

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 12

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Thursday, March 19, 2009

This Week in Highlands

On-going Events

• The Town of Highlands is accepting applications from non profits requesting funds. Applications may be obtained at Town Hall or on the Town's website www.highlandsonc.org under heading "forms and applications." Applications should be submitted to the Town Clerk by April 1, 2009.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

Wed., & Fri.

• Open AA meeting noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Mondays

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

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

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

• Taize worship at 7 p.m. at the Lutheran Chapel of the Holy Family, 2152 Dillard Road. Call 526-2905 for info.

2nd & 4th Fridays

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

Fridays & Saturdays

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese complimentary wine sampling during business hours.

Saturdays

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Wine Flights 4-6:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheese and specialty foods \$19 per person.

Thursday, March 19

• The Highlands Tarheels will be playing in the Macon County Boys Basketball Championship Thursday, 7 p.m. at Macon Middle School. This is the first time a Highlands team has competed for the tournament championship at this level of boys basketball! Let's pack the stands with Highlands fans! \$2 for adults, \$1 for students.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
48 / 33F	50 / 28F	52 / 30F

Board may go to one meeting a month

Once again the Wednesday, March 18 Town Board meeting was short and sweet.

The short meetings are mainly due to the Town Manager form of government which makes the Town Board's involvement less critical.

On that note, Mayor Don Mullen asked the board to consider going to one meeting the second Wednesday of the month with the understanding that special meetings be scheduled as needed. The

board took the suggestion under advisement.

Ran Shaffner, who presented the Greenway Committee request for Hillrie Quin who was unable to attend, asked for \$28,000 from the 2008-2009 Greenway Committee budget allocation of \$100,000 for a cribbing project on the Big Bear Pen part of the trail. After the \$28,000 allocation there will be \$17,000 in the "account" for the rest of the year.

The board OK'd the request,

but Commissioner Amy Patterson reminded Shaffner that the town said it would fund the Greenway project depending on the town's fiscal condition.

"We may not have extra funds, depending on our revenues so there isn't a guarantee the money will always be here when you ask for it," she said.

Town Manager Jim Fatland reported total General Fund revenues to-date are 1.18% behind revenues

• See BOARD page 8

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A great day for baseball



Michael Baty slides into second and is declared "safe" at Tuesday night's game at Hiawasse Dam. For more photographs, see page 15. Photo by Noel Atherton

3 entities at joint meeting

Now that the Macon County Commissioners and the Highlands and Franklin town boards have made joint meetings a habit, they might also begin working together on projects, namely economic development among others.

At the Tuesday, March 17 joint meeting held at the Mill Creek Country Club, Franklin Mayor Joe Collins said the Economic Development Commission - which in-

cludes members from Franklin, Highlands and the county - is something the municipalities must get behind.

"This is seen as a county-oriented enterprise, but the municipalities will directly benefit from countywide growth," he said.

Highlands Mayor Don Mullen said this is something his board will be discussing.

• See JOINT page 23

Junk Ordinance 'junked'

Though only a worksession, Thursday, March 12, owners of junk yards and related businesses turned out in force to get in on the commission's conversation concerning the pending Junk Yard Ordinance.

To keep from "reinventing the wheel" the Macon County Planning Board used Haywood County's Junk Ordinance as a template but the result was an ordinance concerned about junk yard businesses, instead of the "junk" stashed around Macon County.

"This is a big concern at the community level, but it's not aimed at junk yards," said Commission Chairman Ronnie Beale. "It's more about the junk in people's yards and along the side of the road."

Commissioner Bob Simpson agreed saying the call for some kind of ordinance or help from the commission was "complaint driven."

"The way this ordinance reads, we'd have to put fences around used car lots," he said.

County Planner Jack Morgan said he and the planning board agree but they need to know what the commission wants them to do about the issue. "The junk in yards and on the roadsides isn't even in this ordinance," he said.

County Attorney Lesley Moxley said an ordinance dealing with junk in people's yards or left on the side of the road is a tough ordinance to write. "You can approach this from a public health and safety angle, suggesting vermin, mosquito-

borne diseases and the like, but really what you are all discussing is more of an aesthetic issue," she said. "This is making neighborhoods unsightly and it's a nuisance for neighbors."

Commissioner agreed that they can't legislate people to be good neighbors and in the end decided to embark on an education campaign rather than drafting an ordinance, and to ask people to voluntarily take care of the problem.

County Manger Jack Horton suggested taxing junked cars left in yards as a way to entice people to remove them.

"You could have as many cars in the yard as you want, but you'd have to pay taxes on them," he suggested. "If you don't want to pay, then get rid of them."

Commissioner tossed around Amnesty Days at the land fill and neighbors offering a "helping hand" to those in their community whose yards need cleaning up.

"I'd rather see people offering each other a helping hand than try to enforce an ordinance like this," said Commission Jim Davis. "Besides I'm a big believer in property rights."

But Chairman Beale said when what you do affects your neighbors, property rights can't always be the excuse.

"Property rights just go so far when what you do on your property affects the property value of the neighbors in your community," he

• See JUNK page 8

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Newspaper's conservative columnists do cause a disservice

Dear Editor,

I just read the Feb. 26 issue of the Highlands' Newspaper and certain columns were worse than I had remembered them.

Fred Woolridge's column about camel sex was oddly amusing, but included this: "In Australia, the sex life of the camel has gone wild and they're multiplying faster than Mexicans." Why not faster than Blacks, greedier than Jews, drunker than the Irish or greasier than Italians? Why not hit all the stereotypes?

Then John Armor finished his piece "Offending the Islamofascists" with this gem of bigotry: "To any Muslims who take offense at that, I say, your complaints are rejected. Get back to me when you become competent human beings, if you are capable of that."

This insinuates that any and all Muslims are not truly human. If we come to assume that, annihilating them isn't a moral dilemma. That same line of thinking 'justified' the Holocaust. The level of hatred and raw ugliness in Armor is disgusting.

What happened to civil public discourse? If your best argument relies on bigotry, then you don't have much of an argument at all. Stick to the facts, at least you'll be respected.

Less despicable was Don Swanson who wrote "...I swear in a week I could interview the readers of this paper and find people more qualified to lead us than the boobs in power." According to Swanson, the result of throwing God out of the public square is "Obama, Biden, Pelosi, and Reid..." and claims that we are "being ruled by people who forgot, or never knew, the concept of public service, the void of which is filled with self-service." Again, more insults and distortion reserved for 'the other party' in an attempt to demonize it.

I have lived under Republican presidents for over half of my life. Both parties have had their share of career hacks in Congress, but let's be honest: some of the GOP administrations of late have hit historical lows in ethics. The Obamas have sharp legal minds and are committed to more ethics and accountability in government. This is an about-face compared to the last eight years.

As for Swanson pulling out the God card—His Son was very clear about hatred, bigotry, greed, vanity, and deception. Try to live by His standards, not your own baser emotions.

The true cost of the Rush Limbaugh Effect is now being felt—that of destroying civil public discourse. Now the meanest, nastiest SOB wins. If this is how we debate public policy in this nation, we are all doomed.

And finally, if these writers represent the conservative voice in this community, they do their cause an injustice. Because of bombastic arguments like these, conservatives have become known as bitter big-mouthed bigoted bullies. No wonder more voters are shying away from them.

Dan Kowal
Franklin

Eberz column about Limbaugh unfair

Dear Editor,

I recently read Matt Eberz's column about Rush Limbaugh in the March 12 issue of Highlands' Newspaper and felt compelled to write you.

While I don't agree with everything Rush purports to, isn't he entitled to his opinion?

Why is it people like Eberz despise anyone's opinion? I believe that might be covered in the First Amendment? Now, I might make a suggestion on how to curb their anger toward the "right."

We Americans have stuck together for a long time. Now, it seems that our two ideological sides will never agree on the right course for America.

So let's just shake hands and go our separate ways. I don't hate you and you shouldn't despise me. Let's divide America into 2 states.

You and your side can keep: Redistribution of wealth; nationalized health care plan, ACLU, Jane Fonda, Barbara Streisand, Brad Pitt, Shirley McLaine, Oprah, Michael Moore, Rosie Islam, Scientology, Humanism, The U.N., battery-operated cars, government donations to the un-employed and ... you can make peace with Iran, Palestine and Afghanistan.

On my side, we'll keep Firearms, (FYI 2nd Amendment), our military, Capitalism WalMart, Judeo-Christian values, SUVs, pick-up trucks, the National Anthem, the American Flag, the Pledge of Allegiance and the right to make charitable donations to whom we choose.

So what do you think? Agreed?

Steve Erickson
Cashiers

Sportsmanship and responsible hunting practices need to be addressed in North Carolina

Dear Editor,

I realize hunting is "sacred" and few people are willing to stand up to the hunting and fishing lobby. However it is time for the general public, to vocalize their concerns regarding important issues that need to be examined and corrected.

Hunting abuses do not get much attention in the media and rarely does the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission adequately address violations and appropriate convictions. For example, I recently talked to property owners in Waynesville, Franklin, and a hunter in eastern North Carolina who have experienced major encounters and threats from hunters with radio-collared dogs who were illegally baiting bears and deer on their private property. Two of these, sharing their concerns, are avid hunting advocates and the other is deeply involved in wildlife issues.

I believe this is a practice of serious concern by many I talk to and a priority to be dealt with by NCWRC. However, I question whether NCWRC is sensitive enough or willing to step to the plate to voice opposition regarding major hunting abuses because of their unwillingness to challenge the "good ole boys" in the woods.

I expressed concerns and solutions many of us feel would to help curb "irresponsible hunting" in my letter to the editor of Wildlife North Carolina, March 2009 magazine. Also, I feel Dr. Jasper Phillips, a hunter himself; hit at the heart of the problem when he expressed this to me and also in the "Wildlife North Carolina" January 2009 magazine. He stated "I believe the future of hunting may well depend on teaching the values of respect and sportsmanship to those who wish to continue the sport."

He cited:

(1) For hunters, wildlife advocates, and governing bodies, it is important to recognize that public lands such as state parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, national parks and game lands are owned by all of us. Organizations such as the North Caroli-

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. **NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands' Newspaper

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Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor - Kim Lewicki; Copy Editor- Tom Merchant

Cartoonist - Karen Hawk; Circulation & Digital Media

Jim Lewicki

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265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

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• See LETTERS page 22

• OBITUARY •

Louise Dorn Buzzell

Louise Dorn Buzzell, 94, died Friday evening March 6 at the Groton home of her eldest son, Robert Buzzell. She was born February 22, 1915 in Larkins (now known as South Miami) Florida, the eldest child of Robert William Dorn, Sr. and his wife Mary Irene (Wheeler) Dorn who were early pioneers of South Florida.

Mrs. Buzzell graduated salutatorian in the Class of 1936, University of Miami where she was a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. She married her high school sweetheart, A.L. Buzzell at the Plymouth Congregational Church in Coconut Grove, FL. He predeceased her in 2002, shortly after their 65th wedding anniversary celebration in Jacksonville, FL.

She is survived by five sons; Robert L. Buzzell of Groton, Edward P. Buzzell of Kenmore, WA, Stephen A. Buzzell of Tavernier Largo, FL., Donald A. Buzzell of Annandale, VA, William A. Buzzell of Lake Mary, FL and a sister, Martha A. Timanus of Miami, FL.

She is also survived by 16 grandchildren: Ward Buzzell, Elizabeth Buzzell, Amy Cook, Diane Buzzell, Shawn Evans, Mary Lewis, Shannon Normington, Rob Buzzell, Brad Buzzell, Brian Buzzell, Mara Ehert, Steve Buzzell, Laura McElhinney, Meredith Stevens, Leah Buzzell, Anna Buzzell, and 17 great grandchildren.

Services were held on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at 1 p.m. in the Bryant-Grant Funeral Home Chapel in Highlands, NC. She summered in Highlands with her family for many years and she was buried in the Highlands Memorial Cemetery, next to her husband.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences can be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

March 28, next Highlands School student college tour

Wake Forest University & Davidson College

The third college/university tour organized by the HHS University Tours is scheduled for Saturday, March 28. Students will visit the Davidson College and Wake Forest University campuses for guided tours

and information session. Admissions/Information packets will be provided to students by the university.

All interested juniors and sophomores

•See TOUR page 6

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Pre-schoolers send hair to 'Locks of Love'



Left: Kaylee and Skye check each other out. Above: Kaylee looks over her "donation."

5-year-old Kaylee Oakley and 4-year-old Skye Welch are classmates at the Highlands Community Child Development Center. When Kaylee got her first hair cut at Head Innovations and sent her hair to Locks of Love, Skye decided to get her hair cut at Taylor Barnes Salon and do the same thing. "I am giving my hair to

the boys and girls that don't have any hair," said Kaylee. "I'm doing it for little children who need my hair and I want it short," said Skye. For Contact information for Locks of Love is 234 Southern Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL 33405, tel: 561-833-7332, fax: 561-833-7962.

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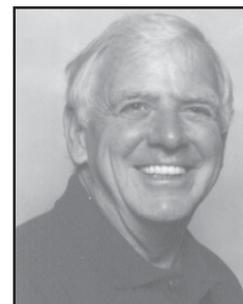
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• **LAUGHING AT LIFE** •

Four wheelin' at Al Quwain

Today's adventure is to jump in our four wheel drive SUV and head out into the desert in an attempt to sneak a peep at our son's villa at "The Marina" development in Al Quwain. The community is under construction and closed to visitors but that won't stop us. After driving along the Persian Gulf highway, we hung a left and dropped off the road into the desert.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
 email:
askfredanything@aol.com

We could see our kid's community far in the distance and would try to approach it from the backside. The trick was to figure how to get there without getting stuck in the sand. Tow service is rather scarce in the desert. My son fiddled with his GPS, dropped his shift into four-wheel drive low before creeping forward. After avoiding many sand dunes, a couple of stray camels and mushy areas that were inviting us to get stuck, we finally arrived at the back wall of their community. It's Friday, a holy day, and the place is quieter than Highlands' Main Street at 3 a.m.

We didn't climb over the wall of the community since getting caught would've resulted in our immediate arrest and loss of my son's job. We're adventurous, but not stupid. After many ooh's and aah's, we headed home, following our tire tracks and GPS back to the highway. Maybe by this time next year we'll be allowed to go in the normal way...maybe not.

Yes, we are still visiting our son and his li'l missus in Dubai and we're knockin' around various places to see what's shakin'. (Excuse the pun.)

Tonight, we're sitting in a Shisha bar and restaurant named Reem, hooping it up with the locals. Culturally speaking, Reem's Shisha bar is about as far away from Highlands as one can get. The bar smells of sweet apple and strawberry mint tobacco, the most popular scents smoked in Shisha bars these days. Of course, we're all getting secondary smoke cancer and we'll have to wash our clothes when we get home but it's worth it.

We're ordering Arabian-style skewed chicken cooked over an open flame and Greek salads with goat cheese, all washed down with Moroccan tea. What, an Arabian style Greek salad with goat cheese? Was the goat from Greece or the Middle East?

I always order "American coffee" so I don't have to chew it. Some of their brew has the consistency of pudding. I thought

the Italians had the edge on strong coffee until I came here. Whoa!

I always associated bars with alcohol until I visited the Middle East. Except for Dubai, alcohol is as absent as beer at a Baptist pie sale, as absent as a Catholic at a Billy Graham rally, as absent as...well, you get it.

In Dubai, a consumer has to have a special liquor license to buy alcohol and it's only sold to non-Islamic people at stores similar to our ABC establishments.

There's a waiting period while the applicant is investigated. Would the ACLU approve of this discrimination? Dubai doesn't care. Also, Dubai doesn't care what anyone thinks about kicking people out of the county when their visa is renewed and it's discovered they flunked the AIDS test that is required. AIDS doesn't exist in this region.

And here's a little tidbit of information you can put in your Shisha pipe and smoke. Your average everyday Joe, born and raised in the Middle East, is leery of the good ole USA government. They think we're a bunch of ruthless bullies who attack nations without reason, inflict our form of government and our way of life on others. Isn't that silly? Where do they get those ideas?

Actually your basic everyday run of the mill Islamic Joe is as misinformed about us as we are about them. As always, ignorance breeds contempt. They think crime is running rampant in America (ha) and we buy guns for protection. Is that silly, or what? Oh, by the way, crime around here is extremely low. They don't consider crime a freedom here.

This is what I've learned after three visits. Take away politics, take away kings and presidents, put a whole bunch of different kinds of people and nationalities from different backgrounds together, leave them alone, and after a short period of mistrust, they'll start to get along. Better, they'll become friends. The two biggest obstructions to world peace are not its people but its governments...and, of course, the other is the stupid media.

Your average middle easterner doesn't want to get blown up, doesn't want his child to become a terrorist and doesn't want war. Like us, he wants to live the good

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 5

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

I say, 'Let 'em sue!'

The American people, through their government, have provided \$170,000,000,000 to keep AIG Insurance Company afloat. I might have written "one hundred seventy billion dollars," but I wanted you to see all those zeros. We were told that the company was too big to be allowed to fail. A little gratitude would seem to be in order. Even if the idea of gratitude is alien to the bosses at AIG, it would seem to be in the interest of the company and its employees, as well as the American people, who will foot the bill if the company goes under, to use the money prudently.

Unfortunately, the company still believes that it has money to squander, and considering the loose purse strings of the treasury, perhaps it does.

Earlier installments to prop up the failing company totaled nearly \$140,000,000,000. The most recent contribution has added another \$31,000,000,000. Shortly after receiving the latest handout, AIG announced that it would honor its previous commitment to award bonuses totaling tens of millions of dollars to senior executives. Company officials justified paying the bonuses by explaining that they were decided before AIG dipped into the Federal Treasury.

The timing of the decision is inconsequential. If they had any money of their own, it would be none of our business how they spent it. But it's our money they're using now, and we don't want our money used to honor a stupid decision to pay millions to the same guys who destroyed the company. Maybe it's not a matter of being too big to fail, but too corrupt to survive. The greed and arrogance of AIG is matched only but the impotence of a government which permits such flagrant misuse of funds.

Here's the good part. Senior executives recommend bonuses for themselves and their buddies to the Board's Compensation Committee. The Board, all too often with little more than a rubber stamp, approves the bonus recommendations. Board members, who are themselves richly rewarded for their participation, have little incentive to rock the boat. Companies typically buy insurance to indemnify them against bad decisions, and if a member squawks too much, he risks losing his cushy position.

AIG explained that if it failed to pay the bonuses, which are going to the same executives who drove the company on the rocks in the first place, it risked being sued by them and/or losing their services.

A Navy Captain who ran his ship aground would find his career at an



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

abrupt end. He would never receive another command. An insurance executive who makes risky decisions which bankrupt his company receives a bonus. It is hard to imagine that he couldn't be replaced by someone more capable, or at least someone equally incompetent and less expensive. I can't understand why these guys aren't being fired instead of rewarded. Given the mood of the American people, if they did sue, it is hard to imagine anywhere in the country where sym-

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

life, raise his family, earn money and practice his religion, not necessarily in that order. It's so obvious when you walk the streets here.

We are seldom treated with disrespect while visiting. Although the Egyptian people did treat us harshly and there was an element of fear, it was for the misunderstandings I just mentioned. We try not to appear as ugly Americans.

If you read my stuff often, you know I'm not an Obama fan and that's putting it mildly. My fear of this man has only been fortified since he took office, but no one cares about that. I'm an Independent who leans slightly to the right and I see a glimmer of hope for positive relations between America and the Middle East. Not the lunatic radicals but the non-radical Islam and America.

If Obama could find a way to put away the bully pulpit and learn that everyone on this planet does not want democracy pushed on them, things would calm down. You can take that to the bank, if there's any still open.

pathetic jurors could be found.

I thought we had closed the "bonus" loophole along with the "using the people's money to buy corporate jets" and "using the people's money to finance golf junkets" loopholes. Apparently, not.

Much was made by the new administration of its intention to limit executive compensation and end abusive bonuses. Strict oversight is imperative when the government is throwing hundreds of billions of our dollars at the financial crisis. The American people deserve nothing less for their money. There is ample evidence that without strict preconditions, corporate executives will steal the American people blind. There is no doubt in my mind that these guys should have been fired instead of rewarded. Nor is there any doubt that the Congressmen who have permitted these abuses should suffer the same fate.

I'm willing to give our new President a little more time to get it right, but just a little, and no bonus.

Does Your "To Do" List Look Like This?

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- Quit smoking ✓
- Attend church ✓
- Work hard ✓
- Oil Change ✓
- New Tires ✓

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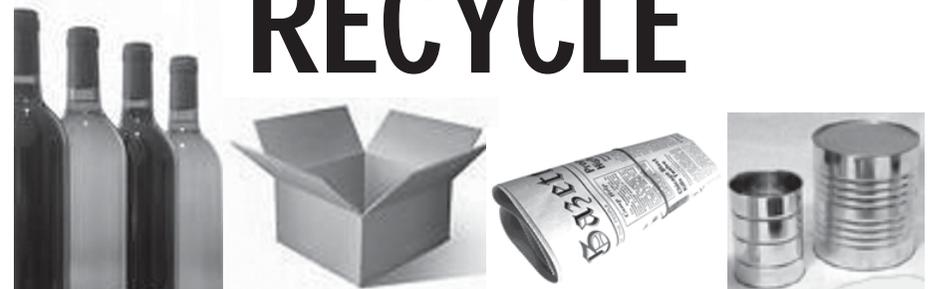
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• HIS & HERS •

Kiss me, I'm Irish

by John Armor

On St. Patrick's Day, everyone is Irish. Maybe just for the moment, or for the next few beers. O'Hara, O'Leary, O'Bama. But some of us have real, biological connections to the Emerald Isle.

One of the reasons I was delighted to make a trip to Ireland last year was the chance to close the circle. By a happenstance the year before, I found the oldest proof of my European ancestors. On the Internet I stumbled across the website of the Compass Inn in Ligonier, Pennsylvania.

What became the Compass Inn was built as a log building in 1799 on the crude road to the frontier town of Pittsburgh. In 1814 the Inn was bought by Robert and Rachel Armor. On the completion of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Robert built a stone addition to accommodate the many stage passengers.

By 1862, the canals took over, and the Inn was closed and became a private home. For a total of seven generations the Armors lived there. Then in 1966 they sold the Inn to the Ligonier Valley Historical Society. The Society restored the Inn to its 1920 condition as a working Museum. It is still that way.

As you might have gathered, when I contacted the Museum Director, he quickly sent me a genealogy. Robert was brought to the United States by his grandfather, when he was 8. The genealogy that the director sent, stopped with George Frederick Armor. That was my great-grandfather, who fought in the Civil War. The Society was glad to hear from me.

It was a singular pleasure last summer to walk the land that young Robert had last walked two centuries before. But I learned not just about my family, but about the modern world.

I met a Protestant man whose family was saved by their neighbor, a Catholic policeman. I met the Catholic daughter, now a grown woman. Her boyfriend decades ago was arrested by British troops, convicted and served two years in jail. He denied being involved in the IRA.

The young man went to America. Decades later, he returned to Ireland. He admitted that he had been in the IRA, and that his parents were also members. He admitted he was going out that night to kill British soldiers. He said that his arrest had saved his life.

All these events happened in Lon-



Michelle Mead-Armor &
John Armor

michiemead@aol.com

John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

donderry, which has now thrown off the symbol of its British yoke, becoming simply Derry. We saw the history of "the troubles" in that city at its fine museum. It documents the seeming end of the troubles. Now, with three murders in Ireland last week by the Real IRA, the murdering continues.

That reminded me of the last thing I

learned in Ireland. The murders of men, women and children for political purposes will not end until there are no more parents left (or schoolteachers) who tell their children that they have a right, or even a duty, to kill other children and their parents in cold blood.

The best way to see where the greatest threats of murder come from, is to read translations of the books used in elementary schools. That is a sad task which is almost entirely in the past for the survivors in Ireland. Elsewhere in the world, these are current events.

I shouldn't end this piece this way. The Irish have learned. Their rich and ancient history is almost entirely at peace. So, there is hope for us all.

• About the Author: John Armor practiced law in the Supreme Court for 33 years. He now lives on the Eastern Continental Divide in the Blue Ridge of North Carolina.

John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

... TOUR continued
from page 3

are encouraged to participate in the tour.

Departure for the Davidson/Wake Forest tour will be from the front entrance of Highlands School at 7:30 a.m. Students should arrive at the school by 7:15 a.m. with a return time set for 8 p.m.

The Davidson tour is at 11:30 a.m. and Wake Forest is about 3 p.m. Lunch and dinner will be provided. Seating for this tour is limited and all students wishing to attend must have permission slips and reservations returned to John Dotson at Preferred Properties in Wright Square or to Thomas Jessup at the school guidance office by noon Tuesday, March 24.

Sponsors for these University Tours are Highlands United Methodist Church and Highlands Rotary Club. Trips are not Highlands School or Macon County Board of Education sponsored. Transportation for this tour is provided courtesy of First Baptist

• See TOUR page 7

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

... TOUR continued
from page 6

Out of the frying pan into the fire

The other day I was trying to absorb the current disasters de jour brought on by the messiah's administration when a thought fleetingly crossed my mind. My mind is constantly trying to figure out how we can possibly get out of the mess we're in and just for a blink of an eye, I thought "impeachment." And just as fast as it came, it went, replaced by "Joe Biden!" "Oh Lord," I thought, the "empty suit" replaced by the "empty head," or "the open mouth," or "the rebel without a brain." That wouldn't do at all.

Desperate for a solution, I thought "how about a twofer?" Do away with both of them in one fell swoop. Think of the money we'd save (as if that makes any difference anymore). Again, reality struck..... PELOSI Yikes! So much for that line of reasoning. Besides, the morons in Congress wouldn't impeach him if he grew horns. Furthermore, they're having too much fun burying the country to take the time doing anything worthwhile.

I'm trying to recall what exactly it was that set me off on this mental tangent. I think it's when I heard that Obama gave visiting Great Britain's prime minister, Gordon Brown, a set of movies on DVDs to show our appreciation for his friendship. To quote a column in The Observer, a British newspaper, referring to the gift exchange, "Before they settled on an appropriate gift for the president, there has been endless thoughtful debate in Number 10. The pen-holder was carved from the timbers of the HMS Gannet, built 130 years ago. Wood from its sister vessel, HMS Resolute, was used to make the desk in the Oval Office. In return for that historically resonant and tastefully symbolic token, the Americans presented the prime minister with what smelt like a panic buy, a DVD collection of 25 American movies. Amazon will sell you a box set of 100 Hollywood classics for \$17.99. It is not so much the cheap price tag that is wounding British pride; it is the lack of thought for their visitor displayed by the White House."

I took a lot of heat when I questioned Obama's background as being suitable to lead our country. I can't know if our gift was due to thoughtlessness, stupidity or if it was intended to be an insult to our oldest and strongest ally. I do know it isn't in keeping with American tradition to offend a head of state, even if that person or their country isn't particularly friendly to us.

Or maybe I'm torqued by the picture



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

so aptly described in the New York Post. "There was Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, boldly testifying before Rep. Charlie Rangel's Ways and Means Committee - promising that the Obama Administration intends to propose 'a series of legislative and enforcement measures to reduce tax evasion and avoidance.' Did he look Chairman Rangel in the eye when he said this? Can he look himself in the eye at the shaving mirror each morning? A crackdown

on 'tax evasion and avoidance?' Oh, the irony.

Only after he was nominated to Treasury did Geithner pay \$40,000 he blew off when working for the International Monetary Fund from 2001 to 2004. And Rangel's famous tax troubles are even now the subject of a House Ethics Committee investigation - laggard though it may be." Who would believe this crap if they made a movie about it?

Or maybe it's ineptitude of the administration in vetting their appointments. The latest name on the lengthening list of Team Obama's tax chiselers is US Trade nominee, Ron Kirk. He owes \$10,000 in taxes from speaking fees, which he has now agreed to pay. You'd think after the numerous appointment blowups, they would be more careful by now. I guess they think we're used to it.

On the subject of appointments, getting back to Geithner, here we are in the middle of the most serious financial situation in my lifetime, in which the Treasury Department is the prime player, and they can't staff Treasury's most important positions. Quoting Bloomberg's .com column the other day, "Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner's effort to staff his department and assemble deeper expertise to flesh out his financial-rescue plan received a new blow yesterday with the withdrawals of a potential deputy and an undersecretary.

"Former US Securities & Exchange Commission member Annette Nazareth took herself out of the running after concern about public scrutiny over her SEC work and frustration at the length of the selection process. International Monetary Fund official Caroline Atkinson pulled out of consideration for the Treasury's top international job." What do these potential appointees really see when they peer into the Geithner sewer? Evidently, enough to know they don't want a part of it.

"The vacuum at the upper levels of the department could hardly have come at a

worse time," said Louis Crandall, chief economist at Wrightson ICAP LLC. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker late last month told a congressional committee that the lack of top appointees at the Treasury was "shameful" given the crisis. I couldn't agree more.

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... JUNK continued from page 1

said. In the end, the proposed Junk Yard Ordinance was discarded and commissioners are going to work on a voluntary, neighbor-helping-neighbor approach to the abandoned junk problem in the county.

"The fact is you don't need an ordinance for all the people, just the people who don't want to be good neighbors," said Horton.

Abandoned Mobile Homes

With 6,000 mobile homes in the county, abandoned mobile homes was the other hot topic Thursday night.

Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl asked for guidance concerning the issue - whether the county wants to participate in the state's answer to the problem which is House Bill 1134, or go at it alone.

Participation in HB1134 means an ordinance must first be drafted. Like the Junk Yard Ordinance, commissioners weighed the options of participating in the state's program or having its own program independent of the state's. If the county goes along with the state, it could receive up to \$1,000 per mobile home unit to go toward the cost of removal. But as usual when dealing with the state there are a lot of hoops to jump through.

Over the last couple of years, the state has required an extra \$2 tipping fee per ton at the landfills and will use that money to help offset the cost of counties implementing an abandoned mobile home program.

The removal and demolition of a mobile home is very involved, including filling in water wells, septic tanks, etc, which can cost up to \$2,400 in addition to demolition and removal of the unit.

In the end, the commission asked Stahl to come up with a program that the county could get behind, using local businesses to do the cleanup, demolition and carting of pieces to the land fill.

"Let's look at a program independent of HB1134 and/or an ordinance that focuses on owners of mobile homes volunteering to remove them with physical and monetary help from the county," said Beale.

In either case, whether adopting HB1134 or embarking on its own program, to receive monetary help for a home's removal, citizen's must supply proof of land ownership and/or mobile home ownership and proof of good standing with the county.

"In other words, they can't owe taxes or be in violation of any county ordinance," said Stahl.

Stahl and the board say HB1134 only deals with mobile homes when there are

stick-built homes which need removal in the county, too. That's another reason the county may want to approach its problem locally, said commissioners.

Senior Citizen Center

The board heard from Horton concerning the old library's renovation to house a senior citizen center.

Due to new fire protection codes, a sprinkler system will have to be installed in the new facility and subsequently the ceiling will have to be replaced.

"Luckily, we've been setting aside for this, so with money already in the budget, except for the sprinkler system, we can do this job in-house and have it ready by the end of the 2008-2009 fiscal year," he said.

Beale said more than one-third of Maconians are over the age of 55 and the current senior citizen center near WalMart is inadequate and "bursting at the seams." - KL

... BOARD from page 1

this time last year.

All but 3.80% of property taxes have been received for 2008 - \$2.32 million of the \$2.41 million budgeted for fiscal year 2008-2009.

The Gasoline Tax revenues are also ahead with \$23,230 collected and just \$10,000 budgeted.

Only about 60% of the NC Franchise Tax revenues have been received, but 81% or \$632,000 of the \$800,000 NC Local Option Sales Tax budgeted has come in. Three-and-a-half months remain in the fiscal year.

The board agreed to renew its lease with WHLC for 10 years rather than the 80 years requested by owner Chuck Cooper. Over the 10 years, the rent will increase in 3% increments to reflect social security increases.

Spurred by Commissioner Larry Rogers who said there was a problem with dogs running loose at Buck Creek, Commissioner Hank Ross suggested the town consider establishing a dog park. He said he and others do let their dogs run at Buck Creek and clean up after them, but agreed some people don't. Recreation Director Selwyn Chalker said "mutt-mitts" have been installed on the wall of the concession building to make clean-up easy. The board took Ross's suggestion under advisement.

The board called a special meeting Wednesday, March 25, to discuss the upcoming Duke Power increase to the town and how it will affect the cost of electricity to town residents. - Kim Lewicki

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Jesus is precious

Rev. Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church



Who is this Jesus Christ we are always hearing about in sermons and hymns? He is the Son of God, the One sent from heaven to do for men what they could never do for themselves, bring reconciliation between God and man.

Because of the work he came to do on the behalf of helpless men he is seen throughout the Scripture as precious to those who believe in him. Charles Spurgeon that great Baptist preacher of the 19th century said, "As all rivers run into the sea, so all delights centre in our Beloved. The glances of His eyes outshine the sun: the beauties of His face are fairer than the choicest flowers: no fragrance is like the breath of His mouth. Gems of the mine, and pearls from the sea, are worthless things when measured by His preciousness."

In I Peter 2:7 we hear these words, "Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, 'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone.'"

Peter tells us that Jesus is precious. There are no words to tell us how precious he is. There is no way to compute the value he brings into the world. The apostle Paul declares in II Corinthians 9:15, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

If it cannot be described there is no way to compute its full value. You cannot with mere words explain how essential Jesus is to the people of God. He is everything to their happiness and joy.

The believer who has an abundance of worldly goods can still experience a famine if the Lord is absent from his heart. If God hides himself from you the world around becomes dark even with the sun shining at its brightest. When this glorious bright and morning star is missing the day is dark as night, for there is no other source of light in this world for the Christian. John in his Gospel introduces this Christ as "the Word come from God who is himself God in the flesh. He also says he is 'the Light of the World.'"

This world without the Christ of God is a wilderness overrun with sin and wickedness; a place of hopelessness that harbors no good will, peace or joy. No matter how much light man manufactures through his power plants and light bulbs without the Sun of Righteousness darkness remains the ruler of this world.

Charles Surgeon said Jesus Christ is the soul of our soul, the heart of our heart, the light of our light, the life of our life. He is everything to those who have seen their sinful and rebellious nature. What could they do without him? How could they stand and face the wickedness of this world? What strength would they have against temptation. What hope of eternal life?

The answer to all is none.

Jesus Christ came into this world to do for all who would hear and believe what they did not have the strength, courage or desire to do for themselves. He is precious beyond compare because he and he alone has brought salvation to his people.

Please, open your ears and hear his call, open your hearts and believe in his name. Acts 4:12 spells it out, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, Georgia

The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy
Communion each service

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329

Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Office - 526-2320

Sunday: Holy Communion - 11 a.m.

(Highlands Community Center on U.S. 64 next to the
ballfield in Highlands)

Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m.

at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Prayer - 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service - 1st & 3rd Sunday - 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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Pastor Gary Hewins

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

Sundays: 9:30am Sunday School for all ages; 10:45am

Worship; 6pm High School Group

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

Tuesdays Young Mom's Bible Study

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan - Rector: 526-2968

Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.

Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group

4:30 PM. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 PM. Choir Practice

Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

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

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

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Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.

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Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens

Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School - 9:30

a.m.; Youth - 6:30 p.m.; Choir - 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids - 6 p.m.;

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

Sun.: Worship - 10:55 a.m.; Sun. School - 9:30 & 9:45.

Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers

Choir - 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy

526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;

5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 - children, youth, & adults

studies; 6:15 - Adult choir

(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs: 12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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LENT: Taize worship Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. Soup

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Choir - 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.

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Rev. Clifford Willis

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;

Evening Worship - 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth - 7 p.m.

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

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• COOKING ON THE PLATEAU •

Irish 'soul food' coming up

If you didn't have time to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Tuesday, there's still time to go Irish! Try this classic Irish dish that's served in every Irish Pub across the nation all year long!

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
 2. Bring potatoes to a boil in salted water.
 3. Cook until tender, about 20 minutes, drain.
 4. Mash potatoes with dressing and set aside.
 5. In large sauté pan over medium-high heat, heat oil and add onion, carrot and meat.
 6. Cook until browned, 8 to 10 minutes.
 7. Drain fat and add broth and tomato paste.
 8. Simmer until juices thicken, about 10 minutes; add peas.
 9. Pour mixture into a 1 1/2 quart baking dish.
 10. Spread potatoes over meat mixture.
 11. Bake until golden, 30 to 35 minutes.
- Time Saver: Buy ready-to-eat mashed potatoes.

Classic Shepherd's Pie with a Potato and Buttermilk Crust

Serves 6 to 8

- 2 pounds potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 1/2 cup Hidden Valley Original Ranch Dressing
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, peeled and chopped
- 1 large carrot, peeled and chopped
- 1 pound ground lamb (can substitute with ground turkey meat)
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 cup frozen peas
- Salt to taste



• Recipe courtesy of Family Features

• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

Harris Lake sewer project, nonprofits and health screenings

There has been quite a bit of discussion about the Harris Sewer project in town recently, particularly how slow the process has been. The areas of concern have been primarily Main St. and Fifth St. at the Presbyterian Church. The contractor has had difficulty maintaining crews which has resulted in delays. Our Public Works director, Lamar Nix, has been as frustrated as anyone, and I can assure everyone that the company, all the way to the top, has heard our complaints. Beginning this week the crews will be increased from one to three and the work should move much faster. As usual, the amount of rock which must be blasted through has been a problem and that takes time.

I have told them I would like for both Main and Fifth streets. to be completed and paved before the summer people begin to come back to Highlands. The areas around commercial activity on Main and Fifth need to be paved by the middle of April at the latest, and I am assured that every attempt will be made to accomplish that. Construction is always more difficult when traffic is heavy, difficult on the construction team and the public. I can assure everyone we will be moving much faster hence forth on this important project which will bring sewage to almost 100 homes. The inconvenience will be worth it.

Every year the Town of Highlands donates around \$50,000 to not-for-profit organizations for capital improvements. We value those organizations which offer important services and products to the people of Highlands. However, we must have their grant applications in before April 1 so the Board of Commissioners can make decisions as to who gets what as we begin our budget process for the next fiscal year which begins July 1. This is a reminder to the boards of these organizations to drop by Town Hall and pick up your application forms.

I see in the newspaper that the Macon County Community Foundation is also requesting similar applications for grants by May 15 and organizations will be informed of acceptance or not by June 30. We have many great not for profits in Highlands who contribute much to the work of the community and we like for them to be rewarded for the work they are doing for all of us.

For instance, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is probably our oldest not-for-profit. Just this past week we dedicated almost an acre of land at the corner of Foreman Road and the Cashiers Road in a ceremony attended by a couple dozen people. The owner of this land was the Highlands Biological Station and this land will be preserved as open green space in perpetuity and maintained by the Land Trust. As most people know the land trust started 100 years ago this year by preserving the top of



Mayor Don Mullen

Satulah Mountain forever. Another important project which is now ongoing is the preservation and renewal of the Kelsey

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Trail which hopefully will be completed this year.

Let me also remind everyone of the free health screenings which will be held at the Jane Woodruff Clinic adjacent to the hospital on June 27 and at the Blue Ridge School on July 11. This is an important service supplied by our hospital which 400 people took advantage of this past year in the 15th year of these screening clinics. We are all grateful to the hospital for this fine service to the community and I hope everyone will utilize this as they try to maintain their health care.



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HS Varsity Girls' Soccer - 2009



Susan Johnson



Amy Fogle



LaDonna Rodriguez



Carolyn Hornsby



Shelby Johnson



Sayne Feria



Marlee McCall



Marisol Ruiz



Jessica Gagne



Carmen Cortez-Damien



Stephanie Smart



Katie Durham



Madison Taylor



Aremy Jhouanna deDios-May



Lucy Ruiz



Kate-Marie Parks



Ana Damien



Paige Strahan

COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

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www.ccphighlandsnc.com | ccp4info@verizon.net

HS Girls JV Softball – 2009



HS Golf Team – 2009

From left: Clay Dunn, Rebecca Parks, Eli Dryman, Jamie Bolt, Brice Jenkins, Alex Hedden, Evan Iezzi and in front, Tim Fogle



Gabrielle Tilson



Stephanie Puchacz



Beverly Williams



Julian Buras



Beverly Nix



Taylor Buras



Reta Thatcher



Bobbi Jo Talley



Emily Murphy



Danielle Potts



Bevan Schiffli



Katie Nix



Kaitlin Lewis

Reeves

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The next game is at Rosman on Friday, March 20 at 4:30 p.m.

The next home game is April 17

Come out and support the Highlands School teams!

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Descent into madness

Once a year, men and women around the United States descend into a magical land where Cinderella is queen and our lives are ruled by tiny brackets -- this land is known as March Madness, and it has arrived for 2009.

Now that we have dispensed with the introductions, here are some important things you need to know for this year's installment of the madness.

Four names you may not know now, but will after this weekend.

Demar DeRozan, USC - Stud freshman finally playing to his potential, and the results have been fantastic. Derozan is 6'6 with tremendous athleticism and is a matchup nightmare for opposing guards when he steps on the floor, thanks to his recent dominance USC comes in having won the Pac-10 tournament and on a roll.

Ben Woodside, North Dakota State - Woodside is very similar to a smaller Stephen Curry in that he can score in bunches and is a deadly shooter, and despite this being NDSU's first year of tournament eligibility, they are battle tested and full of seniors. Woodside scored 60 points against Stephen F. Austin earlier this year, so he is capable of being a one man gang for the Bison come tournament time.

Larry Sanders, VCU - A lot of people will be picking VCU to upset UCLA due to Eric Maynor's performance 2 years ago against Duke, but 6'11 center Larry Sanders will be the key for the Rams if they want to beat UCLA. Sanders is a possible NBA player, and could really boost his stock by dominating the Bruins.

Dionte Christmas, Temple - The 6'5 Christmas is a big guard who can do it all for the Owls. Christmas has the ability to get hot and score in a variety of ways, including deep behind the three point arc.

Four Sleeper teams for the weekend

West Virginia - Bob Huggins is extremely underrated as a coach when the NCAA tournament is discussed, but Huggy Bear will have the Mountaineers geared up for a run to the Elite Eight. The Mountaineers are a tough, physical defensive team, and Alex Ruoff is one of the most skilled players in college basketball.

Florida State - The Seminoles are playing at a high level right now and have improved throughout the season. Senior Toney Douglas provides the leadership and a scoring punch, but it is youngsters Solomon Alabi and Chris Singleton that make the Noles a team that could have an Elite Eight run in them.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

Mississippi State - The Bulldogs feature an NBA prospect in shotblocking beast Jarvis Vanardo, but also have a high quality guard in Dee Bost. They come in on a roll, having won the SEC tournament and surprising everyone with a NCAA bid-anytime you have the best player on the floor in the dance you have a chance to win, and with Vanardo MSU will have a shot at beating Washington.

Utah State - Stew Morrill always puts out a great product out there in Utah, and anytime a team wins 30 games people should stand up and take notice. The Aggies have a bonifide stud in Gary Wilkinson, and face a vulnerable Marquette squad that is without their PG Dominic James.

Four must-see games for the weekend

California-Maryland - A game between two evenly matched teams, both with very little inside play. Maryland comes in hot, and Cal has been sliding a bit-look for the coaching of Gary Williams to give the edge to the Terps in this one

Arizona-Utah - Most people felt like Arizona did not deserve a bid to the dance, but they lucked into a winnable first round game with a Utah team that they can overwhelm with their athleticism. Nic Wise and Jordan Hill provide the Wildcats with a terrific inside/outside tandem.

Clemson-Michigan - Intriguing matchup because it features two coaches who are a bit unconventional. Clemson will press the majority of the game and Michigan will play a 1-3-1 zone. Manny Harris is going to be the guy who has to be hot if the Wolverines want to advance.

Minnesota-Texas - Tubby Smith returns to the NCAA tournament with the Gophers, and looks to do some damage. Texas has struggled this year at times, but still has one of the best guards in the country in AJ Abrams.

Four dominant players who must perform

DeJuan Blair, Pittsburgh - Possibly the best big man in the country, Blair has dominated in the paint when he hasn't been in foul trouble. Blair is going to have to stay on the floor if Pittsburgh wants to have a shot at the National Championship.

Willie Warren, Oklahoma - While Blake Griffin is a given for the Oklahoma Sooners, they need Warren's presence on the perimeter to balance the inside muscle of Griffin. Warren has struggled as of late, and that has coincided with the Sooners'

•See COACH page 15

... COACH continued from page 14

late slide.

Tyreke Evans, Memphis — Evans has been terrific as a freshman for the Tigers, but their weak schedule could come back to haunt them if Evans struggles against more experienced guards in the tournament.

Gerald Henderson, Duke — Henderson is unguardable when he is on his game, and he must continue to attack the basket and provide Duke with the consistent interior scoring that they have missed the past two years.

• HS SPORTS •



Though the weather couldn't have been better Tuesday night, Hiawassee Dam beat Highlands but not before they got to strut their stuff. Above, Andrew Renfro (left) and Conner Dobbs (right) trap the opposition between second and third bases. Below, Luke McClellan does the Highlands "Steal Dance."

Photos by Noel Atherton



• BIZ NEWS •

OEI 'warms up' atmosphere, reduces prices

Madison's Restaurant and Wine Garden, located in the Old Edwards Inn in Highlands, announces a new dinner menu to complement the new breakfast and lunch menu introduced earlier this year. The changes are part of an overall image makeover for Madison's designed to create a more relaxed social gathering atmosphere and increase the value of offerings for guests. One of the first moves in that direction was to open our Hummingbird Lounge to the public to enjoy cocktails, a light menu and live piano music. The lounge was previously designated for guests and members only.

The new dinner menu at Madison's reflects the culinary philosophy of new Executive Chef Johannes Klapdohr and his commitment to utilize sustainable and organic ingredients wherever possible.

Some of the changes to Madison's menu include:

- A new Grill section where guests can choose a simple steak, pork chop, fresh fish or a juicy burger
- A focus on fresh ingredients prepared

in a simple yet creative way to produce maximum flavor enjoyment of each ingredient

- A farm-to-table emphasis in many of the menu items, like *Dave Taylor's Garden Salad* and the *Farm and Local Produce Inspired Soup of the Day*

- And a reduction in price to reflect an overall focus on value throughout the menu items.

Overall enhancements at Madison's restaurant include beautiful walnut wood tables that match the rustic overhead beams of the restaurant's interior. The music and lighting levels, as well as the staff uniforms, have been enhanced to create more of a relaxed social aura in what previously might have been referred to as a *quiet* fine-dining environment.

Madison's restaurant is open to the public seven days per week. To view the new breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert menus, visit www.oldedwardsinn.com and click on "Dining" and then "Madison's." You may also call the restaurant at 828-526-5477.

Madison's

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View the Menu & Meet the Chef at www.oldedwardsinn.com.

Reserve Now for Easter Brunch.

828-526-5477 | 445 Main Street, Highlands

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going Events

• The Town of Highlands is accepting applications from non profits requesting funds. Applications may be obtained at Town Hall or on the Town's website www.highlandsonc.org under heading "forms and applications." To be eligible, an organization must be an IRS approved 501(c) (3). Applications should be submitted to the Town Clerk no later than April 1, 2009.

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

• Friends of Panthertown work days, last Thursday of every month (time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

Celebrate Earth Day in the mountains Sat. April 26



The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Jackson- Macon Conservation Alliance, Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association, and Whole Life Market are hosting the annual Earth Day celebration at the Village Green in Cashiers on Saturday, April 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 pm. The event is FREE and will be held rain or shine. Visitors to the Celebrate Earth Day in the Mountains will enjoy live music featuring local and Asheville talents, interactive demonstrations, food, and a climbing wall! There will be games for the young and the young at heart with a wonderful art section sponsored by the Bascom Louise Gallery and the Highlands Art League. Also our furry friends from the Humane Society will be showing off for adoption. The event is an opportunity for local organizations and businesses to showcase their environmental interests and distribute information on Green living.

2009 marks the 38th anniversary of Earth Day, an event that is celebrated worldwide. While land use patterns are shifting and natural resources are becoming more and more threatened, there has never been a better time to show appreciation for the uniqueness and natural beauty of the western North Carolina mountains! Join us on Saturday, April 25th to celebrate the earth and learn about what is happening locally to protect it. For more information please contact JMCA or Highlands Land Trust at 526-9938.

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

• Refuge Youth meets every Sun. night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God. If you are in grades 6th-12th then this is the place to be! The church is located at 6201 Highlands Rd. next to Exxon. For more info call youth ministers Matt and Candace Woodroof at 828-369-7540 ext 203.

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

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

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

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

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

• "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodruff room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

Mon. & Wed.

• Pilates Classes Level 1 of Jane Woodruff at the hospital at 4 p.m. \$10 per class. Call 526-5852.

• Middle School students After School Program from 3-5 p.m. at the Rec Park. For more information please call 828.526.3556.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

Wed., & Fri.

• Open AA meeting noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

First Mondays

• Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

Mondays

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

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

Tuesdays

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

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

Wednesdays

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

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

Every Third Wednesday

• Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30

p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Thursdays

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

• Taize worship at 7 p.m. at the Lutheran Chapel of the Holy Family, 2152 Dillard Road. There is a simple supper of bread and soup at 6 p.m. Dress is casual, and all are welcome. Call Chaplain Margaret Howell for more information: 828-526-2905 or email her at Knytengale@aol.com

1st & 3rd Thursdays

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

2nd & 4th Fridays

• Community Drum Circle at the Highlands Rec Park, from 6-7:30 p.m. Come experience a fun family friendly drum circle. All ages are encouraged to attend this free event. All experience levels welcomed. Celebrate community with facilitated interactive rhythmical

dialogue. Bring your own drum or percussion instrument. Some extra drums and percussion will be supplied. For more information call 421-0551.

Thursday, March 19

• The comic musical, "Mama Mia" (2008), is the story of a young bride trying to discover her real father before her wedding. The story is told by using the songs of the 70s group ABBA. The movie stars Meryl Streep as the mother. "Dancing Queen" and "I Have a Dream" are among the great songs featured. The movie will air at 3 p.m. Friends of the Albert Carlton - Cashiers Community Library, the winter schedule will continue on the first and third Thursday as matinees.

Friday, March 20

• High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, at the Macon County Community Building from 7-9 p.m.. Ken Perkins from Pelzer SC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-4187, 828-349-4187, 706-782-0943, or www.highmountainsquares.org

Saturday, March 21

• Smoky Mountain Beekeepers will host a one-day crash course in beginner beekeeping Saturday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., at the Swain County Extension Office just west of Bryson City. Jennifer Berry, an apicultural research coordinator and lab

Greenway work day set for Sat., March 21



The next Highlands Plateau Greenway trip will be March 21. We will use a high line system and move stones for rock on rock steps to their final location. We will also continue work on our crib and the lower portion of the new loop if we have enough participants. We are excited about being joined by the Highlands School Interact Group. If you are interested in participating please register with Hillrie Quin at 526-2385 or hmquin@verizon.net. We will meet at the large parking lot behind the Rec Park at 9:00 AM for a brief orientation session and then walk to the trail sections for construction. Participants will be furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment. Participants should bring water, lunch, rain gear, a day pack to hold everything. Boots and warm clothes that can get dirty are advised. Pictured are Don Harper, Hillrie Quin, (Kate the wonder dog) Doug Landwher and Karen Hawk from a recent work trip.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

manager at the University of Georgia Honey Bee Lab, will lead the bee school. The fee - pay at the door - is \$10. This covers the cost of lunch and reference materials. Registration gets under way at 8:30 a.m. Door prizes, which include several scholarship hives, also will be given. Call Swain County's Cooperative Extension Office by Wednesday, March 18, to register. To get to the Swain County Extension Office, go 5.5 miles west of Bryson City on U.S. 74 to the old Almond School. Smoky Mountain Beekeepers is made up of beekeepers in Swain and Jackson counties and the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

The community is invited to an international afternoon at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library on Saturday. A variety of activities will kick-off at 12:30 PM to celebrate multiculturalism. Families can join in the fun by trying out Japanese origami or Thai batik painting. At 1 local storyteller Suzanne Milroy, originally of England, will bring some Japanese-themed tales to life. Stories will include Yoko Writes Her Name by Rosemary Wells and Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say. After the stories, kids will get the chance to have their names written in Japanese characters called katakana. For adult visitors, a screening of the film *God Grew Tired of Us* will close out the day at 2:30. Winner of both the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, *God Grew Tired of Us* explores the indomitable spirit of three "Lost Boys" from the Sudan who leave their homeland, triumph over seemingly insurmountable adversities and move to America, where they build active and fulfilling new lives but remain deeply committed to helping the friends and family they have left behind. All activities are free and open to everyone. For more information, please call the library at 743-0215.

Sunday, March 22

Dr. Richard Kimball, a member of the Fellowship, will speak Sunday. The title of his talk will be "Humanistic Buddhism in Daily Life." The service and children's service begin at 11 a.m. The Fellowship is located at 85 Sierra Dr., off Lakeside, 1.2 miles from Hardees. All are welcome. For info: 818/524-6777.

Thursday, March 26

Franklin Community Blood Drive at First Baptist Church (69 Iotla Street, Franklin) 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Please call 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Each person who wishes to donate at a Red Cross drive in March may enter a drawing to win one of two pairs of Delta Air Lines domestic tickets. Saving lives by donating blood or platelets is a wonderful feeling, and now just by taking the time to give the "Gift of Life," two lucky donors could be on their way to a vacation in the sun.

Saturday, March 28

The Highlands School University tour will go to Davidson College and Wake Forest University. Departure is from Highlands School at 7:30 a.m. Be there by 7:15 a.m. Davidson tour is at 11:30 a.m. and Wake Forest is around 3 p.m. Lunch and dinner will be provided. Arrival time back at Highlands School will be 8 p.m. Permission slips are needed by Tuesday, March 24. Get forms from Guidance Counselor Thomas Jessup or John Dotson at Preferred Properties in Wright Square. For more information call Dotson at 526-5587.

Earth Hour is from 8:30-9:30 p.m. Turn off the lights in your house in support of the Sierra Club's endeavor to preserve carbon consumption.

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2.5-mile strenuous hike that is more of a climb than a hike along

the south face of Whiteside Mtn. for awesome views of Whiteside Cove and the spectacular rock formations and vertical wall of the mountain above. Meet at Whiteside Parking Lot at 9:30 a.m., 10 miles round trip from Highlands. Bring water, lunch, gloves, and wear deep-lugged boots. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526 8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but must be fit and ready for a tough and rocky descent and ascent. No pets please.

Sunday, March 29

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2-mile easy hike at the Tessentee Farm through old fields and woods (good birding area) being rehabilitated by Land Trust. Meet at the Smoky Mountain Visitor Center in Otto at 2 pm; drive 6 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

Tuesday, March 31

The Asheville Chapter of Ikebana International will present a program on "Exhibition Designs: Ichiyo, Ohara and Ikenobo Demonstrations" at its meeting on Tuesday at 10 am at the Folk Art Center, Milepost 282 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Presenters include Emiko Nishiwaki, Ikenobo School; Sibbie Wilson, Ohara School and Terri Ellis Todd, Ichiyo School. For more information, contact Chapter President Sally Robinson, 828-669-6946 or salspencemntreat@aol.com

Saturday, April 4

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 5-mile moderate hike to Rock Gorge and Big Bend Falls on the Chattooga River with a steep elevation change of 300 feet down and up the bluff above the river. Meet at the Bank of America in Highlands at 9:30 a.m. and at the Wachovia Bank in Cashiers at 9:50 a.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, April 5

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike to Mud Creek Falls on a pretty trail along a creek with an interesting covered bridge along the

way. Meet at the Great Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center in Otto at 2 p.m., driving 20 miles round trip. If coming from Highlands or Cashiers, call leader for alternative meeting place. Visitors and children 10 or over are welcome, but no pets please. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

At First Baptist Church on Main Street in Highlands, Easter musical program "Come Touch the Robe" at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday, April 7-8

The Macon County 4-H Council is now taking orders for raspberry, blueberry, and strawberry plants, grape vine, and apple trees with pick-up dates in April. These plants are bare root, except for blueberries, and come directly from the nursery. A limited supply of plants will be available, so place your orders early with Cooperative Extension at 349-2046 or 349-2054. Pick-up at the Agricultural Services Center, 193 Thomas Heights Road in Franklin. Contact Kathy Kuhlman, 4-H Agent at 349-2054.

Saturday, April 25

Democratic County Convention at the Macon County Courthouse in Franklin. 9 a.m. until noon. Macon County officers will be elected and a vote on referendums will be taken.

Earth Day celebration at the Village Green in Cashiers 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free, rain or shine. Enjoy live music, interactive demonstrations, food, a climbing wall and more.

The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center will have a Gorge Litter Sweep Saturday. Breakfast at 8 a.m., Lunch at 11 a.m., at the Visitor Center. Please RSVP by calling Jan at 828-526-2112.

Friday-Sunday, April 24-26

The annual NC WILD FOODS WEEKEND will be held at the Betsy-Jeff Penn 4H Center near Reidsville, NC. People from all over the East will take to the woods and fields to learn about edible wild plants, meet other foragers, and celebrate spring. The climax

of the weekend will be a WILD FEAST composed of collected foods prepared by the participants. Advance registration is required. For more information, call Debbie Midkiff at 919-489-2221.

Thursday-Sunday, May 1-3

"Wine and Dine on the Mountain" Weekend May 1-3 begins with a Champagne Reception followed by a 5-course *Shafer* Wine Dinner at Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro Friday night at 7 pm. An Hors D'oeuvre Reception will begin Saturday evening at Madison's Restaurant, followed by a *Caymus* Dinner. Guests of both events will have the opportunity to watch the wines come to life, as Arvid paints live for the occasions. On Sunday at noon, a New Orleans Jazz brunch at Wolfgang's will take center stage. Space is limited. To reserve today, call 866-526-8008. For more information, visit www.olderwardsinn.com.

Website launched for Collective Spirits wine festival



The Bascom has launched a brand-new website devoted entirely to its annual wine festival, *Collective Spirits*. The site, www.collectivespirits.com, features festival events, speakers, featured wines and chefs, sponsorships and benefactor opportunities, plus allows people to purchase tickets online. Set for May 29-30, the wine festival is the first event on The Bascom's new campus and will raise money for the nonprofit art center.

Tickets are \$100 for the Friday Evening Wine Tasting, \$225 for the Saturday Evening Wine Gala and \$295 for a combination Friday-Saturday ticket. The presenting sponsor of the event is Bank of New York-Mellon. Other sponsors are First Citizens Bank, Harry Norman Realtors/Pat Allen and Bert Mobley, brokers; Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop; and The Laurel magazine. Highlands Wine & Cheese is the official wine retailer of the event.

For more information, visit www.collectivespirits.com or call (828) 526-4949.

Rotary Bingo Returns



After taking the winter off – Rotary Bingo returns for spring with Boy Scout Troop 207 as its partner for the Thursday, April 2nd debut of Bingo for 2009 in the Highlands Community Building. Highlands Boy Scouts – Troop 207 – will receive the net proceeds from Rotary Bingo that night – don't worry half of all money paid for Bingo cards goes to the players. The number of Boy Scouts in Highlands has soared and Bingo will help provide the funds needed to support Scouting in Highlands. Thursday, April 2nd Bingo will see Scouts serve refreshments but not just receive tips and donations – they'll be there for the big money. Before you ask – yep, Highlands oldest Boy Scout Buck Trott will be there. Bingo is \$1 per card per game and there will be 15 games with a break midway. The last Bingo game will be a Stimulus Bingo – be there to see what it will be this time! Bingo starts at 6:30 and ends about 8:30. Refreshments are complimentary and the fun is mandatory. This will be a great family outing – bring children and grandchildren. If you've been to Rotary Bingo before – welcome back. If this is new to you – give it a try! The Highlands Rotary Club is licensed to operate Bingo by the State of NC.

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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

HELPWANTED

HIRING FOR TWO NEW RESTAURANTS – Back of the house and front of the house needed. Call 526-3380 or 342-5174.

BAKER/CATERER is needed in the Nutrition Services Department at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time, 32 hours per week, MTWF. 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.

RN NEEDED FOR UPSCALE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY. 8 hours per week. Apply at Chestnut Hill, 64 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC. Or email your resume to dotty.guenther@gmail.com. Drug screening and background check. EOE.

MTN AIR WELLNESS CENTERS opening for massage therapist. Call 828-743-9070. 3/28

THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME IT PROFESSIONAL (16-24 hrs/week). This person should have knowledge of a server/client environment and a background in web design and programming, particularly in .html and .asp. For information about this position, direct inquires to Matt Shuler at the Highlands Town Office (828) 526-2118.

RN/LPN needed at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Full time position available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Full benefits or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RNs at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Full,

Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA OR CNA II at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. PRN positions are available. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

LOST CAT

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 526-1706 or cell: 828-301-3696.

HOUSING WANTED

COUPLE SEEKING RENTAL HOUSE IN FRANLIN. Newly remodeled two+bedroom, one+bath. Close to town. Wooden floors, preferred. Heat & air, if possible. W/D required. No pets, no children, non smokers. Please call Alena 828-342-8729. 3/19

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

BUY ONE HOUSE, GET ONE FREE IN HIGHLANDS! Buy this 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath Cabin with Long Range Mountain and Sunset Views and Get the Luxury Cabin Next Door for Free! Reduced to \$399,000. See both properties at <http://www.vrbo.com/181808> and <http://www.vrbo.com/194328>. This offer will not last long. Call 305 458-0033.

FOR SALE BY OWNER – 535 N. 4th Street. Zoned Commercial. \$389,000. Currently rented at \$2,500 a month. Call 770-827-0450. (st. 2/19)

NEW LUXURY HOME FOR SALE OR LEASE IN SCALY Mt. 3 BR, 3.5 BA, 2.88 acres. Appraised \$757,000, reduced to \$499,900 or lease \$2750/mth. Additional lots for sale. 404-272-2131 www.thomasknob.com/homes.html (5/14)

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

APARTMENT FOR RENT – 1 bed, 1

bath, living area, kitchen and utility room. \$650/month. \$300 security deposit. First and last month rent. Rent includes utilities, (electric, water, heat, local phone) One year lease. Prefer non-smoker. No pets. Unfurnished. Good for 1-2 people. Call 526-9494.

DOWNTOWN FURNISHED!

Spacious 1/1, full kitchen, walk in closet, balcony, small pets allowed. 526-3363 Call for appt. (st 3/5)

2 BED ONE BATH COTTAGE, fully furnished. Laurel Falls. two minutes from hospital and few minutes from town. Call 787-2423. 3/19

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

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

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

DOWNTOWN APARTMENT RENT-AL – One bedroom (Queen), one bath, vaulted ceiling in great room, heat and air with gas fireplace. Fully furnished with W/D, cozy and comfortable. Reduced to \$650 a month plus utilities. Call 526-4983 or 421-3614.

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

SAPPHIRE NC – 2 Story 3Bed/3 Bath, Yr round views, 2 decks, remodeled, Furnished, 2 car garage. Available yearly or seasonal. 561-626-9556

FURNISHED 3BD2BATH HOUSE IN MIRROR LAKE area available for 6-12 month lease \$1200+ utilities. Call 770-977-5692.

3BR, 2BA COTTAGE NEAR MIRROR LAKE – In town. \$1250 per month. Very clean. 770-977-5692.

ON MIRROR LAKE – Charming 3 bed, 2 bath. Huge sunroom, stone fireplace, 3 decks, canoe, furnished. Available Nov-May. \$1,500 a month plus utilities. Call 770-435-0678.

COTTAGE FOR RENT – 1BR, 1BA in town @ Chestnut Cottages. Private,

screen porch, Heat/AC, FP, extra sleeping loft, furnished or unfurnished. 6 month lease - \$750. monthly plus utilities. Call 526-1684.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

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

VACATION RENTAL

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

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

LARGE PICKUP LOAD OF MT. LAUREL Lengths 4 to 6 feet. Mt. Laurel, Kusa Dogwoods, Norway and Serbia Spruce, Red maples, Service Derry, Rhododendron. Call 828-293-5398. (3/12)

FREE POOL TABLE. You haul. Heavy. Brass Stick rack, balls, sticks & accessories. \$158. Call 828-421-6608.

WOODBURNING FIREPLACE INSERT – Strong and sturdy, 30 inches wide, 29 inches deep and 67 inches high. \$175. Call 526-5749.

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

HONEY FOR SALE – Blue Valley honey, perfect amber color, 3/4 lb. bears, \$5 each. work in town. Call Bruce at 526-9021.

GE PROFILE WHITE COUNTERTOP GAS RANGE WITH DOWNDRAFT. Like new. \$185 Call 787-2232.

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

125-GALLON ALL-GLASS AQUARIUM - over 6 feet in length, was a salt-water shark-only tank. Comes with Eheim Pro series-2 external canister filter, and optional mahogany base. Will settle for \$500; base, extras and help moving it are optional but free. Call cell 828-342-2809

DRY, HARDWOOD, FIREWOOD – Priced to Sell! Call 828-526-4946 or 828-200-0268.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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

BABY LOCK SERGER MACHINE with extra spools of thread. \$200.00 828-631-2675 after 5:00 p.m. Sylva area.

REDUCED! 52" BIG-SCREEN TV RCA Home-Theater edition, with guide-plus gold. Moving and its too big to take. \$375 or OBO; this TV is in great condition and has a perfect picture, purchased at Circuit-city. Allows for 480P HD through Direct-tv. Call cell: 828-342-2809

LENOX CHINA "AUTUMN" PATTERN - \$125 for 5-piece place setting or sell by the piece at 20% below store prices. Call 526-0498

3-PIECE BEDROOM SET - Oak veneer. one dresser, one desk, one chest. \$300. Call 526-5772.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOLF CLUBS CLASSIC - SET OF MacGregor Tourney 9 irons (2-9 P.W.) 1980. Persimmon Drivers, new. \$50. Used \$25. Also miscellaneous items cheap. Call 706-746-3046. (Sky Valley).

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

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

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

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

MAN'S FORMAL (MID-LENGTH)

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

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

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

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

COLONIAL GLASS - set of 12 Sherbet Goblets, and dessert plates. \$35. Call 526-4063.

WATER PURIFYING CHLORINATOR PUMP with large heavy duty plastic holding tank. Was \$75. Now \$50. Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

PLASTIC OUTDOOR TABLE: Hunter green 36"x36" in like new condition. \$10. Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

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

FREE BRICK FRONT FOR BUILT-IN FIREPLACE. W-68",H-52" Call:828-349-3320

LENOX SPICE JARS, full set mint condition, original price \$45 each. Also jewelry call 369-0498. 7-9 p.m.

GEISHA GIRL NIPPON TEAPOT, rattan bails handle circa 1891-1921, Creamer/Covered Sugar Set, Tea set/ rice bowls 369-0498 7-9 p.m.

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

THREE "HOUSE OF DENMARK" BOOKCASES - walnut, 3' x 6', containing TV, tape player, turn table, radio/CD. Sold as an entertainment unit including 2 Advent speakers. \$550. Call 526-9273.

MISC. ITEMS - Various proof coin sets, old 78 LP, Old Walt Disney movies (never opened); Girls' bicycle; Collectible Basketball Cards (never opened). Call 526-9123.

MASSEY FERGUSON DIESEL DELUXE 35 WITH POWER STEERING. Completely rebuilt, repainted, new tires. Includes scrape blade, and an 8,000 lbs. tandem axle trailer. Sharp Package! \$6,000. Call (828)526-1684 and leave message.

ANTIQUA CHERRY DINING TABLE

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

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

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1989 MERCEDES 560-SL - 2-door, hardtop convertible. excellent condition. Only 70,000 miles. Always garaged. Black/gray leather. \$15,000. (770) 827-0450,4/29

1998 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE, black, 4 cyl., 5 speed, great on gas! \$1,500 or best offer. 526-4741

SERVICES

SPECIALIZED NANNY/ FAMILY COACH available to assist families struggling with transitions or a child/teen's challenging behavior. 15+ years direct counseling, child development, and family enhancement experience. Call anytime, 828-342-8971. 3/12

DRIVEWAY - ROAD REPAIR - Tractor-Backhoe work, Drainage - Water Mitigation, Gravel Hauled.Reasonable Rates.Free Estimates. Local with references. Call (828) 421-6608. 4/2

CLEAN NOT CLEAN ENOUGH? - Call Details Home Service. 828-342-8853 3/5

24-HOUR CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE. - Companionship, showers, cooking, doctor appts. and shopping. Call Mrs. Myers. 828-349-3479 or 828-342-1603.

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

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

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

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

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

CLOCK REPAIR - Antique or modern, complicated antique clocks are my specialty. Experienced and dependable with housecalls available. Call 706.754.9631. Joseph McGahee, Clockmaker.

FIREWOOD "Nature Dried" Call 526-2251.

HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID TREATMENT & FERTILIZATION - Great Results by J&J Lawn and Landscaping services. NC Licensed Applicator, Highlands, NC 828-526-2251.

J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES - total lawn care and landscaping company. 20 years serving Highlands area. 828-526-2251.

HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE - Atlanta Airport Shuttle. Drive - Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.

Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin, NC
524-3076

March 20-26

KNOWING

rated PG-13

Friday: (4:30), 7:10, 9:30

Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:30), 7:10, 9:30

Mon - Thurs: (4:30), 7:10

DUPLICITY

rated PG-13

Friday: (4:20), 7:00, 9:20

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

Mon - Thurs: (4:20), 7:00

RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN

rated PG

Friday: (4:15), 7:05, 9:15

Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:15), 7:05, 9:15

Mon - Thurs: (4:15), 7:05

FIRED UP!

rated PG-13

Friday: (4)

Sat & Sun: (2), (4)

Mon - Thurs: (4)

WATCHMEN

rated R

Friday: 8

Sat & Sun: 8

Mon - Thurs: 7

\$17 weekly

• SERVICE DIRECTORY •

\$17 weekly

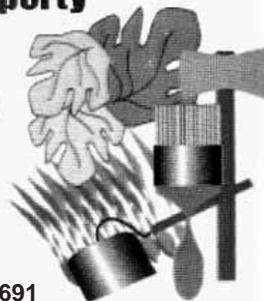
Driveway – Road Repair

Tractor • Backhoe Work
Gravel Hauled & Spread
Drainage • Water Mitigation
Reasonable Rates.
Free Estimates!
Call (828) 421-6608
Local with references

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Mowing - Weed eating
Leaf Brush Removal
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tinarogers@nctv.com

WAYAH Insurance Group

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Great Service • Great Prices

2/5

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Sam Jenkins Brooks thomas

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Tretiakoff.com • Tretiakoff@gmail.com

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Cell: (828) 332-8290
crowecrazy@yahoo.com

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Highlands, NC 28741

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

John Shearl, Owner • 1663 S. 4th St. Highlands



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- Birthday Parties
- Pet Photos
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Sue Laferty
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Highlands, NC 28741
(828) 526-0844
slaferty@verizon.net

Allan Dearth & Sons Generator Sales & Service, Inc.

828-526-9325

Cell: 828-200-1139

email: allandearth@msn.com

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

• POLICE & FIRE •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for Feb. 12-March 13. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Feb. 12

- At 10 a.m., officers responded to breaking and entering with larceny of tables, tents and tent parts valued at \$600, from a storage unit on N.C. 106 south..

March 6

- At 10:29 p.m., officers responded to a possible fight between two parties at the Rec Park.

March 9

- At 2 p.m., property damage was reported at a residence on Oak Street where a basement window had been broken.

March 10

- At 11:59 p.m., officers responded to a call of loud noise and underage drinking at a residence in Trillium Court.

March 12

- At 1:43 a.m., officers responded to a call of loud music at a residence on Main Street.

- At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to RBC Centura Bank where a forged or stolen check was reported.

March 13

- At 1:45 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Horsecove Road where there was a water leak.

- During the week officers made 1 Traffic Stops, issued 15 citations and responded to 1 alarm.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of March 11-18

March 11

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

March 13

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

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers to assist with a possible structure fire but the call was cancelled en route.

- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a business on Main Street. It was false.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Sassafrass Gap Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

March 14

- The dept. provided mutual aid to the Scaly Fire Department for a possible structure fire but the house was full of smoke because the damper was left down in the fireplace.

March 15

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Short Off Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

March 16

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Whiteside Cove Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Library gets spring cleanup



On Monday, March 9, the Grounds Maintenance Crew from Wildcat Cliffs Country Club cleaned up of the grounds at the Hudson Library. The Library's Trustees, staff, and patrons says 'thanks' to everyone on the Wildcat Cliffs Country Club staff who participated in this effort. It is this type of neighborliness that makes the Highlands Community a great place to live.

• FUN & GAMES •

Hex-a-Ku[©] 2009

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

OBJECT:

A mystery word or phrase using all different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words will appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different mystery word or phrase (no spaces). Assign different letters to each square of each column and row.

How to Solve:

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

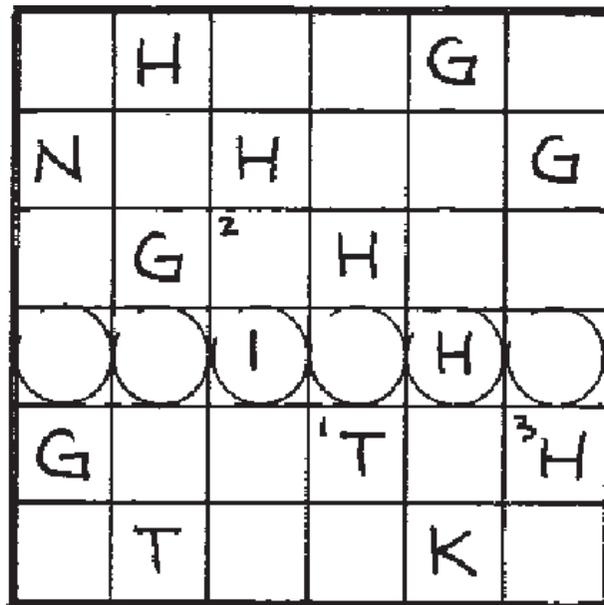
Mystery Word Medieval Soldier (6)

Across

- Seventh musical note (2)

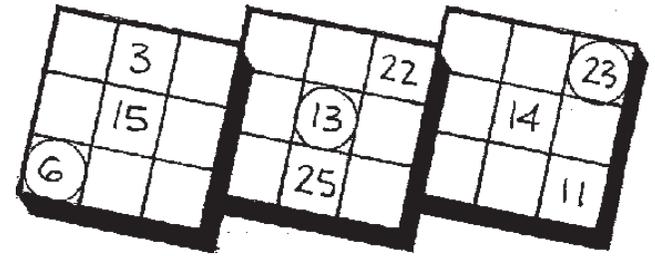
Down

- Can plating (3)
- Hello! (2)



PseudoCube[©]

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#AN3C Level of Difficulty - Moderate

THE SETUP:

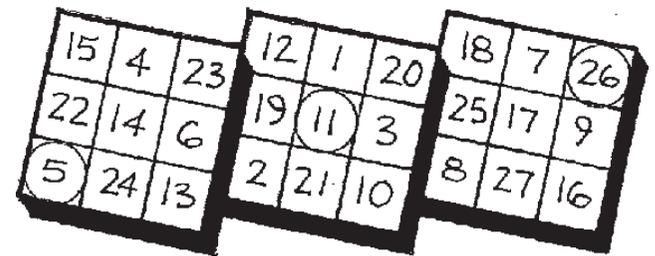
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

THE CHALLENGE:

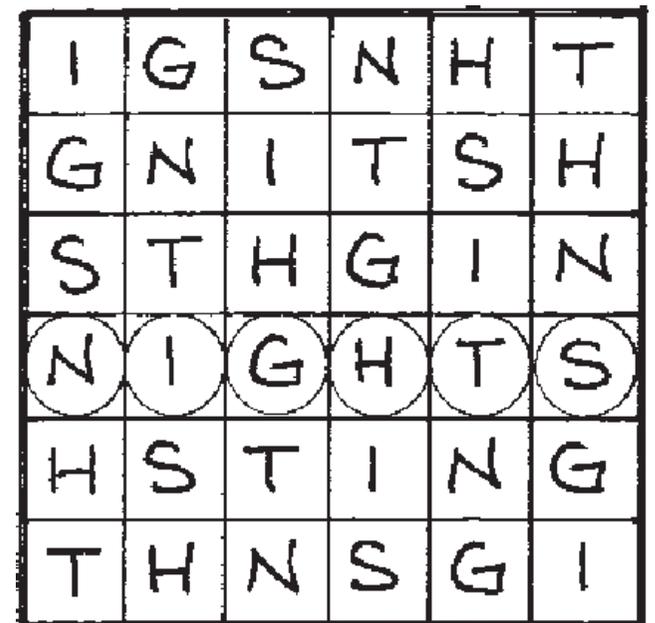
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

Solution to #DN3B in March 12 issue



Solution to March 12 Hex-a-Ku



... LETTERS continued from page 2

na Wildlife Resource Commission, North Carolina Wildlife Federation and others would be wise to consider promoting changes that would help regain a level of sportsmanship and hunting ethics.

(2) The practices of use of radio-collared dogs to hunt bears, deer and others animals should be re-examined. Hunting using this technology virtually eliminates the human factor and hunting skill. Changes would take courage but could be a step towards hunting regaining status as a wholesome outdoor activity and sport.

(3) Abuse of hunting regulations such as baiting, poaching, trespassing, thrill killing and im-

proper disposal of wildlife remains are not adequately enforced or monitored. Violators need to be punished! Often violators do not receive appropriate fines or sentences, and simply resume their illegal behavior. Many responsible hunters and wildlife advocates feel this is a major weakness of the North Carolina Wildlife Commission and other law enforcement agencies.

(4) Finally, outdoor education and responsible hunting emphasis need to be improved beyond the current efforts. Parents, environmental organizations, schools and governing agencies should all be brought on board in an attempt to educate everyone, but especially children, regarding

their roles in protecting hunting rights, wildlife and habitat.

The heritage, tradition and wildlife we all value belongs to all of us — especially on public lands. Responsible stewardship and preservation of our wild animals and wild places is a gift we can give to future generations.

It is felt the NCWRC needs to be more involved in finding ways to fully investigate the extent of the problem of hunting abuses and seek, as well as consider input from wildlife advocates and other interested citizens regarding solutions.

John Edwards
Cachiers
Coordinator of Mountain
Wildlife and Wilderness Days

SOAR activites week of June 8 Volunteers needed

The Special Operations Adventure Race (SOAR) committee members are beginning work on the sixth annual event for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation.

The Committee members have pledged to preserve the legacy of fallen Warriors through the funding of a free college education grant for the children they left behind.

All members of the military forces are placed in harm's way and are considered heroes. The Special Operations Warriors are specially formed units of men who are constantly being deployed on the most hazardous missions. Their training is highly demanding, and only a

select few earn the coveted badges of the Army Green Berets, Delta Force, Navy Seals and Marine and Air Force special operations units. Because many of their missions are highly classified, their successes usually remain unknown to the rest of the world. Hence, they are known as the silent warriors or quiet professionals.

As the war on terrorism continues to unfold, Special Operations forces will be facing new challenges frequently. In fact, there has never been a greater need for Special Operations forces than right now — and Special Operations forces will continue to be the force of choice time and again during the tumultuous period.

Special Operations personnel are conducting more missions in more places and under a broader range of conditions than ever before. These missions entail high operational tempos, heavy and unpredictable deployment schedules, personal hardships and by their very nature, inordinate casualties both in operations and training. Most of these casualties occur at an early age, at the beginning of their careers, thus leaving behind families who have yet to accumulate the resources to provide for their surviving children's college education.

Today more than 700 such deserving children exist who should not be denied the education their fallen parent would surely have wanted for them. The Foundation has become part of a unified effort in addressing the needs of Special Operations personnel wounded in the war against terror.

The Warrior Foundation coordinates with the Special Operations Command to ensure all the needs of the wounded Special Operations forces are met, including providing \$2,000 to meet immediate needs their families face when Special Operations members are hospitalized.

This year's events will take place in June. The golf fundraiser is June 8, the silent auction is June 11, and the race is June 13.

For auction, golf, and donations call Bill and Nancy Horwitz at 526-0224. Volunteers are needed to help with the Adventure Race. For information go to www.soarhighlands.org.

The Girls' Clubhouse spends afternoon at the Eckerd Center



After delivering the St. Patrick's Day cards they had made a few weeks before to residents at the Fidelia-Eckerd Center, members of The Girls' Clubhouse visited with the residents and helped "wheel" several from the dining hall where they had been playing bingo to the front lobby for storytime with Phil. Pictured are Meredith Garren, Ivy Satterwhite, Veronica Garcia, April Moss, Grace Brassard and Elizabeth Houston.

Photos by Supervisor Kim Lewicki

... JOINT continued from page 1

Concerning the percentage of room tax money the county withholds from the Tourism & Travel Authorities for administrative costs, County Manager Jack Horton said that the Indirect Cost Plan has been completed and he will be announcing the percentage over the next couple of weeks. Currently, the county withholds 15%. MC Commission Chairman Beale said it's expected to be less than 15%.

Beale announced that the new county owned and operated animal shelter should open mid- to late-May.

"This will affect the entire county and will be an ever-growing enterprise," said Beale. "Once it opens, we will need agreements with municipalities."

Beale spoke of three other projects close to his heart – projects that will affect citizens in both municipalities – an expanded Senior Citizen Center, expanded child care facilities and community gardens countywide.

He said right now over one-third of all Maconians are over 55 years old. "We have to face the fact that we will need to service these people," he said.

At last week's worksession, Horton outlined the fiscal steps it will take to turn the old library into a senior citizen center. Most of the money has been set aside and most of the work, expect for a new sprinkler system, can be done in-house. He hopes to have the center open by June 30, 2009.

The EMS department will move into the old senior center by WalMart which will enable crews to respond four minutes faster than from the current location in downtown Franklin.

Beale also said there are waiting lists at all the child care facilities in the county, including Macon Program for Progress, which underlines the need for an expanded child care system. The county has formulated a child care study group made up of child care center board members from Highlands and Franklin, to see what is needed and how the county can help.

At the commissioners' worksession in January, Beale introduced the idea of community gardens whose produce could help supplement food banks in the county as well as households. "I've gotten more feedback from this than anything else," he said. "I think this is something people want." Again, a committee has been set up to investigate public property where community gardens could grow as well as the logistics of distributing the produce.

Horton told Highlands and Franklin board members that Solid Waste Manager Chris Stahl will be contacting them concerning a comprehensive solid waste plan required by the state for which he will need their input.

Another issue sure to affect the county and its municipalities is a bill that has been proposed that would penalize counties and municipalities with healthy fund balances by naming them "unqualified" to participate in state-funded programs.

Beale said this is completely unaccept-

able and liaison to the state legislature Commissioner Jim Davis said the county and its municipalities will have to be diligent in their opposition to such moves by the state.

"We're all being penalized for running a tight ship and for having healthy fund balances which enable us to maintain services during times of crisis like Peek's Creek," he said. "Since we have the fund balance, we can do what's necessary and get reimbursements from the state later. We also have an excellent bond rating because of our fund balances."

Beale said the county has contacted Rep. West and Sen. Snow about the bill and expects them to go to bat for Macon County and its municipalities.

He said instead of using the lottery money for schools, there's talk of the state taking the money to offset its \$2 billion deficit. "The \$33 million lottery trust fund is already gone," said Beale.

Franklin Town Manager Sam Greenwood said these recent turn of affairs exemplify the need for municipalities and counties to work hard together against the state.

Commissioner Bobby Koppers, who considers himself the new guy on the block, complemented Beale's compassion and vigilance as commission chairman.

"If there was ever a better county commission chairman, I don't know about him," said Koppers. "This man is at every meeting and is doing everything he can to promote open government, openness by the county commissioners and has made himself available to the people we serve. Everything is out in the open for all to see."

He said beginning with the March 23 meeting, citizens can go to the Macon Funeral Home website, click on "Macon County Commission Meeting" and watch the meeting in progress from their computers.

Mullen introduced Highlands Town Manager Jim Fatland to the group and he, and later Commissioner Dennis DeWolf, said the board is very pleased with its new form of government – that of the Mayor-Manager – and is very pleased with Fatland and the programs and progress he's initiated thus far.

Commissioners Hank Ross and Larry Rogers thanked the county for helping make a regulation-size soccer field a possibility in Highlands.

Ross said the Highlands School Boys Soccer team has won the championships seven years running, and a regulation-size field is a big deal.

Beale said when it's complete it will be a "proud thing" for the school.

He said now that the roof is done, the rest of the work slated for Highlands School will begin as soon as school is out in June. Coming up are new bathrooms in the lobby, bathrooms accessible from the soccer field, the soccer field and a covered entrance-way.

The next joint meeting between the county and its municipalities will be sponsored by the Franklin Town Board in July in Franklin.

– Kim Lewicki

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