

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 16

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, April 16, 2009

This Week in Highlands

Fridays & Saturdays

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese, at Falls on Main, complimentary wine samplings during business hours.

Saturdays

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main, Wine Flights from 4-6:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheeses and specialty foods. \$19 each.

Thursday-Sunday, April 16-19

- The Highlands School production "The Inner Willy" at PAC. Evening shows are at 7:30 p.m., and a the Sunday matinee starts at 2:30 p.m. For tickets, call 526-9047.

Saturday, April 18

- At Cyrano's author Todd Johnson will sign copies of "The Sweet By and By" from 1-3 p.m.

- Mirror Lake Litter Pickup. Meet at Thorn Park at 9 a.m.

- The next Highlands School College & University Tour is of Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. The Open House is from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Due to the early scheduling of the activities, the bus leaves from the front of Highlands School at 6 a.m. and returns at about 6 p.m.

- Wine Tasting Event at Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop from 1:30-4 p.m. to benefit The Bosnian Community Farm Initiative which is helping to rebuild lives in war-torn Bosnia. Tickets are \$25 in advance or at the door. Samplings of Bosnian food will be provided. Call Scott Roddy at 526-5210 for tickets.

Monday, April 20

- Mirror Lake Association Meeting at 6 p.m. at the Rec Park. Call Elaine at 526-9939.

Tuesday, April 21

- Highlands Literacy Night at Highlands School for parents and students beginning at 5 p.m. with a light supper. Following supper there will be literacy presentation from 6-6:30 p.m. then "break-out" sessions from 7-7:30 p.m. Each student in attendance with a parent will receive a free book.

Thursday, April 23

- Community Bible Church is hosting Town Hall for Hope, an simulcast event by Dave Ramsey University. This free event is at 8 p.m. in the sanctuary. The purpose is to discuss the current economy and how to take steps toward hope. Questions? 526-4685.

- Vilda Brannen, M.S., will speak on "Managing Stress during these Stressful Times" at Chestnut Hill Clubhouse at 4:30 pm. The event is free and open to the public. Brannen will share tips on healthy ways to manage and relieve stress. Light refreshments will be served. For information, call 526-5251.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
55 / 32F	60 / 39F	61 / 41F

Changes OK'd for Town Hall, police & fire

To save money, the Town Board has reconsidered Town Hall needs, specifically the need for a new Town Hall versus a renovated Town Hall.

Since the March 18 meeting when renovation plans were submitted, the job to renovate Town Hall and connect the upper floor to the existing generator has been bid. Six contractors responded and five were considered..

Schmitt Building Contractors came in at \$160,176; Wolf River Construction bid, \$138,045; SCM Building Contractors bid, \$123,955; J.T. Turner Construction bid, \$119,007; and Shirley Construction bid, \$101,995.

Roof repairs were bid out separately with Schmitt Building Contractors bidding \$11,755; Wolf River bidding \$14,520; and J.T. Turner bidding \$13,652.

At the April 15 Town Board meeting, Town Manager Jim Fatland recommended awarding the contracts to the lowest bidders but Commissioner Dennis DeWolf suggested the low bid was too low which could translate into change orders and extra costs later. J.T. Turner, a Savannah company that is now in Highlands working at OEI and

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County out of 'specific' room tax allocations

Finally, after a prolonged exercise in doublespeak that spanned about eight months, the county commission has defined its role in the disbursement of room tax money.

At the Monday, April 13 meeting, the board voted unanimously to nix four key points of County Manager Jack Horton's proposal outlining responsibilities of the Travel & Tourism Development Commissions (TDC) and the county, and to set an administrative fee.

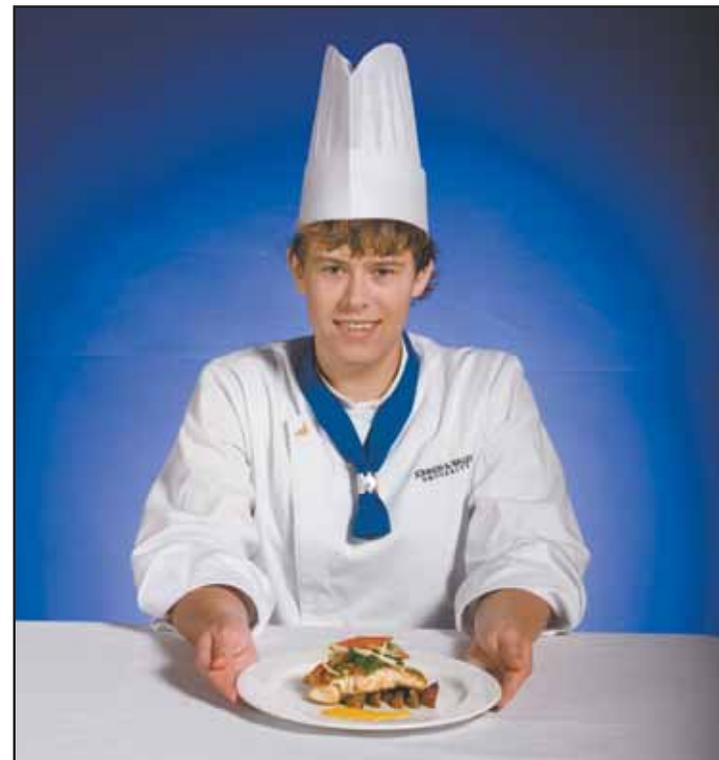
Horton's recommendation, first proposed at the March 23 commission meeting and reiterated at a special meeting on Tuesday, April 7 with TDC and chamber members from Highlands and Franklin/Nantahla, suggested the county pre-audit allocations, issue checks for approved invoices, include occupancy tax transactions in the county's annual audit, collect and pursue delinquent payers, among other things.

"The state says we can collect the tax and since we're responsible for how it is spent, we need to pay the bills," said Horton.

In addition, it was his opinion that the chambers and visitor cen-

• See ROOM TAX page 21

Bolt wins scholarship to prestigious culinary school



On April 4, at the Miami campus of Johnson & Wales University, Jamie Bolt, son of Al and Renee Bolt of Highlands, and a junior at Highlands School, won 1st Runner Up in the university's "High School Chef of The Year Contest." Jamie won a spot at this JWU National Cook-Off after competing with more than 850 entrees. Based on a dish he prepared at his home, and a video logged on the J&W website which prompted a website vote, he was one of 20 students invited to the cook-off. As 1st Runner Up, he won a \$30,000 scholarship and made a few contacts with famous chefs, as well. He created pan seared halibut with roasted potatoes, spinach citrus salad finished with a mango gastric. Jamie says "cooking" has been his passion since he was very young.

Arrests made following year-long narcotics investigation

Sheriff Robert Holland rarely misses a Macon County Commission meeting, but on the evening of April 13 he had a good excuse.

The first phase of the largest undercover narcotic investigation ever to be conducted in Macon County came to an end early Monday morning as it entered its next phase.

Officers from throughout Western North Carolina converged in Macon County to assist in conducting searches, collecting & processing evidence and arresting suspects for numerous drug related offenses.

For more than a year, officers from the Macon County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (D.E.A.), Franklin Police Department and the State Bureau of Investigations (SBI) have been involved in covert operations conducting surveillance and gathering evidence while purchasing various amounts of drugs.

As the investigation has progressed, prosecutors from the 30th Judicial District and the U.S. Attorney's Office have also been involved and meeting with officers in charge of the

• See NARCOTICS page 5

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

It's not me who's unpatriotic

Dear Editor:

The last time I wrote to this paper I was called unpatriotic for standing up for what I believe, I think my point has been made though with actions of this administration!

Is everyone getting their change and know what our President is saying as he stands on the soil of other countries?

1. America's relationship with the Muslim world cannot and will not be based on opposition to Al Qaeda. We will convey our deep appreciation for the Islamic faith, which has done so much over so many centuries to shape the world for the better, including my own country. The United States has been enriched by Muslim Americans. Many other Americans have Muslims in their families or have lived in a Muslim-majority country, I know because I am one of them.

2. This President has placed the burden of reform on the United States, not the world's Islamic states. It does appear that this President has mutual respect for regimes that seek a second holocaust and which persecute religious and other minorities.

3. He seems to have suggested that our only problem with Islam is Al-Qaeda. What about Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad? What about the mosques all over the world that preach the Jihadist philosophy?

4. Pew Global survey of Muslim attitudes in 2007 found significant support of homicide bombings among Muslims throughout the world — 70% in Palestinian territories, 23% in Jordan, 16% in Turkey and 10% in Indonesia. Common denominator – radical Islam, Virtually every terrorist the United States has to worry about is a Muslim.

For this President to down play that, is irresponsible. It confuses the people and makes it more likely that there will be another 9/11 in our future.

Further, this President also told his Muslim audience, "We do not consider ourselves a Christian Nation." Isn't that odd for a politician to say? One who claims to speak for the common man?

It's especially odd since the polls show that 62% of this nation's people consider America a Christian nation, and the fact that this nation was set on the Christian values!

Islam has contributed very little to the history of the United States. The Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth Rock were Christians, not Muslims and our founding fathers were inspired by the Bible, not the Koran.

It should also be pointed out that the first time America sent troops into combat overseas was when Thomas Jefferson ordered the Navy and Marines to Lybia to fight the Barbary Pirates. Still in it's infancy, America was forced to confront Militant Islam.

I want this man out of office. Obama literally bowed to a Muslim king, downplayed America's sovereignty and denied its religious and cultural heritage. This should offend millions of Americans.

John Owens
Highlands

A review of paper's columnists

Dear Editor,

A few things:

I so enjoy Michelle Mead-Armor's articles. She is not only a good writer, but funny and clever, with that rare gift of being able to take ordinary life and make it hysterically funny.

Katie Brugger has done it again. She was right on the money in last week's article on landfills predicting recessions. I'd like to reiterate one paragraph for the bene-

fit of those who may have missed it. "Our economy was built on plundering the natural world in a completely unsustainable way. We've overfished the oceans, overfarmed the land, poisoned the water and air, drained the supply of oil, cut down the forests and grown rich and fat in the process. But we've been living off the planet's capital, not the interest. We haven't developed an economy that works in a sustainable fashion." Brava Katie — tell it like it is! We simply cannot go on like this, and will certainly be held accountable for our actions.

Why do you continue to run those idiotic articles by Don Swanson? Last summer he pontificated on global warming and concluded that God is causing it. Now he pontificates on another subject about which he admittedly knows nothing about — bats.

Tens of thousands of bat deaths in the northeast are related to a new disease which scientists do not yet understand, White Nose Syndrome. While many, including Swanson, may not particularly care to hang out with bats, these are incredibly important, albeit misunderstood creatures. If Swanson cared to investigate further than he did, he would have learned that as consumers of enormous numbers of insects, bats rank among the most beneficial of animals. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service web site, "almost all United States bats, and 70 percent of bat species

worldwide, feed almost exclusively on insects and are thus extremely beneficial. In fact, bats are the only major predators of night-flying insects. One bat can eat between 600 and 1,000 mosquitoes and other insect pests in just **one hour**."

Now what, I ask, can compare to that? Deadly insect-borne diseases are already on the rise due to global warming, and no one can tell me that the loss of hundreds of thousands of bats won't worsen that. Plus more crops lost to insects will result in increased use of poisonous chemicals.

Whether Swanson wants to admit it or not, humans do have an impact on bats. Even before White Nose Syndrome, the FWS wrote that "Adverse human impacts include habitat destruction, direct killing, vandalism, disturbance of hibernating and maternity colonies, use of pesticides and other chemical toxicants. Drastic reductions in bat populations have occurred during recent years in the United States and worldwide. Even well meaning individuals such as cavers and biologists cause these disturbances. Hibernating bats arouse from hibernation when disturbed by people entering their caves. When aroused, they use up precious winter fat needed to support them until insects are again available in spring." In other words, hibernating bats may starve to death before spring.

So now the government is restricting usage of caves where bats are present because they fear the spread of whatever disease is killing the bats. That sounds quite reasonable to me. However, Swanson thinks they are caving in to "radical environmentalists" whose "desire to protect bats (and other creatures) trumps the wants and needs of mankind. Nothing will satisfy them until animals roam free and man is fenced in..." and then some ridiculous assertion about a UN scheme.

Mr. Swanson, if we lose our bats, we come one step closer to a more diseased and unlivable planet. As if losing honey bees isn't bad enough. Or hemlocks, or a whole host of plants and animals that have either gone extinct or are in danger of extinction. Again, may I refer Mr. Swanson and others who believe his words to what Ms. Brugger wrote.

We need to establish not only a sustainable economy but a sustainable mindset where we humans respect the other life forms that we share the earth with, with an understanding that our lives depend on them in ways we may not know until they are gone. Our needs and wants cannot trump those of other life forms — we have been doing it that way for a few thousand years, and look at where that got us.

Cynthia Strain
Highlands

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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• MILESTONES •



Zack's mother, Jan Lard, and friend Ken Knight, U.S. Navy, Retired, pin on his 2nd Lieutenant bars.

Woodcox commissioned

Last week, Zack Woodcox, 2004 graduate of Highlands School and 2008 graduate of University of Colorado at Boulder, traveled with friends and family to Virginia for his graduation and commissioning ceremonies in the U.S. Marines.

Out of the 413 candidates who actually made it through the Marine vetting process and began the class on January 7, only 250 made it to the end and graduated. Zack received a Commanding Officer, OCS Top 10% Award which means he was in the top 10 percent of his class. He also held one of the highest cumulative physical fitness scores in the whole battalion with an overall average of 98.4%. He accepted a commission and is now a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marines. He immediately moved on to the next portion of training, TBS or The Basic School which is also held at Quantico, Virginia.

At the ceremony were Jan and Gus Lard, his brother Nick Woodcox, Aunt Susan Waters, Aunt Kay Wax, Uncle Ben Wax, and friends from Highlands; Sara and Ken Knight, Alia Schultz and Travis Schultz.

Families turn out for 'hunt'

On Saturday, April 11 about 100 local and visiting children scoured the lawns of the Highlands Rec Park to find the 800 eggs hid for the annual Easter egg hunt. The youth from the Highlands United Methodist Church and the Episcopal Church raised about \$600 for their upcoming mission work in Haiti and Greensboro by selling sandwiches. One family gave \$100 for three sandwiches! Besides finding eggs packed with goodies, children got hugs from the Easter Bunny. Far Right is Jeslyn Head, 6, and friend.

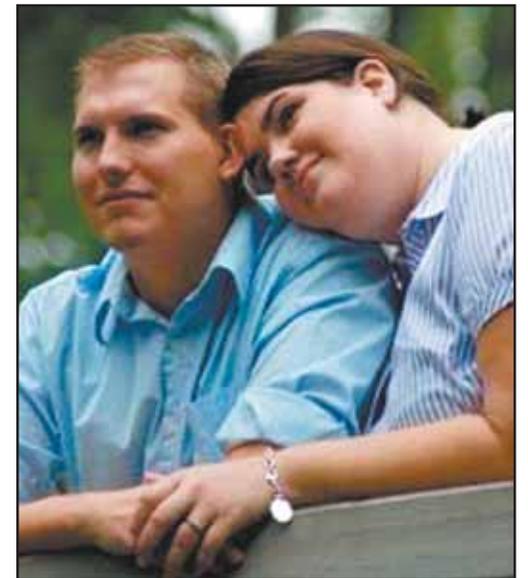


Photo by Kim Lewicki

• WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT •

Greeley and Potts to wed

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Greeley are pleased to announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter Kelly Leigh to Christopher Michael Potts, son of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Potts. The wedding will take place at River Ridge Golf Club in Raleigh, NC on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 5 p.m.



THE INNER WILLY

WRITTEN BY BETTYE KNAPP
 DIRECTED BY RONNIE SPILTON
 JIM GORDON

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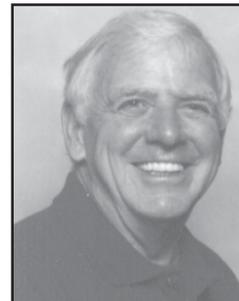
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• **LAUGHING AT LIFE** •

Recycling marijuana

(Attention potheads!)

Just how green are you? No, no, no, I don't mean naïve or stupid green; I mean green as in saving Bambi from the evil hunter green or save the atmosphere by not smoking green; or turn off all your lights and have sex green; that kinda green, green. Just how green are you?



Fred Wooldridge

There are already so many fun things to do in Highlands, like hiking, shopping, sleeping, shopping, sleeping and hiking but now we learn we can have a fun tour of the re-cycling facility in Franklin. I cannot wait. Rednecks can revisit their beer cans volunteers picked up along the highway and those pesty summer people can try to find their favorite wine bottles. Personally, I want to see where the bladder from my box wine goes. Isn't this exciting?

I've always wondered what happens to a glass beer bottle when it's thrown into an aluminum container full of beer cans. Does this cause the system to shut down? Or is the bottle treated like a can, smashed flat and sent to the aluminum factory to be made into a glass beer can. Wait, glass beer cans? Would that be fun, or what? Inquiring minds want to know! Well, you will now have the answer to all these things once you have taken the tour, like what happens when a cardboard box filled with dirty kitty litter is mixed with newspapers?

My editor recently led a team of middle school students on a project to pick up littler around Highlands. They were astounded at the large number of garbage bags they filled, much of which was recyclable material. Does this mean the year-round folks are trashing the town or had that stuff been around since those pesty summer people left? In either case, this is discouraging.

Every single time a team of volunteers pick up the litter from the gorge road, they fills many, many large bags with garbage, much of which is also recyclable material.

Hello....Macon County....is it time for a bottle deposit on containers? If consumers were forced to deposit one nickel for every plastic or aluminum container they purchased, our neighborhoods and highways would

remain a lot cleaner and retailers would make money on unreturned containers.

It's soooo hard for us little folks to get all excited about being green and recycling and doin' the right thing when we don't see our government doing anything to force folks not to litter. On top of that, if you want to recycle, you gotta pay to have it picked up. What good is that? If Macon County was really interested in being green, it

could at least pick up our recyclable material. And how many arrests were made in Macon County in 2008 for littering?

Oh, I almost forgot about Highlands' marijuana users. I know there are many of you out there, so listen up while I tell you how to better keep our atmosphere clean while performing a great service to our community. I like to call you folks "dopers" for...well, obvious reasons. Use your imagination.

Anyway, pot users are polluting our atmosphere with cannabis sativa L at such a high rate, our birds are getting stoned. Why do you think they fly into glass windows so often? A stoned woodpecker can be a very dangerous critter.

Potheads of Highlands, are you sitting down? I once escorted 35,000 pounds of marijuana to the Fort Lauderdale incinerator for destruction. Har, har, har....eat your hearts out. I watched bail after bail hit the ovens and, in a matter of time, even with the incinerator's filters working full time, a cloud of marijuana smoke was looming throughout all of Fort Lauderdale. Everyone got kinda silly and stupid. Birds were crashing into everything. Do you want your pilot stoned on marijuana? Could I make this up?

So if you want to make Highlands a better place, exhale your next marijuana cigarette into a paper bag and seal it. Write the word "evidence" on the bag and make sure you don't have bad breath. Now take the bag to your nearest police officer and ask that he dispose of it for you. You will have to leave your name, address and your source but the nice officer will make sure the bag gets into the right hands. What? You don't believe me?

Feedback is encouraged!
 email:
askfredanything@aol.com

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Bigger people consider the collective 'we'

Have you ever noticed that some people almost always say "I" while others usually say "We"? I can't imagine Donald Trump, whom I have never met, saying "We" unless he is looking for help in a project for which he will ultimately claim full credit.

At the same time, I don't remember Dr. Paul Farmer, whom I know quite well, ever saying "I." The choice of the first person pronoun says a lot about a person. The egocentric refer to themselves. Those whose universe extends beyond their self interest are more likely to be inclusive, and to share credit. I don't want to make too much of this. There are times when the use of "I" or "We" is indicated and mandatory. It's pretty presumptuous to say, "We're hungry," when yours is the stomach growling. Even the most self-centered would acknowledge his date and proclaim, "We're going to the movie." Who ever said, "We have to go to the bathroom."

There are many times when one has the opportunity to recognize ownership, participation, or effort on the part of others and chooses instead to claim the credit, and those are the times when the choice speaks to the character of the speaker. He is the partner who says, "I don't want to hire him," or "I don't want to take on this project." A gentle reminder that there are other partners who may have different points of view and whose wishes must be considered does nothing but elicit a pout and a look of dismay. His persistence in saying "I" at the next partners' meeting is ample evidence that his choice of pronoun was not merely a slip of the tongue.

He's the kind of guy who has his hair dyed and visits the tanning parlor, the same one who donates \$500 to a gubernatorial campaign and displays the photo of himself and the candidate for the next 20 years, or as long as he keeps winning.

He is a guy who draws attention to himself in everything he does. He may be engaging, but when he engages, it is with his own interests in mind. If he happens to be a plastic surgeon, his displays autographed pictures of every celebrity nose he has ever sculpted and every breast he has ever enlarged. He simply must draw attention to himself. His life is a study in self promotion. He tends to be larger than life, or at least louder than life. He may tip generously, but it's with a company credit card. He might drive anything but a Prius.

A woman who displays the same characteristics is less common but less obscene. An exception to the rule is the wife who says, "We have to hang those pictures," or "We have to change the light bulb in the ceiling fan," or "When was the last time we changed



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

the furnace filters?"

When I hear any of these or similar inclusive statements, I know it's time to get my ladder or my tools or my filters.

A person who includes others and respects their contributions may grab fewer headlines, but will garner more loyalty. He or she is a team builder, one who is willing to share the lime light to achieve the common goals. He lacks, or has controlled, the need for adulation and in doing so becomes the object of adulation, one who

leads rather than pushes his team. He may be a general, a quarterback, or a corporate president. She may be a neurosurgeon, a senator, or a real estate executive. He will enjoy both success and respect.

The difference is not always apparent at first glance. The egocentric may dress conservatively and speak softly. But when he speaks, it is I, me, and my. It is rarely we, us, and our. The choice of first person pronouns reveals much about a person. He who lives in the "I" world may have more flowers, but will have fewer tears at his funeral than the fellow who says "we."

... NARCOTICS from pg 1

investigation. At the conclusion of the operation, 40 suspects from Franklin, Otto, Sylva, and Clayton and Acworth, GA, ranging in ages from 18-73, were in custody with the arrests of additional suspects pending.

Arrested were: Pimpson Jerreau Broome, Charles Edward Dean Jr., Cleadie Doolin, Tracy Bernard Gibson, Alvis Goodman, Lisa Jae Ledford, Mark Taylor Lewis, Angela Maria Oxendine, John Francis Rice, Judy Nicole Sparks, Ricky Lee Wood, Emilee Jo Ann Young, Sylvia Plank Yonce, Joseph Robert Corbin, Victoria Donofrio, Christy Dawn Wilson, Jorge R. Cullar, John Smith Grant, Maxine Greene, Barry Joe Bryant, Patricia Anne Geiger, Kevin Peter Tillot, Christopher Michael Johnson, Brent Allen Wood, Clarence Tallent, Jr., Neil Ray Moore II, Cy Levi Fouts, Jimmy Lee Collier, Kristian Dremel, Jeffery Chavis, Danny Alonzo Surrat, David Engelking, Todd Bates, Larry Truitt Thomas, Tam Tran Minh, Denny Neil Elliott, Christopher Jason Pendergrass, Emilio Dominquez Martinez, Eduardo Gomez Galvan, and Roger Dale Hensley. Bonds ranged from \$1,000 to \$75,000.

During the course of the investigation, officers were able to identify both street level drug dealers and suspects who have been transporting larger quantities of narcotics into and throughout Western North Carolina.

The drugs purchased during this investigation included powder cocaine, crack cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine and numerous pharmaceutical drugs which include Oxycon-

• See NARCOTICS page 6

Reopening

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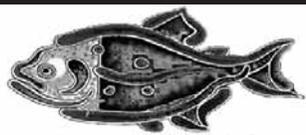
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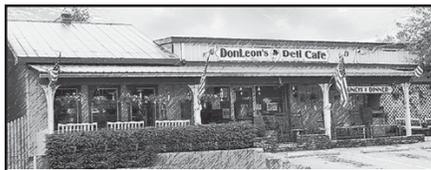
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... NARCOTICS continued from page 5

tin, Xanax, Hydrocodone, and Methadone.

Investigators were able to obtain Indictments which were sealed until the execution of this phase of the operation.

Assisting local officers with this phase of the operation include the Jackson Sheriff's Offices, Buncombe County Anti Crime Task Force and the NC Wildlife Commission.

Sheriff Robert Holland states, "Many of the suspects were allegedly trafficking and distributing large amounts of narcotics and conducting business with absolutely no concern as to the lives or families they were destroying," said Sheriff Robert Holland. "In a collaborative effort, local, state, and federal officers have worked non-stop for more than a year, including week-ends and holidays. Because of these dedicated officers, several members of our community are out of the drug dealing business."

Additional arrests are expected as the investigation continues.

• HIS & HERS •

Bonfire of the platitudes

by John Armor

President Obama's trip to Europe last week offered several more opportunities to observe his speeches. I listened to several of them, to see if they had changed at all. They had not.

On my desktop I have stored two Doonesbury cartoons from decades years ago. Back then, when many of Doonesbury's characters were still the same ones we both knew in college, I admired his work. (That was before his politics turned vicious and non-factual, shall we say.) The best of a cartoonist's skill is to skewer his subject with a handful of words and a few strokes of the pen.

This particular strip was about Senator Ted Kennedy giving a press conference. The first three panels showed a gaggle of reporters and a spaghetti plate of microphone wires. Zonker was in the foreground as a reporter. From off-screen right came phrases from the Senator. "World peace... health insurance... education... social security..."

In the last panel, an exasperated Zonker cried out, "A verb, Senator, a verb!"

That's the central point in examining the speeches of any public figure. It is to ask the question that Zonker raised. It is, what do you propose to do? Where, if anywhere, does this speech lead?

As I write this, I am watching a Military Channel show about Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Two men spoke that day to commemorate the opening of the cemetery for that decisive battle of the Civil War. The invited featured speaker at the dedication was Edward Everett, the former president of Harvard College and one of the 19th century's most celebrated orators. Everett spoke for two hours. Afterward, President Lincoln spoke for two minutes.

The oration by Everett is entirely forgotten. But Lincoln's words live on, carved in marble, as part of the very definition of what America should be, and is, and what we Americans are to live in such a nation. It goes even beyond that, it defined what it means for any citizens to live free, in a free nation.

When he was just a candidate, I wrote that Barack Obama's speeches were like cotton candy. They seemed to be substantial and good, but when you



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got into them there was nothing there but a handful of sugar with a much air, spun in.

The ability to speak well is good in the few Presidents who have had that skill. But it also represents a danger. Those who speak well and easily, can fool both themselves and others if they use their skills to conceal their lack of substance in their speeches.

I've been researching the writings of Benjamin Franklin for some current projects. People like Franklin, Adams and Jefferson, wrote and published many statements on many subjects with great skill. One can always find new and excellent quotes from any of them, by reading just a little more.

Franklin got to this point about oratory in 1735. In Poor Richard's Almanack, he wrote, "Here comes the orator! With his flood of words, and his drop of reason."

This column is incomplete, deliberately so. I have not quoted a single sentence from any speech by Obama, and will not do so. Here is the challenge:

Pick any speech by Obama, any time, on any subject. It is far easier to analyze the real content, if any, in a speech by reading it after the fact, than by listening to it live. That is both the appeal and the danger of a demagogue. At the time, the speech may seem to be substantial.

So, pick your own speech. Read it at your leisure. See if you find a flurry of find-sounding words, with little or no real substance to it. And if you find that, reflect on one of the failures of the Framers of the Constitution. In the Federalist, No. 68, Alexander Hamilton wrote that "talents for low intrigue and the little arts of popularity" may suffice for a man to become governor, but the Electoral College would prevent such people from becoming President.

That hope has long since been defeated. We've had more than a few Presidents of inadequate ability. We need to outlast them with minimal damage. But first, we have to recognize them.

About the Author: John Armor practiced law in the Supreme Court for 33 years. He now lives on the Eastern Continental Divide in the Blue Ridge of North Carolina.

John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

The honeymoon is over!

This is one of the weirdest days I can ever remember. I sit in my perch watching bright sunshine and heavy snow alternating about every 15 minutes and sometimes at the same time. I'm certain that Al Gore and the anointed one are conspiring to mess with my head, but I can't prove it. I'm reasonably certain my head is a mess, however.

Speaking of a mess, how about the pres' European tour? Now I understand why he had to take an entourage of 500 with him. It took that many to screw up so badly on so many fronts. First, let's be honest; Michelle's wardrobe evidently was a smash hit and was the major item on network television. Meanwhile, the first hubby was busy berating his own country, apologizing for our dismissive, yea, sometimes derisive attitude.

The beauty of this particular column is I hardly have to think at all. I'll just quote various columns that covered the debacle and say it so much better than I can.

The first item on the schedule was the G20 in London. This would present the first opportunity to embarrass the big O, and us, by association. The same brilliant staff group that determined that Gordon Brown needed a DVD of American classic movies felt the Queen of England, the QUEEN OF ENGLAND, should receive an iPod. I gave my son an iPod for Christmas some years ago.

One would think she deserved better. The New Zealand Herald noted, "President Barack Obama's gift of an iPod to the Queen seems to have caught as much attention as the G20 summit itself," which should tell you something about the value of the G20 summit. Both, however, played second fiddle to Michelle's glamorous attire if network news has anything to say about it.

While in London, as O was in heavy discussion with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on the subject of reopening negotiations about reducing nuclear warheads and promoting a nuclear-free world, he received word of the North Korean's provocative rocket launch earlier in the day. Now I wouldn't go so far as to call



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

O's dream Pollyannaish, (maybe pollyish) and I certainly wish him the best, but the odds are about as great as Bush's effort to end strife in the Middle East.

All either had to do was eliminate screw-loose politicians with global ambitions forever and voila, there you are.

You thought that the G20 was sort of just for show, without much substance, but O managed to make it meaningful, with his entourage and all.

He agreed to create an international board with authority to intervene in U. S. corporations by dictating executive compensation and approving or disapproving business management decisions thus trashing the U. S. Declaration of Independence. Quoting Dick Morris in World Net Daily, "that by agreeing to create the Financial Stability Board, Obama is a 'willing accomplice' to a decision that effectively repealed the Declaration of Independence and abrogated the sovereignty of the United States." And you thought he was just a pretty face.

Moving on to France and Germany, O met with their heads of state, Sarkozy and Merkel, hoping to convince them to commit to spending their countries into oblivion as in the US model, thus helping the world out of financial distress.

While he had the rest of Europe swooning, these two told him to take his economic suicide message and shuffle off to Strasbourg.

Somewhere along the line, O managed to inform the Europeans that the ills of the world are actually the fault of the United States and he apologizes for all the damage we've done. He might have pointed out that we continually pull their fat out of the fire, but no; they work their 32-hour work weeks, take six week vacations each year, while we bust our butts to pay for their security, and we owe them something?

Back to Strasbourg. O appeals to the NATO nations for military help in Afghanistan and is told that they are not

• See SWANSON page 11

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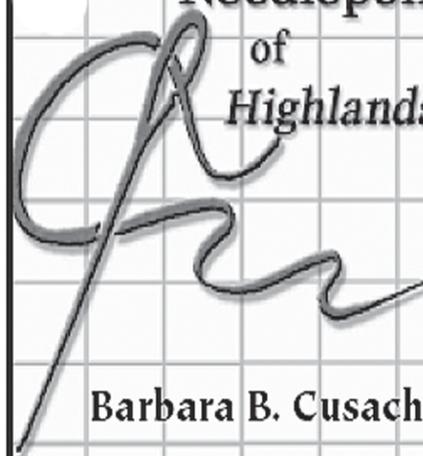
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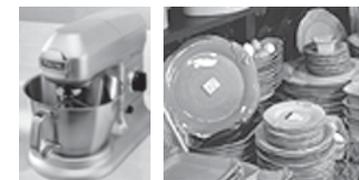
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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Taxation



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

We're going to hear a lot about taxes this year. The bank bailouts and stimulus package, not to mention the items in President Obama's agenda, are causing the federal deficit to soar. The Republicans, who never said a word about the danger of deficits while they were in power presiding over a doubling of the federal debt during George W. Bush's presidency, are now warning that deficit spending will ruin the nation. They're preparing their arguments to counter any Democratic proposals to raise taxes.

Let's look at some facts.

First, let's examine the history of the income tax in this country. There was an income tax imposed briefly during the Civil War, and again for a couple of years in the 1890s. The Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which came into effect in 1913, gave Congress the power to levy income taxes. From its beginning the federal income tax was a "progressive tax," which means the tax takes a greater percentage of income from wealthier taxpayers. In fact, at first only the rich paid taxes. This was enacted during the Progressive Era reforms which attempted to reduce the income inequality of the Gilded Age.

The top rate has varied widely over the last 100 years; in 1913 it was just 7 percent. It rose to 75 percent during the Great Depression, went to 94 percent during WWII, and remained at 91 percent until 1964. That year it was reduced to 70 percent, where it stayed until Ronald Reagan became president. He pushed through tax cuts that, by the end of his term, brought it to 28 percent.

Two things happened as a consequence of these tax cuts. First, income inequality, which had dropped considerably in the post-WWII boom years, began to increase. Secondly, the federal debt exploded. Under Ronald Reagan the debt went from \$1 trillion to \$4 trillion.

George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton both presided over income tax increases, eventually bringing the top rate to 39.6 percent. The federal deficits disappeared and the federal debt increased only slightly under Clinton. And the economy boomed, you may remember.

George W. Bush insisted on tax cuts, lowering the top rate to 35 percent and bringing back deficit spending.

Currently, President Obama is talking about returning the top income tax rate to the same level it was under Clinton — obviously not an "economy-killing tax."

(Wikipedia.com's article "Income Tax in the United States" has a chart with all the top tax rates; source: IRS.)

Second, the rich argue that they already pay the lions' share of taxes and shouldn't be required to pay more. The *Washington Post* printed an article "Who Pays Taxes" (April 10) that reported, "In 2006, the top 20 percent of earners paid 70 percent of all federal taxes. On average, they paid 26 percent of their income to the government. The very richest — the top 1 percent of taxpayers, with household incomes of over \$332,000 — paid 28 percent of all taxes, with an effective tax rate of 31 percent. The bottom 90 percent of households paid only 45 percent."

The first response to this is that the income tax is supposed to cost the wealthy more than the middle-class, see "progressive tax" above.

Next, let's put the figures in perspective by comparing taxes-paid to income-earned. The *Post* article goes on to say, "The top quintile earned over 55 percent of the income, and the top 1 percent earned a full 19 percent of all income."

In other words, the top 20% earned 55 percent of all income and paid 70 percent of all taxes. The top one percent earned 19 percent of all income and paid 28 percent of all taxes. Is this unfair?

Imagine a community made up of 100 people. This community has exactly the same income spread as the U.S., but its total income is just \$100. One person would earn \$19. Another 19 people would earn an average of \$1.89 (\$36). The other 80 people would share the remaining \$45, or an average of 56 cents each.

The community asks all the residents to pitch in to help pay for some services that benefit everyone in the community, and sets up a progressive system in which the person who made the \$19 pays a higher percentage than the person who made 56 cents. After paying the tax of 31 percent about \$13 is left, while the person at the bottom still has about 50 cents. Is this unfair? Even after the tax, the person at the top is much wealthier than the great majority of the community.

These averaged numbers are crude but they help clarify the issue, I think.

Third, the statistics for relative income I've just been discussing do not really state the profound level of economic inequality currently existing in this country. The shocking disparity of inequality in this country is in wealth, not income.

• See BRUGGER page 15

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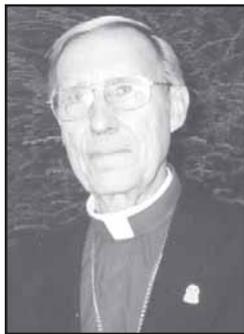
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The faith of a mother



The Most Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding
Senior Pastor, The Chapel of Sky Valley

A seven-year-old boy returned home from school one day with his head down and his heart broken. A tear-stained face alerted his mother of trouble at school, and she was quick to find out what happened.

The boy had overheard his teacher telling one of the school officials that he was a slow learner who would never amount to anything. This sensitive child, who only recently had been well enough to return to school, was crushed. His teacher no longer believed in him.

But his mother certainly did. Without hesitation, she took him by the hand and went straight back to school. Together, they would face the teacher. The young boy looked on as his mother told the teacher of her son's remarkable memory, his unique talents, and promising abilities. At that moment, the boy determined to live up to his mother's belief in him.

Years later, the world came to know this mother's son as Thomas Edison, the genius inventor. "With confidence, ambition, and industry, Thomas Edison...turned darkness into light, called forth music from a box, and made hundreds of useful inventions..." for more efficient and comfortable living.

Still remembered as one of the most prolific inventors of all time, Thomas Edison credits his mother's belief in him as the source of his greatness: "My mother was the making of me," he said. "She was so true, so sure of me, and I felt that I had someone to live for, someone I must not disappoint."

Such is the power of a loving mother's faith. Mrs. Edison saw her child not as the underachiever his teacher believed him to be, not even as an average student, but as a brilliant boy full of promise. This mother and all mothers everywhere who see greatness in their children are God's miracle workers, angels of achievement who instill courage and confidence in their children. They recognize masterpieces in scribbled drawings; beauty in drooping but carefully picked dandelions; brave efforts in scraped knees; and loving intentions in kitchen messes. Sometimes, only a mother's watchful eye can discern the goodness — even the greatness — that is developing in a child.

I cannot go through the Easter season without reflecting on Mary, Jesus' mother. How much pain she must have suffered as she saw her son ridiculed by the people God sent him to serve!

Reflecting on that first miracle of Jesus at the wedding in Cana and the desperate situation when they ran out of wine, Mary stepped in. Jesus himself is not ready or willing to step into the spotlight that would follow him all the days of his life, but his mother wasn't stopped.

It is she who turned to the servants at the wedding and

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 11

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Try a kitchen herb garden!

By Emily Compost

Have you ever grown herbs? Would you like to have a kitchen herb garden?



Plan now to come to the Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale on May 23 at the baseball park in Highlands. There will be many herbs to choose from and with a little advice you will be on your way to a practical and useful herb garden.

I'm a firm believer that a kitchen herb garden should be near your kitchen. If you do not have garden space near your kitchen, you can create a garden using pots and containers. Growing herbs in containers will help herbs that need warm soil temperatures thrive.

Why is soil temperature important? Well, go outside and grab a fistful of dirt and notice how cold it feels. Many herbs thrive in the Mediterranean so if you can replicate those conditions or get as close as you can the results will be a bountiful harvest.

People are always asking me why their basil and dill are not doing well and the reason is that on our mountain plateau the soil temperature can be too cool and with too much moisture, which can create a condition too damp and cold for these herbs to thrive. This summer try growing basil in a pot in a sunny place. This will raise the soil temperature and you will be making homemade pesto before you know it.

Herbs come in a variety of sizes, shapes and textures, and planting a mix of herbs can make for a beautiful container garden.

Themed containers can be fun. If you have a favorite family dish such as spaghetti, use that as theme for your containers. Plant

oregano in a big, empty olive oil can (be sure to punch holes in the bottom first for drainage) or in a pot with an Italian design. If you like Mint Juleps, plant mint in a small barrel and add a decorative sign declaring how you will use the mint you are growing. Once you start the process, all kinds of ideas will take shape.

Another food for thought: don't overlook the blooms that herbs produce. The wonderful light purple round puffs of chive blooms look good and provide a zesty, oniony flavor in vinegars as well as salads.

Lavender (Lavandula spp.) blooms accentuate sweet and savory dishes with a mingling of floral, fresh pine, and citrus notes. Strip the lavender flowers from the stalk before using. It can be used on fish, poultry, most fruits, vegetables, marinades, dressings, beverages, baked goods and desserts. Basil, sage, chervil and rosemary also have wonderful fragrant and edible blooms.

In general, herbs require a sunny warm location and moderate watering. Fertilizing is optional.

A good potting soil should be all you need. Some herbs are annuals, some are perennial.

For more advice about kitchen herb gardens, come to the 27th Annual Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale, May 23, 9 am to 1 pm, in Highlands at the baseball park on Highway 64 E. I'll be there with herbs for you grown right here on the Highlands Plateau.

... COACH continued from page 11

defense to a freshman, Roy Williams showed a lot of faith and it was rewarded with a national championship.

After running through the tournament field like a buzzsaw, the obvious question when assessing this North Carolina team is their place in history among the all time national championship teams.

I would say that this North Carolina team is one of the best in the past 15 years, ranked only behind the 1996 Kentucky Wildcats and the 2001 Duke Blue Devils. The 1996 Kentucky team was known as the "untouchables" and featured Ron Mercer, Tony Delk, Antoine Walker and Nazr Mohammed. That team only lost twice all year, with both losses coming to Final Four teams (Mississippi State and UMass). The 2001 Duke team featured 5 NBA starters, including Carlos Boozer, Mike Dunleavy, Jr and Shane Battier. Perhaps the best player on that 2001 team, Jason Williams, was a likely NBA all-star before having his career cut short due to a motorcycle accident.

The current 2009 UNC championship team will likely have 2 NBA starters in Tywon Lawson and Ed Davis, and three more NBA players in Danny Green, Tyler Hansbrough and Wayne Ellington. Additionally, with the return of Ed Davis to Chapel Hill, along with a top flight recruiting class-it appears that North Carolina will continue to dominate the college basketball landscape for the immediate future.



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• COACH'S CORNER •

Death, taxes and North Carolina

January 12 saw a turning point for the North Carolina Tar Heels this season. After dominating their non-conference schedule and looking like a team with the ability to go undefeated, North Carolina sat at 0-2 in the ACC and was searching for some answers.

Boston College had beaten North Carolina with toughness and execution, running their offense to perfection and making the Heels' defense look paper thin. Wake Forest had done the unthinkable by beating North Carolina at its' own game, out-athleiting them in a fast paced game and making the usually warp speed Tar Heels look a step slow.

Looking at the 0-2 start in retrospect, it's possible that North Carolina simply got complacent, but there were two major changes made after January that propelled the Tar Heels to their 5th NCAA title.

The first move made by UNC coach Roy Williams was to entrust his team to Tywon Lawson and run the offense through him rather than four time all-ACC player Tyler Hansbrough. While Hansbrough still would get



Ryan Potts
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plenty of touches, he was not a great decision maker and would struggle when double teamed. By putting the ball in Lawson's hands the majority of the time, North Carolina committed less turnovers and ran their offense more effectively. Lawson's assist to turnover ratio was off the charts this season, and his offensive rating was the highest of any player in the last 9 years. By putting the ball in the hands of his best player, Roy Williams helped North Carolina become more effective offensively.

... SWANSON continued from page 7

interested. They send a few clerks and teachers, but actually fighting? No thanks. So by now, he's batting zero. How appropriate.

He then went to Prague to gain absolutely nothing in meeting with the EU leaders. His welcome having been worn out, he, and his very helpful entourage head for Turkey, where he bows to Saudi King Abdullah in deference to the Muslim world. I believe it was there that he declared that the United States is not a Christian nation.

The New York Post sums it up best. In a column headed "O's Amateur Hour" the story starts "The real climax of President Obama's Spring Apologies Tour wasn't his photo op with out troops in Baghdad or even his 'American Guilt' concerts in Western Europe. While fans in the press cheered wildly at every venue, the real performance came in Turkey. And it was a turkey.

Obama means well. Just as Jimmy Carter, his policy Godfather, meant well. But the road to embassy takeovers and strategic

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 9

showed the power of a mother is just five words, five words that would — and should — be written on the souls of every follower: "Do whatever he tells you." That is a mother's faith.

How that faith must have been tested over those years of her son's life!

I am sure that she, like any mother, many times during this trial by faith, wanted to scream, "Give up on them, they are not worth your life." But she had faith in his mission, a calling of God.

St. John's gospel puts Mary at the foot of the cross that painful Friday of the

humiliation is paved with good intentions — coupled with distressing naiveté.

On every state, Obama draped Lady Liberty in sackcloth and ashes, drawing plentiful applause but no serious economic or security cooperation in return. Then in Turkey, he surrendered our national pride, undercut our interests and interfered with matters that aren't his business.

Obama has no idea what's going on in Turkey. By going to Ankara on his knees, he gave his seal of approval to a pungently anti-American Islamist government."

Is this change you can believe in? We knew he was totally inexperienced in these matters, yet we handed him the keys to the kingdom.

If more space was available, I'd quote a column from Salon.com, a seriously leftist website, that blasts Obama's lack of knowledge and skills. Maybe next week. Meanwhile, if you are of the persuasion, pray for your country. We need it.

crucifixion, knowing, even now, that the faith of a mother was needed, the faith to believe in the unbelievable that began in a stable and did not end on a cross.

How many of the world's advancements were fueled by the belief of a loving mother? How many quiet victories were won because a mother, sometime, somewhere, believed in the abilities of her child? If ever our society needed such faithful mothers, we do now. As the poet observed, "...the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world," and Mary's hand rocked eternity.

The second move that helped North Carolina regain its dominance was the increased playing time for stud freshman Ed Davis. Whereas Tyler Hansbrough and Deon Thompson are both effective offensive players, both were below average defenders who did not provide a shotblocking presence around the rim. Enter Davis, a 6'10 lefty with long arms and tremendous timing around the basket. By providing a deterrent to driving the lane, Davis was almost single-handedly able to improve North Carolina's overplaying defense and improve their ability to get stops as the season continued. By entrusting the back line of his

•See COACH page 10



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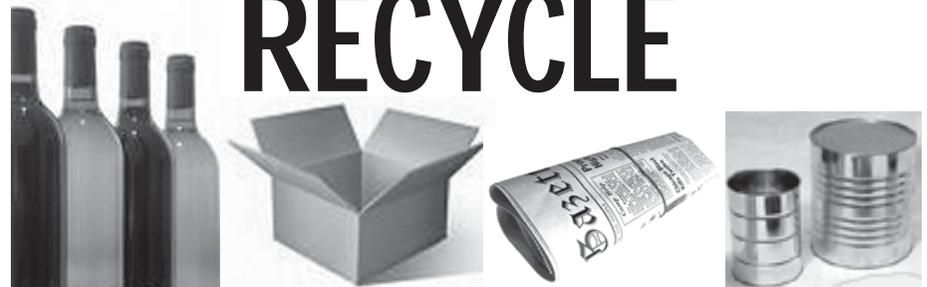
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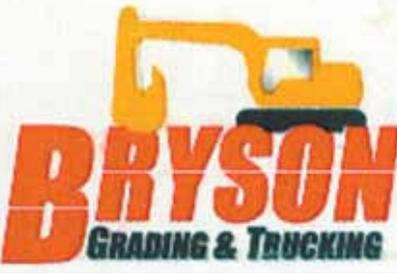
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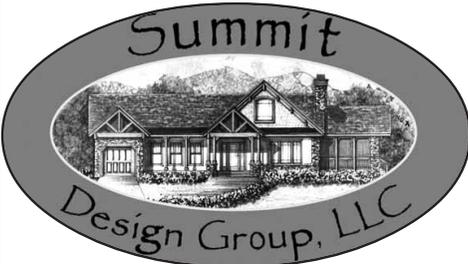
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• ANOTHER POV •

Earl Flynn the pirate

When I was a young boy movies were played a huge part in my life. My father died when I was just 12 and with no father figure in my life I took to the movies for inspiration. Actors like John Wayne and Earl Flynn were the larger-than-life heroes who stood up against the bad guys and, despite the odds, won out over the vastly superior force, or the evil cowboy, or the obsessive king.



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

For many years now these pirates have been operating with impunity as they seized private yachts at sea, cut the throats of yachtsmen, dumped their bodies into the sea, and sailed off with their boats. Actions to stop these attacks were minimal by all governments. Now these pirates have stepped up their efforts seizing large vessels, even commercial

cargo ships — it's a whole new game. Ships have been seized and hostages held for months until ship owners and governments negotiated over the money to be paid.

This past week an American flagged vessel was the target of these pirates. But after five days of targeting the pirates a US Navy SEAL team killed three of the pirates, captured the fourth and rescued the captain of the American ship.

There was an immediate reaction from the pirates and some of the world's leaders. "From now on, if we capture foreign ships and their respective countries try to attack us, we will kill them," said Jamac Habeb, a 30-year-old self-proclaimed pirate. Other governments fear that the American rescue will jeopardize their negotiations with the pirates for the release of their own people now being held by pirates, and that there now may be an escalation of violence.

Some people say that the American action was rash and could lead to the deaths of many of those now being held hostage on ships of other nations. I have another opinion on that.

Although I do believe, and completely support, negotiating with governments who are not our allies in search of new ways of co-existing, I also believe we cannot negotiate with those that illegally seize our ships and our people. Paying for their release is not only contrary to our nature and our history it will encourage more of the same. I know if I were on a ship captured by these pirates, and knowing an attack by our forces may lead to some or all of our deaths I would still want them to try; better to die free than to live in fear and without honor.

Our praise should go to our government that gave the order to go and our Navy SEALs, whose quiet, methodical pursuit of the enemy and deadly execution of their mission led to the release of our citizen. Maybe John Wayne and Early Flynn are alive.

I'll have Another Point of View in two weeks.

John Wayne was, without question, "The Man." With his larger-than-life statue and presence, his gritty determination, quiet strength and unrelenting courage, he was an inspiration to every boy.

Earl Flynn, on the other hand, was all that except he was the handsome ladies' man whose persona was anything but quiet and subdued. His flamboyant swashbuckler style was perfect for his roles as the rogue pirate who smiled in the face of danger as he swung from the ropes of his pirate ship onto the deck of the oppressive king, and with sword in hand vanquished the evil forces, all the while laughing in the face of danger.

In victory, the forces of Flynn would rally around them and would celebrate in riotous song. His pirate films were both exciting and inspiring. I ask you. What young boy didn't want to be a pirate?

When I joined the army I quickly learned there were no John Waynes and certainly no Early Flynn ready to lead us into victory. When the battles did take place there were no victory celebrations with the cheering soldiers rallying around their leader as they drank from beer mugs that had magically appeared nor did they sing along with rousing music that suddenly filled the air.

What I did find was that battle was never clean, easy, fun or without horror. I did find that battles were fought by scared men and women doing their jobs all the while hoping they and their fellow soldiers would just survive the day. Battle was never taken lightly and never glamorized.

There are no Earl Flynn's these days but pirates are amazingly alive and well. This year alone they have attacked 74 ships and seized 15. As of the writing, there are 228 people still being held hostage by pirates aboard 13 ships. These are not swashbuckler, charismatic heroes swinging onto the decks of oppressive kings but rather they are ruthless and highly armed thieves.



The inner workings of 'The inner Willy'

Cai Roman, left, and Matt McClellan portray alter-egos in the Highlands School production of *The Inner Willy* which runs this Thursday-Sunday at PAC. Call 526-2147 for ticket information.

By Matt McClellan
a.k.a. Willoughby Adams

In being cast as Willoughby Adams, the sheltered and awkward protagonist of the production of *The Inner Willy*, I have gained an incalculable amount of insight into the countless hours of work and dedication that go into the production of a quick-witted comedy. I have also witnessed the amount of thought that goes into making every gesture, movement, and word mean something. This high school production of Bettye Knapp's play has taught me a thing or two I never knew I needed to know about acting.

Last spring I participated in Highlands' first HCP-produced foray into student theatre as Coach Ed Summers in Joseph Robinette's comedy, *Get Bill Shakespeare off the Stage*. With a cast of no less than 18 talented high school students and an irresistibly charming script, the production set a new standard for the high school spring play, most of which had been held at Highlands School in previous years.

Having been bitten by the infectious theatre bug, I didn't hesitate to audition for the May production of Alfred Uhry's *Last Night of Ballyhoo* after receiving a call to read for the part of the obnoxious redheaded

fraternity boy, Peachy Weil. I was then cast as Hero in Stephen Sondheim's musical comedy, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, which was to be HCP's summer production, and its first-ever musical. With this experience under my belt, I felt certain I knew everything I would need to know about putting on a smart, engaging comedy.

How wrong I was. As practices for *The Inner Willy* began in late February, I began to realize just how much I had yet to learn. First there was "overlapping," a technique used to theatrical effect in which actors intentionally "step on" each other's lines. I had seen this done in community theatre productions before, and had been impressed by the skill exhibited in its use, but never did it myself until this play.

The play relies heavily on comedic timing, especially in its use of short, quick lines meant to be acted out quickly, rather than using long character monologues. This demands that each actor virtually learn not only their own lines, but also the lines of everyone else on stage. From this, I have learned the importance of not only being responsible for knowing my own part inside-out, but also for knowing every other character's part in the same way.

... BRUGGER continued from page 8

David Schweickart, professor of philosophy at Loyola University of Chicago, wrote in "After Capitalism" (2002): "If we divide the wealth of the U.S. into thirds, we find that the top 1 percent own a third, the next 9 percent own another third, and the bottom 90 percent claim the rest."

G. William Domhoff, Professor of Sociology at the University of California Santa Cruz, wrote on his website "Wealth, Income, and Power": "As of 2001, the top 1 percent of households owned 33.4 percent of all privately held wealth, and the next 19 percent had 51 percent, which means that just 20 percent of the people owned a remarkable 84 percent, leaving only 16 percent of the wealth for the bottom 80 percent." (sociology.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/power/wealth.html)

We'll combine these figures to once again put them in perspective with our imaginary community. Our 100 people have a combined \$100 of wealth. One person would own \$33 of assets. Nine would

own an average of \$3.66 (\$33 between them). Another ten would have an average of \$1.80 in wealth (\$18 shared). The rest of the people in the community — 80 people — would share \$16, averaging about 20 cents each.

This makes me think of an article I read in *Harper's Magazine* last year in a special section entitled "How Can We Save Capitalism?" One writer asserted that the problem with capitalism is we haven't fully moved out of feudalism yet. Wealth is still incredibly concentrated in a very few hands.

By the way, this doesn't mean I'm not in favor of rethinking the income tax. We should tax behavior we want to discourage, like the use of fossil fuels, not behavior we want to promote, like productive work.

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

Another thing I have learned from this play is how to portray a dynamic character. Willoughby "Willoughby" Adams undergoes a radical transformation over the course of the three-act play, starting out as a sheltered, shy and inhibited teenager and turning into a person who is comfortable in his own skin, and who isn't afraid of speaking his mind.

This transformation required that I change the way in which I portray my character from the beginning of the play to the end, down to minute hand gestures and posture. *The Inner Willy* is a theatrical experience that I won't be forgetting any time soon; neither will the audience.

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Two local events to benefit Bosnia Farm Initiative

The Bosnian Community Farm Initiative, Inc. (BCFI), a local non-profit organization based in Sylva, will be hosting two events in Highlands in support of its mission to rebuild and reconnect small farm communities in eastern Bosnia.

The BCFI grew from its roots at First United Methodist Church in Sylva, and includes Pastor Paul Christy of Highlands United Methodist Church as a member of its board of directors.

Under Pastor Christy's leadership and inspired by his commitment to peace and reconciliation, a core group of local volunteers has completed a total of four barns and offered four pregnant dairy cows to families in the Srebrenica municipality. The BCFI has chosen to focus its work in the Srebrenica municipality based on the region's dramatic history and current need.

One of the most notable events during the war in Bosnia occurred in and around the town of Srebrenica.

In July 1995, Bosnian Serb forces invaded an established UN Safe Haven, ultimately removing and executing almost 8,000 Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) men and adolescent boys.

The Srebrenica massacre was officially designated genocide by the International Court of Justice, and served to perpetuate a climate of fear and mistrust between neighbors.

Today, over a decade after the signing of the Dayton Accord, communities struggle to overcome division, as well as the physical and emotional costs of war. Many people remain internally displaced, living still in collective centers or minimally refurbished homes.

Although the Srebrenica municipality enjoys the benefits of two small urban centers, many people continue to rely on subsistence farming and local trade. Local unemployment rates were estimated at 70% in 2005, and with physical reconstruction moving at a snail's pace, job prospects within divided communities remain slim. Despite high unemployment and fragmented community life, this mountainous region

has rich soil and a strong agrarian history.

In observing its core values of community, sustainability, solidarity, humility, respect, relationships, and faith through action, the BCFI is committed to serving families and widows working to rebuild the sense of community offered by traditional agrarian principles.

The milk and milk products from a healthy dairy cow can either be consumed, bartered, or sold locally, and the offer of a pregnant animal provides an additional opportunity for trade or income.

The work of the BCFI also supports the local economy beyond the beneficiary families served. It is estimated that in buying local building materials, purchasing local livestock, hiring local contractors and interpreters, and in supporting local hotels and restaurants, the organization contributes nearly \$10,000 per beneficiary family to the local economy.

In addition to its barn building and livestock projects, in 2007 the BCFI worked with municipal leaders in refurbishing a local spring site, and in 2008 members of the board of directors participated in a tour of local health facilities with the support of Rotary International.

In support of upcoming projects, two local businesses have agreed to partner with the BCFI in an effort to raise awareness of the group's efforts.

The Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop will be hosting a wine tasting event in support of the BCFI on Saturday, April 18 from 1:30-4 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$25 and can be purchased in advance or at the door. Samplings of Bosnian food will be provided. Please contact Scott Roddy at 526-5210 for tickets or more information.

Nick's Fine Foods will be hosting a dinner event in support of the BCFI on Thursday, May 14, with dinner served at 6 p.m. Tickets will be \$50 per plate, and as always, Nick's will provide a choice of delicious entrees accompaniments. Non-alcoholic beverages are included, and a cash bar will be available. For

more information, please contact Patty or Dori at 526-2706.

For more information, about BCFI, please visit www.thebcfi.org, or stop by Pastor Christy's office at HUMC for a visit!

On-going Events

• Registration is now open for the 2009 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! - a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 8-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-14), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-15). Some camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.

• Friends of Panthertown work days, last Thursday of every month (time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

• Refuge Youth meets every Sun. night at 6:30 p.m. 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.

• 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.

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• 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.

• 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.

Mon. & Wed.

• 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. For more information please call 828.526.3556.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

Wed., & Fri.

• Open AA meeting noon 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

• Closed AA meeting, 8 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Earth Day in the mountains is April 25 Come celebrate!

Its our 5th year and better than ever! Whole Life Market, Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, and the Jackson Macon Conservation Alliance are hosting this free event.

Come and enjoy the live music featuring Buffalo from Asheville and local talents Frazzled Edge and Cashiers Music Company. Take a turn on the climbing wall or bounce around with some friends in the castle or maybe try a little badminton/ basketball fun. Learn from local builders and environmentally friendly merchants about greening up your lifestyle.

The United Methodist Church and the Girl Scouts will be serving a scrumptious potato bar with all the trimmings and if you have a hankering for something sweet or salty visit the Earth Day snack shack. The money raised from the food goes to the UMC missionary work and offset the costs of this event.

This event is held rain or shine on April 25th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Village Green in Cashiers. Bring the kids and celebrate the beautiful mountains in which we live on our precious planet Earth. For more information call J-MCA or Highlands Cashiers Land Trust at 526-9938

School play 'Inner Willy' at PAC April 16-19



"The Inner Willy" is a coming of age story, that tells about the journey of a boy, with a little help from his mischievous conscience, maturing, learning to make his own decisions and becoming a young man. The play will be staged April 16-19 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. Thursday through Saturday performances begin at 7:30 p.m., and a Sunday matinee starts at 2:30 p.m. For tickets call 526-9047.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

• 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.

• Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Wednesdays

• Highlands Mountain Top 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.

Wednesdays & Fridays

• Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

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.

Thursdays

• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

• Taize worship at 7 p.m. at the Lutheran Chapel of the Holy Family, 2152 Dillard Road. There is a simple supper of bread and soup at 6 p.m. Dress is casual, and all are welcome. Call Chaplain Margaret Howell for more information: 828-526-2905 or email her at Knytengale@aol.com

2nd & 4th Fridays

• Community Drum Circle at the Highlands Rec Park, from 6-7:30 p.m. All ages are encouraged to attend this free event. All experience levels welcomed. Bring your own drum or percussion instrument. Some extra drums and percussion will be supplied. For more information call 421-0551.

Fridays & Saturdays

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, at Falls on Main, complimentary wine samplings during business hours.

Saturdays

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main, Wine Flights from 4-6:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheeses and specialty foods. \$19 per person.

Thursday-Sunday, April 16-19

• The Highlands School drama production "The Inner Willy" at PAC. It is a coming-of-age story about a boy, who with a little help from his mischievous conscience, matures and learns to make his own decisions on his way to becoming a man. Evening shows are at 7:30 p.m., and a the Sunday matinee starts at 2:30 p.m. For tickets, call 526-9047.

Friday, April 17

• High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building from 7-9 p.m. Ace McGee from Anderson SC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-349-4187, 706-782-0943.

Saturday, April 18

• At Cyrano's author Todd Johnson will sign copies of "The Sweet By and By" from 1-3 p.m.

• Mirror Lake Litter Pickup. Meet at Thorn Park at 9 am.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 6.2-mile hike on the Chunky Gal Trail to Boteler Peak with an elevation change of 1331 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 a.m. Drive 34 miles round trip. Call leader Bill Van Horn at 369-1983 for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please

• The Highlands School Student College & University Tour is Saturday. Students will visit the campus of Appalachian State University in Boone, which is having its Spring Open House from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Due to the early scheduling of the activities, the bus departs from the front of Highlands School at 6: a.m. and returns at approximately 6 p.m.

• Wine Tasting Event at Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop from 1:30-4 p.m. to benefit The Bosnian Community Farm Initiative which is helping to rebuild lives in war-torn Bosnia. Tickets for the event are \$25 and can be purchased in advance or at the door. Samplings of Bosnian food will be provided. Please contact Scott Roddy at 526-5210 for tickets or more information.

Sunday, April 19

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a five-mile moderate hike to Rough Run and High Falls with an elevation change of 200 feet but some scrambling over rocks at High Falls and many wildflowers along the trail. Bring water, a snack if you wish and wear sturdy shoes. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 1:30 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Carl Blozan at 743-1765 for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate one-mile hike on the Rufus Morgan Trail with nice wildflowers and a pretty falls. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 pm; drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children 10 and over are welcome, but no pets please.

• Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin, NC, presents Rev. Jean Rowe, guest minister, Sunday The Service and Children's Service begin at 11 AM. The Fellowship is located at 85 Sierra Drive, just off Lakeside, 1.2 miles from Hardees. All are welcome.

Monday, April 20

• Mirror Lake Association Meeting at 6 p.m. at the Rec Park. Call Elaine at 526-9939.

Tuesday, April 21

• The Franklin Christian Women's Connection and Stonecroft Ministries will have a dinner and program at the community building in Franklin at 11:30 a.m. \$11 includes lunch and the program. The speaker will be Gerri Borst of Marion, NC who is an award winning comic, skiing champion and retired physician's assistant. Reservations requested by noon Friday, April 17. Call 369-0161 or 369-9117. Walkins welcomed.

• Come learn the latest information on underage tobacco sales laws. Agent Steve Myers with the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency will present the newest information on tobacco laws. The program begins at 8:30 a.m. with breakfast at the Macon County Public Health

Center on Lakeside Drive in Franklin. Call/e-mail Liz Crawford (828) 349-2436, lcrawford@maconnnc.org

• Highlands Literacy Night at Highlands School for parents and students beginning at 5 p.m. with a light supper of vegetarian chili and cornbread, pozole soup and tostadas, brownies and ice tea or water. Donations appreciated. Following supper there will be literacy presentation from 6-6:30 p.m. then "break-out" sessions from 7-7:30 p.m. Each student in attendance with a parent will receive a free book.

Thursday, April 23

• Vilda Brannen, M.S., will speak on "Managing Stress during these Stressful Times" at Chestnut Hill Senior Living Community Clubhouse at 4:30 pm. The event is free and open to the public, and will be held at 44 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands. Brannen is a Licensed Professional Counselor at Trillium Springs, LLC, in Atlanta and Highlands. She will share key tips on healthy ways to manage and relieve stress and reduce its harmful effects. Light refreshments will be served. For information, please call 526-5251.

• Community Bible Church, Highlands, is hosting Town Hall for Hope, an simulcast event hosted by Dave Ramsey University. This free event will be held at 8 p.m. on in the Sanctuary. The purpose of this event is to discuss the current economy and how to take steps toward hope. Questions? 828-526-4685 or www.cbchighlands.com

Friday-Sunday, April 24-26

• The annual NC WILD FOODS WEEKEND will be held at the Betsy-Jeff Penn 4H Center near Reidsville, NC. People from all over the East will take to the woods and fields to learn about edible wild plants, meet other foragers, and celebrate spring. The climax of the weekend will be a WILD FEAST composed of collected foods prepared by the participants. Advance registration is required. For more information, call Debbie Midkiff at 919-489-2221.

'Collective Spirits Wine Festival' May 29-30



Wine lovers enjoy a tasting at last year's Collective Spirits. This year's event will be May 29-30 at the "new" Bascom. Tickets are on sale now at www.collectivespirits.com.

The Bascom is urging community people to dig through their wine cellars and donate wine for its annual Collective Spirits wine festival, set for Friday and Saturday, May 29-30.

The event is the first event at the "new" Bascom and will include grand wine tastings featuring more than 100 wines, a silent auction, fare by 12 local chefs, and symposiums by leading U.S. wine specialists, all capped off by a gala seated dinner on the art center's new terrace, followed by a live auction of exceptional wines and special wine-related items.

"We hope that you will look through your cellar and share with us as you make room for new releases you will be purchasing this year," said Donna Woods, The Bascom's events director. "A nice variety will add interest to the event, which helps The

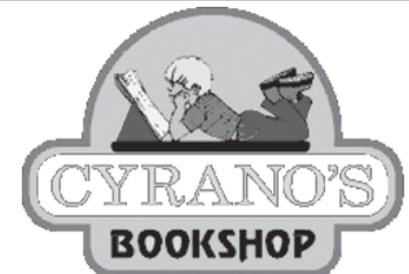
Bascom raise needed money for its exhibitions and classes."

Wine and wine-related items, such as paintings or accessories, are welcome, as are large-format bottles.

The donated wine will be included in the Friday night silent auction and wine raffle and the Saturday night live auction.

Tickets for the wine festival are on sale now at www.collectivespirits.com or (828) 526-4949. Prices start at \$100. Benefactor and corporate sponsorship opportunities are also available.

The presenting sponsor of the event is Bank of New York-Mellon. Other corporate sponsors are First Citizens Bank, Harry Norman Realtors/Pat Allen and Bert Mobley, brokers; Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop; The Laurel magazine; and WNC magazine. Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop is the official wine retailer of the event.



Upcoming Book Signings
526-5488 • Main Street
e-mail: cyanos@nctv.com

April 18

1 to 3 pm

Todd Johnson

The Sweet By and By

April 30

3-5 p.m.

Susan Rebecca White

Bound South

May 23

2 to 4 pm

Jack Riggs

The Fireman's Wife

June 24

1-3 p.m.

Mary Kay Andrews

The Fixer Upper

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LEGAL NOTICE

MEETING NOTICE

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Department will hold an open meeting on April 30th, 2009, to discuss purchasing a new ladder fire truck and the loan required to do so.

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. and will be held at Highlands Fire & Rescue Station at 322 Oak Street. April 16, 23

HELP WANTED

HIRING FOR TWO NEW RESTAURANTS – Back of the house and front of the house needed. Call 526-3380 or 342-5174.

RN NEEDED FOR UPSCALE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY. 8 hours per week. Apply at Chestnut Hill, 64 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC. Or email your resume to dotty.guenther@gmail.com. Drug screening and background check. EOE.

THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS IS SEEKING A

PART-TIME IT PROFESSIONAL (16-24 hrs/week). This person should have knowledge of a server/client environment and a background in web design and programming, particularly in .html and .asp. For information about this position, direct inquires to Matt Shuler at the Highlands Town Office (828) 526-2118.

MEDICAL RECORDS CLERK needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position available. Knowledge in Medical terminology, anatomy, and physiology required. Computer skills necessary. Medical Records experience preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 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 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

Dietary Aides needed in the Nutritional Services department at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Part-time and PRN positions available. Must have dietary experience. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT/NURSE – needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Physician office setting, full-time position available. Current certification and/or NC license and BLS required, ACLS recommended. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RECEPTIONIST – needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Physician office setting, full-time position available. Previous medical/family practice office experience required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RN/LPN needed at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Full time position available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Full benefits or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 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.

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.

LOST & FOUND

LOST – A MALE BLACK Cat, Keesa, lost in vicinity of Mt. Lori and N. Cobb. Wearing a hot pink rubber flea collar. Please call Tanya at 828-301-3690, 526-1706 or cell: 828-301-3696.

FOUND: POOL CUE. Call 404/237-4333

RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE

3-BEDROOM, 2 1/2 BATH. New paint inside and out. New carpet. Below Appraisal. \$199,000. Cashiers Area. Call 743-1107 or 371-1609. 4/30

44.76+/- ACRES \$189,000 BANK FORECLOSURE Tuckasegee Riverfront Ridge Top Views MLS #67408 Marty Jones Realty BRIAN RENFRO, REALTOR 828-226-0118.

TRILLIUM BEST BUY BIG VIEW HOME

SITE Great Building Site \$189,000 MLS #67480 Marty Jones Realty BRIAN RENFRO, REALTOR 828-226-0118

GOOD HOUSE FOR \$139,500 – 3 bed, 2 bath, high elevation, pond. Call Ann at Cabe Realty 828-526-2475.

COMMERCIAL IN WRIGHT SQUARE – two buildings with AC & Heat. Call Harold Brammer. 828-526-5673. 4/16

FOR SALE BY OWNER – 535 N. 4th Street. Zoned Commercial. \$389,000. Currently rented at \$2,500 a month. Call 770-827-0450. (st. 2/19)

NEW LUXURY HOME FOR SALE OR LEASE IN SCALY Mt. 3 BR, 3.5 BA, 2.88 acres. Appraised \$757,000, reduced to \$499,900 or lease \$2750/mth. Additional lots for sale. 404-272-2131 www.thomasknob.com/homes.html (5/14)

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

IN-TOWN HIGHLANDS, 2Br/2Ba House, W/D, hardwood floors, fenced-in yard, large deck, No smoking/pets, \$1,000/mo, long-term rental, available May 1st, Green Mountain Realty Group 828-526-9523. 4/23

DAYLIGHT BASEMENT APARTMENT FOR RENT – (3 minutes from Highlands/Cashiers Hospital) Recent and complete renovation. Fully furnished. 1 bedroom/1 bath, kitchen, dining area, living room, washer/dryer, cable connection, fireplace. \$600 monthly, includes water, sewer, electricity. Single family. References required. No pets. No smoking. Call Jim at 1-770-789-2489

TWO-STORY APARTMENT FOR RENT – (3 minutes from Highlands/Cashiers Hospital). Recent Renovation. Fully Furnished. 2 bedrooms/2 baths. 3 extra-large closets. kitchen with dishwasher and new JennAire cook stove, dining area, living room, native stone fireplace, washer/dryer, cable and telephone connection. \$1,000 monthly. Includes water, sewer, electricity. Single family. References required. No pets. No smoking, Call Jim at 1-770-789-2489

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pletely renovated. \$800 a month. In Scaly Mountain. Call 433-715-7757. 4/16

2 BED, 1 BATH APARTMENT for rent in Scaly Mountain. \$500 per month includes utilities. Call Becky at Cabe Realty 828-526-2475. 4/16

APARTMENT FOR RENT - 1 bed, 1 bath, living area, kitchen and utility room. \$650/month. \$300 security deposit. First and last month rent. Rent includes utilities, (electric, water, heat, local phone) One year lease. Prefer non-smoker. No pets. Unfurnished. Good for 1-2 people. Call 526-9494.

DOWNTOWN FURNISHED! Spacious 1/1, full kitchen, walk in closet, balcony, small pets allowed. 526-3363 Call for appt. (st 3/5)

FOR RENT AND SALE - 2/2 condo, LR, DR, Sun room, W/D. Walk to town. Available year round. Call 828-421-2144

HOUSE FOR RENT, YEAR-ROUND, walk to town. 3/3, oil heat, hardwood floors, small pets ok. \$1,275 includes electric. 526-5558.

DOWNTOWN APARTMENT RENTAL - One bedroom (Queen), one bath, vaulted ceiling in great room, heat and air with gas fireplace. Fully furnished with W/D, cozy and comfortable. Reduced to \$650 a month plus utilities. Call 526-4983 or 421-3614.

1 BED, 1 BATH and small room with bunk beds on Lake Sequoyah. Furnished, two boats. \$800 a month including utilities except phone. No pets, no smoking. Call Tony at 828-332-7830.

SAPPHIRE NC - 2 Story 3Bed/3 Bath, Yr round views, 2 decks, remodeled, Furnished, 2 car garage. Available yearly or seasonal. 561-626-9556

FURNISHED 3BD2BATH HOUSE IN MIRROR LAKE area available for 6-12 month lease \$1200+ utilities. Call 770-977-5692.

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

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.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

RENTAL SPACE IN WRIGHT SQUARE - Half a building or two floors of one building. Call Harold Brammer. 828-526-5673. 4/16

2,300+/- SQ. FT. OF OFFICE/RETAIL AVAILABLE for lease or rent to own. Excellent visibility! Location is 2271 Dillard Road. Asking \$1,250 per month. 526-8953.

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RESTORED FARMHOUSE ON SHORTOFF ROAD - 2 bedrooms, 2 baths in a country setting. Well furnished with a large screened porch. See details and pictures at [#23644](http://www.homeaway.com) \$800 per week. (912) 354-6917.

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

THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE - Fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, No min. Call 828-342-2302.

ITEMS FOR SALE

NORDICTRACK SUMMIT 4500 TREADMILL. Excellent condition. Has incline and preset workouts. \$550. Instruction Manual Included. 526-9107.

STEEL BUILDING 22 gauge, 25' width, 24' length, 12' height, never erected. Paid \$5,862.00. Sacrifice \$4,000. (828) 526-4313, (828) 787-2478 or (828) 526-3181. 4/9

16" FISHING BOAT NEW with Trolling motor, Charger, New Bat. } Untippable, \$1000 OBO Call 828-200-0701

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VARIOUS BEDROOM ITEMS - Brass and Wrought Iron antique Victorian replica headboards - one king and two queen. Also top-of-the-line Sealy Posturepedic mattress and box spring sets - one king and two queens. Call 526-9803. 4/26

LARGE PICKUP LOAD OF MT. LAUREL Lengths 4 to 6 feet. Mt. Laurel, Kusa Dogwoods, Norway and Serbia Spruce, Red maples, Service Derry, Rhododendron. Call 828-293-5398. (3/12)

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BABY LOCK SERGER MACHINE with extra spools of thread. \$200. 828-631-2675 after 5:00 p.m. Sylva area.

REDUCED! 52" BIG-SCREEN TV RCA Home-Theater edition, with guide-plus gold. Moving and its too big to take. \$375 or OBO; this TV is in great condition and has a perfect picture, purchased at Circuit-city. Allows for 480P HD through Direct-tv. Call cell: 828-342-2809

LENOX CHINA "AUTUMN" PATTERN - \$125 for 5-piece place setting or sell by the piece at 20%

below store prices. Call 526-0498

3-PIECE BEDROOM SET - Oak veneer. one dresser, one desk, one chest. \$300. Call 526-5772.

STONE AVAILABLE - Assorted. 14 pallets. \$200 per pallet. Call 526-9532

MARTIN-C-1740 UNVENTED GAS HEATER - with oxygen depleting sensing system. BTU 40,000. H. 14 24 3/4 W. 25" D. 13". Fan blower-model B35. \$125. Call 526-5640.

ANTIQUÉ WOODEN ROCKING CHAIR FROM LATE 1800'S. Fully refinished. \$100. Call 369-5863.

AVON CAPE COD RED GLASS - 8 piece place setting. 64 pieces. \$385. Also, accessory pieces available. Call 828-524-3614.

DESK (LARGE) WITH MATCHING CREDENZA, oak, leather chair. \$850. Call 743-6869.

GOLF CLUBS CLASSIC - SET OF MacGregor Tourney 9 irons (2-9 P.W.) 1980. Persimmon Drivers, new. \$50. Used \$25. Also miscellaneous items cheap. Call 706-746-3046. (Sky Valley).

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.

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

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PLASTIC OUTDOOR TABLE: Hunter green 36"x36" in like new condition. \$10. Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

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

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

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.

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.

ANTIQUE CHERRY DINING TABLE – drop-leaf. rope carved legs. Seats 4-10 people. \$1,500 obo 828-787-1515

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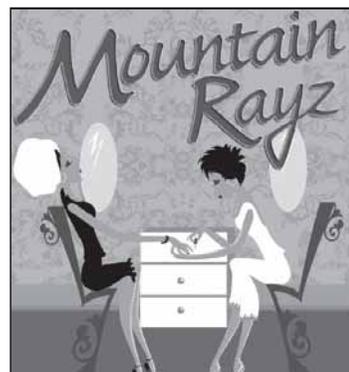


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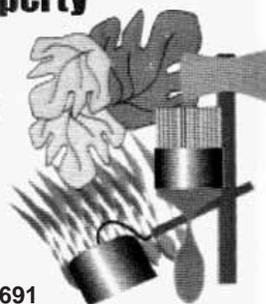
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• POLICE & FIRE •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of April 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 7

- At 10:35 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at Cullasaja Drive and Rockwell. There were no injuries.
- At 5:30 p.m., Mallory Gayosso, 21, of Cullowhee, was arrested for driving without a license and an outstanding warrant.
- Jose Torres, 22, of Highlands, was arrested for driving without a license and having tinted windows. When he was stopped in Highlands Plaza for driving a vehicle with tinted windows officers discovered he was driving without a license.
- During the week the officers issued 12 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of April 6:

April 7

- The dept. provided mutual aid to assist Cashiers Fire Department with a dryer fire but the call was cancelled en route.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Hemlock Ridge road. The patient was transported to the hospital.

April 8

- The dept. responded to a brush fire on Buck Creek Road that had been fanned by winds. It was extinguished.

April 9

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fire Department for a structure fire. Highlands stood by at the Cashiers Dept.

April 10

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fire Department for a structure fire. Highlands stood by at the Cashiers Dept.

April 11

- The dept. was called concerning a possible motorcycle accident on U.S. 64 west but the call was cancelled en route because the Cullasaja Fire Department handled the call.

April 13

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Brushy Face. The patient was transported to the hospital.

... ROOM TAX from page 1

ters should answer to the TDCs who answer to the county, not that the TDCs defer to the chambers.

Worried about losing control over how the room tax proceeds are spent, and afraid the county will keep more room tax than needed for administrative purposes, the chambers lobbied Commissioners Brian McClellan, who sits on the Highlands TDC board and Bob Simpson, who sits on the Franklin/Nantahala board, to keep everything as it has been since the room tax inception and disbursement policies began in 1986.

"We are very proud of how the chamber has reported and used the room tax money since its start," said Bob Kielyka president of the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce.

Jerry Moore, owner of Kilwin's who sits on both the Highlands Chamber board and the TDC board, said he was very concerned with the proposed process making the TDCs responsible over how the chambers and visitor centers use the room tax money.

As part of their responsibilities, the TDCs would provide the county finance department with contracts or other purchasing documents for pre-audit and provide approved invoices for payment.

"The Highlands TDC is just not equipped to be responsible for all the county has outlined in this proposal," he said. "We are volunteers and happy to serve but we just don't have the time to do this. We can advise, but we don't have time to do anything else."

He said the 11-member Highlands Chamber of Commerce board and the seven-member TDC board can supply the necessary checks and balances instead of the county pre-auditing expenditures, as proposed.

• See ROOM TAX page 22

• FUN & GAMES •

Hex-a-Ku[©] 2009

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

OBJECT:

A mystery word or phrase using all different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words will appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different mystery word or phrase (no spaces). Assign different letters to each square of each column and row. In addition, 3x2 cells in the puzzle layout have the same different letters. (This is similar to Sudoku but uses letters instead of numbers.)

How to Solve:

Determine the different letters among those given. Write in the mystery word using the clue and these letters. 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 blank squares according to the rules noted above. Focus your attention where the least number of letters are needed to complete a row, column or cell.

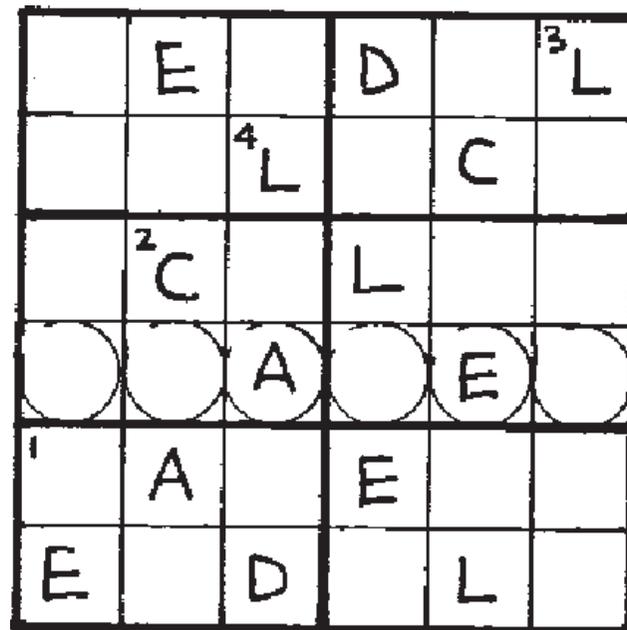
Mystery Word Put

Across

1. Crocheted work (4)

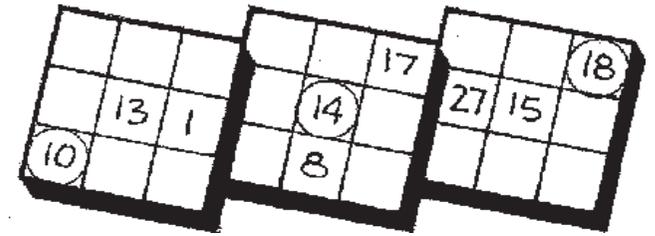
Down

2. Sudden loud noise (4)
3. Direct (4)
4. Meadow (ancient) (3)



PseudoCube[©]

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#AN2A Level of Difficulty - Easy

THE SETUP:

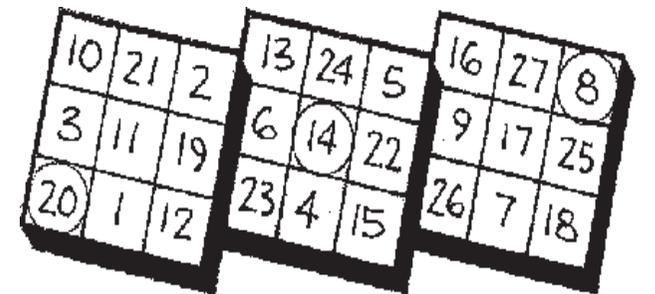
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

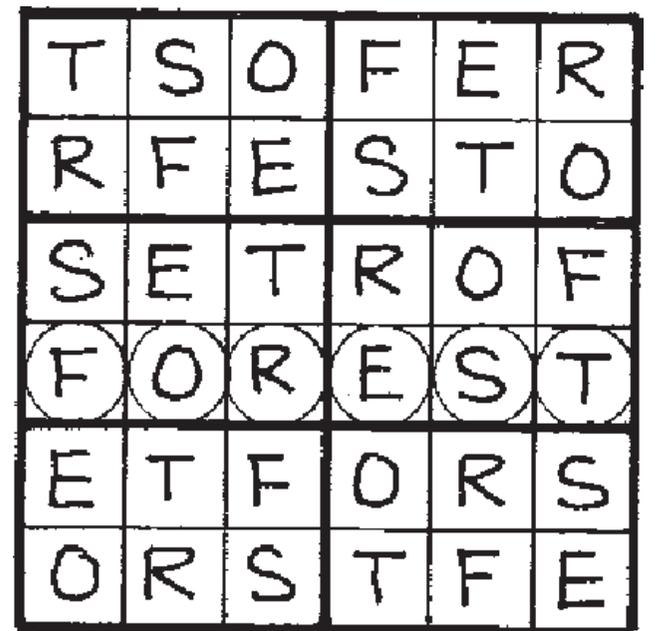
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

Solution to #DN1A in April 9 issue



Solution to April 9 Hex-a-Ku



... CHANGES continued from page 1

Mountain Top and using local contractors was awarded the renovation job and Schmitt Building Contractors got the roof job. The vote was unanimous.

The Town Board has set aside \$115,000 per year for a new Town Hall and so far \$230,000 has been set aside in capital project reserves.

Wednesday night, Stewart, Cooper, Newell Architects were recommended to work on the ABC Store renovation for the Police Department by Commissioner Amy Patterson and Police Chief Bill Harrell who interviewed several firms. The firm has extensive experience renovating buildings to house public safety facilities, preparing USDA grants and finance applications and understanding of Federal Procurement Regulations.

DeWolf wanted a local architectural firm to be used to ensure the use of local subcon-

tractors later so voted against the motion. The schematic design isn't to exceed \$16,200. Fatland said finance plans for the renovation of the ABC Store will be done after construction cost estimates have been prepared and the schematic presented. The vote was 4-1.

The board also agreed to allow the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department to post notice to purchase a Ladder truck and erect a Morton Building between the fire department and EMS building to house the truck. The truck – which is a demo – will cost \$440,000 instead of the regular cost of \$600,000. The Morton Building addition will cost \$50,000. The May 6 Town Board meeting will be held at the fire station to hammer out the financing details.

The board voted 3-2 to allow OEI to construct brick sidewalks edged with granite "city strips" on S. 4th Street along the old King's Inn walkway and up Satulah Road. Satulah Road will only be "visibly" widened with asphalt which will butt up to granite strips on one side and sidewalk on the other instead of

traditional curb and gutter – all of which will alleviate drainage problems. Satulah Road has a deep ditch on one side and OEI housing on the other. The sidewalk will run along the Pierson Inn property line.

Though the town was recently informed that it had been granted a Clean Water Management grant for \$220,000 for stormwater improvements for Kelsey-Hutchinson Park, Pine and Fifth streets, the grant has been withdrawn due to state budget problems. Officials said the town can reapply under the Federal Stimulus American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) if the project is shovel ready by June 3. The public works committee recommended proceeding with the stormwater improvement design for the park at the cost of \$28,000 which will go toward the required town match whether the town gets funding from ARRA or Clean Water Trust funds should ARRA not pan out in June. The vote was 4-1.

The board agreed to upgrade water lines on Smallwood, Gibson and Sixth streets while the area is disturbed due to the sewer project. Town crews will do the work and

Town Engineer Lamar Nix estimates the cost to be \$27,000.

NC Local Option Sales Tax budget for FY09 was \$800,000; year-to-date actual proceeds are \$721,351.25 which means only another 9.83% need to come in by June 30, 2009 to collect the budgeted amount.

As discussed at previous meetings, the Town Board agreed to have one meeting a month instead of its current two, with special meetings called as needed. Wednesday night, commissioners unanimously agreed to meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building beginning with the first meeting in June.

... ROOM TAX from 21

Though County Finance Director Evelyn Southard said the county's intervention would not mean more room tax money withheld for administrative purposes, that possibility has been the premise for the chambers' and TDCs' argument against county involvement.

Horton has said all along that the use of room tax money by the visitor centers isn't the main concern. Instead, he said it's the room tax money used by the chambers of commerce – private organizations – that the county was concerned with.

However, Monday night both Commissioners Simpson -- who spearheaded the "need for more room tax money accountability" campaign about eight months ago -- and McClellan, who attended Tuesday's special meeting via phone and was OK with Horton's proposal at that time, made the motion to delete several items in the proposal, even the county's responsibility number 8 – "Audit of occupancy tax transactions will be a part of the county's annual audit."

"The chambers do their own outside audit," said Simpson.

So, as it stands now, the chambers don't have to provide the county finance department with contracts or purchasing documents for pre-audit or provide approved invoices for payment; the county doesn't have to issue checks for approved invoices directly to vendors from appropriate line items; nor will an audit of the chambers' occupancy tax transactions be a part of the county's annual audit.

Instead, the county will send room tax money to the chambers monthly to spend as they see fit after conferring with the TDCs.

Commissioner Simpson even questioned the need for amended contracts between the county and the chambers of commerce, but County Attorney Lesley Moxley said the contracts now in place were not detailed enough and would be amended to reflect the commission's decision.

The second part of McClellan's motion involved the administrative fee which will be set at about \$46,000 per year – but will be re-evaluated at or before the end of the first quarter of fiscal year 2009-'10 to see if it can be decreased.

Commissioner Jim Davis and County Manager Horton were not at Monday's meeting.

• BIZ NEWS •

H-C Hospital Foundation recipient of donation



RBC Bank presented a \$1,000 check to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation last week, the fifth installment from the Highlands and Cashiers branches in a five-year commitment to support the hospital. Presenting the check last week to Russell Harris, executive director of the Hospital Foundation were (L-R) Natalie Waldroop, Nancy Lowe, Branch Manager Sue Gorski and Ginny Brahmmer. The commitment of support is a reflection of RBC's belief in the importance of having quality healthcare services in the Highlands-Cashiers area.

Leadership Class considers the environment

"Environment" happened to be the last of six subjects that the 2008/2009 class examined as they embarked on a year-long leadership program this November 5th.

In the beautiful setting of the Ravenel House, class members learned what makes the Highlands environment so unique and what we can do to help protect it for future generations. Speakers for the day included, Anya Hinkle (Highlands Biological Station), Patrick Brannon (Highlands Nature Center), Gary Wein (Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust), David Bates (Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance), Hugh Dillingham (Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association) and Hillrie Quin (Highlands Plateau Greenway).

Later, the class had the opportunity to

take a closer look at the current regional and national economy with Dr. Steve Hensen, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Western Carolina. Dr. Hensen shared an in-depth regional economic base analysis as well as insights and reflections of the current US economic crisis. This educational component of the program is made possible by a partnership with WCU's Distance Learning Program.

The mission of Leadership Highlands is to develop and maintain an effective network of committed leaders in the Highlands community. The current class is: Elaine Carlton, Leslie Cook, Joe Cooley, Jan VanHook Healey, Eric NeSmith, Julie Schott, Joe Simmons, and Brian Stiehler.

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• BIZ NEWS •

Student Success Story: Manuel Contreras

Manuel Contreras is one of the many students who benefit from individual tutoring at the Literacy Council. Now in second grade, Manuel has worked for a year-and-a-half with volunteer tutor Luke Osteen, and in this time his reading skills have improved tremendously, as has his enjoyment of reading. He proudly shows off his library books, and is very enthusiastic about learning.



Manuel Contreras

emerge, including a strong leadership potential. Manuel's success as a student is a perfect example of why the Literacy Council is a success. Not only does it get to see the beautiful mentoring relationship between Manuel and Luke - it is hard to tell which one enjoys tutoring days more.

As explained in its mission statement, The Literacy Council strives to pro-

duce learners and leaders. For more information on the Literacy Council and their services please call 828-526 9938 ext 240.

duce learners and leaders. For more information on the Literacy Council and their services please call 828-526 9938 ext 240.

HS students honored at Rotary

The Highlands Rotary Club honored the March Rotary Scholars of the Month at its March 24th meeting.

These Highlands School students exemplify academic excellence as well as outstanding citizenship. Pictured from the left are middle school winner, Greg Palmer, high school winner, Griselda Sanchez, grammar school winner, Jake Billingsley and school Counselor, Thomas Jessup.



Schmitt Builders to have 'Green Open House' April 22

In honor of Earth Day, which will be held on, April 22, 2009, Schmitt Building Contractors will be hosting a Green Open House from 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. at their office. The Green Open House will feature sample displays from various green products as well as literature about products, giveaways for everyone stopping by as well as drawings for larger door prizes and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

As a proud member of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), Schmitt Building Contractors has been active in an effort to promote the "greening" of the construction industry. SBC joined the USGBC in August of 2007 and recently became a member of the WNC Green Building Council.

As part of their bid to go green SBC has been instilling environmentally friendly concepts into each project they are working

on. The concepts range from site management, including erosion control above county codes and reducing the amount of construction debris going to the landfill. Wood material scrapes have been ground up to produce mulch for landscaping and other jobsite trash has been recycled to help better the environment. SBC is trying to reduce their carbon footprint by buying more regional materials. These are materials manufactured and sold within a 500 mile radius of the project site. Not only does this reduce fuel use and gas emissions from delivery, but, it also helps the local economies.

Everyone is invited to stop by and check the Earth Day Green Open House and enjoy free gifts, door prizes, food and fun. The Open house will be across from Highlands Town Hall at 215 North Fourth Street. For more information please call (828) 526-2412.



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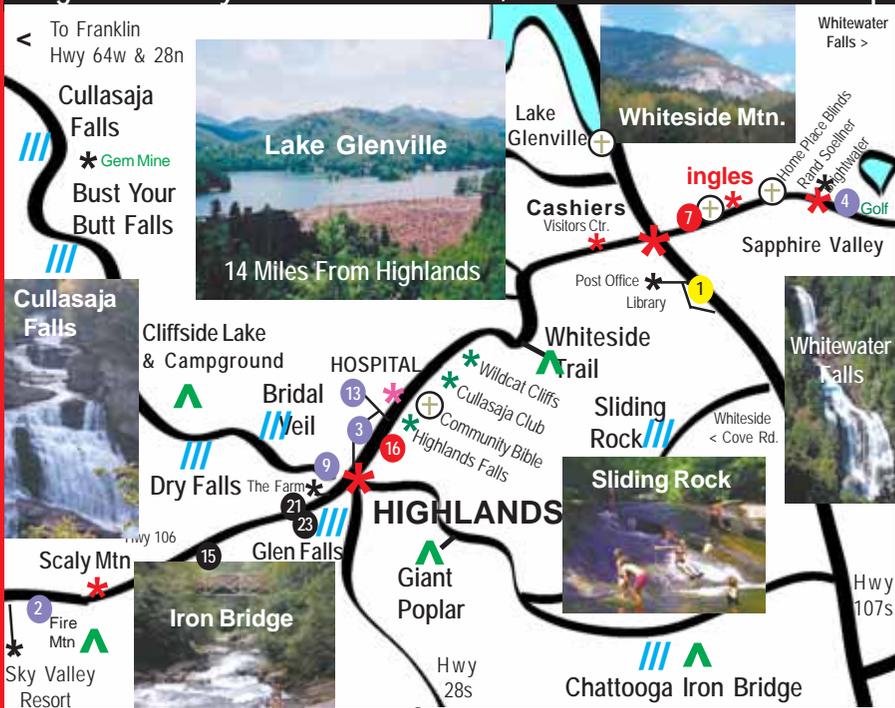
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- DINING**
- 1 Cafe 460
 - 2 Don Leons
 - 3 Fressers
 - 4 Highlands Deli
 - 5 Horacio's
 - 6 Log Cabin
 - 7 Madison's
 - 8 Nick's
 - 9 Oak St. Cafe
 - 10 Paoletti's
 - 11 Pescado's
 - 12 Pizza Place
 - 13 Rib Shack
 - 14 Rooster's
 - 15 Ruka's Table
 - 16 Smoke House
 - 17 SportsPage
 - 18 Wild Thyme
 - 19 Wolfgang's
 - 20
 - 21
 - 22
- LODGING**
- 1 Chandler Inn
 - 2 Fire Mountain
 - 3 Half Mile Farm
 - 4 Hampton Inn
 - 5 Highlands Inn
 - 6 Highlands Suites
 - 7 Main St. Inn
 - 8 Michell's Lodge
 - 9 Mirror Lake
 - 10 Mt High Lodge
 - 11 Old Edwards Inn
 - 12 The Lodge
 - 13 Skyline Lodge
 - 14 Chambers
- SHOPPING**
- 1 Acorns
 - 2 AnnaWear
 - 3 Bear Mt. Outfitters
 - 4 C.K. Swan
 - 5 Christmas Shop
 - 6 Cyrano's
 - 7 Drakes Diamonds
 - 8 Dry Sink
 - 9 Dutchman's
 - 10 Elephants Foot
 - 11 Highlands Photo
 - 12 House of Wong
 - 13 Mill Creek Gallery
 - 14 Needle Point
 - 15 Peak Experience
 - 16 Rarities
 - 17 Scudders Antq.
 - 18 Shiraz Rugs
 - 19 Stone Lantern
 - 20 Sumimt One Gallery
 - 21 Summer House
 - 22 T.A. Anderson
 - 23 Tin Roof Gallery
 - 24 Twigs
 - 25 Village Kids
 - 26 Wholesale Down
 - 27 Wine & Cheese
 - 28 Wits End
 - 29
- MARKETS**
- 1 Bryson's
 - 2 Dusty's
 - 3 Mtn. Fresh
 - 4 Whole Health
- BEAUTY**
- 1 All Seasons
 - 2 Creative Concepts
 - 3 Images Unlimited
 - 4 Taylor Barnes
 - 5 The Salon
 - 6
- REALTHY**
- 1 Buyer's Realty
 - 2 Century 21
 - 3 Chambers
 - 4 Country Club Prop
 - 5 Green Mtn.
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Detailed street map of Highlands, NC, featuring numbered markers (1-29) corresponding to the legend. Inset photos show: Log Cabin restaurant, Bryson's Foods Gourmet, Scudder's Galleries (Established 1925, Open All Year), Wolfgang's restaurant, Paoletti's restaurant, and a cardinal bird. Street names include Main St., Church St., Spring St., and others. Landmarks like the Community Center and Rec. Park are also marked.