

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 2

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Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009

This Week in Highlands

- 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. For any questions, or to schedule a drop-off call (828) 787-2114.

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

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

- "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital call 526-1402.

Mon. & Wed.

- 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.

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.

Thursdays

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

Thursdays & Fridays

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

Saturday, Jan. 10

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile easy-to-moderate hike on Ranger Falls Interpretive Trail. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
40-29F	45-30F	40-24F

Short meeting but two major decisions

Due to the snowy weather, the Town Board held an abbreviated meeting Wednesday night with Town Manager Jim Fatland seated for the first time.

The two main items on the agenda were the Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant application and Pole Attachment Fees.

With Jan. 31 the deadline for 2009 Clean Water Management Trust Fund grants, the board voted

unanimously to apply for \$350,000 to remediate flooding on Laurel and Fifth streets – two of several areas noted in the town's recent storm-water remediation master plan.

The design option, recommended by Town Engineer Lamar Nix, will upgrade the area to pass the 100-year storm event.

The plan implements two-Con/Span road crossing structures with a stream bank stabilization/

enhancement plan to modify the Mill Creek channel 25 feet upstream and downstream of the road crossings.

The suggested match from the town is \$59,000 with \$291,000 from the grant.

After about a year, the board finally decided to hold the town's pole attachment fee to \$10 rather than increasing it to \$20 as suggest-

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School Board audit dissected

At the November school board meeting, Dixon Hughes, certified public accountant, presented the Macon County School Board audit. Except for some internal control deficiencies which have plagued the district for some time, the school system was declared "fiscally sound."

The internal control deficiencies mostly involve the Child Nutrition Department and the segregation of financial duties at individual schools in the district.

"In our opinion, the administration's financial statements presented fairly, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the board as of June 30, 2008. It also shows the respective changes in financial position and its cash flows, where applicable, and conformed with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America," said Dixon's representative.

Dixon Hughes said the 2007-2008 year reflects a normal trend for Macon County Schools except for two major renovations to school property. The first was the renovation of the Franklin High School gym lobby, restrooms and concession stand at a total cost of \$580,626.

The money from this project came from the Public School Capital Building Fund and the requisite 25% county match as well as from the regular capital outlay county appropriation to the schools.

The second was a renovation project at East Franklin School funded by Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB) at a cost of \$945,456.

Macon County Schools started the 2007-2008 year with a rather large capital outlay fund balance that was a result of the sale of Otto School during the 2006-2007 school year, they said. Plans had been made for the use of this money and it was expended during 2007-2008 for capital projects including roofs and HVAC systems.

Dixon Hughes said net assets are an indicator of the fiscal health of the school board. Governmental assets exceeded liabilities by \$42,381,116 as of June 30, 2008. The largest component of governmental net assets is invested in capital assets net of related debt, of \$41,815,561. It comprised 99% of the total net assets.

Revenues increased \$4,942,789 in 2008. County appropriations increased from \$6,492,001 in 2007 to \$9,960,085 in 2008. A substantial part of this increase was a result of the county funded renovation projects at East Franklin School and Franklin High School. The regular county appropriation for capital outlay remained static at \$700,000.

The net change in expenses from 2007 to 2008 was an increase of \$2,561,234. Factors contributing to this change include:

- Increases in instructional programs due to substantial salary increases to licensed certified per-

• See AUDIT page 11



Town Manager Jim Fatland said he's easing into the role with help of Town Administrator Richard Betz.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Manager's trademark to be 'positivity'

After more than 30 years in the field of town governance, James R. Fatland, 57, (pronounced Fay-lan) is ready to incorporate all he's experienced and learned into his position as Highlands Town Manager.

He comes to Highlands from

Monroe, N.C., where he spent a year as the Director of Finance and Administration, overseeing everything fiscal concerning the town. But it just wasn't where his heart was.

Having been Town Manager

• See MANAGER page 3

* THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

• LETTERS •

Has the pioneer spirit faded away?

By Randall Franks

I was driving down the road the other day and noticed a luxury car stalled at the side of the road. A man in an Armani suit was standing outside speaking on his cell phone probably calling for assistance. Behind him in the distance, I noticed an older lady probably in her 90s in front of a farmhouse with a rake in hand. She wore a bonnet and a long dress that entirely covered her arms and legs. The sight of her took me back to an image from my childhood.

A large, cast-iron pot hung on a tripod above a roaring fire. Around the fire's edge were other smaller pots. Each had something cooking in them. Behind the smoke, and in the one remaining space where someone could stand, was a lady wearing a dress which covered her from head to toe. She stood like a mountain in the face of this billowing smoke so that she could constantly stir what she was cooking to keep it from burning.

As I have traveled and discussed some of my childhood experiences with many of my contemporaries, they are often surprised by some of my memories. Oftentimes, I believe they think I have been transplanted here from a different time by aliens.

Childhood visits with grandparents on both sides, Jesse and Allie, Bill and Kitty, help to fuel these images. Many of my memories relate to my grandmother, Kitty.

Kitty was the lady by the fire.

The only skin I could see was her face. She would only slow her stirring to lift a handkerchief to her brow and wipe away the drops the heat had brought. She would seldom speak as she kept her concentration on all of her prize cooking pots around the fire.

In her withered face were a lifetime of cooking fires, and almost 80 years of wars, births, deaths and struggles — all to raise a family in the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee.

Deep inside her dark eyes, which could stare down a grizzly, it was hard to find the little girl she once was — the girl who roamed the mountains picking daisies and who sat by the fireplace with her brothers and sisters hearing family tales of mountain folk fighting the Native Americans, red-coats, Yankees and suffering through reconstruction in the South.

But that was before she lost her parents, Phil and Rachel, to the fever.

She came from strong pioneering stock — people who forged their way into the wilderness of the new world in the latter part of the 1700s and carved out a meager existence in a cosmos of mountains, woods and natives. No less would be expected of her than to overcome the loss of her parents and be-

come a pioneer herself.

While much of the world was speeding along as a result of the Industrial Revolution, her world was still very much in the past. She depended on hunting, fishing and agriculture for survival.

Under the guidance of older siblings, the younger ones made their way.

At 16, Kitty married a man of 30, also from the mountains. Bill had just returned to the mountains after pursuing adventure as a cowboy in the final gasps of the American West. Bill's experience would stick with him throughout his life. On several occasions, he tried to get young Kitty to pack up the family and travel west in the covered wagon. Kitty would not leave the safety of the mountains.

My grandfather Bill would now be 124-years-old. While he died before I was born, through stories of my mother, grandmother and family, he has always been very much alive to me.

In the shadows of the smoke, I could almost see him there beside her stoking the fire as he did so many times before. Sometimes I think she could see him there too, as a hint of a smile would cross her face.

As her food finished cooking, I watched her lift the heavy cast-iron pot from the tripod and place it on the table which sat in the yard nearby. She walked over and rang the

bell to let everyone in the fields know that the food was ready, but there were no longer field hands to feed, just a few family members to come to the table. While she waited, she reached in her apron pocket and pulled out her pistol to make sure the heat had not affected the piece, wrapped it back in her hanky and put it back in her apron before the family gathered to sit for supper.

I wonder if our generation, with our comfortable air-conditioned and heated homes, electric refrigerators and stoves, running water and luxury cars and the like, would have the ability to make it without all our toys. I know some people who say they would "just die" without their cell phones.

I'm sure my grandmother would have hated giving up her cast-iron pots. Even when an electric stove was available to her, she still leaned towards the old ways.

I wonder what would happen if we were once again thrust into the frontier lifestyle. Could we muster the pioneer spirit?

© 2008 Peach Picked Publishing - Randall Franks is an award-winning musician, singer and actor. He is best known for his role as "Officer Randy Goode" on TV's "In the Heat of the Night" He is a columnist and staff writer for News Publishing Co. and can be reached at rfranks@catoosanews.com.

Brugger's is right on

Dear Editor,

I always enjoy Katie Brugger's thoughtful and intelligent articles. I'm sure she will get a lot of flack about "The Giving Spirit" in the Dec. 23, 2008 issue of this paper, but I feel she accurately described some basic differences between the liberal and conservative mind sets.

I just wanted to add a quote from Helen Keller to the mix: "No loss of flood and lightning, no destruction of cities and temples by hostile forces of nature, has deprived man of so many noble lives and impulses as those which his intolerance has destroyed."

Cynthia Strain
Highlands

Thanks for support

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our community for helping make our annual "Shop with a Cop" event a huge success. Our community can be proud to know that because of your support we were able to help more than 162 Macon County children and their families celebrate Christmas in

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... DECISIONS from 1

ed last June.

The reason for the increase was to finance pole change-outs which are necessary due to clearance violations on the town's part.

Bill Staley, with Northland Cable, said an increase in pole attachment fees would cost the consumer about \$1.50 more a month and he urged the board to hold steady especially in the current economic times.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said the reason the town was replacing poles was to gain clearance so other companies could attach which would mean more revenue to the town in the long run. She suggested keeping the fee at \$10 per pole.

Fatland presented three financing options for changing out 287 poles at the rate of 60 a year over the next five years.

In the end commissioners agreed unanimously to option three, which uses \$200,000 in the Electric Fund Balance to finance change-outs in 2009.

Fatland also presented the treasurer's report noting that General Fund proceeds to date are off by 2.8% compared to this time last year — 61.08% compared to 63.86%. General Fund revenues are sales and ad valorem tax proceeds.

The next Town Board meeting is Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.

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.

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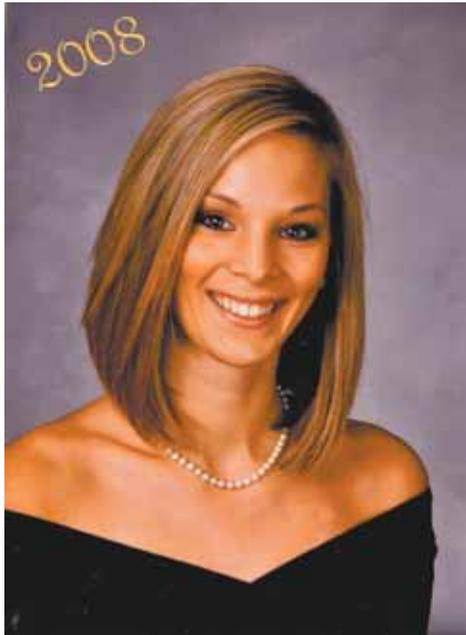
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• MILESTONES •

Schmitt graduates from UGA



Kelsey Anne Schmitt of Highlands has been awarded two degrees from the University of Georgia. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism in Public Relations Degree and a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Sociology Degree at Fall Commencement Exercises held on Friday, December 19, 2008 at Stegeman Coliseum on the UGA campus in Athens, Georgia.

Kelsey, a 2005 graduate of Highlands School, is the daughter of Tim and Katrina Laverty and George and Gabrielle Schmitt, as well as the granddaughter of George and Marie Schmitt and Kathryn Sue Potts. She is employed by a marketing firm in the Atlanta area.

Patriarch presides over Christmas celebration at Old Edwards Inn



Above: Highlands' Newspaper copy editor Tom Merchant, 92, enjoyed the holidays with several members of his extended family who dined with him at OEI's Madison's Restaurant for Christmas dinner. From left is grandson Will Clark, Jim Johnson, Shirley Johnson (daughter), Larry Lokken, Mae Lokken (daughter), Tom Merchant, T.C. Merchant III (son), granddaughter Corrie and Andy Turner.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

their homes. Without your help we could not have accomplished this. We are truly blessed to live in such a caring community and we thank each and every person and business that helped provide the funds to make this possible.

Organizing this event takes a tremendous amount of work. This is accomplished with the assistance of Sgt. Amy Stewart who always does a fantastic job. I don't know what I'd do without her. Thanks Amy for taking a difficult job and making it look easy. Because of you, the event went off without a hitch.

I couldn't possibly name everyone that helped this year but I would like to send a few special thanks out to some that really deserve some recognition. Thank you Burger King and Wendy's for the free Kid's meals. Thanks to Burger King and Wal-Mart for your ten years of continuous support. Thank you to our heroes from the American Legion and the VFW for your contribution. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Donald Holland & staff at Holland Car Wash for being our largest contributor for 10 years straight. Thank You to each and every officer who participated from the Franklin and Highlands Police Departments. Thanks to Swain County Sheriff Curtis Cochran and his deputies who came when we needed more officers. A special thanks to Trooper Mike Henry who represented the NC Highway Patrol. Thank you to the officers from the NC Wildlife Commission and SBI who came from all over Western

North Carolina to take part in our event. Thanks to Walt and Barbara Beck and to the members of the Fraternal Order of Police that helped. Thanks to Kristen and Marcie from Social Services. Thank you to our bikers the Macon Chapter of the Enforcers. Of course I can't forget about Santa and his two elves that gave him a ride when Rudolph needed a break. Thanks to each and everyone one of you for taking time out of your busy schedule to spend time with these kids and for showing them what Christmas really is about.

I would like to send heartfelt thanks out to all of my staff at the Macon County Sheriff's Office. Your participation in one of the most important programs I feel we've started is instrumental in our success. The huge turnout by each and every one of you is truly appreciated. I apologize that some of you had to work and weren't able to participate but we'll make sure you get your turn next year.

In closing, I would like thank our community for your year-round support of the men and women that are so dedicated to protecting and serving you here at your Sheriff's Office. Your support is appreciated and we are honored to have the opportunity to serve you.

From all of us at your Sheriff's Office we wish you and your family a safe and Happy New Year.

God Bless,
Sheriff Robert L. Holland

... MANAGER continued from page 1

for Tryon, N.C., for six years prior to his move to Monroe, he yearned to return to that capacity. "If the Highlands job had been open a year ago, I would have put my hat in the ring then," he said. "To be an effective small town manager, you need a lot of experience involving all aspects of town governance and you need to wear several hats. I feel I'm bringing all that I've learned to this position."

His first week on the job he met with the Police Department and all the other town employees – those in administration and other departments.

"The visits were very positive," he said. "I believe the town has very good employees and an outstanding workforce. Their ability to react quickly minimizes problems and shows pride in the community."

Case in point, Fatland experienced one of Highlands' notorious power outages on Wednesday when a wind-downed tree on the alley alongside Chambers Realty caused a domino effect that eventually pulled down a pole alongside Wild Thyme Gourmet. This wasn't an isolated instance; Franklin crews dealt with a snapped pole on the Highlands Road a mile east of the BP station at the bottom of the mountain.

Thanks to the town's electric department, power was restored within two hours – in time to brace for the first winter blast of

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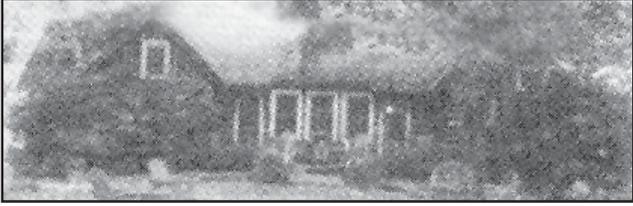
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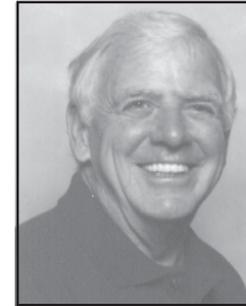
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

"You don't know Jack"
And other worthless stuff

If you don't know what the title of this column means then you really don't know "Jack." And I'm bettin if you do know "Jack," you probably don't know how or why you know "Jack." What, you don't care? Too bad 'cause I'm tellin' ya anyway.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

About 18 years ago a guy named Jack Patterson starred in an award-winning film titled "The Mind's Treasure Chest." It was so popular a video company named Jellyvision (no relation to Dave Jellison's eyesight.) teamed up with Patterson's people and created a child's video game titled "That's a Fact, Jack." Are you falling asleep? No, well read on 'cause it gets worse.

In 1995 Jellyvision wanted to create a tacky (Ha, I do tacky!) adult trivia game by mixing Shakespeare questions with Scooby Doo questions. What, you don't know Scooby Doo? Then you really, really don't know "Jack."

I have actually played this game. After loading the disc, the questions began. If I answered correctly, I got bells and whistles along with kudos from "Jack." But if I got the answer wrong, which was most of the time because of the outrageously ridiculous questions, I got fog horns and visual explo-

sions on my screen. Then "Jack" insulted and berated me for being the dumbest person on the planet. If you're recently divorced and miss the verbal abuse, this game is for you. "Jack" ends his remarks by saying...yep, you guessed it, "You Don't Know Jack." Then "Jack" forced me to sit through a boring explanation of the correct answer before I could go to the next question. By the end of the game I wanted to throw "Jack" and the monitor out the window.

Moving on: Just when you thought things were getting boring, owners of Don Leon's restaurant jazz things up by changing the name of the restaurant to "Rude and Snooty's." I think ole Don is currently walking a tightrope for a Tunisian circus so I'm sure he doesn't mind.

As Sarah Palin would say, don't cha just love it? It reminds me of my Pa. No, no, my Pa wasn't rude and snooty, far from it. Let me explain. Way back before I was even a wiggly (sperm) my Pa was a traveling salesman. During his travels he would pass this one particular restaurant with a flashing neon sign that read "Warm Beer, Lousy Food." My Pa thought for the owners to put up that sign, the place must be exceptional.

When he finally visited the restaurant, he found the beer warm and the food lousy. Worse of all, he couldn't even complain. So when you head for Don Leon's, opps, I mean Rude and Snooty's, expect the food to be as tasty as ever but the help will be, well, you know. If you're lucky, they may not even speak to you. I'll be disappointed if I'm not insulted.

And I can't think of a worse time for doctors to be moving their offices than during the Christmas season. There are always lots of husbands in need of a doctor on Christmas morning, but who could find one in an emergency with them playing musical offices?

The most common reason for a hubby to look for his doctor on Christmas morning is to have a vacuum cleaner handle removed from his tush...followed by heads squished in washing machine lids. Running third to squished heads is a lifetime aerobic membership card stuck down a hubby's throat. Not sure what I mean? Then you really don't know "Jack."

On Christmas day, my son handed me



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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Peace through war?

Israelis and Palestinians are at it again. In what has become a tragic and predictable pattern, Hamas militants lob puny rockets into Israel, terrorizing the local population. Israeli Defense Forces respond with massively superior fire power, killing hundreds or thousands of Palestinians.

Hamas hurls a few more rockets and Israel responds with an invasion. The international community scolds Israel and requests a cease fire.

After both sides rebuff international efforts, the United Nations Security council attempts to pass a resolution demanding a cease fire.

Our response is as predictable as a dog peeing on a popular neighborhood fire hydrant. We use our veto power to block the resolution, and look to the world as blood thirsty as the Israelis.

It is not as if the resolution would have stopped the fighting anyway. The UN was not about to put a peace keeping force between Gaza and southern Israel. Of course. Israel is a sovereign nation and does not attack at our behest.

Nonetheless, it appears to the world



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

that we have unleashed our attack dog on the school bully who has done little more than call another kid fat, and refuse to call him off, even after the bully has been savagely beaten but broken teeth still threatens to kick the fat kid's butt.

Israel has now launched an invasion of Gaza and the number of casualties, most of them Palestinian, will swell from the hundreds to the thousands. Israel will attempt to crush Hamas, and it

will certainly succeed in killing many Hamas fighters and its leaders.

Unfortunately, civilians will die as well, but the fire of hatred will not. Images of dead children being paraded through the streets of Gaza City will only fan the flames of hatred.

Even if Israel succeeded in killing every member of Hamas and every Palestinian in Gaza, the threat to Israeli security would not have ended.

It is appropriate for Israel to defend itself, but it finds itself in a deep hole and seems to be determined to dig it deeper in an effort to free itself. Since the chance

of digging deeply enough to come out on the other side seem remote at best, maybe it is time for another approach. Overwhelming an enemy nation and pacifying its population are two very different tasks.

The Russians learned that lesson in Afghanistan and we had the opportunity to learn in Viet Nam. The Israelis are resolute in their approach to the problem and confident that actions which have failed in the past will prove successful in the present.

A ranking Hamas leader was killed, along with his four wives and 10 children after he ignored an Israeli warning that an air strike was imminent. We should note carefully that degree of dedication to a belief, even if the belief is repugnant to civilized people. Does Israel really believe that the determination of radical Muslims to wipe it from the face of the earth was lessened by the death of that family?

Of course, the Hamas leader callously used his own family as a human shield, and of course his shield vaporized

under the force of a one-ton bomb. An enemy who is willing to sacrifice not only his soldiers, but is own family, is an adversary to fear.

The right of Israel to defend herself against aggression with all available means is not at question. The question is the wisdom of the Israeli approach. It's like the farmer who burned down his barn fighting a small fire with gasoline and who decides to use the same liquid to douse a fire in the kitchen.

The desire to teach the Palestinians a lesson seems to underscore Israeli actions. The pupil is unlikely to learn from a hated teacher. It is not a tooth for a tooth, but a full mouth extraction for a tooth. Many within Israel and Palestine long for peace and stability, Most are willing, if not eager, to accept the presence of the other. The world, with the exception of radical Islam, would welcome peace in the region.

Can peace be achieved through war, when the enemy is not a dictator, an army, or even a nation, but when the enemy is an idea, even a very bad idea?

... RESOLUTIONS from page 10

easily being measured, such as "I want to become a more loving and compassionate person", rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10 at the outset, and rate yourself again by the end of the time period you've chosen. Granted, it's more subjective, but still can be measured.

Attainable: While it's good to challenge yourself with goals, if you set them too far out of your reach, you will probably become discouraged and give them up. For example, if you aim to lose 20 pounds in one week, that's probably not achievable. If you set a goal to lose 5 pounds in a month, that's more likely to be achieved.

Realistic: Realistic means do-able. Devise a plan or a way of getting there which makes the goal realistic for you at the moment. If you're a sweetaholic, a goal of never eating them again is not realistic. It might be more realistic to work toward eating a piece of fruit each day rather than a sweet item.

Timely: Set a timeframe for achieving the goal. Putting an end point gives you a clear target to work towards. "I will stop smoking by Memorial Day".

By all means, have fun creating your life exactly the way you want it. Here's to having a happy, healthy, and successful

2009!

• *Betty wears several vocational hats and sets goals in all of them.*

... HIS & HERS continued from page 7

peasants from that day forward until today. In an effort to open the huge ballroom to even more visitors, she even organized a huge dance competition. At first, she was going to call it "the Russian Ballroom Experience." Cedric had a better idea. They renamed it "Dancing with the Tzars."

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. Michelle loves stories with happy endings, as long as they don't insult her intelligence or the laws of physics.

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Peace on Earth?

Bush's 2009 budget: \$730 billion for defense vs. \$392 billion for everything else

We've just finished the time of year when we all pause and wish one another things like Joy to the World, Happy New Year, and Peace on Earth. But how hard do we work on making those wishes a reality during the rest of the year?



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

A couple of articles I read in December made me seriously question our nation's commitment to Peace on Earth. First, I read that the leader of the U.S. Strategic Command, Air Force General Kevin Chilton, and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates urged the Obama administration to upgrade our nuclear weapons. The Bush administration proposed the Reliable Replacement Warhead Program but Congress repeatedly refused to approve it. What is significant about the "reliable replacement warhead" is that it would not require nuclear testing.

Our old nuclear warheads will eventually need testing to make sure they still work, so this would be a clever way around the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. There's just one problem: will this set off a new nuclear arms race? And how would this affect our ability to stop other countries, such as Iran, from developing nuclear weapons since we're breaking the Non-Proliferation Treaty ourselves (see my article "A Non-Nuclear World," June 2007)?

The other article had to do with military spending. The Pentagon is currently set to receive \$515 billion for 2009. Adding to the Pentagon "base budget," an extra \$16 billion goes each year to the Department of Energy to maintain nuclear weapons, and Congress funds the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with supplemental authorizations, which came to \$180 billion in fiscal year 2008. The country spends as much on the military in a single year as it did in the recent \$700 billion financial bailout.

Yet the Pentagon is now asking for more. On Oct. 9, Congressional Quarterly reported that a forthcoming spending estimate from defense officials would call for \$450 billion in *additional funds* over the next five years.

Normally, the U.S. president submits a defense request to Congress early in the New Year as part of the regular budget process, and prior deliberations with

military officials are not made available to the public. The purpose of leaking the new defense-spending estimate appears to be political. With Bush leaving office the Pentagon presumably wants to set the bar high for military spending. "It's sort of like trying to play chicken with the new administration," says William Hartung,

director of the Arms and Security Initiative at the New America Foundation. "They won't get all of it, but it will complicate matters. They may get more than they would have otherwise."

Here are some other interesting facts I found:

- **American military spending dwarfs that of the rest of the world.** From the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation: "The United States is far and away the global leader in military spending. Consider the following:
 - The United States spends more than the **next 45 highest spending countries in the world combined.**
 - The United States accounts for **48 percent of the world's total military spending.**
 - The United States spends on its military **5.8 times more than China, 10.2 times more than Russia, and 98.6 times more than Iran.**"

America is the world's largest arms merchant. According to Congressional Research Service, in 2006 (the latest year for which there is data) the U.S.'s share of world arms trade was 52 percent. The next-largest seller was Russia, which accounted for 21 percent of global deliveries.

Many of these weapons go to the most unsavory of countries. A study last year by the progressive World Policy Institute found that in 2003 the United States sold weapons to 18 of the 25 countries involved in an ongoing war. "From Angola, Chad, and Ethiopia, to Colombia, Pakistan, and the Philippines, transfers through the two largest U.S. arms sales programs [Foreign Military sales and Commercial Sales] to these conflict nations totaled nearly \$1 billion in 2003," the report found.

Meanwhile, more than half of the countries buying U.S. arms were defined

• See BRUGGER page 16

• HIS & HERS •

The wages of 'Cin'

Every week, in my bio, I mention that John and I are members of the Highlands Writers Group. I'm sure there are people who wonder exactly what we really do, or if it's just a cover for a very exclusive poker game which we sneak off to once a week. Yes, Virginia, there really is a Highlands Writers Group. It meets every Thursday, at the local library. During the winter, we are a bit thin on the ground (or a bit light on the computer), so we meet at 2 p.m., instead of the usual 1 p.m. When there are more of us, we often have an assignment, sometimes given for the next week, sometimes one we work on during the session. These assignments often yield hilarious or touching results. Just to give you an example, I have included one of our writing assignments, giving an alternative ending to the Cinderella story.

Let me add a few personal notes. My French grandparents gave me several wonderful books of fairy tales when I was a little girl. Cinderella was in one of them. As any fan of fairy tales can tell you, they are often gruesome and scary. A recent newspaper article claimed that this is so children could be scared into behaving, knowing what dreadful things could befall people if they weren't careful. Oh, and that business about the "glass slipper?" It may be a translation mistake. As most fairy tales were passed on orally, a goof could have occurred which became the norm and not the exception. There's a question about whether or not the original slipper which Cinderella lost was made of "vair," which is a kind of fur. Unfortunately, it is pronounced exactly the same way as "verre," which means glass. The debate rages on about what exactly the slipper was made of, but glass, squirrel fur or gold, none of these sound particularly comfortable. Personally, I like to dance in bare feet.

Also, if you're used to the Disney version of Cinderella, you may think of her as a blonde, sylphlike creature with clean fingernails. I like to think of her more as the marvelous creature played by Drew Barrymore in *Ever After* – a courageous, gutsy lady who cleans up really, really well. So, here's my version of Cinderella. Enjoy.



**Michelle Mead-Armor &
John Armor**
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If the Shoe Fits

Slowly, the clock began to chime the first of 12 bells. "Oh, bugger!" shouted Cinderella, taking the stairs two at a time. "No, wait" shouted the Prince. "I don't even know your name!" "It's Cinderella," she yelled over her shoulder, "But my friends just call me

'Cin'!" "And I'm Prince Cedric," said the Prince, realizing that he was now addressing a disappearing flurry of silk and taffeta. Cinderella had picked up her skirts, and gaining speed, lost one of her glass slippers in the process. Suddenly, the Prince realized he was on his own. He bent down and picked up the lone slipper. "I'll bet this would be fabulous in suede," he sighed, to no one in particular.

Unable to get his new love out of his thoughts, Prince Cedric decided to comb his entire kingdom, searching for Cinderella. His page carried the precious glass slipper on a velvet pillow, as they looked far and wide for the missing shoe shedder. Even as Prince Cedric pined for his lost love, Cinderella, he still had room for an epiphany. It came when he showed the slipper to Mabel the Miller's daughter. "I've got to have this shoe! Does it come in suede?" yelled Mabel, never a girl to tone down the volume when it came to exceptional footwear. "No, it comes in only glass, and this is the only one. But don't you want me, not the slipper?" pouted Cedric, obviously a man used to the fame of repeated years playing the Palace. "Prince, schmince!" snorted our Mabel. "Royalty comes and goes. But a great pair of shoes – that's no fairy tale!"

Women came from far and near to try the fabulous footwear. Cedric was astonished at the effect the slipper had on them. "What perfect lines," they oohed. "What a great shape," they ahhed. Prince Cedric realized his true purpose in life. He didn't want to be a prince. He wanted to make shoes. Beautiful shoes. Comfortable shoes. Unique shoes. Happily ever after shoes.

Well, to make a long story short, Prince Cedric eventually found his Cinderella. They got married, and lived happily ever after - while pursuing their true callings. Prince Cedric started up his own line of shoes. In the beginning, he

got held up looking for a name. "Cedrics of Hollywood" fell by the wayside. So did "The French Prince of Bel Aire." "The Shoemaker formerly known as Prince" didn't make it either. Finally, he made up his mind. Joining the ranks of Manolo Blanik and Jimmy Choo, you can now pick up a pair of just plain Cedric Princes.

And Cinderella? Remembering how much the peasants had dreamed about what went on in the palace, she decided to make the palace experience one that

most peasants could afford, creating a fantasy palace destination vacation venue. The moat, the dungeon, and the towering spires – they were all there. "Cinderella's Fantasy Palace" had been her first choice for a name, but was passed over as too common. Finally, she decided to settle on a variation of her nickname, "Cin", and "Cin City" became the destination of choice for hordes of

•See HIS & HERS page 5

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

2009 is ging to be a nauty...

I was paging through a dictionary the other day...you remember...it's a big book with words and definitions, and I ran across "arrogance" (I was going front to back). And to my surprise, next to "arrogance," was a picture of Governor Rod Blagojevich. Well, maybe not too surprising. I kept on paging, and a few hours later, I came across "ignorant." and lo and behold (or is it "lo and behold"?), there is a picture of the voters of Illinois.

With little else to do with my exciting schedule, I mused, "How did he get that way?" Also, "How did they get that way?" As to Blago, I have no idea. I think he might have stepped out of a comic strip because if there ever was a cartoon character, he's it. Take the \$2,000 suit off

him and put him in jeans and a tee shirt, stick a pack of Camels in the rolled up sleeve, and voila, you've got the prototypical Chicago street punk.

So, in my search for knowledge and truth, I Googled in "blago," and Wikipedia had plenty to say about the 52-year-old, 17-year-old. First thing that meets the eye is "Milorad," his first name. Fascinated, I plowed on. His parents lived in Serbia, where his dad was a steel plant laborer. His parents moved to Chicago, where little Milorad was born and raised.

Still from Wikipedia, "Blagojevich spent much of his childhood working odd jobs to help the family to pay its bills (admirable, I'd say). He was a shoeshiner and pizza delivery boy before working in

a meat packing plant (where he doubtless acquired his vast vocabulary including the f-bomb and "you guys"). In order to afford university, Blagojevich worked for The Trans-Alaska Pipeline system as a dishwasher (where he doubtless sharpened his "expressive" vocabulary)."

He graduated high school, where he had participated in two Golden Glove fights (the outcomes were not disclosed). He enrolled at the University of Tampa, and after two years, transferred to Northwestern University, from whence he obtained his degree. He "earned" his J. D., (a lawyer; who'd a thunk it?) from Pepperdine University School of Law, of which he said, "It's in Malibu, California, overlooking the Pacific Ocean - a lot of surfing and movie stars and all the rest. I barely knew where the law library was." His parents must have been very proud.

OK, so how did this young man of little achievement/accomplishment/attainment

rise to the level of thug-in-charge of the country's fifth most populous state? Surely you have heard the expression, "it isn't what you know, it's who you know." In Blago's case, he took it one step farther and married the "who." If you have ever seen the Mrs., you will understand that he must have had an ulterior motive when he betrothed her. Her "potty" mouth is a perfect match for his. If you have heard some of the wiretap tapes, you'll know what I mean.

The ulterior motive just might be her daddy, who is a big-time Chicago politician with evidently enough juice to pull his sonny boy-in-law off the streets and elevate him to the U.S. Congress and eventually to the Governor's mansion. Talk about Murphy's Law, or is it the Peter Principal; whichever says that an employee will rise to the level of incompetence, that's the one. Blago is so far above his level of competency he can't see it through the clouds. How would you even measure his level of incompetence, anyway?

Imagine the coincidence of Blago succeeding the successor to Dan Rostenkowski, Representative from Illinois' 5th congressional district, who was convicted of mail fraud, served 15 months in the slammer, and ultimately pardoned by Bill Clinton.

The Cook County Democrat Machine has turned out more crooked poli-



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

ticians than I can enumerate here, but the legend is alive and well, as we speak.

As I write this two weeks before you read it, Rod's holding out, challenging the State, the Federal Prosecutor and anyone else who wants to take a swing at him. I don't know what the case may be when you read this, but you will know more than you wanted to about the disgraced Governor.

Rahm (or is it Rom) Emmanuel, Valerie Jarrett and Jesse Jackson, Jr. are currently on the hot seat, but the investigation is still young. It's going to be fun.

Oh yeah, what about the voters who voted this bozo in office? I suppose that they are mostly products of the Illinois Public School System, which ranks miserable on performance. Need I say more?

THIS JUST IN!!! The Gov just named a successor to Obama's Senate seat. This, of course, put everybody in a snit, including the Illinois people who are in a position to be snitted and Harry Reid (D-NV), esteemed leader of the Senate who couldn't find his way home from his back yard. CBS News says "Roland Burris (D-IL) is now a major protagonist in the complicated dance (geez, I wish I'd said that) unfolding in the Illinois capital and the U. S. Senate."

Roland is a self-described "Trail Blazing African-American." While his resume appears to be impeccable, the fact that he is black seems to be the overriding factor in being chosen for what evidently has become an A-A Senate seat. The media coverage of Blago's appointment was embarrassing at best and degrading to blacks in my opinion, but that's just me.

So, since the lawyers can't seem to find a reason that would prevent Roland's appointment, there is a good chance that the next senate may include a black man because he is black, a nincompoop from New York, who managed to say "you know" 168 times in an half-hour interview, who's middle name happens to be Kennedy (whatever happened to Schlossberg? Is she divorced? Widowed? It looks like she doesn't even know her last name. Embarrassing.) and a washed-up comedian who was a talk-show host that nobody listened to. That would be the despicable Al Franken (D-MN). God help us.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Fleeing into the new year

By The Most Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding

Chapel of the Sky

Christmas Day has now come and gone. New Year's is behind us and in many ways the world around us has begun to put Christmas away until next year. Post-Christmas sales have been in full force as stores try to reduce their inventory. It won't be long before the lights that have adorned our communities will be taken down to shine again in another year. Among a people for whom Christmas is more, I hope, than tinsel and gifts beneath the tree and holiday parties, we can continue to celebrate the wonderful incarnation begun — not completed with Christmas — and now it is time for us to proclaim, free of the pre-Christmas rush and frantic pace of secular preparation, free to sing of the Christ child's birth of God's incarnation in our lives, not just for a beautiful, serene Christmas Eve, but for all life yet to be.

We know the songs of Christmas have faded and the routine of our lives once again takes over. Our best made New Year's resolutions will be violated, if not already, then soon. Diet books will be placed on the shelf, the gift of the crock-pot for healthy, homemade meals will be replaced by the Big Mac and medium fries. You found the crock-pot made an excellent plant holder for the Christmas cactus you received.

But I suppose there are many of us who would like to bathe in the quiet, calm, peaceful mood that we envision at the lowly manger, for certainly that is the way we have held that scene through the years, and certainly we want the child, the gift of God, to bring us individually, you and me, peace and calm in our lives. We want to feel "at ease" in the face of all that causes us "dis-ease." We cherish that lovely scene of Mary dressed in a soft baby blue gown, Joseph standing there content and lovingly at her side, and the infant wrapped in warm swaddling cloths, safe in a manger filled with clean straw.

But the gospel has a picture of anything but a tranquil scene. There was no time for them to rest either. The Holy Family is on the run, a run for their lives, traveling under the cover of darkness. Gone was their wish to linger one more time at the stable. Gone was their wish to sing one more "Silent Night" or look into a star-filled sky and hear a chorus of angels singing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing."

They were fleeing truly into a new year, as we must. We must also flee into the real world that now, 2,000 years later, still seeks to snuff out the life of Christ and all he stands for, once and for all. Each year it seems to be more demonic, not clothed in the cloak of a highway robber to strike Mary, Joseph and the baby in their travels, but a death of Christ by political correctness, killed not by the sword of Herod but by the spear of indifference for the sake of substitution. "Happy Holidays" for "Merry Christmas." A generically decorated, non-offensive tree, where once stood a humble stable. The "Ho-Ho-Ho" of a man in a red suit which drowns out the cry of a babe in Bethlehem. The world's evaluation of the worth of Christmas, not by the number of worshipers at their service, but the bottom line of the major mall sales. Is that what it has become? Not unless we let it. A radio broadcaster of many years ago, Gabriel Heater, started each program with these words: "There is good news tonight."

I want to start out this New Year with the same words: "There is good news tonight." The love of God, born that holy night in Bethlehem, will never die as long as those of faith hold fast to that wonderful battle cry of hope: Jesus really is the reason for the season. Thanks be to God!

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Group starts year on the right foot



These 23 runners braved freezing temperatures on January 1 and showed up for the Highlands Roadrunners Clubs annual New Year's Resolution Run.

Resolutions, Goals, or Affirmations?

By Betty Holt

Actually they all mean about the same thing — a commitment to creating something positive in your life. It is thought that the tradition of New Year's resolutions goes back to 153 B.C. when Janus, a mythical king of early Rome, was placed at the head of the calendar.

With his two faces, Janus could look back at past events and forward to the future.

He thus became the ancient symbol for resolutions as many Romans looked for forgiveness from their enemies and exchanged gifts before the beginning of each year.

When New Year's day arrives with a brand new blank slate, many feel like it's the perfect time for "starting over". The past is gone, and now is the time to move on to the future and make it different in whatever way you choose.

I have a particular ritual to deal with the past. Each New Year's Eve I make a big fire in the fireplace and gather a bunch of kindling sticks to throw on the fire. I prepare to release whatever I don't want to carry with me into the new year, whatever issues may be hanging on emotionally or feel unresolved in some way. As I pick up each stick I name it whatever it is I want to get rid of, then throw it on the fire and watch it burn. I write down in my journal what it is that I'm releasing. I have soft music playing in the background and the phones

are disconnected so I won't be disturbed. Some years that fire gets pretty hot as I throw on quite a few sticks!

The Unity church has a similar ritual called the "Burning Bowl" ceremony. People write down on a piece of paper whatever habits, addictions, or feelings they don't wish to carry with them into the New Year. Then everyone's paper is put together in a fire-proof bowl and taken outside to be burned. In each case, after cleansing the past it is time to write down what you do want to bring into the future.

Whatever way is meaningful to you is the best way to do resolutions. If you are thinking about one of the following, you're right in sync with the rest of the country. The top ten New Year's resolutions are as follows: (1) Spend more time with family and friends, (2) Become more fit (3) Lose weight (4) Quit Smoking (5) Enjoy life more (6) Quit Drinking, (7) Get out of debt (8) Learn something new (9) Help Others (10) Get organized.

It is a proven fact that *written* goals have a much better chance of being reached than ones not written down. According to Gene Donahue, "The difference between a goal and a dream is the written word." Here's an example: Each year I make resolutions, usually in the form of affirmations done in the present tense (Example: I am surrounded by caring and fun-loving friends). Some years I don't look back at them until the year ends, and at least 50 %

of them have come true with only that brief amount of attention I gave them. My subconscious heard them and went to work at making them come true. However, just think what might happen if goals were reviewed on a regular basis!

It is also much better to create goals in the positive rather than negative. Instead of saying "I want to stop criticizing my husband so much", turn it around to "I am supportive and helpful to my husband". Your subconscious needs positive instructions to give positive results.

Arina Nikitina, author of *How to Set and Achieve A Goal*, uses the acronym SMART to evaluate goal-setting. S stands for *Specific*; M stands for *Measurable*; A stands for *Attainable*; R for *Realistic*; and T for *timely*.

Specific: Goals should be straightforward and emphasize what you want to happen. Specific includes What, Why, and How of the SMART model. Instead of setting a goal to lose weight or be healthier, be more specific by saying you intend to lose 2 inches off your waistline or walk 5 miles at an aerobically challenging pace.

Measurable: Establish concrete criteria for measuring progress. "I will travel to 3 different destinations before my birthday" is measurable. Just saying you want to travel more is not. If a goal doesn't lend itself to

• See RESOLUTIONS page 5

... AUDIT continued from page 1

sonnel

- Expenses in supporting services increased due to the high cost of petroleum products including gas, diesel fuel, heating oil and propane gas

The 2007-2008 fiscal year was the implementation year for the new chart of accounts for Boards of Education. There were significant changes to function/purpose codes and classifications. Due to these changes it was difficult to discuss comparative data from the previous year, they said.

The Board's governmental funds reported a combined balance of \$2,308,316, a decrease of \$627,541 from last year. Of this, \$80,819 is designated for VIP (the after school program) and \$71,311 for the Summer Ed-venture program.

In addition, \$23,498 is designated for the purpose of constructing a new live vocational house. Individual school money, which is restricted for use by the schools and is not available for use by the Board, accounts of \$501,770 of the balance reported.

The Capital Projects fund decrease of \$397,837 is a result of the expenditure of moneys from the sale of Otto School for designated capital improvements.

The Board's business-type fund, the

School Food Service Fund, experienced an increase in net assets of \$43,243 from last year.

In the 2007 fiscal year net assets increased \$40,945. Two years of increase in net assets shows a positive trend developing.

Operating revenues increased in School Food Service by \$19,568 and operating expenses increased by \$37,721.

Over the course of the year, the Board revised the budget several times to account for changes in revenue expectations in all funds.

Major changes occurred in the following funds:

- The State Public School Fund increases included allotments for Exceptional Children that were special requests, a transfer from the Public School Building Capital Fund to state technology, second allotments as well as emergency funding for transportation, and a new grant for technology at Macon Early College.

- The Capital Outlay Fund increases accounted for over 50% of the total budget increase. The payment made by DPI for yellow school buses was recorded in the Capital Outland Fund. In addition all of the expenditures related to planning the building of the

... MANAGER continued from page 3

2009.

"I am extremely pleased on the swift action by Town crews on restoring power," said Fatland.

Through weekly meetings with all department heads, he wants to keep everyone apprised of what's going on so each department knows what the other is doing.

Once the Town Board decides on the long-range strategic plan for Highlands, Fatland said he intends to get all the departments involved so all the employees know how they fit into the scheme of things.

Concerning infrastructure projects, he said financing could come in the form of grants, "pay as you go," or a combination of both.

"The challenge will be getting people together to work toward a common goal. For instance, if a civic organization has plans to help finance a project, I might encourage them to wait so we – the town and them – can pool resources to satisfy a dollar-to-dollar match for a particular grant," he said. "I want to work to create partnerships to make our dollars go farther which is especially important in these tough times."

He said there's a good chance Highlands could qualify for President-elect Obama's stimulus package for infrastructure improvements across the country.

"Specifically, this could involve the dredging of Lake Sequoyah and Mirror Lake as well as sewerage treatment plant that is under utilized."

He said it's too early in the game to make changes to anything, but if his management

style does involve change, it will be done in a positive way by building people up not tearing them down. "If there are mistakes, we will learn from them. In this way mistakes are positive rather than negative," he said.

He said it would be a big mistake for him to come in and make changes without thoroughly understanding how the town works.

With the 2009-2010 budget right around the corner, and as Chief Financial Officer, he will be working directly with department heads to determine a replacement schedule of inventory so taxpayers aren't adversely affected by town needs.

Though he wishes his wife was here, he said living separately at this point is giving him the time to get up to speed.

"The more people and organizations I meet the more affective I will be as a manager," he said. "I'm very grateful to have Richard here for two months because it's giving me a cushion and an opportunity to get my feet wet while I ease into the responsibilities. In the long run this will have been very beneficial to the town."

His wife has one more year until retirement from the Buncombe County School System so they are an hour-and-a-half commute away from each other – an hour closer than when he lived in Monroe. "That's another reason I took the job in Highlands," he said.

For now, Fatland said he looks forward to working with the people in the community and together making Highlands even better than it already is.

new 5-6 school were added to the budget as well as the money expended for renovations at East Franklin.

- Budget amendments in all other funds were minimal and reflected changes needed as the year progressed.

Capital assets increased \$2,810,659 from the previous year. Construction in progress accounts for \$2,679,552 which is the bulk of this increase. In addition to the East Franklin School and Franklin High School capital projects, Macon County Schools was in the planning stages for two additional new schools (5-6 school and North Macon) and there has been significant cost in surveying, architects fees and testing.

"In planning and performing our audit, we considered the board's internal control over financial reporting and we identified certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be significant deficiencies," reads the audit.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis.

A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the board's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with accounting principles so the likelihood that a misstatement of the board's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the board's internal control.

Dixon Hughes identified two significant deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting but didn't find any material weaknesses. "The deficiencies are not considered material weaknesses but instead "control deficiencies" concerning operational matters," reads the audit.

The criteria for a significant deficiency is the lack of segregation of duties.

Segregation of duties provides checks and

balances to reduce possibilities for misstatements resulting from errors in judgment, dishonesty, personal carelessness, distraction and fatigue.

The condition is that bank reconciliations are not consistently being approved and payroll reports are not being reviewed by someone independent of the process.

Also, duties related to the processing of accounts payable and payroll, recording transactions in the general ledger, and bank reconciliations for Child Nutrition are not properly segregated. Also, employees are responsible for processing accounts payable and payroll, performing bank reconciliations, and recording transactions in the general ledger for the Child Nutrition program.

The effect is that material misstatements caused by error or fraud can occur and not be detected and corrected in a timely manner.

The cause is due to the limited number of personnel in the school administration finance office.

"We recommend that an approval process be implemented for the preparation of bank reconciliations and suggest the board consider implementing a review process for payroll, the audit reads. "We also recommend that someone not involved in the processing of payroll review the check registers before checks are cut and that the duties in the Child Nutrition program be segregated so that the same person processing accounts payable and payroll is not posting transactions to the general ledger and reconciling the bank accounts.

Concerning other segregation of duties deficiencies material misstatements caused by error or fraud can occur and not be detected and corrected in a timely manner. This is due to the limited number of personnel at each school that have access to the financial records.

"We recommend the board review its current procedures and make adjustments that are feasible," said the Dixon Hughes representative at the meeting.

The board said it was aware of the deficiencies and would take corrective action.

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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

This year girls rules at Highlands School

By Ryan Potts

The Lady Highlanders came back from the Christmas layoff ready to play earning two strong victories over the Murphy Bull-

dogs and the Cherokee Lady Braves.

The Lady Highlanders defeated Murphy by the score of 55 to 42 on December 30th. Emily Munger contributed a double-

double for the Lady Highlanders with 14 points, 11 rebounds and 5 assists. Marlee McCall had 7 rebounds and scored a career high 17 points. Taylor Buras pitched in 6 assists in a good overall effort.

New Year's Eve saw the Lady Highlanders score one of their biggest wins in the last two years with a victory over the Cherokee Lady Braves.

The Lady Highlanders came back from 15 down in the third quarter to squeak out a 56-52 victory. The team had a total of 22 rebounds, and used a career high 27 points from freshman Emily Munger to spring the upset of the Lady Braves, who had dominated Highlands earlier in the season on the Reservation.

The next two games were not so kind to the Lady Highlanders, who started out sluggish against the Swain Maroon Devils and never recovered in a 48-41 loss. Highlands fought back once again from a late deficit, but could not get over the hump.

Highlands was led by Emily Munger with 17 points, and Kate-Marie Parks contributed 9 rebounds. Tuesday night saw the Lady Highlanders struggle in a 51-40 loss to conference powerhouse Hiwassee Dam.

The Lady Eagles return 5 starters from last years conference championship team and feature the returning Smoky Mountain Conference player of the year Jenna Harris. Highlands had no answer for Harris early, as she scored the Eagles first 8 points and gave them a lead that they would never relinquish. Highlands fought back behind the stellar play of sophomore Taylor Buras, who scored 13

points and had 6 steals to lead the Lady Highlanders, but Hiwassee Dam ultimately came away with the victory and first place in the SMC.

The Highlander men did not fare as well in their week back from Christmas, going 1-3 with a win against Swain bunched in with disappointing losses to Murphy, Cherokee and Hiwassee Dam. The next Highlands home game will be tomorrow night against conference rival Blue Ridge. JV's will begin at 5, followed by the women's and men's varsity games.

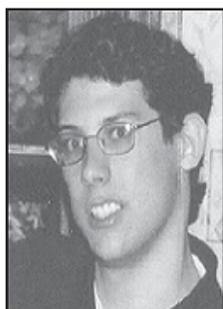


Varsity ball player Marlee McCall goes for the basket at the game against Cherokee. Highlands won.
Photo by Stephanie McCall



JJ Rodriguez at the JV game against Cherokee.
Photo by Noel Atherton

Mythical National Championship Preview



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

I refer to this game as the “Mythical National Championship” because that is exactly what it is when it comes to college football. Never mind the fact that “my team” is playing in the game—the fact of the matter is that it will always be a mythical championship because there is no playoff to decide a true national champion. For years the commissioners in charge of college football have tried to snow the American people into thinking that a playoff, which has worked for every other major sport including professional football and 1-AA college football, is somehow not the solution to the BCS mess. Anyway, before I get off on a tangent about what greedy hacks the university presidents and commissioners are, let’s take a look at some things to watch in tonight’s championship game.

1. The layoff

There is a considerable amount of time between the conference championship games and the BCS title game (4 weeks to be exact). Which team is going to respond the best to the long layoff? Both Oklahoma and Florida’s offenses rely on precision and timing, both of which can be affected by a long layoff. Also of note will be the health of Florida superstar Percy Harvin, who sat out the SEC Championship with a bum ankle and says he is about 90% for the Mythical National Championship game.

2 Florida’s running game vs. Oklahoma’s defense

Despite all of the talk about Oklahoma’s prolific offense, Florida has a pretty potent recipe on that side of the ball with the three headed monster of Harvin, Chris Rainey and Jeff Demps running the ball out of the backfield. If Florida can have success running the ball out of the spread, then they can keep the Sooner offense off of the field. Conversely, if Florida goes three and out, they risk getting down early and having to throw the ball more in an attempt to stay with Oklahoma.

3. Jermaine Gresham

Florida had a ton of trouble in the second half of the SEC Championship matching up with Alabama’s Julio Jones. While Gresham is a TE and doesn’t have the speed of Jones, he is a physical specimen and will be a matchup nightmare for Florida’s secondary, particularly in the red zone.

4. Special Teams

Oklahoma has struggled on special teams this year, surrendering 4 return TD’s. While they have a respectable kicking game, they do depend on a freshman in the kicking game, which could come into play. Conversely, Florida possesses the best special teams in America with kicker Jonathan Phillips hitting 11-of-12 field goals, and with Brandon James averaging 14.14 yards per punt return and 23.69 yards per kickoff return. Overall, Florida is 8th in the nation in punting and 7th in punt returns.

5. Tim Tebow

We can discuss Tebow’s place in the annals of college football history at anytime. However, in the present, Tebow’s presence in this game is going to determine whether or not Florida or Oklahoma wins a MNC. Oklahoma must pressure Tebow quickly and hope that he makes a mistake. In Florida’s only loss this year, Tebow threw one interception and lost the only fumble of his

career. If Oklahoma can force Tebow into a mistake, it could be the turning point of the game. On the other hand, Tebow has made good on his promise to lead UF to the title game after the Ole Miss loss—if he can deliver the second MNC title in his time at Florida, he could come back next year and make a strong push to be the greatest player of all time.

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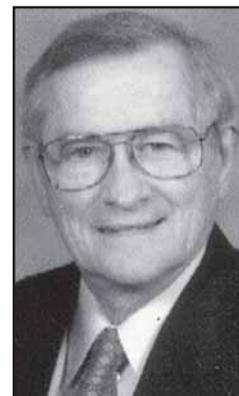
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• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

Year in Review



Mayor Don Mullen

The year 2008 has to have been a year which we will all remember for a long time. It was a year of highs and lows, a year of exciting change, and, yes, major setbacks. Being an optimistic sort of guy I like to dwell on the positive.

First of all, a new day in the relationship between the towns in Macon County and the County Board of Commissioners arrived in early 2008. The governing bodies of each organization began to meet together on a quarterly basis to informally discuss common issues. In January I read before the county commissioners a memorandum of understanding written in 1988 which called for an atmosphere of non-confronting cooperation and camaraderie and suggested a quarterly meeting of the governing bodies. We live in a very special county and all agreed that this should happen and it did.

A change in our form of government also occurred in 2008. I appointed a committee of three, Amy Patterson, Hank Ross and me, to look into that possibility almost two years ago. The committee recommended to the full board a change from a Mayor-Council to a Manager-Council form of government and it was approved unanimously by the full board. This meant a change in the charter of our town and the search for a manager. After an intensive search we found our man, and Jim Fatland comes to us in January as a well qualified and experienced professional manager to lead our town into the future. Richard Betz, our town administrator, is retiring, and we all are extremely grateful to the great twenty five years he has dedicated to the service of the town. It has been a pleasure for me to have worked with Richard for the past three years in Town Hall.

In 2008 we were finally able to obtain the necessary funds from the State of NC to pave most of the roads around our water supply in the way they should be paved to diminish silting of the lakes. Hickory Hill, Chowan, Cullasaja, and Wyanoak were paved and Azalea and Dogwood will follow next year. This is major progress and we thank Senator John Snow along with Representative West for their part in making this half million dollars available to us for this purpose.

We have initiated a major parking study in the Town of Highlands which

will have long term implications for our town. We also have initiated a process which will initially greatly improve our governmental and administrative situation in town with the planning of a new town hall. The ABC store is moving to a new location which opens that building to the possibility of making improvements in it to house the police department so we can significantly downsize the potential new Town Hall, thus limiting the cost of such a much needed

facility significantly. In January we will have a town council retreat to prioritize the many capital improvements which must be done in the next five to ten years.

On another positive note, although we have lost two doctors in our community, we have gained three very fine ones. A much needed gastroenterologist, Dr. Richard Carter, joined us in 2008 and has been very successful and busy meeting the needs in his specialty. Two surgeons, Drs. Gus Dozier and Billy Noell, have added to the strength of our surgical community. Not that the hospital does not continue to struggle financially, as most small hospitals do, but we seem to be making good progress in our service to the community as a full service hospital which meets the needs of 80% of patients and not just an emergency pass-through facility which almost no one wants.

The town of Highlands continues to give over \$50,000 a year in scholarships to Highlands students and we are quite proud that over the past 20 years over three quarters of a million dollars in scholarships have been given, funded primarily by the August golf tournament which is held every year. The quality of students graduated by our Highlands School cannot be underestimated and we have reasons to be proud.

I am sure everyone has noticed the major construction going on in town at the corner of 5th and Main on the Presbyterian Church property which will significantly improve that area. The new building going up there will be the Faith and Fellowship center of the church and will bring together the old historic church sanctuary, also recently expanded, and the new facility. It will sit farther back on the property and allow for more green space on Main Street in addition to providing a new and efficient facility for education, administration, and fellowship in the

Local emergency personnel, hospital hold mock disaster

A crazed squirrel touched off a major disaster at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital last week – at least according to the scenario used by local hospital and emergency workers to practice their skills at handling unpredictable disasters. And while the scenario had its humorous side, everyone was taking their responsibilities quite seriously.

According to the fictional series of events, a squirrel despondent over the supposed collapse of the nut industry, decides to end it all by flinging itself into a key electrical circuit feeding the hospital, causing a complete power outage. While the hospital's emergency generators kick in as designed, the electrical interruption triggers a problem with the hospital's boiler. Unknown to officials, the boiler's safety systems have failed. When power returns, water floods the boiler, causing a catastrophic failure of the pressure vessel. The ensuing explosion destroys a large area of both floors of the east wing of the hospital, injuring a half dozen employees. Fire and smoke fill a portion of the hospital, forcing the evacuation of some patients.

"Of course, it's pretty unlikely that a suicidal squirrel would do something like this, but it's also very unlikely that so many of the hospital emergency backup and safety systems would all fail at the same time," observed Ken Shull, hospital president and CEO. "But strange things do happen and we all have to be sure we are as prepared as humanly possible to protect out patients and staff, treat those who might be injured, and be able to work closely with those in the local emergency services."

The Joint Commission and other monitoring organizations require the hospital to conduct at least two disaster drills a year. One of The Joint Commission's stipulations is for the drill to stress the entire hospital system, which this scenario certainly did.

Drills are often conducted in cooperation



with the Highlands Fire and Rescue Department, the Macon County EMS, the Macon sheriff's department and others. In fact, the hospital invited members of the Highlands Fire Department and First Responders to the campus for a special dinner a few weeks ago, which included a tour of the facilities to help re-familiarize local emergency personnel with the campus, emergency cutoffs, fire hydrants and the like.

"We really appreciate the assistance of the fire department, rescue squad, and EMS folks in helping us conduct a drill such as this," said Terry Winn, manager of plant operations at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. "In the event of a real emergency, we are all going to need to work very closely together, so opportunities to practice disaster procedures is vital."

As is always the case, hospital officials and emergency services representatives got together once the dust had cleared to note

what went right and what could be improved.

"There is always something that needs to be improved; that's why we practice," said Shull. "No matter how smoothly it goes, we always learn something that will help us be better prepared in the event of real disaster. We learned several key things from this drill that we didn't know about our emergency systems, for example. So, now we are making some changes."

While hospital patients can't help but hear the alarms and observe staff members hurrying about, the hospital always observes certain rules when conducting the drills. Maintaining patient safety and minimizing inconvenience to patients are sacrosanct. "We will stop a drill if we feel that what's going on could compromise patient care in any way," he said. "The noise may be momentarily disturbing, but it is the safety of future patients that we hope to protect by holding these exercises."

Harris attains recertification as fundraising executive

Russell M. Harris, CFRE, FAHP, executive director of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation, has been recertified as Fund Raising Executive.

Harris, who joined the Foundation in the fall of 2006, is one of more than 5,000 professionals around the world who hold the designation of Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), showing that they have met a series of standards set by CFRE International, which include tenure in the profession, education, demonstrated fundraising achievement, and a commitment to service to not-for-profit organizations. Certified fund raising executives have agreed to uphold *Accountability Standards* and the *Donor Bill of Rights*. Initially, candidates must pass a rigorous written examination that tests their knowledge,

skills, and abilities.

"The CFRE process was developed as a way to identify for the public and employers those individuals who possess the knowledge, skills and commitment to perform fund raising duties in an effective, conscientious, ethical and professional manner," states Andrew Day, CFRE; chairman of CFRE International. "Achievement of the Certified Fund Raising Executive credential demonstrates the level of commitment on the part of Mr. Harris to the public and the pro-

fession as a whole."

CFRE recipients are awarded certification for three-years. In order to maintain certification, they must continue to be engaged in professional fund raising and continue with their professional education. When someone has been certified in the field, employers and donors can have confidence that he or she is committed to the best outcome for their organization and to the profession as a whole.



Russell M. Harris

Does your New Year resolution list look like this?

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

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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Summit One Gallery 'pays it forward' to Food Pantry



Mary Adair Leslie from Summit One Gallery presented a donation to Elaine Reynolds for the Food Pantry behind the Highlands United Methodist Church on Church Street Alley. Summit One Gallery gave a 20% discount on all purchases from December 16-31 with the option of the client "paying it forward" to the Food Pantry. All donations were made in the client's name. The Food Pantry is in need of food to stock their shelves for distribution to those less fortunate. It is open to everyone in the community in need every Monday at 5 p.m.

Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles announced top producers



Eddie Palmer

For December 2008, the top listing agent for the Highlands-Cashiers Century 21 Mountain Lifestyle office was Eddie Palmer. The Top Sales Agent for the same time period was Mike Demos.

CENTURY 21 Mountain Lifestyles Highlands office to 468 Main Street and is open seven days a week with extended hours to better serve its customers. With seven offices total in Buncombe, Henderson, Jackson, Macon and Transylvania counties, CENTURY 21 Mountain Lifestyles is ranked 52nd in the nation among CENTURY 21® companies.

Scholarships offer college-bound students a financial boost

It is scholarship season for college-bound Western North Carolina high school students, and those interested in applying for scholarships through The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina should act quickly as deadlines are fast approaching. The Community Foundation works locally with the Highlands Community Foundation, one of nine affiliates in the region.

The Foundation administers more than 55 scholarship programs, ranging from one-time \$500 awards to renewable scholarships worth up to \$28,000 over four years. In 2007-2008, the Foundation awarded more than \$400,000 in college scholarships to students across the 18-county mountain region.

Those wishing to apply for any of the scholarship programs must contact their school's guidance office and ask for a copy of the Common Scholarship Application. Students must complete and return materials to their guidance counselors by the scholarship's deadline. Most deadlines are Jan. 30.

While many scholarships are open to students from the whole region, others are specific to students from certain counties. Scholarship recipients are selected on criteria that vary by program, but generally include financial need, academic achievement, community service, extracurricular activities and work experience.

For more details visit www.cfwnc.org.

... BRUGGER continued from page 6

as undemocratic by the State Department's annual Human Rights Report, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Uzbekistan.

The agreement last year to sell F-16s to Pakistan illustrates the larger trend, according to Wade Bouse, research director at the Arms Control Association. "F-16s with advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles are not for fighting Al Qaeda," Bouse said. "They are for fighting India." And India, which has fought three wars with Pakistan, is considering a U.S. offer to sell the country F-16s. "We are creating our own market by selling to both sides of regional conflicts," Bouse said.

Military spending dwarfs everything else in the federal budget.

Bush's 2009 Budget shows that "Security Funding" totaled \$549.6 billion in 2008 (this did not include supplemental funding for the Global War on Terror and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, estimated at \$180 billion) while "Non-security Funding" totaled \$391.7 billion. This non-security includes *everything* else in the federal government — education, State Department, Justice Department, NASA, National Science Foundation, etc.

In other words \$730 billion for

defense vs. \$392 billion for everything else. How does this express a wish for Peace on Earth?

Maybe all this peace talk is just liberal nonsense. I promise in the next few months you will be hearing this talking point: In response to Obama's plans for economic stimulus Republicans will say that FDR's New Deal programs were *not* responsible for ending the Great Depression. It was the weapons orders of WWII that did the trick.

I saw an Aerospace Industries Association ad on WashingtonPost.com last week: "Aerospace and defense: the strength to lift America. Over 2 million middle-class jobs. America's leading manufacturing export industry — \$97 billion per year. We urge the new Administration and Congress to support the programs and the people that can get America's economy moving again."

So I guess what we need to do to get out of this economic mess we're in is to start a big messy global conflagration. No more small regional wars like those of the last few administrations, let's get bold and attack Russia, or the whole Islamic world. That will get our economy roaring again.

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

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

a jelly jar containing a thin, watery, milky-like substance and said "Here, Dad, this a special eggnog made by one of the firefighters at work. I don't know what's in it. Have a sip."

Dumb ole me took a sip. Whoa! Warning to all my readers: Whenever you shake a jar of eggnog and it has the consistency of water, make sure there are no lit candles in the area. This stuff would take the chrome off a Buick. The only people brave

enough to sip the concoction was my daughter-in-law and yours truly. She hales from Auburn University and has tipped a few in her day.

I'm not sure what was mixed with that eggnog, but I'm sure it came from an old Charlie Johnson recipe. And my daughter-in-law's breast fed baby, Maximus, took an extra long nap Christmas afternoon. What, you don't know what I mean? Then you really, really, really don't know "Jack."

• 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 are 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.

Tuesdays beginning Jan. 6

• Beginner Yoga Therapeutics Course 9 to 10:15 am. To register call Ashby, 526-8880.

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. Aux-

iliary 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 Mountain Top Rotary Club meets at the Highlands Conference Center at 7:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Thursdays & Fridays

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

Friday-Sunday, Jan. 16-18

• Basketball Tournament Open to girls & boys teams. Age Divisions 14U; 12U; 10U YBOA rules not sanctioned 3 games guaranteed All games will be played in Franklin, NC. Entry fee is \$100 per team. All proceeds go to the Macon County Hoopsters. For more information or to enter please contact Ed Rewis at 828-347-5320.

• Old Edwards Inn and Spa with Wolfgang's Restaurant and Bistro "Wine and Dine on the Mountain - A Living Artfully Weekend" with artist Thomas Arvid. Fill your senses with art, music, fine wine, superb culinary sensations and literary musings - along with spa fitness activities and shopping in Highlands. Complimentary chocolates and champagne with salon treatments and spa-tini add-ons, all day Sunday. Special lodging rates from \$150 per room per night for two or more nights. From \$185 per room from one night only. For information and reservations, call 828-787-2625.

Thursday, Jan. 8

• "Out of Africa" (1985) is based on the autobiographical book by Karen Blixon who moves to Africa during the early 20th century when many Europeans were establishing plantations there. Sydney Pollack directs this film with its breathtaking views. Meryl Streep plays the Baroness Blixon, and Rob-

ert Redford plays the big game hunter she loves. The movie won seven Oscars and is in the Library Meeting Room, hosted by the Friends of the Albert Carlton - Cashiers Community Library.

Saturday, Jan. 10

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile easy-to-moderate hike with an elevation change of 400 feet on Ranger Falls Interpretive Trail, built in 2008, and passing along a pristine creek and by a pretty waterfall. Meet at Highlands Bank of America at 9:45 a.m. or at Cliffside Lake Recreation area on Hwy. 64 in the parking lot for the picnic area at 10. Drive 8 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors and children over 10 are welcome, but no pets please.

Friday, Jan. 16

• At Wolfgang's Restaurant and Bistro Shafer Wine Dinner with Thomas Arvid Painting Live at 7 p.m. \$185 per person. For information and reservations, call 828-787-2625.

Saturday, Jan. 17

• At OEI, Culinary Demonstration and Wine Tasting from 2-3 p.m. For information and reservations, call 828-787-2625.

• At OEI's Madison Restaurant, Opus One Wine Dinner with Thomas Arvid Painting Live at 7 p.m. \$185 per person. For information and reservations, call 828-787-2625.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile hike with an elevation change of 200-300 feet to Rock Gorge and Big Bend Falls on the Chattooga River. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 10 a.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Virginia Talbot for reservations, 526-4904. Visitors welcome, but no pets please.

Sundays Jan. 18 & 25

• The Macon County Soccer Club (<http://www.maconsoccer.net>) will host an Entry Level Grade 08 Referee Certification Clinic on Sunday, January 18th and 25th from 9 am to 6 pm. Both sessions must be attended and no late arrivals or early departures are permitted. George Gately with the NC Soccer Referees Association will be conducting the clinic. The cost for the clinic is \$67.00 and payment is due January 18 at registration (checks payable to NCSRA). Lunch will be available for \$5 (or bring your own). Must be 14 years or older by January 25th. Please enroll online. For more information visit <http://www.ncsra.org/> or call Tony Esterwood at 828-524-1928.

Sunday, Jan. 18

• At Wolfgang's Restaurant and Bistro, New Orleans Jazz Brunch & Champagne Greeting with Thomas Arvid Painting Live. \$40 per person. For information and reservations, call 828-787-2625.

• At OEI, Author Reading and Reception at 4 p.m. For information and reservations, call 828-787-2625.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2.2 mile hike with a short 1/4 mile climb on a loop trail in Standing Indian Campground. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Drive 30 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay

Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors welcome, but no pets please.

Monday, Jan. 19

• The Mirror Lake Improvement Association meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center.

Beginning Tuesday, Jan. 20

• A Bible study for young adult women meets at the Rodenbeck home from 5:45-7:30 p.m. The winter study will be "Stepping Up - A Journey Through the Psalms of Assent" by Beth Moore. Call Martha at 526-3606 for details.

Beginning Jan. 21

• Want to know more about the ethics of food production, distribution and consumption? A study circle will meet monthly through June on the third Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Unitarian Church in Franklin at 85 Sierra Drive. An optional soup supper will be served at 5:30. Cost of the supper is \$5. Preregistration and purchase of the text is required. Deadline for registration is Jan. 4. To register, call 706-782-7978.

Thursday, Jan. 22

• "The English Patient" (1996), directed by Anthony Minghella and based on the novel by Michael Ondaatje, is set in the last days of World War II in an Italian monastery. The nurse Hana (Juliette Binoche) is caring for a badly burned man thought

• See EVENTS page 22

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

Playing
Jan. 8-15

BRIDE WARS
rated PG

Friday: (4:10), 7, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:10), 7, 9:10
Mon - Thurs: (4:10), 7, 9:10

BEDTIME STORIES
rated PG

Friday: (4:20), 7:10, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20
Mon - Thurs: (4:20), 7:10, 9:20

MARLEY & ME
rated PG

Friday: (4:30), 7:05, 9:30
Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:30), 7:05, 9:30
Mon - Thurs: (4:30), 7:05, 9:30

YES MAN
rated PG-13

Friday: (4:30), 7:15, 9:30
Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:30), 7:15, 9:30
Mon - Thurs: (4:30), 7:15, 9:30

\$5. for 20 words weekly

• **CLASSIFIEDS** •

\$2. for each add'l. 10 words

One FREE Classified Ad for ONE item less than \$1,000 (Not animals). ONE AD PER FAMILY otherwise: 20 words for \$5; \$2 for each 10-word increment. Email copy to: highlandseditor@aol.com or FAX to 1-866-212-8913 Send check to: Highlands' Newspaper P.O. Box 2703 Highlands, NC 28741 828-526-0782

LOST PET

BLACK & GREY TABBY last seen on Sassafras Gap Road in Clear Creek area of Highlands. Please call 526-5213 with any information.

BLACK MALE KITTEN, 8 months old. Fixed. Name is Einstein. Last seen near Wolfgang's Restaurant. Reward offered. Call 828-200-0711.

LOST PET

FREE PUPPIES to a good home. Lab mix. 1st shots already given. 2 females 6 males. Mostly black a few of them have some white paws. Born Nov 17th. Call 526-2787 or 421-3969 if no answer leave message and we will return your call. Pictures available on request.

WANTED TO BUY

EXERCISE MACHINE that will tone and condition total body. Call 828-526-8616.

HELP WANTED

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH is actively seeking a responsible and energetic individual to fill the full-time position of Director of Children and Youth Ministries. Bachelor's degree or five years related experience required. Send resumes to HUMC, P.O. Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741. Attn: Scott Roddy or email inquires and resumes to hmcsc@dnet.net.

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.

WORK WANTED

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.

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

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.

TURTLE POND 3bd/2 1/2b, hot tub, furnished, no smoking/pets Lease/lease purchase 828 526 2759 marbago@hughes.net (st. 11/27)

HOUSE FOR RENT AND SALE - 3/2 w/ office, great roomate plan 1600 sqft., 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. pscherrer@mindspring.com

DOWNTOWN APARTMENT RENT-AL - 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. \$1,000 a month including utilities except phone. 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 HOUSE - Carport, Storage, Garage. \$800 a month. In Scaly. Call 423-715-7757.

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.

able 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 priviledges 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

GENERAL ELECTRIC GAS STOVE - Four burner, White, 30-inch slide in insert. New condition, never used. \$100. Call 706-746-2129 Rabun Gap, Ga.

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

WASHER/DRYER - KENMORE 80 SERIES WASHER, heavy duty, super capacity, plus dryer. Both \$200. Call 904-742-7931

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.

MAYTAG WASHER & DRYER - \$350 For both. Also, 13" Sony digital TV \$75. All very good condition. Call 526-2710.

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-

\$5. for 20 words weekly

• CLASSIFIEDS •

\$2. for each add'l. 10 words

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" PAT-
TERN** – \$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.

UNUSUAL OLD OAK ROCKER. \$225. Call 526-3647.

**1930S CHILD'S WICKER ROCKING
CHAIR.** \$175. Call 526-3647.

1930S WICKER DOLL CARRIAGE. \$200. Call 526-3647.

**OLD OAK MIRRORED TOWEL
RACK.** \$85. Call 526-3647.

**TWO LOW-BACK SOUTHWEST-
ERN-LOOKING UPHOLSTERED
CHAIRS.** \$400. Call 526-5056.

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

5-PC BEDROOM SET C.1920 Bed/Chest of Drawers/Vanity-stlye 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 CHLORINA-
TOR 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 BED-
SPREADS** – \$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, rat-tan 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 DE-
LUXE 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.

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

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

VEHICLES FOR SALE

HONDA CIVIC HYBRID 2004 – 1 owner, no accidents, approx. 66,500 miles, 42 MPG. Asking \$10,000 OBO. 828-526-4160 or 706-746-4441.1/8

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.

**15-FT. DUAL AXLE TRAILER FOR
HAULING TRACTORS** – Worth \$750.

OBO. Call 526-3824.

SERVICES

**COMPLETE HOME MANAGEMENT
& PERSONAL CARE FOR YOUR LOVED
ONE.** – Possible Live-In. Call Mrs. Myers. 828-349-3479 or 828-342-1603 1/29

WILL BABY SIT IN YOUR HOME.
Have own transportation. Call Carly at 526-3824 or 828-200-9010.

HANDYMAN SPECIAL – Repairs and Remodeling, Electrical and Plumbing, Carpentry and more. Low prices. For free estimate call 828-342-7864.

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

**CUSTOM TILE AND SLATE
INSTALLATION.** 526-4889. 1/21

HOUSEKEEPING – Saturday and Sunday mornings. Call Kim at 828-482-2105.

LANDSCAPE CLEANUP – leafs, gutters and more. Call Juan at 200-9249 or 526-8525.

COMPLETE LAWN SERVICE - All Levels of Lawn Care at Competitive Rates . Design, Installation, & Maintenance. No Job Too Small or Too Large. 30 Years Experience. For Free Quotes, References, or Scheduling, Please Call: 526-1684.

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... MULLEN continued from page 14

church. The centerpiece of that new building will be Coleman Hall, the large fellowship hall named in honor of Hunter Coleman, the recently retired minister. With the Highlands Community Child Development Center having been constructed on Church Street several years ago, capital improvements for the church property will be now complete. This three phase project has enhanced not only the church but the entire area as have the improvements in the Church of the Incarnation across the

street.

But there were some disappointments in 2008 also. To me and many others one was the failure to approve an important work force housing project in the town. Sewer and water hookup for a new facility complicated approval. However, the Workforce Affordable Housing Committee is still at work looking at other options, and it is my hope that this very serious situation for the well being of our community will be solved over the next few years. Education of the public is critical, for misunderstanding of what this en-

tails is great. We must continue to pursue this important goal of providing housing for the permanent work force in this community. Adequate inclusiveness in any community actually enhances property values contrary to what many in the community think. This has been shown in many places all across the country in towns similar to ours. Let us hope we can come to an agreement soon on this issue.

As we move into 2009 it is my feeling that we can look to improvement economically and can come out of this economic downturn we are in currently.

Thus far Highlands has been spared great losses as indicated by the continuing high sales tax receipts the town receives. Businesses always come and go and that is unfortunate but true. However, the Town of Highlands itself at this point is in a superior financial condition and we aim to continue to be so.

Finally, let me wish you all a very Happy New Year as we all continue to work together in 2009 to keep our town and the Highlands plateau the superior place it always has been.

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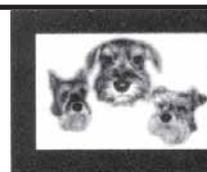
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• POLICE, FIRE, SHERIFF •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for Dec 15 through Jan. 4. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

- Dec. 15
 - At 6 p.m., officers responded to a call of an "open door" on a residence on Maple Street. All was OK.
 - Dec. 21
 - A motorist on N.C. 106 was cited for speeding 49 mph in a 35 zone on N.C. 106.
 - Officers responded to a call for service at a home on Wagina Place but the call was due to trouble with the phone lines.
 - Dec. 24
 - At 10:26 p.m., Antonio Anguiano Cervantes, 29, of Franklin, was arrested for DWI at the site of an accident at S. 4th and S. 3rd streets.
 - Dec. 25
 - At 6 p.m., officers responded to the larceny of a john boat from a residence on Hickory Hill Drive. The case is under investigation.
 - Dec. 28
 - Officers responded to a call for service from the Chamber of Commerce where it was reported someone had been in the storage unit where a radio was heard playing and things had been removed from shelves and put on the floor.
 - At 5 p.m., officers responded to a call for service when an door was found open at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive. All was secure.
 - Dec. 29
 - At 5 p.m., a violation of a Town ordinance was issued for junked vehicles on Harris Drive. The case was handed over to the Zoning Administrator.
 - Dec. 30
 - At 9 a.m. officers responded to an accident at Main and 5th streets.
 - Jan. 2
 - At 12:35 p.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 55 mph in a 35 zone at N.C. 28 and Many Road.
 - At 8:42 p.m., officers did a K-9 search of a vehicle.
 - At 9:42 p.m., a motorist pulled over at Highlands School and Pierson Drive for a headlight violation was cited for driving without financial responsibility for the vehicle.
 - Jan. 3
 - Officers provided security at a Highlands School basketball game.
 - At 10:53 p.m., a motorist at Laurel and N. 4th streets was cited for driving with an expired registration.
 - Jan. 4
 - At 5 p.m., officers responded to a vehicle accident at U.S. 64 east and U.S. 64 west.
- During the previous weeks, officers issued 27 warning tickets and responded to 14 alarm activations.
- The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Dec. 23 through Jan. 5
- Dec. 23
 - The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Country Club Drive. It was false.
 - Dec. 24
 - The dept. responded to an alarm at a business on Main Street which was set off when the elevator got stuck.
 - Dec. 26
 - The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call. The victim was transported to the hospital.
 - The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call. The victim was transported to the hospital.
 - Dec. 28
 - The dept. responded to an alarm on Cullasaja Club Drive. It was false.
 - Dec. 29
 - The dept. responded to an alarm on Cullasaja Club Drive. It was false.
 - The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Mt. Lori Drive. It was cancelled en route.
 - The dept. was first responders to assist EMS at a residence on Dog Mountain Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.
 - Jan. 1
 - The dept. responded to an accident on U.S. 64 west near Goldmine. The victim was flown to Asheville.
 - Jan. 3
 - The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Mountain Shadows Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.
 - Jan. 5
 - The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on U.S. 64 west. There was no transport.

• FUN & GAMES •

Sudo-Grams[©] 2008

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

OBJECT:

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

How to Solve:

Determine the different letters among those given. Write in the mystery word using the clue and these letters. Other small words will appear in the puzzle. As in conventional crossword puzzles, a list of meanings for these Across/Down words is given and number positions shown. Doing them will speed up your solution to the puzzle. Using your powers of induction, inference and insight, place missing letters in blank squares according to the rules noted above. Focus your attention where the least number of letters are needed to complete a line, column or cell.

Mystery Word #99

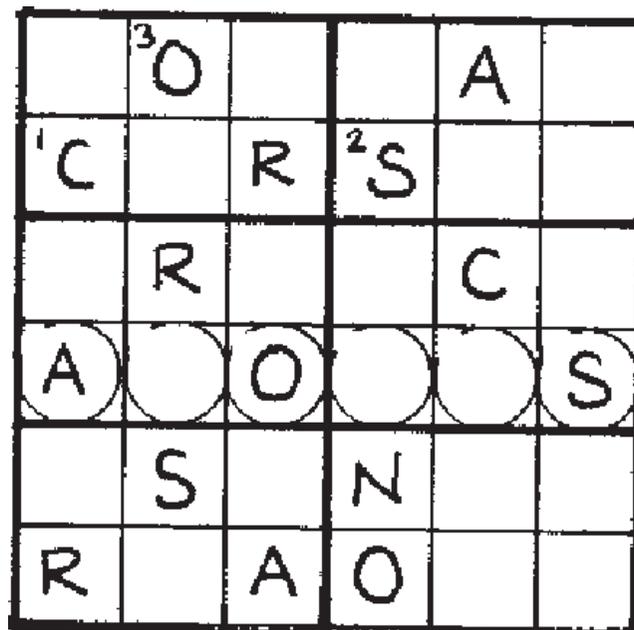
Oak Tree seeds (6)

Across

1. Auto (3)
2. Male offspring (3)

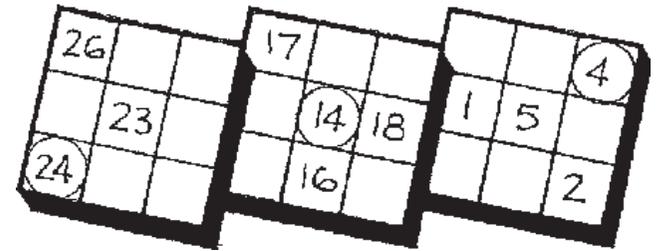
Down

3. Rowing paddle (3)



PseudoCube[©]

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#BN4F Level of Difficulty - Easy

THE SETUP:

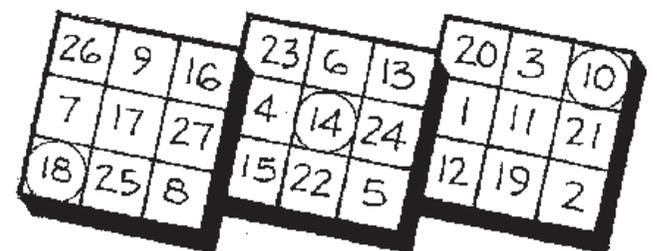
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

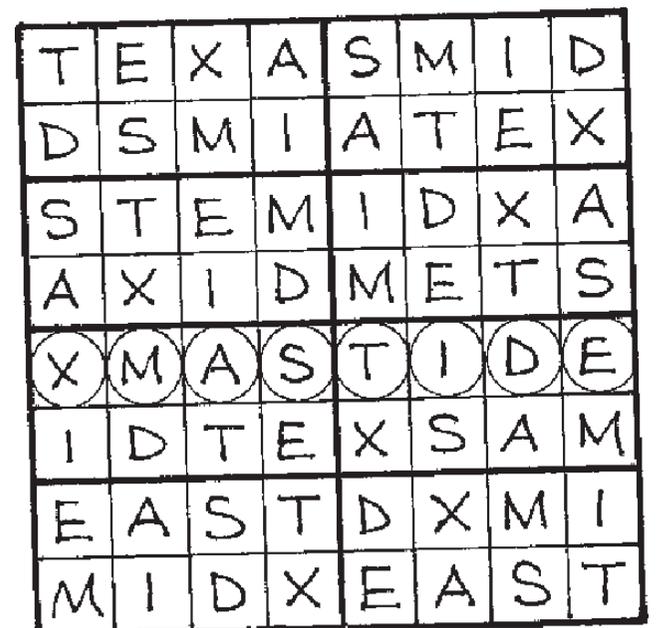
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

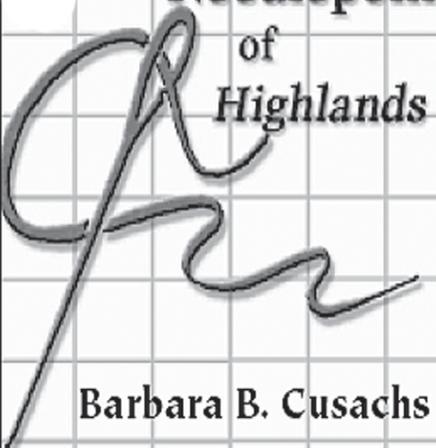
Solution to #DN4F in Dec. 18 issue



Solution to Dec. 18 Sudo-Gram



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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

to be English. The mystery of the man is revealed in flash backs. He is the Hungarian Count Laszio de Almsy (Ralph Fiennes) who meets an English woman (Kristin Scott Thomas) in Cairo. The story is about how they fall in love and how he became "the English patient." The movie won nine Oscars and is in the Library Meeting Room, hosted by the Friends of the Albert Carlton – Cashiers Community Library.

Saturday, Jan. 24

• The Church Communication Network (CCN) and First Christian Church of Franklin brings Managing Your Money to Franklin on Saturday from 11:30 to 3:30. People across North America will crowd auditoriums, church sanctuaries and halls to learn to walk steadily amid the financial chaos of today's economy! Managing Your Money gives people the practical tools and strategies vital to establishing and maintaining financial health. LIVE via satellite on CCN. First Christian Church is located at 156 Bellevue Park Rd. in Franklin, just past the intersection of U.S. 441 Bypass and Highlands Rd. For information and directions, please call the church office at 828-524-6840 or visit the church website at <http://www.fccfranklin.org>.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile from Sloan Bridge to Upper White-water Falls. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 14 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 742-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, Jan. 25

• Audition Notice for "Rumors" by Neil Simon Directed by Donna Cochran at the Performing Arts Center, Highlands. Call Backs if necessary: Monday, January 26, 2009 at PAC. Parts for 5 men and 5 women. Performances Dates: May 7-10 & 14-17, 2009. Scripts at the Highlands and Cashiers libraries for reading. For more information call: Donna Cochran, 828-526-2080.

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.

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.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

• 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.




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SALE!

Homeschoolers' art classes expanded to two age groups

Local homeschoolers now have two different art classes to attend.

The Bascom has expanded its one homeschool art class, It's Masterful, which used to serve kindergarten to eighth grades. The nonprofit art center is now offering two age-appropriate classes, instead.

Children ages 4 to 7 can attend It's Masterful I from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Wednesdays at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands. Cost is \$24 for a six-class session.

Children ages 8 to 14 can attend It's Masterful II from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. also on Wednesdays at the Episcopal Church. Cost is \$39 for a six-class session.

Art projects range from wood sculptures to painting to collage and more. Students also learn about various artists and art styles.

"This is another opportunity for homeschooled children to learn with others and to enhance their homeschool curriculum," said The Bascom's children's art teacher, Susan Nastasic.

Financial assistance is available.

To register for a class, call The Bascom at (828) 526-4949, ext. 0#. To view information about other children's art classes, visit www.thebascom.org/youth-classes.



The Bascom has expanded its one homeschool art class, It's Masterful, which used to serve kindergarten to eighth grades. The nonprofit art center is now offering two age-appropriate classes, instead. Here, a student in a Bascom class works on a project.

New Advertising Plan For 2009

**A la carte Menu - Choose Only What You Want
Newspaper - Internet Links - Map Placements
Package Discount Deals For All 3 Still Available**

Map Dots Start @ \$750. Per Calendar Year - Business Name w/Dot \$1,200

Internet Links Start @ \$750. Per Calendar Year - w/Link & Picture \$950

Realty, Lodging & Dining Internet Banner Ads - 1st Place - \$1,250 , 2nd - \$975, 3rd - \$800 Per Calendar Year

Real-Time Weather & WebCam Banner Ads - 1st Place \$2,500, 2nd \$1,500, 3rd, \$1,000 Per Calendar Year

All Internet Banner Ad Links Also Include Directory Catagory Links On www.HighlandsInfo.com

- **New This Year - Ads on back of 2009 HIGHLANDS MAP page - 1/16 Page Ads - \$1,250 per/year**
- **New This Year - 2009 HIGHLANDS MAP Scenic Picture Sponsor Ads - \$1,250 per/year**
- **New This Year - 2009 Internet Referrals - \$600 per/year per catagory - Lodging, Dining, Realty**

ALL BUSINESSES PURCHASING ANNUAL ADS WILL RECEIVE CONTRACTS FOR PROOF OF PURCHASE AT TIME OF PAYMENT

1/2 Off Map Prices For Jan. 2009

PAYMENTS FOR 1/2 PRICE OFFERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JAN. 31, 2009 - NO OTHER DISCOUNTS MAY BE APPLIED TO THESE OFFERS

1/2 Off Internet Ads For Jan. 2009

THE PRESENT MAP IS FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES - ALL LOCATIONS ARE OPEN - FIRST COME FIRST SERVED - ALL ARE WELCOMED

2009 WEEKLY NEWSPAPER RATES SAME AS 2008 RATES

Black & White Ads

Full Page: (10.25 x 11.25) \$458

1/2 Page: (10.25 x 5.5 or 5 x 11.25) \$236

1/4 Page (5 x 5.5) \$117

3/8 (5 x 8) \$176

3/16 (5 x 4.5) \$88

1/8 (5 x 2.5 or 2.5 x 5.5) \$58

**Call about sponsoring
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Weather Report**

1/16 5 x 1.5 or 2.5 x 3) \$29

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2009 HIGHLANDS MAP

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Cashiers
Visitors Ctr.
Post Office
Library
Landmark
Rusticks

Sapphire Valley
Windham Resort
Burlingame
7 Miles >

Whitewater Falls
Falls 15 Miles >

Sliding Rock
Whiteside < Cove Rd.

Trail
Wildcat Cliffs
Cullasaja Club
Highlands Falls
Community Bible

Sliding Rock
Falls 15 Miles >

Highlands
Hwy 106
Hwy 28s

Cliffside Lake & Campground
Veil
Dry Falls
The Farm

Glen Falls
Hwy 106

Iron Bridge
Hwy 28s

Chattooga Iron Bridge

Scaly Mtn
Fire Mtn
Outdoor Center
Sky Valley Resort

Cullasaja Falls
Gem Mine
Bust Your Butt Falls

Cliffside Lake & Campground
Veil
Dry Falls
The Farm

Highlands
Hwy 106
Hwy 28s

Cliffside Lake & Campground
Veil
Dry Falls
The Farm

Highlands
Hwy 106
Hwy 28s

Cliffside Lake & Campground
Veil
Dry Falls
The Farm

DINING		DINING		LODGING		SHOPPING		SHOPPING		REALTY	
1 Bucks	19 Nick's	1 4 1/2 St Inn	1 Acorns	19 McCulley's	1 Blackrock						
2 Blackberry Hill	20 Oak St. Cafe	2 Chambers	2 AnnaWear	20 Nancy's Fancy	2 Blair Realty						
3 Cyprus	21 On Verandah	3 Chandler Inn	3 Basketcase	21 Needle Point	3 Buyer's Realty						
4 Don Leon	22 Paoletti's	4 Colonial Pines	4 Bear Mt. Outf.	22 Peak Experience	4 Cabe Realty						
5 Fireside	23 Pescado's	5 Half Mile Farm	5 Bird Barn	23 Radio Shack	5 Century 21						
6 Four Sisters	24 Pizza Place	6 Hampton Inn	6 Bryant Art	24 Rarities	6 Coldwell Banker						
7 Fressers	25 Rib Shack	7 High Hampton	7 Cabin Casuals	25 Scudders Antq.	7 Country Club						
8 Golden China	26 Rosewood	8 Highlands Inn	8 Christmas Tree	26 Silver Eagle	8 Cullasaja						
9 High Country	27 Skyline Lodge	9 Highlands Suites	9 Christmas Shop	27 Stone Lantern	9 Futural						
10 High Hampton	28 SportsPage	10 Laurelwood	10 Cyrano's	28 Summer House	10 Green Mtn.						
11 Highlands Deli	29 SweeTreats	11 Main St. Inn	11 Drakes Diamonds	29 T.A.Anderson	11 Harry Norman						
12 Horacios	30 Subway	12 Millstone Inn	12 Dry Sink	30 Tin Roof	12 John Schiffl						
13 Lakeside	31 The Orchard	13 Mitchell's Lodge	13 Dutchman's	31 Toy Store	13 McKee Prop.						
14 Library Club	32	14 Mirror Lake	14 Guritz Antq.	32 Twigs	14 Meadows Mtn.						
15 Log Cabin	33	15 Mt High Lodge	15 Hen House	33 Village Kids	15 Mtn. View						
16 Madison's	34 Wendy's	16 Old Edwards	16 Highland Hiker	34 Vivace	16 Preferred Prop						
17 Mica's	35 Wild Thyme	17 The Lodge	17 JacksonMadeleine	35 Wholesale Down	17 Prestige						
18 Mtn. Perk	36 Wolfgang's	18 Skyline Lodge	18 Jolies	36 Wits End	18 Signature						

Lake Sequoyah
Hwy. 64w - 1 Mile From Highlands

On The Verandah
21 Restaurant

The Bascom Gallery
Covered Bridge
Entrance

1 Mile
On The Verandah

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Bridal Veil Falls
Hwy. 64w - 2 Miles From Highlands

Bulletin Board
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Glen Falls
Hwy. 106 - 2 Miles From Highlands

DRY FALLS
Hwy. 64w - 3 Miles From Highlands

Butcher > Cut Steaks
Dusty's Market

Bartram Trail Access That Leads To The Appalachian Trail

Osage Overlook
Hwy. 106 - 4 Miles From Highlands

Cliffside Lake & Campground
Hwy. 64w - 5 Miles From Highlands

Copyrighted Map & Photos - Highlands' Newspaper

Map of Downtown Highlands

Streets: MAPLE ST., CAROLINA WAY, PINE ST., OAK ST., MAIN ST., CHURCH ST., SOUTH ST., 4TH ST., 3RD ST., 2ND ST., W. MAIN ST., SPRING ST., HICKORY ST., FOREMAN RD., CHESTNUT ST., LAUREL ST., SPRUCE ST.

Businesses: PlayHouse, Rest Rooms, ATM, Macon Bank, Mill Cree Gallery, Highlands Inn, Drug Store, Old Edwards Inn & Spa, Acorns, Mtn. Fresh Foods, Falls On Main Bird Barn, Chintz Antiques, Mirror Lake Antiques, The Lodge, Rib Shack, Cleaners, Northland Cable TV, Highlands School K-12, Wayah Insurance, Mt Findings, Fibber Magee's, Gas, Marathon, Meadows Mountain, Historic Village, Sweet Treats, Signature, Brick Oven, MovieStop, Harry Norman, Scudders Antiques, Kilwin's, Ice Cream, Town Sq, Methodists, Reeves Ace, Summit One Art Gallery, Drug Store, Hardware, Helens Barn, Fressers, Log Cabin, Hampton Inn, Bryson's Foods Gourmet, Wines, Cheeses, Meats, Produce, To Go Orders, Post Office, Manley's Auto Service, J&J Lawn & Landscaping, Car Spa, Bear Mt Outfitters, ABC, Police, Town Hall, Catholic, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Nature Ctr, Child Care, Peggy Crosby, Sponser This Picture By Placing Your Name Here.

Bird Barn
I eat at the...
Highlands NC
An Official Bird Sanctuary

Bust Your Butt Falls
Hwy. 64w - 6 Miles From Highlands

Sponser This Picture By Placing Your Name Here