Town Board agenda jammed packed

With only one Town Board meeting a month now, a lot of issues were discussed at the July 15 meeting.

* A rezoning request by the Highlands United Methodist Church to change the zoning of the property behind the church from B3 to B1 was denied on the grounds that B1 allows for any type of business without parking or setback requirements.

Town Planner Joe Cooley said he had suggested conditional use zoning, but church representatives wanted to try for rezoning first.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said the board didn’t have enough information concerning the reasons for the request. The church will be asked to make a presentation to the board in August.

* The board discussed the flood plain ordinance the town must adopt now that the state has released its new Flood Hazard Maps. For residents to get FEMA flood insurance, which costs less than private insurance – the town must adopt a flood plain ordinance like the county. Since Highlands only has two flood zones – a 100-year and a 500-year zone – its ordinance won’t be as comprehensive as the county’s but it will still outline what is needed.

Study shows link between childcare and economic growth

Childcare and its availability in the county are high on the priority list for the current MC Commission Board as a component to economic development.

The county recently hired Trevor Dalton as the Economic Development Commission Coordinator. The Economic Development Commission’s mission is to attract new businesses to Macon County.

And, according to Kristy Carter with the NC Dept. of Commerce Division of Community Assistance, available and affordable childcare is a huge component of economic development.

Some months ago, Chairman Ronnie Beale started looking into the possibility of the county financing or subsidizing childcare to off-

‘Wicked’ farce now on stage at The Playhouse

Even if you’ve seen “Arsenic and Old Lace” before ... go see it again, this time at Highlands Playhouse. See review pg.19.

Community grieves over Elizabeth Coram death

Tuesday afternoon, friends and family filled the Community Bible Church in Highlands beyond capacity at the memorial service for Elizabeth Coram, who died Thursday, July 9.

At 6:50 p.m., Adam Hicks, of 121 Sassafras Gap Road, called 9-1-1 and reported coming home and finding Coram dead.

Officials haven’t released any details concerning the exact time or cause of death.

The Macon County Sheriff’s Department deputy got the call from Macon County dispatch while en route to the Highlands station from Otto, and asked the Highlands Police Department to secure the scene until she could get there.

According to the Sheriff report, Elizabeth Preston Coram, 22, of Scaly Mountain, was found dead upon arrival. A LG-Verizon cell phone and an empty prescription bottle and an empty prescription were found in the vehicle.

For residents to get FEMA flood insurance, which costs less than private insurance – the town must adopt a flood plain ordinance like the county. Since Highlands only has two flood zones – a 100-year and a 500-year zone – its ordinance won’t be as comprehensive as the county’s but it will still outline what is needed.

* See TOWN BOARD page 18

* See GROWTH page 16

* See CORAM page xx
NC Democrats responsible for rising taxes

Dear Editor,

When state and federal governments need money, what is the easy way out? .....raise taxes. This is what the North Carolina Democrat majority is doing right now in Raleigh.

Democratic Legislative Leaders are now meeting in closed door sessions, to craft a final tax and spending plan; there is no open debate, no public input, and little opportunity for the media to give the public accurate or detailed information.

According to news reports, Democrats are in agreement to raise state taxes by $1 billion or more; it appears the debate now centers on which taxes will go up and which North Carolina families and businesses will be paying more. House Republican Leader, Representative Paul Stam said, "When Democrats debate taxes and the budget solely among themselves, taxpayers are rarely heard. It is like committing lambs to the wolves to be devoured. This should end." Some of the most egregious tax and fee increases in the proposed Democratic budget are:

- Increase Upper-Income Tax Brackets - Jobs "killer"; disincentive for new economic development; wrong prescription during recession
- Increase Sales Tax - Regressive and places greatest burden on lower income citizens
- Sales Tax on Repairs - Burden on consumers who can afford it least
- Sales Tax on Local and Interstate Courier Services: Costs passed on to consumers/small businesses
- Franchise Tax on LLCs - Inhibits growth of new jobs (most small businesses are LLCs)
- Sales Tax on Amusements/Movies - Regressive, harmful to families
- Increase Fees for Deeds of Trust and Mortgages for Emergency Mgmt Division Use - This fee completely unrelated to Emergency Management
- Increase Marriage License Fee - A burden on families at the time of life when they are least able to pay
- Radiation (X-Ray) Inspection Fee - Increase medical costs and there is no evidence that more inspection is needed
- Electricity Tax - Regressive, non-deductible on all electric consumers

...Thanks to all our readers, advertisers and local columnists!

Carol C. Adams
Glenville, NC

On Arrogance

Dear Editor,

There is something attractive about extremes. We yearn to feel certain about our Goodness and our Rightness. Yet fundamentalism -- Muslim, Jewish, Christian or other -- is dangerous. It leads us to justify inhumane acts, brutalizing others, leading someone to target women, Blacks, Jews, gays, Hispanics, Christians, Catholics, Muslims, atheists etc. Violence serves hate through fear.

For those who paint others with a broad stroke, life must be easy. There are no contradictions, no gray areas to distract them. For those who use their voice, publicly and privately, we have a responsibility not to incite fear and hatred, a responsibility that comes with the freedom to speak our minds. By stoking resentment, stereotypes and distortions, we tap into primal fear, with terrible results.

As a human being, as a male in this culture, I am not immune from slipping into the mindset of if I think or say something, It Must Be Right. I make a conscious effort not to, and pray about it. On the other hand, to believe, say and do nothing in this swirling cascade of human events, is a waste and at times a crime.

There are things that are worth standing up for, and those things worth standing against. But we must not dehumanize those we disagree with. Now more than ever, we need to build bridges, not destroy them. We must include, not exclude. We must love, not hate. We must help, not hurt.

I didn't invent this philosophy, this way of living. It's been around for over 2,000 years. When it's lived and implemented, it has borne out amazing results. It's far from easy, but anything worth achieving is difficult. Are you up to a positive challenge?

Dan Kowal
Franklin, NC

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.
Elizabeth Preston Coram
April 26, 1987 - July 9, 2009
Elizabeth Coram, 22, elder daughter of B. and Susan Coram, died unexpectedly on July 9, 2009. She was born in Atlanta, GA, on April 26, 1987, where she lived until 1994 when the family moved to North Carolina.

Having been homeschooled and having attended Highlands School, Elizabeth was in her fourth year of study at Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC, where she was a member of the English Honor Society. She was a member of Community Bible Church in Highlands.

She is survived by her parents and her younger sister, Jenny Coram, of Scaly Mountain. In addition, she is survived by her paternal grandmother, Augusta Buie Daniel, of Edison, GA, and by many aunts, uncles and cousins. Her maternal grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Samuel W. Preston, Jr., of Atlanta, GA. Her paternal grandfather was Jennings Bryan Coram, of Edison, GA.

A memorial service was held at Community Bible Church on Tuesday, July 14 at 3 p.m. The family received friends afterward in the fellowship hall.

Lloyd William (Bill) Wagner, Sr.

Lloyd William (Bill) Wagner, Sr., age 85, of Tuscaloosa, AL went to be with the Lord on July 4, 2009. Services were held at Calvary Baptist Church on Tuesday, July 7 at 11 a.m. with Dr. Tim Lovett, Reverend Frank Jones and Reverend Martin Wagner officiating.

His parents, Carl Herman Wagner, Sr. and Esta Hutto Wagner, preceded him in death along with a brother, Carl Herman Wagner, Jr., and a daughter, Cathy Jo Wagner.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Marian Goeller Wagner, sons Lloyd William Wagner, Jr. (Debra) of Highlands, NC, Tommy Wagner (Cindy) and daughter Melinda Wiggins. Seven grandchildren, Dr. Will Wagner (Berkley), Curri DiChiara (Neal), Matt Wagner (Meredith), Danny Wiggins, and David Wiggins all from Tuscaloosa, AL, Michael Wagner (Mary Beth), and Martin Wagner (Hallie), from Birmingham, AL and five great granddaughters, also from Tuscaloosa, AL.

Mr. Wagner was born in Indianapolis IN. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII with the 2nd Infantry. He graduated from St. Louis University after his return. He moved to Tuscaloosa in 1953 and purchased Powe’s Shoes and renamed it Wagner’s Shoes. Always known for his customer service, Mr. Wagner grew his business to one of the largest independent shoe store chains in the southeast. In 1975, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Shoe Retailers Association and in 1979 he was named the National Children’s Shoe Retailer of the Year. He provided quality customer service to several generations of children and adults, with stores in Tuscaloosa, Alexander City, Montgomery, Birmingham, AL and Columbus GA, and Columbus, MS. He served for 15 years on the Alabama Retail Association’s Board of Directors and Alabama Workmen’s Comp Board of Directors.

Bill Wagner was an active member of Calvary Baptist Church for over 40 years. He served as a deacon and chairman of numerous committees, including work with the senior adult ministry. He was active in numerous organizations, including Caicos prison ministry, Emmaus Walk, Tuscaloosa Chamber of Commerce and the Y’s Men’s Club.

Pallbearers were his grandsons, Dr. Will Wagner, Michael Wagner, Matt Wagner, Danny Wiggins, David Wiggins and Neal DiChiara.

Lloyd and Debra Wagner wish to thank their friends in Highlands for their heartfelt prayers and phone calls.

Vos honored at graduation

Scott Vos of Highlands recently graduated from Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School, during the awards ceremony on May 29, 2009. Mr. John Marshall awarded Scott with the “Crystal Eagle Award” for his exemplary leadership. The criteria for the award: 1 boy and 1 girl (grades 9-12) who exemplify the greatest amount of school spirit. To be determined and voted on by faculty & administration. Scott’s parents are Tim and Sandy Vos of King Mountain Club, and Sandy is the Administrative Assistant to the Office of Student Life at Rabun Gap. Scott will be attending UNC Charlotte in the fall.

Grefé named ‘2009 Film Florida Legend’

30-year Scaly Mountain second homeowner, William Grefé, was honored at the 2009 Film Florida Legends recently for his prolific and pioneering filmmaking career. Best known for building the low budget action/thriller genre in Florida, his film career spans 50 years and he’s worked with Mickey Rooney, Rita Hayworth, William Shatner and Richard Jaeckel among many others. A rare combination of businessman and artist, Grefé’s career began as a television writer which segued to feature film writer and quickly into director. Some noted films include Stanley, Mako and Cease Fire with Don Johnson.
Hey Palin, Break the mold...get a life

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Writer’s Note: This piece was written just after Palin resigned.

Can you remember back before the national election when “Mr. nice guy” John McCain announced Sarah Palin as his running mate? If you’re like me, you said “Sarah who?” I heard the name before I got a look at her. I pictured a frumpy Madeleine Albright or Hillary Clinton type. Then I thought, Nah, I’ll bet she’s got Eskimo in her blood and killer fish breath.

Eventually I plopped down in front of a TV and got a look at “wet behind the ears” Sarah Palin. Whoo, a hot babe! I rubbed my eyes. Could this be true? Am I looking at a politician...a governor with looks that speaks whole sentences without a teleprompter and hunts moose in the wilds of Alaska? Shut Up! Usually, a woman runs for office when she’s so ugly she has small marks on her body where guys hit her with a 10-foot pole.

Other than being a hot babe, loved by 80% of the people in America, I had zero feelings about this woman. Sooo, cha-ching! I gave her five points just on her looks. End of story, I thought. Then I learned she’s not liked by Alaska’s good ole boy Republican Party because she doesn’t play the “politic as usual” game. Cha-ching again! I gave her another five points. Just so you’ll know, I dislike the Republican party a lot, thank you, George Bush, and don’t even ask me about Democrats. So, sue me.

Later, I learned she had a Downs Syndrome baby she could have easily and legally killed but chose not to. Sheesh! Cha-ching big time. She gets 500 points for respecting human life.

As the political race progressed, I watched the media attempt to make her into a bimbo. It didn’t work. Late night shows were having a field day with her and it was fun to watch. Sarah played along. Cha-ching. She gets another five points for having a sense of humor. I love “sense of humor.”

Then, as the election progressed and her popularity grew, it started to get ugly. The media turned on her in a vicious way seldom seen. They made fun of her family and worse, her new baby. Rumors started that her “special needs” child was really her daughter’s. It wasn’t funny anymore. Cha-ching: Ten points for Sarah hanging tough and fighting back.

And so the election came and went and the losers went home, as usual, to continue their lives and fight another day. But not with Sarah. Her own party turned against her. There were ugly rumors about her extravagant wardrobe, her spending and other nit-picking issues. Sarah fought back. Cha-ching. I gave her another 10 points for perseverance.

And this was just the beginning of something bigger. David Letterman disgraced himself on national television, accusing Palin’s 14-year-old daughter of being “knocked up” by a baseball player. They called it a joke.

Scores of frivolous ethics violations were lodged against her. She had to hire a lawyer who fought for her and had them all dismissed. Both political parties, along with the media, were in full attack. Bloggers, columnists, and radio talk programs made fun of her Downs Syndrome baby saying horrible, cruel things. What is going on? I thought. The election is over. Why is everyone still attacking this woman? Then I hit me. Sarah Palin is a serious threat to the American political system of good ole boy business as usual. Both political parties are terrified of her. Otherwise, she would have faded into oblivion after the race. Be very afraid of Sarah Palin.

Last week, Sarah resigned her position as governor of Alaska and the media says she’s washed up. Then she reminded the country of something she said at her acceptance speech. Her priorities in life are God, family and work. She couldn’t take the cruelty anymore. For her family, she quit. She’ll write a book and give speeches. 

In my mind, Sarah has gone from an unknown nobody I could care less about to a person I admire and respect, not as a politician, but as a strong female human being. I love her. In 2012, our country will bein economic ruin. Sarah, make your move and you’ll have instant support from hundreds of thousands of people starving for leadership. It’ll seem as if the whole political system is against you, but don’t forget about all the people who are fed up with the politics of both parties. Sarah, get a life, break the mold and start something new.
On the Nation’s Mall

I searched among the crowd
For someone to thank,
Thank him for his bit
In the great struggle.

The old veterans are growing scarce.
Scarcer still are those hale enough
To make the trip.

None was here today,
To view the tribute
To their triumph
And struggle.

So great was their victory, so pure their cause.

They did not need a memorial
To commemorate it,
Still they visit.

To recall youth and remember
Fallen comrades,
To relive the greatest of their lives.

My father’s gone and his five brothers,
Along with millions more.

Visitors bathed their feet in the sacred pool,

And rode bikes around the solemn walk,
Despisions begging for respect.

Decades have dimmed the vision of the young
More than that of these old soldiers.

A walk the length of the reflecting pool
Takento an ghostly squad
Trudging forever
Through low junipers,
Forgotten warriors

Of a forgotten war.

Another walk and I found cousin Ray,
Panel 10E, line 69.

And two old Marines from Korea,
Sitting on a bench
But no heroes of the Second War.

I returned to the Memorial and asked the Rangers
If they still came,
These, our greatest warriors.

Mostly now on Wednesdays and Saturdays
In sponsored groups, they answered.

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7 days a week
...Dinner (Thurs.-Sun.)

Join us Sat, July 4 for the 2nd Annual BBQ & Blues 5-10:30.
Band starts at 7. Tickets are $25 inclusive (Music, food & drink)
This summer has been unusually special to all of us in Highlands. During this time of what has been called a “Great Recession” in which we find ourselves, we have been blessed to have many people come to our fair town, and we thank them all. We expected the worst, but we have been pleasantly surprised. But, of course, what do you expect? We live in a place that anyone would want to come, either permanently or for just a visit. The beauty and the weather has been especially incredible this year. I cannot remember a time when the greenery and the flowers have been so beautiful, and I go back over seventy years either living here or coming here.

And once again we invite those who live within driving distance to make a visit to this wonderful little place in the mountains of North Carolina. But then, there are also very special people in Highlands. There is a very special man in our town who thinks he is retiring, or at least closing his office practice. But, knowing Dr. John Baumrucker, we never know quite what to expect. Thank goodness he will continue to work in the Emergency Room of the Highlands Cashiers Hospital. He tried to retire way back in 2003 after 33 years of practice but that did not last long. And we all know that Dr. John’s real love is the mission work he has led over the years in Bolivia — still spends several months every year there. We are indebted to Dr. John not only for the work he has done amongst us caring for us but for the sacrifice he has made to make others in a far country feel like they have someone who truly cares about them. Thank you, John Baumrucker. We are indeed glad you are amongst us and we can claim you as one of our own here in Highlands.

Week or so ago I had a meeting with an interesting young man. His name is Trevor Dalton. Trevor is the new economic development commission coordinator for our county of Macon. This is a new commission whose mission is to attract new businesses to Macon County. A native of Macon County, Trevor has come home to help the economic development program for expansion and recruitment of new industries into our area. Our county is a very special place we all want to make known to people out there in other parts of our country who are looking for a great place to relocate.

There are many possibilities for development in Macon County and Highlands wants to do its part in helping grow our county and help develop new businesses amongst us. Trevor Dalton will serve the county board and the new 12 member economic development commission in our county which is strongly supported by the Highlands Board of Commissioners. Highlands Commissioner Hank Ross is a member of that commission along with local business leaders Thomas Craig and Steve Chenowitz. Trevor Dalton is a 2007 graduate of Appalachian State University where he received a Bachelor of Science in business administration. If anyone has any ideas to help the development of our county, give him a call. In these times of challenge and change we all need to work together in these mountains to make it a place where we can all thrive as a family together.
W

ill President Obama was in
Russia a last week he
signed an agreement with
President Dmitri Medvedev
to cut American and Russian
strategic nuclear arsenals.
Obama would like this to be
just the first step of many
towards the goal of complete
nuclear disarmament.

Has it ever occurred to
you why it’s okay for the
United States, and Pakistan, and Israel, and
China to have nuclear weapons but it’s not
okay for Iran to have them? The western
world says Iran can’t have nuclear weapons
because of something called the Nuclear
Non-Proliferation Treaty. Signatories to this
treaty agree that if they don’t have nuclear
weapons they will not acquire them. Iran is
a signatory and is trying to hold them to
their agreement.

But there is more to that agreement.
Signatories to the treaty that do have
nuclear weapons agree to reduce their
numbers of nuclear weapons to zero. If
you’d like to know more about this, see the
article I wrote in June 2007, “A Non-
Nuclear World.”

Ninety-five percent of the world’s
nuclear weapons are owned by the United
States and Russia. If we can credibly
demand that other nations live up to their
part of the treaty if we aren’t living up to
ours?

I am pleased to see that we finally have
a president who thinks the same way I do
about this. In Russia he said that it would be
difficult for the U.S. and Russia to provide
leadership in the effort to deter nuclear
programs in Iran and North Korea “unless
we are showing ourselves willing to deal
with our own nuclear stockpiles in a more
rational way.”

Joseph Cirincione, president of the
Ploughshares Fund, said during a panel
discussion at the annual meeting of the
American Association for the Advancement
of Science, “Obama came into office with
the most comprehensive, integrated,
detailed nuclear policy of any candidate
ever to assume the presidency.” Among the
key points of Obama’s platform:
- negotiation of significant cuts in the
nuclear arsenals of the United States and
Russia, taking all U.S. nuclear weapons off
hair-trigger status, which enables them to
be fired within 15 minutes; ratification of
the treaty banning all nuclear test blasts; a
halt to development and production of new
nuclear weapons; and the prevention of
nuclear terrorism. Most importantly, he
agreed to work toward the goal of a world
free of nuclear weapons.

In April in Prague
President Obama spoke in
detail about nuclear
weapons. He called
dismantlement an issue that is
“fundamental to the security of
our nations and to the
peace of the world.” He said,
“First, the United States will
take concrete steps towards a
world without nuclear
weapons. To put an end to
Cold War thinking, we will
reduce the role of nuclear weapons in our
national security strategy, and urge others
to do the same…

“To achieve a global ban on nuclear
testing, my administration will
immediately and aggressively pursue U.S.
ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban
Treaty…And to cut off the building blocks
needed for a bomb, the United States will
seek a new treaty that verifiably ends the
production of fissile materials intended for
use in state nuclear weapons…”

“Second, together we will strengthen
the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a
basis for cooperation. The basic bargain is
sound: Countries with nuclear weapons
will move towards disarmament, countries
without nuclear weapons will not acquire
them, and all countries can access peaceful
nuclear energy. To strengthen the treaty, we
should embrace several principles. We need
more resources and authority to strengthen
international inspections. We need real and
immediate consequences for countries

• See BRUGGER page 10

from the history
guy…

- July 16, 1661 -

The first proper European banknotes were
issued by Stockholms Banco, in Sweden.

Hey what’s this, you trying to be funny?
This stuff your passing don’t look like
money.
Is this some kind of scam or caper?
Like I should sell my stuff for paper.
The value set by simple fiat,
where does that leave you and me at?
There’s just something about bullion,
it’s an idea I’m behind full on.
I’m not sure which phylum is this new
specie
Can’t it be backed buy something we
can see?
Deadline for CWO 2009 grants is July 24

The Cullasaja Women’s Outreach (CWO) of the Cullasaja Club invites local 501c3 agencies to apply for 2009-2010 charitable grants.

CWO funds projects in the Highlands/Cashiers communities. Grants range from $1,000 to $5,000 and are awarded in September. CWO does not fund religious, political or capital campaigns.

Please send an application including an email address, if possible to:
S. Wallace, P.O. Box 734, Highlands, NC 28741
Deadline for final submission is Friday, July 24.

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CONSERVATIVE POV

May he rest in peace

The media hysteria involved the coverage of Michael Jackson’s death, after death, before the memorial service, the memorial service, after the memorial service and speculation over possible criminal medical involvement staggers the imagination.
Fortunately, I was driving most of the time and was spared the visual image of Al Sharpton and friends taking advantage of the opportunity to turn matters into a racial feeding frenzy.
I was bombfuzzled to hear that Fox News, along with all the other pathetic networks, covered the proceedings. Fair and balanced can be carried too far.

On the scene, the feared crush of humanity who have nothing to do other than to show up at the Staples Center at midday failed to materialize leaving 3,900 police persons and a like number of media types to wonder where is everybody? Oh well, what’s $4 million down the drain when your state is teetering on the brink of a fiscal abyss?

Around the world, the tragic news affected folks in various ways, causing some curious behavior.

In North Bend, WI, the crew that meets every Tuesday noon for lunch drowned their sorrow by knocking down shots of tequila every 15 minutes for the full length of the coverage of the memorial service. The good news is there were no fatalities. Boy Scout Troop 74 in Artesia, NM formed up at the flagpole in the Town Square and mooned passers by until the sheriff put and end to their demonstration.

The weird goings-on spread across the seas. In Alice Springs, Australia, a bunch of the boys were so distraught they went out, corralled a large crocodile, tied the beast up and beat it with willow rods. The folks from PETA showed up and suffered the same treatment.

Outside of Chittoor, India, to demonstrate their grief, a group went up a hill and stared at the moon. I don’t know why.

And finally, in Germany, a coven of Wiccans, all over 80, felt that sky diving into the Black Forest would ease the pain of their loss. It didn’t.

In other news, the tragic deaths of seven American military personnel in Afghanistan was overshadowed by the asinine hoopla over the passing of, in my opinion, one of the most unnecessary humans that ever moonwalked this Earth. How shallow can we possibly get than to elevate this demented pedophile to god-like status? I’m sickened and saddened at the thought.

Just when you thought that the stupidity of Congress had reached the maximum possible level, the necessity of a second stimulus is being floated. 80-90% of the first porkulus legislation is still unspent and not generating (or saving) a solitary job.

Why not take the $500-600 billion unspent, add it to the $170 billion in left-over TARP money, and eliminate payroll taxes for the rest of the year. That would create some real stimulation.

Let’s talk cap and trade, shall we?

* See SWANSON page 15

Cottage and RV Sites for Rent...
Daily, Weekly or Monthly Rates Available
In-Town on Chestnut Street.
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Stompin’ the Yard

By Michelle Mead-Armor

"W"e could always put the rattlesnake in the freezer," John said calmly. All things considered, it wasn't that crazy a suggestion. The snake in question was, after all, dead. Was it my years in the Big City that made me request the snakeskin might make a nice belt, which is why patterns and colors. John thought that the beautiful animal, its skin a patchwork of up close and personal. It was a stunningly impressive size which he'd encountered while things could have taken a nasty turn. That sobering to think that such a creature was living right next to the wisteria I water on a daily basis. I hated to think how easily I would have missed the wild strawberries and blackberries if I hadn't been warned to tend the house. The exterior part of the house has nooks and crannies which are home to numerous birds and bees. A family of birds has adopted a bush near the front porch. Our comings and goings make them curious and they frantically fly in and out. The problem with folks living in such close proximity to wild creatures is that often they cannot live together without endangering either the humans or the animals. John and I do our best to leave the things outside our home alone. The exterior part of the house has nooks and crannies which are home to numerous birds and bees. A family of birds has adopted a bush near the front porch. Our comings and goings make them curious and they frantically fly in and out. The problem with folks living in such close proximity to wild creatures is that often they cannot live together without endangering either the humans or the animals. John and I do our best to leave the things outside our home alone. The exterior part of the house has nooks and crannies which are home to numerous birds and bees. A family of birds has adopted a bush near the front porch. Our comings and goings make them curious and they frantically fly in and out. The problem with folks living in such close proximity to wild creatures is that often they cannot live together without endangering either the humans or the animals. John and I do our best to leave the things outside our home alone.

By Michelle Mead-Armor & John Armor

michiemead@aol.com
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“Finally, we must ensure that terrorists never acquire a nuclear weapon... So today I am announcing a new international effort to secure all vulnerable nuclear material around the world within four years. We will set new standards, expand our cooperation with Russia, pursue new partnerships to lock down these sensitive materials.”

You might be thinking this is another naive bleeding heart liberal fantasy; a world without nuclear weapons. But you’d be wrong.

First, the patron saint of conservatives, Ronald Reagan, shocked the world when he called for the elimination of nuclear weapons at the Reykjavik summit with Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in 1988. Reagan called for the abolition of “all nuclear weapons,” which he labeled “totally irrational, totally inhumane, good for nothing but killing, possibly destructive of life on earth and civilization.”

More recently a call for the elimination of all nuclear weapons has come from the most unlikely of sources: Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State under Nixon and Ford and George Schultz, Secretary of State under Reagan. Writing in January 2007 in the Wall Street Journal with ex-Senator Sam Nunn (Democrat of Georgia) and William Perry, Secretary of Defense under Clinton, this quartet urged the completed elimination of nuclear weapons from earth. They outlined a series of concrete steps towards that goal, and finished with these words: “Reassertion of the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and practical measures toward achieving that goal would be, and would be perceived as, a bold initiative consistent with America’s moral heritage. The effort could have a profoundly positive impact on the security of future generations... We endorse setting the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons and working energetically on the actions required to achieve that goal.”

They followed a year later with another article in the same paper, which ended: “In some respects, the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons is like the top of a very tall mountain. From the vantage point of our troubled world today, we can’t even see the top of the mountain, and it is tempting and easy to say we can’t get there from here. But the risks from continuing to go down the mountain or standing pat are too real to ignore. We must chart a course to higher ground where the mountaintop becomes more visible.”

All of Katie Brugger’s columns are available on her website: www.kathleenbrugger.com
This year’s Mountains in Bloom Garden Festival proved once again that Western North Carolina residents and visitors will rush to support and celebrate that which they generously helped to create.

The Bascom-sponsored annual garden festival was the most successful in its 11 year history. This event focuses on the visual arts of gardening, flower arranging, photography, painting, floral landscapes and gardens.

Many thanks to the vast number of people who made this event possible:

1. First, my committee: Anna Bradley, Lorraine Bryant, Minnie Bob Campbell, Debbie Davidoff, Louise Demetriou, Joan Johnson, Lana Jordan, Ginny May, Joe Pilkington, Cindy Trevathan, Luther Turner and Angela Williams.
2. Our garden owners: Bond, Demetriou, Kennedy/Kenny, Langford, Pitts, Saurage/Bor delon and Trevathan families.
3. Our volunteer bank, which consisted of over 85 docs, 40 drivers, flower show judges, artists in the garden, ticket sales, sales assistants and volunteers at all the events.
4. Our exhibitors from all over the South who came to participate in our new Home and Garden Shop, our local merchants who generously donated to the shop and to the event.
5. Highlands Falls Country Club, who hosted most of the gardens and the luncheon, and for closing two golf holes on the golf course to allow guests to see the wonderful waterfall for which the club is named and opening its gates to the greater community, as well as out-of-town guests.
6. Paula and Barry Jones for offering their wonderful Frog Pond Farm for the Patrons Party on Friday night, making it the most memorable one ever.
7. Lynwood Hall of Cashiers for bringing his fabulous 28x15-foot Giverny mural and completing the Giverny theme to perfection.
8. The staff at the Rec Center for their total cooperation.
10. Our benefactors whose financial support beyond the value of their tickets helped to make the event a great financial success.
11. The wonderful and dedicated staff of The Bascom for their tremendous efforts, working day and night, in helping put this event together while still in the process of getting settled in their new home.
12. Paula and the 2,000-plus purchasers of tickets who came from all over the South and beyond, including garden clubs and floral and garden lovers.
13. And lastly, to the media in the Highlands area and all over the South who helped to publicize this event.

These generous donations of time and money enable The Bascom to provide the gift of free, universal general access to its new campus and exhibitions.

As Chairman of Mountains in Bloom 2009, I want to thank those whose support ensures the educational and artistic programs for all Highlands plateau residents and visitors, and the opportunity to enjoy all of this in the grandeur of our mountain setting.

Gail Jones
Highlands

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... LETTERS continued from page 2

Swanson is angry, highly opinionated person

Dear Editor,

I was enjoying a pleasant trip to Highlands and while enjoying the beauty of your fair city when I chanced to read the Column “Conservative POV: ‘It’s over....or is it?’” by Don Swanson (Highlands’ Newspaper, Thursday, July 9, 2009, p.8).

My pleasant day was destroyed by the anger and demonizations expressed in the article. Rarely have I read in a local newspaper such biased ramblings and hurled insults and condemnations as were stated throughout the article mentioned above. Goodness, he is apparently one angry and highly opinionated person.

The article stated in the headline “feedback is encouraged.” Feedback follows as well as my comments to the Editor.

I was most annoyed by the absurdity of the Swanson’s claim “......Anybody who can’t see the relationship between the removal of God from the schoolhouse and the decline of scholastic results has blinders on and is a denier of the obvious.” I wonder how any writer of your newspaper can make such an uninformed and malicious statement. An non sequitur at best and at worst rather senseless.

You must understand that I am a deeply religious person, a person of Faith, and in addition, an Episcopal priest. I am also an educator, and come from a long line of educators, several of whom are currently educators within public schools. While I cannot speak for my family members who are educators (and I might add, people of faith as well), I can speak for myself. I resent Swanson’s accusation that I have “blinders on and am a denier of the obvious”, because I can see no possible relationship to the “removal of God from the schoolhouse” and “the decline of scholastic results” as Swanson so forcibly states, nor could I envision such a proposition by my time spent as an educator. The only relationship is one of strong bias and misinformation in Swanson’s writings.

In a lighter note, it would seem to me that the Almighty would be most surprised that he had been “removed from the schoolhouse.” The Almighty might also express sorrow that his “absence” caused the decline of scholastic results. I suppose his “removal” means one cannot pray personally to God in the schoolhouse? Or one cannot find God in a schoolhouse? Or perhaps God is just “gone” from the schoolhouse? Or that if one offers a prayer in the schoolhouse, God cannot hear it because he has been banished? I am sure it comes as news to the Almighty.

Swanson is lacking the notable qualities of charity of speech and nobleness of expression. I would hope his next article might be less strident, less biased, more gentle and express more reasonably of thought. Perhaps the Editor could gently suggest such to Swanson?

The Rev’d Reginald R. Gunn
Tiger, GA

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Highlands’ Newspaper - Thursday, July 16, 2009 - Page 11
The next big thing...again?

Sometimes around my senior year of college my buddies and I were watching WWE wrestling when all of a sudden this absolutely giant dude came out of the crowd and tossed three guys around like ragdolls. While professional wrestling is certainly predetermined (or fake, if you must) the raw power and athleticism of that guy stood out even amongst the other guys in the WWE. There is simply no way to “fake” the type of strength and agility that this particular guy was putting on display. So while we learned that the man’s name was Brock Lesnar, and he was to be the “next big thing” in the ranks of professional wrestling. Lesnar's amateur background as a collegiate wrestler in Minnesota was part of his gimmick, in that he was not only able to use his athleticism and strength to overpower people, but he could also wrestle technically.

Flash forward to 2009-after several years at the top of the WWE, Lesnar left to pursue an NFL football career (didn’t work out) and then a career in mixed martial arts. After a few bouts in the K-1 promotion, Lesnar signed with the Ultimate Fighting Championship, and quickly made a name for himself due to his incredible size and athleticism. In his debut with the UFC, Lesnar was defeated controversially by former UFC champion Frank Mir after Lesnar was penalized for a blow to the back of the head and Mir was allowed to return to a stance. Since Lesnar’s defeat at the hands of Mir, the two men shared quite a bit of animosity and traded insults through the media before it was finally announced that Mir would have a rematch with Lesnar at UFC 98. The rematch never took place at UFC 98 due to an injury to Mir, but eventually took place last weekend at UFC 100.

Lesnar’s actions after UFC 100 gained more media attention than his actual victory, but now that he is the undisputed heavyweight champion in UFC there looks to be a short list of challengers that could possibly create huge media attention. The foremost of these potential challengers is Fedor Emelianenko, who is considered by many to be the best heavyweight in the world. While he is currently signed to a rival company, if Fedor comes to UFC then a match with Lesnar could umber in millions of PPV buys. Another interesting challenger for Lesnar is fellow former WWE wrestler Bobby Lashley. Lashley is roughly the same size as Lesnar, and both were amateur wrestlers. While there is no guarantee that Lesnar will remain at the top of the UFC heavyweight division, it would be hard to argue about the impact that he has had during his short tenure with UFC. Diehard UFC fans may be a bit turned off by both Lesnar’s background and theatrics, but it is impossible to deny that he is bringing in new fans to the sport each day.
... HIS & HERS continued from page 9

and then leaping around yelping and holding their sore feet.

We just got back from town, having had two serendipitous encounters. First, John and I had lunch at The Sports Page. Since it was full of hungry tourists and locals, the nice lady asked us if we'd be willing to share a table. Of course, we said "yes." In these days of cell phones, it's a rare occasion when you can sit down, and get to chat with perfect strangers, face to face. In this case, they were perfect - interesting, sociable, pleasant folks, on their third year in the area, staying near Toxaway. What a great way to spend lunch!

Then, on the road home, we stopped at the Highlands Country Club to finally read the swan plaque on the rock by the lake. John and I had been promising ourselves we'd do that for months, and it had always slipped our minds. I got to meet the incoming head of security for the country club, Bill Brooks - charming and helpful man with an intriguing accent. My 12 years in New York told me this was someone I could have run into there. Sure enough, Bill hails from Staten Island, but has completely fallen in love with the High-lands area. Better still, he fell in love with, and married, a Crunkleton. Folks who are regular readers to His & Hers may remember that last year I did a wonderful piece while back called "Annie Crunkleton's Dahlias." That's the neat part of living in a small community - everyone is connected in one way or another. Oh, and about those swans? They are a gift from the Des Champs (English and Bette) who are members of our church, Incarnation. What a small world!

Filled with good food and good cheer, we drove up the driveway, only to find several huge buzzards circling over our house. "They're probably after the snake," I mused. "Well," quipped John. "I sure hope they're not after my career!"

• 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 prefers wildlife to nightlife.

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... CORAM continued from page 1

bottle for Vyvanse, a drug used to treat ADHD, were found on scene.

The body was transported to the Bryant Funeral Home for a brief viewing by the family at which the Highlands Police Department was asked to also attend by the Medical Examiner.

A subsequent autopsy has revealed no foul play.

"The criminal investigation is completed," said MC Sheriff Dept. Attorney Brian Welch. "The medical examiner, Dr. Sam Davis, said the cause of death will likely be revealed through toxicology which could take as long as two months or longer to complete."

Sheriff Robert Holland said his department is still looking into the case.

"We are conducting an investigation but thus far there is no suspicious activity related to her death," he said.

At the memorial service Tuesday, J.B. and Susan Coram, Elizabeth's parents, said they didn't want anyone associated with Elizabeth's last days to harbor any guilt or any kind.

"We forgive you and we forgive Elizabeth, they said.

Elizabeth was 22 and a rising senior at Wofford College in Spartanburg where she was an English major and a member of the English Honors Society.

She was both homeschooled as a student and attended Highlands School.

... HIS & HERS continued from page 9
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... GROWTH continued from page 1

To attract businesses and make the county conducive for economic development, affordable and available childcare and affordable housing must become a reality in Macon County, she said.

“Economic development means healthy business competitiveness which translates to quality of life,” said Carter.

She also outlined similarities between childcare and affordable housing. She said typically quality equals expensive, so subsidies may be needed, for childcare and housing in Macon County, particularly rent, which is currently as high as most families with children can afford.

To complicate matters, the economic side of childcare is bleak.

- Typical childcare workers get low wages because higher wages mean higher prices to parents who can barely afford what they are paying now;
- Profits to childcare providers are typically low;
- Childcare worker turnover rates are high due to the low wages, the intensive work, the lack of training and dead-end nature of the job.

To compound the issue, the growing service sector in the county needs non-traditional childcare hours which means longer hours for childcare staff or more staff which affects the economic side of things.

Due to those factors, Carter said mothers are more likely to quit jobs if affordable and trustworthy childcare isn’t available or if they don’t quit, their productivity in the workplace is lower than those without children because they are often preoccupied with their childcare situation if it’s not optimum.

Next week: a snapshot of Macon County housing costs, income ratios, and job and wage growth – all issues the county is considering as they apply to economic development.

Kim Lewicki
Register now for the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund Golf Classic Monday, August 17

Or, make a donation to this life-changing cause by calling 526-2118. Tax deductible donations are accepted anytime!

Register now to play in this exciting and worthy event and you make an investment in the future of Highlands School graduates.

The Highlands Scholarship Fund was created in 1987 and now has an investment of over $700,000.

Each year the interest earned is given to the Highlands School graduates to help them finance their education at colleges, universities and trade schools.

All graduates are eligible regardless of their grade point average and are eligible to reapply for each year that they are in school for additional funds. The golf tournament is the fund’s main moneymaker.

You may drop off your $150 per player fee at the new Town Hall location at Highlands Creek Village on Dillard Road or mail your check to: Highlands Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 460, Highlands, North Carolina, 28741.

Get your team together and join us or let us pair you with new friends. Tee off after a delicious lunch and then join your friends for dinner, drinks and awards. It’s a full day of fun for a great cause. Bring a guest to the Awards Party for $50. All checks should be made to the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund.

Jennifer Bryson Bauer, Highlands School Class of 1997, appreciates the support the Town of Highlands and its scholarship have provided for her.

Jennifer Bauer and NCGS co-workers conduct soil tests at a landslide initiation zone in Watauga County.

“I can still remember depositing those scholarship checks, with books or part of tuition waiting to be paid with them. Receiving the town scholarship not only helped financially, but made me feel that my town was proud of me and expected great things. With the help of this scholarship, I was able to graduate with a B.S. in Geological Sciences from UNC-Chapel Hill. I am now working for the North Carolina Geological Survey’s Landslide Hazard Mapping Program in Asheville, NC.

Through this position, I am hoping to give back to the citizens of western North Carolina by helping create county-wide maps of landslide hazards indicating areas of past landslides (like the Peaks Creek debris flow in 2004), zones where landslides might start given heavy rain (5 inches in 24 hours), and pathways where landslides might travel.

In this position, I feel like I’m helping others by providing a tool that they can use to become more aware of landslide hazards in the mountains and make informed decisions about where they choose to live. (More information about the landslide program and the NCGS can be found at http://www.geology.env.state.nc.us/.)

When I’m not mapping landslides or playing outside (my current focus is adventure racing), I volunteer with the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (www.aegweb.org) and am currently serving as Secretary of the Association. This organization advocates for geology as a profession and provides opportunities for networking, continuing education, and public outreach.

So, “Thank you” Town of Highlands citizens for believing in me and all the other scholarship recipients. Now it’s our turn to give back to you and the future graduates of Highlands School.”

Town Of Highlands Scholarship Fund Golf Classic

Monday, August 17, 2009 at the Cullasaja Club of Highlands

I/We would like to make a donation and become a sponsor of this exciting event in the following manner:

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- $150.00 per Golf Contestant
- Guest Tickets at $50.00 per ticket for the Awards Party

There will be Golfer in our group and their names are:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 

Due to an overwhelming response to last year’s event, payment for golf must be made to guarantee your reservation in play. The first 128 “PAID” contestants will participate in the event! Golf contestant donations must be mailed or delivered to David Call or Connie Smith at: Cullasaja Club, 1371 Cullasaja Club Drive, Highlands, NC 28741 or you may drop your entry and check to the Town Hall. Please make your checks payable to Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund.

Diamond, Platinum, Gold and Patron Sponsor Donations can be mailed or delivered to the Town of Highlands, P.O. Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741 or to David Call or Connie Smith. For further details to become a sponsor or make a gracious donation of any kind you may contact David Call at 526-3531. Please make your checks payable to Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund.

All Donations are Tax Deductible

Golf Contestants may bring guests to the Awards Party by purchasing a ticket at the cost of $50.00.

Event Agenda

11:00am – Registration & Lunch Buffet in Clubhouse, Practice Range Open, Tee Gift Distribution, Complimentary Beverages on Course
12:30pm – Shotgun Start – Scramble
5:00pm – 7:30pm – Cocktails, Dinner Buffet and Awards Party
The Literacy Council of Highlands, in conjunction with Highlands School, will hold its first "Literacy Night" on Monday, Sept. 28, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the high school.

The event is designed to bring awareness to the issue of childhood literacy and to allow parents to assist their children at home with reading and writing activities.

Activities will include a reading corner for children, a resource area for parents and a family reading corner. Volunteers will be available to help parents develop strategies to improve reading skills.

The Literacy Night is part of the school’s ongoing efforts to improve literacy among its students. The school has partnerships with local libraries, community organizations and businesses to provide additional resources and support for families.

All are welcome to attend the Literacy Night, regardless of their child’s grade level. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to participate in the activities and learn more about the importance of early childhood literacy.

For more information, contact the school at 828-526-3350 or visit their website at http://highlands.k12.nc.us.

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The Highlands School Board has approved a $4,800,000 bond referendum to construct a new high school. The bond will be funded through a combination of local funding and state revenue bonds.

The new high school will be located on the historic property, adjacent to the current school building. The facility will feature state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratory spaces and technology-laden spaces, as well as a performing arts center.

The project is expected to be completed by 2023. During construction, the current school building will be used as a temporary classroom facility for students.

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The Town of Highlands has announced plans to construct a new police and fire station. The $4.8 million project will include a station for both departments, as well as a community meeting space.

The station will be located on a 1.5 acre site at the corner of Main Street and Bridge Street, adjacent to the Highlands Community Center. The project is expected to be completed by 2024.

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‘Arsenic and Old Lace’ makes for a wickedly funny evening

The Brewster sisters, played by Regina Ress and Cheryl Chalmers, with nephew Moritimer, played by Jeff Kelly, who is desperately trying to get his head around the idea that his dear sweet aunts are murderers.

By Kim Lewicki

“Arsonic and Old Lace” currently on stage at the Highlands Playhouse through July 19, exemplifies the live theater The Playhouse built its reputation on, but has veered from in the recent past.

Through Sunday, you can enjoy a really good play put on by really good actors on a great set reminiscent of the attention the Playhouse used to give its sets.

For years, the Highlands-Cashiers Players (formerly the Highlands Community Players) have outshone The Playhouse when it comes to set design, but the “Arsenic” set holds its own. Yes, the set is just a living room in a house in old Brooklyn, NY, but it completes the package that is “Arsenic and Old Lace.”

Much has been made about the three equity actors in the play - Cheryl Chalmers who plays Martha Brewster, Regina Ress who plays her sister Abby and Jeffrey Shonert who plays Dr. Einstein.

Equity actors get paid twice as much as other cast members, so this production is costing The Playhouse more than usual, but having them on stage means more than that, it may account for the professional air of the production - as every cast member has risen to the task.

The Brewster-sister duo played their parts back in 1976 and have honed their criminally-insane behavior in a perfectly endearing way only this time they didn’t have to paint their wrinkles on, said Ress.

In comparison, Dillon Nelson’s character, nephew Jonathan Brewster is also criminally insane but dark, menacing and mean — kept in check only by his psychotic, pretend-doctor, partner, Jeffrey Shonert or rather Dr. Einstein, who actually steals the show.

For newcomers to “Arsenic,” it’s really a shocker of a show that will leave you laughing and a little freaked out at the bizarre plot and attitudes of all involved.

Add locals Stuart Armor - veteran Highlands-Cashiers Players especially when it comes to farce — who plays another crazy, Uncle Teddy Brewster, and Curtis Rich who was on stage at The Playhouse in “On Golden Pond” with wife Vangie and the mix is diabolically delicious.

Arsenic and Old Lace is funny and entertaining and you will have a wonderful evening of theatre.

Arsenic and Old Lace runs through July 19 at the Highlands Playhouse. For tickets, show times and more information call the Box Office at 828-526-2695 or visit the 362 Oak Street location.
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20 words for $5: $2 for each 10-word increment.

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Highlands’ Newspaper
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828-526-0782

HELP WANTED
WOLFGANG’S RESTAURANT AND WINE BISTRO — Experienced server — fine dining, evenings only. Email resume to wom1@gte.net or fax to 526-5794. Also, Line Cook – part-time, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays a must. Other days flexible. Call Chef Wolfgang at 526-8936 or 526-4603 after 3 p.m. (St. 7/16)

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR AT PAC — Responsibilities include maintaining daily office hours, scheduling events, managing contracts and rentals, maintain Quick Boks and all relevant reports, support PAC functions and Board. Mail resume to: PO Box 296, Highlands, NC, 28741 or drop it off at PAC on Chestnut Street. (St. 6/25)

TRADING STORE HAS AN IMMEDIATE OPENING for an Bookkeeping/Clerk and sale rep. required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

LICENSED COSMETOLOGIST NEEDED — Inquire by phone 828-526-3939.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR responsible for overall administration, outreach, and program oversight, including strategic planning, budget preparation, development, and management of staff, tutors, and students. Ability to work under moderate stress and follow through on tasks. Bachelor’s degree or 2 years college and one year experience in Human Services or comparable nonprofit setting required. Background in education and accounting preferred. Available to work occasional evenings and weekends as needed. Drop-off or fax resume to The Literacy Council of Highlands, 348 S. 5th Street, Highlands, NC. Attention: Melody Mendez, Executive Director, Fax 828-526-0066. St. 5/2.

Business Office Manager needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position requiring a minimum of 5 years experience in hospital billing including Medicare, Medicaid, and Commercial Insurances. Associates degree in a business related field preferred. Knowledge of CPSI computer system is a plus. 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.

UNIT CLERK/C.N.A. II needed in the Acute Department at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Current licensure, knowledge of medical terminology and computer experience required. Part time/24 hours per week. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RN needed in the Emergency Room at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position available. ER experience required. 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.

LAUNDY ATTENDANT/HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. — Full time position available. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Experience required. 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.

CLINICAL COORDINATOR needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time, night position available. Current NC RN license, along with BLS and ACLS certifications required. Outstanding opportunity for a sound clinician who adores mentoring others. ER/Critical Care experience is a must. 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.

YARD SALES
JULY 17 & 18, FRI. & SAT. — 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1210 Hickory Hill, Highlands. Call 526-0439. 7/16

JULY 24 & 25, FRI. & SAT. — 9 a.m. Corner of Mirror Lake and U.S. 64 west. — 855 Franklin Road. Antiques and household items. 7/23

WANTED
INFORMATION ON JONELL EDMUNDS — Do you know the whereabouts of Jonell Edmunds? Is she safe? Please call 828-482-2313. 7/16

EXPERIENCED MATURE FEMALE — seeking employment as companion/sitter/housekeeper 706-498-2473. (7/19)

MATURE MALE IN HIGHLANDS PLAY-HOUSE UPCOMING PRODUCTION *PUMP BOYS & DINETTES* interested in free housing for duration of show. Quiet, self-sufficient. Call John Brink at 717-267-3681.

HARDWORKING COUPLE LOOKING FOR LANDSCAPING AND YARDWORK AND HOUSECLEANING WORK — Call Juan Diaz at 828-200-1038 or 828-526-1025.

CLASSIFIEDS

Manley’s Auto & Towing
Oil change • Tires • Brakes
• 24 Hour Towing Service
• Local & long distance Service

James “Popcorn” Manley
Hwy 28 South, Highlands
828-526-9805

ABOUT PETS
BEAUTIFUL FEMALE MALAMUTE MIX. FREE TO A GOOD HOME WITH REFERENCES. 12 years old, bred to be the head of a sled dog team and in excellent health. Must sacrifice. Owner’s granddaughter has life threatening asthma. This is a very special animal and deserves a forever home. 828-526-3961 oremalutsporny@earthlink.net for pic’s and more info.

GREAT PYRENEES DOG — Found on U.S. 64 between Highlands and Cashiers. on June 30. About 100 lbs. Call 743-5180.

LOST — A MALE BLACK Cat, Keesa, lost in vicinity of Mt. Lori and N. Cobb. Wearing a hot pink rubber flea collar. Please call Tanya at 828-301-3690, 526-1706 or cell: 828-301-3696.


RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE
3.55 WOODED ACRES. USFS ON 2 SIDES, 6 miles from downtown Hwy 285. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, approx 1780 sq ft, manufactured home, 24x32 workshop, covered parking, storage building. Great year round living or can be developed. $242,000. 828-526-8191. 8/6

FOR SALE — 4.28 acre great building lot in Pine Forest, (adjacent to Spring Forest) Sapphire. Paved roads, underground utilities, three bedroom septic approved, 170,000. Call 828-371-0645 or 828-743-2800.

BY OWNER — NO AC needed. Classic Country home. 4.2 acres, Perennial Landscaping, 4 bed, 3 bath. Garage and shed. 2,900 sq ft. living space. 1.523 sq ft. deck. Many extras. Call 828-743-5788. 7/30

DESPERATE! MUST SELL! 5 bedroom 3 1/2 baths in town limits. $150,950. 4 acres w/kvivw 2 stone fireplaces. Discounted 30%. $650,000. 828-526-5684 scn1don@aol.com 7/2

BRAND NEW LOG HOME 2/2 $275,000. Owner Financing Available. Call 200-9361. 6/18
QUAINT SUMMER COTTAGE walking distance to Mirror Lake. 2B/1B, quiet neighborhood, mature rhodo and laurel, wood floors, fire pit and wood burning stove. Offered By Green Mountain Realty Group. Call now for more info: 1-800-526-1648 ext. 1018

OPEN HOUSE LEASE/SALE Sat & Sun, June 27-28 1-5pm, 3 bd 2 1/2 bth; hot tub; directions 828-526-2759. (st. 6/11)

2001 MANUFACTURED HOME – 2 Bed, 1 Bath, on 2 lots – 2.09 unrestricted acres. Private, great long range view. Private well with 25 G.P.M. $65,000. (843) 239-2326.

INCREDIBLE VALUE – 3 bed, 2 bath remodeled home. Huge master suite, 2 big decks, storage building, pond, elevation approximately 3500ft, located in Scaly Mountain. $139,500 MLS# 67308. Call Ann at Cabby Realty 828-526-2475.


RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

OPEN HOUSE EVERY SATURDAY 1-5PM.

- TURTLE POND FOR LEASE OR SALE – 3 bd 2 1/2 bth, hot tub, furnished, no smoking/pets. $1,000 + util 828-526-2759 marbago@hughes.net (st. 5/7)

- APARTMENT FOR RENT IN GLENNVILLE, NC – one bedroom, furnished, $475 a month. Deposit required. Contact (828) 743-5207 or (828) 331-1375. 7/23

- 3/3 HOME WITH A VIEW – Garage, Unfurnished, Long term rental. No Pets, no smoker, $1000.00 a month. 1st, last and Security Deposit required. By Appt. Only. Call Sandy @ 828-526-5634 or 828-342-0882 (st. 7/16)

- TRIMONT MTN. ESTATES, FRANKLIN – Long-term lease or purchase. 3 BR, 2 1/2 B. Covered front porch, garage, W/D, CH&A, unfurnished; close to town and schools. No smoking, service animals only. $1,000 first and last month, sec. deposit and references. 1/2 acre, built in 2003: $198,000. Call 828-526-3065, 828-371-1100 or 828-526-0450.

AVAILABLE FOR LEASE AUGUST 1ST – 2 bdrm, 2 bath, condo at Highlands Mtn. Club, next to Highlands Country Club. AC, gas logs, h/wd floors, wireless internet, cable TV, fully furnished. Deck and screened porch. In city limits. Amenities include heated pool, tennis courts, road and entrance snow removal. $575 per month. 828-200-0786

LOOKING FOR QUIET, CLEAN, NONSMOKER to rent furnished 1/1. No pets. $500 a month, plus utilities. Call 526-0079. (7/30)


- GREAT 2 BEDROOM/1BATH APARTMENT – Main Street, Highlands includes 9-foot ceilings, central heat & air, balcony, large laundry room with washer/dryer. $900 per month plus utilities. Lease and references required. Contact John Dotson - 526-5587. st. 5/21

- TWO-BEDROOM, 1 BATH HOME – Close to Hospital. Please Call for more Info. 526-9348.


- 1 BED, 1 BATH – and small room with bunk beds on Lake Sequoyah. Furnished, two boats. $800 a month including utilities except phone. No pets, no smoking. Call Tony at 828-332-7830.

- FURNISHED 3BD2BAHOUSE IN MIR- ROR LAKE area available for 6-12 month lease $1200+ utilities. Call 770-977-5692.

- THREE-BEDROOM, TWO BATH CONDO – 2 BR, 2/1BA in town @ Chestnut Cottages. Private, screen porch, Heat/AC, FP, extra sleeping loft, furnished or unfurnished. 6 month lease - $750 (includes utilities) lease message at 526-1975

- OFFICE/RETAIL/SPA RENTAL SPACE - 1,080 sq. ft. divided into four rooms along with full bath. Conveniently located on Spring Street. $750/month with the first month free. Call 352-245-3901. (st. 7/11)

Rental Space in Wright Square - Half a building or two floors of one building. Call Harold Brammer. 828-526-5673. st. 4/16

2,300+SF, FT. OF OFFICE/RETAIL AVA- ILABLE for lease or rent to own. Excellent visibility! Location is 2271 Dillard Road. Asking $1,250 per month. 526-8953.

- VACATION RENTAL

VACATION RENTAL

See CLASSIFIEDS page 22
FARMHOUSE – 3br/2b, central heat/air, spring water, big yard, access to fish pond, bordered by Buck Creek located on Buck Creek Rd.; close to Highlands and Franklin, NC. $800 wkly or can be rented monthly. 828-524-6038


ADORABLE COTTAGE FOR 2 – Four blocks from town at 539 Chestnut Street, next to PAC. $80 rented monthly. 828-524-6038

Highlands and Franklin, NC. $800 wkly or can be rented monthly. 828-526-1975.

Buck Creek located on Buck Creek Rd.; close to Mill Creek Gallery & Framing on Oak Street. 828-787-2021.

APPLIANCES: white Whirlpool electric stove, like new, $200, white Frigidaire dishwasher $100. Very good condition. 349-6402.

AIR CONDITIONING UNITS: Whirlpool 20,500 BTU $150, Whirlpool 13,000 BTU $75, call for more details 349-6402. 5/21


J & J Lawn and Landscaping serving Highlands & Cashiers for 20 years! Phone: 526-2251 Toll Free: 888-526-2251 Fax: 828-526-8764 Email: JJlawn1663@verizon.net

Visit Greenleaf Gallery right here in Highlands for all your ... Custom Picture Framing 526-9333

Monarch Therapeutic Massage “Rejuvenate While Being Treated Like Royalty” Achieve optimum health through therapeutic body work and massage.

Call 828-342-3197

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. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

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.


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

10" RADIAL ARM SAW WITH STAND. Old but used very little. Excellent condition.
CADILLAC DEVILLE2002 – Silver, 85,300 miles. One owner, garaged. $8,950. See at 150 Shelby Circle, Highlands. 787-2310. (St. 7/9)


1999 MERCEDES 560 SL – Black, gray leather only 70,000 miles. Excellent condition. $15,000. Call 770-827-0450. 7/9

SINGING AND ACTING LESSONS All styles and levels. Classical, Musical Theatre, Pop, Karaoke. Highly experienced with excellent references (also will be teaching voice at Western Carolina U.) in the Fall! 281-794-7946 or deannapeden@yahoo.com. Highlands/Franklin area. CALL NOW! 7/20

DEPENDABLE LOVING PET SITTER – for all types of pets! Housesetting and landscaping services also available. Call 443-315-3479 or 828-342-1603. 7/30

HANDYMAN SPECIAL – Repairs and Remodeling. $2,800 monthly, negotiable. Call Clare Myers 828-526-513-256-4975.

LANDSCAPE CLEANUP – total lawn care and landscaping company. 20 years serving Highlands area. 828-526-2251.

TREE SERVICE – Complete Tree Removal, Trimming, Stump Grinding, Lot Clearing, Under Brushing, and Hemlock treatment and fertilization for “Woolly Adelgid.” 828-526-2251


Deluxe, Indoor Climate Controlled Self Storage With covered loading zone

Highlands Storage Village • 828-526-4555 Cashiers Road

BARONE Quality Painting & Finishes
New Construction & Repaints & Remodels
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Email: poppygrani1@verizon.net

DETAILS
A New Kind of Home Service
Expert cleaning and home care by someone who pays clear attention to details.
Private homes and vacation rentals. White-glove service, organic products, and demonstrations upon request. If you’ve entrusted the care of your Highlands home to someone in the past and been in any way disappointed, please contact me for a consultation. Highlands resident. References available. Visit www.details-clean.com or call (828) 342-8853.

Featuring:
Mountain Rayz Nails - Tanning
Spray Tans
Mon.-Sat. – 10 to 6
Walk-ins Welcome
Manager Jenna Schmit, Nail Technician
616 Person Drive
Highlands • 526-8286
Week Long
- YOGA - all levels all week, schedule posted
- Moonrise Yoga 464 Carolina Way. 828-526-8880
  www.highlandsyoga.com 716
- Nantahala Tennis Club at the Rec Park, six
days a week at 9 a.m. Public invited.
- RBC Bank Highlands (225 Franklin Rd) is
  selling raffle tickets to win a Weber table portable gas
grill. Tickets are $5 and raffle is limited to 100 tickets
  only. Get 'em while they last! Also selling American
  Cancer Society “Fight Like A Girl” shirts in their lobby
  at 225 Franklin Rd. Highlands. 100% of proceeds
  donated to the American Cancer Society.
- Registration is now open for the 2009 summer
  nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center.
  Five different camps are offered. Call 828-526-2623
  or visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.
- Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec
  Park, 8-9 a.m. $10 per class or $50 a month.
  • First Mondays
    - Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary
    of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings
    are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at
    the hospital.
- Mondays
  • Closed AA meeting, 8 p.m. at the Episcopal
  Church at Fifth and Main streets.
- Tuesdays
  • Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the
  Highlands Conference Center.

One of today's most exciting young American quartets takes
the stage this weekend at the
Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival

The Biava String Quartet will headline concerts at 6 p.m. Friday, July 17th, at
the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands and 5 p.m. Saturday, July 18th,
at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library. The quartet will appear in another pair
of concerts at 9 p.m. Sunday, July 19th, at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands, and 5
p.m. Monday, July 20th, at the Cashiers Community Library.

- The Biava Quartet has recorded for the Naos and Cedille labels and has been heard
  on London’s BBC3 and National Public Radio. It’s been featured in “Strings” and
  “Strad” magazines and is the subject of an upcoming Public Broadcasting System doc-
  umentary.
- Winner of the Naumburg Chamber Music Award and top prizes at the Premio
  Borciani and London International Competitions, the Biava Quartet has established
  an enthusiastic following in the United States and abroad, impressing audiences
  with its sensitive artistry and communicative powers. Its members - violinists
  Austin Hartman and Hyunsu Ko, violinist Mary Persin and cellist Jason Calloway - hold
  the Lisa Amhold Quartet Residency at the Juilliard School, serving as graduate resi-
  dence and teaching assistant to the Juilliard Quartet. The Quartet previously
  held the same position with the Tokyo Quartet at Yale University and was the first
  ensemble to complete the Training Pro-

Ruby Cinema
Hwy. 441, Franklin, NC
524-3076
July 15-23

HARRY POTTER
AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE
rated PG
Mon-Fri: 4, 7:10, 10
Sat-Sun: 1, 4, 7:10, 10

ICE AGE:
DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS
rated PG
Mon-Fri: 4:15, 7:15, 9:15
Sat-Sun: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:15

PUBLIC ENEMIES
rated R
Mon-Fri: 4, 9:45
Sat-Sun: 4, 9:45

TRANSFORMERS:
REVENGE OF THE FALLEN
rated PG-13
Mon-Fri: 7
Sat-Sun: 1:15, 7

THE PROPOSAL
rated PG-13
Mon-Fri: 4:30, 7:20, 9:30
Sat-Sun: 2:20, 4:30, 7:20, 9:30

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Fritts, Mac Kah to teach at The Bascom next month

Classes by clay artist Debra Fritts and oil painter John Mac Kah are two of the more than 50 classes scheduled at The Bascom this summer. On Aug. 17-21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., nationally recognized studio artist Fritts will teach “The Narrative Figure in Clay” for intermediate to advanced students. In this five-day workshop, students explore the figure in sculpture using hand building techniques. Personal and narrative interpretations will allow the works created to have a spiritual connection between the sculpture and the maker. Detail technical information on facial features and proportions will be demonstrated and explored. Student will be shown how to use found object impressions, mark-making, carving and appliqué with their work during the wet clay stage. Surface decoration will be demonstrated using a painterly approach with slips, oxides, underglazes and glazes. Some examples of Fritts’ work are currently being exhibited in the atrium at The Bascom. Cost for this five-day workshop is $450, $425 Bascom members (basic materials and firing included).

Then, on Aug. 18-22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 20th-century naturalist and landscape painter Mac Kah will teach “Illuminated Landscapes: The Well-Crafted Painting” for experienced beginner to advanced students. Designed for students desiring to know more about painting on location and how to take advantage of oil paint’s unique character, this course will cover the use of traditional grounds and mediums used with oil paint. Students will work on gessoed wood panel and papers. The goal will be to develop practical field experience and create artistic, well-crafted and expressive paintings. Students will learn by working on location, through demonstration, brief lecture and hands-on experience. Tonal techniques, direct painting, under-painting an glazing will be introduced. The emphasis will be on building skills in developing a finished work. Cost is $365, $350 Bascom members.

To register for these and all of other art classes in a variety of media, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949.

Twentieth-century naturalist and landscape painter John Mac Kah will teach “Illuminated Landscapes: The Well-Crafted Painting” for experienced beginner to advanced students on Aug. 18-22 at The Bascom.
and Old Lace on July 8 at 8 p.m. The dress rehearsal is open to the public and any donation made at the door is greatly appreciated! Regular performances Tuesday-Sunday are at 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Call the Highlands Playhouse Box Office at 828-526-2695 or visit the 362 Oak Street location.

Thurs., July 16
• An American Red Cross Adult CPR/AED and First Aid Basics course will be conducted by the Macon County Public Health Center. The course will be held on Thursday, July 16, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m at the Macon County Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Drive. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay at the MC Public Health Center before Monday, July 13, 2009. Call Jennifer at 349-2439.

Thurs.-Sun., July 16-18
• Mountain Wildlife Days at the Sapphire Valley Resort Community Center located 3 miles east of Cashiers just off Highway 64. For more information, call John Edwards, 828-743-9648 or 864-934-1935.

Thurs.-Fri., July 16-17
• Art workshop “Never Dull Mixed Media Collages,” by Gal Rassoukh, will be held at the Bascom from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for beginners to advanced students. Cost is $110/$100 Bascom members. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Fri, Sat, Sun., July 17-19
• The Highlands Playhouse 2009 Showhouse, a luxurious mountain retreat, will be open for tours Fri. & Sat., July 17-18 to 7:30 p.m. and Sun., July 19 to 5 p.m. featuring Garden ornaments, arrangements, and birdhouses and more from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday and 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday. A portion of proceeds will go toward the Village Green fund. Admission is free. Call 828-526-2695 or visit the store front to make an appointment with the tour guide.

• At Vivace on S. 4th Street on the hill, a Paul Mayer trunk show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Fri., July 17
• Free Mountain Music Concerts at Highlands School old gym, dancing begins at 6:45 p.m. and concerts begin at 7:30. Sponsored by Just for You for Life team. Gospel music band “Blue Ridge.”

• The very popular “Snakes Alive” program by Ron Cromer returns to the Cashiers Library on at 10:30 a.m. It is sponsored by the Friends of the Albert Carlton - Cashiers Community Library.

Sat, July 18-Sat., Aug. 29
• Moulinet: Three Generations of Woodturners exhibit at The Bascom. Admission is free. A public opening reception will be July 18 from 5-7 p.m. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Sat. & Sun., July 18-19

Saturday, July 18
• At Cyranos a’s book signing by author William Forchman, 1-3 p.m., “One Second After.”

• And Cathy Raffa will be opening their garden for tours for Kids4Peace with 100% of the proceeds used to continue the Episcopal Church’s mission project of building a school in Haiti. Tickets are on sale at the church for $25. Order tickets at 828-526-2968 (we take MasterCard or Visa) or you can come by the church on the corner of 5th and Main Street. Select tour times of 10, 11, 12, or 1 and purchase tickets from the church office. Everyone must meet at the Macon Bank Gazebo to get a pass for the tour.

• Greenway volunteers needed to work at the Rec Park lower loop trail and on the steps. Needed are: Trim with loppers and clear brush — 4 people; digging and weeding — 4 people; building Rock steps — 4 people; Operating lawn chair — 1 person; Operating CanyCom tracked wheelbarrow — 1 person; Operating Yanmar mini-excavator — 1 person. Sign up for what you want to do. If you are interested in participating please register with Hilltie Quin at 526-2385 or hqquin@verizon.net. We will meet at the lower parking lot behind the Rec Park off of Foreman Road at 10:00 AM for a brief orientation session and then walk to the trail sections before the start of the trail. Participants will be furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment. Participants should bring water, lunch, rain gear, a day pack to hold everything. Boots and clothes that can get dirty are appreciated. Please let us know how we can make these trips better for you.

• The Macon County Soccer Club (http://www.maconsoccer.net) is currently accepting registrations for the Fall soccer season. Parents are encouraged to print out the registration form online and bring it with them to the registration. Children age 4 and up are welcome and will be placed on teams according to age. The registration fee is $80 for players and a $5 discount is available for siblings. The registration fee covers uniform (jersey, shorts and socks), state registration and referee fees. All new

Watts signing pottery Fri. & Sat. at Hen House

The Hen House in Highlands, NC is the largest gallery of “The Good Earth Pottery” by potter Richie Watts in the United States. Watts will be at the store at the corner of Main and Fifth streets from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, July 17 and Saturday, July 18 to sign his pottery.

The collection continues to grow with the addition of new patterns at our annual July pottery signing at The Hen House. Last year 2008, we introduced the Highlands pattern and this year 2009 Richie will introduce the Blue Heron pattern. It has already gathered extensive reviews and is being touted as one of his best patterns to date.

The new Blue Heron collection reflects the natural beauty and colors that are an integral part of the Highlands Plateau, and it blends with the Highlands pattern introduced last year.

At the heart of Richie’s work is his love of color, design and technique, the talents that mold his clay into functional art, which is then transformed into a unique handmade durable piece of dinnerware. Richie uses English clay for his pottery, because it produces some of the strongest and safest. The pottery is dishwasher safe. We invite you to select a piece today and start your own collection.


**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*HCPs ‘Accomplice’ Aug. 20-30 at PAC*

This murder mystery-thriller, the fourth and final play of the Highlands Cashiers 2008-2009 season, will run August 20-30 at the Performing Arts Center (PAC) in Highlands.

The play is suspenseful and funny; the dialogue has been described by the critics as brilliant. The twists and turns of the plot keep audiences guessing until the very end. The scene is Dorping Mill, the renovated moorland cottage of a London couple. Guests are expected, but the planning of a murder seems to be underway as the curtain rises. Beyond this description, particulars of the storyline cannot be revealed or the fun would be spoiled. Suffice it to say that this devilishly clever thriller won the Edgar Award for best play given by the Mystery Writers of America.

Playwright Rupert Holmes, who has had several plays on Broadway, including Accomplice (1990) and the 1986 musical, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, which won five Tony awards, has also written for film and television. He is a poet, a singer, and a prolific songwriter with several albums to his credit. He is also known by many as the artist who wrote and recorded the very popular song “Escape,” better known as the “Pina Colada” song.

For the Highlands Cashiers Players’ production of Accomplice, a newcomer from Atlanta will be joining the five-person cast. Paul del Gatto, a veteran actor of the Atlanta area, who happened to be spending the summer with a friend of the director, was invited to audition and was chosen to play one of the male roles.

David Spivey of Franklin, a veteran actor who has performed in films and with many of the regional theaters of the area — recently for HCP in Rumors — has been cast in the second man’s role.

Kirk Howard, recently in HCP’s March play, An American Daughter, is cast as the third man, with the talented and well-known HCP actor/director, Ronnie Spilton and Mary Adair Leslie, are cast as the two women.

Tickets for Accomplice will be available in mid-August, by phone (828-526-8084), or at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. Because it contains adult situations, Accomplice is rated PG-13. Audience discretion is advised.
I Come to the Garden ...

Chaplain Margaret Howell
Holy Family Lutheran Church

Face it, I’m a city girl. I was raised in suburbia. My parents had small gardens for flowers and vegetables, and I once raised a bumper crop of honey dew melons after my Dad bet me I couldn’t do it. I also have a 10-by-10 foot flower bed and several large containers at our home in Charlotte that I tend every day. But other than that, nada.

All I had to do was mention the idea for a community garden to my church council and one of our members had a 30-by-30 foot plot plowed up the next day. The Mountain Garden Club donated about 40 tomato plants at their plant sale last month, and so my Husband, Jon and I, two city folk, were out in the garden the next day, planting tomatoes… and planting tomatoes… believe it or not every one of the plants have lived — a miracle to be sure!

I attended a “Come to the Table” community gardening conference in Boone, and learned all about composting, organic gardening and more. Surprisingly, I also learned that there are hundreds of community gardens all over America, some of them in extremely unlikely places.

Many of these community gardens are carved out of vacant lots in the middle of some of America’s toughest neighborhoods in the middle of some of America’s biggest cities. These gardens purposes is not just to grow produce. There are gathering places for people who may live in blocks of each other all their lives, but never meet, to grow friendships as well as tomatoes, squash and peppers.

Often these gardens donate a percentage of their harvest to food banks and other places in need of fresh produce, but who can afford it. Within a few miles of Highlands are many people we never see. People who live at the edge of poverty. Many of them are children. Fresh vegetables and fruit are expensive, and often out of reach for a family barely getting by.

The Methodist church here in Highlands has had a wonderful community garden for years that contributes to the Highlands Food Pantry. Holy Family Lutheran is hoping that the larger community might like their own garden as well. All groups and individuals are welcome, especially youth groups. A percentage of crops are to be donated to those who need them. It is not too late to plant some summer crops, (we’ve got ‘maters) and we are working to prepare the plot for fall gardening. We’ve started a compost pile so that anyone who wishes will have good, black compost to use.

Mother Teresa wrote, “Do small things with great love.” I know our little plot won’t change the world, but we can improve our own little corner of it. We can gather, till the soil and work with our own two hands to take part in God’s creative process.

Join us, won’t you? Come to the Garden.
The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from July 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

July 7
• At 2 p.m., officers responded to the call of a larceny of a paddle boat from the dock at Mirror Lake Lodge. It is valued at $300.
• At 2 a.m., officers found an open door at a business on Main Street.

July 8
• At 10:22 p.m., officers found an open door at the school.
• At 2 p.m., officers responded to a call of a suspicious person on N.C. 28.

July 9
• At 11 a.m., officers responded to a call of a larceny at a residence where a hitch valued at $300 was taken from a vehicle.
• At 12:28 p.m., officers responded to an vehicular accident on N.C. 28. There were no injuries.
• At 11:11 p.m., officers responded to a dog complaint at a residence on Gibson Street.
• At 7:15 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Sassafras Gap Road where a girl was reported dead. They secured the scene until the MC Sheriff's Dept. arrived.
• At 8:59 p.m., officers responded to a call of a domestic disturbance at a residence on Dolly Lane.
• At 10:15 p.m., at the request of the Medical Examiner, officers joined the family attending the viewing of the girl’s body which was found at the residence on Sassafras Gap Road.
• At 11:27 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Sassafras Gap Road.

July 10
• A little past midnight, officers found an open door at the Civic Center.
• At 2:30 p.m., Ninian Ulysses Bond III, 27, of Braselton, GA, was arrested for indecent exposure.

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from July 9:

July 9
• The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Maplewood Lane. Food was found burning on the stove.
• The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Hickory Nut Gap. It was false.

July 10
• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Kilwin’s on Main Street, where an employee had fallen. She was transported to the hospital.

July 11
• The dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Dept. for a possible structure fire. Highlands stood by at the Cashiers station.

July 13
• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Picklesimer Drive. The victim was taken to the hospital.
• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Rhododendron Drive where an 84-year-old man had fallen. The victim was taken to the hospital.

From the Dept:
Robbie Forrester, of the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept., asks citizens to trim back their driveways, and foliage around their 911 numbers and fire hydrants.
Also, don’t miss the department’s annual Open House, Saturday, Aug. 8 from 11-3. There will be free hot dog plates and rides on the fire truck.
Mountain Garden Club beautifies HCCDC

From left, are four students at the Highlands Community Child Development Center, Hayley Bornio, Morgyn Brannon, Lexie Burnett, and Riley Nicholson, enjoying the garden at the center. The Mountain Garden Club donated more than 300 perennial plants to the HCCDC following the club’s annual plant sale. The HCCDC is the only year-round, 5 days a week, 10 hours a day, licensed childcare and early childhood education center in Highlands.

A record number of Highlands nonprofits awarded grant money in 2009

The Macon County Community Foundation has awarded $12,000 in grant money to non-profit organizations. This year, seven Highlands organizations were awarded. This year, the Foundation was able to fulfill all or a portion of 22 out of 26 grant applications which will aid children, education, and healthcare causes.

Organizations receiving funding in 2009:
- Highlands-Cashiers Foundation, Inc.
- Blue Ridge Mtn. Health Project, Inc.
- Fontana Regional Library
- Jackson Macon Conservation Alliance
- Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center
- Highlands Historical Society
- Folk Heritage Assoc of Macon County
- Highlands Community Child Development Center
- KIDS Place
- Second Mile Ministry
- Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers, Inc.
- Macon County Care Network
- Macon County Art Association
- Smoky Mountain Quilter’s Guild
- Nantahala Community Development Club
- The WALK Skateboard Ministry
- Macon County Historical Society
- Mountain Youth Resources
- Mountain Mediation Services
- Macon TRACS
- Angel Medical Center, Inc.

The Macon County Community Foundation (MCCF) was established in 1991 to serve the needs of local nonprofit organizations, donors, and charitable causes. MCCF is an affiliate of the North Carolina Community Foundation, and joins more than 650 community foundations in transforming our nation and our neighborhoods through the power of philanthropy. Whatever your means or charitable goals, the MCCF makes it easy to become a philanthropist.

The NCCF is the single statewide community foundation in North Carolina and was created 21 years ago to build capacity through philanthropy. The NCCF sustains nearly 1,000 endowment funds established to provide long-term support of a broad range of community needs, nonprofit organizations and scholarships. The NCCF partners with 59 affiliate foundations to provide local resource allocation and community assistance in 65 countries across the state, with an emphasis on rural and underserved areas.

TRUNK SHOW - Paul Mayer Designs

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The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance’s (J-MCA) 2009 Green Living Fair in Highlands. The 2009 event, a first of its kind for the area, was a huge success with an attendance of over 300 people and host to 30+ participants. Unsure of what the first year would bring, J-MCA was conservative with booth space and speaker/discussion sessions. Since then the response has been overwhelmingly positive and reason for the expansion of the number of eco-conscious participants and speakers able to take part in the 2009 event.

Fri., July 24
- Free Mountain Music Concerts at Highlands School old gym, dancing begins at 6:45 P.M. and concerts begin at 7:30. Sponsored by Just for You Relay for Life team.

Sat., July 25

Bob & Cathy Fisher are opening their garden for tours for Kids4Peace with 100% of the proceeds used to continue the Episcopal Church’s mission project of building a school in Haiti. Tickets are on sale at the church for $25. Order by phone at 828-526-2968 (we take MasterCard or Visa) or you can come by the church on the corner of 5th and Main Street. You can select tours times of 10, 11, 12, or 1 and purchase tickets from the church office. Everyone must meet at the Macon Bank Gazebo to get a pass for the tour.
- Drake’s Diamond Gallery Trunk Show 10-7pm, on Second Street. Featuring “Mia Katrin,” hors d’oeuvres & cocktails.
- At Cyrano’s two book signings. From 1-3pm, it’s author Charlie Poe “Life is a Play Ground.” From See EVENTS page 31
Abby and Martha Brewster are the personification of helpfulness. They make broth for sick neighbors, they take care of their nephew Teddy who thinks he is Teddy Roosevelt, and they murder lovely, old men. Oh, you read it correctly—murder old men! They see it as a service and a kindness to the community, although their nephew Mortimer isn’t so sure. In fact, Mortimer isn’t sure about anything going on in this less-than-normal household. The home becomes even more interesting when their other nephew Jonathan arrives with his friend and plastic surgeon Dr. Einstein. The house gets crowded and even more chaotic!

Arsenic and Old Lace is funny and entertaining no matter who is in cast, but take a cast with the experience and the talent that is on the stage at the Highlands Playhouse and you will have a wonderful evening of theatre. The show is a reunion of several of the cast from a past production. Regina Ress and Cheryl Chalmers reprise their roles as Abby and Martha Brewster, Jeffery Shonert plays Dr. Einstein along with several new-comers returning performers bring life to the Brewster home in Brooklyn, NY.

The show is directed masterfully by Playhouse veteran Michael Meath. If you haven’t seen Arsenic and Old Lace: The Reunion Tour, you owe it to yourself to do so. Arsenic and Old Lace runs through July 19 at the Highlands Playhouse. For tickets, show times and more information about our season, please call the Box Office at 828-526-2695 or visit the 362 Oak Street location in downtown Highlands.

Also don’t miss the third annual Shakespeare in the Park production, Much Ado About Nothing. As always, admission is FREE and pick-nick’s are encouraged! Director Jeremy Miller declares, “This will be an exciting year of Much Ado that people haven’t seen before”. The production dates are Sunday July 19th, 26th and August 2nd, 9th at 7:00pm at the Pine Street Park in Highlands. There will also be a Saturday, July 25th performance in Cashiers on the Village Green at 12pm. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and be prepared to have a rollicking-good time!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Final week of ‘Arsenic and Old Lace’

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**Green Living Fair**

July 25, 2009
Highlands Civic Center
9:30 am — 4 pm

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**Arsenic and Old Lace**

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