Town to ‘model’ stormwater controls

The Town of Highlands has been notified that it received a Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant (CWMTF) for an innovative stormwater project at Kelsey Hutchinson Park, formerly known as Pine Street Park.

“I am extremely pleased that the Town was able to secure grant funds for this vital infrastructure necessary for the development of Kelsey Hutchinson Park,” said Town Commissioner and Public Works Committee Member Hank Ross said McGill Associates prepared the successful grant application. Town Manager Jim Fatla and reported that the total cost of the stormwater project is $220,000. Sources of funds for the project include CWMTF Grant award of $180,000, in kind professional services donated by Crystal Stream Technologies, Haywood Waterways Association and McGill Associates totaling $25,000 and $15,000 cash from the Town of Highlands.

According to Town Engineer Lamar Nix the project includes installation of a hydrodynamic separator and underground detention stormwater conveyance system.

*See MODEL page 14*

ABC Store move final

With its previous space to be occupied by the Highlands Police Department, the Highlands ABC Store is moving to Highlands Plaza.

The new site is between State Farm Insurance and Subway, three doors north of Bryson’s Food Store.

The current ABC Store building was built in 1977 by the ABC Board on property leased to ABC by the Town of Highlands for 20 years at $1 per year.

In 1997, the town renewed the lease for another 10 years and in August 2006, the ABC Board asked the town to renew its lease for 10 more years so it could expand.

At that time, the Town Board told the ABC Board that its five-year plan for expansion of Town Hall included the use of the current ABC building and that the ABC Board should begin looking for a new location.

At that point, commissioners gave the ABC Board the “verbal” OK to withhold profit proceeds earmarked for the town so it could prepare for its future needs. During fiscal year 2008-09 a resolution was signed allowing for the continued withholding of funds.

David Wilkes, Chairman of the ABC Board, said the initial search for a new spot focused on town property so the ABC Board could build and then lease the property from the town. When this didn’t work out, the ABC Board began looking for a space to lease.

In November 2008, the Town

*See ABC STORE page 10*

Firefighters fight blaze on NC 28

Around 11:30 a.m., Monday, Feb. 16, Highlands Fire & Rescue began fighting a brush fire on Satulah Mountain along N.C. 28 south. They were there until 9 p.m. and returned to the scene Tuesday. For more, see page 21.

Photo by Krystal Cutshaw

A new minister is coming to town

On April 5, Palm Sunday, Highlands First Presbyterian Church will welcome its new full time minister, Rev. Doctor Lee Willey Bowman.

Since the election of the denominational committee on Oct. 28, 2007, the church has been searching for a leader who will take the church into the coming decade.

The church was looking for a

*See MINISTER page 5*

TDC Board says OK to Visitor Center budget

The Highlands Tourist Development Commission (TDC) almost finalized the budget allocating all of the estimated Room Tax proceeds Highlands is likely to get FY 2009-10 – an amount expected to be less than previous years.

With the budget “basically finalized” at the Friday, Feb. 13 meeting, the county’s charge concerning the Highlands Visitor Center budget as it applies to the use of Room Tax funds was completed in time for inclusion in the county budget process.

The only item the TDC questioned was the Visitor Center’s $500 per month phone/internet/fax/800-number bill.

Once Visitor Center Director Jan Van Hook verifies the $500 per month allocation is the lowest bid she could get, the budget will be finalized and submitted to the county.

The allocation of Room Tax is now overseen by the TDC – aboard set up by the county in Highlands and Franklin to oversee the allocation of Room Tax Funds.

At Friday’s meeting, Bob Kiel-
Not everyone agrees with Hancock

Dear Editor,


I’m not a Zionist, I’m an American and Israel is an important ally of the United States as well as the European Unions.

If Ms. Brugger read her history books along with the daily newspapers such as the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post she would realize that even Saudi Arabia behind the scenes is an ally of Israel.

When Arthur and Ms. Brugger performed in Highlands at Buck’s Café it was OK to take contributions from a Jewish person. Now that they no longer perform they don’t have to refrain from their vociferous Anti-Semitic remarks.

It seems that the only person that stood up for Katy Brugger is her husband. I guess the rest of the readers of the Highlands’ Newspaper don’t agree with Katy Brugger or Arthur Hancock.

Leila Shuminer
Miami, FL

U.S. Forest Service seeks comments on ‘Forest Botanical Products Policy’

Dear Editor,

The U.S. Forest Service has extended the comment period for public input on the Sale and Disposal of Special Forest Products and Forest Botanical Products Final Rule. The comment period will now end March 2. Detailed information and how to comment may be found on the web at http://e-docket.access.gov/2009/pdf/ E9-1960.pdf

The rule provides consistent national policy for gathering special forest products and forest botanical products on National Forest lands and contains guidelines for setting permit prices. Currently special use permits are required for collection of forest products for commercial or personal use. “We don’t expect major changes in prices for permits”, stated Dale Remington, Sales Forester for the National Forests in North Carolina. Berry picking and nut gathering for personal use does not require a permit.

The National Forests in North Carolina has one of the largest special forest products programs in the nation. This can be attributed to the great diversity of ecosystems in the Southern Appalachians and a long local tradition of gathering special forest products from these mountains. Revenue from these permits has averaged $60,000 over the past three years. This money is used to manage the program to ensure that these special forest products are not over-harvested. Prices for forest botanical products are set based on a percentage of current wholesale market values. The most common special products gathered from the National Forests in North Carolina include galax, ginseng, firewood, locust posts, rhododendron and laurel plants and roots, ramps, and medicinal plants.

High demand for forest botanical products can result in high impacts on some species products. The US Forest Service is mandated to manage the forest resources sustainably.

Through the permit system and the support of forest users, healthy populations of these forest botanicals can be sustained into the future. The return is direct and it benefits the same areas some families have enjoyed for generations.

Permits should be acquired at the Ranger District office closest the site in which you intend to harvest. For a copy of the rule, a complete list of all products, and fact sheets for certain species, reference the National Forests in North Carolina website at http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ncsf/

Thank you for your selfless work for the betterment of Highlands and your attention to these concerns.

W. Stell Huie
Highlands

An open letter to the mayor and Town Council

Dear Lady and Gentleman,

Until you have “walked a mile in [their] shoes” you cannot understand what a barrier a curb or a simple high threshold is to a person in a wheel chair. Nor can you appreciate the lack of van accessible handicapped parking.

As you ponder Highlands’ parking ordinance, I hope you will give these matters due consideration. Ramps are very scarce in our Town and van accessible parking places are almost non-existent. I cannot find one on Main Street.

Happily or not, Highlands has more than its share of “seniors” who need friendly access to many places in town. A minimum compliance with legal requirements should not be the standard here.

Thank you for your selfless work for the betterment of Highlands and your attention to these concerns.

W. Stell Huie
Highlands

Disagreement doesn’t equal anti-Semitism

Dear Editor,

It is becoming tiresome and irksome when anyone has the slightest disagreement with the powerful ADL or anything which it proposes.

Using the term anti-Semitic is the mindless way of discouraging open disagreement. This is supposed to quiet any and all opposition to its views and require humble acceptance of all its opinions and positions.

I am appalled at the brutality exhibited recently by the IDF in its unrestrained attack on the citizens of GAZA — even to the point of bombing UN quarters with children inside. The weapons used against these people were unimaginably cruel.

Wake up America. Our former president Jimmy Carter was absolutely correct in his book, “Peace Not Apartheid.” Try reading it and not simply put it out of mind because of its honest and bravado.

He has paid a high price for his honesty. Read it and then point out, fairly, where the anti-Semitism lies.

Gordon Sutton
Atlanta
**Obituaries**

**Bernest ‘Boots’ Glenn Melton**

Bernest “Boots” Glenn Melton, age 85, of Raven Ridge Road, Scaly Mtn., NC passed away Monday, February 09, 2009 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was born in Wadesboro, NC, the son of Roy Boyd and Hattie Meeks Melton. He was a retired US WWII Navy Veteran with 22 1/2 years of service. He also retired from the US Post office with 17 years of service.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Ruth Ball Melton; two sons, Stanley Kern Melton & wife, Denise Ann of MacClenny, FL and Glenn Allen Melton & wife Elizabeth Anne of Greenfield, IN; four sisters, Nancy, Betty Jean, Polly and Irene; two brothers, Leroy and Richard Melton. Two grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews also survive. He was preceded in death by two sisters, Peggy and Vonette and one brother, Bill.

Services were held Saturday, Feb. 14 at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands with the VFW Chaplain Bud Colcord officiating.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences can be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

**Sandra Marlene Henry**

Sandra Marlene Henry, age 59, of Franklin died Saturday, February 14, 2009 in Asheville. She was born in Webster, WV, March 15, 1949.

Mrs. Henry was the daughter of the late John Phillip and Margie Stout Moore. She was a homemaker and worked as a hotel custodian.

Surviving is her husband of 42 years, Kibby L. Henry Sr., two daughters Cynthia McGaha and her husband Mark and Ronda Henry, both of Franklin; one son, Kibby L Henry, Jr. and his wife Michele also of Franklin; two sisters, Janice Bohannon of Jacksonville, FL and Pama Sue Barber of Dawsonville, GA; four brothers Phillip Moore, Nathan, Christopher, Casey (Jason), Courtney, Olivia, Alexa and Jackson. We will miss Mac and thank the Lord for blessing us with his presence.

Donations can be made to: Vitas Hospice Care, 5420 NW 33 Ave, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309; Child Evangelism of Broward County Inc., P.O. Box 735, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33302-0735; or Building fund of Plantation Community Church, 6501 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation, FL 33317.

Cremation arrangements were by T. M. Ralph Funeral Home Plantation, 7001 NW 4

**McCoy “Mac” Mericus**

McCoy “Mac” Mericus, age 85, of Plantation, FL, died February 13, 2009. Mac was born in 1923 in the small community of Goldmine outside of Franklin, NC. He also lived in Pontiac, MI and Fort Lauderdale, FL. He served in the military as a sergeant in the Marines. He retired after 32 years of service at the State Farm Insurance Co., as an independent agent.

He was a kind, loving and honest man that served the Lord and was loved by those who knew him. Mac leaves behind his wife of 22 years, Barbie; son John (Brenda); daughter, Jill; sister George (Lewis); stepchildren Laurie (David), Leigh (Jack), Mark, seven grandchildren, Lindsay (Jayme), St., Plantation, FL 33317, 954-587-6888; www.tmralph.com

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2009 predictions and rumors

Yes, fellow Highlanders, once again it’s that time of year when I use my supernatural powers and look into my crystal ball (No relation to Lucille) to predict the future. Are you getting paper and pencil?

- The terrorist group “Hamas,” what’s left of it, will sue retired president George Bush for ruining their planned presidential inauguration celebration in downtown Gaza. They claim Bush, mean spirited to the end, created the Israel/Gaza war just to spoil their party. They’re also blaming him for the recent cold snap in the region. Sounds reasonable to me.
- Retired vice president Al Gore, driving to a lecture on global warming, will suffer severe frostbite to several appendages (don’t ask) after being trapped in a men’s room during the most severe Boston blizzard on record in over a 100 years.
- Impeached Governor Rod Blagojevich will open a “how to jog in the snow wearing Spandex” school.
- Almost, but not quite, elected Al Franken will bedubbed “Senator Lester” and receive a standing ovation from Congress after performing his impersonation of Mick Jagger on Roland Burris’ senatorial seat. There’s no truth that Franken will ask Leno to be his aide but I think Oprah has a shot.
- Newly appointed Senator Roland, “I ain’t got no money,” Burris will tell Congress that, in 1953, he was the first black man to dive into an all white Chicago swimming pool. When shocked officials saw the water didn’t change color they allowed other blacks to jump in. Kudos to Roland for not drowning.
- Sarah Palin will vow to stay in her “mamagriggery” mood by not shaving any body hair until the media apologizes to her. Hey, Sarah, better throw away your razor.
- Senate dropout candidate Caroline, “ah, you know,” Kennedy, hoping to gain support from the media, will join with Katie Couric and Keith Olbermann in criticizing Sarah Palin for her total lack of government experience.
- In a unanimous vote, the IIIth Congress will adopt “Entry of the Gladiators” as their theme song.
- Highlands will ask Congress for 40 billion dollars to build a five story bomb shelter under Whiteside Mountain to protect our president from foreign and domestic attack. The mountain will be renamed “Don’t Bomba Obama Mountain” and the construction contract will be awarded to the U.S. Forest Service who will complete the project by 2050, just before our president/king retires from office.
- Our new town manager will form a town security force to protect our president/king from his enemies.
- On that note, it has been rumored the police department will apply for a federal grant to double its work force by adding additional blowup mannequins to their ranks. One of the mannequins will hold a sign that says, “Drives slow and see our town. Drive fast and see our jail.” Another mannequin will be an exact replica of Dave Jelson who will fill in on Dave’s day off except it won’t nod off.
- There’s no truth to the rumor that the country of Mexico has asked the Olympic Committee to add “wall scaling” as a regular event.
- The U.S. Forest Service will open a “theft of government rock” investigation after recently discovering a large boulder missing from Bridle Veil Falls.
- Highlands will open a public golf course and, hoping to attract big shot politicians, lobbyists and dignitaries, will name the course “Pay to Play Golf.”
- During our annual pilgrimage to Dubai, the l’il missus and I will deem Emiratio Airlines as having the scariest looking plane in the world. The plane will be dubbed “Senate Jest-Makers” and receive a standing ovation from Congress.
- The U.S. Forest Service will open a “Forest Ranger Rock” investigation after recently discovering a large boulder missing from Bridle Veil Falls.
- Our new president will write a children’s book titled, “The Sky is Falling.” That book will be read by more Republicans than children.
- After much discussion and deliberation, the Town Board will write a proclamation declaring our new president as the only honest politician in Illinois.
- In August, the Congress will write their fifth stimulus package of lowering taxes and overspending while continuing to criticize the Republicans for…well, lowering taxes and overspending.
- Mexico will build a wall along its southern border to keep American and Mexican citizens from fleeing into its country.
- Our new president will write a children’s book titled, “How to rip off America without going to jail.”

Fred Wooldridge
Feedback is encouraged! email:
askfredanything@aol.com

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*ativasedatlife*
A ‘calico’ Valentine

Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

A blanket had been shredded.
The condensation line from the furnace was broken, perhaps an accident, but a source of drinking water, nonetheless. We searched every corner of the basement, but found no cat. I found the point of entrance, a dislodged vent in the foundation, but no cat. Only then did I look up and discover that a flexible furnace duct had been ripped open. At about the same time, Lizzie, who had gone up stairs, called that the crying was coming from a bathroom duct. When she removed the register, a tiny calico leapt out and scared the dickens out of her.

We have no idea how long she might have been trapped in Helen’s basement, or her motive for hiding in the duct. She is skinny and weak, but is obviously a house pet and a people lover. Despite my warnings about locating her owner through the power of the press, Bull adopted her immediately and named her “Valentine”. We brought her home and set up a cat carrier with a warm blanket, food and water. She follows us around like a puppy. She prefers sleeping against the kitchen door, but Lizzie insists that she will be an outside cat.

The condensation line from the furnace was broken, perhaps an accident, but a source of drinking water, nonetheless. We searched every corner of the basement, but found no cat. I found the point of entrance, a dislodged vent in the foundation, but no cat. Only then did I look up and discover that a flexible furnace duct had been ripped open. At about the same time, Lizzie, who had gone up stairs, called that the crying was coming from a bathroom duct. When she removed the register, a tiny calico leapt out and scared the dickens out of her.

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Thought crimes

Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

In the two years I have been writing this column it has been interesting to see what provokes reader response. Whenever I have mentioned socialism or criticized former President George W. Bush I rile some people, but there are two issues that have stimulated people to attack me personally: the military and Israel. In both cases partisans accused me of, in essence, a hate crime. Their message was that there is one correct way to think about the issue (theirs) and unless you think differently I am pro-terrorist (when I wrote “Soldier Gods,” a letter-to-the-editor recommended that I spend some re-education time in a burka, anti-American (I should leave the country), a hater and anti-semitic (in response to “The WASP State), and ignorant (“Stop reading information from all these liberal radicals and enlighten yourself to what is reality”)— an actual quote from an email.

I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again in this column: One of the things that sets this nation apart from other countries is the freedom of speech enshrined in our Constitution. Even speech we detest is protected — sometimes a KKK rally has more police than Klansmen.

George Orwell created a frightening totalitarian regime in his novel “1984” which maintained power through the rigid control of the citizens’ thoughts. The “Party” had installed “telescreens” everywhere that not only broadcast propaganda but could be used to watch and listen to what people were doing in their homes, at work, in the street, in the toilet. There was no escaping being observed, and what the Party was looking for was any sign of a heretical thought, any look or sound that betrayed an independent idea.

The Party was even developing a new language, called Newspeak, and, as one of the developers described it, “the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought. In the end we shall make thought crime literally impossible, because there will be no words in which to describe it... In fact, there will be no thought, as we understand it now. Orthodoxy means not thinking — not needing to think. Orthodoxy is unconsciousness.”

The Thought Police arrest people who showed signs of deviant thoughts and took them to be “vaporized” — which included totally eliminating any record that those persons had ever existed.

The essence of totalitarianism: control of thought.

Our most precious freedom, and one too few of us use to its full advantage, is our ability to think for ourselves. This last Monday a woman wrote a letter to the editor of the New York Times in response to a story on banned books. She remembered a time in school when she had been assigned a book her father found objectionable. He asked her to read another book with the opposite point of view. She says she can’t remember either book, but “what I do remember is a father who cared deeply that I learn to think for myself, and his lifelong lesson that the best way to combat bad or insidious information is with more information, with careful thought and with exposure to the broadest possible array of ideas.”

Thankfully we live in a relatively free society and are mostly allowed to speak freely, but there are Thought Police in our society. I have discovered two areas that bring out the Thought Police, and I’m sure there are more.

Thought Police believe there is some truth and they are in possession of it. This is very dangerous to a democracy.

I was nervous about writing an article about Israel because I knew I would be attacked. Since I have already suffered the vilification for having these views, I thought I’d go ahead and share some more information.

Last week there was an NY Times article about the recent Israeli parliamentary elections, “A Hard-Liner Gains Ground in Israel” which made exactly the same point I did in “The WASP State.” Where I called the phrase “Jewish democracy” a contradiction in terms, this author described it as a “paradox.” Avigdor Lieberman, a candidate for prime minister (whose party came in third), is advocating a loyalty oath which “would require all Israeli to vow allegiance to Israel as a Jewish, democratic state, to accept its symbols, flag and anthem, and to commit to military service or some alternative service. Those who decline to sign such a pledge would be permitted to live here as residents but not as voting citizens.

Most of the political establishment, including members of the Likud, Kadima and Labor Parties, are furious... They fear that his focus on a normally submerged paradox of political life here — how a state made up of Jews and Arabs can define itself as both Jewish and democratic — undermines a delicate coexistence.” The same points are made in Fareed Zakaria’s column in this week’s Newsweek and Washington Post (“Israel’s Existential Dilemma”).

Will the Thought Police insist the New York Times, Newsweek, Washington Post, and the two writers are all anti-semitic and guilty of hate speech?

Last fall Middle East expert Sandra Mackey spoke to a large crowd in Highlands. I filmed the speech and this newspaper printed it in serial form (the following quote is in the December 4, 2008 issue). Ms. Mackey was asked “How far will Israel allow Iran to go with its nuclear development?” She responded, “This is a real problem.” She predicted if the hardliners won the election, they would be willing to use nuclear weapons to attack Iran’s nuclear sites knowing that they could not complete the job and would drag the United States into a war.

She ended by coming out from behind the podium — the only time she did this all evening — and saying emphatically, “People, we have reached a point when we have to accept the fact that Israel is a nation state. It isn’t the Holy Land of the Bible. There are times when American national interests and Israeli national interests run parallel. But there are times when they don’t. We have one administration after another — Republican, Democrat — saying that Israel is our greatest ally and we are committed to the defense of Israel. This is fine, but we also have to be willing to draw lines around what we are willing to do. The U.S. has never been willing to do that. We have allowed the tail to wag the dog and that’s got to change.” Quite a number of people in the audience applauded this statement, the only comment of the evening to evoke this response. (Google “The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy,” by professors John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt)

Will the Thought Police insist that Sandra Mackey and all the audience members who applauded were anti-semitic and haters?

All of Katie Brugger’s columns are available on her website: www.kathleenbrugger.com
By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

When I was a little girl, I thought you actually had to live in a cabin to get cabin fever. Now I know better. As each winter day passes, I gaze out the window, and look for daffodils. The coming of spring is somewhat different in New York. The arrival of spring on East 52nd Street was the first day that Vinnie, the UPS man, would wear his shorts. The UPS truck would pull up in front of our building, and out would hop Vinnie, now minus the long pants and heavy jacket. Wmiddle-aged ladies would sigh and smile. Yes, spring was truly back. Before Vinnie the Legs, however, there were the daffodils - sidewalks and parks full of them.

Since 9/11, daffodils have taken on special meaning to me. Once just a lovely sign of spring, they now remind me of the sense of renewal and hope we had in the spring following those tragic September events. Hoping to extend a helping hand to the people of New York, Hans van Waardenburg of B&K Bulbs in the Netherlands contacted Lynden B. Miller, a landscape architect and chairman of New Yorkers for Parks.

In a marvelous gesture of international solidarity, he donated half a million daffodils to the City of New York. But he didn’t stop there. Mr. van Waardenburg called around, and another 500,000 daffodils and 30,000 yellow tulips were donated by the City of Rotterdam and the Rotterdam Port Authority. Thousands of out-of-state residents poured into the city to join New Yorkers that fall to plant all those bulbs. A group of 10,000 volunteers planted 250,000 bulbs that first day—October 20th—in an effort which became the Daffodil Project. The color yellow was significant, too, as the color of remembrance and hope.

I moved to Highlands on November 15 several years ago, so the arrival of my first spring at Kettle Brook brought unexpected surprises. The yard was a daily delight to discover. At the end of the driveway were two apple trees whose abundant blossoms made it look like a snowstorm had descended on us overnight. The peach trees on the other side of the house were awash in tiny, delicate pink buds.

The carpet of wildflowers was a treat, too, as were the wild strawberries in bloom. Grape hyacinths thrived in only one corner of the yard—why there, and nowhere else? Our fusty old bushes were so heavy they completely took over – the deck just off the kitchen, and had to be cut back to let in the sunlight. My great delight, above all else was the daffodils. Planted years ago by Annie Lin Henley Armor, John’s mother, they dotted the yard with their colorful blossoms, an unexpected treat for this unsuspecting new tenant.

So, here am, waiting for spring. Every winter has its list of challenges and disappointments, but this has been a particularly tough winter. Several dear friends have passed away, including Betty Vigour and Beth Cockrell—neighbors from my old Wayneboro days and a pair of great ladies.

Our house was originally built as a summer house, and in spite of its major 1994 refit, showed us that there can be limits to the best laid plans. Under normal circumstances, we get by well enough without central heating. Our two built-in fireplaces, and a number of iron Franklin stoves, fueled by wood masterfully cut by our friend Jerry Miller and his associate, normally keep our house fairly toasty. We do cheat with a few space heaters, too, which on very cold days have cats attached to them. This year, however, there were times when nothing could keep us warm. The winds howled outside, and it was too cold indoors you could see your own breath in the front hallway. Some mornings, I had to turn on the oven and leave the door open just to make it warm enough to eat breakfast in the kitchen. We watched a lot of TV upstairs in the master bedroom, snuggled up under the duvet with two clingy cats.

I comforted myself by thinking of the summer when we had lost water, the spring drying up to just a trickle. “At least we have water,” I would sigh, until, of course, the pipes froze and we lost water, too. Now, at least, I knew the routine—showerers at the Rec Center, hauling 5-gallon containers of water begged from friends, buying drinking water at Bryson’s. I was an old hand at this. I began to pray to St. Vincent Ferrer, the patron saint of plumbers, whose representative on earth is our beloved Drew, a saint among men, and plumbers, especially.

In the midst of all this, John became very sick, and after calling 911, he was whisked off to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital by two of the finest EMS workers you’d ever want to meet. That there are people who choose to spend their Friday nights coming to rescue people like us just blows me away. The hospital staff was awaiting our arrival, and in no time at all, John was being treated by Dr. Thomas Lindsay, who was on duty that evening, and several other very kind and capable people, including Matt and Sharon (I wish I could remember everyone by name to thank them!). I knew that no matter what was the problem, John could not be in better hands.

We were assigned a room, and I was shown where I could put all of the things humbly put together as we were rushing out of the house. “Why don’t you have a nice, hot shower and get some rest?” said Sharon. “But, I should be there with John, in case he needs me,” I protested. Then she said the perfect words, the ones I needed to hear. “It’s my job to take care of John right now. Your job is to take care of you.” That’s exactly what I did. Freshly showered, I tumbled into bed, and hardly woke up when they wheeled John in several hours later. At 8:30 a.m., a knock on the door brought me to my senses. “Are you decent?” I heard a cheery voice say, as Father Brian Sullivan, our minister, poked his head through the door. At that point, decent or not, I can imagine a face I would never have seen. When you are not making a whole bunch of sense, a calm, reasonable person is just what the doctor ordered. To make a long story short, John was in the hospital through Sunday early evening and is now back home, doing marvelously well.

Or rather, well enough until he forgot to get me anything for Valentine’s Day. I held out until 2 p.m., at which point I burst into loud wails, and Mr. Forgetful jumped into the jeep, racing to the Dry Sink in search of an appropriate greeting card. While there, he bumped into several other sham-faced men, who had also forgotten the event, and were there to salvage what they could of the day and their reputations.

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

*His & Hers*

Enough, already

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

Barbara B. Cusachs
828-526-3907
1-800-526-3902

Needlepoint of Highlands

526-5208 high country photo
In Highlands Plaza

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Make your own personal photo collage poster

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Hours:
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Closed Saturdays through March

Caralina
See HIS & Hers page 11

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526-5208 high country photo

In Highlands Plaza

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Mon-Fri. 9-5
Closed Saturdays through March

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You’re not in Nebraska anymore, Barack

We saw a campaign that was described by the adoring media as flawless. It was good enough to get him elected by a significant margin although the opposition didn’t put up much of a fight. Obama made hundreds of public appearances while his campaign staff managed a highly successful crusade, raising record amounts in contributions. His own-ground organization was overwhelming.

Here’s a riddle: What’s the difference between campaigning and governing? Answer - Plenty.

It is more apparent every day that the greatest of our fears is coming true. With all the monumental problems facing the new administration, the simplest task should be picking a Cabinet and a team of advisors. Not so fast. Here we are more than a month into his administration and two Cabinet positions are unfilled. Shameful.

What happened? Well, let’s take the ill-fated appointments, one by one, and see if a pattern can be detected, shall we?

I think the first bombshell that landed in Obama’s lap was the withdrawal of Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico and the number one candidate for Secretary of Commerce. Strangely, I thought he was a good choice until it was disclosed that Richardson was being investigated by the Fed for business dealings between a California company and the State of New Mexico. Something about a big contributor winning State bond business. Bad Bill.

The next to fall was Nancy Killifer, not a household word nor is it likely to become one. Let me introduce her. From MSNBC, “Killifer, an executive with the giant consulting firm McKinsey & Co., had been chosen by Obama to serve in two roles: as the first chief performance officer in a White House and as a deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget.”

When Obama announced Killifer to much fanfare in early January, the Associated Press reported that the District of Columbia government had filed a tax lien on her home in 2005 for failure to pay unemployment compensation tax on household help. She resolved the tax error five months after the lien was filed. Since then, administration officials had refused to say whether her tax problems extended beyond that one issue.” She withdrew her appointment.

Surely, I don’t have to recount the embarrassment Tom Daschle put on the Obama administration, but I will because it pleases me to do so.

InterMedia Partners provided Tom with a limousine and chauffeur for years. He failed to declare it as income as he should. He also failed to pay taxes on an additional $83,333 that he earned as a consultant to InterMedia Partners in 2007. According to ABC News, Daschle also took tax deductions for $14,963 in donations to organizations that didn’t qualify as legitimate charities. He announced his withdrawal as Secretary of Health and Human Services “so as not to become a distraction to the Obama agenda.”

Obama hoped that Daschle would be the man to engineer his intended nationalization of our health-care system. Oh well.

Then there is the interesting case of Judd Gregg, Republican Senator from New Hampshire. In a fascinating piece of strategy, Obama picks him to become the Secretary of Commerce and Gregg accepts. Bear in mind, the balance of complete power in the Senate is hanging in the balance and Gregg giving up his Senate seat to take the cabinet position puts the Democrats closer to having a super majority. A deal is worked out so the Democrat Governor of New Hampshire agrees to name a Republican, Bonnie Newman, to Gregg’s vacant seat.

A few days after Gregg accepted the Commerce job (to my utter amazement), Obama announces that he is pulling the 2010 census away from the Commerce Department and put it in the hands of his chief flunky, Rahm Emmanuel. All the better to fudge the numbers, my dear.

This move, along with the realization that he couldn’t support Obama’s freewheeling spending agenda, causes Gregg to say “thanks but no thanks,” and withdraws from the cabinet position, leaving Obama at the altar looking miffed. You’d think he’d be used to it by now.

Perhaps the greatest irony is the one that didn’t get away. Tim Geithner, the tax cheat who Obama could not live without, is named Secretary of the Treasury. If anyone had reasons to withdraw, Tim’s the guy. His transgressions are indefensible.

Anyway, the other week, it was announced that Geithner was going to make a speech outlining the solution to the banking problem.

By everybody’s assessment, it was a horrible speech with no specifics whatsoever. Geithner exhibited his total inadequacy and immediately sent the Dow down 380 points. He’s just what we need.
Ah Lent...

Rev. Brian Sullivan
Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

E
very year at this time, I find myself saying the same mantra, “I love Lent!” While the forty days before Easter is not typically a time for celebration, I find myself looking forward to it. While I enjoy the wonderful frenetic, multi-tasking nature of parish ministry, Lent allows me time to focus on something else. Lent is intended to give us one goal, to improve the primary relationship in all our lives: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word. “Book of Common Prayer pg. 264ff.”

Unfortunately, improving this primary relationship can resume a yearly pattern of giving up something trivial for forty days. Thus, Lent turns into a stale routine. The truth is, when the time comes to reestablish any relationships, we easily fall back on our routines. For example, reconciling with a spouse can become a pattern of giving up something trivial for forty days. This year, Lent turns into a stale routine. The truth is, when the time comes to reestablish any relationships, we easily fall back on our routines. For example, reconciling with a spouse can become a pattern of giving up something trivial for forty days.

This year, I want to challenge everyone to try something new when it comes to their relationship with God. If you feel comfortable praying in church, try praying extemporaneously in a natural setting (or vice versa). If you typically encounter God only when you are alone, try finding God in your neighbor over a cup of tea. When we lose touch with a friend, we send a Christmas card, an email or pick up the phone. When we leave our pets for a long time, we go for a walk, throw a stick, or give them a special treat. What does this look like in our primary relationship?

Many of us wait until Lent to reconnect with God, which is its primary purpose. However, it can so easily become a routine. We easily fall back on our routines when we leave our pets for a long time. We go for a walk, throw a stick, or give them a special treat. What does this look like in our primary relationship?

This Lent give yourself permission to be spontaneous and creative with your primary relationship. However, don’t be surprised if one positive change in your relationship with God doesn’t affect an affinative change in all your relationships.

**Places of Worship**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH</td>
<td>Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965</td>
<td>Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.; Sunday night services every 2nd &amp; 4th Sunday at 7 p.m. Mid-week prayer meeting - 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</td>
<td>Rev. John S. Erbelding, Pastor Church: 706-746-2999</td>
<td>Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.; 3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY</td>
<td>Rev. John S. Erbelding, Pastor Church: 706-746-5770</td>
<td>Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRISTIAN SCOUT CHURCH</td>
<td>Rev. John S. Erbelding, Pastor Church: 706-746-5770</td>
<td>Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</td>
<td>Pastor Everett Brewer</td>
<td>Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.; Prayer - 6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH</td>
<td>Rev. John S. Erbelding, Pastor Church: 706-746-5770</td>
<td>Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN</td>
<td>Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor</td>
<td>Sun. Worship 8:30 &amp; 10:45 a.m.; 6 p.m. (nursery provided)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</td>
<td>Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175</td>
<td>Sun.: Worship - 10:55 a.m.; Sun.School - 9:30 &amp; 9:45; Mon.: 8 a.m. - Men's Bible Discussion &amp; Breakfast Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers Choir - 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | Pastor Chris Wilson | Wed.: Supper; 6:7:15 - children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 - Adult choir (nursery provided) 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 AM HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month. MACHADO BAPTIST CHURCH 8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 in Satohal Pastor Matt Shuler (828) 526-4825 Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. 6 p.m. MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin 828-369-9270 or 829-8817 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 Mtgs. - 7 p.m. SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH Rev. Clifford Willis Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7 Wednesdays: Prayer Mtgs. - 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. SHORTCUT PP BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer. Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7 UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP 85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777 Sun. Worship - 11 a.m. Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second Sunday of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m. WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122 Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.
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HCP cast features five new faces

From left, Kirk Howard, who is playing Morrow McCarthy, a political pundit and friend of Lyssa’s husband in Highlands-Cashiers Players production of “American Daughter.” Kirk first discovered Highlands in 1991 as a weekender then moved here full time in 2000 when he decided not to waste time “living for weekends.” He now works at Bucks Coffee Café. Steyven William Amari has spent the last 30 years in broadcasting which gives him insight into the character he plays in Daughter — that of Timber Tucker, a television news reporter. Marjorie Fielding, co-owner of The Laurel Magazine, is playing Quincy Quince, a new generation feminist, self-absorbed career woman, who has “eyes” for the husband of Lyssa Dent Hughes. Marlene Alvarez has been spending time in Highlands since 1981, becoming a resident and owner of the restaurant, on the Veranda, in 1999. Crystal Guill-Marsh, has a small part in Daughter as a TV camera operator but also serving backstage and painting a mural for the set. Crystal has been drawing and painting “since she could walk.”

An American Daughter, opens on Thursday, Feb. 26, at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. The Box Office number: 526-8084.

... ABC STORE continued from page 1

Board gave its permission for the ABC Board to begin negotiations to lease the space in Highlands Plaza. The N.C. ABC Commission regulations require that the commission first review the proposed location then, after posting a sign at the location for 30 days, invite public comment.

The review was done in November, the sign posted in November and December and final approval for the new site was completed on Dec. 18. With no negative comment, the commission approved the new location.

The new ABC Store will encompass 4,800 square feet which is 1,800 sq. ft. larger than its current 3,000 sq. ft. space.

“The increased sales space will provide for additional products to be added and allow for storage of items that can be purchased occasionally at special pricing,” said Wilkes. “Purchasing ‘special priced’ items will allow for both better retail pricing on those purchases which will translate to additional profits for distribution to various funds that ABC stores’ profits are designated for.”

Highlands ABC Board, as all ABC Boards in North Carolina, is a nonprofit organization established, in this case, by the Town of Highlands for the purpose of operating a retail store to sell alcoholic beverages. All profits are distributed annually to recipients as prescribed by the State of North Carolina, town of Highlands and the Highlands ABC Board.

Wilkes said the ABC Store has a 20-year lease at Highlands Plaza but didn’t want to say how much the rent was until the signed leased has been returned to him. However, he did acknowledge that two months rent has been paid.

With the lease secured and rent finalized, Wilkes said the Board is designing the floor plan, getting prices on renovations to include electric upgrades and display construction.

He said the board has put aside a “few hundred thousand dollars” over the past 2-3 years in preparation for the ABC Store move. However, he wasn’t able to give an exact figure reflecting the amount of money the ABC Board “put away” over the last few years, nor was he able to give an estimate as to how far into the future those savings would see
Supreme Charter
Honor Roll

Sixth Grade:
High Honors:
  Audrey Egler
  Colby Payne
  Bull Salzarulo
  Townsend Stewart
  Katie Chandler
  Maddy Franzen
  Kassidy Campbell
  Raine Huff
  Alex Bronaugh
  Jacob McElroy
  Kevin Young
  Caroline Young
  Kaylee O'Dwyer
Honors:
  Taylor Williams
  Tatiana Schmitt
  Mary Gillan Renfro
  Ann Marie Osteen
  Ashley Nichols
  Daniel Hickman
  Craig Ezechel
  David Benitez

Seventh Grade:
High Honors:
  Isabella Lupoli
  Sammy Lupoli
  Jake Gajda
Honors:
  John Collins
  Kevin Dickey
  Shelby Scott
  Cameron St. John
  Morgan Hensley
  Lindsey Lombard
  Lisle Bruns

... HIS & HERS continued from page 7

This led me to ponder the expression “to be in the doghouse.” Hmmm... the doghouse. No heat. No running water. Sort of rings a bell, doesn’t it?

*About the Author: Michelle A. Meadow Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before expatriating her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. John and Michelle live at Kettlerock, a house which combines elements of Green Acres, Little House on the Prairie, and Deliverance.

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Highlands' Newspaper - Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009 - Page 11

HS Honor Roll - 3rd 6 Weeks

What do you want offered at the Highlands Rec Park?
Your Town Board wants to know!

Fill out the form and take it to Town Hall or mail to:
P.O. Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741

- Indoor, year-round swimming pool
- Racquet Ball Court
- Volley Ball Court
- Ping Pong
- Foosball
- Pool Table
- Skating area (roller blade, in-line)
- Climbing Wall
- Other _______________________________________

Note: Rachael Smith was inadvertently omitted from the Perfect Attendance list in 7th Grade for the 3rd six-week grading period.

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Girls and Boys finish strong; move into conference with confidence and skill

By Ryan Potts

The Highlanders and Lady Highlanders wrapped up their regular season with a trip to Cashiers to play the Blue Ridge Bobcats.

The Lady Highlanders started out strong against the overmatched Lady Bobcats and never looked back en route to dominating 59-28 victory.

Emily Munger paced the Lady Highlanders with 16 points and Marlee McCall added 10 as the Lady Highlanders earned the 2 seed in the Little Smoky Mountain Tournament (LSMC).

The Highlanders also began the nightcap against the Bobcats with a fast start, scoring the first 10 points of the game and completing the season sweep with a 99-37 victory. Seven of the 8 Highlander players scored in double figures in the rout, and the Highlander men entered Little Smoky Mountain tournament play as the 3 seed.

The Lady Highlanders played Nantahala on Tuesday night at Nantahala in the first round of the Little Smoky Mountain Conference tournament.

The Lady Highlanders struggled a bit early trying to combat Nantahala’s box and 1 defense, but found their range late in the first quarter and continued the offensive onslaught in the second, using a 10-0 run to build an insurmountable lead that resulted in a 46 to 32 victory.

Sarah Power led the Lady Highlanders with 12 points, who will play Hiwassee Dam in the LSMC Championship on Thursday.

The Highlanders drew a rematch with the Hiwassee Dam Eagles in the first round of the LSMC tournament. The Eagles had defeated the Highlanders twice during the regular season, and in both games had jumped out to double-digit leads in the first half.

Tuesday night would prove different, however, as the Highlanders played well early and only trailed by 2 at the half.

The second half was a back and forth affair until the Highlanders used a 9-0 fourth quarter run to take a 9-point lead which they ultimately hung on to for a 62-57 victory.

The Highlanders’ three senior captains, Ezra Herz, Michael Baty and Andrew Billingsly, came up big in what was the biggest game of the season scoring 49 of the 62 Highlanders points.

With the victory, the Highlanders earned their 10th win of the season, and will face Nantahala Thursday night in the LSMC Championship.

The Highlanders will play three championship games on Thursday night at Nantahala gym with the JV Championship starting at 5 p.m., followed by the women’s and men’s championships.
**Coach’s Corner**

My first team All-American and All-ACC picks

Here we are toward the end of February, and the race for conference championships and All-America honors is shaping up. Here are my picks for All-American and All-ACC at this point in the season.

**First team All-American**

- G — Ty Lawson, UNC. The most dominant PG in America, UNC is no longer Tyler Hansbrough’s team, but Lawson’s. Lawson is averaging 16 points and 6 assists per game, and his assist to turnover ratio is a ridiculous 3.4.
- G — Stephen Curry, Davidson. The most creative scorer in America, Curry stole the show in March of last year, and continues to carry Davidson while leading the nation in scoring. A sprained ankle threatens his spot on this list if he is unable to return at full strength, but at this point his presence here is justified.
- G — James Harden, Arizona State. Harden has been dominant for the Sun Devils this season, scoring 21 points per game and averaging 6 rebounds to go along with 5 assists. He’s shooting over 50% for the season and is the main reason why the Sun Devils are in the running for their first Pac-10 championship in school history.
- F — Blake Griffin, Oklahoma. Griffin is my pick for Player of the Year, and will likely be the number 1 pick in the NBA draft this summer. Griffin is a human double-double, and cannot be single covered.
- F — Dejuan Blair, Pittsburgh. Blair proved his worth Monday night in a dominant performance against Hasheem Thabeet, but he has been consistent for the Panthers all season. Averaging 17 points and 13 rebounds per game, the 6’7 Blair consistently plays bigger in the paint, and has saved his best performances for the biggest games this season.

**First Team All-ACC**

- G — Ty Lawson- see above explanation
- G — Jack McClinton, Miami. McClinton is a human scoring machine, lighting up ACC opponents for almost 30 points per game and shooting well over 40% from behind the three point line.
- G — Tyrese Rice, Boston College. Rice has been the senior leader for a surprising BC team that has wins at UNC and at home against Duke. Rice is a superior scorer, and has the quickness to play at the next level.
- F — Trevor Booker, Clemson. Booker is a physical freak of nature, and provides the Tigers with an imposing presence on both the offensive and defensive ends of the floor. Booker is averaging a double double in ACC play, and is also counted on to be the last line of defense in Clemson’s full court pressure.
- F — Gani Lawal, Georgia Tech. Lawal often goes unnoticed because he is playing for the hapless Yellow Jackets, but he has been tremendous in his sophomore year for Paul Hewitt. Lawal is averaging a double double for the season, and also provides 2 blocks per game on the defensive end.

**Committed to the race**

Highlands United Methodist Church pastor Paul Christy and Fred Motz competed in the Hilton Head Island Half Marathon on Feb. 7. Motz won First Place in his age category and Christy placed in his group. Pictured are the two recovering from their run. Christy was joined in the race by his two brothers.

**Milestones**

Highlands students make the grade

The following students from Highlands were named to the Western Carolina University’s Fall Dean’s List.

- Rachel Earlene Alford
- Robert Davidson Edwards
- Teodora Ivanova Krasteva
- Laura Renee Kremser
- Christopher Andrew Mouchet
- Matthew Preston Neely
- Teresa Rose Pearman
- Mark Andrew Salsbury
- Allison M Winn
- Sarah Genevieve Scott

To qualify for the dean’s list, students must achieve at least a 3.5 grade-point average out of a possible 4.0 on a regular semester’s work of not less than 12 hours, excluding remedial courses, with no grade of D or F.
From My Perspective

Mayor and Police Chief to attend ‘economic stimulus’ package seminar

I want to remind everyone that this coming Friday evening from five to eight there will be a recognition party at the Community Center honoring Richard Betz for his 25 years of service to the Town of Highlands. Richard has held many positions since he started with us in 1983. He has been planning and zoning manager, clerk, treasurer, and town administrator; all positions in which he has excelled. At the end of this month Richard retires from the town. It is my hope that everyone who can will come out and honor Richard and be able to say to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” We will be serving food and will have a recognition ceremony at 6:30. Come and join us and let Richard know how special he is. I know because I have known him for more than 10 years and worked very closely with him for the past three years and there is no one more dedicated to the proper function of this town than Richard Betz.

The congressional stimulus package indeed did pass both the Senate and the House this past Friday and was signed by President Obama on Tuesday. I can assure everyone that your town officials are in line to obtain some funding for major projects. The Town Manager, Public Works director, Police Chief and I will be going to a meeting with Congressman Heath Shuler on Thursday in an information workshop to get further details of this Federal Economic Stimulus package. Whether you agree with this approach by the federal government or not, it offers us an opportunity to do some things that we have needed for a long time, and we intend to take advantage of that opportunity. I have been in close contact with the offices of both Congressman Shuler and Senator Richard Burr by telephone and we have forwarded to them grant requests for the creeks that make up our water supply lake, major sewer projects, particularly around the lakes, a Big Bear Pen water system improvement project and radio meters for our water and electric systems. We will be aggressively pursuing these very important projects for the community improvement projects.

At the recommendation of our new town manager Jim Fatland and GIS and IT director Matt Shuler, the board has approved a major upgrade in the town financial software system. We have had problems with the current software system with things such as the database, inadequate help in problem solving and many lost man hours figuring all this out. We will be bringing in Computer Software Innovations, a product that offers more than what meets our needs for the upcoming decade. Many towns in North Carolina use this software and services are nearby in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Other programs have been also completely evaluated but this one was chosen for the reasons I stated. It will streamline our town financial system to make it even better than it has been.

The relationship between the county and the towns of Macon county continues to improve. On Jan. 30 our Planning Director, Joe Cooley, and I attended a county planning board work session which was chaired by county board chairman Ronnie Beale. It was a good session in which the town of Franklin also participated, and we all learned more about each other.

In sharing goals and ideas we all benefit and learn to work together in an efficient way. I thank Ronnie Beale for continuing to push ahead with this cooperative effort.

The Town Board also will continue to send town board members to the county board sessions in attempts to stay current on decisions being made.

... MODEL from page 1

“In 2006, the Town of Highlands received stormwater grant funds totaling $40,000 from the CWMTF to complete a stormwater management plan for the Mill Creek watershed which included these projects so we knew what was needed,” said Nix.

J.P. Johns, Engineer with McGill Associates stated “the purpose of the project is to monitor stormwater runoff pollutant loadings and the effectiveness of an innovative Best Management Practices (BMP) known as a hydrodynamic separating box.”

This technology has not yet been tested in an environment which receives a large amount of rainfall over a short period of time on severe slopes typical in the Town of Highlands.

“...These technologies are not designed to retain large volumes of stormwater, but rather to abate pollutants that have been found in the runoff waters,” said Johns.

The project goal is to scientifically determine typical stormwater runoff pollutant loadings in the Town of Highlands and sci-
Since 1979, the Highlands ABC Store profits have been distributed to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 06-'07</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 05-'06</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town of Highlands General Fund</td>
<td>$1,454,627</td>
<td>$841,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Highlands Recreation Dept.</td>
<td>225,031</td>
<td>326,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>81,717</td>
<td>58,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlands-Cashiers Hospital</td>
<td>337,545</td>
<td>355,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Highlands Law Enforcement</td>
<td>103,162</td>
<td>110,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlands Community Drug Program</td>
<td>144,443</td>
<td>317,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macon County Rehab</td>
<td>116,353</td>
<td>353,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$2,462,878</td>
<td>$3,712,878</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Town officials don't know why ABC Store profits dipped in FY 01-02 or FY 04-05. Starting in FY 07-08 the ABC Store was allowed to withhold proceeds.

the ABC Store for payment of renovations, rent or utilities. Nor did he say when profit distributions to the town would resume.

The last regular disbursement of funds received from the ABC Store to the town was fiscal year 2006-'07 for a total of $107,831.

In fiscal year 2007-'08 only the Police Department received a disbursement of $5,067. All other funds were withheld, as permitted by the Highlands Town Board.

Town Manager Jim Fatland said it's his understanding that the ABC Store will move into its new space within the next two-three months.

Every year the Junior Class fundraiser raises money for the Junior-Senior Prom while spreading goodwill throughout the administration, staff and students at Highlands School. Anyone who wants to send well wishes to another purchased a bag of candy or a flower to be delivered Friday, Feb. 13. This year the effort raised $900. Pictured is Junior Bobbie Joe Talley and teacher Ms. Burnett.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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Northland Advanced Fiber Networks
Jim Schulte, Bob Trevathan, and Bill Rethorst work in the construction room at PAC constructing the set for An American Daughter, which opens Thursday, February 26. For tickets of more information please call 828.526.8084

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. 08.
- 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 1621 Highlands Rd. next to Exxon. For more info call youth ministers Matt and Candace Woodroof at 828-369-7540 ext 203.
- Raffle of handcrafted Steifel Botanical Book to Benefit The Bascom. To purchase a raffle ticket, call 526-4949, ext. 897.
- Yoga at the Rec Park, 7:30 a.m Monday and Wednesdays. Call 526-4340 for information.
- Yoga in the basement of Jane Woodroof 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 888-764-0386.
- At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FTP.
- “The Circle of Life” support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodroof 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 Woodroof 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 828-526-2556.
- 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-ins is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.
- Wednesdays
  - Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club meets at the Highlands Conference Center at 7:30 a.m.
  - Men’s interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

Every Third Wednesday
- Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A $5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

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 rhythmic 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 knyengale@aol.com.

Thursday, Feb. 19
- “Roxanne,” 1987 rated PG, is based on the play, “Cyrano de Bergerac.” Steve Martin plays the long-haired C.D. Bates. The beautiful Roxanne (Dany 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 Cashiers 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 & Saturday, Feb. 20 & 21
- The NC Cooperative Extension will offer a two-day workshop for individuals interested in starting a vineyard for commercial bunch grape production. North Carolina State University specialists and agents will cover issues related to site selection and preparation, ordering the right varieties and rootstocks, planting, trellises, vine structure, cover crops, cost of establishing a vineyard, and pest concerns. A pruning demonstration will be offered the 2nd day at the Cellars of Betty Creek Vineyard. The program will be held at the Jackson County Community Services Building located at 538 Scotts Creek Rd. Sylva, NC. Cost for the program is $10 at the door. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday February 18th. For more information contact the Jackson Extension Center at phone #828-586-4009 or e-mail Christine_Bredenkamp@ncsu.edu. Participants
who are serious about starting a vineyard should obtain a copy of the NC Winegrower’s Guide which can be ordered for $20.00 from the Publications Office, Dept. of Communications Services, Campus Box 7603, NCSU, Raleigh NC 27695-7603. Make checks payable to NC State University. You can also download the guide for free at www.ces.ncsu.edu/resources/winegrower/ • 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.

Tour of Summit One Gallery with Art League of Highlands

Summit One Gallery will host the February meeting of the Art League of Highlands on Monday, February 23rd at noon.
Mary Adair Leslie will give a guided tour of the gallery showcasing Summit One’s artists who are included in permanent collections and in museums across the county.
As a lunch, prepared by Holly Roberts (of “Let Holly Do the Cooking”) will be available for members of ALH.
Mary Adair’s enthusiasm for art and her artists is unparalleled. Her support of education, theater and the food banks in Highlands and in Cashiers is well appreciated by both communities.
Summit One is located at “The Galleries,” 154 South Second Street, Highlands. For a complete listing of upcoming shows and events at Summit One go to www.summitonegallery.com or call 526-2673.

Mary Adair Leslie will give Art League of Highlands members exciting tour of Summit One Gallery, showcasing well-known artists who work in numerous media and styles. To join the Art League of Highlands and participate in the exciting programs, please call ALH President, Caroline Cook at 526-2742.

Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076
Feb. 20-26

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE
rated R
Friday: (4:20), 7, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:20), 7, 9:20
Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7

FRIDAY THE 13TH
rated R
Friday: (4:30), 7:10, 9:30
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:30), 7:10, 9:30
Mon – Thurs: (4:30), 7:10

PAUL BLART: MALL COP
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

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
$5 for 20 words weekly


ONE BEDROOM BATH partially furnished apartment, 6 miles from Highlands. No smoking 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, 212

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 1/2, oil heat, hardwood floors, small pets ok. $1,275 includes electric. 526-5558.

WOODBURNING FIREPLACE INSERT – Strong and sturdy, 30 inches wide, 29 inches deep and 67 inches high. $175. Call 526-5749.
... VISITOR continued from page 15

and activities is not available.

Brian McClain, the county commission representative, said the TDC board could always look at last year’s budget or since all the members of the TDC board are chamber of commerce members, they could request the line-item budget from the chamber.

For the 2009-2010 Visitor Center budget—whose majority of funding comes from room tax money which must be spent to promote travel and tourism—the total “management” costs are $105,378.16. Thirty percent of that represents “overlap” from the chamber.

Keiltya said about 30% of his salary is paid for with room tax money because his job overlaps with Visitor Center functions. There is also a 90%-10% split for use of the building and all that entails with 10% assigned to the chamber.

The rest of the room tax money is spent for communications, lease of office equipment, marketing, office operations, professional development and travel, accounting fees, programs and festivals, health insurance, visitor programs, planning retreat, volunteer appreciation and programs and miscellaneous—a total of $133,711.92.

The Visitor Center budget includes $6,000-$7,000 a year set aside for grants for nonprofits promoting travel and tourism. They can apply for those funds anytime during the year 90 days in advance of the event. “But the funds can only be used for marketing and advertising,” said Marlene Alvarez on the chamber board of directors.

Furthermore, Keiltya said the chamber of commerce board determines whether the requests are legitimate or worthy. Once the chamber of commerce makes its determination, an e-mail is sent to the TDC board. If the TDC unanimously approves, the decision is final. If the TDC board does not unanimously agree with the chamber’s decision, a special meeting is called for a final decision.

Keiltya said people should remember that the chamber of commerce is the first line of defense concerning Room Tax money. “The chamber of commerce is the administrator of the Room Tax money,” he said. “The TDC is just an advisory board which provides oversight for the county.”

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Spenser visits Highlands School

Author Melanie Brooks chronicles the adventures of Spenser, a small, almost human, dog who accompanies his “Mom” Melanie as she travels around the country on her mission to alleviate childhood hunger. “Spenser Goes to Portland,” the first book in her series, features Spenser and his visit to Oregon. When they visit a school or community, they encourage citizens to collect food for their local food pantries and buy their book whose sales proceeds are returned to those local food bank programs. On Friday, Feb. 13, Spenser and his Mom visited Highlands School where students got to meet, hold and feed Spenser and see a presentation on the book.

Ms. Coppage’s third grade class won a pizza party for collecting the most sales proceeds are returned to those local food bank programs. On Friday, Feb. 13, Spenser and his Mom visited Highlands School where students got to meet, hold and feed Spenser and see a presentation on the book.

After the program, a pizza party was held for the entire class. The students had a wonderful time feeding Spenser and learning about the importance of helping others.

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For more about the passion behind Spenser visit www.spensernation.com. Photo by Carol Bowen
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.
The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for Feb. 9-16. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Feb. 9
• At 6:43 p.m., a suspicious person was reported on Worley Road.
• At 7:47 p.m., officers were called to a residence at Old Town Site condominiums on Horse Cove Road concerning an alleged breaking and entering. The claim was unfounded.

Feb. 9
• At 8:07 a.m., officers were called to Chestnut Walk concerning a tenant dispute.
• At 10:31 a.m., officers were called to a residence on Pinecrest where a back window of a Jeep Liberty was reported broken while the resident was away.

Feb. 11
• At 9:30 p.m., officers were called to Chestnut Walk concerning a tenant dispute.

Feb. 13
• At 10:45 p.m., officers were called to Chestnut Walk concerning a tenant dispute. Officers advised the subjects to visit the magistrate.

Feb. 14
• Officers served two criminal summons to a resident on Paul Walden Road.
• During the week, officers issued 18 warning citations and responded to 5 alarm activations.

Feb. 16
• The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Gibson Street which was cancelled en route by the alarm company.
• The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Drive. It was set off by workers changing batteries in the alarm system.
• The dept. fought a brush fire on Satulah Mountain along N.C. 28 south.
• The dept. responded to an accident on Upper Clear Creek Road. There were no injuries.
• The dept. was called back to the brush fire site on Satulah Mountain along N.C. 28 to extinguish hot snags hanging over the road.

Note: Anyone interested in learning more about the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department is encouraged to call 526-3965.

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 #DZ3F in Feb. 12 issue

Solution to Feb. 12 Hex-a-Ku
Channel 14
Highlands’ own TV channel!

Heart of the High Country
weekly show about Highlands

Mountain Home Showcase
home tours, design tips, and cooking classes

Visitor Information Program
hosted by Blackberry Bear

DVDs of Heart of the High Country available at the Hudson Library and Movie Stop

Northland Cable Television

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lady Luck - The Queen of Hearts

Monte Carlo Night comes to Highlands on Saturday, Feb. 28, 6 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building. Lady Luck will be flirting with anyone carrying casino chips. Highlands Rotary Club’s Monte Carlo Night turns Sweet Sixteen this year, and it’s time to celebrate! Las Vegas gaming combined with a Silent Auction and Live Auction conducted by Doc Wilson will raise your temperature to Monte Carlo hot. Auctions will have packages for those who dare to challenge area courses, stuff that glitters and sparkles for ladies who like being talked about and tame but intriguing objects of value. Cash, checks, and credit cards work. Forty bucks will get you casino chips, refreshments, and hors d’oeuvres until Feb. 24 when the game goes to $50. Gaming consists of everyone’s favorite Black Jack with Roulette, Craps, and Texas Hold’em also drawing crowds.

This fun evening is casual dress or that tuxedo if it still fits. Socializing, Lady Luck and having a great time are not optional. Funds raised by Highlands Rotary go to Highlands School teachers and student scholarships, Shop With a Cop, Highlands Community Child Development Center, Literacy and other non-profit organizations.

Monte Carlo Night is not a night to miss. Tickets are available at: The Macon Bank, Highlands Recreation Park, Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Basketcase in Highlands and Highlands Decorating Center.

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

No fee to enter contest
Call the Chamber of Commerce at 526-2112 for entry and prize information

Sponsored by the Laurel Magazine and the Chamber of Commerce
Over the holidays, High Country Cafe treated a number of residents at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center to a special breakfast. The residents were part of a group at the center who makes all-occasion cards, which are sold at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Gift Shop, High Country Cafe and at several locations. June Webb, owner of the restaurant, periodically hosts Eckerd residents for special outings. On this occasion, each resident also received a Christmas gift, compliments of High Country Cafe. In front from left are Freda Martin, Themse Finnerty, Florene Jennings, Connie Thompson, Randy Lombard, Flora Warren, Joan Fallot, and Estelle Crane; In back from left: June Webb, hospital volunteer coordinator Earlene Rich, High Country staff member Tracy Hensley, Eckerd Center Activities coordinator Martha Wood, and volunteer Chris Wood. Eckerd Center volunteer Sheraldean Norris also attended the event, and took the photo.