

# Highlands' Newspaper

**FREE**

Volume 7, Number 10

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, March 5, 2009

## This Week in Highlands

- The Bascom offers art classes for pre-schoolers to pre-teens from now through the end of the school year. For more information, call 526-4949, ext. 0#.

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

**Mon. & Wed.**

- Middle School students After School Program from 3-5 p.m. at the Rec Park. Call 526-3556.

**Mon., Wed., Fri.**

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

**Wed., & Fri.**

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

**Mondays**

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

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

**Tuesdays**

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

**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.

**Thursdays**

- Friends of Panthertown work days, last Thursday of every month (time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. Call Nina Elliott at 8526-9938 (ext 258).

- 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.

**2nd & 4th Fridays**

- Community Drum Circle at the Highlands Rec Park, from 6-7:30 p.m. Call 421-0551.

**Thursday, March 5**

- Highlands Democratic Precinct meeting will be held Thursday at the Rec Park at 5:30 p.m. For more info call 526-3363.

**Friday-Sunday, March 6-8**

- HCP's American Daughter at PAC 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Call 526-8084 for ticket information.

**Saturday, March 7**

- Set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night before you go to sleep. Fall back SPRING ahead.

## Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
57 / 35F	63 / 37F	61 / 39F

## Board dispatches with business quickly

The Wednesday, March 4 Town Board meeting moved quickly through committee reports, the consent agenda and special agenda requests.

Hillrie Quin with the Greenway Committee had requested \$28,000 from the 2008-2009 Greenway Committee budget allocation of \$100,000. Since the board requires that all funds be approved

in advance, he solicits the board as projects come up. The town previously authorized \$35,000 in Oct. 2008 and \$20,000 in January 2009. After the \$28,000 allocation there will be \$17,000 in the "account" for 2009 budget year.

Quin wasn't at the meeting, however, so Recreation Director Selwyn Chalker said the money is for work on Bear Pen, but the board

decided to rule on the allocation at the March 18 meeting when Quin could attend.

Town Manager Jim Fatland said the Architectural Review Committee met to discuss renovating the current Town Hall and converting the ABC Store to house the Police Department.

By removing the staircase in

• See BOARD page 2

## Highlands Police arrest counterfeiter Tuesday

Since Feb. 17, when employees at the RBC Centura Bank on U.S. 64 west reported receiving a counterfeit \$20 bill, the Highlands Police Department has been on the lookout for the person responsible for bringing the "fake" money to Highlands which was passed at area convenience stores over the following weeks.

Chief Bill Harrell said Tuesday, March 3 around 4:30 p.m. his department executed a search warrant at a residence on Cullasaja Drive in the Highlands. "The search attained what we aspired," said Harrell. "It also included other things and has opened the door to a bigger investigation involving multiple agencies."

Later that evening, Ronald E. Swofford, 35, was arrested on two felony counts for possession of five or more currencies and obtaining property on false pretences.

On Wednesday, March 4, Swofford was charged with one felony count for possession of crystal meth and one misdemeanor for possession of drug paraphernalia which was seized during the initial search on Tuesday. He posted a \$10,000 bond.

Detective Todd Ensley said even

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## A peek at Dry Falls on March 2



Early this week, snow covered the USFS Dry Falls site on U.S. 64 west. It has been closed over a year while being re-engineered to better accommodate visitors and their vehicles. In addition, bathroom facilities have been added to the site. USFS officials hope to re-open the Dry Falls sometime this season.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

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## Quarterly 'law' awards began last week

Beginning Feb. 23, "Special Recognition" awards will be given to area law enforcement members by the Fraternal Order of Police.

At the Monday, Feb. 23 Macon County Commission meeting, president of the organization, Chris Murray, presented the first of what will become a quarterly award to one Macon County Sheriff's Department deputy and three Franklin Police Dept. officers following a search and rescue mission with the Sheriff Dept.'s canine, Abby.

"On January 22, the Franklin Police Department requested the assistance of Macon County Sheriff Dept.'s Deputy James Briggs and his search and rescue canine, Abby," said Murray. "An elderly man had wandered away from his home sometime during the freezing night. What was hoped to be a rescue operation unfortunately became a recover operation."

At the victim's home, Briggs had Abby smell a piece of the victim's clothing and within five minutes, Briggs and Abby tracked and found the victim deceased on the property.

"Tragically, the victim succumbed to the six-degree weather,

• See AWARDS page 14

# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### USFS seeks public coment on long-term management of Upper Tellico Trail system

The US Forest Service is seeking comments on six alternatives for long-term management of the Upper Tellico OHV Trail System. The 39 mile Upper Tellico OHV Trail System is located on the Tusquitee Ranger District, Nantahala National Forest, Cherokee County, NC. In June 2008, the Forest Service initially proposed a reduction in the size of the trail system in order to stem the flow of sediment from the trails into the Tellico River which is classified as a native brook trout stream.

"We received around 1,500 public comments on this initial proposed action," said National Forests in North Carolina Supervisor Marisue Hilliard. "We have completed an environmental assessment (EA) which includes six alternatives and would now like the public's comments on the alternatives and analysis before making a final decision on long-term management of the System," Hilliard added.

"Our analysis indicates that on-the-ground conditions are worse than we first thought," Hilliard said. "The EA shows that the Upper Tellico OHV Trail System has extensive damage and contributes unacceptable levels of sediment into the Tellico River and its tributaries. The Forest Service is in violation of its own standards and North Carolina state water quality standards because visible sediment from the OHV trails is reaching the Tellico River and its tributaries in hundreds of locations," Hilliard said.

"Additionally, since the Upper Tellico River watershed is located in an area of steep terrain, highly erosive soils, and high rainfall, our analysis tells us that maintaining an OHV trail system without causing significant environmental damage at this location would be extremely difficult," Hilliard added.

"After careful consideration of the environmental effects of the alternatives as presented in the EA, my preferred alternative is Alternative C, which closes the OHV System," Hilliard said. Alternative C would maintain over 10 miles of existing Forest system roads (currently also OHV trails), open year-round or seasonally, to provide public access for hunting, fishing and other recreation uses. Trail 1 (FS Road 420-1) would be paved and kept open as a through route for highway-legal vehicles. Closed roads and trails would be stabilized and rehabilitated to eliminate future sedimentation into the Tellico River," Hilliard said.

"I want to emphasize that a final decision has not yet been made. This public re-

view period is an opportunity for you to give us constructive feedback. I encourage you to review the environmental assessment closely and provide us with any information that you think we have not considered adequately" Hilliard said.

The Forest Service is also seeking comment on a proposed temporary closure of the Upper Tellico OHV Trail System for resource protection. It would be effective from April 1, 2009 until a final decision is reached. A final decision on the Upper Tellico OHV trail system is expected by May 2009. Copies of the environmental assessment, proposed temporary closure and additional background information on the Upper Tellico OHV Trail System can be found at <http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/nepa/tusquitee/tellico/tellico.htm>.

nepa/tusquitee/tellico/tellico.htm.

Comments must be postmarked or received within 30 days of the start of the comment period. Comments may be mailed electronically, in a common digital format, to: [comments-southern-north-carolina-nantahala-tusquitee@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-north-carolina-nantahala-tusquitee@fs.fed.us); or by regular mail to: National Forests in North Carolina, Attn: Candace Wyman, 160 A Zillicoa Street, Asheville, NC 28801, or faxed to 828-257-4263. Hand delivered comments must be received within our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information contact: Tusquitee District Ranger, Steve Lohr 828-837-5152 or Candace Wyman, UpperTellico Project Coordinator, at 828-257-4816.

### Veterans Memorial help still needed

Dear Editor,

We are making progress on the Veteran's Memorial of Macon County even though it might not look that way. This memorial is for all veterans of all wars and we hope more citizens will take part in the completion of it.

It will be the largest Veterans Memorial in North Carolina when finished and we

hope it will be the finest.

We want to thank the town of Highlands for its recent generous donation to the memorial and also those in Highlands who have supported us, too.

We are really working hard to raise

•See LETTERS page 3

### 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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### ... BOARD continued from page 1

the Town Hall, more room can be had both upstairs and downstairs to accommodate everyone comfortably for the next few years, said Fatland. "The committee agreed that with water, sewer and recreation projects pending, renovating the Town Hall would be better than building a new building at this time," he said.

Fatland also reported the USDA has grant and loan packages for public service buildings, so when the town is ready to renovate the ABC Store, it could get 15% funding through the grant with the remainder paid by cash or a loan which the USDA is offering at 4% for 20 years.

Public Service Director Lamar Nix reported that the Harris Lake Sewer Project is moving at a better pace and is about 30% complete. He also reported that a compliance inspection at the wastewater treatment plant was conducted this past week and all is well at the plant.

Police Chief Bill Harrell reported that his department responded to 1,825 service call, three vehicle accidents, 15 alarms, one breaking & entering, and two larcenies. Officers also spent 36 hours in court and 100 hours in training.

K-9 officer John Cherry attended re-certification for himself and K-9 partner Ruby at the Carolina Canine Tarheel Academy. School Resource Officer Ronnie Castle completed 60 hours of online training through the NC Justice Academy.

Town Planner Joe Cooley reported that the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) committee met with staff from Land Design on Feb. 12 to further discuss the integration of Highlands ordinances into one comprehensive ordinance.

The committee received a newly structured table of contents and a list of items that need updating and clarification throughout the current zoning code and subdivision ordinance.

He also reported that the Parking and Circulation Study Committee met with Terry Snow from Wilbur Smith on February 25. The group was presented with a new hybrid plan incorporating suggestions from previous committee meetings and discussions.

The board OK'd changes to the Fire & Rescue Department by-laws which were approved by the department at its weekly meeting on Feb. 3.

Changes involved nominees for and election of chief and assistant chief, residency and attendance requirements.

Nominees for the positions for chief and assistant chief must have served as a line officer for one year at some point and must reside in the Highlands Fire & Rescue coverage area and if elected must continue to reside in the coverage area while serving as chief or assistant chief.

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• OBITUARY •

**Richard Jackson Henry**

Richard Jackson Henry, age 31, of Highlands died Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at his residence. He was born in Jackson Co., NC the son of the late Donna Lyn Munger Henry and Richard H. Henry of Highlands, NC. He was a caretaker.

In addition to his father, he is survived by a son, Michael Henry of Satolah, GA; his maternal grandparents, Fred and Madge Munger of Highlands, NC and his paternal grandmother, Marie Reese of Highlands, NC; his sister, Sheena Adams and her husband, Harrison, and sons, Shawn, Kyle and Kevin of Clarksville, GA.

Memorial services will be held Friday, March 6 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands, NC. The family will receive friends Friday, March 6 from 1-2 p.m., one hour prior to service at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.  
Online condolences can be made by visiting [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

... LETTERS continued from page 2

funds so that when we do start to do more physical work at the site, we'll be able to continue without any undue interruptions.

Even though we know the economy has slowed down considerably, we need to strive to complete this project as quickly as possible.

Our "Buy an Honor Brick" campaign is going well, but it isn't fast enough to generate the funds we need to make it ready for our dedication day which we

hope is Memorial Day of this year. Contact us on our website at

[www.veteransmemorialmaconcounty.org](http://www.veteransmemorialmaconcounty.org) to find out how you can take part in honoring our veterans.

I want to thank everyone for their encouragement in getting this worthy project built and hope that we can make it the best that can be built. It is truly a community and regional project and there

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**Democrats!**

On

**Thursday, March 5 a 5:30 p.m.,**

**The Highlands Democrat Precinct will meet at the Rec Park to elect officers for the precinct and help decide the direction we want to see our local party take for the next year. For more information: Call 526-3363.**

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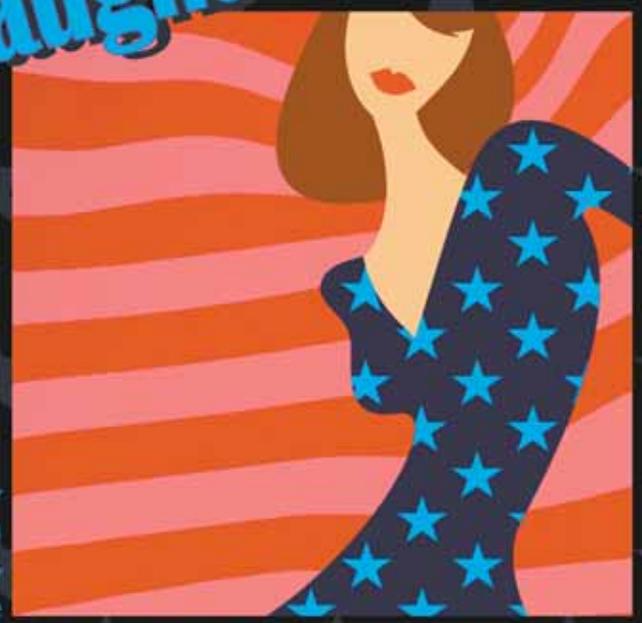
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

**How's your body language?**

**L**aw enforcement officers who work undercover assignments live and die by their ability to lie, cheat and deceive. They must become something they're not and it reaches far beyond their ability to lie or act. They must also be convincing and display no improper body language. When I look back, I get chills

thinking I did that for a full four years. Inappropriate or improper body language can be a killer...literally. While most police officers are taught how to detect lies, undercover officers are also taught how to conceal them. I once took a phenomenal three-day FBI course on body language and lying

techniques. The school used video tapes of people talking to each other. They would freeze and slow-motion the frames to highlight their teaching points. Studying body language is a science. I'm embarrassed to tell you they used a video-taped interview of Pope John Paul as their model. The instructor apologized to the class by saying they weren't picking on the pope or the Catholic church but His Holiness displayed every possible body language mannerism they wanted us to learn. He was, and probably still is, their most visual teaching aid.

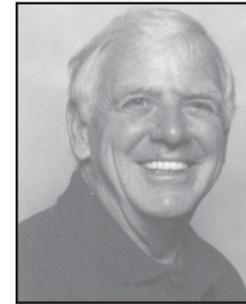
The interview with the pope was conducted by a prominent television newscaster and lasted 30 minutes. It took us the entire day to watch and study it in slow motion, both forward and backward. The gestures with his hands, the eyes and finger movements, the body shifting and a lot more were perfect indications His Holiness was unwittingly sending many hidden messages. I remember sitting there, stunned and fascinated.

That was a long time ago and I have become rusty at reading body language. I've forgotten many of the body signals, especially the subtle ones, but, if I concentrate, I can still read a person who is open and not protective of his or her mannerisms.

And here's a fun story that wasn't so fun at the time. The first time I met with a drug dealer after attending body language school, the guy chit-chatted with me for a few minutes on vapid topics, then turned to his bodyguard and said, "This guy's a cop and we're outta here." Fortunately, they walked away.

I find it difficult to watch cop shows on TV. Like most stuff, it's pure bull, especially CSI, Miami, with that red-headed Bozo. Who talks like that? But I shouldn't pick on CSI because they're all garbage.

Waaay back in my day, if we had a suspect who we thought strangled and raped a small child we wouldn't bring him into an interrogation room with a desk and two chairs, then threaten and sweat him under the lights for hours. Horse feathers!



**Fred Wooldridge**

**Feedback is encouraged!**  
**email:**  
**askfredanything@aol.com**

Our interrogators would take our murder suspect to an office, sit him in a comfortable chair, offer cigarettes even though smoking wasn't permitted, and make him coffee. We made sure there were no physical barriers, especially a table, between the suspect and the interrogator. The officer would apologize for having to handcuff the suspect, explaining it's a stupid police regulation.

The interrogator would sit directly in front of the suspect, legs spread open and arms resting comfortably on the chair arms. Then the officer would display a warm smile and try to convince the suspect that killing and raping a small child is not a bad thing; she was probably a brat and deserved it.

The worse thing the interrogator can do is put an object between him and the murderer.

The interrogator is creating positive body language and telegraphing he's a friend. At first, the officer will talk about anything but the rape and murder. When, and if, he sees the suspect open up by displaying positive body language, he can make his move.

Sometimes it takes lots of cigarettes, lots of coffee and sometimes even a meal. Sometimes none of it works. In that case, the interrogator's body language changes drastically. He gets out a large phone book and threatens to beat the suspect to a pulp. The parents of murdered children are always pleased with this style of body language. Remember, the goal is to eventually strap the guy into an electric chair.

And finally, here's a little body language tip for you hubbies out there. If you ever stay out late and drink too much, don't try to tip-toe to the bedroom without being detected. It ain't gonna happen. Instead, kick open the bedroom door, rip off your clothes and shout, "Who wants to have sex?" Terrified of your body language, she won't move a muscle and you can quietly slip into bed. Of course, there will be hell to pay the next morning.

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

**What fuels your passion?**

I usually visit my first patient before changing into scrubs. The patient is likely to see me in jeans and a sweat shirt. Last week, an 84-year-old woman read my sweat shirt and asked, "Do you like Whistler?"

"Yeah, not as much as Steamboat, but it's a fine mountain," I answered.

"Whistler is my favorite artist," she replied as if she hadn't heard me. She went on to say that the day she walked into the Met and discovered Impressionist art was the happiest of her life. I told her that I had had a paler version of her experience when I walked into the Impressionist wing of the National Gallery. I wondered if discovering art could really be the highlight of a person's life. She certainly seemed sincere, if a little goofy, and that may have been because she didn't know that Whistler was also a ski mountain. I must admit to a certain skepticism regarding such reports. When I hear a person gush about a fine vintage wine or rave about a brilliant opera, I tend to think that he is trying to impress me rather than expressing genuine feelings. Of course, that fails to explain why he would want to impress me. My sister Marguerite claims to love ballet. I attended a few ballets years ago, in hopes of picking up skinny chicks. I was thrilled by Bayshnikov, but I was usually waiting impatiently for intermission and a chance to prowl the lobby. I begged Marguerite to tell the truth and admit that she would really rather see a good movie than a ballet. I didn't pull out her finger nails, but I did my best to break her. She still insists that she loves ballet, although our relationship is healthier if we avoid the subject. I've never experienced such passion, except maybe for Shelia Nolte in eighth grade, so it's hard for me to accept. It might be genuine disbelief, but it just could result from envy.

Years ago, my buddy and I were cycling in Florida. We stopped for breakfast on Sunday morning in Bonita Springs. The place was a restaurant, bar, and bowling alley, all doing a thriving business before church. It wouldn't have been so shocking if the bar had been closed, or if they didn't open the restaurant until noon, or if there hadn't been several people knocking down strikes. Somehow, the pieces didn't fit, but the bowlers seemed happy, the eggs



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.**

**email: [hsalzarulo@aol.com](mailto:hsalzarulo@aol.com)**

and grits were good, and the old guy at the bar seemed ready to jump start his day with a shot of bourbon. Steve and I had debated for years if anyone really liked the taste of bourbon. We had both tried, but agreed that it was impossible to enjoy that searing sensation, no matter how smooth the manufacturer claimed his product to be. The old guy sitting at the bar with his wallet on a chain, his shoulders slumped

forward, his clothes dirty and disheveled, his cheeks hollow and his eyes empty was to be our test case. He had obviously had years to develop a taste for liquor. He ordered and we waited, wondering if he would exhibit satisfaction or pain, curious if he was drinking for taste or effect. When his shot arrived he threw it back, shuddered, winced, and made a face that revealed more pain than pleasure. We closed the book on our debate and concluded that if this guy couldn't enjoy the taste of booze, nobody could.

Citizens of Highlands are generous with the arts, and I've always suspected for most, the donations were intended more to impress their neighbors than to enrich their souls. I've wondered how the community could raise hundreds of thousands to support the local art scene, but only a few thousand to fight hunger in Haiti, malaria in Africa, or illiteracy in Macon County. I haven't raised the question before, fearing that the few thousand might dry up. I wondered about priorities when perhaps I should have been trying to understand passion. I doubt that English soccer fans, the ones we call thugs, are moved to violence by their passion in their souls as much as by the booze in their bellies, but I suppose it is possible. Maybe legions of NFL fans are worshiping their super-sized gods, instead of, as I have always assumed, just showing off and getting loud. Maybe groupies follow rock bands for the music and maybe folks smoke marijuana for the flavor of the smoke. Maybe, but I doubt it.

I understand the passion that drives Dr. Paul Farmer or Tiger Woods. But if the old lady was on the level when she read my sweat shirt and claimed that a day in the Met had changed her life, and I believe that she was, then perhaps I've badly underestimated the drive that moves my neighbors.

... COUNTERFEITER continued from page 1

though Swofford has been arrested in the matter, local businesses and citizens should still be aware of people attempting to buy merchandise or pay for services with counterfeit bills. "It would be a good idea to purchase a counterfeit detection pen and to use it," he said.

Counterfeit detection pens are available at Highlands Office Supply in Highlands Plaza next to Bryson's Food Store for \$5.95. A counterfeit detector pen is a felt tip pen containing an iodine solution. Simply make a small mark on the bill and if the ink turns dark brown or black, the bill is suspect. Retailers then may request another bill to pay for the purchase, said officials.

Detector pens, although not fool-proof, are an effective way to identify computer-generated counterfeit bills because the iodine solution in a detector pen reacts with starch, which is commonly found in the wood-based copy paper used by most printers.

If the bill is counterfeit and the paper is wood-based, the iodine in the pen solution will react with the starch and leave a dark brown or black mark. If the bill is authentic and the paper is fiber-based, there won't be any starch and the pen will not leave a mark.

Pens can screen about 3,000 bills before the iodine "ink" runs out.

Detective Ensley said if a counterfeit bill is detected, people should call Dispatch at 526-4131 or call 9-1-1.

- Kim Lewicki

**Does Your "To Do" List Look Like This?**

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

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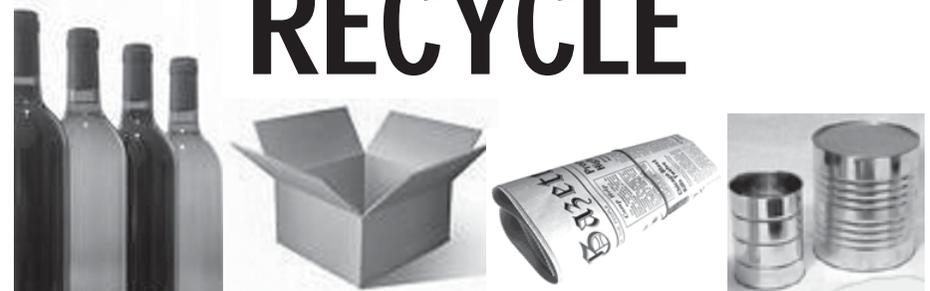
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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

**The 'Vision Thing'**

**T**hank God we have a President with a vision. I didn't watch President Obama's speech last week because we don't have television, but I read the transcript, and this sentence jumped out at me: "In the next few days, I will submit a budget to Congress. ... I see it as a vision for America, as a blueprint for our future."



Katie Brugger  
k-brugger@hotmail.com

There were many times when I wondered why George W. Bush had ever wanted to be President. He was like his father, a man without a vision. You may remember the famous phrase George H.W. Bush uttered in exasperation during the 1988 presidential campaign, "Oh, you mean the vision thing." Bush Sr. recognized that he lacked any ideas or principles comparable to those of Ronald Reagan. Columnist George Will complained about him, "He does not say why he wants to be there, so the public does not know why it should care if he gets his way." Unfortunately, the son was very much like the father in this department.

I think this is why our country is in such dire straits right now. We have been adrift for a decade or more, in desperate need of a leader with vision.

I had been getting a little nervous that Obama would decide that his campaign promises to reform health care and invest in alternative energy would be dropped from the agenda because there was no money. In my mind a good part of the reason our economy is in such dreadful shape is entirely because we have neglected these two areas that have been crying out for change for decades.

Reading the speech I was relieved to hear that Obama shares this perspective and is moving ahead on these promises.

Obama said, "History reminds us that, at every moment of economic upheaval and transformation, this nation has responded with bold action and big ideas. In the midst of civil war, we laid railroad tracks from one coast to another that spurred commerce and industry. From the turmoil of the Industrial Revolution came a system of public high schools that prepared our citizens for a new age. In the wake of war and depression, the G.I. Bill sent a generation to college and created the largest middle-class in history. And a twilight struggle for freedom led to a nation of highways, an American on the moon, and an explosion of technology that still shapes our world... We are a nation that has seen promise amid peril and claimed opportu-

nity from ordeal. Now we must be that nation again. That is why, even as it cuts back on programs we don't need, the budget I submit will invest in the three areas that are absolutely critical to our economic future: energy, health care, and education."

I'll just talk about energy here, although I support the president's efforts on all three fronts. The benefits from investing in alternative energy are, to me, obvious and plentiful.

First of all, to import the oil we use for our cars, trucks, and heating, we send one billion dollars abroad every day, and most of that goes to countries with repressive regimes. Small wonder, then, that the overwhelming judgment from 100 foreign policy experts polled in Foreign Policy magazine a few years ago is that the highest priority in fighting terrorism must be to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil. If you'd like to read more about this, look for articles by Thomas Friedman on his "geo-green" strategy.

What would it do for our economy if those \$365 billion dollars a year stayed in this country and were invested in the output of new-energy entrepreneurs? The development of alternative energies to make us energy independent is possible; all it takes is the will to do it. And it could be the key to revitalizing the American economy.

Last summer I interviewed Terry Tritt, native of Highlands and professor of physics at Clemson University. His specialty is "thermal-electric materials," that is, generating electricity from thermal energy (heat). Heat is the waste-product of a lot of mechanical processes, and his research promises to find ways to tap that wasted fuel and utilize it. He has spoken to automobile manufacturers to help them learn how to catch the heat that escapes out the tailpipes of our cars — about two-thirds of the energy from burning gas — and funnel that back into electrical power to run the car. Dr. Tritt is also developing new solar panel technologies that capture the thermal energy of sunlight and convert that to electricity alongside the photovoltaic processors, so the amount of electricity a single solar panel can generate will be considerably expanded.

Last fall ("Green Power" Sept 18, 2008) I wrote about a *Scientific American* article, "A Solar Grand Plan," from De

• HIS & HERS •

**If you liked King George, you'll love Barack Obama**

by **John Armor**

I've spent the last few days at the Conservative Political Action Committee Annual Meeting. Saturday I was part of a panel discussion on New Media and Talk Radio. The main subject was various methods by which the Administration and certain Members of Congress seek to restrict free speech of certain public discussions. When preparing for that, I realized there are parallels between the beginnings of America and now.

And parallels between King George III and President Barack Obama.

The first person to use the phrase "The United States of America" was the same man who taught residents of the nations from Massachusetts down to North Carolina that they were all Americans. That was Thomas Paine. His book, Common Sense, sold about 500,000 copies in 1776. But that revolutionary text reached most people in verbal form.

Most Americans then were illiterate. They learned what Paine wrote, and enough of them committed to the cause to begin the Revolutionary War, by hearing his words, not reading them. They heard those words and responded in thousands of taverns and other public places, the length and breadth of the nation. That is a nearly direct parallel to the new media today, where broadband, and audio, and video communications are allowing all Americans to talk to all other Americans directly, though in a haphazard way as yet.

There is another parallel between then and now. King George III sought to prevent Americans from having unknown, direct contacts with large numbers of other Americans. He had two methods of attempting such control.

One was in the Stamp Act, requiring all major documents including wills, court documents and newspapers to be published on paper bearing the royal seal. That requirement had two purposes. One was to extract taxes from the colonists. The other was control political speech.

The stamped paper could only be purchased from the Royal Governors of each state. And those gentlemen, appointed by the Crown, could refuse to sell paper to any editor/publisher whose views they found unacceptable.



**Michelle Mead-Armor & John Armor**  
 michiemead@aol.com  
 John\_Armor@aya.yale.edu

Due to huge protests, the Stamp Act was repealed in 1774. However, there was another method of control by the King. All printing presses had to be licensed by the Crown, through the Royal Governors.

A number of Members of Congress and some reporters on the left side of the main steam media have spoken in favor of reinstating the "Fairness" Doctrine. To make a long story short, that was a requirement established when there were very few broadcast outlets, far less than print media. On that scarcity basis, the Supreme Court upheld the Doctrine in the Red Lion case in 1969.

As everyone is well aware, today the print media are dying while the electronic media are thriving. (Except, of course, for Highlands' Newspaper which offers readers both forms of media!) The scarcity now is among newspapers and magazines. The "Fairness" Doctrine was abolished in 1987 as unnecessary.

In the D.C. Voting Rights bill that passed the Senate this week, Senator Jim DeMint (R., S.C.) offered a successful amendment to bar reinstatement of the Doctrine. But also in that bill was a successful amendment from Senator Dick Durbin (D., Ill.) which would direct the FCC to take positive steps to enforce "diversity" among broadcasters. Diversity used to be a code word for whether the owners of stations are sufficiently black. Today, it may mean whether the on-air hosts are sufficiently leftwing, or whatever else a majority of the FCC want it to mean.

The other route to the same end is the proposed establishment of Community Boards. Those would decide whether each station was broadcasting programs which, in the sole view of the Boards, were serving the "local" interests of the listeners.

So, where is there a whiff of the tactics of King George in these modern actions? President Obama has announced that he opposes the reestablishment of the "Fairness" Doctrine. He has made no public statement on the other two ways of controlling the new media, especially talk radio. There are good reasons to be-

• See HIS & HERS page 21

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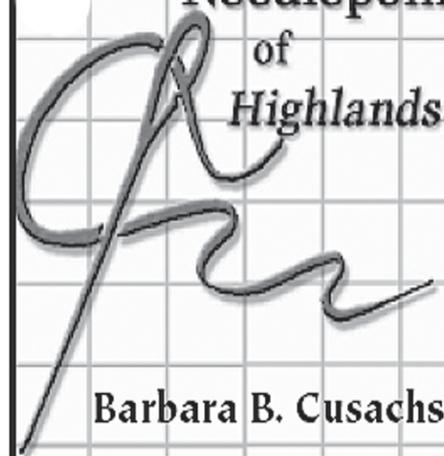
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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

**The odyssey of the odd couple**

**W**ell, here I sit, staring at a blank computer screen, it's Sunday night and I have waking hours numbered in single digits before my deadline. I had actually started a few days ago, and I made some clever remarks dealing with Fred's reversion to his preoccupation with animal sex (it's currently camels) and mystically, it dis-

appeared. Have no idea where it went. I guess I wasn't supposed to bring up such a sordid subject, so I won't.

There are enough sordid subjects flying around and frankly, I'm sick of the whole thing. I am learning about a lot of television channels I knew nothing about, because sometime between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., every day, the messiah ap-

pears on the news channels to drop another bomb on the taxpayers. I can't bear to watch him, or listen to his voice, so I seek solace elsewhere. Obviously, the financial channels are no help, so I find myself watching the weather channel much of the time. Thank goodness there is some interesting weather going on.

Speaking of weather, another delicious bit of irony, or justice, if you prefer, appears to be shaping up. The weather channel tells me that Washington DC is going to receive a foot of snow in the current storm that should reach its peak during Monday. As fate would have it, Dr. James Hansen, wacko ecoterrorist friend of Al Gore, is organizing a civilly disobedient event for tomorrow to protest global warming. Ninety or so organizations are sending people to surround the Capitol Power Plant in Washington to "peacefully disrupt operations." Good luck with that.

Hansen is a strange case. In my opinion, I believe he is living proof that the world has totally unraveled. He has headed the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies since 1981. To shallow thinking folks like myself, one would assume this guy would be beyond reproach. Curiously, he and his global warming fanaticism have been assailed for years yet he continues to hold what sounds to me like a seriously prestigious position.

According to Wikipedia, "Hansen is best known for his research in the field of climatology, his testimony on climate change to congressional committees in the 1980s that helped raise broad awareness of global warming, and his advocacy of action to limit the impacts of climate change." So this fellow has been at it for nearly three decades at a very high level and has a certain level of credibility.

It is not hard to understand how and why he prospered under the Clinton Administration since he was A Gore's front man. I can't make a direct connection between Hansen and Gore prior to 1992, but Gore's stint in the Senate before being chosen as VP certainly gave him plenty of exposure to Hansen's crusade to cleanse the world of greenhouse gases, particularly those caused by coal burning plants.

His anti-coal fetish has since blossomed into full-fledged global warming



**Don Swanson**  
Feedback is encouraged. Email [swanson@dnnet.net](mailto:swanson@dnnet.net)

hysteria and he makes no bones about it, wherein lies the rub. While heading an important federal government organization, Hansen has made many public statements clearly going way beyond current science. I admit I don't know how these things work, but how he survived the Bush Administration is a mystery to me. He often made outrageous claims directly at odds with

Bush's policy and was publicly shushed on many occasions, yet he survived.

I Googled "James Hansen fraud" and found 139,000 entries. I scanned the first few and found this gem. From the Investors Business Daily, "NASA bureaucrat, who has been making a pretty penny by helping Al Gore prop up the global warming hoax, is a veteran of the global cooling hoax popular in 1970.

A 1971 Washington Post scare piece entitled 'U.S. Scientist Sees New Ice Age Coming' fretted that burning fossil fuels discharges particles in the atmosphere that reflect the sun's rays back into space. Emissions over 5-10 years supposedly 'could be sufficient to trigger an ice age.'

The research behind this hysteria was supported by a 'computer program developed by Dr. James Hansen, the same guy who now refers to those who won't drink the global warming Kool-Aid as "court jesters."

Early in Hansen's career, he centered his concentration on the atmosphere of Venus. While many have thought that Gore was transported from Mars to Earth on some interplanetary vehicle, perhaps his association with Hansen may have originated in another place. I never understood the Mars/Venus thing so I defer to the columnist who is the authority on such matters, however, it may explain how two public figures can collaborate to deceive the world on such a significant issue.

While Hansen organizes his "civil disobedience event," Congress is about to pass a bill that will cost you \$600 billion to pay for a cap-and-trade program that Gore has been engineering for decades. It proves the point that, in America, you can accomplish anything through persistence (and deception). Also, if you repeat a lie often enough, to many people, it becomes the truth.

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## • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

### Prepare for the joy of Easter



Rev. Dean Cesa

Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church

**W**ell, we're a little more than a week into Lent, this Christian season of 40 days before Easter where we voluntarily choose to deprive ourselves of something in likeness to Jesus. We go against our culture's tendency toward consumption. We choose to live *without* something – chocolate, meat, coffee, soda, our favorite TV show. This is counter-cultural, like Jesus.

Just after his baptism, Jesus is commissioned to make the kingdom of God manifest. He'll do this by preaching, teaching, healing, forgiving and serving. One might think that in preparation for this he should take a public speaking class, perhaps some Old Testament scripture study. Maybe a class in crowd control. Instead, he goes into the desert for forty days to fast. A strange preparation to be sure, but it is where the church derives its discipline of Lent.

This hearkens back to Moses wandering for 40 years in the desert with the Israelites. They had cried out to be saved from the oppression of slave labor. God sent them Moses to win their freedom through great signs and wonders. They had boldly marked their door posts with the blood of the sacrificed lamb. It was a public display of their allegiance to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It saved their first-born from the destroying angel. It won their freedom from slavery in Egypt. But freedom cost them all the hardships of desert life – lack of food and water, being continuously unsettled, nomadic and roaming about seemingly aimlessly. Though wavering, Moses called on them to put their faith in God. God would supply what they needed – water from the rock, the manna and the quail. God was with them, supporting them all through their journey to the Promised Land.

And so it is with us. We all reach a point in our lives. Perhaps it is some tragedy – the loss of a job, the diagnosis of a serious illness, the loss of a loved one. We call out like the Israelites for help. Is there anyone listening? Do they care? Will they respond? If we are attentive to our experience, the response comes. Someone is listening who cares for us. We state our belief and are saved. Then comes the desert. This new way of living can seem at times like the aimless wanderings of the Israelites. It can seem to make no more sense than Jesus fasting for 40 days. But then something happens. Perhaps forty days gives us enough time to begin to look back at the experience, to reflect on how far we have come. Then the sacrifices don't seem that difficult. Divine assistance is seen along the way. Trust has grown; faith is strengthened. And like the experience of resurrection, we are filled with joy.

Take that journey this Lent. It's not too late to start. Choose something to "give up" Call on the Lord to help you. Watch for experiences of God's help. Be ready for the joy of Easter.

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Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.  
Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m.  
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Pastor Everett Brewer  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.  
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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**  
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Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School  
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Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.  
Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group  
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group  
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry  
Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice  
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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 &  
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Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers  
Choir – 7

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11



• BUSINESS NEWS •

Agents recognized

Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles reported that Gary Garren was named Top Listing Agent for February and Cathy Garren was named Top Selling Agent for February.

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- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Highlands' Newspaper

**St. Paddy's on their mind**



Last Friday, members of The Girls' Clubhouse stayed indoors to make St. Patrick's Day cards for the residents at the Fidelia Eckerd home who they will visit prior to the day. Pictured from left are Elizabeth Houston, Meredith Garren, Veronica Garcia, Grace Brassard, McKinley Moses and Ivy Satterwhite. Not pictured is April Moss. Photo by Supervisor Kim Lewicki

**WCU's Mountain Heritage Center puts log cabin up for sale**

Abraham Lincoln wasn't born in it, but staff members at Western Carolina University's Mountain Heritage Center hope a log cabin they have for sale will attract a big bid that will provide the museum with some much-needed funding.

Handmade by master craftsman R.O. Wilson of Cullowhee in 1983, the 12-foot by 16-foot cabin possesses no historic value, said Scott Philyaw, director of the Mountain Heritage Center. Wilson built the cabin to serve as one component of the museum's Scotch-Irish exhibit, and the structure has been used as an indoor "prop" for that exhibit over the years, he said.

The cabin was constructed with poplar logs joined with half-dovetailed notches, and it was roofed with hand-split red oak shingles. It comes with a wooden door and window shutter. There is a cut-out for a chimney in the cabin wall, but no chimney, Philyaw said.

Philyaw said the primary reason the museum is selling the cabin is to free up exhibit and storage space. Proceeds from the sale will be used to update the Scotch-Irish

exhibit. "The sale of the cabin is not directly tied to the fiscal crisis that currently faces state government, but the revenue we gain will be welcome in these lean budget times," Philyaw said.

Online bids will be received by the state until they are opened at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10. The minimum bid is \$8,000. Prospective bidders should visit the state's surplus property Web site at <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/ssp/>. Click on "View Available Items on Sealed Bid" and, on the next page, look for "Cullowhee, Western Carolina University" in the "Location" drop-down list.

The winning bidder would need to remove the structure from the Mountain Heritage Center by Sunday, March 29. Depending on timing, Wilson may be available to advise the new owner on the best way to remove and reconstruct the cabin, Philyaw said.

For more information, contact Philyaw or Trevor Jones, Mountain Heritage Center curator, at (828) 227-7129.

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## Libraries boom in economic downturns

By Katie Brugger

When the economy turns down, library use goes up. "We know that libraries are a powerful resource for communities in times of economic downturn," said Mark Pumphrey, President of the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association.

Librarian Mary Lou Worley noted, "The Hudson Library has seen the number of users increase by 1,700 in the months July 2008 to January 2009 compared to the same period a year earlier." Karen Wallace, Macon County Librarian, said, "Circulation is up 8% at the Hudson Library (over 17,000 items were checked out in July-Dec. 2008) compared to the same period in 2007. Similar increases have been measured in all of our Fontana Regional Libraries."

If you haven't visited the Hudson Library in a while, you might want to make a trip to check out all the services it offers these days. The library has a whole lot more than just books and it's a place that can actually help you save money. One of the greatest entertainment values is reading books, and this goes for kids too! There are hours of enjoyment in every book, and they are all free from the library.

The Hudson Library is home to an amazing collection of 20,000 volumes: fiction, nonfiction, children's books, large-print books, reference materials and sources of regional and local interest. In addition, the collection is continuously updated with some of the hottest new bestsellers.

One way to save money is by canceling magazine subscriptions and borrowing them from the library. The Hudson Library subscribes to over 50 magazines, including Architectural Digest, The Atlantic, Discover, and Sky and Telescope. The current issue of the magazines cannot be checked out, but older issues can. The newspapers available to read in the library include the Sunday New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Barron's, and Asheville Citizen-Times.

The library stocks an ever-expanding list of DVDs in a wide range of genres: from old comedies like Three Stooges to classic films like Some Like it Hot to more modern fare such as Seabiscuit to foreign films such as Babette's Feast. There are also educational films such as the Sunnylands Sem-

inar series about the U.S. government; nature programs such as March of the Penguins; and historical titles such as Victory at Sea: WWII. The library also has every episode of the local TV show, Heart of the High Country. DVDs cost just one dollar to check out.

The Hudson Library offers free internet access on library computers and wireless access for your laptop, so you can save money on internet access fees.

The librarians can also assist you with the resources you need for a job search. You can use the library computers to prepare a resume, research available jobs, and apply for a job online.

Bad economic times are a good time to develop new skills, and the library is a phenomenal educational resource. Once again, on the computers you can research educational opportunities and financial aid. You can have an exam for an online course proctored for free at the library.

Another way to save money is to do repairs or make things yourself, and the Hudson Library is loaded with do-it-yourself books of all sorts. Home repair books are located in the (Dewey Decimal) 640s: "When Duct Tape Just Isn't Enough," 643.7P, for example. If you'd like to learn to make your own furniture, look for #684 and the woodworking and furniture making books: "Measure Twice, Cut Once," 684A.

Spring is coming and a vegetable garden is another excellent way to save money while eating better. Gardening books are # 635: "Grow Vegetables: In Yards, on Balconies, on Terraces" 635B.

Or you could sew your own clothes! Sewing books are # 646: "Sewing Secrets from the Fashion Industry" 646.4H.

Many people keep their automobiles longer during bad times and need to know about repairs. The library has books on auto repair too, # 629: "Car Smarts: Easy to Use Guide to Understanding Your Car and Communicating with your Mechanic" 629.28J

And if you'd like some help with your personal finances, go to 332: "Wall Street Journal Guide to Understanding Money and Investing" 332.6M

Librarians are information specialists and they are a great free resource for finding the information you need.

•See LIBRARY page 21

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# Locally, 315 acres were permanently protected in 2008

## Economic downturn creates hardship but opportunity for area land trusts

North Carolina mountain land trusts continue working with families to voluntarily protect their land even with the down economy. In 2008 Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust protected 241 acres in Macon and Jackson counties, the equivalent of 242 football fields. Conserved properties include The Mountain Retreat (80 acres), Doubletop Mountain (68 acres), Sapphire Sanctuary (52 acres), Brushyface (11 acres), and 10 acres on Satulah Mountain. Cedar Cliffs, a 74 acre site in Jackson County, was also transferred to the State of North Carolina for protection.

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and their nine coalition partners comprise the Blue Ridge Forever coalition, which has a five-year goal to protect 50,000 acres by 2010. In 2008, the coalition protected 10,298 acres in 25 counties, for a total of 34,746 acres protected in the first three years of the campaign, 2006-08. In other words, at least 250 willing landowners made the commitment to permanently conserve their property, resulting in an average of 1.6 closings each week.

"Our coalition is on track to meet our goal with a little more than 15,000 acres to protect in the next two years. That will require commitments from about 166 more families if the last three years' trends continue," said Gary Wein, HCLT's executive director. "We are on track to complete some 10 conservation easements in 2009, conserving nearly 700 acres. However, we are not immune to the economic crisis and are going to have to be extremely strategic to meet this ambitious goal." Local Land Trusts that are members of the Blue Ridge Forever Coalition include HCLT and the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee.

Land trusts are non-profit conservation organizations that permanently protect land and water for future generations. All of the members of the Blue Ridge Forever coalition are qualified to negotiate conservation agreements and to work with state organizations to purchase lands for protection.

Nationally, only two percent of philanthropy goes to environmental causes. Land trusts are already tightening their belts as donations to non-profits generally are expected to decline in 2009. Additionally, the land trusts rely on state funds for many of acquisition projects and are concerned that North Carolina's budget challenges may result in decreased funding for conservation this year. State funding accounted for nearly 40 percent of the Western North Carolina protection projects in 2008 received state funding and a third of the total costs for land protection during the Blue Ridge Forever campaign.

The difficult economy provides opportunities for land trusts as well. In the early part of this decade, development in Western North Carolina was so fast paced that the land trusts simply could not keep up as key tracts of land were bulldozed for development. As the economy has slowed, so has development, giving the land trusts an opportunity to protect the beautiful and threatened places highlighted in the Blue Ridge Forever Conservation Vision.

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust has prepared to weather the economic downturn. "We have set priorities for the places most in need of protection and will share resources with the other land trusts to save these places as



This shot is from the top of Satulah, looking at Whiteside. HCLT protects over 50 acres on the summit of Satulah, the first property we acquired in 1909.

efficiently as possible," states Wein.

"The community's support – through donations and letters endorsing funding for conservation to policy-makers – will be vital as we continue to protect the places we love."

• *Blue Ridge Forever* is a coalition campaign led by local land trusts and national conservation organizations to

raise public awareness and financial resources to safeguard land and water in the Southern Blue Ridge for present and future generations. The coalition works in local communities to ensure that critical lands are protected for clean drinking water, recreation, wildlife habitats, tourism, and working farms. To learn more, visit [www.blueridgeforever.info](http://www.blueridgeforever.info).

## Did you know the Rossetter sisters?

The Florida Historical Society has named Stuart Ferguson, who writes book reviews for Cyrano's Bookshop, its 2009 Rossetter Scholar, and is giving him a small stipend to write a book on the two ladies — Caroline and Ella Rossetter — who left their estate to the historical society so their 19th-century family home can be turned into a museum. For the past couple of years, Ferguson has been site manager of Historic Rossetter Museum).

Ella died in the early 1990s; Carrie died in 1999, aged 101.

The Rossetter sisters lived in Eau Gallie, FL, which is part of Melbourne, FL today, but they spent their vacations at High Hampton Inn in Cashiers, and did most of their shopping in Highlands at Wit's End and the Stone Lantern. They also attended mass at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church and visited friends in Highlands whenever in the area.

Ferguson is planning a chapter in the book about their time in Highlands and Cashiers. He's asking anyone who remembers the Rossetter sisters – either Caroline or Ella — to contact him by e-mail or phone.

Email: [Stuart.Ferguson@myfloridahistory.org](mailto:Stuart.Ferguson@myfloridahistory.org) or [StuartMFerguson@hotmail.com](mailto:StuartMFerguson@hotmail.com) and his cell phone number is (321) 693-7829.



Above are the Rossetter sisters in their garden in the late 1960s). Left is Caroline Rossetter (1898-1999) who was known for her hats, and her sister Ella (1900-1993) who always wore something nautical..

## • COACH'S CORNER •

### Appreciate the 'Diesel'

As both a sportswriter and a member of the male species, one of the most difficult things for members of my "kind" to do is admit when we are wrong.

However, today is a day when I am going to have to come through with a mea culpa in that I was wrong about Shaquille O'Neal...dead wrong.

My hatred for O'Neal began when he was just a youngster at LSU — his matchups with Duke's Christian Laettner were legendary. I was in awe of the athleticism of Shaq, but I also saw him as cocky — which is ironic looking back because of what a jerk Laettner was in college.

I scoffed at the notion that O'Neal should have been on the original dream team instead of Laettner, and was frustrated when O'Neal was selected ahead of Laettner in the NBA draft. I will remind you that I was a blatant homer at the age of 12, so it was perfectly acceptable for me to have these feelings.

I feel like all of us tend to group players into four major groups. There are those we like, those we hate, those we grudgingly respect, and then those we are indifferent toward.

Shaq certainly found his way into the "hated" category because of his college antics, but what sealed it for me was the 2000 Western Conference Finals, in which horrible officiating allowed the Lakers to take the series and cement my feelings about everything that was wrong with the NBA.

Fast-forward eight years later, where a supposedly over the hill O'Neal was traded to Phoenix in what looked to be



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

one of the worst trades in NBA history. The Suns were a run and gun team led by Steve Nash, and Shaq looked to be the square peg that would slow down the Suns scoring machine.

However, after an off-season makeover, the Suns are being led by a rejuvenated Diesel, who is having one of the best stretches lately of his illustrious 16-year career. Throughout his last five games O'Neal is 52-75 from the field (69.3%) including a 20-25 performance against the Toronto Raptors in which he scored 45 points and demoralized the entire Raptor front line. He is also shooting almost 70% from the FT line during this stretch, which is almost a full 20% more than his career average. While O'Neal has had good stretches before, the fact that he is doing it at the age of 36 with his massive frame is fairly astonishing.

While O'Neal has been a dominant force on the court, off the court his personality has also been a media focus throughout his time in the NBA. Shaq has always spoken freely, and he also has been very active in the marketing aspect of himself as an NBA player. I can certainly foresee O'Neal performing a Charles Barkley-esque role for an NBA show in the near future due to his personality and willingness to speak his mind.

After watching Shaq's performance this season, I recognize that he is a sure fire hall of famer and one of the players that has defined the last two decades of NBA basketball. I recommend checking out a Phoenix game when you get a chance, and maybe you too can learn to appreciate the Diesel.

## • HS SPORTS •

### Lady Highlanders season ends at Robbinsville

By Ryan Potts

The Lady Highlanders of Highlands High School headed to Robbinsville last Thursday for a second-round state tournament matchup with the Lady Black Knights.

The Lady Highlanders came out very strong, handling the Robbinsville full court pressure defense and took a 9 -3 lead mid-way through the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Then a combination of fatigue, foul trouble, turnovers and hot shooting by Robbinsville led to a 21-4 run to end the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. (24-13 1<sup>st</sup> quarter score).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter saw them continue to stay hot and our ladies struggle to score. The hot shooting from the Lady Black Knights continued in the second half, and Robbinsville took control of the game.

Finally in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter the Lady Highlanders started to show a little life out-scoring them 14-8 for a final score of 77-35. Coach Brett Lamb was pleased with the effort, but noted that it was "not the way we wanted our season to end but losing to one of the top 10 teams in the state on a night when they shot as well as they had all year. We just couldn't maintain the pace that was being played," said Lamb. "Robbinsville ended up shooting 12-20 3-pointers for the game which killed any kind of chance we had. I am really proud of these young ladies on all their accomplishments this season and with a lot of hard work and dedication in the off-season we will improve and have a better season next year."

The Lady Highlanders finished the season with a 14 and 14 record, and are looking to improve on their success next season. Highlands will return their entire squad from this year, and the returning experience combined with graduation losses of other Smoky Mountain Conference teams have the Lady Highlanders poised for a very successful 2009-10.

Special thanks go out to all who supported both Highlander basketball teams this year, and we look forward to another great season next winter.



Taylor Buras with Courtney Rogers working the court at Blue Ridge  
Photos by Noel Atherton



Courtney Rogers seeks a way in to help Brie Schmitt during a Hayesville game.

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## Host families sought for local 'exchange' program

The AYUSA is hoping to find local host families for students wanting to come to the US. AYUSA has had several students in the area. Last school year, Smoky Mountain and Blue Ridge School each had two students. Franklin High School had three

students last school year and has four this school year.

Anyone interested in being a host family for next school year is encouraged to call (828) 421-8843. To learn more about the program, go to AYUSA.org.

### ... HEALTH DEPT. continued from page 15

will turn around," he said.

Environmental Health Supervisor Barry Patterson said that's why the department needs two more certified people despite the county's urging to trim costs.

Commissioner Bob Simpson suggested soliciting certified septic inspectors who were recently laid off from Jackson County. "I know we pay less, but if they need a job they might be interested," he said.

Bruckner also reported that state officials are "walking" areas in the state where straight piping is suspected.

So far state officials have found 21 residents straight-piping in the Nantahala area and they know of 20 people straight-piping in the Cartoogechaye watershed which is the drinking source for the town of Franklin.

- Kim Lewicki

### ... AWARDS continued from page 1



Fraternal Order of Police President Chris Murray with award recipients Sheriff Deputy James Briggs and canine Abby, and Franklin Police Sgt. Devin Holland, and officer Matthew Pellicer. Not pictured is Cristy Evans.

most likely before he was discovered missing by his family," said Murray. "While the outcome of the search was tragic, the rapid response of Deputy Briggs and Abby coupled with their superior skill and training enabled the victim to be located and recovered in a timely manner."

Since Franklin Police Dept. officers Sgt. Devin Holland, Matthew Pellicer and Cristy Evans also joined in the search, they too, were recognized.

"They worked together with a team attitude epitomizing the concept of law enforcement agencies working together for a common purpose with a common goal," said Murray.

Deputy Briggs received the recognition award and dinner for two at Fatz restaurant in Franklin. Sgt. Holland, and officers Pellic-

er and Evans received certificates of appreciation and lunch for two at Vlass's Grill House.

Sheriff Robert Holland said Deputy Briggs is an outstanding officer and represents Macon County law enforcement well.

"He gives much of his own time to train his K-9 partner, Abby, and has proven to be an asset to the citizens of Macon County and the Macon County Sheriff's office," he said.

Murray said while the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) acknowledges the outstanding job of all first-responders, local paramedics and firefighters, Monday's ceremony was part of FOP's mission to honor the outstanding work of law enforcement.

Co-sponsors of Monday's award ceremony was Talbott Realty and Fatz restaurant of Franklin.

- Kim Lewicki



At the Monday, Feb. 23 Macon County Commission meeting, the Health Department and its staff were commended for achieving its recent accreditation -- only 44 of the the state's 85 health departments are accredited. Pictured is the department staff with Health Department Director Jim Bruckner and Stone.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

## County Health Department accredited despite recent permitting obstacles

Though county well-diggers voiced extreme dissatisfaction with the health department, and in his report to the commission, Monday, Feb. 23, the director discussed a lag in the septic permitting process, the Macon County Health Department received accredited status from the state in December and was publicly acknowledged at the meeting.

"It is evident that the Macon County Health Department is deserving of its accredited status," said David Stones, accreditation administrator with the state. "On Dec. 19, 2008, the NCLHDS Board bestowed the status of accreditation upon your health department," he told commissioners.

The state now requires all county health departments be accredited and Macon County is now among 44 accredited health departments out of 85 in the state.

The purpose of accreditation is to ensure that health departments are delivering 10 essential services to the community.

"Accreditation certifies to the general public that the agency has an appropriate community mission and purpose and it has the resources needed to accomplish its mission," said Stones.

The assessment used to evaluate the health department includes 41 benchmarks and 148 activities. In addition, the department staff must also participate in a series of interviews, provide additional requested documentation and showcase the facility.

Four specific functions targeted at the community by the Macon County Health Department were the "impressive mobile dental unit that proactively reaches the community," the Information Board provided by the Environmental Health sector at permit sites, the development of an "impressive tobacco prevention program," and the strong and active Healthy Carolinians program.

Specifically noted by the accreditation board, was the fact that the health director is supported by the county management and commission.

Despite accolades from the state, the commission set up a meeting between coun-

ty staff and area well diggers in hopes of coming to an agreeable arrangement and mutual understanding concerning what the health department's Environmental Health division can and can't do by law.

"We are agents of the state when it comes to the drinking water well program," said Health Director Jim Bruckner. Commission Chair Ronnie Beale reiterated the county's position. "Our hands are tied for a lot of this, but we will do what we can," he said.

Bruckner also discussed the septic permitting process which is somewhat backlogged.

He said due to the drought, drinking well inspections and permitting is up way -- much more than estimated. "We based our staff on 212 applications a year. Since the first of 2009 we have issued 88 permits," he said.

He said he estimates 385 wells despite the current economic downturn. Commissioner Beale said the increase in wells is due to the drought September and October not due to new construction.

Bruckner said he has five people to inspect the wells which require four to five site visits each -- two full-time certified drinking well inspectors and three onsite wastewater inspectors for backup.

As to septic permitting, Bruckner said he has five people to handle 300 permits which is down from last year's 1,000. But two of those won't be state certified to inspect until Jan. 2010 and July 2010, respectively.

Bruckner said he has 3,000 permit applications on the shelves which represent permits that were issued but not acted upon because the site work hasn't been done due to the downturn in construction. When turns around, the department will likely be backlogged again.

As of Feb. 23, the septic permitting process is two weeks out. "This concerns me," said Beale, "because if construction is down and you're two weeks out, what will happen when the economy turns around -- and it

•See HEATH DEPT. page 14

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## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### On-going Events

- The Bascom is offering a host of art classes for preschoolers to pre-teens from now through the end of the school year. For more information, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 0#.
- Friends of Panthertown work days, last Thursday of every month (time and location varies). Volun-

teers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

- Collections for men and women overseas at Chestnut Hill Retirement community. A wide variety of items currently is needed, including books and magazines, CDs and DVDs, and small pocket books, which fit neatly in the BDUs (Battle Dress Uniforms). The drop

point for all items will be under the flagpole at the Chestnut Hill Clubhouse on Clubhouse Trail. For any questions, or to schedule a drop-off call (828) 787-2114.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Mon. & Wed.

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

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

### Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

### Wed., & Fri.

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

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

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

### Every Third Wednesday

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

### Thursdays

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

• Taize worship is coming to Highlands at 7 p.m. at the Lutheran Chapel of the Holy Family, 2152 Dil-

lard Road. There will be a simple supper of bread and soup at 6 p.m. Dress is casual, and *all* are welcome. Call Chaplain Margaret Howell for more information: 828-526-2905 or email her at [Knytengale@aol.com](mailto:Knytengale@aol.com)

### 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5

• Democrats! Highlands Democratic Precinct meeting will be held Thursday at the Rec Park at 5:30 p.m. Please come and participate in the elections of officers for our precinct and help decide the direction you want to see your local party take for the next year. For more info call 526-3363.

• "Away From Her" (2006), is the story about a couple who after 40 years of marriage find themselves coping with the institutionalization of the wife because of Alzheimer's disease. Julie Christie and Gordon Pinsent star this film about coping with disease and separation. The movie will air at 3 p.m. It's hosted by Friends of the Albert Carlton - Cashiers Community Library, the winter schedule will continue on the first and third Thursday as matinees.

### Friday-Sunday, March 6-8

• HCP's American Daughter at PAC 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Call 526-8084 for ticket information.

### Friday, March 6

• South Macon Elementary School Blood Drive (855 Addington Bridge Road, Franklin) 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Please call Sandy Keener at 524-9492 or Kay Ledford 524-7789 for more information.

• High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, at the Macon County Community Building from 7:00 to 9 p.m. Jim Roper from Cornella, GA will be the caller for "The Graduation Dance." We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-349-4187.

• FreedomWorks brings straight talk to Macon County. Brendan Steinhauer, Dynamic FreedomWorks Spokesman, brings you the truth about what's going on in Washington, and what You can do about it. 7 p.m. at the Macon County Facilities Building (Rec Park). It's free and everyone is welcome

### Saturday, March 7

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5-mile hike to the top of Round Mountain along a Forest Service road with lots of ups and downs (total elevation change — 800 feet) for a nice view down to South Carolina. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 10 a.m.; drive 12 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, binoculars if you wish, and wear study shoes. The hike is limited to 15 due to lack of parking space at

## 'American Daughter'



Lyssa's husband Walter (Chad Lucas) gets a scolding from his wife, the American daughter, played by Carla Gates.

## 'An American Daughter' opens to a sold-out audience and rave reviews

The Highlands Cashiers Players production of Wendy Wasserstein's *An American Daughter* opened last Thursday night to a packed house. Director Mary Adair Leslie successfully brought an intellectual, topical, and political play to the Performing Arts Center stage. The audience was literally cheering at some of the most biting lines and applauding the speeches on women's health care. Audience members commented on the talented area actors who "perform this play with depth and intelligence."

Carla Gates, known for her comic portrayals in *Lend Me a Tenor* and *Caught in the Villain's Web*, portrays surgeon general nominee Lyssa Dent Hughes with power and compassion.

Chad Lucas returns to HCP after several years away as Lyssa's sociology professor husband, Walter Abramson. He plays the role with substance and sophistication.

Regulars Virginia Talbot and Dean Zuch, husband and wife in real life, portray husband and wife, Senator and Mrs. Allan Hughes. As always, their performances are endearing and filled with charm.

Stage veteran Sandie Trevathan as the ultimate "spin doctor" brings flair to the part. Newcomers Marlene Alvarez, Stevyn Wm. Armari, Kirk Howard, and Marjorie Fielding will especially impress audiences with their polished performances. The set and decoration by Chad Lucas is a visual treat. This is a show that you don't want to miss.

Performances continue this Friday, Saturday and Sunday. For more information and tickets please call: 828-526-8084.

*An American Daughter* contains adult content and language. All performances are at the Performing Arts Center, Chestnut Street, Highlands.

## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

trail head. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. No pets please.

• Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night before you go to sleep. Fall back SPRING ahead.

### Sunday, March 8

• The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin will present Mr. Bill Nichols, a member of the Fellowship. The title of his talk will be "Turn Out the Lights, the Party is Over!" Services and children's classes begin at 11 a.m. All are welcome. 85 Sierra Drive, just off Lakeside, 1.2 miles from Hardees. Information: 828/524-6777.

### Thursday, March 12

• At Highlands School the Freshman Class is hosting a dinner and bake sale in the cafeteria from 4:30-6 p.m. Baked Potato dinner w/drink and dessert for \$5 or for children, chicken nuggets, Mac & Cheese, drink & dessert for \$4.

• At Highlands School PTO meeting at 6 p.m. in the old gym, and prior to that the annual Book Fair will take place in the media center from 5-6 p.m. and science fair experiments will be on display in the old gym.

• The League of Women Voters is hosting a presentation by Jill Montana, executive director of the International Friendship Center of Highlands (Centro de Amigos) who will present a program on immigrant issues. The program will be sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Macon County and will be held at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. The IFC is supported by the churches and other community groups of Highlands and provides services to the immigrant community as well as education and advocacy on their behalf. Recognizing the complexity of the reality of thousands of immigrants living in our

communities, who contribute to the workforce and economy, but are affected by complicated laws and limitations, the center strives to address needs not being met by other resources. They provide services in the areas of education, transportation, legal assistance, housing, food, taxes, and employment. Jill Montana will provide information on programs and talk about the issues pertaining to the immigrant community, the successes and the needs. Lunch will be served at noon, by reservation. Call 524-5192. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

• The March meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcome. The club meets every second Thursday at the Blue Ridge School at 6 p.m. September through March and 7 p.m. April through August. Listen to WHLC (104.5 FM) at 5 p.m. for cancellation due to weather. Visit our web site at [www.wncwoodturners.com/](http://www.wncwoodturners.com/)

### Friday, March 13

• Angel Medical Blood Drive (120 Riverview Street, Franklin) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call 369-4166 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. In honor of Johnathan Mathis, a local 10-year-old boy.

### Saturday, March 14

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate

4-mile hike to Turtleback, Rainbow, and Stair Step falls on the Horsepasture River with an elevation change of 800 feet and a couple of steep ascents of 100 yards. The outing will take 5 hours (4 hours hiking and lunch break). Meet at the Wachovia Bank in Cashiers at 8:30 a.m. Drive 16 miles round trip. Bring water, a lunch, and wear sturdy shoes. Call Leader Walker Taylor at 743-6977 for reservations.

• Holly Springs Community Blood Drive at Holly Springs Baptist Church 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please call 524-5200 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Each person who presents 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.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike to Turtleback, Rainbow, and Stair Step falls on the Horsepasture River with an elevation change of 800 feet and a couple of steep ascents of 100 yards. The outing will be about 5 hours: 4 hours hiking and lunch break. Meet at the Wachovia Bank in Cashiers at 8:30 a.m. Drive 16 miles round trip. Bring water, a lunch, and wear sturdy shoes. Call Leader Walker Taylor at 743-6977 for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

### Sunday, March 15

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2-mile easy hike on the Greenway in Franklin from Macon Co. Library to Tasse Park along the Cartoogechaye Creek and Little Tennessee River. Meet at the Tasse Shelter off Ulco Dr. in Franklin at 2 pm; drive 4 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children 10 and over are welcome, but no pets please.

### Tuesday, March 17

The NC Extension Service will offer an area workshop at the Macon County Extension Center in Franklin from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. for gardeners and farmers desiring to learn the principles of organic vegetable production. This is a great opportunity for individuals to raise the bar from their current gardening practices to growing organic vegetables for a profit! The cost for this program is \$15 (pay at the door). Lunch will be provided. Please pre-register by Friday March 13. For more information or to register contact Alan Durden Extension Agriculture Agent at phone # 828 349-2046 or e-mail [Alan\\_Durden@ncsu.edu](mailto:Alan_Durden@ncsu.edu).

### Wednesday, March 18

The NC Extension Service will offer an area workshop at the Stecoah Valley Center in Graham County from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. This is for gardeners and farmers desiring to learn the principles of organic vegetable production. The cost for this program is \$15 (pay at the door). Lunch will be provided. Please pre-register by Friday March 13.

For more information or to register contact Randy Collins Extension Agriculture Agent at phone # 828 479-7979 or e-mail [Randy\\_Collins@ncsu.edu](mailto:Randy_Collins@ncsu.edu).

### 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.

### Saturday, March 28

• 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.

### Thursday, March 26

• Franklin Community Blood Drive at First Baptist Church (69 lotla 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.

### 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.

### Saturday, April 4

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 5-mile moderate hike to Rock Gorge and Big Bend Falls on

## I AM Ministries presents Bible Bee

### More than \$260,000 in Prize Money for 2009 Inaugural Competition

I AM Ministries and The Shelby Kennedy Foundation are excited to introduce the first annual National Bible Bee, a motivating Bible memory competition for children and youth from ages 7 to 18.

The goal of the Bible Bee is to build godly character in young people by calling them back to the lost discipline of Scripture memorization. Most people are familiar with the Scripps National Spelling Bee, where youth compete annually in the Nation's longest-running educational contest. While it is certainly beneficial for our children to commit the spelling of words to memory, imagine how much more life-changing it will be for them to memorize the Word of God!

Local Bible Bee Contests will be conducted throughout the United States on Saturday, Sept. 12. One hundred finalists from each of three age categories will then advance to the National Bible Bee for a two-day, world-class competition which will be held in Washington D.C. on November 5-6, 2009. I AM Ministries, Inc. [www.iamsent.org](http://www.iamsent.org) will be hosting a Local Contest on Sept.

12 at Community Bible Church in Highlands, NC. Interested contestants and their families may find out more about the Bible Bee Competition by visiting the Bible Bee website: [www.biblebee.org](http://www.biblebee.org). To learn more about this local contest being held nearby, contestants and their families may call I AM Ministries, Inc., at (828) 526-8126, or send an e-mail inquiry to [iamsent@hotmail.com](mailto:iamsent@hotmail.com).

To enroll in the contest online go to [www.biblebee.org](http://www.biblebee.org). An associated enrollment fee of \$20 is collected, which covers the cost of a Bible Bee T-shirt and administrative costs associated with the National Contest. Enrollment closes on April 30.

The Bible Bee Competition will distribute more than \$260,000 in prize money with \$100,000 being awarded to the first-place winner of the top age bracket.

The long-term vision of Bible Bee Competition is to equip children and youth to be bold ambassadors for Jesus Christ to the next generation!

## Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

### March 6-12

#### WATCHMEN

rated R

Friday: (4), 7, 10

Sat & Sun: (1), (4), 7, 10

Mon - Thurs: (4), 7

#### HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU

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

#### SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE

rated R

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

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

Mon - Thurs (4:20), 7

#### PAUL BLART: MALL COP

rated PG

Friday: (3:30), 7:30

Sat & Sun: (1:30), (3:30), 7:30

Mon - Thurs: 7:30

#### TAKEN

rated PG-13

Friday: 5, 9:20

Sat & Sun: 5, 9:20

Mon - Thurs: 5

\$5 for 20 words weekly

## • CLASSIFIEDS •

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

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

## HELP WANTED

**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](http://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](http://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

es, 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

## 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](http://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

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

**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 sq ft., gated community, Scaly Mt. half way between Highlands and Clayton, access to 17 acre lake and hiking from 424 sq ft porch or watch sun rise from 424 sq. ft. deck. \$1,200/mo plus utilities. Internet and satellite available. No children, pets, or ATVs; house actively being shown for sale during rental. Call Pat 828-243-9646 re rent or Becky 828-526-2475 re sale. pscherrer@mindspring.com

**DOWNTOWN APARTMENT RENTAL** - One bedroom (Queen), one bath,

vaulted ceiling in great room, heat and air with gas fireplace. Fully furnished with W/D, cozy and comfortable. Reduced to \$650 a month plus utilities. Call 526-4983 or 421-3614.

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

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

**2 BED, 2 BA, COTTAGE** - W/D, 2 miles from town off Cashiers Road. Garage/basement, covered deck. \$925 a month. Call 864-944-1175.

**FURNISHED 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.

## 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 Ehiem Pro series-2 external canister filter, and optional mahogany base. Will settle for \$500; base, extras and help moving it are optional but free. Call cell 828-342-2809

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

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

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

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

**SIX CEDAR ADIRONDACK CHAIRS** - custom made. \$100 each or all for \$500. Call 526-3824.

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

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

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

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

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

**ANTIQUE 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).**

## • CLASSIFIEDS •

**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,** ratan 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.

**ANTIQUE 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

**1995 CHRYSLER CIRRUS LXI** V6 fully loaded. Good car. 74K highway miles. \$3,500. Call 828-524-7083 after noon. 3/5

**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

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

**DEPENDABLE PET SITTER, HOUSESITTER, AND LICENSED CNA.** References available. Located in Otto, NC., Call 443-315-9547. 2/5

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

**START YOUR OWN INTERNET BUSINESS** - today! Learn in a step-by-step way from a professional Internet marketer. Test the courses with the FREE VIDEOS. [www.websitetrainingformewbies.com](http://www.websitetrainingformewbies.com). Email questions to: sales@successfulnewbie.com 2/18

**24-HOUR CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE.** – Companionship, showers, cooking, doctor appts. and shopping. Call Mrs. Myers. 828-349-3479 or 828-342-1603. 3/5

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

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

**RELIABLE CHILD CARE IN MY HOME** – Minutes from Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Daily/Weekly. 12 years experience, referemces and Early

Childhood credentials. \$5 per hour for first child, \$10 a day for second sibling. Call 743-2672.

**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 spe-

## Watershed Council seeks public input

The Macon County Watershed Council is currently conducting a comprehensive review of the local Sedimentation and Erosion Control Ordinance. The objective is to improve the ordinance's application and effectiveness.

To accomplish the objectives, the watershed council and Macon County erosion control officers are reviewing on-the-ground experiences to improve definitions, erosion control plan requirements, permitting procedures, and on-site maintenance of erosion control best management practices. The watershed council invites and welcomes public comments to assist in this review.

The Macon County Sedimentation and Erosion Control Ordinance is a performance-based standard for local control of sedimentation. Its goal, regardless of plans, permits, and procedures, is to minimize man-made erosion and to keep the mud and dirt on the property where it belongs. The watershed council welcomes your input and suggestions.

The next meeting of the Macon County Watershed Council will be Wednesday, March 11 at 10 a.m. at the Macon County NC Cooperative Extension Service building on Thomas Heights Road. The public is invited.

## NOTICE

All unpaid 2008 taxes on real property will be advertised in the newspapers Friday, March 13, 2009 and Thursday, March 12, 2009  
**To avoid advertisement, taxes must be paid by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2009.**

Margaret D. Perry  
 Macon County Tax Collector  
 828-349-2149

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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, SHERIFF •

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

• During the week officers made 2 Traffic Stops and issued 4 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Feb. 24-March 4.

Feb. 24

• The dept. responded to a call of a chimney fire at a residence on Kent Drive. There was no damage.

• The dept. responded to a mutual aid call to the Cashiers Fire Dept. for a structure fire, but it was cancelled en route.

Feb. 26

• The dept. responded to a vehicle accident at U.S. 64 east and Buck Creek Road when a vehicle slid off the road due to road conditions. There were no injuries.

Feb. 27

• The dept. responded to a vehicle accident on NC 28 south when a vehicle slid off the road. There were no injuries.

March 1

• The dept. responded to a vehicle accident on NC 28 south when a vehicle slid off the road due to road conditions. There were no injuries.

• The dept. responded to a vehicle accident on US 64 west when a vehicle slid off the road due to road conditions. There were no injuries.

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

Feb. 28

• At 10:30 a.m., deputies responded to an alarm at a residence in the Highgate subdivision. All was secure.

... HIS & HERS from page 7

lieve that President Obama supports one or both of these other routes.

Both would censor the broadcast media who criticize the government the same way that King George sought to censor print media, by threatening their licenses to operate. That's the clear and dangerous parallel between 1776 and 2009.

But if there are too many Americans who don't know who King George was and what he did to control "his" colonies in North America, we are in even deeper trouble than just restriction of free speech on talk radio.

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

In the interests of full disclosure, the panel Mr. Armor took part in, was a joint project of the ACRU (see www.theacu.org) and Regular Folks United (see www.RegularFolksUnited.com) both of which seek to prevent censorship of any kind on radio and the Internet.

... LIBRARY from page 11

The American Library Association (www.ALA.org) reports that libraries are an excellent use of taxpayer money. In a recent report, several studies are cited that show services such as are mentioned in this article "have given libraries a reputation for offering local government an excellent return on investment. A study in Florida showed public libraries return \$6.54 for every \$1 invested from all sources, while a study in South Carolina showed that every dollar expended on the state's public libraries by state and local governments brought a return on investment of \$4.48 — nearly 350 percent. Studies in Ohio, Seattle and Phoenix echo these findings."

• FUN & GAMES •

Hex-a-Ku<sup>©</sup> 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.

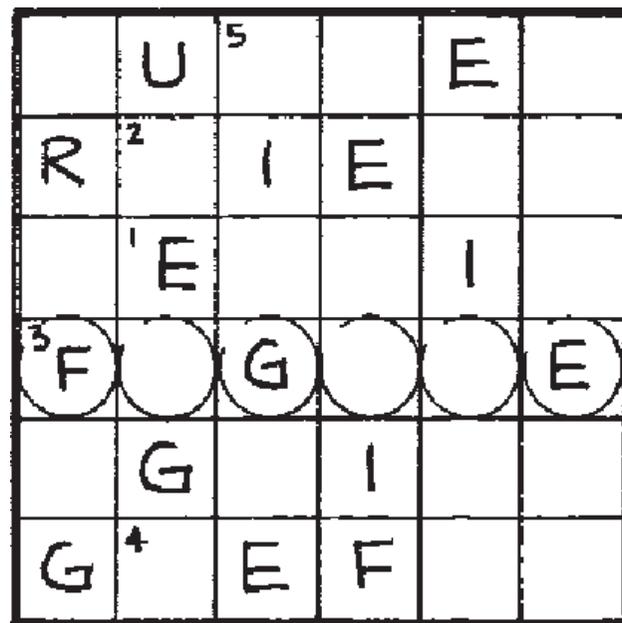
**How to Solve:**

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  
A Shape (3)**

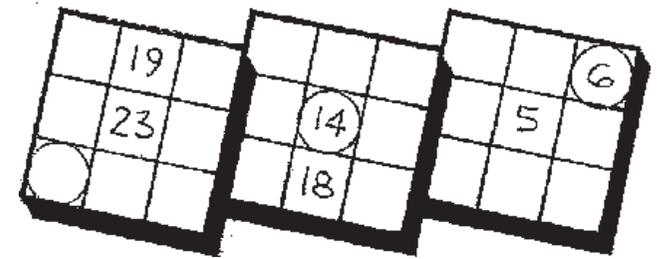
**Across**

1. Metric unit of energy (3)
2. For shame! (3)
3. Semi-tropical fruit (3)
4. Referee (abbr.) (3)



PseudoCube<sup>©</sup>

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



**#BZ4F Level of Difficulty - hard**

**THE SETUP:**

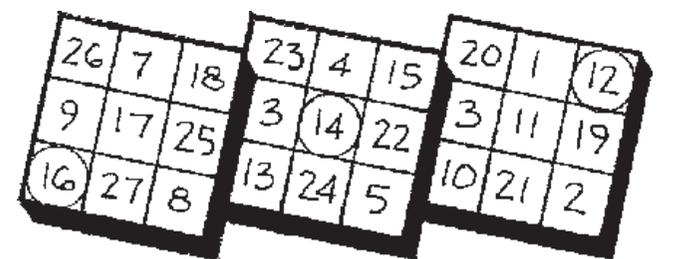
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

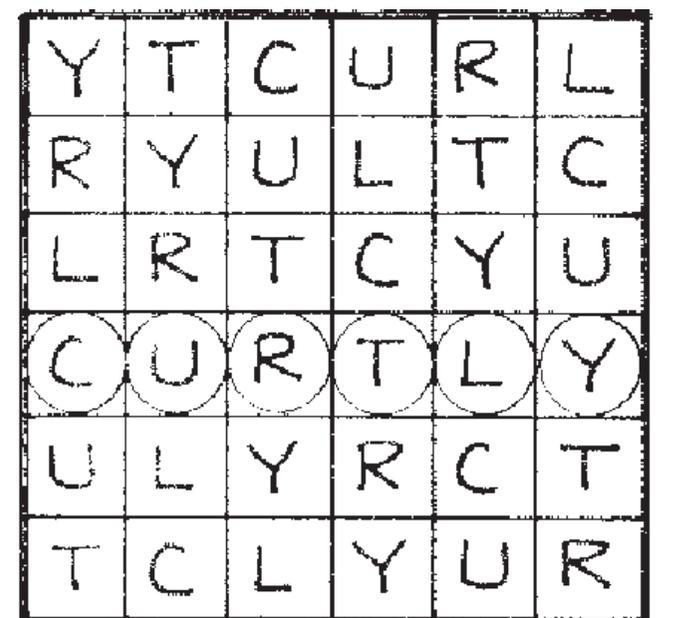
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: [pseudocube8@aol.com](mailto:pseudocube8@aol.com).

**Solution to #DZ4F in Feb. 26 issue**



**Solution to Feb. 26 Hex-a-Ku**



## • A REVIEW •

### HCP's 'An American Daughter' on stage Friday-Sunday at PAC



Cast standing from left: Crystal Guill-Marsh, Chad Lucas, Stevyn Will Amari, Dean Zuch, Kirk Howard and Sandie Trevathan. Seated from left: Ronnie, Spilton, Marjorie Fielding, Carla Gates, Marlene Alvarez and Virginia Talbot.

Interestingly, during every Highlands-Cashiers Players performance, it's easy to see a bit of the "real" person behind the characters portrayed, which is likely why HCP productions are so successful.

Without a pool of professional actors to draw from, directors choose performers whose on-stage characters get a "foot up" when offstage personalities mirror a bit of what the director is after. Though roles remain challenging for the actors, they are a "stretch" rather than a death-defying leap. This HCP practice helps ensure a polished performance produced in a short amount of time.

Director Mary-Adair Leslie really picked them this time. It's easy to see a bit of the real person behind each character with the production's newcomers to the HCP stage possibly the best yet.

Kirk Howard, as Morrow McCarthy, steals the show as the Abrahmson-Hughes family friend. A self-admitted gay, conservative, pro-lifer, he is the thorn in Lyssa Dent Hughes' cap, the liberal, pro-choice, working Dr. Mom who is the President's nominee for surgeon general.

Lyssa and Morrow's views are diametrically opposed, but he comes with the territory as her husband's best friend and so is tolerated, if just barely.

Howard wears his role comfortably, commanding the stage with voice and movement. It's hard to believe he's only acted on stage once in his life.

Marjorie Fielding was a delight to watch. If you know Marjorie at all, you immediately recognize her dry, biting humor, her subtle sex appeal and her ability to sell anything – in this case the character of feminist author, and potential home-wrecker Quincy Quince.

Marlene Alvarez, who plays the no-nonsense Jewish doctor Judith Kaufman and Lyssa's best friend, is really good, especially since she hasn't been on stage since high school. She's the counterpart to Howard's character in every sense of the word and she looks great in skirts and suits!

The play, by Wendy Wasserstein, speaks to today's issues concerning the privileged, old-money, American elite, women's rights, women's health care, even President Obama's cabinet nominee debacles all of which lend "An American Daughter" a current, telling air.

Lyssa Dent Hughes' nomination for surgeon general experiences a slow death after TV reporter Timber Tucker, played by newcomer Stevyn Amari, broadcasts the fact that Hughes neglected her civic duties by not serving on a jury when called.

Her excuses are hazy, and revolve around forgetting but smack of using family prominence and privilege as the daughter of long-time Senator Alan Hughes, played by Dean Zuch, as her way out of the obligation. This is another of Wasserstein's tributes to American politics.



Feminist author Quincy Quince (Marjorie Fielding) meets TV news reporter Timber Tucker (Stevyn Will Amari).

The Highlands Cashiers Players' production of Wendy Wasserstein's "An American Daughter" continues on Friday, Saturday and Sunday March 6, 7 8 at the Performing Arts Center, Chestnut Street, Highlands. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. For reservations call 828-526-8084.

Dean and his real-life wife Virginia Talbot, regulars on the HCP stage, deliver an endearing, humorous portrayal of a "new" couple in the "evening" of life.

It's a pleasure to see Chad Lucas on stage again. His performances are always well done, true to character and in this case he plays the perfect doctor of sociology professor whose interests include himself, his books, his children, his wife and his ex-student...not necessarily in that order.

Carla Gates, whose HCP signature is over-the-top drama, delivered a controlled, realistic performance as working mother and surgeon general nominee, Lyssa Dent Hughes, who must juggle family duties, career and a husband with a wandering eye.

Other small but important roles were played by newcomer Crystal Guill-Marsh as Jimi, the TV camera operator, Sandi Trevathan as political spin doctor, Billie Robbins and Ronnie Spilton, stage manager and maid Carmelita.

"An American Daughter" is an intelligent, entertaining show and offers a good night out.

Performances continue this Friday, Saturday and Sunday. For more information and tickets, call 526-8084.

*An American Daughter* contains adult content and language. All performances are at the Performing Arts Center, Chestnut Street.

– Kim Lewicki

## ... BOARD continued from page 2

Likewise, members elected to the department must also reside in the coverage area for a year to continue membership. After serving one year, the member may reside in any adjoining fire district if within a reasonable distance to the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department.

The third amendment concerns attendance. Any member missing four consecutive meetings without a legitimate excuse such as a death in the family, sickness or emergency work obligations will be dismissed from the department.

Furthermore, any member may be dismissed for cause, by the action of the department as a whole. Members who have been dismissed can reapply for re-instatement after six

months if there is a vacancy and by secret ballot. Also, anyone who resigns or retires and wishes to return can do so after six months if there is a vacancy but only by re-application and by secret ballot.

Administrative assistant for the department, Bobby Houston, said the by-laws can be changed once a year in January and changes this year were made to fit current circumstances. He said there are three firemen who live outside the district, but work in town and want to stay on the force. He said the application and secret ballot requirement for membership and reinstatement "keeps the playing field level."

The Town Board will have a joint meeting with the Macon County Commission on March 17 in Franklin.

The next Town Board meeting is Wednesday, March 18, at 7 p.m. at the Community Building next to the ballpark on U.S. 64 east.

- Kim Lewicki

## ... LETTERS from page 3

have been many individuals who have donated their services to help with it.

If you are not familiar with its location, it is in Franklin, about one mile south of the US 64 by-pass on US 441 at the Veterans Memorial Park (formerly the Macon County Rec Park) next to the Community Building. Come and see for yourself what has been done.

Bob Litten  
Veterans Memorial Committee

## ... BRUGGER from pg 6

ember 2007 that laid out a very attractive scenario: "We present a grand plan that could provide 69 percent of the U.S.'s electricity and 35 percent of its total energy (which includes transportation) with solar power by 2050. We project that this energy could be sold to consumers at rates equivalent to today's rates for conventional power sources, about five cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). If wind, bio-mass and geothermal sources were also developed, renewable energy could provide 100 percent of the nation's electricity and 90 percent of its energy by 2100."

And green can be very cool. Dubai has become famous for its amazing buildings, and a new skyscraper is now going up that is more than just beautiful, it is revolutionary in its green design. Gigantic wind turbines are integrated into the building to generate electricity. Do yourself a favor and Google it. The plans call for three large 225 kW wind turbines, 29 meters in diameter, which will have the freedom to yaw in order to maximize power generation. It will also be clad in 4,000 solar panels to generate additional electricity.

We should have been working in this direction for 30 years now, beginning after the first OPEC oil shocks. President Carter tried to start us on this road, but the conservative revolution derided those efforts. I hope Obama can use his considerable political talents to finally get this country on the road to energy independence — intelligently. Not the faux-independence of "Drill Baby Drill" we heard last summer but the real thing.

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