Canine Ruby finds 92-year-old man

When Lewis Dom didn't show up for work Monday morning, everyone was concerned. Though 92, he has rarely missed a day of work at the Stone Lantern since he started after "retiring" to Highlands 27 years ago.

His niece Pam Brown had called him Sunday night but wasn't too concerned when he didn't answer the phone. She just figured he had removed his hearing aid for the night. When she called mid-morning Monday and got no answer, she figured he was in the shower getting ready for work. But by noon when he didn't show for work and still didn't answer the phone she began to worry.

She drove from her house in Blue Valley to Raoul Road where her "very independent" uncle lives and though the dog was in the house and the car was in the garage, Lewis was no where in sight.

She called a neighbor and together they combed the area looking for Lewis to no avail. At 12:30 p.m. she called 9-1-1 and within minutes police, rescue, and medical officers accompanied by Canine Ruby arrived at the Dom house at 125 Raoul Road.

With Ruby tracking, the group expanded the search perimeter and....

School play ‘Inner Willy’ a rousing success

Highlanders of all ages packed PAC Thursday through Sunday of last week to watch Highlands Schools second production in as many years. Under the guidance of Highlands-Cashiers Players members and directors Ronnie Spilton and Jim Gordon, Highlands students delivered a polished, fast-paced and lively comedy. Several returned to the stage after performing in last year’s school production of “Get Bill Shakespeare off the Stage” others were newcomers – each performing their parts with precision. With the community’s support and the dedication of HCR Highlands School drama productions will hopefully continue far into the future. For more on Inner Willy see page 10.

By Kim Lewicki

Q & A with MC Schools Superintendent

Citizen suggests way to spend school federal dollars

By Ann deVille

According to newspaper accounts, Superintendent Dan Brigham said that federal funds are providing Macon County schools with an additional $1.6 million over the next two years in Title I and IDEA money. I’m not sure how the Board of Education plans to allocate these funds, but respectfully request the BOE consider the following: Tutors. 80 or more tutors. With $8000 for each year for the next two years, we could have at least 80 paid tutors and even more unpaid tutors drawing from students seeking credit in area colleges. The tutors would work in 3-hour blocks. For elementary grades...

By Ronnie Beale

The purpose of the program...
The derailing of America's most recent 'Tea Party'

Kim Lewicki  
Publisher

The T.E.A. Parties that took place all over the country last Wednesday were exciting. They represented the very best of this country as outlined in our First Amendment so long ago.  
“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Sadly, any good that may come of the gatherings was overshadowed by the presence of another faction in America, the faction that represents the very worst in our country—a bigoted and prejudiced group that spews hatred as they declare themselves the true representatives of America—“hard-working, white, Christians.”

It’s scary how mired people can get in sound bites, slogans and rhetoric which have no foundation in truth and goodness.

Let’s consider the label...

Claiming to be the “hard-working” faction of America insinuates that other citizens aren’t hard-working. America wouldn’t be the place it is today if that was the case. Scores of immigrants—many considered non-white—have built and continue to build America. That hard work and productivity has made us the powerhouse nation we’ve become in such a short time.

Throughout America’s history, people have come here from different countries bringing with them different customs which has made us a melting pot. That is who we are as Americans. That is our history. We never have been a cookie-cutter nation and we never will.

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.
Ruth Ellis Layton
Ruth Ellis Layton died on April 11, 2009 at the age of 87. She was born on May 13, 1921 in New Orleans, LA, and lived in New Orleans most of her life. Ruth was a fixture around Highlands where she was a founding member of the Laurel Garden Club. She was an active gardener at her little cabin on Satulah Mountain. She was a friend of many of the Highlands’ “old timers” and stayed young at heart throughout her life.

She moved to Atlanta in 2001 where she lived until the time of her death. She is survived by her three children, Buxton, Robert, and Edith, and by her grandson Buxton IV. She was married to Buxton L. Layton of New Orleans, LA who preceded her in death in 1992. She attended Metairie Park Country Day School, Sophie Newcomb, and University of North Carolina.

Starting at a very early age, Ruth was fortunate to have been able to spend most of her summers in Highlands, NC. It was her favorite place to be with family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made in her name to The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 530 Main Street, Highlands, North Carolina 28741.

A memorial service was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at H.M. Patterson and Son – Spring Hill Chapel, 1020 Spring Road, NW, Atlanta, GA. Burial was in New Orleans.

... FORUM from page 2

And how fortunate is that! How boring it would be if everyone looked, acted, thought and spoke exactly the same.

As to the Christian part of the label – yes, America was founded by people of the Christian faith but they were bereft by people who fled from Europe because they were being persecuted by other Christians. In fact, the story of both the persecution of Christians and persecution by Christians is an old and long one.

As we go to other shores as “Christians” to fight for the rights and freedoms of people with whom we have no cultural connection, right here in America we continue to persecute with word and action people who look, think and worship differently – particularly people who aren’t white. What’s “Christian” about that?

How Christian was it for some fac-

(K-5), one 3-hour block (8 am to 11 am) is probably all that would be necessary since this is when math, reading and writing is typically covered. Upper grades may require tutors for 3-4-hour blocks, and the tutors may “float” – move from one classroom to another as needed.

A possible pay scale might be: Retired teachers = $18/hr; college graduates = $15/hr; and college students earning college credit would be unpaid.

Since the average expenses for 80 paid tutors is under $10k each, there may be enough money left over to fund four weeks of summer school (8 am to 12 pm) in Nanahala, Highlands and Franklin.

Each classroom in every school in the county would have at least one tutor (additional tutors would be available for students with special needs) for at least 3 hours. Teachers could take on the responsibility of hiring/selecting tutors based on their own interviews in order to find the best match for their needs, but the DOE would have final say.

All tutors would be Independent Contractors. That means they would be responsible for their own taxes, and they wouldn’t qualify for benefits. This would greatly reduce paperwork and save the county a lot of money in payroll taxes. Why spend this money on tutors? You can pick any classroom at random, and you will see that the classroom can be divided into three groups: There is the top percentage of students who truly comprehend new concepts and can apply them with ease to previously learned concepts; there is a secondary percentage of students who can memorize the new concepts, but not necessarily be able to apply them to other concepts; and a third percentage of students who are completely lost. This was true when I attended public school, and it remains true today.

What’s also true is that many teachers do not have the time to properly address each of these three classroom division groups. Inevitably, one group is forsaken in order to attend another.

More instructors/tutors in the classroom means more one-on-one instruction which means a significant reduction in any child being left behind.

Imagine every teacher having an extra tutor in his/her own classroom — not to grade papers or babysit, but to actually TEACH.

Imagine how much that passion for teaching and knowledge would saturate the entire classroom.

... Q & A continued from page 1

By Dan Brigman
Thank you for taking time to email your suggestions for using the federal stimulus dollars here in Macon County. Ms. deVille, you put a tremendous amount of thought and effort into the idea of using these dollars to fund tutors in our school system and I greatly appreciate your input.

I will attempt to clarify some of the issues we are addressing as a school system, particularly with the budget planning process and use of federal stimulus funds.

According to Governor Perdue’s recent budget proposal, Macon County is anticipating a loss of teaching positions along with additional discretionary cuts (state cuts our budget by a certain amount and forces local school systems to identify areas in the state budget to make the cuts) in excess of $400,000 this coming fiscal year. The federal stimulus dollars are to offset these state reductions. In short, we will experience a “wash” with the Governor’s budget proposal as we are given a charge to implement reform strategies for long-term results with the stimulus money.

We now have the Senate’s budget proposal that clearly cuts deeper into our current level of operations if funded. The Senate replicated the Governor’s plan to use the federal stimulus dollars as a source of revenue to offset state reductions in their budget proposal. In addition to a discretionary cut, the Senate also proposed an adjustment in class size maximums in K-12 that will result in a loss of additional teaching positions over the next two years. If the Senate’s budget passes, we will actually experience cuts in our current level of funding.

The net result of the Governor’s and Senate budget plans is that school systems will have to use the Title I and IDEA dollars to offset the state cuts. Wenowously and anxiously await the budget proposal from the House.

Our primary goal at this time is to avoid sending personnel home while addressing district priorities and building capacity for long-term reform throughout our school system. Tutors can be beneficial but do not provide long-term, systemic reform in schools and districts.

As noted in the past two planning cycles of our school district’s Strategic Plan, our district and school-level leaders have identified the integration of Instructional Facilitators (IFs) as a need in our school system to provide support for our teachers to improve teaching and learning. In addition to addressing this district objective, these positions will provide a viable solution for using federal dollars as a funding source to help absorb some of the state cuts and potentially save jobs.

Instructional Facilitators will provide the framework and training for schools to become professional learning communities. This process is intended to provide support to individual teachers while providing opportunities for teachers to learn and gain expertise from one another. Also, Instructional Facilitators will have a critical role in the development and deployment of formative and summative assessments, which we currently do not have. Implementation of ongoing assessments and using this data to drive daily classroom instruction is a

Superintendent Dan Brigman
Superintendent Dan Brigman
Superintendent Dan Brigman
**Laughing at Life**

**Greg Strong**

An inside look at a police newsletter

Greg knew exactly what was going on in my head. He had been there. What a comfort he was to my frizzled nerves. He had a calming, soft voice, and manner about him and went over the jump once more as he helped me put on my chute. Just when he had convinced me I could do this, Sgt. Bob Sullivan walked up with a knife and pretended to cut off a vital piece of my parachute. All that calming by Greg vanished as Bob handed me what was supposed to be a piece of my chute and announced, “You won’t need this.” I knew it was a hoax but I didn’t need that on my plate right then. I tied the piece of chute around my neck, making a scarf.

I asked Bob, “I hate to bring this up, but what if I have a malfunction? You didn’t cover that yesterday during training.” Bob smiled, “You know when you’re on a trip and one of those big fat juicy bugs hits your windshield?” Without saying more, he turned and walked away.

Finally, it was our turn to go. As the chopper spooled up, Greg and I sat next to each other with our feet hanging out the bay door. I looked over at him and smiled. He gave me a thumbs-up as the chopper lifted from the sawgrass.

It was so noisy inside the chopper, communication was impossible. I knew I would soon get a tap on my back and I would have to roll forward out of the aircraft. I gave Greg a grim look, distorting my mouth, pretending to be funny when, in fact, my insides were boiling. He laughed and patted my leg, made a fist with his hand and mumbled the words, “Airborne.”

Without warning, the jump master patted Greg first and he suddenly disappeared from the aircraft. Oh crap, this is it, I thought. Then I felt the pat on my back and without hesitation, I closed my eyes and rolled forward out of the aircraft. Seconds later I opened them and saw I was upside down and quickly closed them again.

Obviously, I made the jump successfully but I’m writing to confess to Greg all my readers and fellow retirees, I would have never left that jumper if it weren’t for Greg Strong’s calming demeanor. I couldn’t have asked for a better partner.

Recently, I finished my second book and it’s currently under review. One of the main characters of the book is a tough guy named Greg Strong. I did that in Greg’s honor.

Oh, I almost forgot. Greg, old friend, if you ever have another opportunity to parachute again, get someone else.
Life’s roads

I love Florida, not the slick modern Florida of today, but the Florida I remember as a kid, the Florida of six-unit concrete block motels and the Monkey Jungle.

Before there were miles of condos, there were miles of orange trees. Before Disney World and Universal studios, we wondered at the mystery of Spook Hill and bought freshly squeezed juice in gallon jugs.

My brother and I swam every day from the day after Christmas until just after New Year’s Day, when we began the long trek back to Indiana and school. We always fought about swimming the morning of departure. Mom fretted over sand and wet swimming trunks in the car. We usually prevailed and Mom suffered the journey north with sand and wet trunks in the car.

Roads were narrow. The drive from Richmond, IN to Hollywood, FL took 36 hours in the days of single-lane roads when every road ran right through the middle of town, and usually divided in deference to a Civil War Monument in the city square.

I marveled at the signs of segregation, but admit with shame that I was not offended, and drank eagerly from the "white" fountain. On the drive south, we stopped in Tennessee and ate a breakfast of grits, eggs, biscuits, and country ham, delicacies which had not made their way north. Pete and I insisted that Mom and Dad complete the grueling drive without stopping to sleep, so eager were we for the beach. Sometimes they agreed. In other years, we would rest in Perry, GA or in those years when Dad opted to avoid Georgia and its speed traps, in Anniston, AL.

Our annual family Christmas vacation was the best part of my childhood and ended only when Pete and I reached our teen years and complained that we wanted to be home with our friends.

I was back in Florida today. I visited my brother at Jacksonville’s Mayo Clinic. He became terribly ill on an Amazon cruise, where he was found to have a tumor which had invaded his spine and dogged his kidneys. The invasion of his spine left his legs flacid. His right arm was already withered by a stroke suffered several years ago.

There are few things that either Pete or I fear as much as a nursing home. Our Mom spent her last five years of life in a home, and the stench of rot and hot lunch still haunts me. Pete was transferred from Mayo to Cypress Village yesterday. Cypress is a community for old people. There are single houses and condos for the completely independent, and apartments for those who need a little help. There are ponds and manicured lawns, gleaming building and neatly trimmed hedges. But in the end, all roads in the community lead to assisted living and to the special care unit, a kind of storage space for people too unlucky to die. That’s where they put my brother. He’ll travel by ambulance each day to Mayo, where he will receive radiation and then chemotherapy. We hope he will regain enough strength to return home. For now he’s too weak to join fellow residents for hot lunch in the dining room, so he picks at his meals alone in his room.

Pete’s wife and I accompanied him. Two ambulance attendants rolled his litter through the common area. A group of residents sat in a semicircle. Oxygen catheters hung from their nostrils. Some were in wheelchairs, others on little motorized scooters. A man, who looked very out of places hugged his wife, who had the distant look of Alzheimer’s, and looked very much at home. A female employee, dressed in a white nylon uniform stood in front of a karaoke machine. She might have been 55 or 60. Her lips were bright red, her hair looked hard and blond. She stood stiffly, her hand immobile on her thigh as if she had had an accident with super glue. I thought of Mortica Adams with a blond wig. Behind her stood a guy of 45 or so. He wore a Hawaiian print shirt and had fluffed his hair to conceal his balding scalp. She started singing and he jammed on an air guitar. The residents sat emotionless. I guess it’s a nice break for them. I just wish Pete hadn’t seen it.

It’s Sunday morning and I’m driving home. I’ve crossed the big bridge, the sun is rising on my right. I’m on I-95. Three lanes run north, flat and long, and straight enough to land a 747. I stopped at the Florida Citrus Center and found old Florida. They sell miniature orange trees and coconuts carved in to silly faces with tiny shells for teeth. T-shirt dies are arranged in the shape of the state of Florida. They sell little plastic cylinders with orange juice and orange rugs. They sell little plastic cylinders with one saw tooth end, which is designed to be driven into an orange. The invention is intended to permit the user to suck the juice directly from the orange. It didn’t work when I was a kid and the design looks unchanged. I’m certain that if I’d searched, I could have found a pecan log. I didn’t see the collector spoons or painted shot glasses, but I’m sure they were there. I was in a hurry to get back on the road, but I wished I’d lingered.

Back on the road, I feel energized, euphoric, happy to be alive and in good health, elated to have left Cypress Village in my wake. Classic rock is blaring on the radio. Traffic is flowing smoothly at 80 miles per hour. It is a beautiful morning to be alive, at least it is a beautiful morning to be alive on my terms. I revisited my childhood but left my brother

Dr. Henry Salzarulo
Feedback is encouraged.
email:
hsalzarulo@aol.com
I was only a matter of time before my mother started thinking of piano lessons for Eric and me—Maman waited for a year or two, waiting for my small hands to grow big enough to fit the keys. Eric and I had been playing all through the house, and Maman waited for a year or two, waiting for my small hands to grow big enough to fit the keys.

The Wizard of Oz. (I got to be a flower instead. Sometimes you just never get over.) My father was not a man who showered his family with presents, so when he bought Maman the piano, it was a huge deal. Daddy ignored birthdays and wedding anniversaries. His one concession to gift giving was to rush out on Christmas Eve, and buy my mother a Whitman sampler and several pairs of Hanes stockings. Whatever possessed my father to drive to Harrisonburg, and purchase the piano and adornments for this day? One day the piano appeared, as if by magic, to hold pride of place in our living room. I don't think I have ever seen my mother's face glow with such happiness. She kept on running her fingers lightly across the keys, and saying "Oh, Albert! Oh, Albert!"

Along with the piano, we got something else, too—piano students. As a young woman, my mother studied piano at the Ecole César-Franck, a music school founded in Paris in January 1935. The school was first located at 240, boulevard Reappal, and then moved to 16, boulevard Edgar-Quinet. Both locations were within walking distance of my grandparent's apartment in the 14th arrondissement, and Maman remembers her mother teaching music, and oddly enough, of her wooden ruler, and whack me across the hands. With a Yankee father and a French mother, the use of "Ma'am" and "Sir" was just not a staple of our vocabulary at home. I remember my mother saying, "Don't ever say 'Ma'am' or 'Sir' again."

One of the best-known of its class. Having a piano was considered a mark of culture and civilization. During World War II, along with Steinway, Gulbransen pianos had the distinction of being used as one of only two manufacturers of pianos for government use. Some pianos, made specifically for the military, were even army green in color.

Of course, with a piano in the house, it was only a matter of time before my mother started thinking of piano lessons for Eric and me. Maman waited for a year or two, waiting for my small hands to grow big enough to stretch enough to reach an octave. My hands never grew, but my mother went ahead and searched for a piano teacher for me. She felt the learning experience would be easier if the teacher and I weren't related, so my first piano teacher was a strict, humorless lady who gave lessons at Fairfax Hall, the local girls' school. I was terrified of her, but must have learned enough to play decently, since I was included in a piano recital held at the local library. The piece I played was a repeat, but I believe it was a repeat in the final portion. I was so scared that I played the repeat, but drew a complete blank about the rest of the composition. Finally, I played the repeat once again, and finally really remembered the ending. We were all required to play without the sheet music in front of us. Memorization was considered an essential part of our lessons in those days.

My second piano teacher, Mrs. B., was the wife of a local choir director and organist. My lessons started out on an awkward footing. Mrs. B. wanted me to learn only church music and hymns, while my mother insisted on a curriculum of classical composers—Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, and Haydn, just to name a few. My four years with Mrs. B. taught me a great deal about music, and about how to do things well. Mrs. B. would use her wooden ruler, and whack me across the hands. With a Yankee father and a French mother, the use of "Ma'am" and "Sir" was just not a staple of our vocabulary at home. I did not like practicing the piano any more than any other child, but I did love to play the piano. If I was happy, if I was sad, I would sit down, and pound out my emotions. It even made my sessions with Mrs. B. tolerable.

My parents enjoyed seeing melest to play, but they weren't the only ones. A succession of housecats, starting with our beloved Tiger, and ending with our French cat, Loulou, would sit quietly next to the bench while I played. No cat ever expressed a preference for one piece over another, however the cats did seem to purr more over Mozart.

My mother has just sold her house, and the new owner takes over on May 1. Repeat trips had emptied the house of all its possessions—al, that is, except the piano. It was important that the piano stay in the family, and I was thrilled when Maman asked me if John and I could find room at Kettlerock to take it. Fortunately, Robert Henry, the wonderfully talented pianist and choir director at Incarnation, was able to help me find a fantastic piano mover, Bob Hayes Piano Moving.

On Saturday night, a huge truck barely made it up our driveway, bringing the piano to its latest home. Heavy traffic on the roads meant that the movers didn't get to Kettlerock until after nine at night, not the best time to unload a piano. In spite of this, these three young men did a fantastic job of getting this family heirloom safely tucked into a corner of our living room. Here it sits today, complete with its bench, piano lamp, and the needlepoint runner embroidered by my French grandmother, Suzanne Comte. The piano has been in the family for one piece over another, however the cats did seem to purr more over Mozart.

What a treat! It will be to take out my old sheet music, and sit down to play! Having Maman's piano will be like sharing my home with an old family friend. I realize how rusty I'll be at first—more than 45 years since my first piano lessons. John will just have to grit his teeth, at least in the beginning. As for the cats—Orion and Wessel—well, I sure hope they like Mozart.

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before settling in Southwestern France. She and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. Michelle is currently working on the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands. A lifelong musician, she is not always sure that music loves her back.
Ladies and Gentlemen, the party is getting rough.

With radical Islam threatening Europe and soon the U.S. and with Islam being preached in our prisons and many converts resulting, one would think that the Department of Homeland Security would be concerned. With aliens pouring across our porous borders, one would think that the DHS would be concerned about immigration. You and I know that Al Qaeda is plotting to attack the U.S. someday soon.

What are they concerned about? Veterans. Pro-lifers. States Rights advocates. Second Amendment types, you know, the shoot-from-the-hip guys (who are more responsible than most school district superintendents).

Yeah, I know you think I’m dreaming this stuff up, and I wish I was, but... One of O’s brilliant appointments, Janet Nepolitano, head of Homeland Security, recently issued a report titled “Unclassified/For Official Use Only – Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment.”

In this report, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis in coordination with the FBI, is concerned that citizens with any beef with the government should be considered a threat to the Security of the Homeland. What it is really concerned about is the threat to O’s plans to ultimately control the minds and activities of Americans. Afraid yet?

The scope of the Assessment: “This product is one of a series of intelligence assessments published by the Extremism and Radicalization Branch to facilitate a greater understanding of the phenomenon of violent radicalization in the United States. The information is provided to federal, state, local and tribal counter-terrorism and law enforcement officials so they may effectively deter, prevent, preempt, or respond to terrorist attacks against the United States.”

So what is doing the “fueling” of resurgence? More important, what resurgence? From the report, “The DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) has no specific information that domestic rightwing terrorists are currently planning acts of violence, but rightwing extremists may be gaining new recruits by playing on their fears about several emergent issues.” WHAT?

OK, so who should they be worried about? “Threats from white supremacists and violent antigovernment groups during 2009 have been largely rhetorical and have not indicated plans to carry out violent acts.” So scratch the skinheads and the “violent antigovernment groups.” Wait a minute, I thought you just said they weren’t planning acts of violence. What violence are they talking about? Have you heard of any antigovernment violence lately? You know what they are talking about? Timothy McVeigh, that’s what.

Timothy McVeigh did his evil work 14 years ago this week. Since then, we have been attacked by foreign terrorists (dare I use the word?) who killed 3,000 of us and cost our economy billions of dollars, and they are worried about domestic violence. They say doesn’t exist? And how is it the Department of Homeland Security (what a joke) can use the term “domestic terrorists” several times in their report, but we can’t refer to the people committed to killing us as “foreign terrorists.”

Who is the real threat? Why, the pro-lifers of course. You narrow-minded extremists who oppose killing babies, you’re the bad guys. You are the terrorists.

You and those crazy people who think borders should be closed to illegal immigration. You nuts who think our laws should be enforced. Yup, YOU ARE THE THREAT!

This is a footnote from this scandalous report. “Rightwing extremism in the United States can be broadly divided into these groups, movements and adherents that are primarily hate-oriented (based on hatred of particular religious, racial or ethnic groups), and those that are mainly antigovernment, rejecting federal authority in favor of state or local authority, or rejecting government authority entirely. It may include groups and individuals that are dedicated to a single issue.”

See SWANSON page 8.
**HS Scholarship Fund explained**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Highlands has reorganized the Scholarship Golf Advisory Committee. This committee plans events for the raising of funds for the Town Scholarship Endowment Fund for the purpose of supporting scholarships for students graduating from Highlands School.

This past week the new committee had its first organizational meeting for the planning of the golf tournament at the Cullasaja Club which will be held August 17. It was a good meeting with new and enthusiastic members of the committee in which many new ideas came forth and old ideas were discussed. Gloria Pariseau was elected chairman of the committee. Gloria has eight other energetic members to help her with this important undertaking.

The Scholarship Endowment Fund is now valued at $785,486 and gives scholarships totaling between $40,000-$50,000 to Highlands School graduates each year. Another Scholarship Committee makes the determinations of amounts to each student who is attending school after high school. Over the last 20 years, over three quarters of a million dollars has been awarded to our students. It is a record for which we can all be proud. Over these next few months many citizens will be called upon to contribute to this wonderful cause and others will enjoy the camaraderie of joining us for a round of golf at the Cullasaja Club on August 17, enjoying the course along with lunch and dinner as we auction off donated goods after that dinner. We are grateful to the Cullasaja Board and members of Cullasaja Club for their tremendous support of the Endowment Fund over the past five years. It is time now for one of the other clubs to step up to the plate and do the same over the next few years just as all our private clubs have done in the past.

I might add one other little-known piece of history regarding the Scholarship Fund. The fund was originally established under special legislation introduced in the NC General Assembly in 1975 which authorized the governing body of the Town of Highlands to accept funds and administer the scholarship program for Highlands School graduates. This made Highlands one of the few towns in the state and possibly in the nation with legislative authority to administer such a fund. In 1988 the funds from the Scholarship Endowment began to be disbursed each year and have continued every year since then.

On other matters, just a note regarding the Town Board meetings. Beginning in June there will be only one scheduled town board meeting per month and that will be on the third Wednesday of each month. Other special board meeting may be called at any time.

On this past Wednesday night at our board meeting the commissioners approved the concept of renovation of the ABC store as the new Police Station. Stewart-Cooper-Wells Architects were hired to present to the board a schematic design and any other future activity beyond this initial schematic design must be approved by the board. This firm has extensive experience in designing and renovating public buildings.

We also approved delaying building any new Town Hall at the present time and approved the renovation of the present Town Hall by J.T. Turner Construction Co at a cost of $119,000. This company is active in Highlands and will be hiring local workers to do the work. Renovating the current Town Hall will save the town a lot of money and add much needed space to our workplace. With the addition of the new Police Station and renovation of the current Town Hall we should be in good shape for the next four or five years. At some time in the fairly near future however, a new Town Hall is anticipated.

… SWANSON continued from page 7
Shalom y'all

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church

I'm just returning from a little vacation, driving through Tennessee and Mississippi. I had to go to have a firsthand experience of country music in Nashville and the blues of the Mississippi Delta with a brief stop at Graceland and a walk in Memphis on Beale Street. But the unexpected treat of the trip was just outside of Utica, MS, inside the Henry James Camp. It's called the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience. It tells a familiar story, common to so many immigrants: escaping religious oppression and seeking economic opportunity. At the museum you can trace Jewish heritage throughout Mississippi. But inside the museum gift shop was the best part of the experience: souvenirs with the words "Shalom Y'all."

We are now well into the Easter Season. For 50 days we unpack the experience the disciples had of the resurrected Jesus. On Easter they are a bewildered, frightened group, hiding out for fear of the Jews. They supposed their fate to be unlikelier than that of Jesus. But Jesus comes to them, calms their fears, even suppresses their overjoyed response. He has a job for them to do. They cannot do it with fear in their hearts, which paralyzes nor can they do it with ecstatic joy which distracts. They need to spread his good news in an even-tempered way. And so, Jesus gives them all his peace: Shalom Y'all.

One is missing for this key event: Thomas. He is devoid of the peace of the risen Christ. He is proud and stubborn, unwilling to receive the peace: the other disciples want to give him. He must experience the risen Christ for himself. But Jesus does not come to him individually. A week passes and it is only when the early Christian community is gathered together again, this time with Thomas, that Jesus appears to all of them. The message is the same, to the whole community, including Thomas: Shalom Y'all.

Now Jesus breathes on them, giving them all the Holy Spirit. They are equipped to go out and spread his good news which begins with the forgiveness of sins. They are transformed from disciples, mere followers of Jesus, to apostles, ones sent out to spread the good news. This builds them into a community of faith, one that is reconciled with God and with one another. Without this reconciliation, they cannot remain together. It is the very thing that enables not just their own unity in heart and mind but their capability to call more to share that experience: Shalom Y'all.

'Let us be servants of the Good News. But we can only do it united in faith, reconciled with God and with one another. As individuals, we fall into doubt like Thomas. Connected as a community of faith, nurtured in that community not just socially but spiritually, we become equipped like the apostles. We can forgive with the forgiveness that comes from Jesus. Shalom Y'all.
School play ‘Inner Willy’ rocked viewers of all ages

Last week, rising kindergarteners from the Highlands Community Child Development Center watched the first act of “The Inner Willy,” the Highlands School play, on stage at PAC last week. Later, they returned to visit the set with their teachers and directors Ronnie Spilton and Jim Gordon.

Spilton taught them the basics: how to enter the stage, act out parts using two props—the telephone and the radio—and how to take a bow.

Gordon kept things lively from up in the sound booth by making the phone ring or making music come from the radio when a child turned the knob.

Spilton said she’s grooming the next generation of actors she will undoubtedly call on for a future Highlands School play.

When Spilton asked the children what part of the first act of “The Inner Willy” they liked best, here’s what some of them said:

- When he jumped up and clicked his heels.
  - Keller

- When he jumped up from behind the couch and scared them.
  - Daniel

- When he jumped on the piano.
  - Kaylee

- When she gave him his medicine.
  - Stephanie

- When the guy with the Harry Potter glasses saw something and got scared.
  - Morgan

- When the girls fight.
  - Brandy

- When she said, “Oh, he’s such a baby!”
  - Lexi

- When the radio was “turned on” and the music began to play, the group danced its heart out.

Students entered the stage just as actors do.

Children could choose whether they wanted to “act” with the phone or the radio. Whichever they picked, Gordon kept things rolling from the sound booth.

Pictured from left are Ronnie Spilton with Kaylee, Keller, Stephanie, Brandy, Lexi, Morgyn, Miranda, Brittany, Daniel and in back Ms. Sarah, Ms. Claudia and Jim Gordon.
ancestors came to America — as well as religion and nationality in America whose short, there are people of every race, color, and nationality living within our borders who consider America their home. There are people practicing all flavors of religion — Catholicism, Protestant, Judaism, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu — you name it and you’ll find it thriving in some part of America. In short, there are people of every race, color, religion and nationality in America whose ancestors came to America — as well as people who continue to come — precisely because of the freedoms and opportunities it offers on every level.

The United States of America isn’t the same place it was during the time of our Founding Fathers. Things have changed. There are people of color who are no longer slaves. There are people of every nationality living within our borders who consider America their home. There are people practicing all flavors of religion — Catholicism, Protestant, Judaism, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu — you name it and you’ll find it thriving in some part of America. In short, there are people of every race, color, religion and nationality in America whose ancestors came to America — as well as people who continue to come — precisely because of the freedoms and opportunities it offers on every level.

The people who used the opportunity to protest taxation during the recent T.E.A. Parties as a way to lash out at our president because he is black and his father was Muslim did the T.E.A. Party cause serious harm. The only message received by the nation as witnessed on all television stations — whether Fox, CNN or MSNBC — was that there is a very un-Christian faction in America that has truly forgotten Jesus’ message to love thy neighbor as thy self, and to do unto others as you would have them do to you.

They forget that the First Amendment applies to every citizen of America not just them.

To coin a popular phrase seen on bumper stickers, bracelets and buttons — “What would Jesus Do?” Certainly not what was witnessed on national television Wednesday night.

By Coach Ryan Potts

The Highlands Girls soccer team rounded back into form after spring break by splitting a pair of games with non-conference rivals Franklin and Swain.

Last Wednesday the girls played at home match with county rival Franklin at Zachary Field. While the game was the Lady Highlanders first in two weeks, they showed little rust early as they matched the Lady Panthers throughout most of the first half.

While the Lady Highlanders played extremely well, they still trailed 1-0 at the half after a missed offside call allowed a Panther forward to get behind the Highlander defense and give the Lady Panthers the opening score.

The second half saw the Lady Highlanders dominate most of the scoring chances, but the Panther defense held firm and the Lady Panthers managed to add a couple of goals and push the lead to 3-0.

Lady Highlander midfielder Carmen Damian put the home team on the scoreboard in the 60th minute with a tremendous left footed goal from outside the arc, and Highlands continued to fight in the final 20 minutes, putting together several scoring chances before falling to the Panthers 3-1.

On Tuesday, April 21, the Lady Highlanders hosted the Swain Lady Maroon Devils in another non-conference matchup. After a sluggish opening 20 minutes, the Lady Highlanders took control of the game early on the strength of a stellar 10 minutes from center forward Paige Strahan.

Strahan scored three consecutive goals for the Lady Highlanders in a 10-minute span, the first after deftly maneuvering through three Swain defenders to knock home a goal that would ultimately be the game winner.

After securing a 3-0 lead, the Lady Highlanders came back with a strong second half and numerous scoring opportunities, featuring another goal by Strahan along with a goal from Carmen Damian that gave Highlands the final 5-0 margin.

Every Highlands player was able to play 20+ minutes against the Lady Devils and the younger players for Highlands showed quite a bit of improvement.

The Lady Highlanders played a home game yesterday against the Tuscola Mountaineers, and will travel to conference rival Murphy for their SMC opener today.

... FORUM continued from page 3
Spring Home Improvement

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Only a couple of years ago, the term "liberal" was such a dirty word that people wouldn’t even say it; instead they said "the L-word." How quickly things have changed. After the Democratic Party’s sweep last fall, the ascendance of liberalism has rehabilitated the "L-word." Now the new dirty word is "socialism."

In the last few months, I have had letters from conservatives accusing me of being a socialist and insisting that what I have in mind is turning the United States into Cuba or China.

Socialism means many things to many people. Many have the mistaken belief that socialism means totalitarianism. It does not. What I mean when I talk about socialism is the democratic socialism you find in western Europe.

Evolution does not just occur in the physical realm, it also occurs in human cultural and social systems. For many centuries feudalism was the main economic system in place in Europe, in which most people were de facto slaves to the rich. Capitalism emerged from feudalism several hundred years ago, a natural evolution in economic relationships where people were increasingly free to pursue economic opportunity. I believe that socialism is the next step in our economic evolution.

Proponents of capitalism will proudly tell you that capitalism is based on two primal survival forces: fear and greed. They will tell you that this is the reason it is so dynamic and why it has succeeded in bringing widespread prosperity. It taps into the instinct of self-interest and, as Adam Smith, the philosopher who first enunciated the principles of capitalism in his book The Wealth of Nations (1776) proclaimed, when everyone works for their own selfish ends it is an invisible hand that works to bring about the best outcome for society as a whole.

A basic premise of capitalism is that the market sets the prices and value for things more accurately than any other system. As I pondered that idea, I found myself thinking about the bonuses recently paid to the people in the financial industry after they had destroyed the economy. How exactly is a hedge fund manager’s value worth so much more than a public school teacher’s? The market "values" that hedge fund manager’s worth at $50 million a year, while the teacher is lucky to make $50,000. Is the hedge fund manager really one thousand times the value of a teacher?

I gave one example to an email correspondent who is trying to convince me of the errors of my liberalism, and his response was predictable: capital is scarce while teachers are a dime a dozen; the hedge fund manager takes great risks and is rich one year and broke the next while the unionized teacher has it easy.

But what appeared to me to be the biggest difference between our thinking was the meaning of the word "value." All my correspondent seemed to be concerned with was money. When I considered "value" I thought of the children that teacher nurtured over the course of her career.

Capitalism is an amoral system. I could say immoral, because the most positive response I have received for one of my columns was for one written almost two years ago: "The Seven Deadly Sins Are Now Virtues" (April, 2007). The column began, "A few years ago I read Kevin Phillips’ Wealth and Democracy and a passage has stuck with me ever since. A research firm called SRI International had written that what were once the ‘seven deadly sins’ — pride, gluttony, envy, sloth, greed, lust, and wrath — are capitalism’s virtues. For some time now I have felt there is a flaw in capitalism but struggled to find a way to express it, and this may be it."

I say amoral instead because capitalism — and proponents would say this is a plus — does not take morality into consideration. But I believe that humans have higher impulses than the base animal instincts of fear and greed, and that these are also strong motivating factors in our social behavior. These impulses are moral. The first of these is the instinct for cooperation.

A couple weeks ago New York Times columnist David Brooks — no liberal — published a piece called "The End of Philosophy," in which he wrote, "I think in recent years there’s an increasing appreciation that evolution isn’t just about competition. It’s also about cooperation within groups. Like bees, humans have long lived or died based on their ability to divide labor, help each other and stand together in the face of common threats. Many of our moral emotions and intuitions reflect that history. We don’t just care about our individual rights, or even the rights of other individuals. We also care about loyalty, respect, traditions, and religions. We are all the descendants of successful cooperators."

Civilization is built on cooperation, the division of labor. Each of us no longer has to do the labor required to feed, cloth, and house ourselves. Other people make my clothes, grow my food, and build my house, so I can breathe, write columns and film TV shows.

We are intertwined deeply. I am completely dependent upon you, and you, and...

Capitalism is like a teen-ager who thinks she knows it all and is completely independent. Capitalism is based on the illusion that we are independent actors. The truth is we are profoundly dependent on each other, on the whole, on society. Socialism recognizes that interdependence.

Another strong motivating factor is our inner drive to express ourselves. A conservative reader of my column asked me to answer a common question about socialism: If everyone’s needs are taken care of won’t everyone just stop working and instead do nothing?

The answer: this presumes that people work for money only. I believe there is an innate drive to produce, to contribute, and this is as powerful an urge as the need for money. Thorstein Veblen, in his "The Theory of the Leisure Class" called this the "instinct for workmanship." This winter I watched the film "How Green Was My Valley," about a mining town in Wales torn apart by a strike. In one scene of the movie, a man expresses his frustration that their income had been taken from them; it wasn’t just the money they missed; they felt like they had lost their dignity by not being engaged in productive labor.

Socialism is not a very good system to serve this innate need. I believe that a socialist system, by providing the safety net that ensures our physical needs are taken care of, would allow people greater freedom to fulfill this higher human need to serve, to contribute, to make a difference.

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

...LETTERS from page 2
Middle School dance to be featured on Nickelodeon May 24

In just a few short years, Highlands School's Middle School Spring Fling has hit the big time. When the producers of Nickelodeon "googled" for a middle school dance that was taking place in April - in time to be included in their upcoming special on dating in middleschools set to air May 24 at 9 p.m. - up popped Highlands School.

Consequently, on Friday, April 17, they headed to Highlands to film middleschool boys and girls getting ready for, arriving for and interacting at the dance - held this year at the Highlands Inn.

Producers decided to follow Anne Marie Crow and Phillip Murphy as they prepared for the dance. Anne Marie and friends got ready at Ali Bolt's house. Once at the dance, however, everyone was a star.

Kara Potheir, with Nickelodeon, said students from six middle schools nationwide were interviewed but the Highlands Middle School Spring Fling will be the only dance featured.

"The purpose of the special is to document the initiation into dating at the middle school level," said Pothere. "What we found is that dating at that age involves walking to class and hanging out in groups - sort of a practice run to see who gets along with who."

At the fling, students rocked to DJ Murphy's selections and enjoyed finger foods and drinks.

Photos by Kim Lewicki

Left, Anne Marie Crowe and Phillip Murphy smile for the cameras and above Nickelodeon cameraman films "girl talk."

Crews try an over-the-crowd shot while a student break dance in the center of the group.

Crew waits while girls give a quick dance lesson.

... Q & A continued from page 3

huge gap for us here in Macon County.

An additional purpose of moving some existing veteran teachers who have demonstrated success in the classroom into the role of Instructional Facilitator is to teach teachers how to analyze a wealth of performance data in order to improve teaching and increase student learning. Instructional Facilitators will help teachers become better at their craft so that all students have access to better, differentiated instruction throughout the professional's teaching career. I think a key for all of us is that the IF model is present in many, if not most school systems in our region and state. School districts often call them curriculum specialists, instructional coaches, teacher coaches, etc. The difference in the IF model for Macon County in the clearly defined roles and responsibilities and the placement of the IF in the schools to directly support teachers and principals. All federal programs support this type of model and the model enables the school system to meet many federal requirements of early intervention, improving teaching and learning, development of standards and assessments, school improvement, etc.

In regards to the IDEA funds, we must look at both building capacity and direct student intervention because the purpose of special education is individualization for students with disabilities.

As we implement the Responsive Instruction (RTI) process in our schools, we are looking at how to best provide support to teachers to make this research-based approach successful for our students.

One possible use of these funds currently under consideration by Mrs. Paula Ledford, Director of Exceptional Children and her department is the following: You believe the best use of this $1.6 million is to spend it on people who train teachers to be better teachers.

I know you want to do the right thing for the students in our system.

What I am proposing is that we also consider addressing the problem of student performance and tailoring instruction better to the needs of individual students.

I recognize that with a limited budget, hard decisions have to be made. After numerous interviews, research and reflection, it appears to me that tutors are a better choice than facilitators. For the rest of this response, please go to www.tinyurl.com/tutors.

deVille's final word

Thank you so much for taking the time to respond to my proposal.

If I understood you correctly, you stated:

• Macon County will face budget cuts in excess of $400K for fiscal year 2009–2010.

• Those cuts will likely result in (a) teacher layoffs, (b) hiring freezes, and/or (c) increased class sizes.

• The $1.6 million in federal stimulus money is to be used to create a long-term strategy to improve our schools.

• You believe the best use of this $1.6 million is to spend it on people who train teachers to be better teachers.

I know that you want to do the right thing for the students in our school system.

What I am proposing is that we also consider addressing the problem of student performance and tailoring instruction better to the needs of individual students.

I recognize that with a limited budget, hard decisions have to be made. After numerous interviews, research and reflection, it appears to me that tutors are a better choice than facilitators.

For the rest of this response, please go to www.tinyurl.com/tutors.
Dinner at Nicks Restaurant 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.

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

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 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 local medical facilities 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.

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 entrées accompanied with non-alcoholic beverages and a cash bar will be available. For more information, please call Pat or Don at 526-2706. For more information, about BCFI, please visit www.thebcfi.org or stop by Pastor Christy's office at UMC for a visit!


The Bascom uncorks two-day wine extravaganza May 29-30

A flood of scrumptious domestics and international wines will take top shelf at The Bascom’s annual Collective Spirits wine festival, set for May 29-30. With wines from New Zealand, Italy, France, Spain and Argentina to California, Oregon, Washington, and New York, organizers are pulling out all the stops in bringing a full range of different wineries to Highlands for the event.

More than 100 different wines will be poured at Collective Spirits, which also features a silent auction, fare by 12 local chefs, and symposiums by leading U.S. wine specialists. All capped off by a gala seated dinner at the art center’s new terrace, followed by a live auction of exceptional wines and special wine-related items.

Collective Spirits is the first event at the “new” Bascom, and all proceeds raise money for the nonprofit visual arts center. “People will have the opportunity to taste many wines they might not know and truly expand their palates at Collective Spirits,” said Donna Woods, The Bascom’s events director. “Having such a tremendous variety really establishes us as a grand-scale wine festival.”

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, Old Edwards Inn & Spa and the premier hospitality sponsor. Other corporate sponsors are First Citizens Bank, Harry Norman Realtors/Pat Allen and Bert Mobley, brokers, Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop; The Lauder magazine and WNC magazine. Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop is the official winemaker of the event.

The Bascom’s presenting sponsor is Sue Cooper, a University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill graduate who is the executive director of the White River Foundation.

Ruby Cinema
Hwy. 441, Franklin, NC
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April 24-30

STATE OF PLAY rated PG-13
Friday: (4:20), 7:05, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:20), 7:05, 9:20
Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:05

17 AGAIN rated PG-13
Friday: (4:15), 7:10, 9:15
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:15), 7:10, 9:15
Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:10

HANNAH MONTANA THE MOVIE rated G
Friday: (4:10), 7:10, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:10
Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7:10

FAST & FURIOUS rated PG-13
Friday: 7:15, 9:30
Sat & Sun: 7:15, 9:30
Mon – Thurs: 7:15

MONSTER vs. ALIENS rated PG
Friday: (4:30)
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Rn Needed for Upscale Retirement Community: 4 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 hr/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 inquiries to Matt Shuler at the Highlands Town Office (828) 526-2118.

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/office practice 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. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

Rn at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fiddlecia 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.

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Lost & Found

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Residential for Rent


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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 dishwahser and new Jenn-Aire 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


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


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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 526-6983 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 828-332-7800.

Sapphire NC – 2 Story 3bed/2 bath. Yr round views, 2 decks, remodelled, Furnished. 2 car garage. Available yearly or seasonal. 561-626-9556

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3 Br, 2 Ba Cottage Near Mirror Lake – In town. $1,250 per month. Very clean. 770-977-5602


Cottage for Rent – 1Br. 18A 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.

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VACATION RENTAL

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 www.homeaway.com #23644 $800 per week. (012) 304-6917

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB – Sorry, golf and club privileges not available. $2,495 a week. Call 912-230-7223.

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

ORVIS FLYFISHING COMBO – Battenkill bbs III 5/7 reel and Clearwater mid 5 wt 7"9' rod. One year old but NEVER used. Orvis Padded reel case and rod tube/flag included $200. 828-399-9427.


BOAT ENGINE, TRAILER – Great for fishing. Needs some work. $600 Call 828-200-0701

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 526-9893. 4/23.

LARGE PICKUP LOAD OF LT. LAUREL. Lengths 4 to 6 feet. Mt. Laurel, Kusa Dogwoods, Norway and Seriba Spruce, Red maples, Service Berry, Rhododendron. Call 829-293-5988. (9/22)

WOODBURNING FIREPLACE INSERT – Strong and sturdy, 30 inches wide, 29 inches deep and 67 inches high. $175. Call 526-5749.

HONEY FOR SALE – Blue Valley honey, perfect amber color, 3/4 lb. bears, $5 each, work in town. Call Bruce at 526-9021.

GE PROFILE WHITE COUNTERTOP GAS RANGE WITH DOWNDRAFT. Like new. $185 Call 787-2222.

KOLCRAFT JEEP WAGONEER TANDEM DOLLAR – Used rarely. Basically brand new. $100 or OBO. Call 526-2536.

125-GALLON ALL-GLASS AQUARIUM – over 6 feet in length, was a sail-water shark-only tank. Comes with Eheim Pro series-2 external canister filter, and optional mahogany base. Will settle for $500, base, extras and help moving it are optional but free. Call cell 828-342-2809.

DRY, HARDWOOD, FIREWOOD – Priced to Sell! Call 828-526-4949 or 828-200-0268.

SMALL EMERALD AND GOLD RING. Originally $300 Asking $150. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m.

BABY LOCK SERGER MACHINE – Great for sewing. Needs to take. $375 or OBO; this TV is in great condition and has approximately 38" tall x 12" square. Put bottled water on top. $50 each. OBO. Call 526-3262 or 828-770-1153.

NIPPON TEAPOT – Set of 12. $50 each. OBO. Call 526-3262 or 828-770-1153.

MARTIN-C-1740 UNVENTED GAS HEATING TANK – Oak veneer. one dresser, one dresser, one desk, one chest. $100. Call 526-5772.

STONE AVAILABLE – Assorted. 14 pannels. $200 per pallet. Call 526-9932.

MAHOGANY SERPENTINE BURLHEADER – with large heavy duty plastic holding tank. Was $75. Now $50. Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

CRAFTSMAN 10" RADIAL ARM SAW WITH STAND – Old but used very little. Excellent working condition. $125, 828-797-2171.

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

WATER PURIFYING CHLORINATOR PUMP with large heavy duty plastic holding tank. Was $75. Now $50. 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.

LIBURNA WASH TABLE – Hunter green 36 x 36" x 40" in new condition. $10. Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

RED LION DIAMOND BARREL – 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 526-9893. 4/23.

TABLE LARGE WITH MATCHING CREDENZA, oak, leather chair. $850. Call 743-8669.


PEALSTOCK “HERLOOM” WORKSHOP – 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.


SOLID OAK LADDERBACK DINING room chairs with woven seats. $400 for set. Call 526-3048.

5-PC BEDROOM SET C1920 Bed/Chest of Drawers/Armoire/Sofa/Minorow. Rosewood inlay. Original brass hardware. Good condition. $995. 828-200-1160 or highlandsnative@yahoo.com

DEPENDABLE LOVING PET SITTER – for all types of pets. Housecleaning and landscaping services also available. Call 403-315-5647.

Call 828-524-3976. 4/23.


HANDYMAN SPECIAL – Repairs and Remodeling, Electrical and Plumbing, Carpentry and more. Low prices. For free estimate call 828-342-7884.

RELIABLE CHILD CARE IN MY HOME – Minutes from Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Daily/Weekly. 12 years experience, references and Early Childhood credentials. $5 per hour for first child, $10 a day for second sibling. Call 743-2672.

LANDSCAPE CLEANUP – Leaks, gutters and more.

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See Classifieds page 20
through human
eyes couldn't locate
Lewis. It only took
Ruby eight minutes
to find him a few
blocks away be-
hind a home at 283
Oak Lane.

So early during the
night, after he'd
grabbed a bite to eat
at Highlands' Hill
Deli around 8:30
p.m., he'd walked
down Oak Lane,
slipped on the rain-
slicked grass along
the roadside and
slid down the
sloped site, out of
sight behind the
house.

There that night, on the
ground in the rain so except for his torso,
which was protected by his Patagonia jacket,
and his head which was protected by his sig-
nature tweed cap, he was freezing cold and
soaking wet from his leather shoes, to his
corduroy pants and belt.

Rescue personnel said he was conscious
and knew most of them by name, but to be
safe, he was transported to Highlands' Cash-
iers hospital where he was warmed up and
is being kept for observation.

“If we didn't have Ruby, who is cross-
trained for narcotics and search, we would
have had to wait for a search dog to be deliv-
ered from Franklin and the window of time
that may have saved Mr. Dom's life, could
have closed,” said Highlands Police
Chief Bill Harrell.

“Having Ruby readily available, en-
abled us to re-
respond and find
him literally in a
matter of min-
testures.”

Brown said she was amazed at the
promptness displayed by rescue
and law en-
forcement person-
nel and impressed
by how well they
worked together-
each performing
their part like
dedicated work-
ers.

“It was all so professional and they interacted like
something you'd expect in a big city right
here in this little town,” she said.

Chief Harrell commended the colle-
aborated effort between the Highlands Fire &
Rescue who responded with ATVs, Highlands
EMS crews, his department and county res-
cue crews who all responded to the call for
help.

He said this isn't the first time Ruby has
been successful and he's sure it won't be the
last.

“This is a prime example why it pays to have a "staff" canine in Highlands,” he said.

“There are numerous times when it is a
must.”
... WORKSESSION from page 20

However, Bruckner and the county’s new Well Diggers Association are working with Rep. Haire on Bill 1246 to enact a change in the rules which would allow well contractors to self-certify all grouts.

Though development has slowed in Macon County, Bruckner said work in his department has been steady and an application for a 45-septic site came in Monday.

He asked to increase permit fees so his department could support itself and thereby justify the hiring of more inspectors.

That segued into the final discussion Monday night concerning the budget.

Finance Director Evelyn Southard said back in January she and County Manager told the board that it was likely that the 2008-09 budget would be off by $100,000 – even after the $1.4 million in department cuts – and that estimate stands.

Though that isn’t great news, compared to many other counties in North Carolina, Macon County is still doing well with sales tax revenues expected to bedown only $449,841 by June 30.

The return on investments has dropped considerably which has hurt the county.

She suggested taking $2.7 million from the undesignated fund balance to offset the decrease in revenue and handle remaining expenditures – mainly Highlands School renovations and debt service on the $20 million school loan. She said that will balance the budget while keeping the fund balance at a healthy 27%.

POLICE & FIRE

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of April 13. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 20

• At 12:30 p.m., a search and rescue with Canine Ruby on 283 Oak Lane where a man who had slipped down a slope on the property was found unharmed.

April 18

• At 9:50 p.m., William Robert Smith, 66, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI on Holms Road. He was released on a $500 unsecured bond.

April 20

• At 7:30 p.m., officers conducted a welfare check at a residence at the Mountain Club. Everything was OK.

During the week the officers issued 20 citations and responded to 3 alarms.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of April 13:

April 15

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at 4 1/2 Street Inn. The victim was taken to the hospitat.

• The dept. responded to an accident on U.S. 64 at Raoul Road. There were no injuries.

April 17

• The dept. responded to the call of brush fire with the possibility of a structure in danger. The hole was extinguished prior to arrival and no structure was damaged.

• The dept. responded to an alarm on Whiteside Mountain Road set off because the fireplace damper was closed.

April 20

• The dept. did search and rescue for a subject who was missing. He was found and taken to the hospital.

Sheriff busts four more for drugs

Four more people have been arrested in connection with last week’s drug arrests by the Macon County Sheriff’s Dept. Arrested were Jacquelyn Ruth Stewart, 23, of Franklin, who was held on a $10,000 bond; Timmie L. Collins, 39, of Franklin who was held on a $20,000 bond; Sylvia Plank-Yonce, 39, of Clayton, Ga., and Stephanie Mason, 30 of Franklin, who were both federally charged.
For Obama, she just thought Reagan ran up a debt. Look at what this man has spent so far! Can you imagine what it is going to be in four years from now?  
Johnny Owens  
Highlands

Swanson’s comments warrant clarification

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to Don Swanson’s column in the April 9 issue entitled “Bats in their Belfry.”  
The Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT) is a nonprofit organization based in Franklin, North Carolina. LTLT was one of the principal partners in the conservation of the Needmore Tract located along the Little Tennessee River in northern Macon County. Mr. Swanson refers to the “eeltoe mussel” found in the Little Tennessee River and states, “the Needmore property changed hands several times over these little buggers, from the county to Nantahala Power (or Duke, I can’t remember) and back again a couple of times. I don’t know who owns it now, but I don’t think it’s open to the public.”

The parcels making up the 4,400-acre Needmore Tract were purchased from local families during the late 1920s through the 1950s by Nantahala Power and Light and its predecessors with the intent of damming up the Little Tennessee River for hydroelectric generation. A dam was never built. When Duke Power purchased Nantahala Power and Light and all of its holdings, including the Needmore Tract, in 1999, it transferred the land to its development company, Crescent Resources. While the Tract was privately owned by Nantahala Power and Light, it was used by the public for agriculture, hunting, fishing, and other recreational uses.

With the threat of the property becoming a gated community, closed to the public, the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee partnered with the community and the County Commissioners of both Swain and Macon County to launch a five-year campaign to raise the funds to purchase the Tract from Duke. Ultimately, Duke received $19 million for the property which was purchased by the State of North Carolina to be managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC). The tract is now called Needmore Game Lands and is open to the public for hunting, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and other outdoor activities. Some of the property continues to be leased for agriculture, although the State did exclude livestock from the property due to liability issues, and the WRC prohibits camping in non-designated areas. However, it is working with the community based Mountain Neighbors for Needmore group to establish a managed campground on the Needmore Game Lands. The campground, located along the Little Tennessee River, may be operating as early as 2010.

Mr. Swanson is correct; the Little Tennessee River does provide habitat for the federally listed endangered mussel, the Appalachian elktoe, as well as the federally listed Little-wing Pearly mussel, and conservation of the Needmore Tract protects that important habitat. In addition, conservation of the Needmore Tract protects something equally significant; public access for traditional uses such as hunting, fishing and picnicking that residents of Macon County as well as other visitors have enjoyed for generations.

Sharon Fouts Taylor  
Deputy Director, LTLT

FreedomWorks sponsored TEA Party a success

Dear Editor,

Tax Day was a grand and glorious day in Macon County. The sun was beams, warming the crowd of nearly a thousand citizens, concerned for the future of America. Gathered at noon at the Public Square, they heard patriotic music, beautifully sung and inspiring speeches that stirred their hearts and souls.

Coming from Murphy, Hayesville, Brasstown, Sky Valley, Bryson City, Sylva and many other places, the People registered their total rejection of what the Federal government is doing to the country. Speakers were constantly interrupted by cheers, right-ons and amens. Singers were joined by the crowd, demonstrating their love of their country. A good time was had by all.

The theme was too much spending, too much debt, higher taxes down the road, lack of fiscal responsibility, overwhelming porkulous, and our freedom being eroded by a greedy, power hungry government. The fight has just begun.

Thanks to the Macon chapter of FreedomWorks, the Town of Franklin, speakers and others who made this event a success.

Don Swanson, Director  
Macon County FreedomWorks  
Franklin
CCP welcomes husband-wife team

Country Club Properties is pleased to announce the addition of Richard and Martha Betz as Real Estate Brokers at the Wright Square Office in Highlands.

Richard Betz was employed by the Town of Highlands for more than 26 years, serving as the Town Administrator for the past 14 years before taking early retirement in March. During his tenure with the town he was also Town Planner and Zoning Administrator and was intimately involved in adoption of the Town’s Land Use Plan. His knowledge of the Town’s zoning and other land use regulations and real estate is extensive.

An elder at the First Presbyterian Church, Betz has served as Clerk of Session, is a graduate of Leadership Highlands, has completed 13 marathons, and is also the founder and President of the Highlands Roadrunners Club.

The Betzes are both members of the North Carolina Association of Realtors and the Highlands-Cashiers Board of Realtors. Martha can be reached at (828) 200-1411 or by e-mail at BetzRealtor@gmail.com. Richard’s e-mail is rpbetz@gmail.com.

“We are very pleased to have both Martha and Richard on our team,” Terry Potts, Owner/Broker in Charge said, “I’ve known Martha all my life, and believe that with her high degree of knowledge and experience she will be a great addition to Country Club Properties. I have known Richard for many years and his knowledge of local real estate and land use regulations is a valuable asset.”

Paradise joins Meadows Mountain

We are growing again! That is the word from Meadows Mountain Realty who announced today the association of Nadine Paradise.

Paradise attended Oakland University and started her professional career in Information Technology with a major insurance company. Later she enjoyed a practice with an Executive Recruiting firm that specialized in Fortune 500 companies. She was licensed as a Real Estate Broker in 2002; is licensed in the states of North Carolina, Georgia and Utah; and has consistently been a “Multi-Million Dollar Producer.” She was awarded outside “Broker of the Year” at Trillium Links and Lake Club.

Nadine and the Team at Meadows Mountain Realty will be marketing Satulah Old Edwards Private Residences. The first of the Private Residences are slated for completion on June 1st. Nadine and other top producers from Meadows Mountain Realty will be on site daily to assist buyers.

“Satulah is a great addition to Highlands, where buyers can walk to all dining, shopping and cultural venues in town plus have membership to all of the amenities of The Old Edwards Inn and Spa in addition to The Old Edwards Club. I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with The Meadows Team to represent this fine project,” said Paradise.

Richard Delany of the Old Edwards Hospitality Group said Carol Oxford of Oxford Properties recently resigned as broker for the project. “We really appreciate everything Carol has done for us in the past few years to get us to this point. She did a great job representing us,” said Delany. “We are excited about our new relationship with Meadows Mountain Realty, they bring dynamic marketing and years of experience.”

Nadine will have an office at Meadows Mountain Realty’s office located at 450 N. 4th Street.

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