

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 5

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009

This Week in Highlands

On-going Events

• Friends of Panthertown work days, last Thursday of every month (time and location varies). Contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

Mondays

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

2nd & 4th Fridays

• Community Drum Circle at the Highlands Rec Park, from 6-7:30 p.m. For more information call 421-0551.

Thursday, Jan. 29

• Highlands School PTO meeting at 6 p.m. There will also be a Chili dinner before to benefit the 5th grade to raise money for their Charleston trip.

Saturday, Jan. 31

• The Macon County Soccer Club registrations for the Spring soccer season is Saturday, from 10 am - 12 pm at the Highlands Rec Park in Highlands. Call Michelle Thornton at 828-349-4939.

Friday, Jan. 30

• Deadline to apply for scholarships offered by The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. Applications are available at the school guidance office or go to www.cfwnc.org.

Monday, Feb. 2

• Highlands Little League registration for the 2009 season is Monday at the Highlands Rec Park. All new players must provide a photocopy of their birth certificate. Children age 5 (before April 30) and up will be placed on teams according to age. The \$40 registration fee provides hat, jersey and socks. Additional siblings are \$35 each. Call Monica Vinson at 526-9107 or John Shearl at 526-2251.

Thursday, Feb. 5

• The Macon County Soccer Club registration for the Spring soccer season is Saturday, from 6-8 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Park. Call Michelle Thornton at 828-349-4939.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
30 / 16F	36 / 19F	39 / 25F

Highlands Hill Deli quietly expands

Typically when an established restaurant expands or a new restaurant opens in Highlands its big news and subject of numerous board discussions. But in the case of the expansion of Highlands Hill Deli the issues are cut and dry so there's no need to go before any boards.

"They are not required by code to go before the planning board, appearance commission, board of

adjustment or board of commissioners," said Zoning Administrator Joe Cooley. "There is no legislative or quasi-judicial decision to be made because there is no increase in the number of businesses, or tenants, only the relative sizes and no need for special permits," he said.

Instead of closing as originally planned, Betty Wong, owner of House of Wong dress shop, has de-

cid to downsize and stay open one more year to sell the remainder of her merchandise.

Highlands Hill Deli is already classified as a restaurant, and since its in the B1 zoning district there aren't any parking requirements which means a Special Use Permit (SUP) isn't required.

• See DELI page 5

Out-of-state tuition for MC School students an issue again

Back when Jack Brooks was principal at Highlands School the issue of out-of-state families paying tuition to attend Macon County Schools was put to rest.

Now, the issue is on the front burner again.

At the Jan. 26 Macon County School Board meeting, Misty Barnes, a resident of Satolah, GA, asked the board to waive out-of-state tuition for her family.

Barnes officially requested the waiver from Superintendent Dan Brigman who said the county wouldn't waive the tuition, but would accept a payment plan. After making her request a second time, with Brigman's answer the same, she made her request to the board.

She said though she lives in Georgia, she and her husband work in Highlands. Barnes and they live "paycheck to paycheck" and after paying tuition for three years, it has become a financial hardship for them.

Technically, students who live in Satolah, GA - about 15 minutes from Highlands - are supposed to go to one of four schools in Clay-

• See TUITION page 19

It's 'low tide' at Highlands Country Club



Though the scene at Highlands Falls Country Club resembles a tidal pond at low tide, or a pond victim to drought, the explanation is simple. The club lake was drained so work can be done on the dam. Once it's finished, the lake will be full again.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

County 'wish list' state bound

Every stakeholder in North Carolina has compiled a wish list of new or tweaked legislation for presentation during upcoming N.C. Legislature sessions - Macon County included.

At Monday's commission meeting, Commissioners Ronnie Beale and Jim Davis discussed their recent trip to Raleigh where they joined 80 of the 100 N.C. counties under the umbrella of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners (NACC), to put the finishing touches on requests to be sent to the state.

Of the seven categories up for discussion, six won the vote to proceed, with the losing issue only los-

ing by a 37 to 40 vote.

That vote involved the distribution of N.C. Lottery Funds which currently favors big counties like Mecklenburg.

"We wanted the lottery money divvied up using the Average Daily Membership (ADM) at schools so everyone would get the same amount based on their ADM," said Commissioner Davis. "Either that, or divvy it up as to municipality of origination. That seemed fair to us, but the fact is 63 of North Carolina's 100 counties benefit from the present formula so as a group we didn't agree on that."

Had the vote been reversed it

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Town to replace bridge and utility poles

An unlikely connection exists between the replacement of the Rec Park bridge over Mill Creek and Balsam West's plan to supply Highlands School with high-speed internet.

At the Jan. 21 Town Board meeting, Town Engineer Lamar Nix discussed bridge replacement options and their costs.

The bridge now spanning Mill Creek, is a 20-year-old wooden bridge which was built by Rec Park Director Selwyn Chalker. Though it has served Highlands well, it's been the subject of vandalism, is suffering signs of old age "and is a safety risk," said Nix.

The bridge condition has come to the forefront recently, due to the work on the Greenway, whose committee is hard at work revitalizing every thing on its path. The bridge replacement must support the Greenway Committee's Yanmar - a mini trackhoe - which weighs 3,874 pounds and is four feet wide.

Nix suggested three replacement options. A pre-fab laminated wood structure, a corten steel structure, or a remake of what's currently there. Prices ranged from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

• See BRIDGE page 11

* THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

Controversial changes in hunting regulations proposed by N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission

By John Edwards

The general public of western North Carolina may not be aware they're 83 changes in hunting and fishing regulations being proposed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission.

Of these, three controversial changes need examination by the general public and are still open for comment. They, along with others, could have an impact on North Carolina's valued traditions, "wild places" and "wild things."

H 15-16 involves pushing up the date for hunting wild turkeys by one week. According to the NCWRC, this request was made by several turkey hunters in North Carolina. The Pisgah chapter of the North Carolina Wild Turkey Federation has stated, "This proposal is believed to be biologically unsound and would hurt the turkey population, interfere with breeding, increase hen mortality and harm wild turkey reproduction."

H 25-27 addresses changes regarding lifting the ban on Sunday hunting. This is a "hot" topic receiving strong support from Martin Lewis NCWRC commissioner for Western North Carolina as well as other NCWRC officials. However, the general public and many hunters favor keeping the ban while pointing to a long standing tradition of no hunting on Sunday in favor of other highly valued family endeavors.

H 10 deals with opening the Daniel Boone Bear Sanctuary to limited hunting of bears. Isaac Harrold, the wildlife commission's section manager for state and private lands recently made this statement. Harrold said, "The commission decided the density of the bear population and increasing conflicts with people led them to consider opening the sanctuary to limited hunting".

Opponents of this change have evidence that contradicts this evaluation by the NCWRC. Most bear experts believe human conduct, not bears, is the cause of the majority of incidences that occur. They encourage better education for those living in bear country. In addition,

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



how will it be determined which bear should be killed and on what basis?

For additional information on these or any of the 83 proposed changes in hunting and fishing, individuals can go to the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission's web-site and click on Hot Topics then go to New Proposed Regulations for 2009-10.

Those wishing to express their opinions are urged to forward comments to the NCWRC before the deadline on February 1, 2009. E-mails can be addressed to regulations@ncwildlife.org.

Individuals may also comment on the NCWRC web-site.

• John Edwards, of Cashiers, is coordinator and founder of Mountain Wildlife and Wilderness Days.

• LETTERS •

The Day of Inauguration

'Twas the day of Inauguration
 And all through the land
 The people were celebrating
 The African-American man
 Who became our new President
 Commander and chief
 Overcame for his people
 Years of trials and grief
 The millions they came
 From near and from far
 To partake in the party
 Meet the new rising star
 It seemed as if history
 Had at last turned the page
 For a new kind of leader
 Had now come of age
 He would rule without torture
 Rule without rage
 And peace and diplomacy
 Would order the day
 He said we must get up
 And dust ourselves off
 Act with maturity
 And never should scoff
 At the idea we'll get there
 Though the road may be long
 But America's resilient
 America is strong
 We'll soon find our center
 We'll lead once again
 For we've reached a beginning
 By reaching an end
 So let us go forward
 Find our own niche to serve
 For us and our country
 It's what we deserve

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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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• WEDDING •

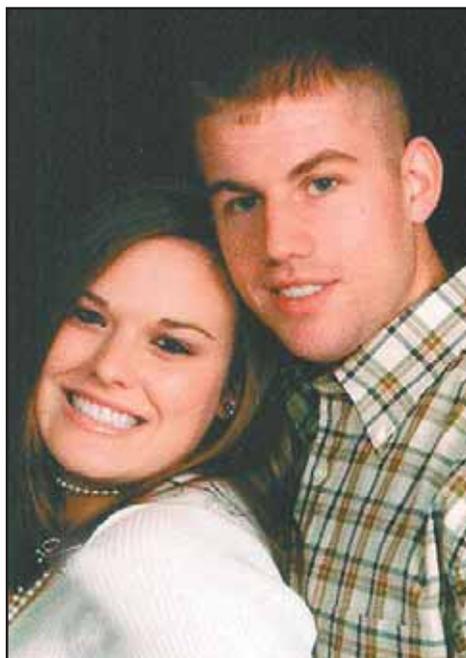
Barrett and View wed

Mr. and Mrs. Russell E. Barrett of Franklin, N.C., announce the marriage of their daughter Jillian Lee Barrett to James Patrick View on January 3, 2009.

James is the son of Patrick "PJ" and Elizabeth View of Highlands and the grandson of James and Nancy Taylor of Highlands and Jacksonville, FL.

Jillian is currently a student at UNC Wilmington and James is a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

A private family ceremony was held at Oakdale Missionary Baptist Church in Franklin with Guy Duvall, minister, officiating. The couple will reside in Jacksonville, N.C.



Jillian and James View

• THANK YOU •

Blood drive a success

Thank you to all who came out and gave blood at the Otto Community Center on Jan. 24. Without your help, we would not have been a success. We were able to get 37 usable units; 37 people presented to donate. Thanks to Becky Gibson for volunteering to help with the drive. Look for the next drive. Thanks to all the businesses and churches that put up the announcements.

Phyllis S. Castle
Otto Secretary and Red Cross
Volunteer

• MILESTONES •

April Hicks, a junior in Western Carolina University's Honors College earned Dean's List honors for the fall 2008 semester. April is enrolled in the College of Education and Allied Professions and plans to teach elementary school after graduation. A native of Highlands, April was the 2006 Valedictorian of Highlands School.

• CORRECTION/EXTRAS •

Firemen Banquet; Macon Bank foreclosures, Chestnut Hill auction, Gantenbeins

• In the Jan. 22 edition of Highlands' Newspaper in "Firemen honored at banquet" we reported that Jackson County property owners paid \$6,408,000. The figure is \$6,408.00.

We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

• After we went to press President of Macon Bank Roger Plemens reported that Macon Bank also had a foreclosure sale on The Porter Creek Development. This was in reference to the report on Riverwalk and Titan Builders' Sunset Mountain subdivision in Franklin.

Plemen's said the borrower's name is Laurel Park of Franklin, LLC, but they filed bankruptcy during the upset period. So this one has been delayed until we can go to bankruptcy court and hopefully get a relief from stay. "I believe our bid was \$2.5 million on that one," he said.

• Clerk of Court Vic Perry announced that he finished the foreclosure hearing on Chestnut Hill and signed an order allowing the trustee to proceed with sale of the property. Robert Siler of Coward, Hicks & Siler, is the substitute trustee. The sale date is February 20, 2009 at 11 a.m.

• Larry and Michael Gantenbein's Felony Jury Trial in St. Tammany Parrish, LA, has been continued until March 9, 2009.

Vote for Jamie!

Jamie Bolt, a junior at Highlands High School, entered a national culinary contest with Johnson & Wales University for a full scholarship to their school.

Out of over 300 entrees he was chosen as 1 of the 12 finalists. Now he needs online votes to proceed to the next level.

If he wins the online vote on February 23, he will then be flown to their Miami campus on April 3rd for a cook-off. To watch Jamie's video and to vote,



Jamie Bolt

go to Johnson & Wales University website. The address is <http://chefcontest.jwu.edu>

This is an exciting accomplishment for Jamie who has had cooking in his blood since he was eight years old.

Please help him by voting online by giving him a "thumbs up" next to his video. Tell your friends to vote, too!. With your help he could be named JWU's "Chef of the Year!"

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Girls just want to have fun!

It takes more than winter snow and ice to dampen the spirits of Chestnut Hill residents.

Earlier this month, in the middle of a cold snap, residents gathered in the Clubhouse for a wild and crazy beach party.

Residents played a spirited game of volleyball and then enjoyed hot dogs and hamburgers prepared by Chestnut Hill's talented chefs. Pictured are Katherine Kaiser, Gin French and Romney Bathurst in their beach attire.



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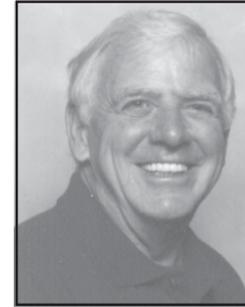


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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Are firefighters crazy, or what?

Only once in my 28-year career as a policeman did I have an opportunity to put on fire gear, strap a tank on my back and rush into a burning building. If you ever have that opportunity, don't do it. It happened at a training exercise in the six-story fire tower in Miami.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

the second floor, my visibility dropped to zero. I was engulfed in black smoke. You can forget about all those stupid firemen movies where firefighters can see perfectly. I could see nothing. I groped my way to the third floor, using the banister to guide me. "How much money do these guys make?" I wondered as I reached the fire.

Wait, things were about to get worse. I radioed for them to charge my fire hose

but I forgot to open my nozzle. Nothing happened. Then I remembered to open the nozzle. Air came rushing from the end of the nozzle as the hose was charged with water.

When the water reached my nozzle, the force snatched it from my hand and it disappeared into the black room. The nozzle automatically closed but now I couldn't find the stupid hose. On my hands and knees I groped through the black smoke feeling for it. A little circus music, please. The room was only 10-foot square, but still I couldn't find the dad gum hose. I was totally disoriented and mild panic was setting in.

I found the stairs, stood up and headed for the first floor where I got on my knees and thanked God I was not a firefighter.

I have a special appreciation for these brave men, not because of my failed training exercise but because my oldest son is a seasoned firefighter paramedic who has given me an inside look at what they do.

Last week, Highlands honored its firefighters for their brave, tireless service to our town. What we do for them is not enough. Many are volunteers who work and train for nothing and those few paramedics who are paid, don't make enough to support a family without other work.

Highlands is growing up. When I first came here, it was a village. I watched it grow to a town. It's time to have a full-time, paid fire department. What's more important to you? Paid firefighters who save you and your children from a burning building or a new ABC store?

And you can take comfort in knowing I will not be coming to your house fire. Hey, I can't even hold a fire hose.

The controlled fire was started by my SWAT fire medic Lieutenant who was also an instructor. At the time, Miami Beach was the only SWAT team in the state of Florida who had a certified gun carrying paramedic firefighter on the team. His state certification was limited to defending himself or the life of a policeman who had been shot while on a SWAT call.

This special person not only continuously trained as a firefighter, he also continuously trained as a paramedic. To remain State certified, he had to also attend all our firearm training sessions during his off duty time. Of course, he received extra pay for his services.

Anyway, I wondered why the instructor was snickering as he helped me lift the air tank onto my back. In a little while, I would find out.

"This should be easy," he joked as he handed me the nozzle attached to a large flat fire hose. "The fire is on the third floor. You simply run up there and put the wet stuff on the red stuff. When you get to the fire, radio us and we'll charge your hose. Just talk into your mask and we'll hear you.

"Wait, you're sending me into a burning building with a fire hose with no water in it? I asked.

"They don't bend well in stairwells when full of water so I'm making it easy for you, rookie," my instructor informed me. "Remember to open the nozzle to bleed the air before you radio us to charge the hose."

I should have been suspicious when I saw all the on-duty firefighters bringing chairs out onto the rear driveway to watch me make a fool of myself.

Thick black smoke poured from every window from the third floor up.

"I can do this," I convinced myself as I entered the building. By the time I reached

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

A story about another Marley

Never buy a husky unless you have a sled to pull. I don't care if they are cute. It doesn't matter if a husky puppy loves you. If you own one, you will find that he loves everyone more or less equally. He'll be as devoted to your neighbor as he is to you, unless your neighbor serves human snacks, in which case he will prefer him. I shouldn't have to explain this. You should simply accept the wisdom of my words, quit reading, and swear off huskies. On the other hand, you might enjoy the rationale.

We've shared our lives with Marley for eight months of his first year of life. We've also shared him with the neighbor. Marley came to us from the shelter after several folks, exhibiting better judgment than we, decided that he was too much to handle. He was about four months, and soooooo cute.

I hadn't planned to share Marley's story; had thought it best that it remain within the family. Even after Bull wrote a school essay about how Marley had changed his life for the worse, I wasn't inclined to reveal our family secret. I should have told the cleaning lady. If I had, she might not have left Marley alone in the house. If she hadn't left Marley alone, Lizzie would still have shoes. He expressed his anxiety by chewing one of each pair of some 15 pairs of shoes. I found straps and buckles, and bits of heel for days. Lizzie cried when she returned home from Oregon. For some reason, the dog showed no interest in my Crocs or Rockports. My dog has exquisite taste in shoes. I tried to be a good husband and told Lizzie that she could replace them. She cried and told me that she had been collecting those shoes for years. I knew about stamps, coins, and baseball cards. I even know a guy who collects Ferraris. Maybe I should have known that women collect shoes, but I didn't. I buy one pair, wear them out, and then buy another.

Everyone who has ever owned a husky has a story, none of them as happy as a Lab owner's tale. Huskies love to travel and are nearly impossible to contain. Huskies are more likely to cry than to bark. In fact, they have to learn barking from another breed. Marley cries, and he was crying Friday night when he was in my room. He cried for hours and when he wasn't crying, he was trying to raise the window blinds with his nose. I decided that he was hot, so I turned off the heat to the room and cracked the win-



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

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dow. In less than a minute, I heard a ripping sound, turned on the light, and found a gaping hole in the screen. Lizzie worries about Marley when he disappears. I decided that I could finally get some sleep and explain his absence the following morning. Some time later, still in the middle of the night, I was awakened by Marley, who was trying to climb back through the window.

His bad, if entertaining, behavior would still have remained confidential, were it not for this morning's events. I woke early, put Marley's leash on him and walked him to the park, as I do each morning when we are in Banner Elk. Within the city park is a dog park, a fenced area, perhaps a quarter acre. Note to city officials; raise the fence. I let Marley off his lead to run and play. This morning he displayed unusual interest in something outside the fence. Suddenly he leaped to the top of the fence and bounded over. Marley ignores pleas to "Come," unless he is in the kitchen and I bribe him with a treat.

He trotted off into the darkness and I didn't see him again for two hours. He was sitting in the front yard, looking sheepish. I didn't recognize it immediately, but it was the same expression that our Labs had after encountering a skunk. I remembered the look when I let Marley in. Actually it was a second later when an unforgettable odor offended my nostrils.

Keep in mind that we were in Banner Elk, in January. We had to figure out how to get Marley home without ruining our car. The idea of hosing him in the freezing weather seemed as cruel to us as to him. We chained him in the yard while we took Bull to his ski race, and while we formulated a plan. We stopped at Walmart in Boone and stocked up on tomato juice and deodorizing dog shampoo. Bull and I doused him with tomato juice, rinsed him and reapplied.

The interesting aspect of treating a skunking with tomato juice is that we always try it although it has never worked. Our persistence is evidence that nothing else works either.

Lizzie left for Highlands a few minutes ago, while I showered, unclogged the drain, and cleaned the bathroom. Marley was with her, in my car. The smell will gradually dissipate in the house. Marley will shed and lose the odor. My car, I fear, is doomed. If it were a dog sled, I could just hose it off.

... DELI continued from page 1

Cooley said the only real exterior change for now will be in signage. "They will have to get a sign permit for the changes and they have come in for a zoning permit for the interior modifications."

Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward, has reviewed the plans and said they meet Highlands' code requirements but they will have to meet Macon County building code regulations

"It will be up to the county as to what types of improvements and building permits that they will require," said Cooley.

Yancey Bartlett, co-owner of Highlands Hill Deli with his parents said by pushing out the deli's side wall into part of the House of Wong, the deli will gain about 600 sq. ft.

Patrons will continue to enter the House of Wong through its door on Main Street. Deli patrons will enter through the deli door for now. In the future, Bartlett said he hopes to use the corner door at Main and Fourth Street – the entrance of original Bill's Soda Shop back in the day.

Though the square footage of each business is changing – an increase for the deli and a decrease for Wong – they meet the minimum square footage requirements for their uses. Though 800 sq. ft. is now on the books for businesses, both the deli and House of

Wong are grandfathered in and their original SUPs still apply.

"Both uses are remaining and the Highlands Hill Deli's SUP as a restaurant is not contingent on the number of tables because there are no parking requirements in B-1," said Cooley. "In their case, the amount of seating is controlled by the fire marshal's office as a safety regulation."

Bartlett said he's planning on 30 seats configured around seven tables and countertops along the walls.

He said the deli will have one unisex bathroom as required and the establishment will be wheelchair accessible.

He had hoped to be opened by Valentine's Day but is now shooting for March 1.

At Monday night's Planning Board meeting members Acting Chairman Ginger Slaughter and Linda Clark questioned the changes – wondering like many people in town why none of the Highlands boards had been involved. Cooley explained the circumstances and that simply put it was an expansion of an existing business and that the county boards – the health department and the building inspection department would be more involved than the town.

— **Kim Lewicki**

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

The WASP State

Recently a friend sent me an article about Israel's invasion of Gaza that asserted that people who condemn Israel's actions are anti-semitic. The article

was entitled "Israel is a Jewish State. Is that your problem?" I thought to myself, "Yes that is *exactly* my problem." Let me explain by telling a fairy-tale.

Once upon a time there was a land

filled with promise, and in that land lived a primitive people who were just letting that land lay fallow, unexploited.

This land was discovered and settled by people of the Christian world. At first the White Anglo-Saxon Protestants were few, and the native peoples and the WASPs lived in harmony. The land was rich and fertile and the WASP communities grew and prospered. They believed that God had intended this land for their people; it was their manifest destiny to expand and fill the entire continent from sea to shining sea.

The brave adventurers among the WASPs moved west and created settlements in the midst of the Native lands. The Natives by this time had started realizing that their way of life was threatened by the new arrivals. The WASPs were taking land that belonged to all, dividing it up and claiming ownership. When the Natives protested by firing their arrows at a settlement, the WASPs' army would arrive with guns and decimate the Natives.

Eventually all of the Natives were herded into enclaves, usually the worst land that the WASPs had decided was worthless for their purposes, and the Natives became virtual prisoners in their own land.

Now the WASPs formed a new nation. It was called The United States of WASP, and it was a beacon of hope to all White, Anglo-Saxon Protestants around the globe.

Sound familiar? Of course it is the story of our nation's founding, slightly modified. The reason we didn't go down this road was because of the brilliance of the Founding Fathers, who understood (although they didn't fully practice it) that a democracy must be based not on questions of ethnic or religious identity, but rather on universal principles of law and human rights.

This is why the constitutional "separation of church and state" is so vital. The Founding Fathers were very familiar with the European experience with monarchies and were determined to prevent the establishment of a monarchy in this country. One of the main foundations of the monarchy was the *lack* of separation of church and state; the King or Queen was ordained by God.

The question of ethnicity has been a little more difficult for us as a people. Obviously there was the treatment of African slaves as non-persons, but if you read American history there was a regular backlash against immigrants from various



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

regions of the world based on the belief that they were inferior to WASPs. For example, Catholics from the Mediterranean regions and Ireland in the late 1800s, and non-Christian Chinese in the early 1900s (see my article "Prejudice," August 2007).

The greatness of the United States is built squarely upon our inclusiveness. We are a nation almost unique in the entire world whose national identity has no basis in ethnicity or religion.

So back to the phrase "Jewish State." I think this is exactly Israel's problem — the national identity is built on ethnic and religious grounds. How do you think this makes the twenty percent of Israeli citizens who are Arab Muslims feel about being citizens of that country? I would argue that the phrase you often hear bandied about, that Israel is a "Jewish democracy," is a contradiction in terms. A democracy is a system of government that means rule by the people, not rule by some specific group. One of the reasons for Israel's current policies is the demographic reality that the Jewish people may one day be a minority in Israel. How could it still be a Jewish State at that point?

The fairy-tale I tell above is not a perfect match to the actions of Israel in the West Bank and Gaza, but it is close enough to be instructive.

I'll never forget the day in 2000 when, confused why Yasser Arafat refused the deal President Clinton offered for a two-state solution, I went to my computer to look for myself at a map of what was being offered to the Palestinians. The West Bank looked like Swiss cheese, riddled with holes that were Israeli settlements and lines between the holes that were roads. And these areas were strictly off limits to Palestinians. This was not a viable nation. And it has only gotten worse in the last nine years due to unrestrained settlement activity. For a map, visit the U.N. website www.ochaopt.org, click on "map center," and select "West Bank Closure Map."

I read Jimmy Carter's *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid* when it first came out and I was astonished at the vitriol that was directed at the man. In my opinion Carter bent over backwards to be fair to all sides. Carter documents the ways in which Israel has carved up the West Bank and said that the people of Gaza are effectively living in a prison.

Desmond Tutu of South Africa wrote an article in response to the criticism leveled at Carter: "I've been very deeply

• See BRUGGER page 8

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• HIS & HERS •

Deals of our Founding Fathers

Thank you Mr. President for this interview. We're both lawyers and students of history. I look forward to your comments on the "ideals of our Founding Fathers" you referenced in your Inaugural Address.

Which Founders are you particularly thinking of?

Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Franklin? That's a superlative group.

Yes, of course, we must exclude that slavery matter. Both Washington and Jefferson, until they died, held slaves.

Did you know that one of your four men founded a secret society that anonymously published a pamphlet by Thomas Paine favoring abolition?

Yes, it was Franklin. If he'd come out in public and said that, would he ever again hold high public office?

Right. You can't get too far ahead of your times. What would we have lost, without Franklin's services?

Yes, we'd have lost the American Revolution without Franklin's treaty with the French. That gave us the French fleet and marines at Yorktown. But there's another huge loss.

Give up? We would have lost the Constitution, as well. Franklin's advice for wise compromise was essential. Plus he was the only Founder who really understood "intellectual property rights."

When you referred to "markets that have unmatched power to generate wealth and expand freedom" did you think of the copyright and patent clause?

I thought so, but did you know that Franklin created that clause? Did you realize that clause led directly to Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Bill Gates, Alfred Hitchcock, Count Basie, Patsy Cline, and Oprah Winfrey, among many, many others?

No, you're right. Most people don't consider the consequences of the ideals of the Founders.

Thank you for using a Tom Paine quote. Please tell the listeners more about that event.

Yes, they no longer teach students, in high school or college, that George Washington's troops were about to end their enlistments, which were only for six months. So, Washington made an all-or-nothing gamble on Christmas in 1776 and took his remaining 3,000 able-bodied



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troops across the Delaware, at night, in a snowstorm, to attack the Hessians at Trenton.

Did you deliberately avoid the opening quote from Paine's American Crisis, because it's been overused? "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his nation. But he that serves it now deserves

the love and thanks of man and woman."

Understandable. Showing some variety in your speech.

Among all the Framers, who was the most important?

Jefferson for his intellect? Madison for the Constitution? Yet, all things considered, you choose George Washington for his leadership in all ways?

I think most citizens who think about the Founders at all, would agree.

Let's pursue an event in General Washington's leadership of the American Revolution. Do you recall the fate of British Major John Andre?

Right. He was the British agent for Benedict Arnold's intended betrayal of the garrison at West Point. Andre was captured behind American lines, in civilian clothes, with incriminating documents in his boot.

What happened to him?

Right. General Washington had him hanged. Under what authority?

Yes, he was a spy. But American generals cannot go around the world, point at any civilian, say "He's a spy," and have him killed, can they?

Yes, there does have to be "some kind of trial." Andre got a "drumhead" trial before General Washington. We call those military tribunals today.

They were conducted under the Law of War, which is centuries older than the United States, and was adopted into U.S. military law in 1789.

Were you aware of that?

I thought not.

That process was approved by a unanimous Supreme Court in the 1942 Quirin case. Did you know that?

Do you have your Blackberry handy? I'll bet you have Internet access on that thing, don't you?

Search for Ex Parte Quirin in 1942. It's a quick read, just 26 pages.

So, by shutting down the military tribunals at Guantanamo, aren't you attacking, rather than defending, both the

ideals of the Founders and the Constitution that they wrote?

Mr. President?

Mr. President?

Well, if you say the interview's over, it's over.

Thank you, Mr. President.

• About the author: John Armor practiced law in the Supreme Court for 33 years. He now lives on a mountain in the Blue Ridge of N.C.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

There's a sucker born every minute

While I'd like to think otherwise, as a prognosticator, I'm not that good. Humbly, however, we can recall that I crowned Kansas NCAA basketball champs last year well in advance of the Final Four. On the other hand, I suggested the Braves might be back as Division Champs in 2008. That one didn't work out as well.

On a more serious note, somewhere in the 70's or the 80's, I made an internal observation that has been proven more than accurate. It struck me that State lotteries were becoming prevalent. What??? States running lotteries? Why???

Why on Earth are States promoting gambling? To raise revenue, of course. I said

to myself, this is the beginning of the end.

I'm not a prude, and I'm not much of a gambler but I smell a can smell a skunk from a mile away. Let's see. Huge amounts of money, government officials required to approve, and aggressive corporate profiteers pushing the process. It was to raise revenue all right and not just for the State.

The chicanery within the leadership that got the lottery approved in North Carolina was shameful. We now know why the folks in Raleigh were so devious in working their midnight magic to get it through. THEY WERE GETTING PAID. BIG. Now several high-ranking state officials are incarcerated for their efforts.

As if states promoting gambling isn't

bad enough, it is being touted as "for the children. South Carolina and I'm sure many other states call their scam the "Education Lottery". The economic anatomy of the payout is disgusting. My recollection is that the winner gets about 50%, the promoters/operators 25-30% and education the rest. In North Carolina, the large counties and those poorly run financially get the most. Macon gets a pittance.

So there is an example of government spinning/lying/immorality making certain politicians wealthy, (and sometimes incarcerated).

Apparently we are in the "scamming age". They're proliferating at an alarming rate. Take Al Gore, my personal favorite scammer. When Al served as VP, I thought his environmental ravings were just a mad man expressing himself. If he was as brilliant as he seems to have been, he was setting himself up for a big-time killing.

As I have often reported, Gore's ability to turn global warming hysteria into a profitable carbon credit trading business is sheer genius. He produced a bogus movie that he not only got gullible educators to show in classrooms, but the fawning morons in Hollywood gave him an award for it. He schmoozed big business leaders and showed them how getting on board the green steamroller would allow new products to be created and new markets to be opened.

Global warming has now pretty much been debunked (63% of the public now don't believe in it). 650 or so scientists, schooled in the subject, don't either.

Scamming the public is one thing, but snowing financial professionals is another, yet Bernie Madoff did it successfully for



**Don Swanson
Feedback is
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decades. This master thief got stooges to distribute his imaginary investment products to wealthy greedy folks who never heard "if it seems too good to be true, it is". Offering returns that could not possibly be real, he found no shortage of takers. \$50 billion or so gone (somewhere).

A secondary question arises as to why the regulators didn't see this as it was going on and do something about it. Beats me. In both the Gore

scam and Madoff's fraudulent scheme, public officials have either contributed to or ignored the goings on. I hate to think that money changing hands when it shouldn't have had anything to do with the success of these ventures, but one cannot overlook the possibility. Hope not, think so.

The "herd mentality" is alive and well and is widely being practiced. No greater example of snowing the troops exists than Obama's campaign. Now we all understand that campaigns unfortunately require candidates to occasionally stretch the truth. Promises made and unkept are unfortunately expected in the quest for public office. Obama's campaign exceeded all expectations.

I'm not going to recount the gut wrenching events of the last two years. It was bad enough the first time and it's just too painful to dredge it up. His backing up on campaign promises in the first week in office is proof enough for me. The point of all this is, people seemed to have stopped thinking for themselves. The media lies and distorts, the Hollywood nuts bray their liberal crap and the spin machines spin away. The poorly educated public doesn't stand a chance. For most, thinking for oneself has passed away.

... BRUGGER continued from page 6

distressed in my visit to the Holy Land; it reminded me so much of what happened to us black people in South Africa. I have seen the humiliation of the Palestinians at checkpoints and roadblocks, suffering like us when young white police officers prevented us from moving about... But you know as well as I do that, somehow, the Israeli government is placed on a pedestal [in the US], and to criticize it is to be immediately dubbed anti-semitic, as if the Palestinians were not semitic."

President Obama said in his inaugural speech: "For we know that our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness. We are a nation of Christians and Muslims,

Jews and Hindus, and nonbelievers. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth. And because we have tasted the bitter swill of civil war and segregation and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself; and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace."

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

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The precious blood of Jesus



Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church

If you could have been on Calvary's hill those 2,000 years ago, you would have seen the hands, feet and side of Jesus bleeding as he hung between heaven and earth. It is this blood that Scripture calls precious. It is precious because of what it represents for the sinner. Please remember, the blood, in and of itself, is not the agent of your salvation but what it represents, the death of the perfect man and sinless God-man Jesus Christ. The blood shows us the redemption and atoning efficacy of Christ's work. By it the Scripture says the sins of Christ's people are atoned for; they are redeemed from under the curse of the law; they are reconciled to their Creator, made into new creations, united to him forever.

It is precious because of the cleansing power it depicts, it washes away all sins. Isaiah 1:18 says, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Because of the sacrificial death of Jesus and his shed blood, there is not a spot to be found, not a wrinkle to be seen on those washed in his blood. It is through his precious blood that believers can come and stand in the presence of God. It is through his blood that they will be accepted in the Beloved. His sacrifice is what causes our rebellion to be cast away and forgotten forever.

This blood of Jesus is also precious in that it has a sanctifying power. The death of Jesus on the cross justified all believers by taking away their sin. It quickens a new nature in them. It gives them power to fight sin. It causes them to want to follow God's commands and to show their love and appreciation for what has been done for them.

This precious blood of Jesus and what it represents is the greatest motive for living a holy life. We see that it is also precious because it gives to the believer a conquering power. Revelation 12:11 says "They overcame by the blood of the lamb." You cannot conquer in this life apart from the precious blood of the Lamb. The apostle Paul says in Ephesians 6:1, 13-14a "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm. . ." The blood of Jesus is the foundation of the armor of God. Without his shed blood, without his death on Calvary's cross there would be no armor, no protection. The believer when he goes into the fight with this precious blood, has the full armor of God. Sins flee before him, death turns to but a

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

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Tuesdays: 10am Women's Bible Study; 2nd, 4th, & 5th Tuesdays Young Mom's Bible Study

Wed.: 5pm Dinner; 6pm AWANA, Youth Activities

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The Rev. Brian Sullivan - Rector: 526-2968

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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)

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p.m.; Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.

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A float plane adventure in Washington State and Canada

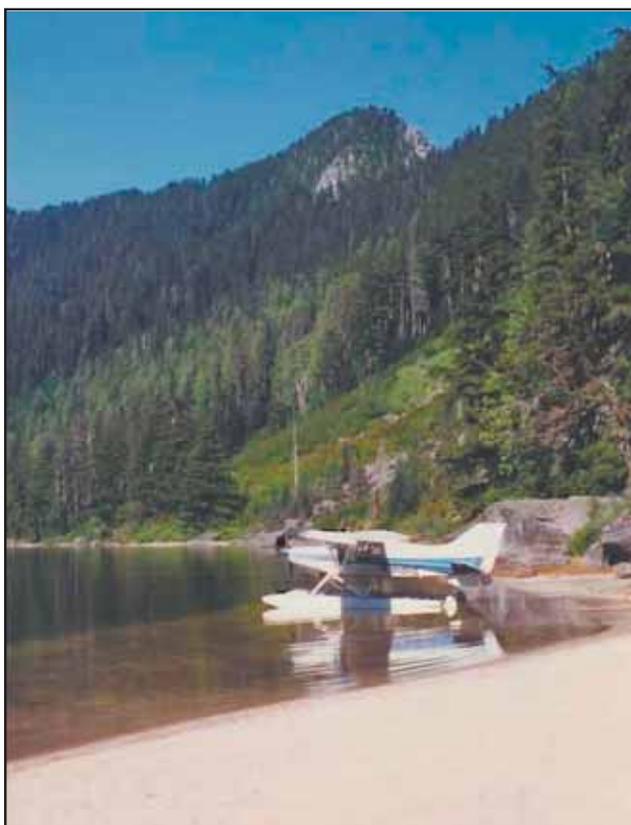
By Janet Wilson

One of my dreams has always been to fly in a float plane. Several years ago my friend Tom purchased a beautiful small aircraft. It was a Maule Lunar Rocket. One of the great attributes of this airplane is it could have the wheels replaced with floats! When Tom invited me to visit him in Seattle and take a summer trip in his float plane I did not hesitate for a minute. Tom and I have been friends since college and we both love the outdoors, travel and adventure. Tom's job took him to Seattle over twenty years ago and since then he has traveled the world, hiked Denali, kayaked the islands of the Pacific and developed a passion for flying. He told me to be sure to bring my backpack and camping gear. I knew right then it would be a fabulous adventure.

After my arrival we went through our camping gear to eliminate as much weight as possible. He called ahead so his plane was waiting for us at the dock. They use a huge forklift to transport the airplanes from the hangers to the water. Tom filed his flight plan and did a preflight inspection. We were ready to load up and take off. It was very exciting. The take off was so much fun. We skimmed across the lake with the sun at our back, lifting off and watching Seattle slowly pass below.

We headed out to sea and flew over the many beautiful islands off the coast and then turned inland. Our destination was Lake Isabel in the Wild Sky Wilderness of Washington state. The mountains were lush, green and unbelievably beautiful. The only access to Lake Isabel is by float plane or hiking trail. Judging from the terrain surrounding the lake it would have been a long hike to reach the lake. We flew through a pass and down into the lake. Wow! It was amazing to slip through the pass and have the lake open up in front of us. It is a pristine wilderness area and the water in Lake Isabel was so clear you could see the bottom.

After setting up camp on the beach we went in search of wood for our campfire. Although the days were warm, the evenings would be cool and we needed a fire for cooking. After we had gathered a pile of fire wood we went exploring, hiking thru the majestic forest on soft pine needle covered trails. By the time we got back to camp we were ready for a swim. It felt great to float out into the still, cool water. It was so relaxing and refreshing. I felt like we had our own private lake, which we did. It was late afternoon so we started planning dinner, which I was really looking forward to. Tom was preparing Planked Salmon, one of his specialty dishes. It is very popular in the Pacific Northwest. Tom said it was important to select an untreated cedar plank. A one inch by eight inch plank around eighteen inches long would be big enough to hold the salmon. The next step was to soak the plank in water for a couple of hours, which he had already done. You can also soak it in red wine; however we chose to drink the wine instead. The fire was ready so I made a pot of wild rice and a salad while Tom pinned the salmon onto the plank. He put the skin side to the wood and then propped it in front of the coals. Yes, this was called roughing it. The ambiance and the cuisine could not have been better anywhere in the world. There was only one word to describe our incredible dining experience at Lake Isabel – Fantastic!



We camped, swam and hiked for a couple of days then took off for the coast again. We went north into Canada toward the town of Tofino, at the western end of the Can-Am Highway. The scenery was exquisite along the coastline. At one point Tom told me to look below us as he dropped the plane down. There was a huge whale breaking the water. We circled as the whale jumped up and made a gigantic splashing dive. It was amazing to see a creature of that size so close. There are Grey Whales, Humpback Whales, Killer Whales, Harbour Porpoises, Seals and Sea Lions in this area of British Columbia.

We landed and refueled at the dock in Tofino and continued north to Hot Springs Cove on Vancouver Island. The Hot Springs are located in the Maquinna Provincial Park and are only accessible by air or by sea. We landed and Tom deftly maneuvered the seaplane into the dock. It sounds easy but there were winds, tidal currents and sailboats to contend with. We safely docked, tied up and began the two kilometer hike along the attractive wooden boardwalk through a lush rainforest. Many of the planks of the boardwalk had been carefully and beautifully carved with the names of visiting yachts. We heard the sounds of waterfalls and surf before we arrived. The springs bubbled out of the earth and cascaded down small cliffs into a series of natural rock pools. These natural hot tubs were a very hot 117 degrees. We enjoyed a shower under the waterfall. It was awesome, especially followed by a cool and invigorating dip in the Pacific Ocean. We were there at high tide when the surf pours into the lower pools creating a comfortable blend of hot and cold water. It was marvelous to lie there and feel the tide flow in and out. I was totally relaxed and amazed by this

beautiful and magical spot nature provided. It was difficult to leave when it was time to go.

The fun wasn't over yet. We flew back to Tofino where we were met and driven to the Long Beach Lodge and Resort. The lodge is located seven kilometers south of Tofino on Cox Bay. It was designed with native stone, a cedar shingle exterior and metal roof creating a comfortable and inviting feeling, typical of West Coast design. The dining room specialized in offerings of a variety of local seafood and produce artfully prepared by Executive Chef Joshua Anker. We began with a salad of fresh, locally grown, organic greens, Salt Spring Island Goat Cheese, green apples, toasted hazelnuts and wildflower honey vinaigrette that was excellent. The island mussels and clams in white wine, lemon grass and thyme were divine. Wild Salmon was served with a watercress sauce, oranges, red quinoa and a king prawn risotto which was a wonderful and unique blend of flavors. Chef Anker created a remarkable dinner to remember in a truly lovely setting.

Tom flew inland on our return trip to Seattle so that I could see the beautiful terrain of British Columbia. It was a week that I will never forget. I returned home with memories of an outstanding Pacific Coast adventure and exceptional dining experiences.

Plank Salmon

2- 4 C. Pinot Noir
 1"x 8" x 18" cedar plank
 1 whole salmon filet (about 18" long, 2 ¼ pounds)
 6 sprigs rosemary, 5" long
 6 sprigs marjoram, 5" long
 6 sprigs thyme, 5" long
 3 lemons cut in wedges
 salt and pepper

1. In a container just wide and long enough to hold the plank, combine two parts water and one part Pinot Noir.

2. Rinse the plank and immerse in the red wine mixture for 2 hours.

3. About 30 minutes before cooking, immerse the fish in the red wine mixture with the plank.

4. Prepare the barbecue grill for indirect cooking.

For a gas grill it must be equipped with a control to regulate heat in the center of the grill. To heat the grill, turn on high for about 10 minutes. Turn the heat off in the center, but leave heat on the opposite sides on high.

5. Lift the fish and the plank from liquid and lay the fish on the plank, skin side down.

6. Top the fish with 3 sprigs each of rosemary, marjoram and thyme

7. Set the plank on the grill, put the grill cover down, open the vents and cook ten minutes. If the plank chars squirt it with water.

8. Remove from the grill and replace the scorched herbs with fresh ones and garnish with lemon.

9. Cut the fish in pieces and lift off the plank with a spatula.

10. Season with salt pepper and lemon.

• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

The upside of the downside

The Town has been trying for many years to obtain funding from the federal government for critical infrastructure needs. Among others, there are really two pressing needs, the threatened danger to our water supply with the silting of the lake from which our water supply comes and the lack of sewage hookups for the majority of the residences in our town.

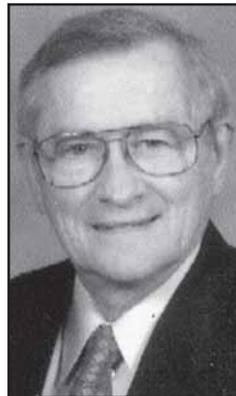
Both the former mayor Buck Trott and I have made trips to Washington looking for funding for completion of these critical projects without much success. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's representatives have visited us and reviewed the situation and have been in full agreement with us but they have not had the funding to help us. They also look upon these projects as critical for the town to complete.

Now there seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel. With the tanking of the economy an effort by the new administration to flood the country with infrastructure funding to stimulate the economy and create jobs is a real possibility. It appears there will be a brief window in which to act. When I mentioned this to our new town manager, Jim Fatland, he ran with it and immediately put together several resolutions which could hopefully begin

the process of bringing matching funds to us if approved. These resolutions include the addition of sewer lines along with the dredging of the Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah, with the federal government paying 75% and the town 25%. For the past two years the town has been putting away money for this and we are certainly ready to do our part.

When these items were presented to the Town Board members last week, they approved the resolutions. Let us hope we are successful this time. It would be exciting if we could get a very small piece of that trillion dollar giveaway from Washington. But most of all let us hope that for our country it is the proper solution to getting us out of this deep recession in which we find ourselves. Such massive spending continues to be a controversial issue.

Let me just add that the Town of Highlands remains in a very good financial position in spite of the recession. At the end of this past fiscal year our reserve fund was at 44% of the



Mayor Don Mullen

total general fund expenditures for the year. The state watches the reserve funds of towns very carefully and when a town drops below 8%, which is reserves which would handle expenditures for a month, they step in to work with a town in solving the problems. During this recession we have cut back some on capital expenditures so that we can remain healthy in the event our tax revenues are reduced. However, we are

currently in good shape and plan to keep it that way by remaining fiscally conservative during these difficult times.

Let me just add a few statistics about recessions. I have lived through all of them since the great depression in the 30s. We have had 12 recessions since 1937, the longest lasting 16 months and the average lasting just over 10 months. Recessions occur on the average about every six years. We are now beginning the 15th month of this most severe recession. The stock market usually begins to respond positively about 6 to 9 months before a recession ends in anticipation of good times. Does this mean we are near the end? I don't know, but if the stock market responds positively within the next month or two, it means this recession will go for almost 24 months. This will be a record. Let us hope that what the administration is doing in Washington will hasten recovery.

... BRIDGE continued from page 1

In the end the board unanimously accepted Nix's recommendation which was for the corten steel structure with a three-inch by eight-inch pressure treated wooden deck.

The work will be completed by Town of Highlands employees and a local concrete contractor. The estimated cost for materials is \$20,000.

Funds for the project are in the Greenway Project Fund and work will begin in about a month and half after town crews are finished replacing poles for the Balsam West project.

Some months ago, Balsam West offered to supply Highlands School with high speed fiber as part of its initiative to connect all of Western North Carolina to the Internet highway.

Before Balsam's cable can reach the school, however, the town has to replace 19 poles – town poles that were too short to accommodate more connections. Nix said the poles had to be replaced anyway, Balsam's offer just speeding up the process.

The town accepted the low bidder for the pole replacement job, but when the bidder faltered on the quote, Nix dismissed them and the town's electric crews took over.

"We're half way there, but it will take another month and a half for us to be finished," said Nix. "Once we're finished with the poles, we can move on to the bridge."

However, at Wednesday night's meeting, Commissioner Hank Ross reported that the Balsam project was being held up outside the town limits, because a property owner who is also a Main Street business owner, won't relinquish rights-of-way for Balsam to string it's fiber.

"So this person is preventing Highlands School from getting high-speed internet," said Ross.

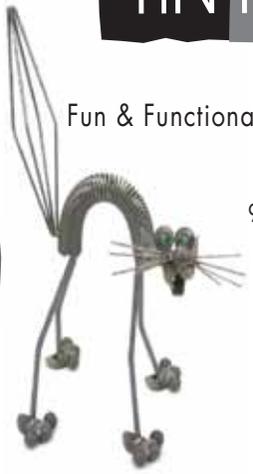
In other Greenway business, committee chairman Hillrie Quin requested \$900 of Greenway funds to reprint a new brochure depicting the Greenway map trail and distances. Specifically, the new pocket-size map will show that the trail no longer goes through the Biscuit Rock neighborhood but instead goes along Upper Lake Road.

Last year, the board agreed to allocate \$100,000 a year to the Greenway Project Fund. The fund doesn't grow but starts at \$100,000 each new fiscal year.

— Kim Lewicki

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• COACH'S CORNER •

So here we are at the end of January, ready to witness what is regularly the most watched sporting event of the year. Last year's Super Bowl was a terrific game that featured an unlikely comeback by the New York Giants against the juggernaut undefeated New England Patriots that included one of the most spectacular plays in Super Bowl history.

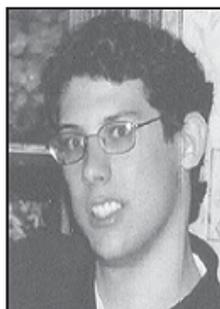
This year, the Super Bowl showcases one of the most dominating and successful franchises in NFL history against one of the most moribund franchises in NFL history.

In their storied past, the Pittsburgh Steelers have 5 NFL championships, and

are the team of Bradshaw, Harris, Swann, Noll and the Steel Curtain defense.

The Arizona Cardinals, on the other hand, are the franchise of the sad-sack Bidwell owners, Dave Kreig, and the place that wanted Emmitt Smith even when he was washed up. There is certainly a stark contrast between the two franchises, but such things become meaningless in a one game,

Super Bowl preview



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

winner take all scenario.

This year, both teams have struggled at times, but have come on strong when it mattered the most. The Cardinals have been led by veteran and former MVP Kurt Warner and the best WR on the planet in Larry Fitzgerald. The Cardinals defense has also been surprisingly stout, particularly against the

Pittsburgh has done it on defense, where they have been dominant in

the postseason, and through the running and passing of Ben Roethlisburger. Both teams have been steady on special teams, and both Mike Tomlin and Ken Whisenhunt are considered to be two of the top young coaches in the NFL.

On Sunday, Arizona will look to get the ball out quickly to counter the Steelers heavy pass rush by throwing slants and outs to Fitzgerald, Anquan Boldin and Steve Breaston. The Cards trio of WR's is one of, if not the best in the NFL, and they will be expected to gain yardage after the catch on these quick throws to allow the Cardinals to move the ball. Rookie Tim Hightower

•See SUPERBOWL page 19



Highlands-Cashiers

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F. Augustus Dozier, MD, FACS	
William J. Noell, Jr., MD, FACS	
Herbert K. Plauché, MD, FAAOS	
Primary Care Physicians	Suite 304
John F. Baumrucker, MD (828) 526-1700	
J. Scott Baker, MD (828) 526-1700	
Debra A. Wagner, MD (828) 787-2430	
Visiting Physicians & Providers	Suite 304
Harold "Hal" Alpert, MD (828) 526-1700	
WNC Hearing Services (800) 456-6666	
Charles C. Thomas, MD (800) 322-2461	

For the latest, most up-to-date information on physicians and services, visit us on the web at highlandscashiershospital.org

Highlands Basketball Roundup

By Ryan Potts

The Highlanders and Lady Highlanders returned home Tuesday night for a non-conference tilt with the Rosman Tigers.

The game was also significant in that the Highlander coaches wore sneakers and pink clothing in honor of Coaches vs. Cancer week. Every year the national coaches association honors cancer survivors as well as those who have been lost to cancer through this event.

Highlanders' coach Butch Smart is an eight-year cancer survivor himself, and so participation in Coaches vs. Cancer holds special significance for Highlands.

The girls' matchup was a showcase between the youth and speed of the Lady Highlanders versus the size and experience of Rosman.

The Lady Highlanders used a combination of full court pressure and intensity to jump out to an early 15-11 first quarter lead. The second half saw the Tigers grind the game down to a slower pace with a 3-2 matchup zone featuring 6'0 Joanna Whitmire at the point. The Lady Highlanders struggled to score in the 3rd quarter before making a strong push in the 4th quarter to cut the Lady Tiger lead to 6.

Unfortunately, the Highlander comeback ran out of time, and the Lady Tigers walked out with a 51-42 victory. Freshman Emily Munger led the Lady Highlanders with 15 points, followed by Brie Schmitt with 7.

The boys matchup saw the Highlanders trying to avenge an earlier close loss at Rosman before Christmas.

The Highlanders started out strong, using full-court pressure and hot three-point shooting to build a lead that they would never relinquish. Senior Andrew Billingsley broke loose with 5 three-pointers and the Highlanders hit 7 overall on the way to a 45-38 victory. Ezra Herz contributed a double for Highlands, and reserve Clayton Lassiter pulled down 5 strong boards.

The Highlanders will travel to Swain County on Friday night, with the JV boys starting at 5 p.m.



Logan Schmitt at the game against Rabun Gap on Saturday.

Macon County recognizes its devoted employees



At the Monday, Jan. 26 Macon County Commission meeting, the board recognized employees who have served the county for 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years. Commissioners Ronnie Beale and Jim Davis, who recently returned from the Legislative Goals Conference said after hearing "horror" stories from other counties, they realize how lucky the county is to have its able and devoted employees. Above are 10-year employees, Polly Bradley, Julia Duvall, Myra Higdon, Tonya Hodgins, Debbie Hunter, Amy Jennings, Doug Johnson, Patricia Lopes, Kaine Matthews, Andy Muncey, Julie Rogers, Paul Rondel, Terry Smith, Amy Stewart, Magdalena Vendrell, Christina Wiggins, Gary Wilson and Karen Wisman. Not pictured are Gary Solesbee, Jonathan Phillips, Alvin Nicholson, and Bobby Gibson.



Recognized for 20 years of service were Terry Bates, Pat Deal, Kay Hilty and Pam Ledford. Not pictured is Pat Deal.



Mary Jo Arrant and Linda Tyler received plaques for 25 years of service. Not pictured is Anita Cloer.



Receiving plaques for 15 years of employment are Bobby Bishop, Shelia Corbin, Kenneth McCaskill, Pam Perry, Angela Phillips, Steve Sears and Charles Womack. Not pictured are Angela Kinsland and Gail Lehman.



Anne Hyder and Stan Polanski of the Macon County Health Department were recognized for 30 years of service.

... WISH LIST from page 1

could have meant an additional \$165,000 to Macon County.

With unfunded state mandates on the rise and a rumored \$2-\$3 million deficit at the state level, the top priority of the NCACC was to seek legislation to allow all counties to enact by resolution or at the option of the board of commissioners by voter referendum, any or all revenue options from among those that have been authorized for other counties in the state. Those include local option sales taxes, prepared food taxes, impact fees, real estate transfer taxes and to preserve the existing local revenue base.

"In other words, we just want to be able to do what other counties east of us have been allowed to do," said Davis. "For instance seven counties have a land transfer tax and if the legislators listen we could, too, with a resolution and by a vote of the people."

With state mandates increasing, counties want to be able to handle and fund programs on a local level rather than "having to do it the state's way without help financially."

Case in point, under the Human Services category, the state is recommending that school districts only have one state-paid school nurse per 750 students.

"That's just not reasonable for Macon County," said Beale. "We have three high schools which are up to 3 1/2 hours apart. One nurse just can't work in Highlands and Nantahla

in one day. They just don't understand that in Raleigh, which means we would have to fund those extra nurses."

Instead, NCACC is suggesting each school system try to meet the 1:750 ratio and incorporate into the allocation formula a criterion that recognizes the level of county effort in funding school nurses.

Furthermore, they want the Legislature to examine the appropriateness of the target ratio for small school districts and consider whether a target of nurse hours per day per school is a better measure of nurse availability in those cases.

The other categories involved proposed laws, funding, board appointments and fee schedules involving Justice and Public Safety, Taxation and Finance, Environment, Human Services, Intergovernmental Relations, Agriculture and Public Education.

Monday night, commissioners also received the final report from the Mental Health Taskforce which includes suggested changes, services and costs.

"Currently 24/7/365 assessment services in Macon County are fragmented and not being delivered in a timely manner, reads the report. "The intent of the new program is to have a community based mental health provider delivering assessment services 24/7/365 here in Macon County through both the hospital emergency department and a community drop-in center."

These plans include incorporating a mental health com-

ponent in the schools, maintaining operation of the Macon Citizens Help Line which was temporarily funded through June 2009, and to continue the Jail Substance Abuse Education Program, which was started on a temporary basis in May of 2008.

The taskforce asked for an adjustment to the county's portion of the current mental health budget of \$63,600 to better fund the programs now in place through the end of the fiscal year.

It also requested county allocations of \$139,402 for 2009-2010. Including the state's contribution, the adjusted 2008-2009 mental health budget is \$149,600 and it's \$225,402 for 2009-2010.

- Kim Lewicki

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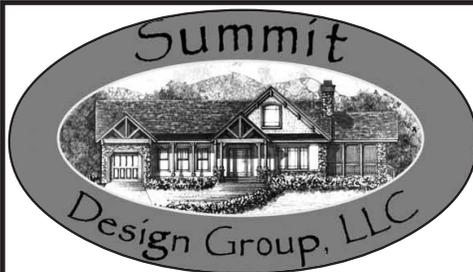
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• ANOTHER POV •

The \$100 Bear



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

My wife and I have lived here in Highlands for four years now and the neighborhood I live in has three bears in full-time residence, a mother and two cubs. The activities of the bears have been fairly routine; they have been seen walking out of the woods, strolling down the street, and on rare occasions they have been on someone's porch helping themselves to a bird feeder that the homeowner had failed to take in during the night. On one occasion the bears startled a neighbor who was on her early morning walk with her dogs. The large mother bear and her cubs, that surprised the diminutive lady and her equally less menacing small dogs, quickly left the scene after the shrill sound of the whistle the woman wore around her neck filled the air with its high pitch scream. With the rare porch visits being the extent of the bears' incursions into their security, the residents of our neighborhood have been unafraid of these gentle giants and willing to share their living space.

It just so happens that my wife and I are the only full-time members of our neighborhood who have not seen these bears. It had become such a thing with me that on two occasions, when the word had spread that the bears had been seen walking around the neighborhood, I positioned my car in the cross roads where they had been seen and sat there in my car throughout the night, camera in hand, waiting for the chance to photograph the elusive bears. Unfortunately for me, I had no sightings and I remained the only resident not to have seen our bears.

This Christmas we were driving down Biscuit Rock Road when we spotted a bear feasting on it's version of Christmas dinner — a roasted turkey carcass, assorted breads and a Cool Whip container a visitor had placed in a trash can but apparently had not secured. Safe within the confines of our car, we were thrilled to see it wasn't just one bear but a mother bear and three cubs. They knew we were there, and after a probing glance from mother bear they knew they had nothing to fear from us so they continued to enjoy their Christmas feast.

We watched from just feet away all the while mindful of the bear's potential, yet never fearing as we gleefully watched from within the safety

of our car. I was struck by the sight of these bears as they sat quietly enjoying their meal; their huge bodies and their obvious strength were so very clear, yet there was a gentleness to them that said there was nothing to fear.

Throughout our visit mother bear sat off to the side, quiet and unmoving, just watching. I knew she was ready at a moment's

notice to use all her strength and ferocity to protect her cubs yet there was a gentleness to her I find hard to describe; it was an inspiring sight.

We watched these bears until they quietly slipped back into the darkness of night and all the while I wasn't sure what they enjoyed more, their meal or watching the silly humans in their metal cave.

How blessed we are that these magnificent creatures can live in harmony with us, they are a cherished part of this wonderful area in which we live.

I finally saw my Highlands bears.

With my recent joyous experience of bear watching just past, I was both surprised and dismayed to read in the Silva Herald of the conviction of a man on a violation of North Carolina General Statue 113-292; specifically "Take a black bear with the aide of poison to (wit) antifreeze." This seemed a bit cryptic, but a call the Clerk of Courts clarified the crime. The offending party had pleaded no contest to the charge of killing a black bear through the use of poison. As a result of his conviction the offending party was ordered to pay a fine of \$100, court costs of \$121 and to pay restitution in the amount of \$2,232.

In speaking with the North Carolina Wildlife Association, I was told that the perpetrator (I'll call him Mr. Jones) had intended to poison coyotes by setting out poisoned food (violation of NC GS 113-262), which apparently Mr. Jones stated had been causing problems in the area; however a bear fell victim to this illegal act. The bear had been found dead earlier in the summer and only through the diligent investigation of the North Carolina Wildlife Association, was the perpetrator of the crime discovered.

This poisoning took place at Chinquapin, a sub community of Trillium, whose mission is, according to its website, "(to serve) as stewards if our

•See ANOTHER POV page 15

... ANOTHER POV continued from page 14

natural and economic resources; developing land in harmony with nature; fostering a spirit of genuine connection and belonging; and ensuring a pristine, welcoming family environment."

The most recent owner of the land now known as Chinquapin was the Carlton family, who donated 700 acres to the conservation easement with the North American Land Trust. The Carlton family, who seem to have a deep and most sincere concern for the environment, made the conservation easement as they, "...want(ed) to ensure there is a place where our grandchildren and great grandchildren can enjoy the natural and preserved elements of nature." I applaud the Carlton family for their commitment to the environment.

The poisoning of the bear at Chinquapin seems to be a doubly tragic event knowing the intent of the Chinquapin community. I endeavored to determine the reason for the poisoning but my calls to Mr. Jones and Trillium management went unreturned. It is also of note that our Mr. Jones was an employee of Trillium and as of my last inquiry to Trillium continues to be one. It would seem that the poisoning of a bear would violate the charter of Chinquapin and most certainly the wishes of the Carlton family "to preserve the elements of nature."

I was also somewhat surprised at the low fine, \$100, but after an enlightening conversation with the judge who handled this case and researching the sentencing system of North Carolina I found to my dismay that the fine was consistent with state guidelines. It seems that in response



to the overcrowding in our jails, and to ensure fair treatment, this system was developed that, to put it simply, divides crimes into categories of as serious and not so serious and people as habitual and first time offenders.

Using a simple matrix, the judge matched the crime with the criminal record of the person and a list of available punishments is provided. It's pretty much a pick one from column A and one from column B kind of thing. It is of curious note that at Whiteside Mountain, for example, there is a sign that states littering is punishable by a \$1,000 fine. Can it be that discarded beer can is a more heinous crime to us than the killing of a black bear?

Some might say that it's just one animal, just one bear, but I have another point of view. I believe the unspoiled

forests and mountains that surround us, as well as the bears and all the other creatures that call them home, are not only why we live here but are the reason people come to visit our beautiful mountain community.

We need to protect our precious mountain animals and maybe it's time for the legislators to re-think the fines for destroying one of those precious creatures of nature that make this area the special place that it is. I wrote to my representatives and told them its time to change the fines; perhaps you should too. (Information on your representatives is on my website.)

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

Note: To see other legislation concerning area wildlife, see the FORUM on page 2.

• 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 ministers 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

• See EVENTS page 17

Does your New Year resolution list look like this?

- Lose weight ✓
- Quit smoking ✓
- Attend church ✓
- Work hard ✓
- Oil Change ✓
- New Tires ✓
- Don't procrastinate ✓

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Northland Cable Television

• BUSINESS NEWS •

RBC Centura wants you to nominate HS teachers

In the past several years, two Highlands School teachers Jane Chalker and Melanie Miller — have been awarded the "Tribute to Teacher's" award by RBC Centura Bank. It is once more that time of year for RBC Bank's annual Tribute To Teacher's Program. In a word, teachers are a gift. They relentlessly pursue excellence in education, promote a life-long passion for learning, and maintain an unwavering dedication to the lives of their students. They deserve to be recognized.

The Tribute To Teachers Program is a community outreach program which highlights our commitment to positively supporting the communities in which we operate. RBC Bank and RBC Wealth Management will be honoring teachers and supplying them with the tools to help build a better future for all of us. Together we can build a better community, 1 classroom at a time.

How it works: Just visit www.rbcbankusa.com between December 1st 2008 and March 15th 2009 and click on the "Tribute To Teachers" button. Tell us why a deserving elementary or middle school teacher is a leader in the classroom and in the community, as RBC Bank and RBC Wealth Management want to reward these teachers for their outstanding leadership.

Requirements: Teachers must work at an elementary or middle school in VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, or AL. ANY position at the school is eligible and ALL schools are eligible.

Prizes: Fifty deserving teachers will be selected as community leaders based on the nomination content, and will win \$500 in "Classroom Cash" to be used on learning tools for their classrooms. (Total prize money of \$27,000.00).

'Friends of Panthertown' one of 19 organizations awarded grants

The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area recently announced 19 grants totaling more than \$250,000 in funding designed to preserve and promote Western North Carolina's heritage. The Friends of Panthertown were awarded \$7,500 for the development of a trail guide and interpretive signage for Panthertown Valley.

Panthertown has garnered many accolades as a unique landscape unparalleled in North Carolina and is designated as a Blue Ridge Natural Heritage Site and Mountain Treasure Area for its outstanding geologic formations, forests, streams and native plant life.

Each year, numerous visitors get lost trying to navigate the network of trails and old logging roads that traverse the 6,300 acres, reports Nina Elliott, the Friends of Panthertown Coordinator. "We've received repeated requests to map and mark trails in Panthertown Valley."

The purpose of the Panthertown Trail Project is to improve safety and make the area more navigable for visitors unfamiliar with the rugged terrain. Elliott adds, "mapping and marking trails will direct visitors to favorite destinations without getting lost, and if someone should get injured, EMS will be able to locate and evacuate victims quickly."

The Friends of Panthertown, sponsored by the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance (J-MCA), formed a partnership with the United States Forest Service (USFS) in January 2008 in a collaborative effort to address the unmet needs of Panthertown Valley with the mission to conserve this outstanding natural resource and provide quality recreational opportunities and backcountry experiences to visitors.

One grand prize winner will be selected to receive a \$2,000 shopping spree at Stone's Education Superstore in Raleigh (travel included). The shopping spree shall take place prior to June 15, 2009.

Winners: All winners and their nominations will be posted on the RBC Bank web site (www.rbcbankusa.com) from May 1 - June 15, 2009. Media advisories will be sent to local papers to recognize the winners and check presentations will be made by local market executives. Contact local RBC Bank Branch Manager Sue Gorski at 828-526-0606 for more information.

Let's give Highlands School teachers the recognition they deserve and go for a winner again this year. Nominate, nominate, nominate!

Garden club gives back



At the January monthly meeting of The Mountain Garden Club, a check for \$500 was presented to Jim Costa, director of the Highlands Biological Center by club president Ann Maxwell. In keeping with the club's purpose, this is funding to help with the upcoming Zahner lecture series.

The Friends of Panthertown are currently working with the USFS to create a map of the of the trail system, develop a signage plan, and install bulletin boards and interpretive signs at trailheads displaying the trail map and information about the history, geology, native flora & fauna in Panthertown.

"Trails do more than just guide people along a path. With the help of devoted groups of people like the Friends of Panthertown, trails protect and preserve the world's most beautiful and irreplaceable areas. Above all, projects like this educate people on the importance of the land, the wildlife, and the natural resources that are so vital to our ecosystem, protecting sensitive ecological areas for future generations," says Elliott.

But there's one catch: an additional \$11,500 is needed to complete the Panthertown Trail Project. Anyone interested is urged to make a tax-deductible contribution to help the Friends of Panthertown raise the remaining funds to complete this project. Donations can be made online at www.jmca.org or by contacting Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (x 258) or friends.of.panthertown@gmail.com.

The Community Foundation of WNC distributes \$919,000 in December

Coordinated Recession Response Underway

In the face of bleak economic news, The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (CFWNC) announces that grants in December from their donor advised funds totaled \$919,837, a number slightly below what was distributed during the same period last year. The total includes \$705,217 going directly to Western North Carolina nonprofits supporting emergency assistance, healthcare, economic vitality, education, arts and the environment.

In a recent survey of 168 regional nonprofits conducted by The Community Foundation, CFWNC confirmed that our region, like the rest of the country, has been hit hard by the recent economic events. Unemployment and foreclosure rates are climbing, demand for services is increasing, giving is decreasing and more than half the respondents reported that their expenses exceeded revenue in the past twelve months. Job creation, housing and shelter, healthcare and emergency assistance were identified as critical needs, with emergency assistance ranked highest priority followed by helping people stay in their homes and work force training.

CFWNC has launched a new initiative - the Recession Response Fund - designed to identify needs and to act quickly to provide support. "We are bringing together a group of regional funders to address the issues facing our citizens and nonprofits," Bob Wagner, vice president of programs, said. "Crisis is an opportunity to do important things and our goal is to bring speed, hard work and focus to this process to provide maximum support to the organizations who directly serve our communities."

Nonprofits are often first responders when an individual or a family needs immediate help. "There are local organizations that you can turn to who can keep your power on or hand you a box of food," said Sheryl Aikman, vice president of development. "We have launched the Recession Response Fund, which is open for public contributions, to ensure that these organizations can continue to step in to help our neighbors in need."

The first round of Recession Response grants will be announced January 30 and funding will be distributed to nonprofits that can leverage the dollars to have broad impact in addressing immediate needs. These organizations have demonstrated an excellent track record in the community and possess the capacity to deliver additional services in response to the economic crisis. The second tier of grants will fund expenses for key nonprofits in addition to emergency services and economic stimulus. Details of the program will be available in early February.

As part of the overall Recession Response program, CFWNC is partnering with WNC Nonprofit Pathways to offer contingency planning to help nonprofits budget with less money and plan for financial viability. Details about the sessions can be found at www.nonprofitpathways.org.

CFWNC has made other changes to its funding strategy in light of the economic crisis, and are allowing some grantees to propose new terms to their grants, including funding operating expenses. While the Foundation's past practice has been to fund new programs, maintaining staff and funding other expenses is critical as nonprofits face increased demands and decreased donations.

Since 1978, Western North Carolinians has awarded more than \$100 million in scholarships and grants to nonprofit organizations and public institutions across our 18-county mountain region and beyond.

For more information about the Recession Response or CFWNC, visit www.cfwnc.org or call (828) 254-4960.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

the Highlands Conference Center at 7:30 a.m.

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

Thursdays

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

Every Third Wednesday

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

1st & 3rd Thursdays

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

Thursdays & Fridays

- Live music at The Rib Shack from 7-10 p.m.
- 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 instru-

ment. Some extra drums and percussion will be supplied. For more information call 421-0551.

Sunday, Jan. 25

- "Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin will welcome Mr. Edward L. Washington, Sunday, Jan. 25. Mr. Washington will speak to us about The Macon County Human Relations Council. Mr. Washington is retired as Director of the LBJ Job Corp Center in Franklin. The Service and the Children's Service begin at 11 a.m. The Fellowship is located at 85 Sierra Drive just off Lakeside Dr. 1.2 miles from Hardees. All are welcome. For information, telephone 828/524-6777.

Thursday, Jan. 29

- Highlands School PTO meeting at 6 p.m. There will also be a Chili dinner before to benefit the 5th grade to raise money for their Charleston trip.

- Volunteers needed to maintain trails in Panthertown Valley! The next work day will be on Thursday. Participants should meet at the Salt Rock Gap entrance 10 am. Things to bring: a backpack, work gloves, water, lunch, and camera. Tools will be provided, but volunteers are welcome to bring hand tools such as clippers, loppers, pruners, and folding saws. The Friends of Panthertown sponsor volunteer work days on the last Thursday of the month, time and location vary. A schedule of volunteer opportunities and other special events are posted online at www.j-mca.org. Work days are a great way to meet new friends and help maintain Panthertown Valley. For more information contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext. 258) or email us at friends.of.panthertown@gmail.com.

Saturday, Jan. 31

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike with a stream crossing and a small elevation gain to the area in Blue Valley of three old amethyst mines. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m.; return about 1:00 p.m. Drive 24 miles round trip. Bring water, a lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors 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 am - 12 pm at the Macon County Community Building in Franklin and at the Highlands Recreation Park in Highlands. 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.

Friday, Jan. 30

- Deadline to apply for scholarships offered by The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. Applications are available at the school guidance

office or for more details go to www.cfwnc.org.

Sunday, Feb. 1

- The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin, NC will welcome our speaker for Sunday, Feb. 1, Mr. Irving Kagan. Mr. Kagan's topic will be "The Theodacy Problem." Service and Children's service begin at 11a.m. The Fellowship is located at 85 Sierra Drive just off Lakeside, 1.2 miles from Hardees. All are Welcome. For info call 828/524-6777.

- NANTAHALAHIKING CLUB will take an easy 2-mile hike with a nice viewpoint and an elevation change of 300 feet near Black Mountain on Forest Service roads in the Jones Creek area. Meet in Westgate Plaza in Franklin opposite Burger King at 2 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring drink, a snack if you wish and wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell at 369-6820 for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Monday, Feb. 2

- Highlands Little League will begin accepting registrations for the 2009 season on Monday, Monday at the Highlands Rec Park. All new players must provide a photocopy of their birth certificate. Children age 5 (before April 30) and up will be placed on teams according to age. The registration fee is \$40 per child, which will provide them each with a hat, jersey and socks. Additional siblings will be \$35 each. If you have any questions, please contact: Monica Vinson @ 526-9107 or John Shearl @ 526-2251.

Thursday, Feb. 3

- The Macon County Soccer Club (<http://www.maconsoccer.net>) will begin accepting registrations for the Spring soccer season on Saturday, from 6-8 p.m. at the Macon County Community Building in Franklin. 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.

Thursday, Feb. 5

- A meeting will be held today at the Macon County Public Library beginning at 5:30 p.m. to begin planning and organization for the Quilt Trails project in Macon County. Barbara Webster, executive director of Quilt Trails of Western North Carolina, will give an informative and interesting presentation about the economic impact this project has had in other Western North Carolina counties. Anyone interested in this project is invited to attend this important and informative meeting. For more information call Linda Harbuck at 524-3161 or Deb Thompson-Heatherly at 349-8912

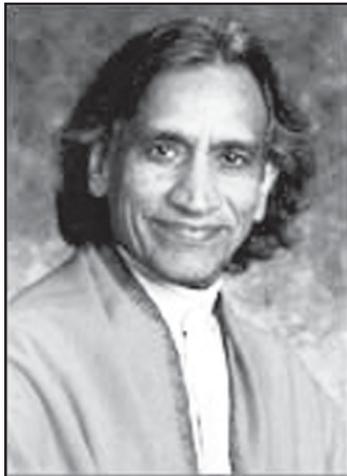
- NC Cooperative Extension will hold a class on "Growing Shiitake Mushrooms" from 9 am to 1 pm at the Macon County Environmental Resource Center. Pre-registration is required. There is a \$10 materials fee due at registration. Each participant should bring

two hardwood logs (oak is preferred), 4 to 6 inches in diameter and 3 to 4 feet long. This will be a hands-on workshop. A classroom session will explain Shiitake growing and participants will then drill their logs and inoculate them with Shiitake mushroom "seed." Participants will leave the class with two inoculated Shiitake logs and the ability to inoculate more. The program is geared toward those who want to grow shiitake as a serious hobby or small sideline business. Most of the program will be outside, so dress warmly. If you have an extra log to donate, we would like to build a Shiitake demonstration area at the Environmental Resource Center. Please register at the Macon County Cooperative Extension Center by Friday, January 30. Call 349-2046 if you have any questions.

- Carole Light, PhD, will be presenting a program "Concerns and Beliefs about Money and Their Effect on our Mental Health." Money is a great source of conflict for many people and in many relationships. This program is not about how to manage money. Carole will explore some of the things that shape our attitudes and reactions to money issues, and help us gain insight into why we behave and react the way we do. A support group meeting will follow at 8p.m. Please invite family and friends, as this is open to the public and should be of interest to anyone. This will be held at The Children's Home, 827 Wiley Brown Road. Turn off Hwy. 441 onto Dowdle Mtn. Road at the traffic light

• See EVENTS page 22

Yoga legend coming to Cashiers



On Sunday, Feb. 8, there will be a lecture and Yoga Nidra meditation experience with Yogi Desai at the Albert Carolton - Cashiers Community Library, Grouse Point Road, Cashiers at 5:30 p.m. Lecture and yoga Nidra Meditation Experience - \$35 for registration and information, please contact April Harrison, (929-743-1124) or email adhnc@yahoo.com. There will be a Yoga session for those who would like to participate at 4 p.m., prior to the lecture. This yoga experience is free and suitable for beginners.

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

Jan. 30-Feb. 5

TAKEN

rated PG-13

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

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

Mon - Thurs: (4:20), 7:10

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON

rated PG-13

Friday: (4), 9

Sat & Sun: (4), 9

Mon - Thurs: (4)

INKHEART

rated PG

Friday: 7

Sat & Sun: (2), 7

Mon - Thurs: 7

GRAN TORINO

rated R

Friday: (4:30), 7, 9:30

Sat & Sun: (2), (4:30), 7, 9:30

Mon - Thurs: (4:30), 7

HOTEL FOR DOGS

rated PG

Friday: (4:10), 7:05, 9:10

Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:10), 7:05, 9:10

Mon - Thurs: (4:10), 7:05

\$5. for 20 words weekly

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HELP WANTED

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

Laundry/Housekeeping Attendant: needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. PRN, day shift positions available. Position requires weekend rotation and holidays. Salary based on experience. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

MLT or MT needed in the laboratory at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Second and third shifts available with an occasional weekend and holiday rotation. Registry of ASCP or equivalent is required. Must be able to work alone. 3-5 years experience as a generalist with blood banking is preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

ONE BEDROOM/ONE BATH partially

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

TWO BED ONE BATH CABIN AT LAUREL FALLS. Minutes from hospital and a few minutes from town. Fully furnished. \$850 a month. Please call 787-2423. st. 1/22

APARTMENT FOR RENT in Scaly Mountain. 2 bed, 1 bath, unfurnished, no pets, no smoking, \$500 a month includes utilities. Call Becky @ Cabe Realty 828-526-2475. 2/12

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 828-525-2475. 2/12

LEASE HOUSE WITH OPTION AVAILABLE. Remodeled. Between Highlands and Cashiers. 3 bed, 3 1/2 bath and bonus room. No smoking. \$1,000 a month. Call 828-371-1609 or 828-743-1108 1/29

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 sft., 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. psherrer@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 3BD/2BATH 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 526-0921.

LARGE CABINET ENTERTAINMENT CENTER from Dutchman's Design. Black/distressed. Very Nice. Sacrifice at \$400. Call 828-200-0737.

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 Ehiem 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

HEALTHRIDER N35 RECUMBENT BIKE - Five programmed workouts, heart rate indicator. \$150. After 6 p.m. call 787-1264.

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 dresser, one desk, one chest. \$300. Call 526-5772.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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.

DECK CHAIR WITH MATCHING FOOT RESTS – \$20. Call 526-5367.

DRESSING MIRROR – \$5. Call 526-5367.

STEEL TYPEWRITER TABLE – \$5. Call 526-5367.

TWO TWIN CREAM COLORED BEDSPREADS – \$6 each. Call 526-5367.

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

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

FREE BRICK FRONT FOR BUILT-IN FIREPLACE. 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 lami-

nated 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.

1999 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER – Auto, 4x4, black, sport package. Sunroof, CD, new tires. Great condition. \$5,500. Call 828-342-6640. 1/29

1997 FORD F250 CREW CAB – 4WD. 75,000 original miles. 460 8 CY, 5 SP, Short WB, Black, one owner. 35" tires. 3" lift. \$8,500 or OBO. Call 526-3824.

1984 JEEP CJ7 – Rebuilt 304. 10,000 miles. 8 CY, 4 SP, 4WD, Front Bush Guard. 35" tires. 6" lift. Headers. Good condition. \$8,500. OBO. Call 526-3824.

02 DUTCHMEN 27' LITE TRAVEL TRAILER. – Slidout. Queen MBR, sleeps 6. \$12,000. OBO. Call 526-3824.

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... SUPERBOWL continued from page 12

had provided the Cardinals with a quick strike running back early in the season, but veteran Edgerrin James will be called upon to get the tough yards on Sunday. The Steelers will try to be balanced offensively, but first and foremost must protect Big Ben in order to be successful. Roethlisberger has been sacked more than any quarterback in the NFL over the last three years, partly because of a patchwork offensive line, but also because of his tendency to hold on to the football and make plays in the pocket.

The key to this game for both teams will be to establish a running game early. Whichever team can run the ball effectively will be the one walking out of Tampa with a Super Bowl trophy. Although I have picked against the Steelers in recent weeks, I think that their run defense will be the key factor in the game, and Troy Polamalu in the secondary will come up with a big play to deliver a 6th Super Bowl trophy to Steeltown USA. Pittsburgh 24-20.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 9

shadow that cannot harm him and the gates of heaven open at his arrival. Through this blood of Jesus and all it represents you can move forward conquering life and all the terrible circumstances it throws at you, so long as you stand, trusting in the power it brings to all who believe.

This world is filled with wickedness and evil. For those trapped in it, there is but one way of escape and that is through the precious shed blood of Jesus Christ. This blood alone has the power to make you into a new creation, to set you on the path to eternal life in the presence of your Creator. How can you be covered with the precious shed blood of our Lord? Acknowledge yourself as a sinner, one who is hopelessly caught in sin. Open your ears and listen to the call of God

... TUITION continued from page 1

ton, GA – about 45 minutes to an hour away.

"It has always just made more sense to go to Highlands School than Clayton," said Barnes. "If I send my kids to Clayton, they'd be going to two different schools, I'd have to get off of work an hour early to meet the bus that lets them off at 4:30 p.m. and if there was an emergency it's just too far away for me to get to them."

Barnes has a fourth-grader who has attended Highlands School all her life and a rising kindergartener.

For generations families who lived over the Georgia line have attended Highlands School. But back in 2002-03, when classes became overcrowded in some Macon County Schools – Highlands included – the county instated an out-of-state tuition policy based on the ADM cost per student.

The policy was included in the county's policy book but when the book was streamlined in 2006 the specifics of the out-of-state tuition policy were either left out or distilled. "There may still be a presumption of paying out-of-state tuition in the policy handbook," said Macon County Schools Attorney Doug Henning. "We have to look into it."

As part of the out-of-state tuition policy, municipal, state and federal employees who work in Macon County but live over the line in Georgia or South Carolina don't have to pay tuition.

Barnes repeated the argument heard back in 2002-03 "that it's not fair that those employees are exempt but others working in Highlands or Franklin aren't."

With several ramifications to consider, board member Frieda Bennett made the motion that the board take the information under advisement and look at all the issues before making a decision.

Henning said that whatever the board decides must be applied to all families and students and not just to Misty Barnes and her family.

that he has sent one into this world to do for you what you could never do for yourself. Jesus Christ came into this world taking on flesh and blood to live the perfect life you could never live. He offered that life on Calvary's tree to pay the price for your sins you could never pay for yourself. He won the resurrection victory over death and the grave to open heaven's gate for all who would place their faith, hope and trust in him. He returned to heaven to take his seat at the right hand of God the Father to intercede on the behalf of all who call on his name with a broken heart and contrite spirit. Call out to him today, he promises to hear all who humbly call. But remember, this gracious offer will end when your eyes close in death. Today is the day of salvation, call now.

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• POLICE, FIRE, SHERIFF •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for Jan. 16-25. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

- Jan. 16
 - At 10:30 a.m., officers were called to a residence on Big Bearpen about a breaking and entering where \$300 in building materials were taken.
 - At 10:10 p.m., officers were called to a residence on the Franklin Road where a car had been vandalized.
- Jan. 18
 - At 1:48 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at Sagee Woods and Bowery Road.
- Jan. 19
 - At 11 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Church and S. 5th Street.
 - At 11:30 p.m., officers responded to a call of suspicious people on the property of James Auto and Body Shop on N.C. 28 south.
- Jan. 20
 - At 5:45 p.m., a motorist at S. 3rd Street and N.C. 28 was cited for driving with an expired registration.
- Jan. 21
 - At 9:40 p.m., officers responded to a call of suspicious activity in the driveway of a residence on Satulah Ridge Road.
 - 10:52 p.m., officers were called to the parking lot of the Hampton Inn where a man was being drunk and disorderly.
- Jan. 22
 - At 2 p.m., officers responded to a call of an open window in a residence on Bowery Road. Things were moved about in the home and a basket was missing from the front port.
- Jan. 25
 - At 4 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Hicks Road in reference to a stolen vehicle.
 - During the week, officers responded to 2 alarm activations, issued 10 warnings, and made two traffic stops with warnings.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Jan. 20-27.

- Jan. 21
 - The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Hickory Lane. It was false.
- Jan. 22
 - The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers for a possible structure fire. The call was cancelled.
- Jan. 23
 - The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on N. 4th Street. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- Jan. 25
 - The dept. responded to the call of a possible structure fire at a home on Hickory Hill Road but it was an electrical problem in the house.
 - The dept. responded to a vehicle fire on Whiteside Cove Road that set the woods on fire. Since it was in Jackson County, Cashiers also responded. The fire was extinguished and minimal damage was done to the woods.
- Jan. 26
 - The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a doctor's office at the hospital. There was no transport.

The following are the Macon County Sheriff Dept. log entries for the week of Jan. 12-24. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

- Jan. 12
 - At 10:45 a.m., deputies responded to a call from the hospital concerning a possible financial scam.
- Jan. 16
 - At 3:59 p.m., deputies responded to an alarm at a residence on Homer Potts Road. There was no problem.
- Jan. 20
 - At 10 a.m., deputies responded to a breaking and entering at a residence on Watkins Road. There was a broken window but nothing was taken.
- Jan. 21
 - At 3:59 p.m., deputies responded to an alarm at a residence on Old Orchard Road. There was no problem.
- Jan. 23
 - At 10 a.m., deputies responded to a resident on the Cashiers Road who said vandals had taken a sign and rhododendrons.
- Jan. 25
 - At 10 a.m., deputies responded to a call from Winfield Farm in Scaly where a deer crossing sign had been stolen.

• 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.

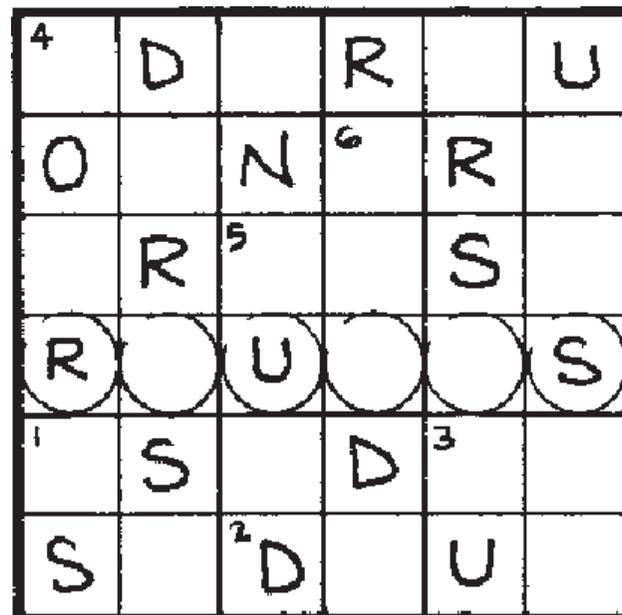
Mystery Word Sequential Choral Songs (6)

Across

1. Third person, pl (obj) (2)
2. Ill-humored (4)
3. Negative (2)

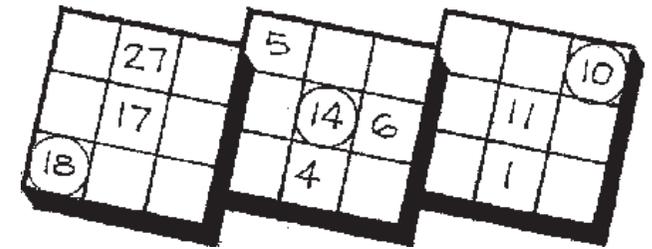
Down

- 4.. To bob head (3)
5. Belongs to us (3)
6. Solar center (3)



PseudoCube[©]

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#DZ2F Level of Difficulty - Easy

THE SETUP:

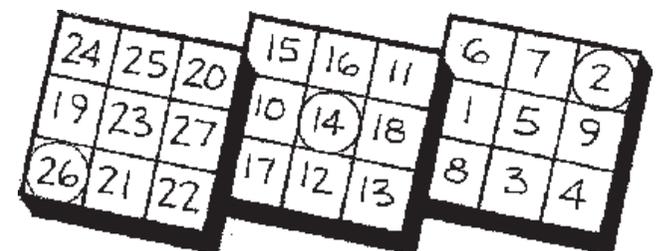
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

THE CHALLENGE:

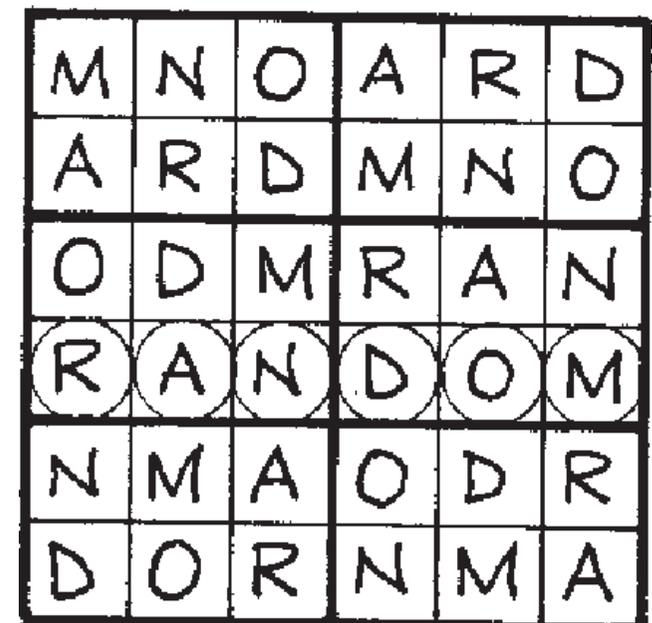
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

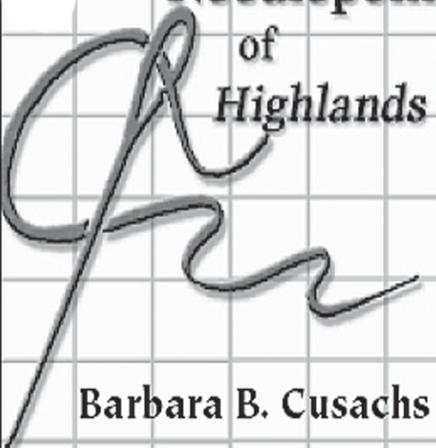
Solution to #BZ1F in Jan 22 issue



Solution to Jan. 22 Sudo-Gram



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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

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• "Sleepless in Seattle," 1993 rated PG, features Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. In the story, the son of a recently widowed man calls a radio talk show in an attempt to find his father a partner. There is a very romantic ending on the top of the Empire State Building. The movies will be shown in the Library Meeting Room at 7 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.

• The Macon County Soccer Club (<http://www.maconsoccer.net>) will begin accepting registrations for the Spring soccer season on Saturday, from 6-8 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.

Saturday, Feb. 7

• NANAHALA HIKING CLUB will take a strenuous 10.4 mile hike on the Chunky Girl Trail with elevation gain of 921 feet in a steady climb to the Appalachian Trail. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m. Drive 34 miles round trip. Call leader Bill Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, Feb. 8

A lecture and Yoga Nidra meditation experience with Yogi Desai at the Albert Carolton – Cashiers Community Library, Grouse Point Road, Cashiers at 5:30 p.m. Lecture and yoga Nidra Meditation Experience - \$35 for registration and information, please contact April Harrison, (929-743-1124) or email adhnc@yahoo.com. There will be a Yoga session for those who would like to participate at 4 p.m., prior to the lecture. This yoga experience is free and suitable for beginners.

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 Harlingen 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 Glenville. Drive around to the back of the school to the woodworking 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

• 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.




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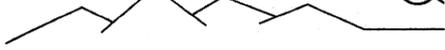
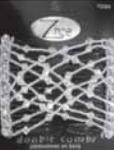
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**HCP to present 'Carolina Murder Mystery'
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Wine, Dine and Solve the Crime at The Highlands Cashiers Players' production of a Carolina Murder Mystery, "Final Reunion", Friday and Saturday, February 6 & 7 at the Performing Arts Center, Highlands. Pictured are Ronnie Spilton, Dean Zuch, and Jim Gordon rehearsing this quirky murder mystery. Dinner is being catered by Holly's Kitchen. For more information and tickets call: 828.526.8084.

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