Wells injury goes… I hear that there is a certain political figure who will be spending sometime in Ohio soon—according to some circles he possesses some sort of healing ability—you should definitely look into that.

Dr. Potts, I just got in big trouble for blowing a call at the end of the San Diego/Denver game last Sunday. I am now so upset I just went out and killed a wolf with my bare hands—give me a reason not to go on a rampage with my Popeye sized arms. Ed H. Phoenix, Arizona

Well Ed, first of all, you did blow the call—but the real blame lies on the NFL rulebook, not you. Referees are human and make mistakes. See COACH’S CORNER page 15
Highlands played Andrews Monday night and won 8-2. Senior defender Hunter Leffler taking control of the ball. Photo by Noel Atherton

Highlands School Soccer

Coach Green had some high remarks for the play of the freshman, saying that “they played with a lot of intensity, and that gives us something to build on for the future.”

The Highlanders played a home match with Murphy Wednesday night, but results were not available at press time. The Highlanders will make the long trip to Madison County tonight to play the Patriots at 6 p.m. – Ryan Potts

... COACH’S CORNER from page 14

all the time, which is why we created instant replay. Unfortunately, in this situation, the rules do not allow replay to correct the call that you made on the field, and therefore you had no choice but to stick with the incorrect call that you had already made. Hopefully at the end of the season the big shots will sit down and fix the rulebook so that when mistakes are made they can be corrected properly. As for helping you control the rage that lives in your heart right now, I suggest going and having a talk with Larry King. It is easy to let your feelings out and show your sensitive side on his show. Just a warning though, you are guaranteed to cry, because Larry King eats raw onions at his desk. Good luck to you Ed.
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tin, director for the local Wilderness
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and Community into a Poetry of
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lton Library in Cashiers. Last year the
Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and
The Village Green launched The Vil-
lage Nature Series, a conservation-
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Historical sites ID’d in town

The Highlands Historical Society, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Highlands have joined forces to establish a walking tour of historic sites in Highlands.

Ran Shaffner, archivist for the Historical Society, identified 51 such sites in the town. The three organizations contributed to pay for brochures listing the sites and providing brief descriptions of their histories. Copies of the brochure are free and available at the Visitor Center at 260 Main Street and the Highlands Historical Museum in the Historic Village at 524 N. 4th Street. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Friday and Saturday from Memorial Day through October.

The Historical Society is now in the process of mounting small plaques identifying each of the historic sites listed in the walking tour brochure. Letters have been sent to the owners of each of the sites asking permission to mount the plaques.

The building which houses Wolfgang’s Restaurant and Wine Bistro was originally built in 1883 as a residence for Mary Chapin and her mother, Cynthia Loomis Chapin, who came to Highlands from Massachusetts.

Miss Chapin had worked as a botanical illustrator for Professor Asa Gray of Harvard and named her home Gray Cottage in honor of Dr. Gray. Three years after moving to Highlands, she married John Jay Smith. Her aunt Eliza Wheaton, for whom Wheaton College was named, purchased the Highlands House, now known as the Highlands Inn, as a wedding gift for her niece and her niece’s husband. The Highlands Inn is another of the historic structures listed in the brochure.
Kos, MoveOn.org and Michael Moore. The reader is on notice that if you are seeking an objective, non-biased, rational discussion of substantive issues, you will need to skip this column."

"Sarah who?" is the way you started out your column. Would it have been "Tim who?" if McCain had selected Governor Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota? Do you believe that "most Americans" follow Minnesota politics more than those in Alaska? Given the treasures of Alaska I sincerely doubt it. Or, was it because she was a woman?

If you have consulted any of the polls since Sarah's speech at the RNC you would have observed that McCain has risen in the polls significantly and many pundits (other than the hard core Obamanites like yourself) give him a far better chance of winning the presidency than before Sarah's nomination.

Your statement that "feminists can't be happy with her beauty queen past..." suggests that feminists must necessarily reject women who are considered beautiful and receive recognition for that; only those who are not beauty queens can qualify as feminists? Pardon me, but your sexism is showing. I can assure you that Sarah's appeal to guys is just as strong as her appeal to millions of women.

Your derisive, sexist remark that although "she cooks up a mean moose stew can (not) overcome the obvious fact that she is the least qualified candidate to run for the vice presidency." deserves comment. Obvious to who, you? Michael Moore? What an absolutely low class, cheap shot remark. The other "runner-up" remark that best illustrates your coarseness, lack of class and bankrupt intellect was the "she looks like a poll dancer dressed up to meet her son's principal" remark. Do you really want our politics to be about how you view someone's mode of dress or looks? Or, is that reserved for Sarah since she is the only woman in the race?

How do you compare her experience as governor with your "hero" Bill Clinton's experience for the presidency? What is the difference? Is Arkansas that different from...
of the biggest things affecting our school system. We have to be engaged in all aspects of the system’s fiscal and physical responsibilities. The budget is $46 million. That’s a big job to be responsible for. We need to spend the money we can to best benefit the system in the 21st century which is a changing environment. World-class schools are needed in Macon County so students can compete locally and worldwide. Other countries have bypassed us. We need to compete globally. We are blessed with quality people who are dedicated and we must ensure a quality education to our children. Onething we need to do is pinpoint reading disabilities early and address them to keep students from dropping out. This is a great community and I will spend time to bring all this to fruition.

Tommy Baldwin

You need to pick the best candidate you can for this job. I have served on the Macon County School Board for 24 years and I do it because I love the kids. I have two children and four grandchildren. I’m a deacon of the Baptist church and I work with World Changers. I serve from the heart because I love the kids. Children are the future of our nation and they deserve the best education. I believe in the power of the local people, the farmers, businesspeople, all the working people. We need new construction and renovations in our system. We have good people in the system – people in the central office, administrators, and the teachers who go above and beyond the call of duty even paying for things they need out of their own pocket. I’m proud to say that the Nantahala School now has 100% graduation rate and those students are ready for college and technical school. The Macon County Commission has the county’s children at heart. I’m running for the children of Macon County.

Concerning the AYP, be assured that Superintendent Brigman has put policies in place to see that the schools improve. In 24 years, I have seen a lot of changes from little or no policy whatsoever to lots of policies. Curriculum and technology has changed which is expensive to keep up with but we can’t fall behind. The American education system is a transitional world. We have navigated forward from an agricultural society to an industrial society. We can’t fall behind China, India and Asia. We have to stay on top of everything to stay vital. There are many challenges ahead concerning information technology and its transitions. We need to focus on high school students but accept the need for versatility. In the face of change, we can all prepare all students for the demands of the 21st century climate. I will support all of you in my efforts.

* See BOE FORUM page 31

"River Landscape" by Louis Aston Knight (American 1873-1948)
Sally Blank pauses for a smile while working for a volunteer at the Community Care Clinic. "From the doctors on down, we couldn't do it at all if there weren't volunteers," she says. Every week, the dedicated volunteers of the Community Care Clinic file into the sturdy gray county building that houses the nonprofit, ready to help the patients in any way they can. They are nurses, translators, check-in clerks, medical assistants and caregivers. They are busy people who are compelled to give back and to help those who cannot always help themselves. And they do it all because they care.

Sally Blank, the clinic's volunteer coordinator, knows this all too well. She works hard to make sure the clinic is staffed each week with caring helpers willing to lend a hand for the countless people who do not have insurance and cannot afford traditional healthcare.

A resident of Sapphire Valley, Blank leads a very active life herself, but she knows that without her efforts - without the efforts of all of the volunteers who make the Community Care Clinic possible - a large number of people in this region wouldn't get the healthcare they need. They would be in pain; they would get little relief from sickness or disease.

"We take for granted that we can just go to the doctor when we feel like it, but so many people cannot," Blank says. "It's a tremendous thing for those in the community who do not have medical insurance."

Blank coordinates all of the clinic's non-doctor volunteers, from nurses to people who help streamline the nonprofit's filing system. "It can be a challenge," she says. "But it's a challenge that is well worth it, because she knows how much the clinic is helping. And she knows the clinic couldn't operate without the volunteers."

"From the doctors on down, we couldn't do it at all if there weren't volunteers," she says. Jerry Hermanson, clinic director, agrees. "They come every week, with a smile on their faces and a passion to help our patients receive the care they can't get anywhere else," Hermanson says. "They do this with a caring attitude that helps each patient feel welcome and knowing that they will get the care they need. We call this our culture of caring."

A total of 122 patients came to the clinic for services in August – 1,068 since 2008 began – people who might not get medical attention otherwise. There were 37 active volunteers through September. "A culture of caring" Community Care Clinic volunteers make healthcare possible for hundreds of area's uninsured.

Sally Blank pauses for a smile while working for a volunteer at the Community Care Clinic. "From the doctors on down, we couldn't do it at all if there weren't volunteers," she says.
Highlands Falls Country Club receives ‘Stewardship’ award

Highland Falls Country Club earns recognition for helping Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust treat the hemlocks on the Kelsey Trail and rebuild a portion of the Satulah Trail. From left to right: Gary Wein and Mercedes Heller of HCLT and Kelly Allgood, Fred Gehrisch, Jason MaCauley, and Chef Jeff Potter.

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust awarded a certificate of appreciation to the Highlands Falls Country Club for their stewardship activities in treating the hemlock trees along a portion of the Kelsey Trail and for rebuilding a section of the Satulah Mountain trail. Both the Kelsey Trail portion and the top of Satulah are owned by the Land Trust and are preserved in perpetuity for the use of hikers, naturalists, and the enjoyment of the community.

Fred Gehrisch, HFCC Golf Course Superintendent, and his crew worked in pouring rain to repair the Satulah Trail this spring. In an effort to save the old growth hemlock forest that borders the Kelsey Trail, he and his crew treated more than 75 trees that were infested with the woolly adelgid.

Other HFCC staff members who volunteered their services were Executive Chef, Jeff Potter, and Director of the Fitness Center, Onifer Wilmoth. Club members Jim Whitehurst, Joe Pilkington, and Julian Franklin offered their services in helping the HCLT Stewardship team clear trails in Dixon Park.

Because of Highlands Falls long history of community service and support for conservation, this award was long overdue. The award was presented by Mercedes Heller, President of HCLT and Dr. Gary Wein, Executive Director.

More community volunteers are needed to help assist with stewardship projects. If you have the time and interest in maintaining special places, please call Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust at 526-1111, or email hitrust@earthlink.net. Check out our website at www.hicashlt.org.

Party honors violin virtuoso

Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher Wolfe invited a group of artists and musicians to their home in Sky Valley following the brilliant concert given by young Ben Beilman, Presidential Scholar and winner of the nation’s God Medal in the Arts presentation to him at the White House by President George Bush.

The concert was a part of the series “Great Performances at Incarnation” and attracted a standing room audience who are still raving about this amazing young artist. Beilman was assisted at this concert by Robert-Henry, prize winning pianist and long time accompanist for Wolfe.

Beilman got his start on the international stage at the age of eight playing in concerts with Mr. Wolfe here and aboard and came to Highlands as a gesture of good will for his mentor.

Guest of honor with Dr. and Mrs. George Sistrunk. Dr. Sistrunk is the former director of the Fort Lauderdale Symphony Chorus.
Tired Of Being The Thing That Goes Bump In The Night?

Highlands-Cashiers Sleep Center and Dr. Hal Alpert can help.

If you have trouble falling or staying asleep, or constantly wake up feeling tired, you may be suffering from a sleep disorder. Our all-new sleep lab, featuring special beds and highly trained technicians, is here to help diagnose sleep disorders. This new program is directed by Hal Alpert, MD, FCCP, who is board certified in sleep medicine and the medical director of several respected sleep centers in Atlanta. If you’re having trouble sleeping, check with your doctor or make an appointment directly with Dr. Alpert.

To make an appointment, or for more information on our sleep center, call (828) 526-1259 today!

HOSPITAL NEWS

Summary of the August meeting of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Board of Directors

To keep the news media and the public better informed about Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, we are providing you with a summary of the more significant actions and discussion items that occurred at the August 24 board meeting.

• Medical Staff coordinator Debbie Dills gave board members an overview of the physician credentialing process used by the hospital for its medical staff, including how references and background records are checked, the role of the Medical Staff and the Credentialing Committee in making recommendations to the board, and the responsibility of the board to approve privileges for all hospital physicians. All members of the medical staff must undergo the credentialing process every two years. However, new physicians applying for first-time privileges are initially credentialed for only one year — if they meet all the hospital’s requirements, including being board certified. Privileges can thereafter be renewed for two years.

• During the report of the Physician Recruitment Committee, Jim Rothermel, MD, reported that a neurologist from Atlanta completed current efforts to recruit additional primary care physicians to the area. The board continues to discuss several different approaches for accommodating physicians and related medical services in the Cashiers area.

• During the report of the Physician Recruitment Committee, Dr. Rothermel reported that 999 forms have been submitted to the IRS as required by law. These forms are available for public review at the hospital’s administrative offices.

• Finance Committee Chairman Charlie Sheehan reported that both utilization of hospital services and gross revenue were up significantly this August, but that the hospital still showed a net loss before depreciation. Gross revenue was up 25 percent over the same month last year, and while this August actually saw fewer acute admissions, the total number of acute patient days increased by 52 percent. Surgical procedures were up 52 percent. Emergency room visits were also up, and on a per-case basis the hospital is showing an operational loss for the month. The hospital is taking measures to further reduce expenses.

• Audit and Compliance Committee Chairman Griffin Bell told the board that the hospital has received full reaccreditation based on a Joint Commission survey conducted earlier this summer.

• During the report of the Physician Recruitment Committee, Jim Rothermel reported that the hospital is taking measures to further reduce expenses.

• During what amounted to a joint report from the Finance and the Program and Facilities Committees, the board discussed the progress being made in working with Drs. David Wheeler and Mark Heffington to prepare for Dr. Heffington’s upcoming departure. Dr. Heffington is planning to relocate to the coast of North Carolina at the end of this year. The Finance Committee has approved a proposal for a partnership between the hospital and Dr. Wheeler. In anticipation of that restructuring, the hospital and Dr. Wheeler are already working together to recruit new primary care physicians to the area.

• On a related topic, the Program and Facilities Committee is in the process of getting estimates on the cost of possibly expanding and remodeling the existing Cashiers Medical Building. The board continues to discuss several different approaches for accommodating physicians and related medical services in the Cashiers area.

• During the report of the Physician Recruitment Committee, Dr. Rothermel re-capitalized current efforts to recruit additional primary care physicians to the area. He also reported that a neurologist from Atlanta...
BRUGGER from pg 12

What are our politicians doing? Are they proposing grand energy plans of this scope? No — they are promoting offshore drilling for oil. That’s not so surprising coming from the Republicans — the party of “anything business wants” — but the Democrats are cravenly caving on this issue, once more cowardly retreating from a position in the face of an ignorant public.

Instead of investing the time and energy required to educate the public about the enormous benefits from real change in our energy policy, the Democrats are “compromising” on drilling to keep the Republicans from using it as a campaign issue.

It makes me think of what I used to do as a toddler (I don’t remember this; this is from my mother): my brother was 18 months older than me and when I was first learning to walk he loved to come over to me and push me down. It didn’t take me long to start sitting down whenever I saw him enter the room. Now I watch the Democrats do that over and over whenever a Republican enters the room.

The Scientific American article’s authors conclude their article with these lines: “The greatest obstacle to implementing a renewable U.S. energy system is not technology or money, however. It is the lack of public awareness that solar power is a practical alternative — and one that can fuel transportation as well. Forward-looking thinkers should try to inspire U.S. citizens, and their political and scientific leaders, about solar power’s incredible potential. Once Americans realize that potential, we believe the desire for energy self-sufficiency and the need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions will prompt them to adopt a national solar plan.”

If you know where any forward-looking politicians are, please let me know.

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

COMMUNITY CARES continued from page 20

The end of June, with an estimated total value of services topping $22,000, five doctors, three medical students, seven nurses, 11 clerical registrars and 12 Spanish translators.

Blank says the translators are especially needed. While nearly half of those served are white and English speaking, more than half are Hispanic and often cannot communicate with their doctors without an intermediary.

She says she hopes people in the Cashiers-Highlands community will consider giving up a little of their time to help the clinic as a volunteer. Help is needed all times, but especially in the winter, when many area residents head to warmer climates and the clinic lacks translators and nurses particularly.

To volunteer at the clinic or make a tax-deductible donation, call (828) 526-1991.

SALZARULO continued from page 5

When Palin was mayor, there were books in the Wasilla library that she didn’t like. It has been said that her Pentecostal pastor asked that she intercede to have Godless books removed. She asked the head librarian on several occasions how she would respond to a request to remove the objectionable volumes from the shelves. After a third rejection Mayor Palin fired the librarian. She was reinstated the next day after the local population cried “Foul.” One of the objectionable books was “Daddy’s Roommate.” I haven’t read it, but I doubt it is on the level of “Catcher in the Rye.” That being said, censorship sends shivers down my squeamish spine.

We are now learning that as Governor, Palin appointed former high friends to state offices for which they had little, if any qualification. Of course, we all know that Sarah is not big on qualifications. She appointed Frank Havemester, a high school classmate to head the state’s Division of Agriculture at a salary of $95,000 per year. The director said that her childhood love of cows qualified her for the job. She is one of five high school friends who have been appointed to high public office by the Governor. This is either cronyism, or hers was a remarkable class.

Good for her. I just doubt that the hearty souls on the frontier are not representative of most Americans. Maybe the right to bear arms is their main constitutional concern. Maybe they are less concerned than we are with other Constitutional provisions, among them, freedom of speech, a freedom which includes leaving offensive books on library shelves. We are a nation of law. Due process is fundamental to that notion. It sounds like the governor is running a personality cult, which is antithetical to the ideal. I was initially shocked and puzzled by Senator McCain’s choice. As I learned more about Governor Palin, I became amused. Now I’m getting scared.
Hospital entities reaccredited

Dr. Jim Rothermel, Griffin Bell, Jr., of the Patient Care Committee and Frank Leslie, vice president of operations, proudly display a certificate indicating the hospital's accreditation by the Joint Commission. The hospital, Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, and Highlands-Cashiers Hospice were all recently reaccredited as the result of a successful survey this past June. The Joint Commission is the premier independent organization monitoring quality of care and patient safety for healthcare providers across the nation. And during a follow-up survey, inspectors from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid, also gave the hospital a clean bill of health.

... HIS & HERS continued from page 13

like this, you discover all sorts of lovely places where you'd love to stop and linger, if only you had the time. The next morning, we boarded the bus again, after another phenomenal breakfast. It was a pleasure seeing John's face light up every morning as he sampled further delights in the realm of cooked breakfasts. I could see that it wasn't going to be easy for him to get back into the “chocolate Slim Fast for breakfast” routine. Better him than me.

We had two treats on Wednesday – Blair Castle and Blair Athol Distillery. Heading south through the rugged peaks of the Grampian Mountains, we stopped at Blair Castle, home of the Duke of Atholl, the only British subject who is allowed to keep a private army, the Atholl Highlanders. The castle was a maze of beautiful rooms, with fine collections of furniture, china, portraits, and such a collection of armor that you wonder if the owners ever got along with anyone! We had an added treat – the grounds were soon to host a horse show, so the landscape was dotted with fine horses and portable stables. As we pulled away from the castle, we came upon two magnificent examples of Highland cattle, those red-haired, shaggy beasts we were to see several times as we drove through the countryside. Victor stopped the bus, so we could photograph this pair, who took our cameras in stride, like a couple of rock stars.

The afternoon was capped by a visit to Blair Athol Distillery, established in 1798 in the lovely town of Pitlochry. One of the oldest working distilleries in Scotland, Blair Athol produces a 12 year old single malt of remarkable quality. What's not to like about learning how Scotch whisky is made? John, our distillery tour guide, explained the basics of whisky production, and it really is fascinating to see what's involved in producing this “water of life”, as it was originally called. The sample at the end of the tour didn't hurt, either. I looked over at my John, content from his hearty breakfast, the tour didn't hurt, either. I looked over at my John, content from his hearty breakfast, and now capping off his afternoon with a superb glass of Scotch. I could tell it wasn't going to be easy getting him back to Kettlerock.

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, VA, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. She misses the mists of the Isles, but can live without the blood pudding.
Among the eternal truths of our existence is a paradox:
We find our best and truest self by losing our self in the service of others.
Life can be demanding for us all.
Financial worries, concerns about health and loved ones— not to mention the more public issues of politics and peace, economics and education, and others— it's easy to feel overwhelmed and exhausted, like we have nothing left to give.
But as novelist George Eliot asked, "What do we live for if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?" The beauty and power of this question is that the service we render doesn't have to be much; it just has to come from the heart.
Simple acts, kind deeds, a few minutes of effort can lift a burden, break the boredom, alleviate loneliness, and comfort a hurting heart.

We can all give of ourselves. In a quiet neighborhood, a proud three-year-old went to a friend's birthday party. Her eyes were full of joy and happy anticipation as she helped wrap a gift for the precious three-year-old.

Boredom, alleviate loneliness, and comfort a hurting heart.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
Office - 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion - 11 a.m.
(Highlands Community Center on U.S. 64 next to the ballfield in Highlands
Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m.
Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

Christian Science Church
Corner of Spring and Third streets
Sundays: 11 a.m.

Clear Creek Baptist Church
Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Prayer - 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service - 1st & 3rd Sunday - 7 p.m.

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First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Mark Kayser, Interim Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers
Choir - 7

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

Highlands United Methodist Church
Pastor Paul Christy
526-3376
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship: 8:30 & 11 a.m.;
5 p.m. Youth Group
Wed: Supper; 6:30 - children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 - Adult choir
nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities
Thurs:12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

Holy Family Lutheran Church - ELCA
Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road - 526-7341
Sundays: Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion - 10:30

Healing Service on the 5th sunday of the month.

LITTLE CHURCH OF THE WILDWOOD
Services at the Church in the Wildwood in Horse Cove. Memorial Day through Labor Day
Call Kay Ward at 743-5009
Sundays at 7 p.m. Dress is casual. Old fashioned hymn-sing.

Macedonia Baptist Church
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 20 S. in Satolah
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Choir - 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.

Mountain Synagogue
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
2nd Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
4th Saturday: Sabbath Services at 10:30 a.m.
For more information, call 828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Parish office, 526-2418
Sundays: Mass - 11 a.m.
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
(through last Saturday of October)

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

Scaly Mountain Church of God
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth - 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

Shortoff Baptist Church
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.
Wednesday: Prayer & Bible Study - 7 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
828-369-3633
Rev. Robert Weitzel
Lay led Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.

Whiteside Presbyterian Church
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
On-going Events
• Refuge Youth meets every Sun. night at 6:30 pm downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God. If you are in grades 6th-12th then this is the place to be! The church is located at 6201 Highlands Rd. next to Exxon. For more info call youth ministers Matt and Candice Woodroof at 828-369-7540 ext 233. www.cullasajagg.org.
• Raffle of handcrafted Stiefel Botanical Book to Benefit The Bascom. To purchase a raffle ticket, call Four different images will be available for sale and for raffle, so people can buy all four images for $2,000 and have four different chances of winning.
• 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.242hwy.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 828-526-1PIT.
• The Circle of Life support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodruff room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Fleanager at 743-2567.
• Mondays & Wednesdays.
• Pilates Classes Level 1 of Jane Woodruff at the hospital at 4 p.m. $10 per class. Call 526-5552.
• Middle School students After School Program from 3-5 p.m. at the Rec Park. The program is free and will include a snacks, homework help, arts/crafts, sports, community involvement projects, and mini field trips. Parents will be required to register their child(ren) upon their second day of attendance and children will be required to sign in daily. For more information please call 828.526.3556.
•MON., WED., & FRI.
• Open AA meeting noon and 8 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.
• First Mondays
• Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.
• Mondays
• Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. $3 per person.
•TUESDAYS
• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.
• Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-ins is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.
• Wednesdays
• 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.

** UPCOMING EVENTS **

Diaries of Adam and Eve coming to ITC

Mark Twain’s Diaries of Adam and Eve plays at the Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main Sept 19-20 at 8 p.m. This highly original two-character performance piece costs David Milford and Madeleine Davis. Aside from being a popular writer, Mark Twain was one of the great entertainers of his day. He served as a kind of ambassador of American sensibility to the world. He showed his own countrymen what it meant to be an American as well. “The Diaries of Adam and Eve” sparkles with Mark Twain’s wit and humor, poignancy and pathos. Call the ITC box office for reservations at 828-342-9197. The ITC’s Studio on Main is located at 310 Oak Square, Main Street, Highlands. Visit our website at Instanttheatre.org.
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Road, Franklin. NAMI offers peer support, education, and advocacy for individuals suffering from serious mental illness and their families and loved ones. Contact Ann Nan- dreas 369-7385, Carole Ligth 524-9769 or Mary Ann Widen- house 524-1355 for more information.

**Thursdays**
- At Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.
- **Friday & Saturday**
  - Live music at The Rib Shack every Friday and Saturday night from 8-11 p.m.
  - **Friday-Sunday**
    - At Skyline Lodge & Restaurant. Hal Phillips at the piano, 7-9 p.m. Flat Mountain Road. 526-2121.
- **Saturday**
  - Live music at Cypress Restaurant at 9:30 p.m.
  - Through Sept. 20
    - Christmas at Mountain Findings featuring 50% markdowns in the "holiday" section of the store. Mountain Findings is open Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Spruce Street.
  - **Through September**
    - Hudson Library hosts a display of needlework featuring two years of work of the Sapphire Valley Chapter of the American Needlepoint Guild.
  - **Through Oct. 1**
    - At Summit One Gallery, at Second Street and Helen's Barn Ave. "Two Realities" paintings by Edward Rice and Philip Moroseberger.
  - **Through Nov. 12**
    - The Village Green in Cashiers, NC presents Sculpture on the Green 2008 1st Bi-Annual Invitational Exhibition. Last summer, the 12 artists who began to integrate sculpture into the landscape and installed 5 sculptures to its Permanent Collection. Starting this summer, it is hosting a six-month exhibition of 10 works from sculptors from all over the nation. Cast your vote for the sculpture to be added to the Perma- nent Collection at the Green.
- **Thursday & Friday, Sept. 18-19**
  - At The Bascom, the art of shibori is the subject of Janet Taylor’s workshop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Highlands Community Center. Cost is $108 for Bascom members and $120 for not-yet-members. For more informa- tion or to register, call (828) 526-4949, ext. #, or visit www.thebascom.org.

**Beginning Thursday, Sept. 18**
- Collections for men and women overseas at Chestnut Hill Retirement community. A wide variety of items cur- rently are needed, including books and magazines, CDs and DVDs, and small pocket books, which fit neatly in the BDUs (Battle Dress Uniforms). Phone cards, lounge pants, grey or black t-shirts, and cards of encouragement are also in great demand. Consumables such as insect repellent, lotions, and other hygiene products must come new, in original packaging. Monetary donations to fund the flat rate APO shipping at $10.95 per box should be left at the front desk of Chestnut Hill. The drop point for all items will be under the flagpole at the Chestnut Hill Clubhouse on Club- house Trail. For any questions, or to schedule a drop-off, contact Jeremy Duke in our community office at (828) 767- 2114.

**Thursday, Sept. 18**
- **At Anon**
  - A Miner Vineyards Wine Dinner at OET’s The Farm, $169 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Call 866-526- 8008.
  - At CLE. Your Dog’s Lifetime Developmental Stages: What’s to Know? Please call 526-8811 to register.
  - Cat Ballou’ (1965) is the story of Cat (Jane Fonda) who seeks revenge for her murdered father. She hires a famous gunman (Lee Marvin), but finds he is very different from what she expects. Marvin won the Oscar for his performance in the great western comedy. The movies are shown in the Cashiers Library Meeting Room at 7 p.m. on Thursday nights. The movies and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated. Movies are among the many services provided to the community by the Friends of the Bascom.

**Friday & Saturday, Sept. 19 & 20**
- **Friday**
  - The Diaries of Adam and Eve, by Mark Twaat at 8 p.m. at ITCC. Stars Madeleine Davis and David Milford. For reservations call the ITCC Office at 826-342-9197.

**Friday-Sunday, Sept. 21**
- At Anon’s on Main Street, two trunk shows: a Match Trunk Show. Table furnishings of pewter, crystal and ceramics handmade in northern Italy and a Blossom Bath and Body Trunk Show. Pomegranate bath and body prod- ucts that embody a lifestyle of maintaining internal beauty.

**Friday, Sept. 19**
- **This year the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Cen- ter’s Male Chorus will give its annual concert at the Perform- ing Arts Center on Chestnut Street on Friday evening at 8 p.m.**
  - The director of the Male Chorus, Ovville Wike, has put together a concert of songs ranging from barber-shop to spiritual to operetta. Angie Jenkins accompanies the Chorus at the piano. The concerts are usually sellouts, so early reservations are recommended. Tickets are $12 each and may be charged by phone at 526-9047.

**Saturday, Sept. 20**
- At CLE, Bookshop on Main Street, author George Ellison will sign copies of “High Vistas” from 1-3 p.m.

**Sunday, Sept. 21**
- **“Star Night” at PAC. Got talent? Time is running out to register to demonstrate it at this year’s “Star Night” talent competition at 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Chuck Cooper of WHLC Radio will again be master of ceremonies. Summit One Gallery is providing the prize money: $200 for the best student performer, $200 for best adult, and $200 for best overall. Registration forms are available at the Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street. Tickets to the show are $10 each, available at the door.**

**Monday, Sept 22**
- At CLE, Digital Photography-Put Pizzazz in your Fall Photos. Please call 526-8811 to register.

**Tuesday, Sept. 23**
- “Birdier Friendly Business Training Program” at the Rec Park from 10 a.m. to 4 pm. Learn how to market your business to birders. Registration deadline: September 16. Limited to 25 participants. Registration application available on NC Birding Trail Website, www.ncbirdingtrail.org. Particip- ating businesses will be listed in trail guide and web site, and receive instruction and materials helpful with attracting birders.

**Wednesday, Sept. 24**
- An “Evening with Casablanca” at Jack’s at Skyline Lodge. Dinner, dancing, movie and prizes for the best charac- ter representation. Limited seating. $50 per person. Prime reservations call the ITC Box Office at 828-342-9197.

**Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 8:00 a.m. Drive 25 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Don O’Neal, 586-5723, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.**

**Sunday, Sept. 21**
- Readings and book signing by his Raee, “Colors of My Life” at the Episcopal Church at 5 p.m. with a program of classical piano music by Robert Henry.
- The Nanahala Hiking Club will take two hikes, mostly downhills, in the Wayah Bald area. **Hike 1, from Wayah Bald to Wayah Crest, is a 4.2 mile easy-to-moderate hike. Hike 2 will spend some time on the Wayah tower, then hike from Wilson Lick Ranger Station to Wayah Crest, an easy 1.5-mile hike, suitable for children over ten. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2:00 p.m. Drive 35 miles round trip. Bring water in a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Kay Corell, 369-6620, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.**

**Wednesday, Sept. 24**
- “An Evening with Casablanca” at Jack’s at Skyline Lodge. Dinner, dancing, movie and prizes for the best charac- ter representation. Limited seating. $50 per person. Prime reservations call the ITC Box Office at 828-342-9197.

**See EVENTS page 28**

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Christmas in September at Mtn. Findings

The week of Monday, Sept. 15 all holiday items are on sale at 50% off the marked prices in the holiday section of Mountain Findings, which is overflowing with beautiful, unique ornaments and decorations. Located on Spruce Street, Mountain Findings is open Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Since its beginning almost 40 years ago, proceeds from sales at Mountain Findings have been donated to local organizations each year.

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Children explore their creative side in The Bascom's art classes

Six-year-old Taj Roman works on his drawing skills during The Bascom's "Artventure" class. The Bascom offers six different art programs for preschoolers to teenagers. To learn more, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949, ext. 0#.

From painting to crafts and much more, area preschoolers to teenagers are honing their art skills in The Bascom's annual lineup of art classes. Classes continue throughout the school year for the art center’s Young Artists Program (YAP), a slate of six different programs. Classes are held at both the Highlands School and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Financial as- sistance is available.

The class lineup is as follows:
- **Little Stars** – for preschoolers, Tuesdays 11-11:30 a.m., Episcopal Church, cost $15 for a six-class session.
- **Artventure** – for kindergarten and first graders, Tuesdays 3-4 p.m., Highlands School cafeteria, cost $30 for a six-class session.
- **Artventure2** – for grades K-2, Wednesdays 3-4:15 p.m., Episcopal Church, cost $30 for a six-class session.
- **Art ODyssey** – for grades 2-5, Mondays 3-4 p.m., Highlands School cafeteria, cost $30 for a six-class session.
- **Art-rageous** – Young Adult Inde- pendent Study, Tuesdays 12:30-2 p.m., Episcopal Church, cost $45 for a six-class session.
- It’s Masterful, homeschoolers in grades K-8, Wednesdays 12:30-2 p.m., Episcopal Church, cost $45 for a six-class session. To register, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 0# between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
All Male Chorus to perform Sept. 19 at PAC

Stell Huie, shown with accompanist Angie Jenkins, will be one of three soloists featured in the upcoming performance of the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center’s Male Chorus. The other two include Wayne Coleman and John Greene. The Male Chorus will appear at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street on Friday evening, Sept. 19 at 8 p.m.

The director, Orville Wike, has planned a varied program, including spirituals, barbershop harmonies, operetta music and others. Early reservations are recommended, since concerts by the Male Chorus are usually sellouts.

Call 526-9047 to charge tickets by phone. Admission price is $12.

Annual Highlands Craft Show Oct. 11

The annual Highlands’ Woman’s Club Craft Show, Oct. 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center, will feature hand-crafted items, baked goods, jewelry, textiles, stained glass, pottery, wood bowls, photography, artwork and scores of other items. Admission and parking are free. Breakfast and lunch available by Fressers Eatery.

Pancake Breakfast Sept. 27 at Scaly Schoolhouse on Buck Knob Road

Mel Bellwood, aka “Mr. Coffee,” fills a pot with his special brew for Neil Oliver who will keep cups full at the monthly Scaly Mountain Women’s Club Pancake Breakfast set for Sept. 27. A full home-cooked meal will be served at the Historic Scaly School House, corner of NC Highway 106 and Buck Knob Road from 7:30-10:30 a.m. For information call 828-787-1860.

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

YARD SALES

MOVING SALE – Livingroom, bedroom, table, entertainment center. Call for directions and information. 828-508-9785. 918

ITEM WANTED

TABLE TENNIS OR PING PONG SET for use at Highlands Rec. Park. Call Ellie Hogan at 200-0489 or the Rec Park at 526-3556.

HELP WANTED

PART TIME RETAIL ASSISTANT needed from September-December at The Highlands Gem Shop. Call Matthew Schroeders at 828-526-2767. 9/18

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH is actively seeking a responsible and energetic individual to fill the full-time position of Director of Children and Youth Ministries. Bachelor’s degree or five years related experience required. Send resumes to HUMC, P.O. Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741. Attn: Scott Roddy or email inquiries and resumes to humcsc@bnet.net.


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

HIGHLANDS INN & HAMPTON INN now hiring Guest Services Representative. Part-time or Full-time available. Please call 526-9380 for interview.


SCALY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR CENTER – Now hiring, cooks, dishwashers, wait staff and general help. Call Brenda at 526-1663.

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Part time and PRN positions available. 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 a current BLS and/or ACLS required. Experience with respiratory and disease prevention preferred. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RRNs 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.

DIRECTOR OF NURSING is needed in the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina. Experienced nurse
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Classic porcelain painting offered by The Bascom**

Margie Shambaugh has been painting porcelain for more than 50 years, since she first saw porcelain art at a high school friend’s home.

“I fell in love with the softness and nostalgic feeling of it,” said Shambaugh, a past president of the N.C. Porcelain Artists Association.

Now, after a 25-year hiatus, she is teaching the art again, for The Bascom. Some of her former students still live in Highlands and plan to take the class.

“Painting Porcelain: Creating a Family Heirloom” will be offered Oct. 13, 15 and 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Shambaugh will teach a step-by-step process for classic porcelain floral painting called chine painting. Using the loaded brush system, students will be guided through a three-day process of painting and firing with what Shambaugh calls “exquisite show-stopping results.”

The class is for beginning to advanced students. The cost is $177 for Bascom members and $320.50 for non-members. To register, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 4.###

**Enjoy ‘Star Night’ at PAC**

This year’s “Star Night” talent competition scheduled Saturday, Sept. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Chuck Cooper of WHLC Radio will again be master of ceremonies. Summit One Gallery is providing the prize money: $200 for the best student performer, $200 for best adult, and $200 for best overall. Tickets to the show are $10 each, available at the door.

Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center is currently seeking volunteers for the Fall Gorge Road Clean Up scheduled for Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please call 743-1079 for reservations or more information.

**Welcome a Housekeeper?**

**FOUND**

- **A RING** – At Sliding Rock Falls in Whiteside Cove. Call Steve at 743-5470.

**FREE DOG**

- **MOVING** – 5 yr. old Jack Russell Terrier looking for a loving home. Call 626-200-9842.

**LOST**


**DEVELOPER CLOSEOUT**

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

**In-Town Commercial Space with Option: All Living Space for Rent**


**Upcoming Book Signings**

- **September 20**
  - 1 to 3 pm
  - George Ellison
  - “High Vistas”
  - An anthology of nature writing from Western North Carolina and the Great Smoky Mountains

- **September 27**
  - 1 to 3 pm
  - M arjorie O’Neal Edubank
  - “Roger”

- **October 5**
  - 1 to 3 pm
  - TBA

- **October 10-11**
  - Time: TBA
  - Philippa Gregory
  - The Other Queen

**See EVENTS page 30**
Ruby Cinemas
Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

Showing Sept. 19-25

RIGHTIOUS KILL rated R
Mon - Fri: (4:20), 7:05, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:20), 7:05, 9:20

THE WOMEN rated PG-13
Mon - Fri: (4:15), 7, 9:15
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:15), 7, 9:15

BURN AFTER READING rated R
Mon - Fri: 7:10, 9:10
Sat & Sun: 7:10, 9:10

THE HOUSE BUNNY rated PG-13
Mon - Fri: (4:30), 7:15, 9:30
Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:30), 7:15, 9:30

SWING VOTE rated PG
Mon - Fri: 4:10
Sat & Sun: (2:10), 4:10

* • UPCOMING EVENTS •*

**Trunk Show**
Biju de Mer specializes in pearls and precious stones and a Lauren Lachance Botanical Pressings Trunk Show transforming a five hundred year old tradition of pressing plants into an arrestingly beautiful contemporary art form.

Saturday, Oct. 18

**JAZZ AT THE PAC’**
New York-based guitarist and recording artist, Pete McCann, will make his third appearance at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 8 p.m. as part of the sixth program of ‘Jazz at the PAC.”

PAC will once again provide a program of jazz on Sept. 27 featuring Pete McCann who has been an integral part of the New York City scene for more than 17 years. He has performed with such jazz greats as Kenny Wheeler, Dave Lieberman, Lee Konitz and Peter Enskne. In 2007 he toured Japan with vocalist Patti Austin and performed with her at the Kennedy Center on New Year’s Eve. McCann has appeared on over 50 CDS. Tickets to Jazz at the PAC are available now for $20 each. Call 526-9047.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**The Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association** will hold its Annual Meeting on Sept. 25 at the Highlands Community Building. The meeting will begin at 5:30 and refreshments will be served afterward. A brief UCWA business meeting will precede the speaker.

Featured speaker will be Asheville attorney Billy Clarke with the law firm of Roberts and Stewers – Asheville. Clarke is well known in the Highlands area having successfully represented Whiteside Estates – David and Earl Young – vs. Highlands Cove in a precedent-setting environmental action.

Several years later, Clarke represented Riverwalk against claims made by the Town of Highlands. Clarke’s presentation will address sedimentation, erosion and stormwater issues related to enforcement in the public and private sector.

The meeting is open to the public and there is no charge for admission.
**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**


**WALKING DISTANCE TO TOWN!** Adorable Park Model in Chestnut Park. 1 Bedroom, open bathroom with cathedral ceilings and loft. Full size kitchen appliances, stack washer & dryer. Central heat & air and electric fireplace. Screened porch and open deck. Adjacent lot available for expansion or motor coach. $105,000 or $270,000 with extra lot. Phone 526-2598.

**PROPERTY, BARGAIN PRICES.**

**OWNERSHIP FINANCING AVAILABLE.** — Prime location, less than 4 miles from Main St. Highlands. Lots 1 to 2 acres, a 3 acre tract and a water fall on that site between 2 falls available. The community is 52 acres, has 8 homes all built after 2000 – 1 completed just this year. Home values range from $750,000 to $1,750,000. We are governed by the “North Carolina Planned Community Act”, our covenants are well balanced and thought out, designed to protect values while maximizing your peace and enjoyment. We employ “Low Impact Development” practices to protect our water and land resources. NOW is the time to acquire premium property at bargain prices. REALTORS 10% commission. From Main St. Highlands turn on S. on the Dillard Rd. (Hwy.106) go 2.7 miles to Owl Gap Rd. turn right go 1 mile to the property. We are secluded and private but not remote-no road noise either. Call 526-5266 for more information.

**LARGE LOTS HIGHLANDS, NC.** — These wooded lots are ready for your mountain getaway! Underground power, community well and septic evaluation make these lots a fantastic value. Three 2.8-2.9 acre lots, each available for under $165,000. Call now for recorded detailed information.


**2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, PLUS OFFICE.** In Town. $249,000. Lease to own option for qualified. $1,100 per month. Call 526-254-3331.

**RV LOT FOR SALE** — Lot 1 The Coach House. Class A Resort. Downtown Highlands. 200 sq. ft. cedar coach house, landscaped, outdoor kitchen, gas fire pit, overlooking stream. Live the Highlands life. See Terry@holidays.com or call RV lot. Call 707-354-201.

See CLASSIFIEDS page 32

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**WINE DINNER at Wolfgang’s Bistro.** Silver Oak Cellars Under 11. Call 706-212-2500.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**• Wine Dinner with Tom Johnson “Life is a Cabernet!” Featuring books can be reserved for autographing by Elizabeth Ellison, the author’s wife and a talented artist whose work is frequently exhibited in Highlands and was featured in the 2000 film “Songcatcher.”**

**“High Vistas” is the first anthology devoted to nature writings on Western North Carolina and the Great Smoky Mountains.** Each selection features a biographical essay introducing each author and reveals how they explored and depicted the wonders they encountered, from rare wildflowers and medicinal plants to giant rattlesnakes and timber wolves.

**The final chapter in “High Vistas” an excerpt from Bradford Torrey’s 1896 “World of Green Hills,” which recounts his travels in Western North Carolina and Southwest Virginia.** Torrey wrote for Atlantic Monthly magazine and edited Thoreau’s journals, spent time on the Highlands Plateau and was very impressed by the friendliness and botanical knowledge of the natives. Whether he knocked on the doorm of a small cottage, or stopped a couple driving by in their buggy, they knew his plants.

**Cyrano’s Bookshop is located at 390 Main Street in Highlands, North Carolina. Books can be reserved for autographing by calling (828) 526-5488 or sending an email to cyranos@ncdvt.com.**

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**George Ellison on Sept. 20**

Noted naturalist and historian George Ellison will be at Cyrano’s Bookshop in Highlands on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 1-3 p.m., to sign copies of “High Vistas: An Anthology of Nature Writing From Western North Carolina to the Great Smoky Mountains, Volume I, 1674-1900.”

**John Shearl**

I see some of my teachers here today and these few people gave me my education. I’m married and have three children. One is a 2008 graduate of Highlands School and just graduated from Western Carolina University. I also have another son in high school and one in second grade. I graduated from Franklin High School in 1987 and moved to Highlands where I started a landscape business which I own and operate. I have been a volunteer firefighter for 20 years. I have worked with the Little League since 1991 and this year was elected president. I’m also on the Highlands School Booster Club board and oversee concessions for all the sporting events. A few years ago I came up with the idea to beautify the grounds of the Highlands School by having various landscaping contractors in town adopt a garden or area and maintain it. I’ve also helped with repairs and maintenance at the school. I am extremely involved with the students in Highlands and believe in the well-being of our children. I do the best I can and I want to help secure the future of our children.

I’m not a book of knowledge of numbers and figures about the school system of Macon County. We in Highlands have been represented by one person for many years and the school system has provided for our children and they are doing well. Donna Edwards did a good job while serving among all the kids, not just the Highlands kids. I can’t tell an educator how to run his or her class. We need to make sure our teachers have all the tools they need to do their job for the kids. Make sure they get what they need. If I’m elected, I will go to all the schools, meet with all the principals and let them tell me what they need. We need to get back to basics because our teachers are educators of our children. The drop-out rate needs to be fixed. If teachers are happy in the classroom, the kids will enjoy learning. They are the future. Smaller classrooms is what we need. I will work hard for you and do what’s best in the educating of our children and the whole community.

Frieda Bennett
I have taught for 34 years, 21 in Macon County. I have taught grades 3-12 and more recently have taught in special needs classrooms. I have a Masters which I was able to attain through another school system which paid for its teachers to get more education as long as they wanted. This is something I’d like to see Macon County do for its teachers. When you look at the children, you are hopeful and you know things are going to be better that day. I’ve been teaching all my life. Now I’d like a chance to help them be as successful as you and you.

I have ideas for change because time is not on our side. We don’t have to do everything to get ahead, but we should incorporate things that have worked in other communities. Smaller schools make some teachers feel like they belong. I think we need to have a Ninth-Grade Academy in Highlands School. Let’s move a little faster and do things that are proven to work. India has more children in honor classes than the U.S. has in classes. Make our county’s schools the will of the people. Make them the community’s schools. What is the will? Let’s save money and make it count for the children. Engage teachers. Use resources, ask for accountability, ask for expectations. Make principals more visible, make the system more visible, make the Board of Education more visible, all working as one representing the will of the people for the sake of the children.

— Kim Lewicki

Want space in the October issues? Call today about ads in October! 526-0782 or email highlandseditor@aol.com
**ITEMS FOR SALE**

- **REFRIGERATOR** – $100. Call 828-371-2999.
- **2 ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS** – $1 Pine, $75 - can hold 27” TV, 1 dark wood $50. Call 369-5863.
- **LARGE WOOD STOVE** with blower $300. Call 369-5863.
- **CHAIR AND OTTOMAN** – overstuffed brown leather - excellent condition $500 for both - 828-362-3746.
- **5 BOARD PINE DINING TABLE** – $300. Early American New England spinning wheel - $225, 826-2671.
- **BOWPLEX EXTREME 2 SE** home gym. Used. New. 2 weeks and now it collects dust. $1,500 obo. Call 828-876-1915.
- **OSF DINING TABLE** with extra 2 leaf insert and 6 dining chairs - $400. Call 362-2706 or 362-0066.
- **TWO COWBOY DUSTER** – Full length cloaks. One black, one tan. Like brand new. Bought at T.J. Bailey’s for $355 each. Will sell for $375 each. Also misc. items cheap. Call 706-746-3046. (Sky Valley).
- **DOUBLE UPHOLSTERED HEAD BOARD** with 4 matching valances. $35 for all. Blue and yellow plaid Call 326-3251.
- **36” HEATLIT FIRE PLACE**. New. Burns gas or oil. In the floor, AG vent pipes. Plus top cap at half price. The first $450 gets it. Call Jerry Hall at 743-7187.
- **STEEL PALLETS RACK FOR SALE** – Approximately 50 ft. of 42” high x 42” deep x 8’ wide steel pallet rack, includes frames and rials; 3,000 lb. capacity. Perfect for home or industrial applications - includes working warehouse, $450, (828) 767-1089.
- **TABLE SAW – 9” with 4” miter joint**. All one stand. $75.
- **PFALTZGRAFF “HEIRLOOM” DISHES** – 9” with 4” Joiner. All one stand. $75.
- **6 FT SLIDING GLASS DOOR SET** – aluminum with screen. $100 OBO. Call 349-4930.
- **BUNK BEDS** in great condition, solid wood, honey color, mattresses and denim comforters included. $350. Call 526-6231.
- **SONY PSP HANDHELD GAME SYSTEM** – 1 year old. Used very little. Comes in original box with manual. Excellent condition. $165, 526-9107.
- **HEWLETT PACKARD 15” CRT MONITOR** in good working condition with all connections cord included. “FREE.” Call Randy at 828-488-2193.
- **CHAIRROIL – GRICE**, $100 and another one for FREE. Call 526-4063.
- **COLONIAL GLASS** – set of 12 Sherbet Goblets, and dessert plates. $35. Call 526-4063.
- **TANZANITE LOOSE STONES**: I have for sale 10 gorgeous oval cut 1-carat Tanzanite stones which would make beautiful earrings, bracelet, necklace, or a cluster ring. These stones are AAA++ quality grade. Each stone is priced at $400 each or discounted for a multiple stone purchase. Call 828-488-2193 and ask for Randy.
- **WATER PURIFYING CHLORINATOR PUMP** with large heavy duty plastic construction tank. Wall $75. New $50. Call Randy at 828-488-2193.
- **PLASTIC OUTDOOR TABLE**. Hunter green 36”x36” in like new condition. $10. Call Randy at 828-488-2193.
- **DECK CHAIR WITH MATCHING FOOT RESTS** – $20. Call 526-5367.
- **DRESSING MIRROR** – $5. Call 526-5367.
- **STEEL TYPEWRITER TABLE** – $5. Call 526-5367.
- **TWO TWIN CREAM COLOR REVOLVERS** – $6 each. Call 526-5367.
- **3 TIERED GLASS CORNER SHELF** – $10. Call 526-5367.
- **TWO ELECTRIC WATER COOLERs** for sale. Approximately 35” tall x 12” square. Put bottled water on top. $50 each. OBO. Call 526-2607.
- **7 IN SHORE LAMPS BY ENESCO** For sale. Call 362-876-1292. Prices range from $70-$125.
- **FREE BRICK FRONT FOR BUILT-IN FIREPLACE**. W-68”, H-52”. Call 349-3320.
- **ETHAN ALLEN HEIRLOOM CROWN GLASS CHINA CABINET** with a bottom 3-door buffet. Call 526-4077.
- **LENOX SPICE JARS**. All set mint condition, original price $45 each. Also, jewelry call 369-0948. 7-9 p.m.
- **GEISHA GIRL NIPPON TEAPOT**. Randall handles handle circa 1891-1921, Creamer/Covered Sugar Set, Tea set/with a bottom 3-door buffet. Call 526-4077.
- **LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES** – Variety shrubs, trees, rock roads, stone and mulch varieties, pine straw and soil additivites. Call 828-225-3620.
- **ANTEPIQUE FURNITURE**. Medallion Back Sofa, Lou is XV style. $300. Matching Lady’s and Gentleman’s Chairs, $400 set. Rocking Chair, Lincoln Type, upholstered. $175. Sold separately or all for $750. Call Randy at 369-6283.
- **GREEN PRINT VELUR SWIVEL ROCKER**. New, $250. Blue slipper chair club weldman, like new. $175, large pine armoire, like new. $200, Simms x-drawer w/attached tags, bought at HighHill used, times, $250. Call Beatrice or Dennis at 743-5600.
- **RED WICKER CHAISE LOUNGE WITH PICTURE FRAME**. Original brass hardware. Good condition. $995 743-5256.
- **CRAFTSMAN 10” RADIAL ARM SAW** with stand. Old but used very little. Excellent working condition. $150. 829-787-2177.
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- **CRAFTSMAN 10” RADIAL ARM SAW** with stand. Old but used very little. Excellent working condition. $150. 829-787-2177.
Alaska?
If you were honest and objective with yourself and your readers, you would have acknowledged that your guy, Mr. Obama, is the least experienced of all four presidential/vice presidential candidates, not Sarah. But unfortunately for your readers, you are obviously neither honest nor objective.
I did, however, agree with the half-truth of the last statement in the column, i.e. that Jimmy Carter was "as terrible a president who has ever lived."

Bob Dubow
Sapphire, NC

Let me clarify...

Dear Editor,
I'm writing in response to Mr. Dubow's letter about my Sept. 4 column. Had I written the column after her speech, I would not have underestimated her appeal. Read this week's column. Conservatives have often described Senator Obama as an "empty suit" I hope you don't find it sexist I'm worried that she is an "empty skirt."

Yes, I would have started the column, "Tim, who?" if Senator McCain had chosen him and if I were writing a humorous critique on what I believed at the time to be a monstrous mistake. Don't make the mistake of equating women and feminism. Feminism is a political movement which does not embrace the display and exploitation of women (beauty contests).

Guilty on the moose stew point. I don't think it qualifies a person to serve as vice president. Bill Clinton is not my hero. I didn't vote for him, either in 1992 or 1996. I do, however believe that he was among our better recent presidents.

I'm not a big Obama guy. I was inspired by his early rhetoric and believed he just might be able to break Congressional gridlock and restore a sense of service to country. When he showed himself as just another politician, I jumped ship. It's just that I jumped into the sea rather than onto McCain's boat. See my July 17 column on the subject of Obama.

I reject the notion that Jimmy Carter is anti-Semitic. I believe that he is looking for a solution to the Palestinian problem which is enduring and fair to both parties. In case you haven't noticed, Israel is not perfect, better than Palestine, but far from perfect. I read Carter's widely criticized book on the subject, (Peace: not Apartheid). Did you?

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Franklin, NC

HIGHLANDS’ NEWSPAPER - Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008 - Page 33

In the name of God, please don’t hand him your business card.

And truly, is the fruit of service peace? Or is it peace on our terms and none others, even at the sacrifice of human dignity? Do we really believe that God is always on our side, no matter how convoluted our route to victory and the carnage we leave by the side of the road?

If I asked for your business card today, would it be Mother Teresa simple or would it be overflowing with self-imposed platitudes and drifting off the borders with degrees showing our importance?

My impression of heaven is simple. On that day of great judgment, God will not ask, How did you like driving your new Lexus? Or Was it difficult to maintain two homes and your stocks all at once? No, the question more likely will be simply, What did you do with the one life I gave you?

... LETTERS continued from page 18

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 25

In the name of God, please don’t hand him your business card.

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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 25

In the name of God, please don’t hand him your business card.
... LETTERS continued from page 33

It is true that Senator Obama hasn’t had much experience, but as I mentioned earlier, I am not a great fan. There is a fine line between someone who is experienced enough to govern, but not so “experienced” that he/she has been corrupted.

I’m an anesthesiologist. Call me if you want to go to sleep.

Thanks for writing. I hope I’ve answered most, if not all, of your concerns. I don’t expect you to agree and I’m genuinely sorry that you found the column so offensive. I am forwarding your letter and my response to my editor.

Henry H. Saltzaruolo, MD
Scaly Mountain

Roosevelt vs. Palin

Dear Editor,

John Armor’s article “The Straight Shooting Governor” that ran in the Sept. 11 issue of this newspaper, discussing how extraordinary Sarah Palin is, asked us to compare her “remarkable career” with that of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Mr. Armor implies that not only did FDR have a seemingly unremarkable career before he became president of the U.S., but that Palin’s was better. Following Mr. Armor’s advice of using “comparative methods,” here are the resumes from college days to governor, of both.

College Days
Palin - beauty pageant contestant - Univ. of Idaho graduate with BS in Communications Journalism - TV sports reporter
FDR - Harvard graduate with BA in history - Columbia Law School - passed bar exam - practiced corporate law with New York firm

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POLICE & FIRE LOG ENTRIES

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for Sept. 10-15. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Sept. 10
• Officers responded to a complaint of teenagers on a four-wheeler on Hickory Hill Road.
• At 8:08 a.m., OER security reported finding the remains of a 1200 mg Fentanyl pop on Spring Street near the its valet parking lot. The actual narcotic part was missing from the applicator.
• At 3:06 p.m., officers responded to a construction noise complaint at RiverWalk.
• At 6:40 a.m., OEI security reported finding the remains of a 1200 mg Fentanyl pop on Spring Street near the its valet parking lot. The actual narcotic part was missing from the applicator.

Sept. 13
• A little past midnight, officers responded to a construction noise complaint on Smallwood Drive.
• A little past midnight, a motorist on U.S. 64 east was cited for having an expired license plate.

Sept. 15
• At 3:06 p.m., officers responded to a construction noise complaint at RiverWalk.
• At 6:40 a.m., OEI security reported finding the remains of a 1200 mg Fentanyl pop on Spring Street near the its valet parking lot. The actual narcotic part was missing from the applicator.
• During the week, officers issued 3 warning tickets and responded to 4 alarm activation.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Sept. 10-14

• The dept. responded to a vehicle accident on U.S. 64 east between Little Bearpen and Sherwood Forest. There were multiple injuries and the victims were transported to the hospital.
• At 7:12 a.m., OER security reported finding the remains of a 1200 mg Fentanyl pop on Spring Street near the its valet parking lot. The actual narcotic part was missing from the applicator.

Sept. 15
• At 3:06 p.m., officers responded to a construction noise complaint at RiverWalk.
• At 6:40 a.m., OEI security reported finding the remains of a 1200 mg Fentanyl pop on Spring Street near the its valet parking lot. The actual narcotic part was missing from the applicator.
• During the week, officers issued 3 warning tickets and responded to 4 alarm activation.

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### PseudoCube®

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**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!

**Email:** pseudocube8@aol.com.

**Solution to #AZ3E in Sept. 11 issue**

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**... TOWN BOARD from page 1**

department and Town Attorney Bill Coward.

Not included in the contract is legal review of the UDO by an outside source because that could add upwards of $150,000 to the price tag. That concerned Coward a bit.

“Reviewing the ordinance and making it bullet proof can cost a lot of money but review by legal minds can ensure it will stand up in court,” he said.

But Zoning Administrator Joe Cooley said the UDO wasn’t going to be a new ordinance. It’s just a reorganization of what the town already has.

“Right now we have a Zoning Ordinance, a Subdivision Ordinance and a Soil and Erosion Ordinance which are scattered and we want to consolidate them, reorganize them and resolve all the conflicts between them,” he said. “It’s really hard for someone who has never seen ordinances to understand them. We need to simplify the code, keep it simple and make it readable. We’re not creating a new monster, just taking our code and trying to get it organized for a decent price.”

Phase one of the plan is the Parking and Traffic Circulation Study for which data collection has already been done by the town’s planning department.

The purpose is to address the seasonal traffic congestion, parking issues and pedestrian mobility and safety in areas bounded by Oak and Maple streets to the north, Fifth and Leonard streets to the east, Spring and Fourth streets to the south and Oak and N.C. 106 to the west. Commissioners Ben Dotson and Ross asked that Pine Street and Carolina Way be included in the study because both streets have become by-passes.

Through aerial photography and GIS mapping provided by the town, a parking inventory as it applies to the land use plan, zoning districts, infrastructure, intersection design, signal timing, traffic counts and parking issues will be developed. Included will be a wayfinding analysis to create an informative, functional, aesthetically appealing and unified signage program for Highlands.

Once the study is finished, alternatives for improving traffic circulation, pedestrian mobility and safety and parking will be discussed with stakeholder groups. After that, a conceptual design will be developed.

Phase two is the UDO which will consolidate the town’s zoning, subdivision and soil & erosion ordinance and the land use plan into one document. For this phase, the planning department, the Planning Board and an advisory council will work with LandDesign. Before adopted, there will be a public hearing.

**Recycling**
Benjamin Woods of The Trash Company will be offering curbside recycling pickup across the Highlands Plateau to both residents and businesses beginning January 1, 2008 for $15 per week or $150 a year.

Recycling bins (12 ½ gallon) will be provided to customers for a one time fee of $15-$20 each and will become the property of the resident.

Recyclable items will be co-mingled in the one bin. “Separation will take place at our end,” said Woods.

“This won’t cost the town anything and will reduce the amount of our tipping fees,” said Betz.

Though he didn’t need the board’s permission, commissioners gave him an enthusiastic “go ahead.”

Recyclable items include glass bottles, plastic beverage containers, aluminum, steel cans, cardboard, and mixed paper including newspapers, magazines and office paper.

People will be contacted through the mail.