

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 6, Number 38

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Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008

This Week

• Collections for men and women overseas at Chestnut Hill Retirement community. Call Jeremy Duke in the community office at (828) 787-2114.

Mon. & Wed.

• Middle School students After School Program from 3-5 p.m. at the Rec Park. 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.

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.

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.

Thursdays

• Al-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 Philips at the piano. Flat Mountain Road. 526-2121.

Saturdays

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

Through Sept. 20

• Christmas Sale at Mountain Findings open Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Spruce Street.

Through Oct. 1

• At Summit One Gallery, at Second Street and Helen's Barn Ave. "Two Realities" paintings by Edward Rice and Philip Morseberger.

Thurs. & Fri., Sept 18-19

• At The Bascom, the art of shibori at Janet Taylor's workshop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To register, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 4#.

Thursday, Sept. 18

• A Miner Vineyards Wine Dinner at OEI'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? Call 526-8811 to register.

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 19-21

• At Acorn's on Main Street, two

trunk shows: Match Trunk Show and Blossom Bath and Body Trunk Show.

Fri. & Sat., Sept. 19-20

• "The Diaries of Adam and Eve," by Mark Twain at 8 p.m. at ITC. Stars Madeleine Davis and David Milford. Call the Box Office at 828-342-9197.

Friday, Sept. 19

• This year the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center's Male Chorus at 8 p.m. Reservations are recommended. Tickets are \$12 each and may be charged by phone at 526-9047.

Saturday, Sept. 20

• At Cyrano's George Ellison signing "High Vistas" 1-3 p.m.

"Star Night" at PAC at 7:30 p.m.

Registration forms are available at the PAC. Tickets to the show are \$10 each, available at the door.

• At CLE, Spokes of the Wheel: Indian Cooking Cuisine. Call 526-8811.

Sunday, Sept. 21

• Readings and book signing by Ib Raae, "Colors of My Life" at the Episcopal Church at 5 p.m. with piano music by Robert Henry.

Monday, Sept 22

• At CLE, Digital Photography-Put Pizzazz in your Fall Photos. Please call 526-8811 to register.

Tuesday, Sept. 23

• "Birder Friendly Business Training Program" at the Rec Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 24

• "An Evening with Casablanca" at Jack's at Skyline Lodge. Dinner, dancing, movie and prizes. \$50 per person. Call 526-2121 for reservations.

• Lakeside Restaurant will donate 15% of its proceeds from dinners to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation. Patrons must mention the foundation. 526-9419.

• At CLE, The Art of Coffee. Please call 526-8811 to register.

Thurs.-Sun., Sept. 25-28

• Highlands Playhouse Antique Show at the Highlands Civic Center. Preview Party, Thursday, Sept. 25. Call 526-2695.

Thurs. Sept. 25

• Friends of Panthertown Work Day. Volunteers needed on trails in Panthertown Valley. Call Nina Elliott at 828-243-9800.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
70-52°F	65-50°F	66-51°F

UDO and recycling topics at TB

The scope and cost of the project has been discussed for some time 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 price. "There will be nothing 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

• See TOWN BOARD page 35

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 fe-

• See SHERIFF page 7

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 capitol 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 heros and Principal Brian Jetter read Rep. Shuler's personal letter to Remy.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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League hosts BOE forum

The outcome of the November election could mean the biggest change on the Macon County School Board in decades.

There are 10 candidates vying for four seats – two with incumbents running on the ticket, Robert Swank and Tommy Baldwin.

At the Sept. 11 League of Women Voters forum, eight candidates were on hand to answer two loaded questions put forth by the League

Question one: Why do you want to serve and what are your qualifications and accomplishments?

Question two: What do you see as pressing issues facing the school district and what do you hope to accomplish during this next term?

There are two seats open representing District IV. Swank is running for the two years left on the unexpired term she now holds representing District IV. She was appointed by the board when Guy Gooder stepped down. Also running for the District IV unexpired seat is Bobby Bishop.

Four people are running for District IV's second seat – Alan Allman, Jim Breedlove, Dwight C. Vinson and Gregg

• See BOE FORUM page 6

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Sheriff's checkpoints proper, not discriminatory

Dear Editor,

As a retired deputy sheriff and one who was recently stopped at a check point 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 drawn outside the four corners of the law to appease 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 roadways. 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 illegals 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 it were not so, we would not have any here and I 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 that 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 is engaged, and the 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 de-

gree 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 leads 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 Mus-

lims 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 chose 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 commended 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-socialist members of the Barak Obama-nation, including the Daily

• See LETTERS page 18

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper.

Please email letters by Monday at 5 p.m.
There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands' Newspaper

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• OBITUARIES •

Florence Troutman Cornell

Florence Troutman Cornell, 79, died September 9, 2008 at the Fidelia Eckerd Center in Highlands.

She was born in Beckley, W.V. and graduated from Marshall University. She received a Master's degree in education from Kent State and was a supervisor and administrator of education in Ohio for many years.

Flo was a talented musician and played both the piano and the organ.

She is survived by husband, Robert E. Cornell of Highlands and sons, Henry Bradford Ettlting of Katy, Texas and John Fielding Ettlting of Charleston, S.C.; grandchildren: Alice Florence Ettlting of Charleston and Steven J. Ettlting of Hollywood, CA.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time. Memorials may be made to: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 401 Duval Street, Key West, Florida 33045

Maurice Earl Heard, Jr.

Maurice Earl Heard, Jr., beloved husband of 51 years to Terese Schaefer Heard died at his Highlands, N.C. home on September 11, 2008. Earl was born in Lanett, AL on December 12, 1927, the eldest of three sons born to Josephine Betts Heard and Maurice Earl Heard, Sr. Earl and Terese have been year-round residents of Highlands for more than 38 years.

Earl and his family discovered Highlands during a move from Lubbock, TX to Philadelphia in 1940. After his family passed through Highlands, Earl vowed that one day he would return to the mountains.

Following his early education in Lanett and Lubbock, Earl attended Auburn University and Georgia Tech, and thereafter began a career in the textile business rising to become vice president of international sales for a textile machinery company in Easley, S.C. After traveling the world, he fulfilled his desire to reside full time in Highlands. In 1970 Earl established himself in the real estate and insurance business in Highlands. His office was a social gathering place for those who favored the game of bridge, and his twice daily bridge games ran for more than 25 years. Earl also served as president of the Rotary Club and as a warden in the Episcopal Church.

Earl is survived by his wife, Terese, three sons and daughters-in-law, and six grandsons. Dr. Tripp Heard, his wife Lauren Heard, and their three sons, Cameron, Samuel and Zachary reside in Boca Raton, FL; Mike Heard, FBI (retired), his wife Carolyn, and their sons Christopher and Jeffrey reside in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL; and John Heard, pilot for UPS and his wife Gigi reside in Ozone, TN. John's son, Jonathan, resides in Brentwood, TN. Earl is also survived by his brother, Robert Heard, who with his wife Barbara, resides in

•See OBITUARIES page 32

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 pipe line. 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 shortage is consumer driven." He said being smart includes not driving any more than necessary and combining trips.

Right now 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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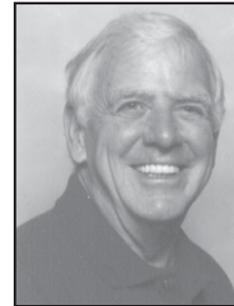
• **LAUGHING AT LIFE** •

'Plans'

Her plan A: She was young, pretty and looking for her soul mate. He was tall, 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



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

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. He went 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 huge wad of money and eight credit cards. He was perfect.

One year later they married. It was a magnificent affair with every corporate colleague in town offering congratulations to him for snagging a trophy wife. As he rose to power in the business world, she became president of the garden club. There was order in her life. They penciled in sex for Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon but something always seemed to interfere.

The marriage endured for 30 years and when her hormones began to rage during her 40s, she took a lover to help her with her stress. In the interim, her husband grew breasts and the testosterone tablets only made more hair grow inside his ears. Several of his colleagues died and she began to worry about becoming a widow.

Her plan C: Like the marriage, the funeral was spectacular, with everyone who was anyone in attendance. Her husband

Jacks at Skyline Lodge presents....

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Final chapter of trilogy

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



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

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Feedback is encouraged.
email:
hsalzarulo@aol.com

policeman who ever drank in a patrol car. I'll bet he 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 Tasered his son. But to demand that he be fired smacks 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.

• See SALZARULO page 23

... 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 wrinkly.

He was tall, thin, also wrinkly, but had a sparkle in his eye. Once again, she was looking for her soul mate and he was looking to get...well, you know. They met in the card room and flirted with their eyes. He invited her to his room for a glass of sherry. She accepted. It was lust at first sight. They danced, talked and later there were wet kisses and a promise to meet tomorrow. She simply couldn't figure out why she was so attracted to a retired California surf shop owner who loved driving Wranglers.

• Who is "Kitty Hawk" the slut? Read Fred's book, *I'm Moving Back to Mars*

• HIGHLANDS FINE DINING •

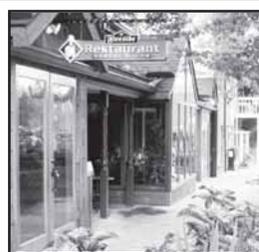
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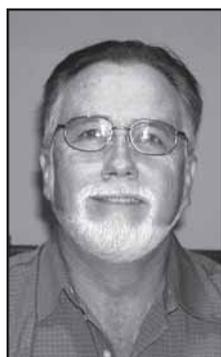
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Brian Wendell Bateman candidate for District III and Gregg Jones, candidate of District IV weren't able to attend the forum.

... BOE FORUM continued from page 1



DISTRICT IV
Alan Allman



DISTRICT III
Tommy Baldwin



DISTRICT IV
UNEXPIRED TERM
Bobby Bishop



DISTRICT IV
Jim Breedlove



DISTRICT I
Frieda Bennett



DISTRICT I
John Shearl



DISTRICT IV
UNEXPIRED TERM
Roberta Swank



DISTRICT IV
Dwight C. Vinson

Jones who was not at the forum.

Brian Wendal 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, PTO, 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

• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

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... SHERIFF continued from page 1

male inmates admitted to Macon County Detention Center, the non-race specific criminal histories conducted for arrestees, 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.

Furthermore, 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 sites, Holland supplied traffic-only related statistics as well as other statistics which show an increase in activity in all categories across the board regardless of race or gender since 2005.

In 2005, 246 warnings and 397 citations were issued and 47 DWI arrests were made.

In 2006, 388 warnings and 636 citations were issued, 65 DWI arrests were made and 19 Check Points were conducted countywide.

In 2007, 480 warnings and 997 citations were issued, 98 DWI arrests were made and 28 Check Points were conducted countywide.

During the first eight months of 2008, 636 warnings and 841 citations were issued, 97 DWI arrests were made and 68 Check Points were conducted by deputies.

Holland said the number of checkpoints increased after the sheriff's department joined the Governor's Highway Safety program which makes Macon County eligible for state funds.

“The program requires public safety departments meet certain criteria to get funds for use in the community,” said Holland.

Both the Sheriff's Department and the Highlands Police Department have been asked why some people are issued citations while others are arrested for the same offense.

“Instead of receiving a citation, you will be arrested and taken before a magistrate where a bond is typically set in the amount of court costs and fines if:

- You are not able to provide valid driver's license; or
- You are not able to provide valid North Carolina identification and an officer can't confirm a valid license or identification that has been issued in your name; or
- You are not able to provide proof of valid address;
- Or an officer is not able to confirm information you give him or her.

“The law allows it to be left to the discretion of the officer because sometimes an officer recognizes a person and knows where he or she work,” he said.

The Macon County Sheriff's Office participates in the Criminal Alien Program as part of the North Carolina Sheriff's Association's Illegal Immigration Project. The Ille-

gal Immigration Project is a joint federal and local working group that was established in 2007 and is the first such project nationwide. Macon County's program may end up being a prototype for use nationally.

The Criminal Alien Program does not involve round-ups of illegal aliens in the community or at work sites. Instead, it only applies to persons who “self-select” themselves for identification by committing a crime and being arrested, 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.

IFC Board Chairman Hillrie Quin and IFC Director Jill 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 we are arresting 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 just 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,” he said.

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 so he or she can drive others. If a van full of undocumented workers is stopped at a checkpoint and the driver has a valid license, authorities must let it through.

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

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

— **Kim Lewicki**

... BOE FORUM continued from page 6

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 throughout the system. Our Early College High School and Alternative School both address needs of certain children. Everyone learns differently. Today's 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 for proper learning. This year we have 4,493 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 go wrong 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'm involved with parents with kids in the system. We need to listen to those parents. They hear what their kids come home and say everyday. We need to listen and evaluate what the parents tell us. We need to help as what 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 best interest of the children of Macon County.

Alan Allman

I live in the Burningtown 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. The reason I'm running is my wife is retiring from the school system and issues need to be addressed. I want to see all of Macon County schools be schools of excellence. First thing I have to tell you is I'm not politically correct. I think political correctness has led to mediocrity in public debates over the years. There are several issues that need to be addressed. One is the Adequate Yearly Progress of Schools in Macon County. Highlands and Nantahala are schools of excellence. All our schools need to be. The No Child Left Behind may have had merit but its implementation is one of the stupidest things because it's considered the only yard stick. That's the biggest challenge because it's the yard stick being used to measure our system. The classroom can never be shortchanged. The focus can never leave the classroom. In most businesses you have to produce a product to stay

in business. Education is the product produced in the classrooms. The classrooms are sacred.

Dwight Vinson

I am a life-long resident of Macon County and began education in the Otto School. My wife Martha Holbrooks 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 needed a college degree to advance so I went to Appalachian State University and graduated in 1986 with a degree in Criminal Justice and a 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'm blessed to have grown up here. I'm a product of Macon County schools. I've been involved with the athletics, 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 very board. Now there are honor classes online and more opportunities 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's best for the school system, it's what's best for the child. If it's best for the child, it's best for the school system.

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 a product of the system is why they have succeeded in college. I have been on the Franklin Chamber of Commerce for three terms and I'm 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

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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. (Or place skewers directly on grill and cook for about 3 minutes on each side.) Remove from grill and place skewers on a platter; drizzle with lemon garlic oil.



per; grill over medium-high heat for about 5 minutes on each side or until meat is cooked to your liking. Let stand for 5 minutes, then thinly slice and pour reduced wine mixture over top, turning to coat meat. Spread cheese onto baguette slices and top with beef. Drizzle a bit more wine mixture over each and top with an arugula leaf.

Beef Bruschetta with Shiraz Drizzle

To keep that cohesive feel in this recipe, choose a blue cheese with Australian roots.

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: about 20 minutes total

Makes 18 appetizers

3/4 cup McWilliam's Shiraz

3/4 cup reduced-sodium beef broth or stock

3 cloves garlic, peeled

1 pound beef tenderloin fillets, about 1 1/2 inches thick

Sea salt and freshly ground pepper

1/2 cup blue cheese

18 crusty baguette slices, diagonal

Fresh arugula leaves

Bring shiraz, broth and garlic to a boil in small saucepan. Simmer until mixture is reduced to about 1/3 cup; remove garlic and set aside. Season beef with salt and pep-

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 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.



• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

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.



Mayor Don Mullen

When I was at Princeton in the Seminary, we had to write Utrum papers. A Utrum paper is a kind of debate with yourself. In it there are two opposing sides to a situation. For instance, the Pro-choice, Pro-life debate is an example. In the paper we had to argue for both sides just as if we believed that side and then come to our own conclusion. In doing that you had to know

just as much about one side as you did the other side — thus a Utrum debate with yourself. In so doing, one gets a better understanding of both sides, that is unless

• See MULLEN page 13

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 have all the facts correct before making logical conclusions and public pronouncements. Those of us on the Board of Commissioners are always looking for comments and ideas from other citizens, but they must be based on accurate factual information.

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. If the shoe fits, wear it, my friends. 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're 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 twosome 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,

my stars, that doesn't say much for Obama's judgment, does it? And Biden isn't the only one who questions his judgment. Many high level Democrats have raised the same question, anonymously, of course.

On the other hand, John McCain pulled the mother of all bunnies out of the hat when he chose Governor Palin with whom to run. Let's face it; to be perfectly honest his nomination didn't do much to



**Don Swanson
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excite the party faithful. Conservative talk show hosts had little good to say about McCain leading up to the convention and the Republican ground troops seemed disinterested.

With one decision, the choice of Palin, McCain turned the political tables, reversing the polls and putting a charge into the campaign. Upon hearing the announcement, my wife lit up and was looking around for

someone to high five.

I have about 30 political cronies on one of my email lists and the day after her confirmation I put out a survey up or down on her choice. It came back 25-1 in favor and most amplified their approval. Obviously the limited scope and biased target made the results interesting only, but the national polls are bearing out the wisdom of McCain's decision.

Local Republican campaign headquarters can't keep signs, bumper stickers,

T-shirts and other campaign paraphernalia on the shelves. Palin dominates the national news and interest in her candidacy has exploded from Bangor to Bangkok.

So, since the Obama folks want to talk about judgment, let's talk about judgment.

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 picked the ultimate outsider to run with. He turned a slumbering 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 Capital 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.

• See SWANSON page 13

• ANOTHER POV •

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 not 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 get 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 home town 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 our mayor, even in the executive position, qualifies them for the top office in the land? No disrespect Mr.



Matthew G. Eberz
Feedback is encouraged
Email: matt@matteberz.com

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 turns 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 from

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 fifthly 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 it.

Next week I will have Another Point of View.

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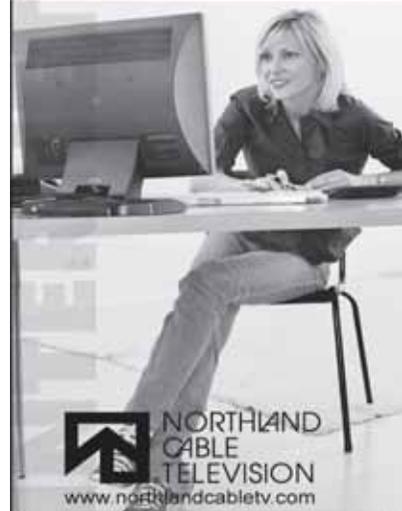
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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Green power



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

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 some time 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 100kWh 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 dioxide 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 69 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 2100.

"The federal government would have to invest more than \$400 billion over the next 40 years to complete the 2050 plan [chicken 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 year after year. 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

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• HIS & HERS •

Honeymoon – Part 2

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 bridegroom took to cooked breakfasts like a duck to water, diplomatically refusing to quip, "What? No grits?"

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 pile into our bus, and took off in the direction of Fort William – at the southernmost point of the Caledonian Canal which links Inverness with a series of lochs and manmade canal locks. We take a welcome break by stopping at Spean Bridge, 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 do-able by lesser mortals. There was proof of this a while back. Disgusted by the amount of garbage that tourists had left behind at the



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

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.

Spean 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 opened, 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 parkas, we were relieved to see our bus – and Victor – waiting for us.

I think all were eager to check into our next hotel stop in Aviemore. The Macdonald Aviemore Highland Resort, Golf & Spa is an incredible complex with a shopping area, indoor pool, and tons of things to do. Alas, we were only there one night, and still seriously tired from our cross-Atlantic trip. Some of the more eager and enthusiastic made it to the pool, but in spite of packing swimwear, we never got there ourselves. This was one of the few down sides of the hotels we stayed in – and one of the reasons we'd love to go back and do a self-drive tour next time. During trips

• See HIS & HERS page 24

... 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.

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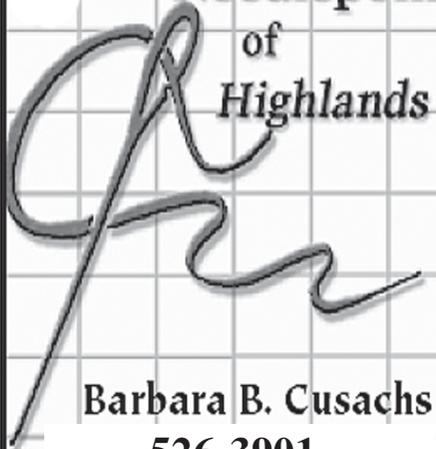
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• COACH'S CORNER •

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 spittle all over everyone within twenty feet.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

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 can

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 I was thirteen, and yet you are complaining about a one year playoff drought? Ok-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

not 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 some time 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 miss calls

• See COACH'S CORNER page 15

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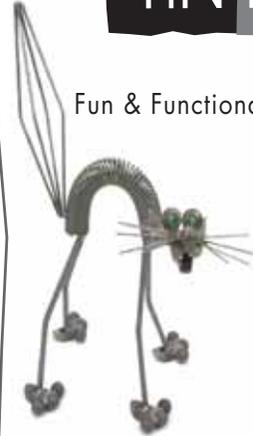
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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SOCCER •



Highlands played Andrews Monday night and won 8-2. Senior defender Hunter Leffler taking control of the ball. Photo by Noel Atherton

Week in review

The varsity men's soccer team completed a successful week of action with victories over Hayesville and Andrews and a well-fought tie with Tallulah Falls.

Last Wednesday the Highlanders prevailed in a home contest with the Hayesville Yellow Jackets 4-2. The Highlanders used two early goals from Taylor Parrish and Byron Gordon to build a halftime lead that they wouldn't relinquish.

Coach Chris Green was pleased with the Highlanders effort in what was a very physical contest. "We played very hard in a physical game- Hayesville is a much improved team and played well."

On Saturday, the Highlanders traveled to Tallulah Falls for a make-up contest and battled to a 1-1 tie. The Highlanders lone goal came off the foot of Michael Shearl, and the local lads were able to escape with a tie after holding off the Indians in the final minutes.

Coach Green praised the play of the Highlanders, noting that they had not practiced in two days because of the weather and were still able to hold off a talented Tallulah Falls squad.

Monday saw an away contest at Andrews in which the Highlanders were able to use a hot start to power to an 8-2 victory. The plethora of goals was provided by Mikey Lica, Luke McClellan, Logan Schmitt, Andrew Renfro and Ricky Reyes.

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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Poetry of Place



Bill Martin

Don't miss your final opportunity to attend the 2008 Village Nature Series. On Wed., Sept. 24, Brent Martin, director for the local Wilderness Society, will present "Weaving Nature and Community into a Poetry of Place" at 6:30 p.m. at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers. Last year the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and The Village Green launched The Village Nature Series, a conservation-focused educational lecture series for the benefit of Cashiers and surrounding communities. The free open lectures are held once a month. No reservations are required.

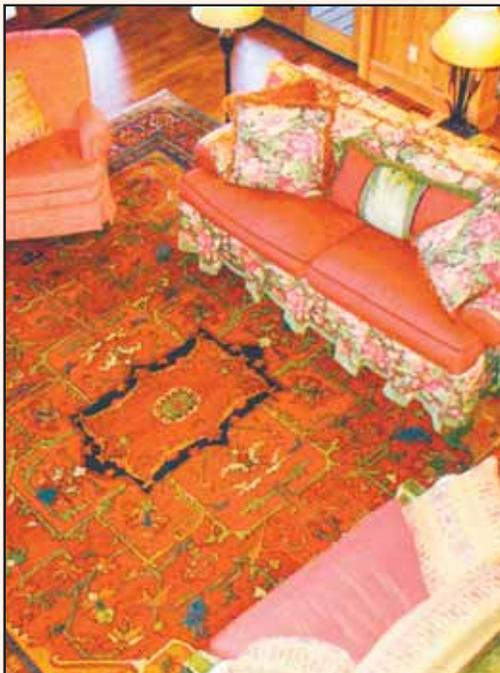
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Representatives of the Highlands Historical Society, Walter Wingfield and Jim Whitehurst, with Mindy Green, co-owner of Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro where the society placed a historical marker on the original part of the premises which was built in 1883 for Mary Chapin and her mother.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

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.

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... LETTERS continued from page 2

Kos, Moveon.org and Michael Moore. The reader is on notice that if your 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 cant 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

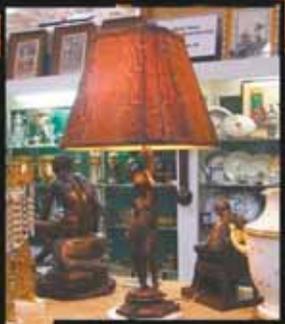
•See LETTERS page 33

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... BOE FORUM continued from page 7

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. One thing 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 sys-

tem – 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 still 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



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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.

• BUSINESS NEWS •

'A culture of caring'

Community Care Clinic volunteers make healthcare possible for hundreds of area's uninsured

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

• See COMMUNITY CARE page 23

• BUILDERS & ARCHITECTS •

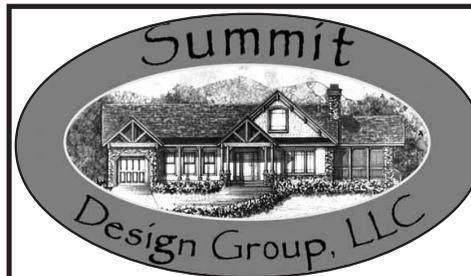
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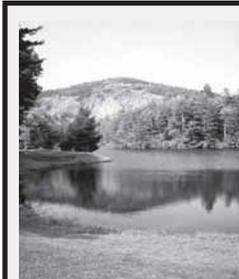
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• BUSINESS NEWS •

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 re-building 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. Feltcher 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

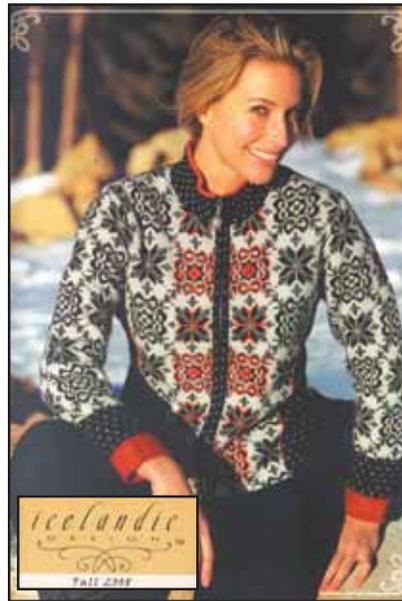


Guest of honor with Dr. and Mrs. George Sistrunk. Dr. Sistrunk is the former director of the Fort Lauderdale Symphony Chorus.

aboard and came to Highlands as a gesture of good will for his mentor.

Wit's End

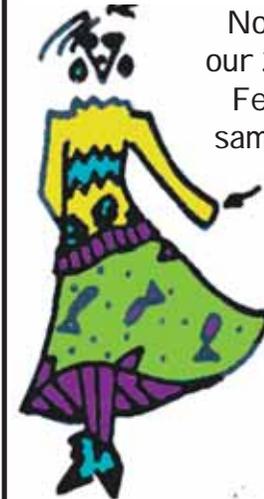
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• HOSPITAL NEWS •

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 renewed for two years.

- In his report, Board Chairman Bud Smith thanked all of the hospital personnel (physicians, board members, and staff) who took part in Relay For Life, held Aug. 22 in Cashiers.

Smith also extended the board's special thanks and congratulations to Earle Mauldin and the other members of the Bob Jones Invitational Golf Tournament committee for their hard work in organizing another very successful event. The 27th annual tournament was held earlier in August at Highlands Country Club. Mauldin, who chairs the Bob Jones Tournament Committee, was present at hospital board meeting representing the Foundation Board. Smith circulated a letter for hospital board members to sign formally thanking the tournament committee. As in the past, proceeds from the event will go to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation. Not including this year's proceeds, the tournament has raised approximately \$2.7 million for the hospital. Mauldin told the board that a final total for this year's tournament is still being calculated.

- Patient Care Committee Co-chairman Jim Rothermel, MD, reported that the hospital did very well during a recent validation survey by inspectors from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The three-day inspection found no instances of immediate jeopardy to patients and only a few minor recommendations that did not require a formal response by the hospital. Dr. Rothermel said inspectors were very complementary of both the facility and the level of patient care being provided. CMS is required by

federal law to re-inspect at least five percent of facilities that are reaccredited by The Joint Commission. The hospital just received full reaccreditation based on a Joint Commission survey conducted earlier this summer.

- Audit and Compliance Committee Chairman Griffin Bell told the board 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 was 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 five fold. Emergency room visits were also up, and on a pace to make this the busiest ER year on record.

However, after contractual adjustments (discounts required by Medicare and private insurers with whom the hospital has contracts), and other factors, the hospital still showed an operational loss for the month. The hospital is taking measure 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 of Mountain Area Family Medicine 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 recapped current efforts to recruit additional primary care physicians to the area. He also reported that a neurologist from Atlanta con-

• See HOSPITAL page 24

... 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 at 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 Franci Havemeister, 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.

Governor Palin remains extremely popular in her home state. And they know her best. She has cut some expenses and stood face to face with the oil industry.

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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 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.

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... HOSPITAL continued from page 22

tinues to express an interest in practicing in Highlands on a part-time basis. She is currently in the process of applying for a North Carolina medical license. Finally, Dr. Rothermel reported that the hospital's full-time radiologist, Rodney Stinnett, MD, has decided not to retire at year's end after all.

• During his administrator's report, hospital President and CEO Ken Shull informed the board that after much negotiation, a new contract with North Carolina Blue Cross and Blue Shield has gone into effect. The hospital will recover a significantly greater percentage of its charges under the new contract, which should help its future bottom line. He also reported that the hospital is starting to see some new patients as a result of a recent contract to accept UnitedHealthcare insurance plans.

On another positive note, Shull said state inspectors recently gave the Fidelia Eckerd a good report as a result of a recent annual sur-

vey. No patient care problems were found.

Shull also touched on the hospital's current efforts to stem financial losses. The hospital is in the midst of developing a budget for the coming fiscal year (which begins Oct. 1), and that new budget will likely involve major cutbacks aimed at reducing expenses. That process isn't as straight forward as it would be for most businesses. As a Critical Access Hospital, how various overhead costs are allocated among the hospital, its nursing home, hospice, and its physician clinics has a huge impact on the reimbursement the hospital receives from Medicare and Medicaid. Some budget cuts, for example, could effectively change the hospital's allowable costs under Medicare and Medicaid, and end up significantly reducing what the hospital gets paid for the services it provides to those patients (which account for nearly three quarters of the hospital's business).

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.

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... 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 their stride, like a couple of rock stars.

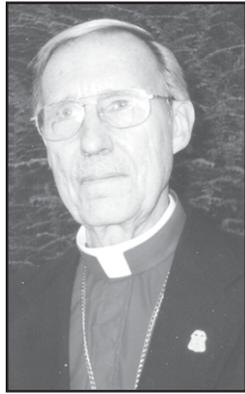
The afternoon was capped by a visit to Blair Athol Distillery, established in 1798 in the lovely town of Pitlochry. One of the oldest working distilleries in Scotland, Blair Athol produces a 12 year old single malt of remarkable quality. What's not to like about learning how Scotch whisky is made? John, 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, 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.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Giving of ourselves



The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling
Chapel of Sky Valley

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. Inner peace comes as we turn outward to others.

Life can be demanding for us all. With 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 needs 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 precious 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 she was so excited to give. She had no thought about what she would receive at the party, no concern about getting, only giving her chosen treasure, a gift her parents knew she would have liked for herself.

On the other end of the spectrum is a frail, old woman in Calcutta, India. For more than forty-five years, she comforted the dying, sheltered the abandoned, treated lepers, and cared for the mentally ill. After a visit, a writer summed up Mother Teresa: "She is a world celebrity, yet completely natural. She doesn't need to act like star. She hasn't time to. A tiny figure, bent almost double . . . She can move mountains. For her, nothing is impossible."

Wherever the location, whatever the deed, sincere giving brings joy to the heart and peace to the mind. Mother Teresa doesn't have a business card, but she does have a message to share. A little card she gives to others reveals a grand truth:

The fruit of silence is prayer.

The fruit of prayer is faith.

The fruit of faith is love.

The fruit of love is service.

The fruit of service is peace.

Could that be our business card? Or are we too busy making noise just to be noticed? Our theme song would be not *How Great Thou Art*, but *Look How Grand I Am!*

Is the fruit of faith love, or is it putting our faith in all the wrong things, material possessions and our own accomplishments with a hope that the say is true: The one who dies with the most toys wins?

Is the fruit of prayer service, or is it being served, served by common man and even served by our God? *Me and mine* have

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 33

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.
Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry
Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King
• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.
FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN
Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.
(nursery provided)
Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Mark Kayser, Interim Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun.School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Bible Discussion &
Breakfast

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers
Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7
HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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; 6:15 – children, youth, & adults
studies; 6:15 – Adult choir

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

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Adult discussion
group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion – 10:30
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 fash-
ioned hymn-sing.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 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
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

828-369-3633
Lay Led Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

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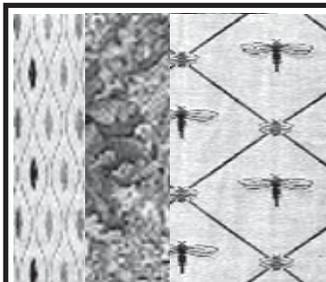
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• **UPCOMING EVENTS** •

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 Candace Woodroof at 828-369-7540 ext 203, www.cullasajaag.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.ncmana.org.

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

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

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

Mondays & Wednesdays

• Pilates Classes Level 1 of Jane Woodruff at the hospital at 4 p.m. \$10 per class. Call 526-5852.

• 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-in 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.

1st & 3rd Thursdays

• The local affiliate of NAMI NC (National Alliance on Mental Illness), NAMI Appalachian South, meets from 7-9 p.m. at the Family Restoration Center, 1095 Wiley Brown

'Diaries of Adam and Eve coming to ITC



Madeleine Davis and David Milford to perform in "Diaries" Sept. 19-20 at the Instant Theater.

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 costars 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 Nandrea 369-7385, Carole Light 524-9769 or Mary Ann Widenhouse 524-1355 for more information.

Thursdays

• Al-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 Philips at the piano, 7-9 p.m. Flat Mountain Road. 526-2121.

Saturdays

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

Through Sept. 20

• Christmas Sale 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 Morseberger.

Through Nov. 12

• The Village Green in Cashiers, NC presents Sculpture on the Green 2008 1st Bi-Annual Invitational Exhibition. Last summer the 12.5 acre park began to integrate sculpture into the landscape and installed 5 sculptures to its Permanent Collection. Starting this summer, it is hosting a six month exhibition of 10 works from sculptors from all over the nation. Cast your vote for the sculpture to be added to the Permanent 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 information or to register, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 4#, 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 currently 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 Clubhouse Trail. For any questions, or to schedule a drop-off, contact Jeremy Duke in our community office at (828) 787-2114.

Thursday, Sept. 18

• A Miner Vineyards Wine Dinner at OEI'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 Library.

Friday & Saturday, Sept. 19 & 20

• The Diaries of Adam and Eve, by Mark Twain at 8 p.m. at ITC. Stars Madeleine Davis and David Milford. For reservations call the ITC Box Office at 828-342-9197.

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 19-21

• At Acorn'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 products that embody a lifestyle of maintaining internal beauty.

Friday, Sept. 19

• This year the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center's Male Chorus will give its annual concert at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street on Friday evening at 8 p.m. The director of the Male Chorus, Orville 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 Cyrano's Bookshop on Main Street, author George Ellison will sign copies of "High Vistas" from 1-3 p.m.

• "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.

• At CLE, Spokes of the Wheel: Indian Cooking Cuisine. Please call 526-8811 to register.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 11-mile hike on the Lower Ridge Trail from the Standing Indian campground to the top of Standing Indian Mountain. Meet at

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 Ib Raae, "Colors of My Life" at the Episcopal Church at 5 p.m. with a program of classical piano music by Robert Henry.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take two hikes, mostly downhill, 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, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Monday, Sept. 22

• At CLE, Digital Photography-Put Pizzazz in your Fall Photos. Please call 526-8811 to register.

Tuesday, Sept. 23

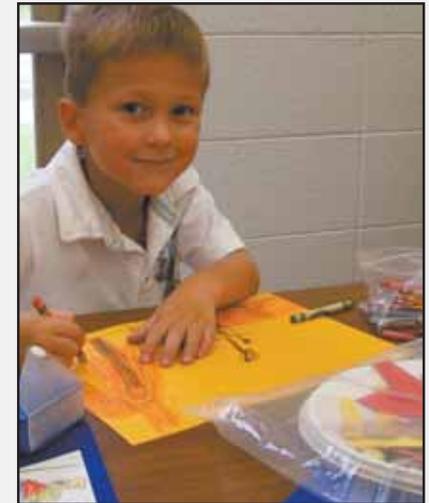
• "Birder Friendly Business Training Program" at the Rec Park from 10 am to 4 pm Learn how to market your business to birders. Registration deadline: September 16. Limited to 25 participants. Registration application available on NC Birding Trail Website, www.ncbirdingtrail.org. Participating businesses 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 character representation. Limited seating, \$50 per person. Prime

• See EVENTS page 28

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 assistance 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 3:15-4:15 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 Independent 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.

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.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Rib, Trout Muniere or Stuffed chicken. Call 526-2121 for reservations.

• The Village Nature Series is a free summertime lecture series co-hosted by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust & Village Green. "Weaving Nature and Community into a Poetry of Place" with Brent Martin. Everyone is welcome. Lectures are held at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers. Lectures begin at 6:30 PM. Refreshments follow. There is no charge but donations are graciously accepted. Call HCLT for info: 526-1111.

• At CLE, The Art of Coffee. Please call 526-8811 to register.

• At Jack's at Skyline Lodge on Flat Mountain Road in Highlands, "An evening with "Casablanca" featuring dinner, dancing, a movie, and prizes for "best character representation. 6 p.m. Limited seating. \$50 per person. Call 526-2121 for reservations. Menu: Bogey's Beef (Prime Rib), Ingrid's Choice (Trout Muniere), Humphrey's Hens (Stuffed Chick-

en).

• High Mountain Squares will dance Wednesday night at the Macon County Community Building from 7-9 p.m. Jack Howie from Greenville SC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. High Mountain Squares will start New Dancers lessons September 28. Come learn to square dance. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-349-4187, 706-782-0943

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 25-28

• Highlands Playhouse Antique Show at the Highlands Civic Center. Preview Party, Thursday, Sept. 25. Call 828-526-2695 for information.

Thursday, Sept 25

• At CLE, Pencil Drawing. Please call 526-8811 to register.

• "The Odd Couple" (1960) shows Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau at their comedic best. They are the odd couple who share an apartment, but have very different

ideas about housekeeping and life styles. 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 Library.

• The Upper Cullasaja Watershed Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Highlands Community Building. Featured speaker will be Environmental Law Attorney Billy Clarket who successfully represented Whiteside Estates and RiverWalk. The meeting is open to the public and free.

Friday, Sept. 26

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

Saturday, Sept. 27

• Highlands Democratic Precinct Cat Fish Dinner at Zachary Field on Buck Creek Road 5:30 p.m. until. \$10 a plate. Come meet the candidates and speakers from the campaign committees of Barack Obama and Joe Biden, Kay Hagan, Heath Shuler, John Snow, Philip Haire, and

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' Womens Club Craft Show, Oct. 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center, will featured 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 Nell Oliver who will keep cups full at the monthly Scaly Mountain Womens 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.

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ITEM WANTED

TABLE TENNIS OR PING PONG SET for use at Highlands Rec Park. Call Ellie Hogan at 200-0488 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 inquires and resumes to humcsc@dnet.net.

ASSISTANT MANAGER - for Ladies boutique in Highlands. Experience preferred. Call 526-8555.

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. Parttime or Full time available. Please call 526-9380 for interview

SOUS CHEF - Experience required. Full time position available. Team player. Call 787-2200.

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. Re-

sponsibilities 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 rehabilitation and disease prevention preferred. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

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.-4 p.m. each day. Shambaugh will teach a step-by-step process for classic porcelain floral painting, called china 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 \$117 for Bascom members and \$130 for not-yet-members. To register, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 4#.

Bobby Koppers. All proceeds go directly to candidates' campaigns.

• "Jazz at PAC," with Pete McCann. Tickets are \$20. Call 526-9047 or visit www.highlandperformingartscenter.org for credit card purchases. For more information, visit www.jazzatthepac.com.

• At ...on the Verandah, Beer, Brats and Mustards. Unique Pairings in time for Oktoberfest. 1-4 p.m. \$40 per person plus tax and gratuity. 828-526-2338.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6-mile hike to Ellicott's Rock, the point where three states' boundaries meet on the Chattooga River. The elevation change is 300 feet, descending into and out of the river corridor. If the day is warm enough, some may wish to take a dip in the river. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10:00 am. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles at 743-1079 for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• Pancake Breakfast with all the fixings at the Scaly Mountain Community Center on Buck Knob Road in Scaly from 7:30-10:30 a.m. All proceeds benefit local programs and scholarships. For more information, call 828-787-1860.

• Third Annual Scaly Mountain Turkey Shoot & Festival 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Volunteer Fire Station property on Hale Ridge Road in Scaly Mountain. For details call 787-1860.

Sunday, Sept. 28

• At Coweeta Baptist Church a Homecoming at 10:30 a.m. There will be music and a special message from Pastor E. Davis Hooper. A Pot Luck dinner will follow the service. There is no evening service.

Friday-Saturday, Oct. 3-4

• At Acorn's on Main Street, a SHC Jewelry Sara Hall Clemmer Designs. Using pearls, semi-precious and precious stones.

• The Bascom's Autumn Auction at The Farm at Old Edwards Inn and the Autumn Leaves Party at The Bascom. Tickets are \$225 for both events or \$35 for just the "Leaves" party. For tickets call 526-4949.

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 3-5

• "Barefoot in the Park," a comedy by Neil Simon. Call 866-526-8008.

Saturday, Oct. 4

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike to Sam Knob off the Blue Ridge Parkway at Black Balsam Mountain. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m. Drive 134 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Gail Lehman at 524-5298 for reservations or more information.

Enjoy 'Star Night' at PAC

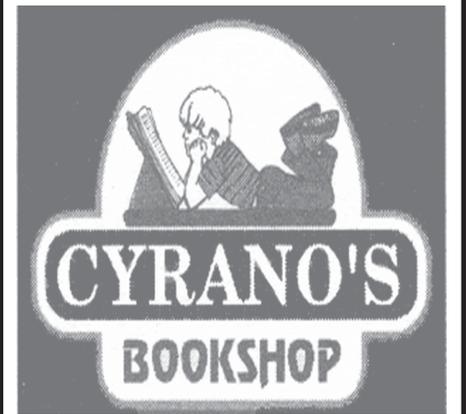


This year's "Star Night" talent competition scheduled Saturday, September 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Chuck Cooper of WHLC Radio will again be master of ceremonies. Summit One Gallery is providing the prize money: \$200 for the best student performer, \$200 for best 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

• See EVENTS page 30



390 Main Street • 526-5488

www.cyranosbooks.com

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

Mike Warriner

"The Church in the Wilderness"

October 5

1 to 3 pm

Marjorie O'neal Edubank

"Roger"

Oct. 10-11

Time: TBA

Philippa Gregory

The Other Queen

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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

CNA OR CNA II at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. PRN positions are available. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1301 or apply online at

www.hchospital.org.

WORK WANTED

PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED CHEF – with 15 years experience in 4 and 5 star restaurants available to prepare custom menus for you and your family. Your kitchen or mine. Will travel for specialty/organic ingredients. Long-term/year around or special event catering available. Special dietary needs accommodated. Please call 743-0649 or email leanorcrowe@aol.com for consultation or questions.

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

FOUND

ARING – 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 828-200-9842.

LOST

YELLOW CAT – No tail. From Rocky Hill/Raoul Road area. "April Mae" if seen please call 526-0991

RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT

DEVELOPER CLOSEOUT! – Unit at Freeman Center on N.C. 106 available for Rent/Own at \$1,995 monthly or for sale at \$379,900. That's a purchase price of only \$165 per sq. ft. Call 526-5296 or 828-421-3161.

UNIQUE COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY on Main St Highlands. 800 sq ft retail/office space just in time for the

season. Space includes bath & kitchen. Call for details 526-3363.

PRIME Office Space for Rent — 800 sq. ft., air-conditioned, heated, plenty of parking. Call 526-5673.

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

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

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 30

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

sign up by calling the Chamber of Commerce at 828-526-5841.

• At The Bascom, needlefelting with Teresa Bouchonnet. For more information or to register, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 4#, or visit www.thebascom.org.

• Scaly Mountain Jamboree. Live Mountain Music and good food! 5 to 9 p.m. at the old schoolhouse (corner of Buck Knob Road and Hwy 106) Bring your lawn chair (optional), your appetite and your love of old-timey music. Admission \$10 (children under 12, \$5) Includes dinner: hotdog, homemade soup and much more. Locally Grown Food! Lots of Bands! Proceeds benefit the restoration of the Historic Scaly Mountain Schoolhouse Tax-deductable contributions gladly accepted.

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

Showing Sept. 19-25

RIGHTEOUS 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

• Bats program at the Highlands Nature Center, 3:30-5 pm. Come for an informative presentation featuring live bats! Learn about bat anatomy and behavior, and dispel common misconceptions about them. All ages, \$2 per person.

• Third Annual Scaly Mountain Turkey Shoot & Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Volunteer Fire Station property on Hale Ridge Road in Scaly Mountain. For details call 787-1860.

Sunday, Oct. 5

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy one-mile hike in Black Rock Mtn. State Park in Georgia, visiting viewpoints at the Visitors' Center and Tennessee Rock, and hiking a short new trail around Taylor Lake. Meet at the Smoky Mt. Visitor Center on 441 South, near Otto, at 2 p.m.; or call leader for alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands or Cashiers. Drive 30 miles round trip. This hike is suitable for children ages 10 and up. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sat.-Wed., Oct. 6-10

• At The Bascom, figurative oil painting with M Kathryn Massey. For more information or to register, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 4#, or visit www.thebascom.org.

Saturday, Oct. 11

• Annual Highlands Craft Show 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Admission and parking are free. Breakfast and lunch catered by Fressers Eatery.

• Macon County on Saturday Area veterinarians will vaccinate dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months of age, as required by NC state law. The cost is \$5 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes or in carriers. Dr. Patterson will vaccinate at the Highlands Conference Center from 1-2:30 pm and at the Scaly Mtn. Post Office from 3-4 pm. Call 349-2081 for a recorded schedule of other sites.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate six-mile hike in Panther town Valley, including Black Mountain, Warden's Falls, Granny Burrell's Falls, Homeplace, and Saltrock Gap. Fall leaves should be colorful, but due to the recent drought, waterfalls will have a light flow. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30, or at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:50. Drive 30 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader: Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sat, Mon, & Wed., Oct. 13, 15, 17

• Porcelain painting with Margie Shambaugh. For more information or to register, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 4#, or visit www.thebascom.org.

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 17-19

• At Acorn's on Main Street, a Bijoux de Mer Jewelry

Trunk Show. Bijoux de Mer specializes in pearls and precious stones and a Laruen 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 PAC' Sept. 27



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 Liebman, Lee Konitz and Peter Erskine. 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.

Attorney Billy Clarke to speak at UCWA meeting



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 Stevens - 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.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

HIGHLANDS GARAGE APARTMENT - Cozy wood panelled Living room. 1/1, balcony, newly painted and carpeted. One person. Six month minimum, unfurnished or furnished. \$450/mo + utilities!! Call 404-892-2090 or 526-4445. 9/18

2 BED, 2 BA, COTTAGE - W/D, 2 miles from town off Cashiers Road. Garage/basement, covered deck. \$925 a month. Call 864-944-1175.

RENTAL IN COVETED RESORT COMMUNITY SKY VALLEY GA - 3BD/2BA, great view, fireplace, huge basement, easy access, unfurnished, \$875 month + utilities Call Ann at Cabe Realty Rentals at (828) 526-2475. 9/18

COTTAGE FOR RENT - 1 bed, 1 bath. In town. Chestnut cottages. Screened porch, heat, furnished. Weekly \$350 a week or \$1,200 a month. Call 526-4063. 10/2

ONE BED, 1 BATH PLUS DEN WITH TRUNDLE

BEDS - Fully furnished, new construction, including utilities, cable TV, W/D, wireless Internet access. Smoke-free environment. 1,200 sq. ft. plus 2 outside decks. Walk to Main Street. Near new Baxcom. \$950/month. Available Oct. 15. 111 Oak Lane, Highlands. Call 813-600-8207. 10/9

ONE-BEDROOM - Furnished apartment with covered patio. Includes electric, water and cable. No pets and no smoking inside. \$650 per month plus deposit. Call 526-2561.

2 BR, 2BA HOUSE ON HWY 64 IN FRANKLIN. Heat/AC, easy access. Comfortable for 2 or makes a great office. \$700 per month, 1 mo security dep. Call Sandy at 369-6263.

FURNISHED 3BD/2BATH HOUSE IN MIRROR LAKE area available for 6-12 month lease \$1200+ utilities. Call 770-977-5692.

APARTMENT FOR RENT - 2 bed, 1 bath, newly renovated on Main Street. Personal & Business references

required. One year minimum. Washer and Dryer. \$950 a month plus utilities. Call John Dotson. 828-526-5587.

COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL, OR COMBINED USE, zoned B-4. Retail or office. Three-bedroom older home, pine paneling, hardwood floors near new Bascom Gallery. \$1350/month includes some utilities. Details, 526-5558.

DAYLIGHT 1 BED/1 BATH BASEMENT APARTMENT FOR RENT - One-year Lease Agreement. Available Now. (3 minutes from Highlands/Cashiers Hospital). Recent Complete Renovation. Fully Furnished, kitchen, dining area, living room, washer/dryer, cable connection, fireplace, \$600 includes water, sewer, electricity, Single Family, References Required, No Pets, No Smoking, Call Jim at 1-770-789-2489.

TURTLE POND 2 bed/2 1/2 bath, hot tub; furnished; no smoking/pets 828-526-2759.

3BR, 2BA COTTAGE NEAR MIRROR LAKE - In

town. \$1250 per month. Very clean. 770-977-5692.

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

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

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

VACATION RENTAL

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

THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE - Fish or canoe

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous six-mile hike on the Chattooga River Trail from the Whiteside Cove Chapel to the Iron Bridge, with river views, giant rock formations, big trees, and waterfalls along the way. Some scrambling over rocks is required. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10:00 a.m. Drive 26 miles round trip, with a car shuttle provided. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Friday, Nov. 7

• Krupp Brothers Wine Dinner at OEI's The Farm. \$169 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. For reservations, call 866-526-8008.

Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 13-16

• Grab your calendar and block the dates! Highlands Second Annual Culinary Weekend is set to take place. Join us as Highlands' area restaurants, accommodations and merchants partner to present a variety of uniquely designed classes, tastings, dinners, and events. Call Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center at 866-526-5841 or 828-526-5841

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 14-16

• At Acorn's on Main Street, a MarieBelle Chocolates Trunk Show. MarieBelle offers fine gourmet chocolates for the true connoisseur.

Friday, Nov. 14

• Wine Luncheon at Wolfgang's Bistro. Domaine Serene, Flavor Spectrum Luncheon. Call Wolfgang's at 828.526.3807 or visit our web site at www.wolfgangss.net.

• Wine Dinner at Wolfgang's Bistro. Boutique Winery Gala, "Battle of the Sexes" Women Winemakers vs. Male Winemakers "Battle of the Sexes" Gala Cocktail Party. Six wonderful wineries will be represented at Wolfgang's with pairing of food both at the wine tables and passed throughout the night. Call Wolfgang's at 526-3807.

Sat. & Sun., Nov. 15-16

• The annual all children's play "Cinderella" 7 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday at the Dillard Playhouse, in Dillard, Ga. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 11. Call 706-212-2500.

Saturday, Nov. 15

• Calena Alta Wine Dinner at OEI's The Farm. \$169 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. For reservations, call 866-526-8008.

• Wine Dinner at Wolfgang's Bistro Silver Oak Cellars Wine Dinner with Tom Johnson "Life is a Cabernet!" Featuring Twomey Merlot, Twomey Pinot Noir, Alexander Valley Cabernet and Napa Valley Cabernet from Silver Oak Cellars. Call 526-3807.

George Ellison at Cyranos on Sept. 20

Notated naturalist and historian George Ellison will be at Cyranos' 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." Just published in a handsome edition by The History Press in Charleston, "High Vistas" includes 21 accounts of visitors to our region, illustrated with line drawings 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" is an excerpt from Bradford Torrey's 1898 "A World of Green Hills," which recounts his travels in Western North Carolina and Southwest Virginia. Torrey, who 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 door of a small cottage, or stopped a couple driving by in their buggy, they knew their plants.

Cyranos' Bookshop is located at 390 Main Street in Highlands, North Carolina. Books can be reserved for autographing by calling (828) 526-5488 or sending an e-mail to cyranos@nctv.com.

... BOE FORUM continued from page 19

John Shearl

I see some of my teachers here today and these fine people gave me my education. I'm married and have three children. One is a 2005 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 landscaping business which I own and operate. I have been a volunteer fireman 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 companies 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. They deserve the best 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. Donnie Edwards did a good job while caring about 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 the 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 are 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 I and you are.

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 students 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 communities' schools. What is the will? Let's save money and make it count for the children. Engage teachers. Use resources, ask for accountability, as 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

• CLASSIFIEDS •

from deck. Available weekly, monthly, No min. Call 828-342-2302.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

RESIDENTIAL LOT - COWEE RIDGE ROAD, HIGHLANDS. Off U.S. 64 east. 4,500 ft. elevation. Great views. Two acres. Southern exposure. 4 BR septic installed. Community water. Paved Road. Gated community. \$300,000. Firm. Owner financing available. Call 478-741-8818. FSBO. 9/18

WALKING DISTANCE TO TOWN! Adorable Park Model in Chestnut Park. 1 Bedroom, one bath 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. \$185,000 or \$270,000 with extra lot. Phone 526-2598.

PREMIUM PROPERTY, BARGAIN PRICES.

OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE. — Prime location, less than 4 miles from Main St. Highlands. Lots from 1 to 2 acres, a 7 acre tract and a waterfall lot that sits between 2 falls available. The community is 52 acres, has 8 homes all built after 2000 — 3 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 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 828-526-9622 for more information.

1,600 SQ. FT. HANDICAPPED ACCESS HOUSE ON 2 ACRES. 3br/2 large bath w/roll under sinks; elevator, finished basement, w/unfinished workshop area, 2 car car-

port; new metal roof; native stone fireplace & landscaping; new hardwood floors, new Pella windows. Hi volume well & access to two springs and a fish pond. Bordered by USFS. & creek and Buck Creek Road. \$329,000 Call 828-524-6038.

HIGHLANDS N.C. FOR UNDER \$260,000 — Do you want a mountain home but think you can't afford it? Call now toll-free for information on 4 homes priced UNDER \$260,000: 1-800-526-1648 Enter the following extension numbers for recorded property details on these great, affordable properties; 3Br/2Ba \$225,000 ext. 1148, 2Br/2Ba \$215,000 ext. 1128, 2/2 \$257,000 ext. 1018, and 2/2 \$259,000 ext. 1008. Highlands N.C. Toll free 800-526-1648 Green Mountain Realty Group.

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 informa-

tion 1-800-526-1648 ext. #s 1108, 1118, 1168 Green Mountain Realty Group.

MOTOR HOME SITE — Uptown Highlands. Upscale site and adjoining new cedar-shake cabin. HIDDEN-CREEK. Corner of Fifth and Chestnut Sts. Pleasant stroll to shops and fine dining. Open for your inspection. Great site. Great investment. Pricing, pictures, all details: On-site, or call www.jtimms.com/hiddencreek 828-526-5333

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, PLUS OFFICE. In Town. \$249,000. Lease to own option for qualified. \$1,100 per month. Call 707-354-3011.

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

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 32

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

REFRIGERATOR - \$100. (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.

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4 BOARD PINE DINING TABLE - \$300. Early American New England spinning wheel - \$225. 526-2671

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TWO COWBOY DUSTERS - Full length coats. One black, one tan. Like brand new. Bought at T.J. Bailey's for \$350 each. Will sell for \$75 each. Also misc. items cheap. Call 706-746-3046. (Sky Valley).

DOUBLE UPHOLSTERED HEAD BOARD with 4 matching valences. \$35 for all. Blue and yellow plaid Call 526-3251.

36" HEATILATOR FIRE PLACE. New. Burns gas or wood. Price includes 5, 4-ft. vent pipes. Plus top cap at half price. The first \$450 gets it. Call Jerry Hall at 743-5256

STEEL PALLET RACK FOR SALE - Approximately 50 ft. of 42" high x 42" deep x 8" wide steel pallet rack, includes frames and rails; 3,000 lb. capacity. Perfect for home or industrial applications - including work benches; \$450. (828) 787-1035.

MR. HEATER - 75,000 BTU. Forced Air Heater. Like New. \$110. Call 526-3206.

TABLE SAW - 9" with 4" Joiner. All one stand. \$75. Call 526-3206.

PFALTZGRAFF "HEIRLOOM" DISHES. Complete service for 8 plus numerous serving pieces, extras and accessories. Too much to list. \$300 Call (828) 631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

JESSICA MCCLINTOCK VICTORIAN STYLE WEDDING DRESS. Very unique. Size 11/12. \$200. Call (828) 631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

MAN'S FORMAL (MID-LENGTH) WESTERN STYLE BLACK COAT. Size 46. Worn once. Bought at Stages West in Pigeon Forge. \$150. Call (828) 631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

KODAK 8 inch EASYSHARE DIGITAL PICTURE FRAME with remote. New - in box. \$95. 526-2713

8 SOLID OAK LADDERBACK dining room chairs with woven seats. \$800 for set. Call 526-3048.

UNUSUAL OLD OAK ROCKER. \$225. Call 526-3647.

1930S CHILD'S WICKER ROCKING CHAIR. \$175. Call 526-3647.

1930S WICKER DOLL CARRIAGE. \$200. Call 526-3647.

OLD OAK MIRRORED TOWEL RACK. \$85. Call 526-3647.

TWO LOW-BACK SOUTHWESTERN-LOOKING UPHOLSTERED CHAIRS. \$400. Call 526-5056.

RED WICKER CHAISE LOUNGE WITH PAD. \$250. Call 526-5056.

GORGEOUS SOFA, LARGE MATCHING CHAIR, COFFEE TABLE, SIDE TABLE. All for \$875. Call 828-349-8907 for info.

5-PC BEDROOM SET C.1920 Bed/Chest of Drawers/Vanity-stlye Dresser/Stool/Mirror. Rosewood inlay. Original brass hardware. Good condition. \$995 828-200-1160 or highlandnative@yahoo.com

CRAFTSMAN 10" RADIAL ARM SAW WITH STAND. Old but used very little. Excellent working condition. \$150. 828/787-2177.

9X15 KARASTAN RUG - Kirman design. Approximately 60 years old. Excellent condition. Call 526-5451.

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 526-8321.

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 connection cord included. "FREE." Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

CHARBROIL GRILL - Chrome, \$100 and another one for FREE. Call 526-4063.

COLONIAL GLASS - set of 12 Sherbet Goblets, and dessert plates. \$35. Call 526-4063.

MURRAY RIDING LAWN MOWER - 12.5 HP, 40" cut. Bought new. Garage Kept. Excellent Condition. \$400. Call 526-2607.

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 holding tank. Was \$75. Now \$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 COLORED BEDSPREADS - \$6 each. Call 526-5367.

3-TIERED GLASS CORNER SHELF \$10. Call 526-5367.

TWO ELECTRIC WATER COOLERS for sale. Approximately 38" tall x 12" square. Put bottled water on top. \$50 each. OBO. Call 526-3262

7 JIM SHORE LAMPS BY ENESCO For sale. Call 828-787-1292. Prices range from \$70-\$125.

FREE BRICK FRONT FOR BUILT-IN FIRE-PLACE. W-68", H-52" Call: 828-349-3320

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

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

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

LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES - Variety shrubs, trees, rail road ties, stone and mulch varieties, pine straw and soil additives. Call 828-526-2251.

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

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

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

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

THREE "HOUSE OF DENMARK" BOOKCASES

- walnut, 3' x 6', containing TV, tape player, turn table, radio/CD. Sold as an entertainment unit including 2 Advent speakers. \$550. Call 526-9273.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1989 4WD BLACK CHEVY BLAZER SILVERADO convertible truck. Rebuilt engine, towing package, roof rack, nice stereo, runs great, goes anywhere and can pull anything! \$5,000 OBO. (828) 421-7922.

2001 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED - Fully Loaded. 84,500 miles. \$9,500. Call 828-743-6353.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

FITNESS CENTER - Downtown Highlands. 125+ members. Business and equipment can be purchased for less than equipment cost. \$35,000. Call 828-200-9360 or 828-506-4296. 10/9

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HANDYMAN SPECIAL - Repairs and Remodeling, Electrical and Plumbing, Carpentry and more. Low prices. For free estimate call 828-342-7864. 9/25

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LARRY HOUSTON ROCKWORK - Repair, fireplaces, walls & patios. Free estimates. Lifetime experience. Work guaranteed. Call 526-4138 or 828-371-7451.

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

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

AIRPORT EXPRESS - All airports, Lincoln Town Car, private car, on time, reliable, low rates, MC, VISA, AMEX. Call cell: 239-292-3623. 524-2149 or email: markcrockett98@hotmail.com. 10/9

RESIDENTIAL CLEANING SERVICES - pressure washing, deck care. Callo 828-200-1084. 9/18

LEGALS

Macon County Board of Elections

5 West Main Street
Franklin, NC 28734
828-349-2034

Public Notice is hereby given **Absentee Voting By-Mail:**

Absentee voting will be allowed pursuant to G.S. 163-302(b). Absentee voting by mail begins on Monday, September 15, 2008 and will end on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 (G.S. 163-230.1 (a2) (3)). These requests may be made in person at the Macon County Board of Elections Office or the voter may request an application by writing to the Macon County Board of Elections at 5 West main Street, Franklin NC 28734. All requests must include the name, address, date of birth of the voter and must be signed by the individual voter. If the voter is unable to request an absentee by mail or in person a near relative may also request an absentee ballot using the same format as listed above, and must also include the relationship to the voter, and the near relative's contact information. (Near relative includes: spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, or stepchild). All absentee voted ballots must be returned to the Macon County Board of Election Office by Monday, November 3, 2008 (G.S. 163-231(b)). These ballots must be received by mail, commercial courier service, in person by the voter, or by the voter's near relative 5:00 p.m. on this day.

Sara R. Waldroop, Chairman
Macon County Board of Elections 9/18

... OBITUARIES continued from page 3

Romeoville, IL. Earl's brother, Joseph Heard, preceded Earl's death and is survived by his wife Sally Heard who resides in Cary, N.C. Earl is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at The Church of the Incarnation in Highlands 11 a.m. October 18 presided over by The Reverend Fred Hovey. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Highlands-Cashiers Hospice. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

... LETTERS continued from page 18

Alaska?

If you were honest and objective with yourself and your readers, you would have to acknowledge 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 that 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?

•See LETTERS page 34

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 25

replaced *Thine*.

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?*

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



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828-361-5343

... 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. Salzarulo, 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

Public Service
Palin - City Council member - Mayor - Alaska Oil and Conservation Committee member - Governor of Alaska, 2006 - FDR - New York State Senator - Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Navy - Vice Presidential nominee - Governor of New York, 1929 - 1932

My point is not to diminish Governor Palin's accomplishments, but to point out that Mr Armor was guilty of what he was preaching against - unjustified and inaccurate criticism of a political figure.

Mike Bagby
Franklin

'Greenway' pamphlet is wrong

Dear Editor,

The pamphlet entitled "Highlands Plateau Greenway" is inaccurate. There is misleading information in it concerning the portion along Biscuit Rock Road. This is a private road in a private community and the trail doesn't go through it. Hopefully, a new accurate pamphlet will be printed soon. Meanwhile, discard the current one.

Louis F. Reynaud
Highlands

• THANKS •

The Lady Highlanders would like to thank everyone for the support and donations for the spaghetti dinner on Thursday, September 11th. It was a great turn out! Hope to see all of you this season!

The team

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 8:14 p.m., officers received a call complaining of harassing phone calls at a residence on Chestnut Run.

- At 9:10 p.m., officers responded to an accident on U.S. 64.

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

Sept. 10

- 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.

Sept. 12

- The dept. responded to a call of a transformer fire near Mountain Fresh Foods. It was unfounded.

Sept. 13

- The dept. was called to rescue two women stuck in an elevator on Main Street.

Sept. 14

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Old Edwards Inn where a woman had cut her foot. There was no transport.

The following are the Macon County Sheriff Dept. the week of Sept. 8-16

Sept. 8

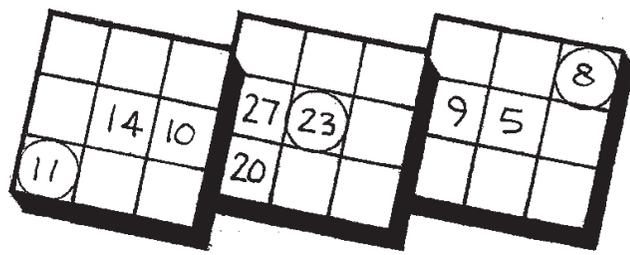
- At 4 p.m., deputies were called to investigate a burglary with larceny at a residence on Buck Creek Road where \$540 in personal and household items were reported stolen.

Sept. 16

- At 2:21 p.m., Labinot Bahtiri, 20, of Highlands, was arrested for simple assault with a knife at the Old Edwards Inn Employee Housing complex on N.C. 28. Two people suffered minor injuries. The magistrate set a \$1,000 secured bond.

• FUN & GAMES •

PseudoCube[©]



#BZ3E Level of Difficulty Easy

THE SETUP:

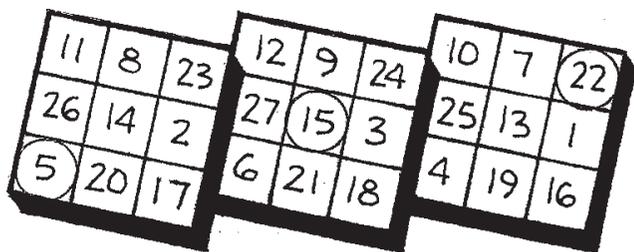
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

THE CHALLENGE:

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

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

Solution to #AZ3E in Sept. 11 issue



N-Cryptoku[©]

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

How to Solve: Determine the nine different letters among those given. Try to solve the mystery word using the clue given and write it in. Other small words will appear in the puzzle. As in conventional crossword puzzles, a list of meanings for these ACROSS/ DOWN words is given and number positions shown. Doing them will speed up your solution to the puzzle. Using your powers of induction, inference and insight, place missing letters in all blank squares according to the rules noted above. Focus attention where the least number of letters are needed to complete a line, column or 3 x 3 cell. Email: pseudocube8@aol.com. Feedback encouraged!

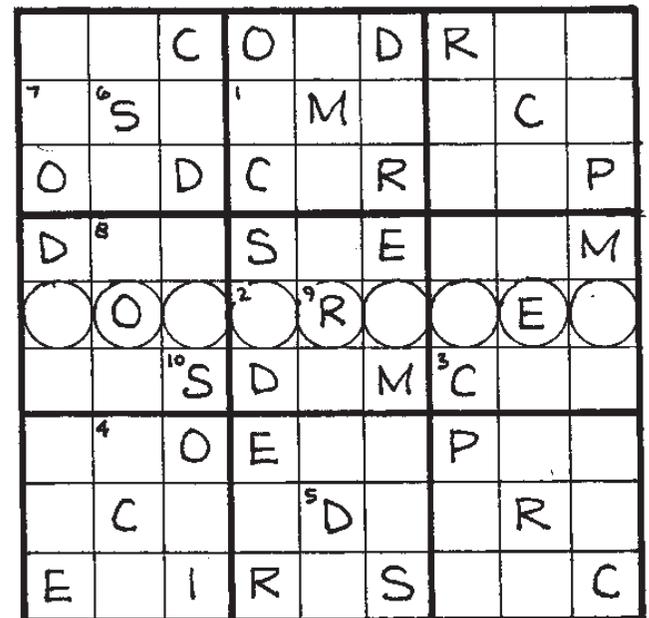
Mystery Word
"Composed of"(9)

Across

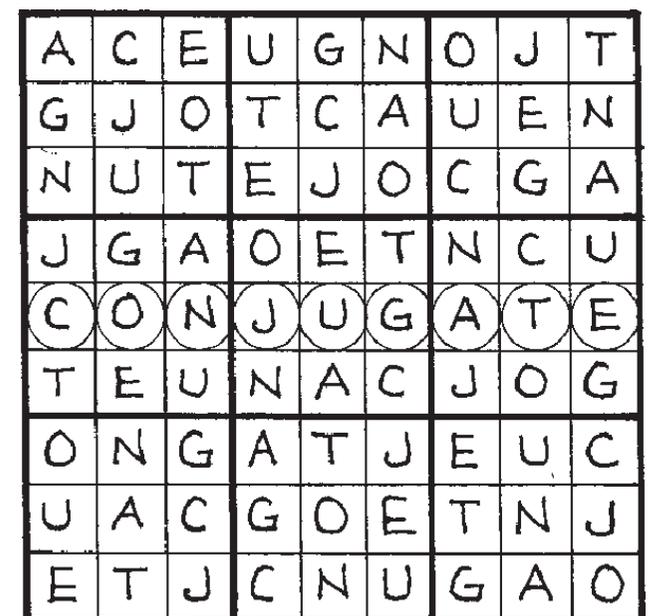
1. Small devil (3)
2. Public Relations (abbr.) (2)
3. Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation (abbr) (3)
4. Fish eggs (3)
5. Female deer (2)

Down

6. Small drink (3)
7. Fishing implement (3)
8. The Raven's author (3)
9. Return on investment (abbr) (3)
10. To drench (3)



Solution to Sept. 11 N-Cryptoku



... 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 just the 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 simply 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 Circula-

tion 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 Buz Dotson and Ross asked that Pine Street and Carolina Way be included in the study because both streets have become bypasses.

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, and traffic counts 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 1/2 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.

