

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 7

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Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009

This Week in Highlands

- Fill out the Highlands Rec. Park Survey on page. 11
- 2009 Little League Baseball & T-Ball Registration is ongoing. Any time before Feb. 21 drop off completed application with birth certificate and money to the Highlands Rec. Park. make checks payable to: Highlands Little League. \$40 for the 1st child and \$35 for each additional child. Hats, shirts and socks provided. For info, call Monica Vinson at 526-9107
- Friends of Panthertown work days, last Thursday of every month. Call Nina Elliott at 526-9938 (ext 258).
- Collections for men and women over-seas at Chestnut Hill Retirement community. To schedule a drop-off call (828) 787-2114.
- At Health Tracks at the hHospital, various exercise classes. Call 828-526-1FIT.
- Mon. & Wed.**
 - Middle School students After School Program from 3-5 p.m. at the Rec Park. 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/mth.
- Mondays**
 - Open AA meeting, 8 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.
 - Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.
- Tuesdays**
 - Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.
- Wednesdays**
 - Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club meets at the Highlands Conference Center at 7:30 a.m.
- Thursdays**
 - Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.
- 2nd & 4th Fridays**
 - Community Drum Circle at the Rec Park, from 6-7:30 p.m. Call 421-0551.
- Thursday, Feb. 12**
 - Open House Night at Creative Concepts at Falls on Main from 5:30-7:30. Finger foods, punch, door prizes and a 35% off all products and a 50% off all jewelry.
- Saturday, Feb. 14**
 - NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB will take a 6-8 mile moderate hike in Panthertown Valley, Call Walter Taylor, 743-6977, for reservations.
- Sunday, Feb. 15**
 - NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB will take a 2.5 easy hike on the in the winding stair area. Call Kay Coriell at 369-6820 for reservations.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
52 / 28F	45 / 30F	47 / 29F

Town to be ready for federal funds

As discussed at the Jan. 29 work-session, the Town Board is continuing to position Highlands to be on the receiving end of President Obama's stimulus package.

At the Feb. 11 meeting, commissioners OK'd resolutions authorizing application for federal funds for sewer system improvement projects, Big Bear Pen water line

improvements and radio read meters.

To be eligible for federal stimulus funds, Town Manager Jim Fatland said projects must be "shovel ready" – with designs and permitting complete by April 24, so the board also OK'd funding for design services for the sewer system, the water line project and the dredging

of the Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah whose resolution the board signed on Jan. 21..The cost for that design and permitting is \$65,000 with funds coming from the Electric Fund Capital Reserves.

Sewering the remaining areas next to Lake Sequoyah and Mirror Lake will provide sewer to 300 resi-

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Girls' Clubhouse helps at HCCDC

On Friday, Feb. 6, seven members of The Girls' Clubhouse helped children at the Highlands Community Child Development Center make Valentine's Day cards for their parents. This week, the children took a field trip to the post office to mail their cards. Pictured from left are Clubhouse members, Veronica Garcia, Grace Brassard, McKinley Mosely, Ivy Satterwhite and Meredith Garren. Working with other children were April Moss and Elizabeth Houston.



Photo by supervisor Kim Lewicki

County prepares for shortfalls; trims \$1.33 million from 08-09 budget

With the potential of revenue shortfalls a real possibility before the end of fiscal year 2008-2009, the Macon County Commission asked department heads to trim their current budgets – just in case.

At the Monday, Feb. 9 commission meeting, Finance Director Evelyn Southard presented cuts proposed by the departments totaling \$1,336,069 – surprisingly close to the \$1,398,600 she identified in January in preparation for a potential revenue shortfall.

"After our January worksession, we sent the department heads a memo asking them to trim capital items, vehicle requests, decrease travel, eliminate lapse salaries and anything else they could think of without cutting county services," said Southard. "They have done that."

At the January meeting, Southard identified \$1,398,600 that could be cut — \$583,264 from departments and the rest — \$815,336 — allocated from the fund balance.

But to keep from raiding the fund balance, commissioners asked her to go to the department heads first.

"Maybe they will see places they can cut which means we won't have to go into the fund balance," said Commissioner Bobby Koppers.

Southard said there is often extra money in department budgets due to lapse salaries, where a person is budgeted to be hired at the

• See SHORTFALLS page 19

Board OK's restaurant and setback variance

The face of Highlands continues to change.

At the Feb. 11 Zoning Board meeting, members heard a request for a special use permit (SUP) for a new restaurant and for a setback variance for the old Pierson Inn.

Angela Wiggins represented Forty's Restaurant which will occupy 3,000 sq. feet of the lower level of Highlands Plaza.

Since the Town Board amended the parking ordinance as it applies to shopping centers, parking spaces per number of seats is no longer an issue. Instead they must have one parking spot per 250 sq. ft. of space – or 12 spaces.

"Highlands Plaza has sufficient parking to support its current square footage," said Zoning Administrator Joe Cooley. "Even if the plaza was fully occupied, there is sufficient parking."

The fire marshal has said Forty's Restaurant can have no more than 99 seats. Wiggins said they don't know if they will have that many because they don't want to crowd the space.

The restaurant will include a dining room and a separate bar area

• See BOARD page 5

* THE PLATEAU'S POSITION *

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



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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• LETTERS •

Brugger's column smacks of anti-semiticism

Dear Editor,

It was great to read the response by Bernie Coulson to Kati Brugger's column in the Feb. 5 edition, "The Wasp State." Everything he said was correct.

It is a shame that you have a columnist writing for your paper who is by her own writings anti-semitic and possibly anti-american.

Before she voices her opinion, Ms. Brugger should read and study the subject matter and not just get the information from one person's book, specifically, Jimmy Carter's "Palestine: Peace not Apartheid" which agrees with her views.

In these troubling times we need positive thoughts not negative ones. We need to bring our country together not try to tear it apart with such horrible writings.

I don't believe there is room in a wonderful paper like the Highlands' Newspaper for such a columnist.

If you keep Ms. Brugger as a columnist, I hope you review her writings carefully before you publish them.

Robert Rosenfeld
Davie, FL

Coulson's letter way off base

Dear Editor,

In his letter in the Feb. 5 issue of Highlands' Newspaper, Bernie Coulson accuses columnist Katie Brugger [re: her article "The WASP State"] of being a bigot, pro-terrorist, and one who engages in hate speech. In so doing he perfectly demonstrates something I've long noticed: anyone who dares to criticize Israel is guaranteed to be vilified as anti-Semitic and a blind supporter of violent Muslim fanaticism. And so it goes. Jimmy Carter is anti-Semitic. So is Desmond Tutu. So is the rest of the world on a regular basis. The sun shines up Israel's backside and anyone who disagrees is a Hebrew-hater.

Zionists employ character assassination to discourage and dilute criticism of Israel's behavior. In the United States, a country presumably blessed with freedom of speech, thoughtful people are afraid to speak out for fear of Zionist reprisal.

Rendered myopic by his pro-Israel mindset, Mr. Coulson entirely misses, thus

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... FEDERAL from pg 1

dents while protecting the town's water supply.

The town is requesting \$9,410,000 in federal funding — \$5,985,000 for the Lake Sequoyah Line and \$3,425,000 for the Mirror Lake line.

Town Manager Jim Fatland said the project is under design and will be ready to advertise for construction bids within 120 days— as required for federal funding.

To pay for the design costs of \$413,400 for preliminary engineering reports, surveying, and the award phase the board OK'd a budget amendment to transfer \$413,400 from Electric Fund Capital Reserves to Water & Sewer Fund. "There are sufficient funds in the Electric Fund Capital Reserve for this project," said Fatland.

Big Bear Pen's water line project will eliminate the shallow, narrow lines that don't provide sufficient water flow for fire protection and that freeze in cold weather.

The estimated cost for the water line upgrade is \$195,000 with Highlands requesting \$146,250 or 75% of the project costs with the town committing 25% in local funds.

To design the project and ready it for construction bids within 120 days McGill is asking \$18,800. Fatland said there are sufficient funds in the fiscal year '09 Water Distribution and Sewer Collection Budget

The third resolution was for the purchasing and installation of radio read water and electric meters which will provide efficiencies in meter reading.

"This will save manhours and enable us to get precise readings as well as identify leaks in homes and within our system," said Town Engineer Lamar Nix.

The estimated cost for water meters is \$600,000; \$200,000 for electric meters and \$200,000 for installation of both.

The town is requesting \$750,000 of federal funds or 75% of the total cost.

On Feb. 4, Fatland sent state officials Highlands' four water projects for stimulus funding, as requested. By Feb. 16 Rep. Heath Shuler wants a list of all potential "shovel-ready" projects and by Feb. 20, DENR wants all waste/water projects that are shovel-ready.

Other Business

The board also OK'd allocating funds to McGill Associates to design an Emergency Action Plan for Houston Dam — an old water reservoir on Buck Creek Road that used to service the town.

"DENR requires an emergency action plan for the dam," said Town Engineer Lamar Nix. "McGill has submitted a proposal to prepare the emergency action plan which includes on-site investigation of the dam and downstream area to review existing conditions, preparation of emergency situations, actions and procedures.

The cost for the plan is a lump sum fee of \$5,900 which is available in the fiscal '09 water plant budget.

Commissioners OK'd renovations to the Houston House at the Rec Park for \$40,584. Work includes asbestos removal, a new roof, and reconfiguring of the interior. The house will be used for youth activities.

Franklin couple arrested for sex crimes last week, arraigned this week

A Franklin couple has been arrested and charged with a variety of sex crimes against children. The investigation began Feb. 2 after someone came to the Sheriff's Office requesting to speak with a deputy concerning allegations made by a minor.

Patrol Deputies spoke briefly with the individual and then contacted Detectives. Detectives initiated their investigation and conducted numerous interviews throughout the night.

During the early morning hours Detectives also obtained and executed a search warrant where they collected several items of evidence. "During the execution of the search warrant officers found a Polaroid Instamatic Camera along with numerous Polaroid photos," said Sheriff Holland. "The photos are very explicit and depict crimes being committed against children. All victims and suspects in the photographs have been identified and interviewed by detectives."

Anyone that may have information concerning this investigation is encouraged to contact the Juvenile Investigation Unit at 349-2155. The investigation continues.

Stanley Rushton's bond was set by Magistrate Drew Norton at \$1,200,000.00 and is charged with:

- 30 Felony Counts of 1st Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor
- 3 Felony Counts of Incest with a Child
- 3 Felony Counts of Statutory Rape of a Child



Stanley Rushton Mary Rushton

- 1 Felony Count of 1st Degree Sex Offense with a Child
- 3 Felony Counts of 1st Degree Rape of a Child
- 1 Misd. Count of Possession of Marijuana
- 1 Misd. Count of Possession of Paraphernalia

Mary Rushton's bond was set by Magistrate Brandon McDowell at \$1,000,000.00 and is charged with

- 30 Felony Counts of 1st Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor
- 1 Felony Count of Incest with a Child
- 1 Felony Count of Statutory Rape of a Child
- 1 Felony Count of 1st Degree Rape of a Child
- 1 Misd. Count of Possession of Marijuana
- 1 Misd. Count of Possession of Paraphernalia

• BIRTH •

Charlotte Emelyn Westendorf



Scott and Danae Westendorf of Highlands, joyfully announce the birth of their daughter Charlotte Emelyn, born Dec. 18, 2008. She was born at 8:46 p.m. and weighed 7 lbs 13oz. and was 22 1/2 inches long. Dr. Carmelo Hernandez was the attending OB at Transylvania Community Hospital in Brevard, NC, where Charlotte was the last baby born in 2008.

Charlotte was welcomed home by her proud big sister Adisyn. Maternal grandparents are Joe and Karen Potts and David Anita Chastain all of Highlands. Paternal grandparents are Dan and Dena Westendorf of Dallas, Oregon. Maternal great-grandparents are Bob and Sammie Houston and Vivian Chastain of Highlands. Paternal great-grandparents are Fred and Donna Westendorf of Redmond, Oregon.

• MILESTONE •



Highlands School 2007 graduate, Chase Jenkins, makes Dean's list for the 2008 fall semester. Jenkins, currently a sophomore, is studying Computer Science and Chinese at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Recently, he was the winner in the University's 2008 Chinese Short Essay contest.

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

'I've been rear ended!'

No, no, no, my gay friends didn't make advances. Shame on you, you bad, bad readers. This is a totally meaningless column about my life as a policeman. No, my life as a policeman wasn't totally meaningless, just this column.

Hey, lighten up everyone, it's the dead of winter and there's not much to

write about, especially in the frozen metropolis of Highlands. I'm hoping to get a little smile and nothing more. I still believe the best stories are the ones that really happened, so here goes.

I'm waiting at a traffic light at a busy Miami Beach intersection when this old geezer, completely out of breath, rushes up to my police car and shouts, "Officer,

I've been rear-ended. Come quick before she gets away." The old guy was breathing so hard I was afraid his heart would give out.

I said, "Jump in and tell me where your car is."

The old guy looked puzzled as he climbed into my car. "Car? I don't have a car."

Now I'm looking puzzled. "No car? You don't have a car? What got rear ended?"

With a Polish accent so thick you could hardly understand a word, he said, "Mine cart. She rear ended mine cart...not car. It's at Lundy's market. Oui, she broke my eggs and I'll have to pay. Hurry, officer, or she'll get away."

I have a deep and lasting affection for the European Jews that migrated to our country to escape the Nazi regime. After their retirement, many of them moved to Miami Beach to enjoy life and await their death. Most lived on meager pensions and Social Security. South Beach was their home. All are dead now but my memories of this colorful culture will live in my memory until my death.

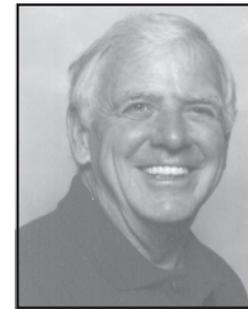
Lundy's Market was the busiest grocery in South Beach. It was also a hub of social activity and gossip. Everyone met at the grocery to learn who was sleeping with who and when. Yes, many of these old geezers used to "shack up."

There was always pushing and shoving in the grocery lines and occasional cursing in Yiddish. I loved to get calls to Lundy's. I once got a call of a disturbance at the store and arrived to find two elderly women wallowing on the floor in physical combat. Their dresses were way over their heads and they were slugging it out. It was a gross sight.

Then one afternoon I got a call for help from Officer Stanley Steinbrecher. (God rest his soul.) He was at Lundy's. Stanley's nickname was liver lips for obvious reasons. He had been one of my field training officers so I had a special affection for him. I flipped on my emergency lights and headed for Lundy's.

As I approached the grocery I could see a crowd of over 50 people surrounding Stanley's squad car. The crowd, most over the age of 70, was chanting, "Hitler, Hitler." By the way, you couldn't get more Jewish than Stanley.

I jumped from my car and plowed through the mob. There sat Stanley,



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

locked in his car with his liver lips pouting. An elderly lady sat in Stanley's back seat. She had to be at least 90 years old. Her walker sat prominently in the front passenger's seat. She had been caught shoplifting a packet of sponges from Lundy's and Stanley was taking her to jail. The store had a "no tolerance" policy on shoplifting

Wait, it gets better. Sitting on the ground and completely wrapped around Stanley's left front

tire, was another old woman who was refusing to move until the shoplifter was released.

I spotted Lundy's manager standing on the sidewalk so I plowed through the angry crowd to speak with him. After several minutes of reasoning, I announced to the crowd that the shoplifter would be banned from the store but would be released. The crowd cheered and raced toward me. I dashed into the grocery to keep from getting gang hugged.

And here's my final Lundy's story, I promise. I'm walking a hallway at the police department and Rocky Pomerance, my chief, orders me to drive him to City Hall because his car is in the shop. On the way, he tells me to stop at Lundy's for a "quick bite."

Once inside, Rocky ordered two whole roasted chickens, one for each of us. "Eat fast," he said, "because I'm running late." In less than two minutes (I'm not making this up.) Rocky had devoured his entire chicken and said, "Let's go." I had only eaten a leg and part of a thigh. I stared in amazement at the carcass he left behind. The man was an eating machine. I would have to abandon my chicken to drive him the two remaining blocks to City Hall.

Nothing goes unnoticed at Lundy's. A man asked, "Officer, are you leaving that?" pointing to my chicken. "It's yours," I said.

On my way out of Lundy's, I grabbed a knish from a nearby counter. I took no more than two steps when a lady pointed at me and screamed, "Ganev, Ganev." She followed me from the store, pointing and screaming, "Ganev, Ganev."

Two things you need to know to survive as a cop on Miami Beach. A "quick bite" means less than two minutes and "Ganev" is a Yiddish word meaning...well, I'm a thief.

• HIGHLANDS FINE DINING •

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Whose vision of 'heaven' is the 'right' vision?

When I attended Catholic school, the Baltimore Catechism was required reading. For all I know, it still is. The Baltimore Catechism is a book of questions and answers which was used to indoctrinate young Catholics into the beliefs of their church. The first question was, "Who made me?" The answer was, "God made me." The follow up was, "Why did God make me?" and as I remember, the answer was, "To know, love, and serve him in this life, and to be happy with him for eternity in the next."



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

lovers happy in heaven? And what about Bets fish? I've never known a gentle Beta.

Religions have varying ideas about heaven. Muslims claim that martyrs are treated to seven virgins. Since we, in the Western world started hearing about that, I've wondered if the virgins get a vote. How do they feel about being mauled by a horny Muslim? And where would God find enough virgins to satisfy all the martyrs? Surely there aren't that many West Virginia girls who died

before attending a family reunion. Maybe it's like heaven's dogs. Allah creates enough holographic virgins or inflatable virgins to meet the demand.

I admit a certain degree of skepticism about the Creation story, although anyone who has ever seen a walking stick bug or smelled a skunk has to be tempted to believe that they must be the creation of a master cosmic prankster.

The attempt to reconcile the the creationist belief with evolutionary evidence is an interesting exercise.

At its root is the assumption that Genesis days lasted longer than 24 hours, like maybe half a billion years. God presumably put the process in motion by creating a drop of slime mold and then allowed life to develop more or less unmolested except for an occasional nudge.

Perhaps the gigantic asteroid that

slapped the earth 65,000,000 years ago was God's way of telling reptiles that they were getting too big for their britches. At some point, God was so proud of the development of humanoids that he decided that they were enough like him to call them his children and entrust them with a soul. Nobody's perfect.

Some religions teach that souls are recycled through a process called reincarnation. Like the movie "Groundhog Day" a soul does it again and again until it gets it right. Hindus believe in soul speciation. If you were naughty in life, you might come back as a cockroach, which I suspect is pretty close to the bottom of the barrel. On the other hand, the virtuous may return as a Brahma cow in a vegetarian country.

God is probably powerful enough to let Muslims have their virgins, Hindus become cattle, and Christians enjoy soothing harp music.

PETA heaven features a tofu shop on every corner. In sports fan heaven, the home team never loses. What would be the eternal reward for a pedophile who tithed and had a really good heart?

My point is this. Where there is so much disagreement, there can be no certainty.

I'm not so sure about the "next." Many of you are confident in the existence of an afterlife, eternal reward or punishment, but you don't really know, any more than I do. The best evidence comes from people who have returned from death and reported pleasant and remarkably similar experiences. Skeptics discount their experiences as products of a dying brain.

If there is a heaven, I wonder if they allow dogs. Most religions don't teach that dogs have souls, but I know people for whom heaven would be hell without them. We all know people who love dogs more than people, including most pit bull owners, all PETA members, and anyone who signs his dog's name on his Christmas card.

If dogs don't have immortal souls and don't qualify for admission to heaven, do you suppose that God creates a few to keep dog

... BOARD continued from page 1

with flat screen TVs where sports can be viewed.

The fare will be "affordable" southern, or country, and will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner year 'round from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and closed Wednesdays. Wiggins said she hopes to open in May.

The board of Bill Rethorst, Bill Conway, David Rohr, Allen Frederick and newly appointed alternate Jim Tate granted the SUP anonymously.

Old Edwards Hospitality is renovating the remaining portion of the old Pierson Inn on South Street.

Originally, there were three structures on the Pierson Inn property which totals 1.09 acres. The remaining two houses, include the current Mountain Magic Salon and the large two-story structure being renovated by OEI. The main three-story building which was on the corner of corner of Satulah Road and South Street was burned down as fire practice before 1988.

The Pierson Inn will be a four-room cottage for a family gathering or small group. The gardens will be landscaped to the same level as the other OEI properties. Trees are

currently being planted along the perimeter for privacy.

A variance was requested so a covered 15 ft.-16 ft. wide porte cochere can be built at the front entrance to the inn. The entrance driveway has been moved down the block from its original location at the corner of South, Satulah and N.C. 28 to alleviate vehicular and pedestrian congestion from that corner.

The one-way driveway will enter and exit further mid-block and move under the porte cochere so guests can enter the home from a covered access.

Cooley said the existing structure is not out of compliance or in the 25-foot right-of-way setback from South Street, but the new addition would encroach.

"From a planning point of view, we look to see if the encroachment causes a safety problem, or is aesthetically pleasing or fits with the neighborhood. For this addition, those aren't issues but since it does encroach into the setback a variance is needed,"

The board voted unanimously to grant the setback variance.

— Kim Lewicki

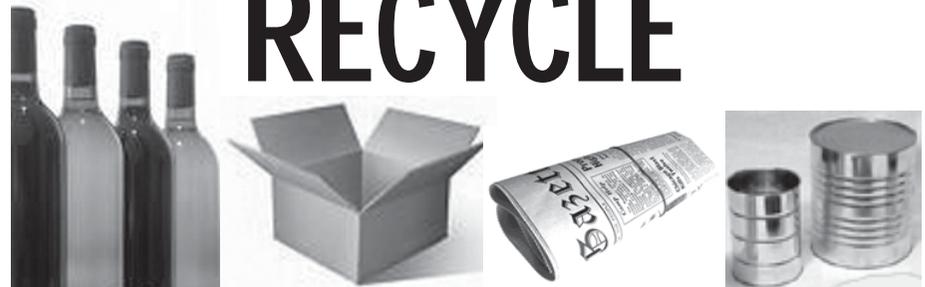
The Clock's Been Punched
For The Last Time
The Daily Grind Has Been
Left Behind
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Or Pages To Fax
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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

The 'Stimulus Package'

Last weekend I saw a video clip of Senator John McCain on the Senate floor, saying "Mr. President we can't afford this stimulus package. We cannot burden our grandchildren with this kind of debt." The audacity of the Republican party is

almost beyond belief. Let's look at a few facts. Five out of the last eight years the Republicans have controlled both houses of Congress and the White House. Yet these people who are today so "concerned" about

not increasing the federal debt were responsible for a doubling of the federal debt in the last eight years. When Clinton left office the federal debt was \$5.7 trillion. When Bush left office it was \$10.6 trillion (www.Treasurydirect.gov).

The Republicans are opposed to the Democrat's stimulus plan because they believe that only tax cuts will stimulate the economy. They think government spending is bad, although ironically the reason the debt has increased so much while they were in control is they kept government spending high while cutting government revenue.

The theory that tax cuts would stimulate the economy was first tried out under Ronald Reagan: remember "trickle-down economics?" The result of that experiment was a major increase in the federal debt and the beginning of a period of rising income inequality which continues today.

In the 25 years from 1980 to 2004, a period during which U.S. gross domestic product per person grew by almost two-thirds, the wages of the typical worker actually fell slightly after accounting for inflation. At the same time, wages for workers in the 90th percentile — that is, the top 10 percent — went up by more than a quarter. The country's income inequality has only gotten worse in the last four years: now the top 1 percent of America's earners receive more than 20 percent of the total national income, a situation not seen since the roaring Twenties just before the Great Depression.

Clinton raised the tax rate on the highest income bracket, and we all know the prosperity this country enjoyed in the 1990s. That decade ended with a federal budget surplus.

George W. Bush campaigned in 1999 in favor of tax cuts, saying the government should "return the people's money." But when the internet bubble popped and a recession started before he took office, he switched rationales and insisted tax cuts were necessary to improve the economy. I found this passage on MarketWatch.com, a Wall Street Journal affiliated site: "Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, Bush had a near-religious faith in the ability of tax cuts to deliver prosperity. Tax cuts were the panacea that would cure all ills. Economy too weak? Cut taxes. Stock market falling? Cut dividend taxes. Investment weak? Cut capital gains taxes. But tax cuts didn't make the economy stronger; they merely blew a big hole in the budget. Now, when we could really use that surplus to pay for the bailouts and the stimulus, it's gone."



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

The *Washington Post* printed an analysis of the nation's economic performance under President Bush last month: "President Bush has presided over the weakest eight-year span for the U.S. economy in decades, according to an analysis of key data, and economists across the ideological spectrum increasingly view his two terms as a time of little

progress on the nation's thorniest fiscal challenges. The number of jobs in the nation increased by about 2 percent during Bush's tenure, the most tepid growth over any eight-year span since data collection began seven decades ago. Gross domestic product, a broad measure of economic output, grew at the slowest pace for a period of that length since the Truman administration. And Americans' incomes grew more slowly than in any presidency since the 1960s, other than that of Bush's father."

In "The New Landonists" columnist Harold Meyerson describes Republican Alf Landon's campaign against President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1936. Landon tried to scare Americans about the high cost of the New Deal programs, saying they were causing too much debt. Landon claimed that the free-market system, if given a chance, would correct itself. Landon lost to FDR by the biggest margin in presidential history.

Meyerson wrote, "Now, if you listen to today's Republican revisionists, the Greatest Generation voters who gave FDR towering majorities in all but two states were a bunch of saps. Rather than wait for capitalism to right itself, they backed a president who understood that when private capital stopped investing, public capital had to take up the slack. For some inexplicable reason, they warned to a president who used public funds to bring electricity to rural America rather than wait for private utilities to get around to it in a decade or two. Oddly, they backed a president who put 4 million Americans on the payroll of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) at a time when private payrolls were contracting, and they actually found value in such federal 'make-work' creations as post offices, libraries and the Triborough Bridge.

"Today, the arguments made for and against President Obama's stimulus plan really aren't that different from the arguments that were made for and against the New Deal some 75 years ago. Where the New Dealers brought electric power to rural Americans, the Obama people want to bring them broadband access. Where the New Deal built dams to generate power

• See BRUGGER page 14

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• HIS & HERS •

Things I don't want to write about

By John Armor

When you write a weekly column for 15 years, there comes a time when you have a column due, and only a handful of subjects you don't want to write about in your knapsack. Judge for yourself whether you want to read about a stolen hat, a blocked intestine, a frozen underground pipe, or how cold it's been the last two weeks.

The last subject can be handled quickly. In January of 1994 the workmen showed up to handle some inside work at my home, and Raymond Holland, who has a fine sense of humor, said that "it was cold enough to freeze crap in a chicken." I laughed and said, "Can you imagine how the switchboard would light up if Willard Scott said that on air? But everyone would have a clear idea of how cold it really was."

It is that cold again. Which is why the underground pipe from our spring to our house has frozen again. Which is why our lives are in the hands of our plumber, Drew, who is a prince among men, and who has solved the problem, again.

A blocked intestine is the human equivalent of the frozen water pipe. About the time that the house plumbing failed, so did my personal plumbing. So we called an ambulance to fetch me to the hospital. The more contact I have with the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, the greater respect I have for that institution and the fine folks who work there.

We arrived at the Emergency Room shortly before midnight on Friday. I had no idea that the CT-scan machine would be manned and ready to go then. By 3:45 I had a proven diagnosis and a course of treatment. No, I'm not going to describe that course of treatment. Suffice to say it involved a fair amount of discomfort, the able and cheerful assistance of many staff people, and it resulted in total success that did not involve the use of heavy anesthetics and sharp knives.

Bottom line (pun intended), when you have what might be nothing, but might be something quite serious, get yourself to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospi-



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

tal and let them sort it out. They saved my life 11 years ago from a major heart attack. They saved my mother's life a decade before that, when she had an aneurism that would have killed her if it had burst before the surgeon reached it.

Plus, the whole staff of that hospital are fine and able people. You will be relieved of

stress and enjoy their company as they sort out what ails you, and send you on your way.

And that brings us to the stolen hat. I had a tan hat, with a tan leather band with "Biltmore" printed on it. It was my favorite hat, since my wife got it for me as a Christmas present, a year ago. Her mother encouraged that gift since she was here then. Any time that two different women tell you that you look "handsome" in a given article of clothing, well, that's that, and you must have it.

You can judge for yourself. It's the hat I'm wearing in the masthead photo.

On Wednesday, my wife and I went to the Rib Shack, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Old Edwards Inn & Spa, for lunch. I forgot my hat and left it behind. When we got home, I called, and they had the hat. But when we came in the next day to get it, the hat was gone.

The people at Rib Shack acknowledged that it was a mistake to leave the hat on the hat rack next to the door, where any patron or employee who wanted a nice hat, could just snap it up and keep on going.

Patrick Leonard, Director of Human Resources of the Old Edwards Hospitality Group, called us this afternoon, Between his thoughtfulness, and an e-mail from the mail order section at the Biltmore Gift Shop, the special hat will be replaced as soon as humanly possible. Kudos to Old Edwards for stepping up to the plate.

The hat may still be in the area. So, if you see a tan hat with "Biltmore" on the band, you could inquire about it. Or, if you took that hat, you could return it to Rib Shack or to Kim Lewicki at the Highlands' Newspaper, who took the photo at the top. Or, make an anonymous call to (828) 526-3149 as to where I can pick it

up. No questions, asked.

Getting the hat back is not as critical as the other items in this column. But it is sentimental since my wife and mother-in-law gave it to me for Christmas. I'll report back if the hat turns up.

• 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 NC. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

The fun has just begun, or...We have nothing to fear but Obama himself

I'm sorry – I just can't help myself. Summer will soon be here and the opportunities will not be as frequent (in the Northern Hemisphere, at least) so I just gotta pass these gems along.

From the Buffalo News last week, "Buffalo State College hosts the national teach-in on Global Warming Situations today – a day the local temperature bottomed

out at a minus 6 degrees. No evidence of global warming here, at least not this morning when an unofficial report to the National Weather Service listed temperatures as low as 9 degrees below zero elsewhere in Erie County."

The story's headline reads "Frigid temperatures take WNY by surprise." Well shoot, all they had to do is place a call to Al Gore

who ostensibly can predict the weather for decades ahead.

Our Bad Girls segment continues to suffer for lack of bad girls' behavior. Our fave Britney did put out a new tune that fried a bunch of mothers who objected to the beyond suggestive lyrics. Frankly, I didn't think anything was objectionable these days; will wonders never cease?

One bright spot on the celeb scene is the reappearance of Boy George, a soul lost in the '80s, who surfaces in some sort of trouble from time to time. Does Boy qualify to be included in the Bad Girl Hall of Shame? I don't know – does anybody really know what Boy's gender really is? I doubt he/she/it does, so where does that leave the rest of us? By default, whatever it is, is in.

So why bring up Boy? According to prosecutors, Boy invited a Norwegian fellow over to play. After a nude photo shoot, the Norski found himself handcuffed to a bed (I hate it when that happens). For reasons that aren't clear, Boy proceeded to beat Lars, or whoever, unmercifully, with a chain. Boy is now looking at an extended stay in a London prison where his proclivity for gender bending will be put to a harsh test. Bad Boy.

I must confess; I have been stalling up until now, hoping to BLAST the Senate for passing that sickening spending bill, but it looks like they'll diddle until my deadline comes and goes; therefore, I'll BLAST them anyway, because it'll make me feel better. As a matter of fact, I'm going to BLAST the whole miserable bunch of them.

Most of us aren't old enough to remember Mack Sennett's Keystone Cops first hand, but I've seen snippets of film of the Cops running around, willy-nilly, going every which way in total disarray. Remind you of anyone lately? But first, in the interest of being fair and balanced, let me rip the Bush administration, specifically, Treasury Secretary Hammering Hank Paulson, again. His fear mongering in forcing the passage of the TARP legislation was unconscionable.

Congress responding to it was just as bad. Henry cried on that Friday, "it must pass by Monday or it's over. The government must start buying troubled assets and the banks must start lending or our economy will implode." The government didn't, the banks didn't, and the economy didn't. Hank used fear to get what he wanted (billions for his ex-colleagues in the banking industry).

Now we see the Keystone Cops, aka the Senate, being put under intense pressure by none other than Obama, who campaigned railing against Bush's alleged fear tactics. This pressure has sent them scurrying to see how fast they can spend \$1,200,000,000,000 of your money. "If you take your time, and give some thought to what you're voting on" sez the prez, "our economy will implode, so pass



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

it and I mean now." (Well, he didn't use those exact words, but close enough.) He learned his lesson well from Paulson.

So, the voters elected a liberal President on top of a liberal Congress that will soon pass the kiss of death to capitalism. Your grandkids will be taxed at a rate of 60%-70% or higher to pay for the opportunity Rahm Emmanuel says is too good to pass up. The economic system that allowed you to prosper won't be available to your successors.

I detest the forwards that tell you that if you don't forward it to at least 10 people, you'll suffer eternal damnation. However, while it will probably be too late, call your federal representatives and tell them to vote against the "stimulus package." Google in Heath Schuler, Richard Burr and Kay Hagan and get their phone numbers. Call their offices; tell them how you feel about the prospect of living under socialism.

... LETTERS from page 2

conveniently fails to answer, the actual point of Ms. Brugger's article: that a "Jewish Democracy" is a contradiction in terms; a Jewish Democracy is no democracy at all. It is in fact an oligarchy, defined by Random House as "a form of government in which all power is vested in a few persons or in a dominant class or clique."

As to Mr. Coulson's protracted agitation over Ms. Brugger's use of the WASP acronym, the several dictionaries I've consulted define "WASP" as (1.) an acronym for White Anglo-Saxon Protestant or (2.) a member of the privileged, established white upper middle class in the U.S. That's it. I didn't find one definition conflating WASP with a stinging insect or find any other dreadful negative connotations that Mr. Coulson insists are there. I suppose someone at some time at some place could use WASP with a negative implication attached but Ms. Brugger's article clearly did nothing of the kind. She was simply saying that if our country was called "The White Anglo Saxon Protestant State" it would not be a democracy.

Anyone who knows Katie Brugger knows her to be scrupulously honest, fair-minded, and good-hearted. Her columns, which she writes without monetary compensation for her own pleasure, have over the years consistently demonstrated her integrity. Venomous attacks by the likes of Bernie Coulson perfectly demonstrate the depths to which Zionists and their lackeys will sink in order to pursue their Israel-First agenda.

Arthur Hancock
Highlands

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Taize worship coming to Highlands



Chaplain Margaret Howell
Holy Family Lutheran Church – ELCA

There is a tiny village in south central France, in the Burgundy region where, from April to October, up to 5,000 people spend a week to visit and worship with an ecumenical community of brothers who themselves number only about 100.

Conditions are primitive, with most visitors sleeping in tents or in rough barracks and sharing communal facilities. Meals are served field camp style and everyone pitches in with the chores involved in feeding and cleaning up after 5,000 people. If it rains, it rains.

What then, draws thousands of people a year, mostly young people, from all over the globe to this spot? Why do people of every race, religion and tongue gather here?

What are they seeking? To understand their reasons, one must first discover what Taize is all about.

History:

In 1940 Brother Roger Schutz, the son of a Lutheran minister, bought an old deserted house with a few outbuildings just outside the tiny Burgundian village of Taize, France. He and his sister Genevieve first started the community as a sanctuary for wartime refugees, including Jews and later German POWs.

Roger and some Christian friends, mostly Protestants, took monastic vows in 1949, and within years Taize had become a magnet for young travelers. The brothers all work for a living, and do not accept donations. It became known simply as Taize, named after the tiny French village nearby.

Taize is deeply committed to religious unity, and reconciliation and although its founders were all Protestants, it drew on many different Christian traditions, including Roman Catholic. Members of the community still belong to their own denominations, even though they take vows of charity and poverty. The ultimate hope of Brother Roger and his community is that all people of faith unite in love and reconciliation. Pope John XXIII called it "That little spring-time." Pope John Paul II paid a visit and praised "the transparency of brotherly love." The brothers have also welcomed Archbishops of Canterbury, Orthodox Patriarchs, Lutheran bishops and Methodist and Baptist pastors.

The very heart of the Taize community is the service of prayer, held three times daily. The emphasis of its style is on silence, light, and above all the meditative weaving together of prayer and music.

Meditative singing: Singing is one of the most essential elements of worship. Short songs, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character. Using just a few words they express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind.

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

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

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
Pastor Gary Hewins
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30am Sunday School for all ages;
10:45am Worship; 6pm High School Group
Tuesdays: 10am Women's Bible Study; 2nd, 4th, & 5th Tuesdays Young Mom's Bible Study
Wed.: 5pm Dinner; 6pm AWANA, Youth Activities

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.
Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry
Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN
Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m. (nursery provided)
Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.; Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.; Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 10:55 a.m.; Sun.School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy
526-3376
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m. Youth Group
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs: 12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA
Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sunday, Dec 28, Service at 10:30 AM
Sundays: Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion – 10:30
HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
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Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAIN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Parish office, 526-2418
Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Evening Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH
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Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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• COOKING ON THE PLATEAU •

Baking from the heart

Here's a saying that I just love: "There's nothing better than a good friend – except a good friend with chocolate." What better way to be a good friend on Valentine's Day than by baking up some chocolate treats? This big, frosted chocolate chip Heart Cookie is a perfect way to appreciate a teacher, coach or friend. Using refrigerated dough and a heart-shaped pan mean it's no trouble at all to make. And it also leaves time to make some gorgeous Red Velvet Cupid-cakes for an extra special Valentine. The color may be red, but the flavor is all yummy chocolate!

Red Velvet Cupidcakes

Makes 18 cupcakes

Cupcakes

4ounces Nestlé Toll House Chocolatier 62% Cacao Bittersweet Chocolate Baking Bar, broken into small pieces

- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 3 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon red food coloring

Cream Cheese Frosting

- 1 package (3 ounces) cream cheese, at room temperature
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 cups powdered sugar
- Assorted sprinkles (optional)

For Cupcakes:
PREHEAT oven to 350° F. Paper-line 18 muffin cups.

MICROWAVE chocolate in small, uncovered, microwave-safe bowl on HIGH (100 percent) power for 45 seconds; STIR. If pieces retain some of

their original shape, microwave at additional 10- to 15-second intervals, stirring just until melted. Cool to room temperature.

COMBINE flour, baking soda and salt in small bowl. Combine milk and vinegar in small glass measure. Beat sugar, oil, eggs and vanilla extract in large mixer bowl on high for 2 minutes. Carefully beat in melted chocolate and red food coloring. Gradually beat in flour mixture alternately with milk mixture. Spoon into prepared muffin cups, filling 2/3 full.

BAKE for 22 to 27 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in centers comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely. Frost with Cream Cheese Frosting. Top with sprinkles, if desired.

For Cream Cheese Frosting:

BEAT cream cheese, butter, milk and vanilla extract in medium mixer bowl until light and fluffy, scraping bowl occasionally. Gradually beat in powdered sugar until light and fluffy. Makes about 1 3/4 cups.

• Courtesy of Family Features



• ANOTHER POV •

Look away and it just didn't happen

Last month Pope Benedict XVI revoked the excommunications of four schismatic bishops who had been excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church in 1988. The four are members of the Society of St. Pius X, which was founded by French archbishop Marcel Lefebvre in 1970, as a protest against the modernizing reforms of the Second Vatican Council, also called Vatican II. Archbishop Lefebvre made these four men bishops in unsanctioned consecrations in Switzerland in 1988, and that action prompted Pope John Paul II to excommunicate all five. Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre died in 1991.

On the surface it seems that the revocation action by the Pope was to ease tensions between the Vatican and its ultra conservative faction, and under normal circumstances it would strictly be a Vatican issue having little impact on the outside world. However, one of the reinstated, Richard Williamson, a British-born cleric, has previously given interviews that he denied the extent of the Holocaust.

In 1989, during a speaking tour in Canada, he said Jews were "the enemies of Christ" and had fabricated the Holocaust as part of a plot to secure the creation of the state of Israel. Just two days before the revocation, a prerecorded interview with Williamson was released in which he insisted that no more than 300,000 Jews died in Nazi concentration camps, "Not one of them by gassing in a gas chamber." Most credible historical accounts estimate that 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust. When the Vatican announced that Pope Benedict XVI had lifted the excommunication of these four bishops, including this English Holocaust-denier, there was an outcry from around the world especially from the Jewish community.

As an American soldier I lived in Germany for eight years and I have seen the camp at Dachau and I have seen for myself what evil man can do. I have watched the actual films of the liberation of the camps and I have seen for myself what evil man can do. I have spoken to those who lived in Germany during that time and some who have survived the camp, and I have heard for myself what



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

evil man can do. To deny it had happened or to support those who deny it is nothing less than supporting the evil that man can do.

In 1939 a shipload of German Jews was allowed to leave Germany to seek asylum in Cuba but they were refused entry by Cuba and Canada and, to our shame, United States. The ship was forced to return to Europe where the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands accepted the refugees. Of the original 939 Jewish passengers, 227 died when the Nazis invaded France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. All that happened almost 70 years ago — people believed if we just look away it didn't happen. How could the Vatican look away from what happened? By supporting Richard Williamson they have.

To the south of us, in the province of Darfur, in the country of Sudan, on the continent of Africa, man has once again shown the depths of evil into which it can sink — genocide.

For five years since the genocide in Darfur began, a half million people have been slaughtered, and millions have been forced from their homes and their country. The United Nations has issued edicts and a token force has been sent but little has changed and the slaughter continues. The situation is complicated to say the least. First, there are the warring rebels (principally the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), along with its fraction groups, and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and its many groups. Second, there is the corrupt Sudan government, which, after the peace treaty of 2005, developed governments in north and south Sudan. And third, there is the Sudan government supported Janjaweed militia, which the government denies supporting, that United Nations has accused of attacking and killing civilians.

To complicate the situation even further Chad, Sudan's (Darfur) western neighbor has accused Sudan's Janjaweed militia of attacking 200,000 refugees that came to eastern Chad after fleeing violence in Darfur. Sudan has accused Chad of backing Darfur's rebels as they carried out cross-border raids. And Sudan's neighbor to the south, the Central African Republic (CAR) has accused Sudan of

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Ping Pong

Foosball

Pool Table

Skating area (roller blade, in-line)

Climbing Wall

Other _____

Highlands' Newspaper

backing the rebels within their country who have seized towns in CAR.

Meanwhile millions of innocent civilians have been victimized by all sides. Estimates that nearly a half million people are dead, two million have fled the country, and, according to a study by the Kenya-based Rift Valley Institute, some 11,000 young boys and girls were seized (by Janjaweed) and taken across the internal border into southern Sudan where they have been forced into slavery. The Sudanese government has armed the Arab militias (Janjaweed) who terrorize the southern population solely to distract rebel forces from attacking government targets. The area is in chaos and it is no coincidence or surprise that the waters off the coast of Sudan are the center of operations for the resurgence of pirates; pirates who seize even super tankers and hold nations at hostage.

There are times for diplomacy and times for definitive action. I am not inclined to sanction the use of might but when such depravity exists we must use all the power we have to end it.

Some people would say that Darfur is not our problem, we have too many problems of our own to face, but I have another point of view. If we just look away it didn't happen, isn't an epitaph that we can leave for our children or for the people of Darfur. This isn't a ship we can turn away from our shore. This is a ship for which we need to provide a port of safety.

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

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Shelby Place. Exceptional nearly new home offered in Highlands city limits features privacy-plus yet has the convenience of a pleasant walk to town. Easy entertaining on the wrap-around front porch or inside in the open kitchen and great room. Large master bedroom, bath and dressing room on the main level with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths on upper level. Small creek in front yard adds to the beautiful professional landscaping. 24-hour showing notice given home is occupied. Offered at \$675,000. mls #67101



Shelby Place. Located close to town in the desirable Shelby Place, this spacious home was built originally by Schmitt construction as the builders personal home. Quality finishes throughout, from the copper roofed Bay windows to the wood floors and heavy moldings. The easy living plan expands for guests/family comfort on the terrace level. Huge screened porch and 2 car garage make this a great family home! Offered at \$895,000. mls #67113



Satulah Ridge 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, large great room with stone fireplace that expands onto large screened porch. Partial slab basement with great workshop. Some furnishings are negotiable and it is in move-in condition! Offered at \$335,000. mls #67111



This brand new 3 bedroom, 3 bath home on almost an acre is close to Highlands with custom rock fireplace and all custom wood inside. The house is just completed and ready for your own taste. Offered at \$595,000. mls #66828



Lakeside Lodge. Overlooking Osage Lake at 3800' elevation in the Rocky Knob community. This home in is a paradise for swimming, canoeing, hiking, star gazing and fishing. An unequaled "green" home in a quiet clean environment, it is also tough, worry free and fun with massive stone terraces & pillars, pretty waterfall and a fire pit served by stone picnic tables just yards from the lake. The landscape fits its environment seamlessly. Inside, the great room is framed with log timbers, 14" thick hand patterned walls and hydronic warm floors. Guests love the inviting chestnut and granite kitchen, gathering around the large island affords a comfortable relaxed feeling. The views from inside are great with the roof garden as a foreground toward the lake and mountains, the waterfall in its stone terrace off the master, and lake and forest views to the north. Engineered from the footer to the ridgepole and finished with handcrafted, durable and practical custom details throughout, including quality 20 year guarantee doors and windows. This lodge avoids "store bought" with irreplaceable artistic elements used originally to create a "tech updated" home with a yesteryear aesthetic. Offered at \$890,000. and shown by appointment only. mls #67096



Highlands Falls on Falcon Ridge. Perched on a hill is this spacious home with ridge line view! Great finish and room dimensions. 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths. Large greatroom with fireplace, granite countertops and stainless kitchen. Full lower level guest area with family room. 2 car garage. One of the best values in Highlands Falls! Offered at \$995,000. Membership is available with membership requirements. mls #67078



Satulah Ridge. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths plus 2 one car garages and an extra Lot. Great family home or getaway. Excellent condition and owned by the same family for over 25 years. Lower level has additional family room with kitchenette. Offered at \$ 595,000. mls #66952



Highlands Country Club. Log home features 4 bedrooms and 4 baths. Excellent location off Hutchinson Court with a wonderful Blue Valley View to the south and privacy at the end of the lane. This home is well maintained and is a best buy at the Club. Offered at \$1,429,000. Unfurnished but with membership availability. mls #66924



ATTENTION RENOVATORS! Purchase and renovate this home in town on Laurel Street. It was built in the early 1900s, sits on about a quarter acre and is close to Mill Creek. The land is level providing a perfect garden spot. Currently rented so call for an appointment. Offered at \$200,000 as is. mls #67068



Walk to town and a View for under \$500,000. Rare but we have one located on Holt Circle. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, plus a bonus room. Rustic flair and an open great room design. Fireplace to cozy up to on those chilly nights! Great porch to enjoy the mountain view! Fully furnished for \$449,000. mls #67123



Great 3 bedroom., 2 bath mountain home with exceptional long range mountain views. Living area with lots of glass to enjoy the views. Huge rock fireplace, updated kitchen with silestone countertops. The deck with great views runs th entire length of the home with access from bedrooms and family room. Great community close to town. Offered at \$785,000. mls #66956



Commercial Office Professional

Great location on Harris lake features reception and waiting area, with 2/3 offices and bathroom. Room for expansion and a wonderful setting. Offered at \$750,000. mls #67077

• COACH'S CORNER •

What this rivalry means to me

It was March 12, 1989 — my earliest memory of Duke, or Carolina for that matter. I was only 8 years old, but I can remember watching the two teams playing on my television and wondering what was so special about these two blue teams. It seemed as if my whole family was cheering for the light blue team, so I decided to take up the mantle of the underdog...or so it seemed at the time.

The light blue team was winning by three, 77 to 74 (ironically, the same final score of the worst day of my life as a Duke fan — when UConn pulled a historic upset in the 1999 championship game) and a player by the name of Danny Ferry almost pulled out a miracle for the dark blue team when he hit the back of the rim from the opposite free throw line. It was on this day that a choice every North Carolina boy must make was made. It was that day that I became a Duke fan, and depending on who you talk to, it was the best or worst choice I ever made.

You see, while Duke may be heralded by ESPN and Dick Vitale, here in North Carolina, they will always be the underdog. There is certainly an ugly stepsister aspect to Duke here in the Old North State when it comes to basketball, as Duke has always been the little brother to UNC throughout the years, despite the remarkable success of both teams. Whereas the University of North Carolina is the school of the people of NC, Duke is seen as a place for the affluent or pretentious -- the faux gothic wonderland of the South that can neither be as prestigious as Harvard nor as down home as NC State.

It's this kind of inferiority complex that can only be brought about by a big brother as successful as North Carolina. The Dean Smith's and Michael Jordan's of the world have a way of bringing out the best in their opponents, but the worst in their vanquished. While schools like NC State and Wake Forest have had their years, they have not seriously challenged the position of UNC in this state the way that Duke has over the past 30 years, and



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

therefore it is Duke who held the mantle of challenger to the king's throne.

While this way of thinking is all well and good, something unusual happened a little over 10 years ago. While North Carolina was still king in North Carolina, Duke was anointed by the national media as the premier program in college hoops -- an insult like no other to the proud Tar Heels who were bewildered by the national attention given to the school eight miles down the road.

It was once a North Carolina fan's birthright to hate Duke, but now they were joined by a chorus of screaming challengers to the Duke throne. For UNC fans, being lumped in with the Marylands and the Connecticuts of the world was too much to bear -- and Roy Williams was brought in to "restore order" to the basketball world.

Five years later, UNC is tied for first place in the ACC standings with the Blue Devils, but have again taken the lead in the national race for recognition. Two March flameouts and weak recruiting classes have left Duke again looking up the Heels, and North Carolina has again regained the advantages in National Championships and ACC Championships. The renewed success of the Heels has also brought about a new generation of Carolina fans, who have basked in the highs of the rivalry, but have yet to experience the ebb and flow of their older and wiser counterparts.

Wednesday night will bring the latest chapter of a story that improves every time it is told. I know that regardless of the outcome, Thursday I will be bombarded with either the boasts of victorious Carolina fans or the whines of despair from the fallen.

There will be joy in this state Thursday, and there will be sorrow, for there must be a winner Wednesday night. However, the real pleasure of this rivalry comes in knowing that while there will be a battle won -- the war is never over...and it will never be over.

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... BRUGGER continued from page 6

from rivers, the Obama people want to build a power grid that can channel electricity generated by wind."

President Obama published an op-ed piece in the *Washington Post* last week laying out some arguments in favor of the stimulus package: "In recent days, there have been misguided criticisms of this plan that echo the failed theories that helped lead us into this crisis — the notion that tax cuts alone will solve all our problems; that we can meet our enormous tests with half-steps and piecemeal measures; that we can ignore fundamental challenges such as energy independence and the high cost of health care and still

expect our economy and our country to thrive."

I am sure there are unnecessary measures (aka pork) in the stimulus bills. But when you remember how much money we have thrown at the banking industry in the last six months with no evidence of any return, the stimulus package doesn't look so large.

We have tried tax cuts and they have failed. Let's give government investment a try. Call your senators and congressman and tell them to vote in favor of the stimulus package.

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

• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

Thinking about the future, while acknowledging the past

Last week the Highlands Town Board along with the town's department heads had an all-day multifaceted retreat at the Mountain Retreat Center which was facilitated by Bill Gibson and Tom Tyre of the Southwestern (NC) Commission.

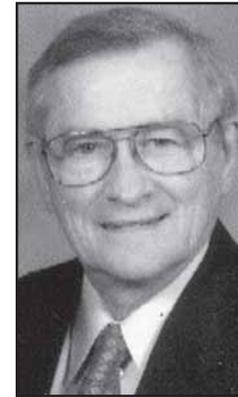
This meeting was well covered by the newspapers, but I have several comments from my perspective.

A wide range of subjects were discussed in attempts to develop both short-term and long-term understandings of our priorities as leaders of the Town of Highlands. The discussion was good. At these kinds of retreats we do not make definite decisions on any one subject but obtain an overall consensus as to the direction we are going as we begin to set priorities. These kinds of events also develop amongst the participants and allows our full time department head's major input into their particular areas. I was pleased with the open discussions and general direction of the retreat.

Several issues came out as overriding priorities for the town to consider over the next several years. The dredging of the Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah from whence the town water supply comes, completion of sewer lines, particularly around the lakes, and stormwater control were certainly given major attention.

We are currently applying for federal grants for all of these matters. The recent infrastructure congressional initiative hopefully will yield funds for each of these projects. Just this past week, I have been in touch with both the offices of Senator Burr and Congressman Shuler along with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and have been encouraged that finally we may be able to get at least partial funding for these projects.

For some things our policy of "pay as you go" may be altered somewhat in the future. Currently the town has no debt and possesses a relatively large re-



Mayor Don Mullen

serve fund. We are in really good financial condition and intend to remain so. However, there are some projects which can be funded over a number of years at a very low interest rate at which we certainly will be looking.

Fiscal conservatism is important to us and has worked well for many years but this policy may be altered because of the overriding need for action in several of these very important

projects. And all of this can be done without significantly raising taxes which continue to be lower than most comparative towns. However, adding debt with the country in a deep recession feels very uncomfortable to both me and the rest of the commissioners. I think we can assure the public that we will not make any rash decisions in this time of a deep worldwide economic turmoil.

We also discussed personnel issues, the proposed new Town Hall, the use of the soon to be vacated ABC Store and many other issues. Let me remind everyone that curbside recycling is now occurring in Highlands and is offered by the private Trash Company of Jackson County. There is a small fee currently of \$15 monthly for weekly pickup and I encourage everyone to participate. My wife and I are personally using them and have been very pleased.

Let me also remind you that an important recognition event occurs at the Highlands Community Center on Friday February 20 to honor our retiring Town administrator Richard Betz. It will begin at 6 o'clock and all are invited for food, drink and camaraderie as we celebrate over 26 years of service to the town by Richard.

It is my hope that many will come to congratulate Richard on the wonderful years of service he has given to our town. One of the reasons the town is in such good financial condition is due to the fine work of Richard Betz and we all wish him the best as both he and Martha plan for the rest of their lives.

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Among the "Soup for our Troops" makers are (L-R) Eckerd Center resident Bill Leonard, Food Service Manager Kathy Owens, Nutrition intern Tomeika Battle, Nutrition Department staff member Greg Porter, FELC residents Joan Fallot and Estelle Crane, Dietary Technician Paul Cipriano, and resident Therese Finnerty.

Eckerd Center residents and staff launch 'Chicken Soup for the Troops'

Well, it won't be only chicken soup, and no, the staff and residents at the Fidelia Eckerd Center aren't planning on actually sending containers of soup to U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan or Iraq. However, selling soup in the hospital cafeteria later this month is one part of a month-long effort to support the troops.

Residents and staff are also hoping that members of the community will get behind the effort, by donating items - new and used - that can go into care packages that will be sent to troops in war zones. They are looking for current magazines, DVDs, CDs, blank cards (for soldiers to send to their loved ones), snack food and candy, and virtually any small convenience items that the soldiers could use. The Center's "support our troops" effort is the idea of Shawna Mellott, administrator of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, whose own sister and brother-in-law recently returned from tours of duty in Iraq. Her brother-in-law, 1st Sgt Mike Gooding, who was stationed with Patrol Base Razor outside Samarra, told her that troops are eager to receive almost anything from back home.

"We were originally planning to send packages to soldiers in Iraq, but Mike told me we should perhaps consider sending packages to soldiers in Afghanistan, particularly units that are in remote locations without access to a PX or commissary," she said. "So we are working with a national organization that helps groups back home 'adopt a unit.' This is something that is near and dear to my heart, and I'm hoping we can have an impact on at least one soldier by providing them some love from the U.S.!" Some of the details are still being worked out, but eventually the group here will be

provided information about a particular unit — hopefully in Afghanistan — that will include where the unit is from, their mission, and perhaps more specifics. Both staff and residents have gotten behind the effort, including many in the Nutrition Services Department at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Mellott says she is hoping to make at least 10 care packages from items either donated or purchased.

Donation boxes will be located around the hospital campus, in the various medical buildings as well as the Eckerd Center lobby and at the acute care nurses' station in the hospital. Staff, residents and members of the public are invited to bring items in at their convenience. The group will be collecting items until Feb. 27.

And at least two fundraising events are planned in the next two weeks. Staff and residents will hold a soup and cornbread cook off on Friday, Feb. 20. They will be making their favorite soups that morning, which will be judged, and then sold along with cornbread at lunch that day. The proceeds will go to supplement items going into the care packages. The public, as well as staff, are invited to come by the hospital cafeteria and purchase soup.

The group also plans a cookie sale in the next two weeks, but details are still being worked out.

"Our primary focus is not to raise money. What we are really looking for are donations of things the soldiers would like. The money we raise will help us purchase items to fill in, and cover shipping costs," she added. As for the future, Mellott said the center may consider keeping the program going beyond February if there is enough support.

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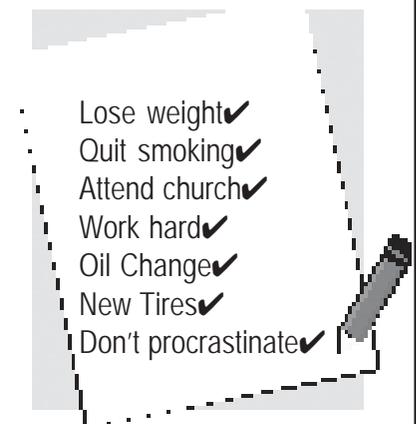
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going Events

• The Bascom is offering a host of art classes for preschoolers to pre-teens from now through the end of the school year. For more information, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 0#.

• 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).

• Collections for men and women overseas at Chestnut Hill Retirement community. A wide variety of items currently is needed, including books and magazines, CDs and DVDs, and small pocket books, which fit neatly in the BDUs (Battle Dress Uniforms). The drop point for all items will be under the flagpole at the Chestnut Hill Clubhouse on Clubhouse Trail. For any questions, or to schedule a drop-off call (828) 787-2114.

• 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 minis-

ters Matt and Candace Woodroof at 828-369-7540 ext 203.

• Raffle of handcrafted Stiefel Botanical Book to Benefit The Bascom. To purchase a raffle ticket, call 526-4949, ext. 8#.

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

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

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

• 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.

Tues. & Thurs.

• Dance Aerobics with Susan, 8:30 a.m. at the Rec Park.

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

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

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

Tuesdays

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

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

Wednesdays

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

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

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The Bascom plans Collective Spirits wine festival May 29-30

Hundreds of wine lovers will converge on The Bascom May 29-30 when the art center presents the third annual Collective Spirits wine festival.

Tickets are on sale now for the two-day festival, which will be the first major event to be held in The Bascom's new \$11 million, six-acre, architect-designed facility

Featured activities of the wine festival include grand wine tastings, silent auction, fare by local chefs, a symposium led by leading U.S. wine specialists, all capped off by a gala seated dinner on The Bascom's new terrace, followed by a live auction of exceptional wines and special wine-related items.

All proceeds benefit The Bascom, a nonprofit visual art center.

"Highlands has the highest ratio of Wine Spectator Awards per number of restaurants than any other location," said Don-



na Woods, The Bascom's events director. "The 2009 Collective Spirits further establishes Highlands as a wine destination, and the fact that the event will be held at The Bascom's spectacular new facility is a special bonus. It will be an amazing weekend."

The presenting sponsor of the event is Bank of New York-Mellon. Other corporate sponsors are Harry Norman Realtors/Pat Allen and Bert Mobley, brokers; Highlands

Wine & Cheese Shop; and The Laurel magazine. Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop is the official wine retailer of the event.

Tickets are \$100 for the Friday Evening Wine Tasting, \$225 for the Saturday Evening Wine Gala and \$295 for a combination Friday-Saturday ticket.

For sponsorship, benefactor and ticket information, contact The Bascom at 526-4949 or www.thebascom.org.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

• 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.

1st & 3rd Thursdays

• The local affiliate of NAMI NC (National Alliance on Mental Illness), NAMI Appalachian South, meets from 7-9 p.m. at the Family Restoration Center, 1095 Wiley Brown Road, Franklin. NAMI offers peer support, education, and advocacy for individuals suffering from serious mental illness and their families and loved ones. Contact Ann Nandrea 369-7385, Carole Light 524-9769 or Mary Ann Widenhouse 524-1355 for more information.

2nd & 4th Fridays

• Community Drum Circle at the Highlands Rec Park, from 6-7:30 p.m. come experience a fun family friendly drum circle. All ages are encouraged

to attend this free event. All experience levels welcomed. Celebrate community with facilitated interactive rhythmical dialogue. Bring your own drum or percussion instrument. Some extra drums and percussion will be supplied. For more information call 421-0551.

Thursdays, beginning March 5

• Taize worship is coming to Highlands at 7 p.m. at the Lutheran Chapel of the Holy Family, 2152 Dillard Road. There will be 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

Thursday, Feb. 12

• Open House Night at Creative Images at Falls on Main from 5:30-7:30. Featuring finger foods, punch, door prizes and a 35% OFF SALE on all products and a 50% OFF JEWELRY SALE.

• The League of Women Voters of Macon County will sponsor a program featuring R.E.A.C.H. director, Ann VanHarlingen. Van Har-

lingen will discuss their programs and facilities relating to domestic violence — Resources, Education, Assistance, Counseling, and Healing. R.E.A.C.H. has been serving our community since 1980. Learn how you can help — volunteers give more than 8500 hours per year! The program will be held at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. Lunch is available by reservation — call 524-5192. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

• The February meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School, in Glensville. Drive around to the back of the school to the wood-working shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday at the Blue Ridge School at 6 p.m. November through March and 7 p.m. April through October. Listen to WHLC (104.5 FM) at 5 p.m. for cancellation due to weather.

• Becky Lipkin, well known local herbalist, will present a program at the Jackson County Public Library entitled "Create a Cupid's Cupboard" on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Becky will show participants how to make a variety of unique and personal bath and body herbal products. Participants will make and take home a variety of passion products including massage and body oils, along with bath and foot soaks. Many luscious recipes will be included in handout information. This program is free. For further information, please contact Edith Peden at 586-2016.

Saturday, Feb. 14

• Live music at Cyprus International Restaurant with Zorki playing original music and classic covers starting at 9:30 p.m.

• NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB will take a 6-8 mile moderate hike with a gradual elevation change of 800 feet in Panthertown Valley, passing several waterfalls and climbing Little Green Mountain. Meet at the Wachovia Bank in Cashiers (in back) at 8:30 a.m. Bring water, a lunch, and wear sturdy shoes. Drive 14 miles round trip. Call leader Walter Taylor, 743-6977, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB will take an easy-to-moderate 5-mile hike from Park Creek to Park Ridge, returning to Standing Indian Campground. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (across from Burger King) at 9:30 a.m. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy shoes. Drive 25 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, Feb. 15

• Cullasaja Assembly of God's youth ministry, "Refuge Youth" will be a doing a, "Relationship Series" Sunday night Feb. 8 and the 15 starting at 6:30 pm. This is for students in grades 6th-12th. This will be a fun series with awesome games, give-aways and great food! Topics to be covered will be from Relationships with God, each other and dating. This will change your life. Call or email Youth Pastors Matt and Candace Woodroof with any questions at 828-369-7540-ext. 203, mwoodroof@agchurches.org. Cullasaja Assembly is located at 6201 Highlands Rd. next to Exxon. www.cullasajaag.org

• NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB will take a 2.5 easy hike on the in the winding stair area on a Forest Service road returning on the Appalachian Trail past a small waterfall. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza at 2 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell at 369-6820 for reservations. Visitors and children over 10 are welcome, but no pets please.

• Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin welcomes The Rev. Jean Rowe, Sunday. Her topic will be "Charles Darwin, the Quest for Truth..." The service and Children Services begins at 11 a.m. Located at 85 Sierra Dr. off Lakeside, 1.2 miles from Hardees. All are welcome. For info 828-524-6777.

Monday, Feb. 16

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association will be a 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

• Yvonne Smith, MHS, RD, CDE, of HealthTracks, will speak on the topic "A Healthy Lifestyle for a Healthy Heart." The educational meeting will be held in the Assisted Living building at Chestnut Hill at 4 pm. The public is welcome. For additional information, call 526-5251.

Tuesday & Wednesday, Feb. 17-18

• See EVENTS page 22

Greenway workday set for Feb. 21



The next Highlands Plateau Greenway trip will be Feb. 21. We will learn how to use a high line system and move stones for rock on rock steps to their final location. We will also continue work on our crib and the upper portion of the new loop if we have enough participants. If you are interested in participating please register with Hillrie Quin at 526-2385 or hmquin@verizon.net. We will meet at the large parking lot behind the Rec Park at 9:00 AM for a brief orientation session and then walk to the trail sections for construction. Participants will be furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment. Participants should bring water, lunch, rain gear, a day pack to hold everything. Boots and warm clothes that can get dirty are advised.

Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

Feb. 13-19

FRIDAY THE 13TH

rated R

Friday (4:20), 7:10, 9:20

Sat & Sun (2:10), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20

Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:10

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rated PG

Friday: (4:15), 7:15, 9:15

Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:15), 7:15, 9:15

Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:15

TAKEN

rated PG-13

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

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

Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7:00

THE PINK PANTHER 2

rated PG

Friday: 7

Sat & Sun: (2:05), 7

Mon – Thurs: 7

VALKYRIE

rated PG-13

Friday: (4:05), 9:05

Sat & Sun: (4:05), 9:05

Mon – Thurs: (4:05)

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HELP WANTED

PART-TIME CLEANERS needed to clean banks in the Cashiers-Highlands area. Call 828-691-6353. 2/12

LPN needed at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Part time position available. Hours include two Sundays per month. 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.

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

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

ONE BEDROOM/ONE BATH partially furnished apartment. 6 miles from Highlands. No smoking/no pets. \$450/mo (negotiable) 828-787-1515

2 BED, 1 BATH HOME FOR RENT in Scaly Mountain. Furnished or unfurnished, no pets, no smoking. \$750 per month plus security deposit and utilities. Call Ann @ Cabe Realty 828-526-2475. 2/12

LEASE HOUSE WITH OPTION AVAILABLE. Remodeled. Between Highlands and Cashiers. 3 bed, 3 1/2 bath and bonus room. No smoking. \$900 a month. Call 828-371-1609 or 828-743-1108 2/26

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

HOUSE FOR RENT AND SALE - 3/2 w/ office, great roommate plan 1600 sq ft., gated community, Scaly Mt. half way between Highlands and Clayton, access to 17 acre lake and hiking from 424 sq ft porch or watch sun rise from 424 sq. ft. deck. \$1,200/mo plus utilities. Internet and satellite available. No children, pets, or ATVs; house actively being shown for sale during rental. Call Pat 828-243-9646 re rent or Becky 828-526-2475 re sale. pscherr@mindspring.com

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

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

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.

VACATION RENTAL

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

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

CAMPER SHELL - from Boondocks in Hendersonville. Fits Toyota short bed. White. \$350. Call 828-743-9254.

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 787-2232.

KOLCRAFT JEEP WAGONEER TANDEM DOUBLE STROLLER. Used rarely. Basically brand new. \$100 or OBO. Call 526-2536.

125-GALLON ALL-GLASS AQUARIUM - over 6 feet in length, was a salt-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 828-526-4946 or 828-200-0268.

SMALL EMERALD AND GOLD RING. Originally \$300 Asking \$175. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m.

BABY LOCK SERGER MACHINE with extra spools of thread. \$200.00 828-631-2675 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

YARD MACHINE LEAF MULCHER - purchased at Lowes. Used only a few times \$350. 526-5056.

SIX CEDAR ADIRONDACK CHAIRS - custom made. \$100 each or all for \$500. Call 526-3824.

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 dress-

er, 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.

BEAUTIFUL, KNOTTY PINE WOOD ENTERTAINMENT CENTER WITH POCKET DOORS. Will hold up to a 31" TV. \$100. Call 369-5863.

ANTIQUA 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.

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

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).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HEWLETT PACKARD 15" CRT MONITOR in good working condition with all connection cord included. "FREE." Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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

VEHICLES FOR SALE

VW NEW BEETLE - 1999 5-speed Turbo. Loaded, Sunroof, multi CD, 38 mpg, great condition. \$4,500 obo 828-526-0454.

SERVICES

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• HS SPORTS •

Highlanders drop three straight

After two tremendous wins last week over Swain County, the Highlander and Lady Highlander basketball teams suffered three losses in 5 days.

On Thursday night, the Highlanders made the long trek to Hiwassee Dam to face the Eagles in a conference rematch from January. The Lady Highlanders hung tough for a half, trailing by only 7 at the break, but the second half saw the Lady Eagles hold HHS to only 12 second-half points en route to a 63 to 30 victory. Brie Schmitt and Emily Munger both scored 7 for the Lady Highlanders.

The Highlanders were polar opposites of their female counterparts, getting outscored by 14 points in the first half after coming out flat. However, the Highlanders awakened in the fourth quarter, cutting the Eagle lead to 2 with 7 seconds to play. Highlands had the ball underneath their own basket with a chance to tie or win, but an errant inbound pass sealed the Highlanders defeat in a 63-59 final score. Andrew Billingsley led the Highlanders with 20 points.

The next night, the Highlands teams showed considerable fatigue in their matchup with Rabun Gap.

The Lady Highlanders started slow and never recovered in a 63-48 loss to the Eagles. Emily Munger scored 15 for the Lady Highlanders. The Highlander boys played well in a few stretches, but had no answer for Rabun Gap's 6'9 center, Nikola Lambic. Lambic dominated the paint, scoring 28 points and pulling down 18 rebounds to give Rabun Gap a 66-42 win over the Highlanders.

Monday night saw both teams host the Hendersonville Bearcats in a non-conference matchup. The Lady Highlanders started strong, leading most of the first half against the Bearcats. However, Hendersonville used a quick 6-0 run out of halftime to gain a lead that they would not relinquish. The Lady Highlanders time and again pulled to within a basket of taking the lead, but could not get over the hump in the 42-37 defeat. Emily Munger scored 17 for the Lady Highlanders.

In the nightcap, the Highlanders had the misfortune of being on the wrong end of a game of runs. The Bearcats used a huge 14-0 2nd quarter run to lead by 17 points at halftime. However, the Highlanders went on their own massive run in the third quarter, using a 17-4 run to cut the Bearcat lead to only 4. That would be as close as the Highlanders would get though, and the Bearcats responded with an 18-0 run that effectively ended any Highlanders hopes for a comeback. Senior Andrew Billingsley scored 17 points for the Highlanders, and seniors Ezra Herz and Michael Baty both scored in double figures in what could be their final home game as Highlanders.

Highlands closes out the regular season Friday night at Blue Ridge. The Little Smoky Mountain tournament will be held next week at Nantahala, with the times to be announced.

... SPIRITUALLY continued from page 9

As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer together and to remain together in attentive waiting on God, without having to fix the length of time too exactly.

Prayer in Worship: These songs also sustain personal prayer. Through them, little by little, our being finds an inner unity in God. They can continue in the silence of our hearts when we are at work, speaking with others or resting. In this way prayer and daily life are united. They allow us to keep on praying even when we are unaware of it, in the silence of our hearts.

Icons in worship: Icons contribute to the beauty of worship. They are like windows

... SHORTFALL continued from page 1

beginning of the fiscal year – July 1 – but isn't hired until November; or teacher supplement money allocated for a number of teachers greater than the existing number; money allocated for election year costs that isn't used, a request for vehicles and other instances.

Without being told to cut a certain amount or even a percentage of their department budgets, department heads came back to County Manager Jack Horton and Southard with a figure very close to \$1,398,600 Southard identified back in January.

"Everyone made a sincere effort," said Horton. "All we asked is that they not cut their ability to perform county services."

He said obviously some departments had more places to cut than others and "as it happened, they came close to the amount we needed cut."

Southard said the money cut from each department's budget doesn't mean the county's 2008-2009 budget has to be amended. "The money will be put in contingency in case we have revenue shortfalls before the

open on the realities of the Kingdom of God, making them present in our prayer on earth. Although icons are images, they are not simply illustrations or decorations. They are symbols of the incarnation, a presence which offers to the eyes the spiritual message that the Word addresses to the ears.

So why then, have millions of people come to Taize and taken its simple and beautiful form of prayer and music to every corner of the earth? Come and see for yourself.

Taize worship is coming to Highlands, on Thursday evenings, beginning March 5 at 7 p.m. at the Lutheran Chapel of the Holy Family, 2152 Dillard Road.

There will be 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

end of the year," she said. "If we need it, we'll have it."

The finance department cut \$17,765; the tax department, \$42,600; the legal department, \$34,188; the board of elections, \$57,000; the register of deeds, \$34,000; the information & technology department, \$124,500; the garage, \$4,000; maintenance, \$143,097; law enforcement, \$69,000; inspections, \$44,500; emergency services, \$108,958; planning, \$50,458; soil conservation, \$2,550; cooperative extension, \$11,200; DSS, \$135,400; Veterans service, \$3,000; recreation, \$96,349; teachers supplement, \$12,764; health programs, \$65,602; and health lapse salaries, \$279,138; a total of \$1,336,069.

Southard said potential revenue shortfalls would likely be due to less interest on investments, less sales tax proceeds, and less money collected through county fees related to construction and development.

– Kim Lewicki

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Newington to do cover for Matt Eberz's latest novel

International photographer Greg Newington has announced he will be shooting the cover for the latest novel by Matt Eberz, *Honor For Sale*. "I just finished Matt's first book, *Tenth Man*, and it was an incredible work. He is a rare talent and the characters he created are wonderful," Greg Newington said. "When we met at my Serenbe studio in Palmetto, GA, I knew I had to take his portrait. When he told me the storyline of his new book the image of what the cover should be came to me immediately and I just had to do it."

Honor For Sale, set in Highlands, N.C., is the third story involving the characters of Major Sam Call (retired) and David Lytle, former special forces and now private investigator. When Sam Call's daughter is

murdered, he brings together the team from *Tenth Man* and *Very Public Data*, to investigate, discover and extract an accounting of the crimes committed upon his family. The military team shows its loyalty and life-long commitment to each other, and how the bond of honor among soldiers and their families transcends time, position, and status. *Honor For Sale* shows not only the sinister side of life that has become all too commonplace, but also the noble side of life as shown by those of character and honor.

Greg Newington, has been a photographer for over 38 years in Australia, the Middle East and in the United States. As a photojournalist, Greg worked in Somalia, Bosnia, Cambodia, China, Laos, Vietnam and

email her at Knytengale@aol.com

"Let us never forget that this simple desire for God is already the beginning of faith."
– Brother Roger

Benefit for Red Potts
at the Highlands Rec Park
February 21
from
5-9 p.m.
Food – Raffle – Auction
and
Cake Auction
Entertainment by the
Dendy Family
and the
Oliver Rice and The Blue
Ridge Mountain Band

Benefit for Policeman Richard Davis
at the Highlands Rec Park
February 27
from
6-9 p.m.
To-go plates start at 5:30 p.m.
BBQ Pork Plates
Desserts for sale
Silent Auction & Entertainment by the Oliver Rice and Johnny Webb & the JW Band

has won the Australian Press Photographer of the Year, as well as prizes in the Nikon Press Awards for Excellence in visual journalism.

"I am so honored and excited by Greg's commitment to do my cover," said Matt Eberz (Sam Call Productions, LLC). "Greg is an award-winning photographer who has done portraits of such famous people as Nelson Mandela, Willie Nelson, Brook Shields and Henry Kissinger that I am at a loss for words as to me excitement I have of Greg doing the cover — and as a writer that says something all by itself."

Greg Newington will be shooting the cover for *Honor For Sale* on location in Highlands in early March.

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Anyone interested in working in New Orleans with the Highlands United Methodist Church March 27 to April 2 should call Robbie Forrester at 342-1627 for details.

• POLICE & FIRE •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for Feb. 3-9. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Feb. 3

- At 8:50 p.m., officers responded to a welfare check concerning a resident on Horse Cove Road. All was OK.

Feb. 4

- At 2:33 p.m., officers responded to a welfare check concerning a resident on Horse Cove Road. All was OK.

Feb. 7

- At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at U.S. 64 east and Cullasaja Drive.

- At 6:10 p.m., officers responded to a call of a fight at a residence on Upper Lake Drive where a man entered a home with an axe and a pick. A fight ensued, but the residents decided not to file charges.

Feb. 8

- At 1 a.m., Beth Bower Cloyd, 57, was arrested for DWI on NC 106.

Feb. 9

- At 11:45 a.m., officers responded to a welfare check on a resident on Horse Cove Road. Officers discussed involuntary commitment due to the family's inability to take care of the family member.

- During the week, officers issued 8 citations and responded to 4 alarms.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Feb. 3-10.

Feb. 3

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Hillside Drive. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Feb. 4

- The dept. responded to a carbon monoxide alarm at a residence on Worley Road. No one was home.

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Hickory Hill Road. It was false due to a low battery signal on the alarm panel.

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Half Oak Drive. It was set off by a broken water pipe that set off the sprinkler system.

Feb. 6

- Twice the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Gibson Street. The first time there was no problem, the second time officers found a broken water pipe.

Feb. 8

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Short Off Road. There was no transport.

Feb. 9

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Cullasaja Drive where a woman had fallen and hit her head. There was no transport.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Dendy Orchard Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a person at Mitchell's Lodge. The person was taken to the hospital.

Feb. 10

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Gibson Street but it was cancelled by the alarm company.

Note:

Anyone interested in learning more about the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department is encouraged to call 526-3645.

The following are the Macon County Sheriff Dept. log entries for the week of Jan. 28-Feb. 1. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 28

- At 4:36 deputies investigated a call concerning a stolen license plate.

- At 1:58 a.m. deputies responded to an alarm activation at a residence on Thomas Knobs Trail.

Jan. 29

- At 4:30 p.m., a resident on the Walhalla Road reported receiving a counterfeit check. The case is under investigation.

Feb. 1

- At 9:15 a.m., deputies responded to an alarm at a residence on N.C. 106.

• 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.

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 or column.

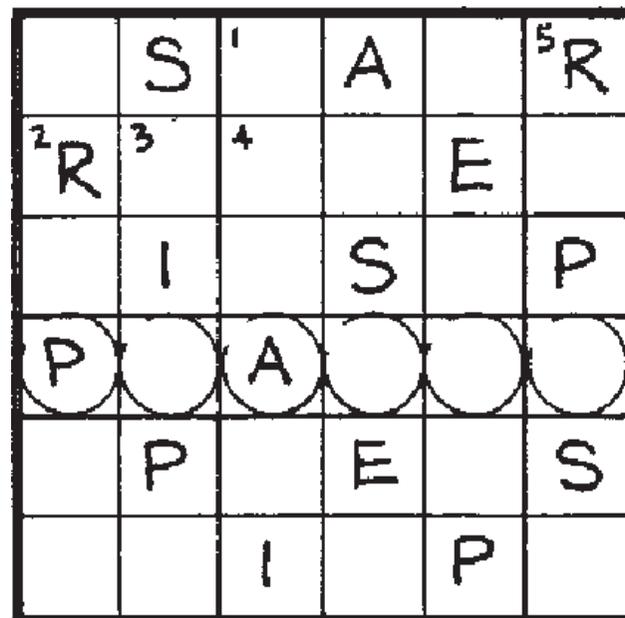
Mystery Word Compliment (8)

Across

- Two of (4)
- Coarse file (4)

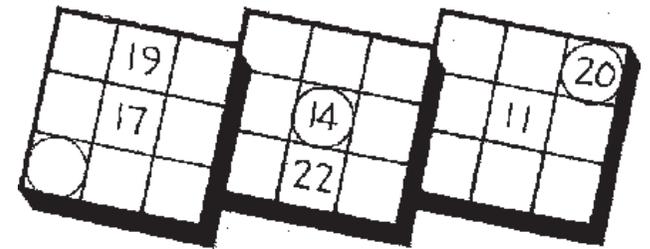
Down

- Knock (3)
- Atmosphere (3)
- To fry briefly (4)
- to tear (3)



PseudoCube[©]

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#DZ3F Level of Difficulty - Difficult

THE SETUP:

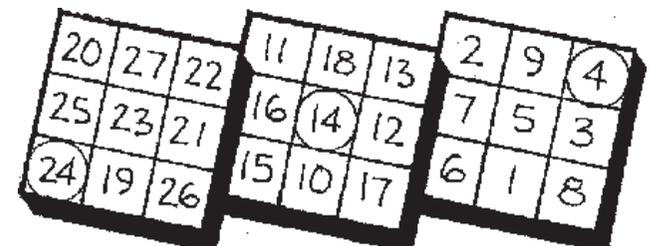
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

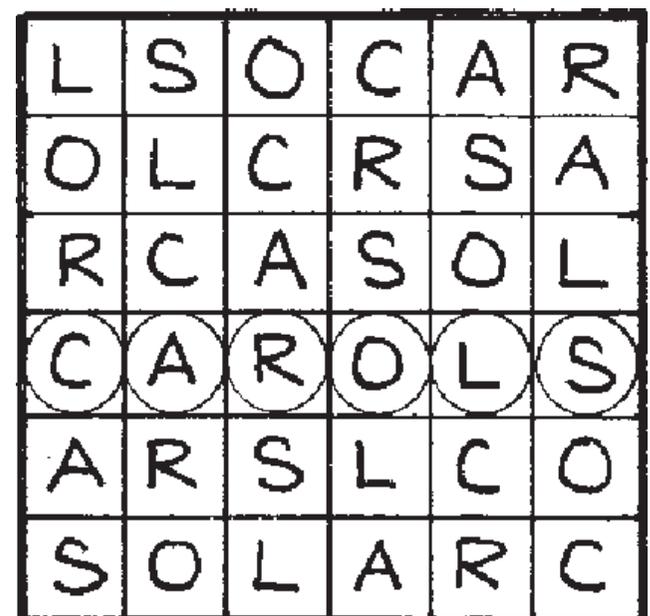
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

Solution to #BZ2F in Feb. 5 issue



Solution to Feb. 5 Hex-a-Ku



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home tours, design tips, and cooking classes

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hosted by Blackberry Bear

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Northland Cable Television

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

• Servsafe Training, 8:39 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the NC Cooperative Extension Center on 193 Thomas Heights Road in Franklin. Cost is \$115 and includes lunch. Registration and payment deadline is January 31, 2009. Please call 349-2046 for an application or with any questions.

Thursday, Feb. 19

• "Roxanne," 1987 rated PG, is based on the play, "Cyrano de Bergerac." Steve Martin plays the long-nosed C. D. Bales. The beautiful Roxanne (Daryl Hannah) falls for his personality, but another man's looks. The film is as funny as it is romantic. The movies will be shown in the Library Meeting Room at 3 p. m. The movies and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated. Movies are among the many services provided to the community by the Friends of the Library.

Friday, Feb. 20

• The community is invited to a "Retirement Party for Richard P. Betz," Friday, from 5-9 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center

Saturday, Feb. 21

• Benefit for Red Potts at the Highlands Rec Park Saturday from 5-9 p.m. Food - Raffle - Auction and Cake Auction. Entertainment by the Dendy Family and the Oliver Rice and The Blue Ridge Mountain Band.

• Highlands Plateau Greenway group will learn how to use a high line system and move stones for rock on rock steps to their final location. Work will

also continue on the crib and the upper portion of the new loop. If interested in participating please register with Hillrie Quin at 526-2385 or hmquin@verizon.net. Meet at the large parking lot behind the Rec Park at 9 a.m. for a brief orientation session and then walk to the trail sections for construction.

• The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center Annual Chili Cook-Off sponsored by the Laurel Magazine, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Call 828-526-5841

• NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB will take a moderate 5-6 mile hike to Rock Gorge and Big Bend falls on the Chattooga River with an elevation change of 300 feet. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:45 a.m. or at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 10 a.m. Drive 45 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader: Call Virginia Talbot for reservations, 526-4904. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• The Macon County Soccer Club (<http://www.maconsoccer.net>) will begin accepting registrations for the Spring soccer season on Saturday, from 10 a.m -12 p.m. at the Macon County Community Building in Franklin and the Highlands Recreation Park. Parents are encouraged to print out the registration form online and bring it with them to the registration. Children age 4 and up are welcome and will be placed on teams according to age. The registration fee is \$45 for players returning from the fall season and \$55 for new registrations.

The registration fee covers uniform (jersey, shorts and socks), state registration and referee fees. A \$5 discount is available for siblings. All new players must provide a photocopy of their birth certificate at the time of registration. The deadline for registering for the Spring season is February 21st. Registrations received after February 21st will incur a \$10 late fee and players will be placed on a wait list. Every effort will be made to place late registrants on a team. However, we cannot guarantee placement on a team before the first game. For more information visit <http://www.maconsoccer.net> or call Michelle Thornton at 828-349-4939.

Sunday, Feb. 22

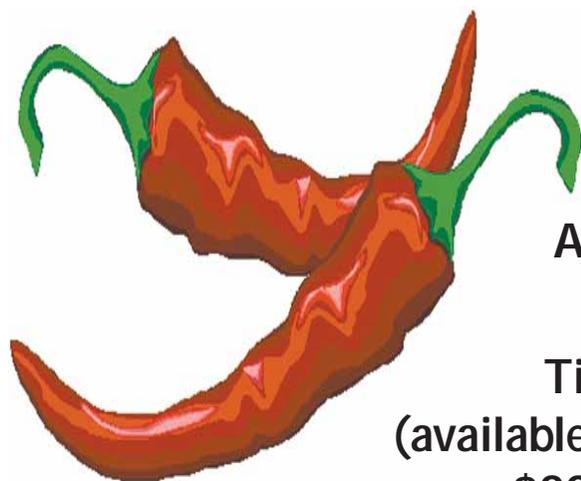
• Free chamber music concert at Highlands First Presbyterian Church featuring the music department of Western Carolina University which will present a faculty showcase. "The Catamount Chamber Players will perform at 4 p.m. at the church.

Saturday, Feb. 27

• Benefit for police officer Richard Davis at the Highlands Rec Park from 6-9 p.m. To-go plates start at 5:30 p.m. BBQ plates and desserts for sale. Silent auction and entertainment by the Oliver Rice and Johnny Webb & the JW Band

• The Highlands Rotary Club will hold its annual Monte Carlo Night on Saturday beginning at 6 pm at the Highlands Community Building next to the Ball Park. Monte Carlo Night is a combination of

• See EVENTS page 23

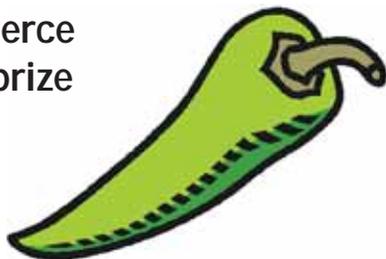


The Annual Chili Cookoff, Salsa and Cornbread Competition Saturday, Feb. 21 6:30-9:30

At the Highlands Community Building (next to the ballfield)

Tickets
(available at the door)
\$20 adults
\$10 children 12 & under

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Call the Chamber of Commerce
at 526-2112 for entry and prize
information



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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Monte Carlo games of skill such as roulette, Black Jack, craps and even Texas Hold'em and a Silent and Live Auction with proceeds going to various local non-profit organizations. Cost is \$40 per person which includes casino chips, refreshments, hors d'oeuvres and a lot of fun. Tickets increase to \$50 on Feb. 24. Tickets are available at: The Macon Bank; Highlands Recreation Park, Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Basketcase in Highlands and Highlands Decorating Center.

Saturday, Feb. 28

• NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB will take a moderate 3.5 mile hike from Upper Whitewater Falls to the Bad Creek Reservoir parking area with a descent of 500 feet. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10a.m. Drive 14 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations.

Friday-Saturday, May 29-30

• The Collective Spirits wine festival will be held at The Bascom visual art center in Highlands. Activities include grand wine tastings, a silent auction, fare by local chefs, a symposium led by leading U.S. wine specialists, all capped off by a gala seated dinner on The Bascom's new terrace, followed by a live auction of exceptional wines and special wine-related items. For information or tickets/sponsorships, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

**Free chamber music concert at
First Presbyterian Church on Feb. 22**



The music committee of Highlands First Presbyterian Church and the music department of Western Carolina University will present a faculty showcase concert featuring "The Catamount Chamber Players" Sunday, Feb. 22 at 4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church on Main Street in Highlands.

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Highlands

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Cliffside Lake & Campground

Bridal Veil

Dry Falls

Glen Falls

Iron Bridge

Scaly Mtn

Cullasaja Falls

Bust Your Butt Falls

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Home Place Blinds

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Brightwater

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p>DINING</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Bucks 2 Cafe 460 3 Don Leons 4 Fressers 5 Horacio's 6 Log Cabin 7 Madison's 8 Oak St. Cafe 9 Paoletti's 10 Pescado's 11 Pizza Place 12 Rib Shack 13 Rooster's 14 SportsPage 15 SweeTreats 16 Wild Thyme 17 Wolfgang's <p>MARKETS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18 Bryson's 19 Dusty's 20 Mtn. Fresh | <p>LODGING</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>RENTALS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Cashiers Resort 16 Chambers 17 Prestige Realty 18 19 20 | <p>SHOPPING</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Guritz Antiques 12 Highlands Photo 13 Mill Creek Gallery 14 Needle Point 15 Peak Experience 16 Rarities 17 Scudders Antq. 18 Shiraz Rugs 19 Stone Lantern 20 Sumint One Gallery 21 Summer House | <p>SHOPPING</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 22 T.A.Anderson 23 Tin Roof Gallery 24 Twigs 25 Village Kids 26 Whole Health 27 Wholesale Down 28 Wine & Cheese 29 Wits End 30 31 32 33 34 35 <p>BEAUTY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 All Seasons 2 Creative Concepts 3 Images Unlimited 4 Taylor Barnes 5 The Salon 6 | <p>REALTY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Blackrock 2 Blair Realty 3 Buyer's Realty 4 Cabe Realty 5 Century 21 6 Chambers 7 Country Club Prop 8 Cullasaja 9 Futural 10 Green Mtn. 11 John Schiffl 12 Marty Jones 13 McKee Prop. 14 Meadows Mtn. 15 Parks Realty 16 Preferred Prop 17 Prestige Realty |
|---|---|---|--|---|
- MAP LOCATIONS**
- 20 \$750. / Cal. Year
- Linked Businesses Highlands Map PDF HighlandsInfo.com**

Community Center & Chili Cook-Off Feb. 21

Performing Arts Center

Community Players

H / C Music Festival

Paoletti's

Rec. Park Pool & Tennis Greenway Trail

Whole Health Market

Fibber Magee's

Mt Findings

Historic Village

Ice Cream

SweetTreats

Brick Oven

MovieStop

Wayah Insurance

Wild Thyme

Madison's

The Bascom Visual Arts Center
Enter Via W. Main St.
Covered Bridge

Log Cabin Restaurant

Dusty's Market

Bryson's Foods Gourmet
Wines & Cheeses
Meats & Produce
To Go Orders

Country Club Prop.
Cimarron Builders

Wright Square

Summit One Art Gallery & Drakes Diamonds

Scudder's GALLERIES
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Wolfgang's

Highlands School K-12

ACE Hardware Doors & Windows
3rd & Main Street

Manley's Auto Service
J&J Lawn & Landscaping
<<< 1 Mile Hwy. 28s

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