Consensus reached about park

The final word hasn’t been uttered concerning the design of the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park, but commissioners did vote to go after two different funding sources to alleviate flooding and to improve water quality in that area.

At the Wednesday, May 20 meeting, the board discussed the park again – this time agreeing not to close Pine Street – but to consider grass pavers where asphalt now sits as “brownie points” for funding and to give the area a more “park-like” feel, even though cars will be able to drive and park on Pine Street.

“We could do what we’re doing at the Performing Art Center,” said Commissioner Amy Patterson. “That is working very well and people can drive on them and park on them.”

Right now, funding the stormwater improvements has taken precedence which will likely come in the form of two grants – one for water quality from either the Clean Water Trust Fund or from the federal stimulus package – with a design deadline set for June 3.

The other arm of funding will come from FEMA and will be used to address the flooding aspect. It requires a separate design with a due date of June 3.

A Memorial Day Reflection

Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday observed on the last Monday of May. Formerly known as Decoration Day, it commemorates U.S. men and women who died while in the military service. First enacted to honor Union soldiers of the American Civil War, it was expanded after World War I to include American casualties of any war or military action.

In honor of those who serve and those who died serving, we offer the following piece about Colonel Luther Turner, III. His career spans the recent wars and so we commend him and those who have fought with him.

Colonel Luther S. (Trey) Turner, III, son of Luther and Ann Turner of Highlands, recently returned from Afghanistan having been deployed there for one year as Commander, 451st Air Expeditionary Group, Kandahar Airfield.

During his deployment, Colonel Turner teamed with various coalition forces to integrate un-
Dear Editor,

My husband and I were among the early contributors to the Pine Street Park (sorry, "Kelsey-Hutchinson" just doesn't work). We would not have done so had we thought it would mean the elimination of Pine Street. Among the many interesting and salient comments made at the Town Board meeting on May 13, one made by John Clevel and, was particularly interesting to me. He suggested, in effect, that closing Pine Street could possibly be illegal, and that, just because the Board wanted to do it didn't mean that they could. That makes sense to me.

I know that often I sound like a Cassandra, or maybe I’ve just been hallucinating for the past five or 10 years, but our country’s Democracy seems to be morphing into an oligarchy, i.e., government by the few. Since I was first eligible to vote, I’ve been a staunch defender and vocal advocate of the privilege and responsibility. Cynicism is creeping in, and I’m beginning to doubt the value and efficacy of it.

It would be a good thing if the elected really listened to the electorate. It might also be an anomaly.

Alice Nelson
Highlands

Dear Editor,

Back in the early 1990s when we moved into the pristine and well-equipped new hospital, we couldn’t believe how wonderful it was to have such a lovely facility in our little community. Before this new facility opened most of the seasonal residents “went home” if they became ill. Suddenly that wasn’t necessary! What a relief to have excellent care right here for acute care, outpatient services, emergencies and even surgery!

I was working in the hospital then, and as Director of Community Relations, my job was to convince people to use the new facility. I also worked in the development office raising funds to fund the ongoing capital campaign and operations. Nothing has changed since those days. We still have pressing capital equipment needs. We still have to convince people to use the facility here rather than go home, and the hospital still needs our support.

Now I am a part-time resident who is very thankful that we have this facility and relieved to come home and take care of all my medical problems while I am here!

In 1991, Foundation Board Chair George Boone, Trustee Bud Greene and I worked hard to craft the MasterKey Club. This donor club was designed to provide annual support for the operations budget, which is always hit hard by the huge percentage of Medicare write-offs (called contractual adjustments). Last year, the hospital lost slightly more $5.1 million in potential revenue because of contractual adjustments by Medicare and other insurance providers.

MasterKey members donate $1,000 a year for five years. However, membership has fallen in recent years, and is now below 500 members. H-CH really needs 1,000 MasterKey members. Please consider a membership! Drop by the hospital or call the foundation office at (828) 526-1435.

This year has been devastating for the hospital with increased bad debt due to the financial crisis, a huge drop in the value of the endowment, and decreased donations. We all need to do our best to help. Someday we will be living here full-time again, and I want this wonderful hospital here when we do. I am sure that you do too. Don’t take H-CH for granted. If we want a good hospital in this small community we have to all support it with our time, talents and treasure. Our treasures may be diminished this year, but we can all find a way to give something. I hope you will!

Robin King Austin
Highlands

Million Dollar Postage Stamp Park on Pine Street... A Big Mistake

Dear Editor,

I was not enthusiastic about the small Pine Street Park from the beginning. It seemed to me that a better place to have a real park for Highlands was on some of the 30 acres, just a brief walk up the sidewalk to the Highlands Rec Park and Civic Center.

I would have liked to have seen a real playground with recycled rubber flooring, safety fencing, and protected for our children and grandchildren to run and play till their hearts content. I would have liked to see a very large pavilion added near the existing one that could handle large gatherings. We could have had a wonderful fenced dog park which is greatly needed. I would have liked to see more walking trails on this property which already adjoins the Greenway in Highlands, and

Now I am a part-time resident who is very thankful that we have this facility and relieved to come home and take care of all my medical problems while I am here!

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... LETTERS from page 2

is being improved almost each weekend. We could eventually have a large amphitheater on some of the steep property that would be well suited for such a purpose. We could have a large covered stage and bandstand. These needed facilities could be phased in and done over a period of time.

For the huge amount of money already spent on the very small park on Pine Street, many of these things for all our community to enjoy could already be in place! And the good news at the Rec Park is parking is already in place! We are only currently using about four acres of the 30 acres located there.

When we saw the folks so determined to have a small park on Pine Street after expressing our concern we switched and supported the Pine Street Park, now called the Kelsey Hutchinson Park. We fully supported it, and in fact, promoted it on our Radio Station, WHLC FM 104.5 and helped raise funds for the Pine Street Project. I now regret supporting this project and wished we had stayed with the idea of a real park on the thirty acres at the Rec Park.

Highlands now has some nice very small “parks” but most, have no parking or only a couple of spaces like the ones on Harris Lake. I am especially sorry we supported the Pine Street Park, now that the Town Board seems determined to close Pine Street altogether.

The Town Board wisely voted to give no consideration to the permanent closing of Pine Street at a Town Board meeting on July 11, 2007.

Now the majority of our Town Board and our mayor are trying to go down the same road once again and permanently close Pine Street. This street is the widest street in town, just a block from Main Street and is available for employees to park away from the Downtown District, overflow for folks to park going to our shopping district. It is completely full on Sundays with church goers from the east end of town.

The churches spoke against closing this street at the past special Town Board meeting on May 13, as they said they did not know what they would do if it was closed.

Father Dean Cesa of Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church said the church does not have enough parking now, even with Pine Street open.

We are totally against closing Pine Street, and opposed to losing any of the parking there. I personally checked Pine Street twice after the almost 2 1/2 inches of rain Friday night, and I checked it three times Saturday night after almost 2 3/4 inches of rain. It was not flooded either time.

The mayor has said, “imagine some one said we need Pine Street open for trucks to unload and make deliveries?”

Mr. Mayor and Town Board wake up and smell the coffee or tea you had this morning — it, and EVERYTHING ELSE we need and use, comes up to the mountain on a truck!

Charles B. Cooper
WHLC FM 104.5
• See LETTERS page 5
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Laughing at Life
I’m a child of the 40s

I have vivid memories of my second grade teacher. She was a scary looking nun with no hands who appeared to be nine feet tall. An oak triangular ruler was always hidden somewhere on her person. Standing before my class, she showed us a picture of Hitler, Tojo and Mussolini. Then, in a flash, she whipped out her ruler from a secret place under her garments, using it as a pointer to identify each leader while spewing anger and condemnation about each enemy.

This twelve inch ruler was used for many things, but never for measurement.

Hold it, Highlands’ fish eaters, don’t get your shorts in a wad. This really happened and it was acceptable behavior back then, even for a nun. Remember not to attack the messenger, especially if you’re a fellow fish eater.

I was raised a war child and hating Hitler, Tojo, and Mussolini was acceptable. I also remember the ice man. He was also nine feet tall. Actually, everyone appeared to be nine feet tall during this segment of my life. He would march into our kitchen with a huge block of ice on his shoulder and plop it in our ice box. Then he would give us the latest news about the war. Walking out, he would announce, “See ya in the morning.”

The Second World War brought hard times for my family. Food was not plentiful and women worked in factories building war machines. Only the 4F guys and ice men walked the streets without a uniform. It was an era of “do without.”

Flash ahead to 2009 and the news gets grimmer each day. I’m sitting in my office writing this article right in the middle of a full blown deep recession. Unless our president performs a miracle, he admits we’re heading for a depression.

My country is involved in two wars. All the while my neighborhood is flooded with happy-go-lucky Mexican lawn workers wearing cell phones attached to their ears. Don’t they know we’re in hard times and they shouldn’t own cell phones when they’re at the bottom of the food chain?

Our pool guy drives a brand new “Highlander” Toyota and complains if business continues to drop. Hell, he has to sell his six bedroom, 5 bath home with a gigantic tropical pool on an acre of prime South Florida property. I’m not making this up. He’s a pool guy, for cryin’ out loud and we’re in a recession!

Yesterday, the lil’ missus and I hit the grocery for supplies and found the shelves stocked full of food and the store busy with customers, proving we’re not yet in a depression. The Sushi bar was crowded with customers deciding which delicacy they preferred and the wine section was crammed with ladies selecting their vino. Hello...does anyone care here’s probably a depression on the way and maybe they should be saving some money? Will someone please act like we’re in a recession? Jeez!

I raced to the candy section of the store in search of Hershey bars. Wow, they’re were, hundreds of them along with a huge variety of other sweet delights. I was relieved. “As long as there are Hershey bars, the depression has not yet arrived and the wars must almost be over,” I thought.

Does anyone know what that means? As a child, Hershey bars couldn’t be found along with a myriad of other goods? What kind of wartime era is this and where’s the deep recession?

In my mind, a deep recession means life, in general, should be hard. Lawn and pool guys shouldn’t be able to afford cell phones and live in huge, expensive houses. And why are all the cruisers leaving port full of travelers? Where’s the recession?

Recently, I was speaking with a friend (yes, I have two) about the recession and he was explaining how bad things were.

I asked, “In comparison to what?”

He was speechless and wasn’t sure how to answer. Then he said, “I lost everything in the stock market.”

I hesitated before speaking, hoping not to offend him, “Shame on you for putting all your money in the stock market.”

Could I be on the wrong page about this recession? Does being in a recession only mean people have to give up their weekly trip to the spa for a massage and manicure but little else? Does it mean they can’t afford to play golf twice a week at the club anymore? Does it mean the three quarters of a million dollars they earned last year dwindled to a measly half million?

Because I am a child of the forties, I won’t be able to get a handle on this recession until Hershey bars are missing from the shelves. Or when so many people are out of work, they stand in bread lines. Or when I go for food and there’s little offered, or when gas is rationed or when people steal coal to keep their children warm. Then I’ll know we’re in a recession!
Watch out...the rules could change

Afghanistani doctors who care for the war’s wounded recently noticed unusual burns on victims of the ongoing struggle and suggested that someone is using white phosphorus, an illegal weapon... The Taliban pointed a finger at us. We pointed right back. Centcom, that’s US Central Command for those out of the loop, responded, “We didn’t do it, but if we did, it’s because they did it first.” I, for one, have never understood banning certain weapons while accepting others, even more terrifying engines of death... It would be like banning aspirin but permitting heroin in the NFL. I wonder who decides these things and how they decide. Mustard gas was banned after the first world war, but not machine guns. I wish I’d thought of it but Kurt Vonnegut said that machine guns spray death like garden hoses spray water.

And how about cluster bombs? There’s an interesting weapon. They’re bad enough when all the little bomblets explode on impact. When they fail to detonate, they leave attractive little metal souvenirs for kids to pick up and play with. When I was a kid, I would have proudly carried one home. I hope Mom would have said, “Don’t bring that muddy thing in here.”

Kids pick the things up and try to open them with a hammer. Even the most insensitive bomb will surrender and explode under these conditions. The last thing a kid might say is, “Hey, Yasser. Look what I found.” Countries without much of an air force, the one’s we and the Israelis usually find does these things. It’s probably adults. The kids who picked them can’t vote. Even if they could they wouldn’t have a hand to raise in opposition. “Hey kid. Put down your stump.”

Cluster bombs aren’t nearly as bad as nukes, except that we’re reluctant to use them. Our nukes are just deterrent, safely stored and kept in reserve. It was unlikely that we would have been forced to use them as long as we faced sensible dictators. Terrorists are considerably less sensible and display much less self restraint than either wear or our old adversaries. If they get hold of Pakistan’s arsenal of nuclear weapons, they will use them and make our little cluster bombs look like toy balloons. Then all the rules would change.

... LETTERS from page 3

Owens’ needs to check his facts

Dear Editor,

The letter from Johnny Owens “Pay Attention People!” is full of falsehoods. Mainly President Obama didn’t pass an executive order to fund Hamas immigrants. If he and you would only check these ridiculous statements on Snopes.com you’d read the truth. Check this out: http://www.snopes.com/politics/obama/palestinians.asp

Get used to it, Obama is going to be our President for the next eight years.

Jack MacLean Franklin

People do come for the shops!

Dear Editor,

My wife and I moved here from Birmingham, AL 10 years ago to enjoy the “good life” in Highlands. We had visited the area for 17 years before making the commitment to be full time residents. When we move here we purchased The Bird Barn and opened The Hen House/The
memorial Day continued from page 1

... MEMORIAL DAY continued from page 1

Colonel Turner with the Reaper

flew missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In 2005, Trey was selected as Commanding Officer of the 17th Reconnaissance Squadron, Creech Air Force Base, Nevada. During this tour, Trey upgraded to instructor and evaluator in the MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles which flew missions in Iraq and Afghanistan and were controlled from Creech Air Force Base in Nevada. His current position with the Air Force is Director, Operational Training in the Pentagon.

Trey graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Science and later a Masters in Business Administration. He is married to the former Kimberly Roper. They have one daughter, Sarah Frost, named for her great, great, great grandmother, Sarah Frost Hill, who lived in Highlands from 1888 until her death in 1945.

HS students work on eight flags for eight tours project

The Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOAR) is dedicated to providing scholarships and educational counseling to children of Special Operations personnel killed in training or operational missions. The guest of honor at this year’s event, June 8-13, is a scholarship recipient whose step-father served eight tours - the eighth tour being his last as he was killed.

Students in Highlands School art teacher, Sally Taylor's class are creating eight flags for the eight tours commemorating Jonathan Goerling, SOAR guest of honor this year as students helping students.

Special Operations Warrior Foundation week in Highlands is set for June 8-13

When Jonathan Goerling speaks up on behalf of the local fundraising events of behalf of the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, he’ll be completing a circle that began many years ago.

Jonathan’s father was a Special Operations soldier who was killed in the line of duty. The Special Operation Warriors Foundation stepped in to ensure that this fallen warrior’s son would be able to attend the college of his choice.

For 28 years, the Special Operations Warrior Foundation has strived to have a positive impact on the children of the fallen heroes of the Special Operations Forces. The foundation gives all children of these young men who lost their life a college education (grant, not a loan).

“I couldn’t have received my education or lived the life that I’ve enjoyed if it hadn’t been for SOWF’s generous help to myself or my mother,” says Jonathan. “They made all the difference in my life and so I’m more than happy.”

SOAR of Western North Carolina, a 501C3 nonprofit, is a group of local volunteers dedicated to staging events to support the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. The Adventure Race is part of that series of fundraisers that support children all across America.

On June 8, SOAR will host a Golf Tournament at Burlington Country Club in Sapphire. The cost is $100 per person, including lunch, golf, and dinner after the tournament, with door prizes, and prizes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

On June 11th, SOAR will stage a Silent/Live Auction at Highlands Community Building. Tickets at the door are $30, and early reservations are $25. For reservations, call (828) 526-0224. This event, which starts at 5:30 p.m., will include an international tasting bar (featuring Mediterranean, American, Japanese and Asian dishes) by Chef Nicholas Figel of Cyprus Restaurant, wine, beer, soda, and music.

On June 13, it’s the Special Operations Adventure Race. There are two different segments: 7 a.m. Elite Race is running, biking, canoeing, rappelling, all in 7-8 hours. The event runs through approximately 40 miles of our beautiful mountain trails, and the 8:00 a.m. Sprint Race, more of the same done in 5-7 hours in approximately 25 miles. For more information, go to www.sowfhighlands.org. If you’d like to volunteer, call Mariann Vines (828) 743-2052.

In addition to all the events, you can buy raffle tickets at two different Highlands locations, Shiraz Rugs on Main Street and Bryson’s Grocery Store. Tickets will besold at the last three weekends of May and the first weekend of June. Items to be raffled are: two Chinese rugs donated by Shiraz Rugs, three American Flag Jackets donated by Jolie’s of Highlands and a 47-inch Vizio LCD Flat Screen TV donated by the Gary Van Flocke Family. Tickets are $2 or six for $10.

For more information on SOAR and its many activities and the children that it serves, call Buck Trott at (828) 526-4645.

Highlands High School art teacher, Sally Taylor’s AP Art History class will create the Eight Flags for Eight Tours in honor of the fallen Special Operations members. Students helping students: Haley Chalker, Danielle Reese, Brice Jenkins, Kate Marie Parks, Matt McClellan, and Ashley Dickey.

Photo by Mary Adair Leslie
date of June 19 and if granted will ensure 100% funding of that aspect.

“Yesterday, Macon County Emergency Management Director Warren Cabe notified the Town of Highlands that we would be eligible for stormwater improvements under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program,” said Town Manager Jim Fatland.

Fatland said given the need for stormwater improvements in the area, the fact that McGill Engineering can adapt its plans, and the fact that there is new money available for funding, town staff recommends moving forward with the project in some form.

He said a new plan has been reviewed by last week’s McGill presenter JP Johns, Cabe, and Town Engineer Lamar Nix.

“According to Cabe, the Town of Highlands can submit a letter of intent to apply for funding under the Macon County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan which was approved on August 4, 2004,” said Fatland. “Furthermore, Cabe has agreed to prepare the grant application.”

Though the board didn’t OK a specific park design, commissioners agreed unanimously not to close Pine Street to address stormwater problems and water quality issues by writing a letter of intent to apply for FEMA funds under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the stormwater bypass project, and to approve a $5,000 increase from $28,000 to $33,000 to McGill Associates to help Town Engineer Lamar Nix design a larger stormwater detention area at the park.

Nix also reported that core samples at the current grassed park area reveal the ability to stack two mitigation crates under ground rather than just one as earlier reported, which means the park as it now stands has double the water retention ability. In addition, the flooding aspect of the project will be alleviated with 36-inch pipes under the park to U.S. 64 where 48-inch pipes will be laid.

“With this scenario, we will be able to shave peaks off the 25-year, six-hour storm which we didn’t think would be possible,” he said.

Commissioners voted 3 to 2 to apply for Federal Stimulus Funds for stormwater detention at the park with Commissioners Buz Dotson and Larry Rogers voting against the motion.

“I am ethically opposed to federal stimulus funding for this project,” said Dotson. “I think it’s wrong for us to sell our grandchildren’s souls by taking federal stimulus money.”

Whether Clean Water Management Trust Funds are used – funds which were awarded, withdrawn and may be offered back at a later time – or federal stimulus funds, it’s likely the town will be able to have the stormwater mitigation work at the park done at little or no cost.

The Recreation Committee, Pine Street Park Committee and the Public Works Committee will begin meeting to finalize park design as soon as possible.

Stormwater Ordinance

The board was presented with the final draft of the Stormwater Ordinance which was prepared in response to the stormwater master plan completed by McGill Associates last year which identified about 30 capital stormwater mitigation projects. The ordinance is meant for new development and the planning department said it will not deter development only alleviate stormwater runoff.

The ordinance was submitted for introduction and review with adoption to be considered in about 90 days. The board sent it on to the Planning Board for review.

Town Hall Renovations

Before renovations could begin at Town Hall, an asbestos study had to be done. It was discovered that asbestos must be removed from the entire second floor. To keep from disrupting day to day work during removal and subsequent renovations, the board voted unanimously to move to a temporary location for about four months.

After looking at several locations, including Wright Square and the old Macon Bank, staff decided on 2,800 sq. ft. at Highlands Creek Village on N.C. 106 for $3,100 per month with a lease period a minimum of four months. The board voted unanimously to make the temporary move with a date to be forthcoming. Town employees will do the moving and funds if needed will come from the money that had been set aside to build the new Town Hall.

Upcoming Elections

The filing period for the upcoming 2009 Municipal Election for the Town of Highlands begins 8 a.m., Monday, July 6 through noon, July 17.

The mayor’s seat and two commissioner seats are open. It costs $10 for mayor and $5 for commissioner. Filing is done at the Macon County Board of Elections.

Planning

At Monday’s May 18 Planning Board meeting the final plat for the Rainwater Development on VZ-Top was approved contingent upon Town Engineer Nix’s letter verifying electricity compliance, but the Town Board voted to table the final plat until it looked again at the preliminary plat to see if they OK’d an old barn straddling the property line of two new lots. The concern was a setback violation.

COUNTY from pg 1

More timber is being harvested but because the federal government is giving the county more money back. By law, money from Timber Sales must go to fund schools. Last year $122,000 was allocated, this year proceeds are projected to be $350,000.

The board is keeping the fund balance at about 25% but beginning last year it began spending more of the fund balance than in previous years. However, Southard reiterated the importance of keeping it at 25% using Haywood County as an example.

Its fund balance dipped below 8% and consequently Haywood County was denied...
Bryson’s Food Store

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Whether it’s a picnic on the river or grilling on the deck, we have what you need for a perfect day and night! Local NC strawberries, Eastern Cantelope and watermelons. New, fresh, white corn from Florida, Vidalia onions and fixings, steaks, ribs, chicken and special seafood selections plus convenient already-made desserts in the bakery.

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• Cooking on the Plateau •

This Memorial Day stoke up the grill

Grilling is a great all-American tradition. For generations, family and friends have gathered around the grill to celebrate summer in the good ol’ USA.

This year, treat your taste buds to a little road trip of flavor without ever having to leave your backyard. Just fire up the grill and serve a big, juicy steak that salutes one of America’s regional food favorites. Whether it’s a spicy Southwestern-style Rib Eye steak, a Heart of Dixie Whiskey Barbeque Top Sirloin, or a Buffalo New York Strip, you can enjoy the steaks that make America great right at home.

Southwestern Rib Eye Steak with Chile Butter

Serves 4

- 4 tablespoons salted butter, softened at room temperature
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon canned chipotle in adobo sauce, pureed
- 1 tablespoon garlic, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon chile powder
- 4 Rib Eye Steaks, thawed
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste

Place butter in a mixer or mixing bowl and whip until smooth and creamy. Add Worcestershire sauce, chipotle in adobo sauce, garlic and chile powder. Mix well and reserve chile butter.

Preheat grill on high. Rub steaks with olive oil on each side and generously season with salt and pepper. Grill steaks to the desired doneness, while searing the outside. Place a dollop of chile butter on steaks just prior to taking off the grill.

Heart of Dixie Southern Whiskey Barbeque Marinated Top Sirloin

Serves 4

- 1 1/2 cups barbeque sauce
- 1 1/2 cups whiskey
- 1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 teaspoons black pepper
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 4 Top Sirloin Steaks, thawed

Combine all ingredients, except steaks, in a bowl and mix well. Reserve 1 cup of marinade and set aside. Place steaks in a gallon resealable bag. Pour marinade over steaks and place in refrigerator to marinate for 24 to 48 hours.

Preheat grill. Place steaks on grill, discarding marinade. Grill steaks to desired doneness while basting with reserved marinade.

Midwest Rubbed Filet Mignons

Serves 4

- 1 tablespoon coarse sea salt
- 1 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse dehydrated onion
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse dehydrated garlic
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon whole dill seed
- 1/4 teaspoon dried whole thyme
- 4 Filet Mignons, thawed

Combine spices, starting with salt, in a mixing bowl to make rub. Brush each side of steak with oil, then season with rub. Preheat grill on high. Grill steaks to desired doneness while searing the outside.

• Courtesy of Family Features
Journalism for dummies

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

"Quel horreur!" said Maman, and I had to agree with her. It was, after all, an ugly title for a book, even one that was trying to be cute. She was speaking about my copy of "Weight Training for Dummies," but she could have been commenting about "The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Tai Chi & Qi Gong," not to mention "The Pocket Idiot’s Guide to the Portable Office" (presumably for small idiots). All of these books grace my library, although I must admit I do find their titles offensive.

Do you remember when it wasn’t cool to be a dummy? Or an idiot? I remember the Good Old Days before the first “For Dummies” book in 1991. The series, published by IDG Books, began with “DOs for Dummmies,” written by Dan Gookin. The concept was launched by Michael "Mac" McCarthy, following a discussion with his uncle, who’d suggested a book "for us Dummies." Osten
tably, this was to fill an untapped market in beginner-friendly texts for a computer program. At first, the “Dummies” books focused on computer and technology topics, but later branched out into more general subjects. In a "which came first, the chicken or the egg" debate, we also have the “Complete Idiot’s” series. So who came first? The Dummies or the Idiots? Well, it seems the Idiots might actually have beaten out the Dummies. The “Complete Idiot’s Guides,” all of which are from Alpha Books, parallels the “For Dummies” publications. As with the “Dum
ty” books, the term "idiot" is supposed to be a clever use of exaggeration to get our attention. While “The Complete Idiot’s Guide to DOS” launched the whole series, it seems that the concept may be a nod to the 1969 guide, "How to Keep Your Volkswagen Alive, A Guide for the Compleat Idiot." This popular book by John Muir took a lighthearted approach to car maintenance in the days when it seems everyone owed a Volkswagen.

Jump forward to the present day, when faced with my mother’s piano, I decided some refreshing of my piano knowledge was in order. As I usually do in such circumstances, I went to the local library and signed up for a class. The nice lady gazed into her computer screen. "Well, for starters, there’s "Piano for Dummies," she said cheerily. "Hmmm, let’s see. We could also order two books from the Franklin library. They have "The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Playing Piano" and "An Easy Guide to Piano." (Easy?)

What? No dummies or idiots? I was expecting "Music for Morons," at least.

OK, I know I’m getting all worked up over nothing. They don’t really expect us to be that stupid, or we wouldn’t have to read the damned things, for Pete’s sake. Still, I long for the days when it was neat to be smart — not that I was al
days. Let me give you a few examples.

When I was a little girl, I thought that cats and dogs had magic zippers hidden in their fur. If the weather got partic
tar hot, they would go away where humans could not see, and take their fur off. I spent hours looking for the zippers, to the amusement of many animals who must have thought that the term “dumb animals” should be reserved for those creatures walking around on two legs, not them.

I must have had a problem with vanilla, as well. I thought that manila envelopes were vanilla envelopes, so-called because they were plain and boring. I thought that vanilla ice cream was not a flavor; it was what you got before you added wonderful things like chocolate to it.

After 19 years of living abroad, I returned to live in the States, New York City, to be exact. There I was greeted with another conundrum. "Paper or plastic?" said the check-out lady, lumping her gum. "Excuse me?" I stuttered. What the heck did she mean, paper or plastic? And then it came to me. She wanted to know if I was going to pay with cash or by credit card. "Plastic?" I replied enthusiastically, relieved that this lady would seem me now for the potential Rhodes Scholar that I was (in my dreams). I handed over my credit card, safe in the knowledge that at least this bit of Americana now held no mystery to me. It took me a while to figure out that she just wanted to know if I wanted my gro
cerries in paper or plastic bags. Oh, for dumb.

Jump forward to my arrival in Highlands. I had a few things to learn here, too. John and I would drive down the road, and see signs for yard sales and garage sales. Only the thought of my own junk at home stopped me from asking John to pull over. After all, I was a veteran, having worked the rummage sales of both my churches in Paris and New York. Until you’ve seen to old ladies in fur coats fighting over a rusty tea strainer, you haven’t really lived, that’s all I can say. One sign kept coming up, over and over. Finally, my curiosity got the better of me. "Music for Morons," at least.
Hospital first free health screening in 2009 is filling up fast

Although there is still more than a month and a half to go before the first of the hospital’s free community health screenings of the season, space is already at a premium. This season’s Highlands area screening, sponsored by Highlands Cashiers Hospital, will be held Saturday, June 27, on level 1 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus. It will be the only such event held this year for residents in Highlands, Sccoli Mountain and Sky Valley zip codes, but the number of slots for participants was expanded to 150 people. Even so, organizers say more than two thirds of the available slots have already been filled.

“The screening is filling up fast,” says Skip Taylor, director of Community Relations for the hospital, “as of last week only about 40 slots are still available. So if folks want to take advantage of this great opportunity, they need to act soon.”

The hospital’s Foundation office schedules participants by time slot to help reduce waiting times, and Taylor said that many of the most popular time slots, such as those early in the morning, are already filled. The screening gets underway at 7:15 a.m.

Organizers have also received many calls from folks who would prefer other time slots or who reside in communities other than the greater Highlands/Sccoli/Sky Valley area that would prefer to attend this screening. The hospital has started a waiting list for those people. If slots open up or go unfilled, those on the waiting list will be contacted in the week before the screening, Taylor said.

Part of the funding for this year’s Highlands area screenings is being provided by the Cullasaja women’s Outreach Program. “With the budget cuts we’ve had at the hospital this year, we very much appreciate the support of civic groups in the community in helping us defer at least a portion of the cost of providing these screenings,” said hospital President and CEO Ken Shull.

“Because we offer fairly extensive lab tests at our screening without any charge to the participants, these screenings are expensive to do. However, the hospital is committed to improving the health of the communities we serve and we appreciate various civic clubs in helping in this important effort.”

In addition to being screened for height and weight, BMI (body mass index), and blood pressure, screening participants will also be tested for blood oxygen saturation level, cholesterol and triglyceride levels, glucose (blood sugar) levels, and white and red blood cell counts (to detect anemia and infection). Men over the age of 45 will also receive a blood test to detect prostate cancer (PSA). Due to the nature of the tests being offered, those participating in screenings are asked not to eat or drink anything but water after midnight the night before.

In addition to the various tests, a dietitian/nutritionist will be on hand to discuss healthy eating and exercise habits, and a physical therapist will be available to evaluate balance and strength. Hearing tests and ear examinations will also be conducted at most of the screenings, and several area physicians are often in attendance. All of that is in addition to a complimentary continental breakfast.

A wealth of health information is also available. There is no age limit, but minors require parental consent.

Confidential results of screening tests will be reviewed by the participant’s own family physician (or another hospital physician if no family doctor is specified) before being mailed out.

A second community health screening for residents with zip codes for Cashiers, Glenville, Sapphire, and Yellow/Cullowhee Mountain area will be held July 11 at Blue Ridge School. Registration is already open for that screening as well.

Those wishing to take advantage of either free screenings can register by calling the hospital at (828) 526-1435, or sign up on the hospital’s website at www.highlandscashiershospital.org (click on the screening menu and complete the registration form). Those registering online will receive a confirmation email.

Nature Center ready for summer season

The Highlands Nature Center is about to start its summer season. Regular hours of Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. will begin on May 23. The Botanical Garden is open every day until sunset. Admission for both is free.

Highlands Nature Center features many interactive exhibits that interpret the native flora and fauna of the southern Appalachians, including a recently upgraded live animal display. Additional exhibits include ones on the biodiversity of the region, the Highlands Plateau as an important bird area, invasive species, a working beehive, and examples of local wildlife. The 11-acre Botanical Garden features more than 500 species of native plants with labels, interpretive gardens including the Cherokee Garden, and numerous trails through various habitats including old-growth hemlock forest, streams, a mountain bog, and Lindemont Lake.

The Nature Center offers many fun and educational programs for children and adults every day throughout the summer including Botanical Garden tours, animal

See NATURE CENTER page 32
The idea behind the park

Last week we had a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners to discuss the stormwater flooding situation on 5th and Pine Streets which has been a problem for many years. This is the place where the new Kelsey-Hutchinson Park will eventually be created. Too property take care of the flood situation, the McGill Engineering firm had recommended closing Pine Street and utilizing underground catch basins to eventually outflow into Mill Creek to prevent flooding. This was an option which would more completely solve the flooding situation although not closing the street was also an option which was far less effective in taking care of this serious problem.

The plan had been reviewed by the Public Works Committee and the Recreation Committee the planning director and town engineer. The closing of Pine Street would have caused the loss of some 40 parking places in creating a green park with a pavilion, appropriate landscaping and restroom facilities.

The plan was presented to the board by J.P. John of McGill Engineering and after the commissioners had a chance to ask questions to understand the proposal, the floor was opened up for public comment. The business community and the radio station were out in force to oppose the plan because of the loss of the street, parking places and a place for trucks to unload and bypass other streets.

Almost 20 people spoke against the plan, mostly business people in that area and other areas of town and only two spoke for the plan, both members of the committee which had worked hard to raise funds for more green space and a park in that location. It was an exercise in what democracy is all about – a town meeting of sorts in which feeling and ideas were expressed. The board always welcomes such comments and input from the community.

Thus the board tabled the recommendations of the engineers to look for alternative plans which did not result in closure of Pine Street. In effect, we lost the ability to seek stimulus money funding for this project because time runs out June 3 for applications. We had heard from primarily the business community but I do not think we heard from the community as a whole regarding this matter.

One of the questions we have to ask ourselves is: Why do people come to Highlands to live and why do visitors flock to this area for both brief and long vacations, some staying six months of the year? Why do people love to come here? We certainly do have great shops, stores and restaurants. As much as I love these wonderful shopping facilities which are very good, whose quality we are all proud of, but I don’t believe they are the primary reasons why people come to Highlands. I believe it is the tranquility and beauty of the places that draws people to us. It is the open spaces, the trails and hiking, the incredible vistas, the peace and quiet and the wonderful weather we have that brings people to Highlands. They come to us to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life, to get away from the crowds and the work they do on a daily basis. Sure they visit the wonderful shops we have while they happen to be here, but that is not the reason they come. They primarily look for peace and tranquility in a society which allows little of that. Some look to meet old friends, some play golf on our wonderful golf courses and many enjoy the scenery. They come to hike, to picnic, to just relax and get away from it all.

See MULLEN page 14
Some of us remember well Mrs. Clinton's aborted attempt to commandeer the US healthcare system. Handed the potato by hubby Bill, Hillary chaired the Task Force on National Health Care Reform. Bill had made fuzzy references to his vision for health care reform during the 1992 campaign but voters had no idea what he had in mind and could care less. There was little public interest in the matter but Bill put the "impending crisis" on the front burner and his grab for a huge chunk of the US economy wason. Don't let a crisis go to waste, even if the crisis is the figment of a greedy politician's imagination.

While Hillary was cutting her teeth on formulating public policy, and making every mistake in the book, Bill was ducking and dodging the spears and arrows of outrageous fortune. The Whitewater and development scandal not only would not go away but the cacophony built on itself and became a major distraction. At the same time, Clinton's history of sexual exploits was catching up with him and his political power was dwindling by the day.

While Congress was busy turning the spit that Bill was impaled upon, Hillary and her sidekick, 1ra Maganizer, were at work making enemies of the captains of the medical industry and the very congressional leaders she would need to push through her ambitious legislation. Big Pharma and health insurance companies waged a broad-based ad campaign against the plan, which included the successful "Harry and Louise" ads. Pat Moynihan, Democrat senator from NY, effectively put a stake through Hillary's health care reform effort by stating on "Meet the Press", "there is no health care crisis". Whoops. Curiously, Hillary succeeded Moynihan in the senate in 2000 when he chosen not to run.

So why all this regurgitation of history? Because we are supposed to learn from it. What did Hillary take away from her abortive experience? "Now I'm from the school of smaller steps..." So has presidential learned from history? "I want health reform legislation before you go on your summer vacation. The need is urgent and I control of a sixth of the nation's economy in addition to banking, automotive and whatever. Of course the plan will be fully fleshed out and you'll have loads of time to read it and understand it and bounce it off your constituents but it has to be done now. The health care crisis is burning us." Where's Pat Moynihan when you need him?

Obama isn't carrying the baggage Bill brought with him to the Presidency, nor is he burdened by an ambitious wife who has her fingers in the pie (at least not yet). He has Congress eating out of his hand and an incredibly supportive media. Looks like all systems are go. But here's the thing. The government is already committed, through Medicare, to fund $56 trillion in expenses for us old fogies who qualify now. In a few years the boomers will be participating and the government's unfunded liability will reach $100 trillion, which is seven times our current gross national product; it's no can do.

The stories are legend about the socialized healthcare where the government runs it.

The crisis is that health care is too expensive and that the government can run it cheaper than the professionals can. Oh really?? When the last time that happened?? UPS is profitable and very efficient, the US Postal Service, not so much. Priced up, service going down; operating at a big loss. So healthcare is going to be cheaper even though Uncle Sam is going to give you largely subsidize coverage for 50 million new insureds, whether they want it or not.

The cost of drugs will have to come down. This will cause big pharma to lose the cash flow necessary to continue critical research and development of new drugs needed to heal the sick and extend the lives of us oldies. Maybe that's the idea. The income of doctors means rationing care. If you are old and aren't contributing to the government's giant ponzi scheme, you'll go to the end of the line. Maybe that's the idea. (Am I sounding paranoid?).

Because of Medicare's restrictions, hospital stays are becoming shorter and shorter. For those of us who are blessed with rapid healing powers, it's not so important; but for those who aren't, it's critical, but I don't think the bureaucrats who make the rules are considering the difference. I can see that when childhood will be an outpatient procedure and open-heart will be same-day surgery.

Even the Obomerator admits that the $1.2 trillion it would cost, on top of all the other spending going on, will produce unsustainable debt levels. He says he can come up with answers, not create the questions. I don't know what the answer is, but the free-market will figure it out if the government will get out of the way.

One thing is for sure; it isn't socialized medicine or nationalized healthcare or whatever they choose to call it.
Katy Betz, a recent graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, surprised her former grade school teacher Mozelle Edwards (and #1 Carolina fan) with a coveted copy of The Daily Tar Heel newspaper, depicting the Tar Heels win of the 2009 NCAA Men's Basketball National Championship.

Ben Franklin, a.k.a., John Armor, began making the Rotary rounds this week, discussing elements of the Constitution of the United States and Ben Franklin's take on things.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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Vick’s release from prison will bring tough questions

Yesterday, Michael Vick was released from prison after serving almost two years in a federal penitentiary for dogfighting and illegal gambling. Vick is 28 years old, and will exit prison in the hopes that he will one day play professional football again. However, Vick also exits Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary as a convicted felon, and there is no doubt that his career path has changed forever.

I took an interest in Michael Vick when I was a freshman in college, as I watched him single-handedly erase a 21 point deficit in the Sugar Bowl against Florida State. What was an incredible individual effort. I was in awe of the incredible athleticism and poise displayed by a kid almost exactly my age (Vick is 2 days older than me). It was obvious that Vick was destined for big things, and that night against the Seminoles was more than enough evidence.

As a pro, Vick was drafted by the Falcons and made into their franchise player, and while he was inconsistent as a passer, he delivered with his athleticism and marketability. Vick set single season records for rushing yards by a quarterback, most rushing yards per game by a quarterback, and highest yards per carry for a season. He also proved to the NFL, the media and society in 20 months in prison, Vick will now have to prove it in a progressive and unique way. We must always look for ways to improve it in a progressive and unique way.

I have never heard a visitor say he or she was upset because they couldn’t find a parking place in town. They call to ask “Is Dry Falls open yet?” “Where are the places I can go for peace and quiet?” And when they come they will get that. And, yes, when they come they will visit our great shops and restaurants. But, my friends, that is not the primary reason they come.

The commissioners are always striving to keep it that way and we will do everything we can to do so. We have a responsibility to do that…to keep Highlands green and beautiful and maintain the village character that attracts others here. To create space for people to relax and walk and enjoy with their families, both our permanent residents and those who visit temporarily.

And creating great parks along with new trails and greenways is a way to do that.
Soccer Wrap-Up

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Women’s Varsity Soccer team finished their season last Wednesday with a loss to Hendersonville in the first round of the state 1A playoffs.

Zachary Field was filled with a large contingent of fans from both Highlands and Hendersonville, and they were not disappointed after a tremendous first half from both the Lady Highlanders and the Lady Bearcats.

Hendersonville came out strong early, but both sides seemed to be battling playoff jitters as there was sloppy play from both sides. After the first 20 minutes, both sides settled down nicely into what was a back and forth affair. Unfortunately for fans of the Lady Highlanders, the second half did not see that kind of action, as the Lady Bearcats came out and scored within the first minute of the second half and never looked back.

Two more goals by the Lady Bearcats in the next nine minutes ended any hopes of a Lady Highlander comeback, and at that point there was an 0-6.

The Lady Highlanders had an improved season from 2007-08, finishing 5-8 on the year and winning another SMC title. While seniors Carolyn Hornsby and Marisol Ruiz will be missed greatly, the Lady Highlanders will return 9 starters from this year and will look to finish with a winning record and a trip to the second round for the first time.

The Lady Highlanders appreciate all of the support from the community this season, and we look forward to seeing everyone next spring.

... HIS & HERS from 9


I suppose I should be thankful. Life is one big learning experience, and I am, after all, just a work in progress. This column is part of that experience. Gee, I was just thinking. Hmmmm. “Journalism for Dummies.” It has a certain ring to it, don’t you think?

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. She would like to thank the kind lady whose comment gave her the idea for this column.
... LETTERS continued from page 5

Speckled Hen the following year.
We have a vested interest in Highlands as a community, its citizens and its many visitors - WE DEPEND ON THEM for OUR LIVLIHOOD, but at the same time we have tried to give back to the community through donations and service on boards. Have our efforts been wasted?

It sickens me to hear an elected official (our mayor) say on public radio that he DOES NOT believe that people come to Highlands to shop in our stores and eat in our restaurants. He states the reason they come are for peace and tranquility, hiking, golf and relaxation.

Every day during the season we hear customer's comments about the QUALITY of the shops in Highlands. Shops that are unique and so different from shops found elsewhere. Many visitors and residents ARE here TO SHOP, EAT and relax while they are in Highlands.

Often they will express the difficulty experienced in finding a parking space nearby. PLEASE, Mr. Mayor, don't be so naive, as to have us believe there isn't a seasonal parking problem in Highlands. This problem existed when we started visiting years ago and still does to this day.

You jeopardize the very tax base that supports town projects, indeed helps pay town salaries and allows Highlands to survive. The SALES TAX raised by the Shop Owners you discount as, NOT the reason people come to Highlands!

You heard an outcry from merchants on Wednesday, May 13 at the town meeting concerning the closing of PINE Street to further the proposed Kelsey Hutchinson Park. What do you mean the silent majority was not heard? The merchants voiced concerns about the project, on public record, 20 opposed, to 2 in favor, of the project as planned and there were many other people that did not speak that will be effected if you proceed with the plan to close the street. You were urged to find another approach, even if it cost a bit more, so as to protect the merchants and citizens of Highlands from the loss of a street. My grandfather always said "if you can't find time to do it right the first time, how are you going to find time to do it again.

Plan your Kelsey Hutchinson Park, it will be used and enjoyed by many. But, first look at every viable option to provide green space, new public restrooms and flood control throughout the area, without closing PINE Street and crippling local traffic and town merchants. PINE Street is vital for traffic flow, employee parking and business deliveries. It is used for church parking, weddings, charity events, art shows, car shows and many other events. Don't forget to mention that the plan, as now written, will NOT ALLOW the weight of emergency vehicles on the green space. Close a street and remove the ability to provide lifesaving services to the public? I hope not!

PLEASE, go back and do it again, before it alters our peaceful, quiet village and forces merchants to close their doors.

Lloyd Wagner
Hen House

It's official! The season has begun

For years now, David Young has announced the "season" in Highlands with the hanging of flowering baskets from lamp posts along Main Street. He does this at his own expense simply to beautify the town. He and his wife Susan own Wits End and other properties on Main Street.
The Reverend James T. Murphy, and his wife, Sharon, and daughter, Charisa, will be visiting Christ Anglican Church over the Memorial Day weekend. Fr. Murphy will preach and celebrate at Christ Anglican’s 11 a.m. Service on Sunday (May 24) and will also lead its 10 a.m. Adult Education Class. Following the Worship Service the Church will host a reception for the Murphy family.

Christ Anglican Church services are held in the Highlands Community Center on Highway 64 next to the baseball field.

The Murphys presently live in New Bern, NC, where Father Murphy has served as Rector of Emmanuel Church (Anglican Mission in the Americas) over the past four years. In 2004 and 2005 he was Rector of Christ Anglican Church in Sarasota, Florida, and from 1995 until 2004 Rector of Church of the Nativity. Prior to 1995 he served as Assistant Rector of St. David’s Episcopal Church in Englewood, Florida.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Father Murphy received his Master of Divinity Degree from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, and his Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of South Florida in Tampa. Before then he attended Ohio State University. He was involved in business before being called to the ministry.

Christ Anglican Church is indeed blessed to have Fr. Murphy visit over this special holiday weekend, and residents of Highlands and Cashiers particularly look forward to his preaching and teaching. In describing his personal walk with the Lord he says that, “Beyond a doubt, I am most passionate about sharing my faith in Jesus — in what His birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection, ascension, and Pentecostal outpouring means for us and for those He came to save."

Visitors are welcome at both the Adult Education Class and Worship Service that follow.

**Bookworm has new hours**

Are you looking for a good book to read? The Bookworm, the used bookstore affiliated with the Hudson Library, is overflowing with great books. Starting June 2, the Bookworm is making it even easier for booklovers by opening on Tuesdays. The new hours will be Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. As an added gift to the community, the Bookworm is having a half-price sale on all books for the entire month of June!

The Bookworm sells hardcover and paperback books across all genres: bestsellers, classics, mysteries, nonfiction, biographies, cookbooks, poetry, etc. Children’s books have their own section. Most books are less than $4, and there is a wide variety of paperbacks that cost 50 cents. Also available are CDs, DVDs, and books on CD.

The Bookworm is run entirely by volunteers, and new volunteers are always needed and welcome, particularly in the summer. If you are interested, stop by anytime the Bookworm is open and pick up an application. Also, the Bookworm currently needs good used preschool books. Many of Highlands’ grandparents prepare for their grandkids’ summer visit by stocking up on reading material.

The Bookworm is located on the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street. For more information call (828) 526-9983 x300.
HS Yearbook Assembly moments

The Highlands School Yearbook Assembly was held Friday, May 15. Senior Matthew McClellan was the editor, high school English teacher Ms. Cathy McIntyre Ross was the sponsor and senior Ezra Herz presented the dedication to Coach Butch Smart. This is the first full-color cover for a Highlands School yearbook. Mascots, Taj and Sayla Roman were also acknowledged.

Right, Ezra Herz presenting dedication to Coach Butch Smart; upper right, Matt McClellan speaks at assembly and below are mascots Taj and Sayla Roman

Photos by Carol Bowen

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Above, Luke McClellan and Ezra Herz prepare for a relay during May Day which followed the Yearbook Assembly, Friday, May 15.

Left, students sign yearbooks.

Photos by Elizabeth Gordon

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Empathy

When I was growing up the phrase “walk a mile in another’s shoes” seemed almost a tautology as “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Understanding another person’s point-of-view, being able to see life from another person’s perspective, is crucial to learning how to get along in life. This is what it means to have empathy.

All of a sudden we’re hearing a lot about empathy, because President Obama said that his Supreme Court nominees would be people who had the capacity to feel empathy for other people. On May 1, he said, “I will seek someone who understands that justice isn’t about some abstract legal theory or footnote in a casebook; it is also about how our laws affect the daily realities of people’s lives — whether they can make a living and care for their families; whether they feel safe in their homes and welcome in their own nation. I view that quality of empathy, of understanding and identifying with people’s hopes and struggles, as an essential ingredient for arriving at just decisions and outcomes.”

One of my fellow columnists wrote about this last week, and advised people to read columns by Thomas Sowell, in particular one entitled “Empathy versus Law.” So I did (the article is easy to find by googling his name and “empathy.” I read it as it appeared on National Review Online). It’s a brief article, read it and judge for yourself whether I am correct in saying that Mr. Sowell’s argument boils down to this statement: “Would you want to go into court to appear before a judge with ‘empathy’ for groups A, B and C, if you were a member of groups X, Y or Z? If you appoint enough Supreme Court justices with ‘empathy’ for particular groups and you would have, for all practical purposes, repealed the 14th Amendment, which guarantees ‘equal protection of the laws’ for all Americans.”

Senator Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) reacted the same way. He said that Obama’s empathy remark showed a determination to pick judges on their “perceived sympathy for certain groups or individuals.” He said such an approach would undermine public faith in the judiciary.

It appears to me these men are misinterpreting the meaning of the word. I don’t think they are ignorant of its meaning, so I can only believe that they are willfully attempting to confuse people.

Just to be clear, I looked up the word “empathy” 1. the intellectual identification with or vicarious experiencing of the feelings, thoughts, or attitudes of another. (Random House)
2. Identification with and understanding of another’s situation, feelings, and motives. (American Heritage) 3. the act of understanding by being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another … (Merriam-Webster’s Medical Dictionary)

Having empathy for another person does not mean you are prejudiced in their favor. It means you understand their feelings and thoughts, their motivations.

As an example of empathy in a judge, I can’t think of anything better than the Biblical story of King Solomon, (from 1 Kings 3:16-28) in which two women come before the King asking him to decide who was the rightful mother of a baby boy. After some thought, he realized that by threatening to kill the infant the true mother would be revealed because her maternal feelings would be aroused at the thought of the child’s death. Indeed, when he declared his decision to split the baby in two, the real mother asked Solomon to give the baby to the other woman, while thetemplates of a baby died, “fine, better it should die than I lose.” Solomon used empathy to discern the best resolution to a difficult problem.

When the “three-strikes” laws were imposed in many states (upon conviction of a third felony a person was sentenced to a long prison term) judges were opposed to the legislation because it took away their discretion to fit sentences to the particular circumstances of an individual’s history. And the laws produced some extremely unjust sentences; in California for example, a man got 25 years to life (the only sentence possible after the “third strike”) for shoplifting two packs of cigarettes; another for stealing a slice of pizza.

It only took two years for a court to reach the California Supreme Court challenging this law. The Court unanimously decided that it would be unconstitutional for the law to limit a trial judge’s discretion to reduce a three-strike sentence in ‘furtherance of justice’! In other words, in order for there to be justice, the judge must consider the person involved—their past, their circumstances, their humanity. In other words, utilize empathy.

In December of 2007 the United States Supreme Court cleared the way for judges to use their discretion in imposing sentences that deviate from federal sentencing guidelines, ruling that lenient sentences were appropriate in a case involving crack cocaine and another involving ecstasy. The ruling was 7-2, with only Justices Alito and Thomas dissenting.

Bringing humanity into the courtroom is what produces justice; strict legalism leads to injustice.

I think what the conservatives are really afraid of is something President Obama has said (remember, he taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago). Here’s his comment in 2007: “It’s important...
to understand that there is nothing wrong in voting against judicial nominees who don’t appear to share a broader vision of what the Constitution is about. I think the Constitution can be interpreted in so many ways. And one way is a cramped and narrow way in which the Constitution and the courts essentially become the rubber stamps of the powerful in society. And then there’s another vision of the court that says that the courts are the refuge of the powerless, because often times they may lose in the democratic back-and-forth. They may be locked out and prevented from fully participating in the democratic process. You read the statute, look at the case law, and most of the time the law is pretty clear—95% of the time. But it’s those 5% of the cases that really count. And in those 5% of the cases what you’ve got to look at it is: What is in the justice’s heart? What’s their broader vision of what America should be?”

All of Katie Brugger’s columns are available on her website: www.kathleenbrugger.com
Plant sale supports two scholars

By Dr. Becky Schilling

Austin Brooks and Andrew Billingsley will each receive a $4,000 Dorothy Wertzler Memorial Scholarship from the Mountain Garden Club for 2009-2010.

“We’re proud of these outstanding young men and their career goals,” said Elizabeth Motz, past Chairman of the Mountain Garden Club Scholarship Committee. “Come to our plant sale this Saturday and you’ll see why. Austin and Andrew will be working with us at the sale.”

Scholarship funds from the once-a-year Mountain Garden Club plant sale. This year’s sale will be Saturday, May 23, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, at the baseball park on Highway 64 East in Highlands.

“The scholarship means a lot to me,” said Austin Brooks, who is receiving a Dorothy Wertzler Memorial Scholarship for the second year in a row. Brooks is pursuing a degree in environmental conservation at Western Carolina University.

“The most important thing I’ve learned this year is that every action has a strong reaction. Even if you believe you are only affecting one thing, the truth is there is a whole system you are affecting,” said Brooks. “I am very excited about taking a natural resource management class and an upper-level biology course (this coming year).”

Brooks, the son of Mary and Bill Brooks of Highlands, is working this summer for Carl Zoellner of Zoellner Landscaping. When Zoellner was in college he also received scholarships from the Mountain Garden Club.

Last Wednesday Brooks and the Zoellner Landscaping crew started work at 7 am and finished at 8 pm.

“Look at the pattern here. Long days and hard work lead to success,” said Brooks.

Where am I?...From Dry Crawl Space

It’s pitch black in the middle of the day. The humidity level exceeds 95%. It’s a breeding ground for MOLD. All sorts of bugs and critters come and go as they please. The smell in the air makes my eyes water and causes me to sneeze. It’s the least used room in your house and it’s less than 1½ inches from your living space. Can you guess where I am? It’s your DIRT Crawl space!

With all the advancement in building techniques over the past 100 years, this is the only area of home design that has not changed since the late 1800’s. Today, homes are built so energy efficient the envelope of your home is tighter than ever before, which saves all of us a great deal of energy. But we are building these tight homes above an unsealed, wet crawl space that breathes straight up. If you don’t believe me open a tube of model glue and put it in your crawlspace. How long will it take to fill your house with the smell of glue? This example demonstrates that the air in your crawlspace is in fact, rising and you are breathing it now. If you are in doors, come from your DIRT Crawl space.

Where am I?

It’s bright white. The humidity levels are 50% or lower, all the time. The air is clean. There are no bugs or critters and even Radon Gas is not present. Can you guess where I am? It’s your fully encapsulated Dry Crawl space! Dirt and moisture are sealed beneath, our 2-millimeter multi-layer CleanSpace liner. This liner covers the dirt and is fastened to the wall in your crawlspace and sealed. Nothing under the liner can come up through it. You can say goodbye to musty odors, once and for all. Bugs hate it because they need the moisture to survive. Best of all, you’ve expanded your usable storage space!

Where can I get this?

Dry Crawlspaces of Cashiers and Highlands has been installing the CleanSpace system for 5 years now. The system comes with a 25 year full warranty. We don’t try to make you a customer for life, like some others, by signing you up for some annual SERVICE FEE. Once we have installed our system, you will never have to touch it again. That’s good! Westand behind it for 25 years, so we make sure it’s right the first time.

Here’s what some of our customers have said:

“My wife’s cough and headaches are finally gone. We never knew the problem was right below our feet.” - Homeowner, Highlands Falls CC.

“They say it was the first house they had looked at that did not stink.” - Homeowners, Highlands, NC.

“It’s like I gained an extra 1,000 sq ft. I can now store anything even valuable in my crawlspace and I can stop renting that storage unit.” - Homeowner, Big Bear Pen, Highlands, NC.

“You have the thickest most durable liner and your price was still the best quote I received.” - Homeowner, Lake Glenville, NC.

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On-going Events
• RBC Bank Highlands (225 Franklin Rd) is selling raffle tickets to win a Weber table portable gas grill. Tickets are $5 and raffle is limited to 100 tickets only. Get ‘em while you last! Also selling American Cancer Society “Fight Like A Girl” shirts in their lobby at 225 Franklin Rd. Highlands 100% of proceeds donated to the American Cancer Society.
• Registration is now open for the 2008 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered. Call 828-526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/nhb.
• Friends of Panther town work days, last Thursday of every month (time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).
• 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.
• 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 Jeannette Fisher at 828-526-1FP.
• 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.

Sundays
• Old-fashioned hymn sing at the Little Church in the Wildwood 7-8 p.m. Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. For more information call Kay Ward at 743-5009.
• Mon. & Wed.
• Pilates Classes Level 1 of Jane Woodruff at the hospital at 4 p.m. $10 per class. Call 526-5852.
• Mon., Wed., Fri.
• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. $10 per class or $50 a month.

First Mondays
• Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.
• Mondays
• Closed AA meeting, 8 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.
• Puerto Rican Festival at the Rec Park. $10 per car or $50 per booth.

Tuesdays
• Refuge Weekly Meeting 7-8 p.m. at First Baptist Church.
• Refuge Youth takes place at New Hope Church at Fifth and Main streets.
• Refuge Youth at the First Baptist Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS
• 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 p.m. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.
• Closed AA Women’s meeting; 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

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.

Wednesdays & Fridays
• Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.
• Every Third Wednesday
• Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A $5 soup supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Gardening Smarter
By Emily Compost
By now you know the 27th Annual Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale will be Saturday, May 23, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the baseball park on Highway 64E in Highlands.
You plan to be there and browse the aisles of herbs, succulents, and other mountain-hardy perennials.
But which plants will do best in your garden? How many do you need? Is your garden ready for new additions?
Here are 5 tips to help you decide what to buy and how to prep your garden. Tips geared to help you spend more time enjoying your plants and less time taking care of them.
Tip No. 1. On a bright sunny day, walk through your garden in the morning, mid morning, mid afternoon, and late afternoon. Are there places where you’d like to add plants sunny all day long or only part of the day? Gardens change over the years as trees and shrubs grow. What used to be sunny or partially sunny may be shady now. By observing your current lighting conditions, you’ll be ready to select the right plants: sun loving plants for sunny or partially sunny areas, shade tolerant plants for shady areas.
Tip No. 2. Amend the soil with good compost and planting mix. I like Daddy Pete’s cow manure and planting mix. For perennial flowers, use a spade or shovel to dig the soil to a depth of 10 or 12 inches and mix in the compost and planting mix.
Tip No. 3. Mix in a granular, time-released plant food. For shrubs and hostas, I use Sta-Green Bloom Start, which has a higher phosphorous level (12-6-6). For flowering perennials I use Sta-Green Bloom Start, which has a higher phosphorous level (11-40-6) that encourages big beautiful blooms.
Tip No. 4. Buy mulch now so you can use it immediately after planting. Place 2 to 3 inches of mulch on the soil around your new plantings. Mulch helps control weeds, conserves soil moisture, and improves the soil. Keep mulch slightly away from plant stalks; you don’t like to wear turtlenecks in the summer and neither do they.
Tip No. 5. Decide how many plants you need. Perennials and shrubs look best when planted in odd numbers, like 3, 5 or 7. Spacing depends on mature plant size. Many perennial flowers should be spaced 12 to 18 inches apart. Many shrubs should be spaced 3 to 5 feet apart.
Follow these tips and come to the 27th Annual Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale on Saturday, May 23, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come early for the best selection. Head home and have fun planting!
Ribbon cutting for The Bascom’s covered bridge entrance set for Saturday

The Bascom will celebrate the completion of the Will Henry Stevens Bridge, above, with a ribbon cutting this Saturday, May 23, at 11 a.m.

The Bascom’s new campus and art center buildings are not quite ready for receiving the public, but its magnificent covered bridge on Franklin Road in Highlands will be open and the subject of a community celebration this Saturday, May 23, beginning at 11 a.m. The public is invited to join in during the bridge inauguration, ribbon cutting and antique car drive-over. The Will Henry Stevens Bridge (formerly the Bagley Bridge) is a massive rough-hewn 87-foot-5-inch-long wooden structure; it forms the one-way entrance into The Bascom’s six-acre campus. The bridge commemorates the visionary southern artist Will Henry Stevens, who lived from 1881 to 1949 and painted and taught in Highlands and in the surrounding plateau, as well as in New Orleans, his hometown.

On May 23, at 11 a.m., Bascom chairman Bob Fisher and public officials including Town Mayor Don Dullen will remark on the bridge reconstruction. This will be a red-letter day not only for The Bascom, but also for the Coleman and Wininger families whose generous donations to the art center supported the reconstruction of their early 1800s bridge. It had been languishing in storage for 40 years in New Hampshire. The bridge is now most likely the largest recycled object in all of Western North Carolina.

Dorothy and Jimmy Coleman and Diane and Tom Wininger supported the bridge reconstruction in honor of Will Henry Stevens, the painter, and the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts, where Dorothy participates as a Board member and patron. Dorothy Coleman studied with Will Henry Stevens at Sophie Newcomb College in New Orleans. Her daughter Diane and family have a home in Highlands. Many New Orleans natives summer in Highlands and there is an enduring connection between the two towns.

The Bascom purchased the bridge from the Graton family and hired bridgeworker Arnold Graton to reconstruct it in Highlands using handcrafted techniques and trunnell or tree nail joinery.

“The ribbon cutting and adaptive use of the Will Henry Stevens Bridge is a historic moment for Highlands and The Bascom,” said Bob Fisher, board chairman. “This is one of the oldest covered bridges in the nation, and we are exceedingly proud to feature it as the entrance to our stunning new center for the visual arts.”

After the ribbon cutting and antique car drive over on May 23 at 11 a.m., the bridge will be closed due to continuing landscape grading and parking lot construction at The Bascom’s campus. The bridge will be in use again for Collective Spirits, The Bascom’s Wine Festival, May 29-30. The Bascom’s Will Henry Stevens Bridge will be open for regular use in June 2009.

For more information, call The Bascom at (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.
Zahner Conservation Lecture Series Begins
Thursday May 21st with Producer of the PBS Series 'Appalachia: A History of Mountains and People'

In exploring the history of the Appalachian region, Jamie Ross and Ross Spears of Ages Films became convinced that it was time for a new vision of our human story, one that included not just human beings, but rocks and trees and all living creatures. The result is the first environmental history series of any region ever on film, APPALACHIA: A History of Mountains and People, which was released on April 9, 2009. Producer Jamie Ross will discuss the complexity in both the landscape and its peoples using excerpts and outtakes from this landmark, 4-part PBS series, which features numerous interviews with beloved and venerable Highlands native Bob Zahner and well-known artists, writers and scientists such as Barbara Kingsolver, Sisy Spaek and E.O. Wilson. Jamie Ross has worked on documentary films for over twenty-five years as writer, editor and producer and has traveled through the mountains exploring archives and scouting locations for the series to bring the rich and grand story of the Appalachian region to the public.

The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series continues Thursday May 28th with Clemson Professor Rob Baldwin on Consecrating Amphibians in a World of Roads and Houses. Amphibians in North America face many threats, but none so pressing as habitat loss and degradation due to new roads and houses. Wetland habitats are being lost and degraded, and wet and landscapes are being "fragmented" into smaller and smaller shreds due to road building and urbanization. During this breathing space we have while the economy turns around, perhaps soon is a good time to reflect and consider how we want the next decades to be. Baldwin concludes that a future that is good for amphibians is also good for humans.

The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series is held each Thursday during the summer months at 7pm at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Rd. and is sponsored by the Highlands Biological Foundation, Inc. in conjunction with numerous supporting organizations and individuals. For a complete schedule, visit www.wcu.edu/hbs
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Wine Gala and $295 for a combination Friday-Saturday ticket. The presenting sponsor of the event is Bank of New York-Mellon. Other sponsors are First Citizens Bank, Harry Norman Realtors/Pat Allen and Bert Mobley, brokers; Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop; and The Laurel magazine. Highlands Wine & Cheese is the official wine retailer of the event. For more information, visit www.collectivespirits.com or call (828) 526-4949.

**Friday-Sunday, May 29-31**
- The Cashiers Historical Society’s Annual Symposium is bringing to our community a stellar lineup of musicians and authorities on Traditional Appalachian Music alive today to the Albert C. Carlton Library in Cashiers and the Summer Cahlpel and Lombard’s Lodge, both in Whiteside Cove. In addition there will be an “Instruments of Appalachian Music” exhibit at The Bascom in Highlands. Performing will be David Holt, Sheila Kay Adams, Lee Knight, The Queen Family, and Jacob Jones. Presenting will be Dr. William Ferris of UNC-Chapel Hill, Dr. Doug Orr, President Emeritus of Warren Wilson College, Art Rosenbaum of the University of Georgia, and local historians Jane Gibson Nardy and Gary Carden. All seating is reserved and space is limited. For more information or to reserve your tickets email zacharytolbert@aol.com or phone 828-743-7710.

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**Bevy of live and silent auction items at Collective Spirits May 29-30**

The Collective Spirits wine festival will feature an array of silent and live auction items in addition to the liquid art celebrated that weekend.

**Friday**
- Held Friday and Saturday, May 29 and 30, Collective Spirits is the first event at The Bascom’s stunning new six-acre campus, and all proceeds raise money for the nonprofit visual arts center.
- Friday night features a grand wine tasting, grazing dinner by 12 local chefs, silent auction, live musical entertainment by guitarists Cy Timmons and Linda Lombard, and a gala seated dinner, followed by a live auction.

**Saturday**
- Atlanta’s Jim Landon will conduct Saturday’s live auction, featuring exceptional wines and special wine-related items, such as a seven-day Seafoon Spirit cruise from Venice to Rome; a wooden box with three 750ml bottles of Harlan Estate The Maiden Proprietary Blend; a two-bottle wooden box with one bottle of Bond’s 1999 Malibu Proprietary Red Wind and one bottle of 1999 Veclina; a three-bottle box of 2002 Melbury, 2002 Veclina and 2002 St. Eden; a night at Fiddlehead Cottage at Persimmon Creek Vineyards, including dinner, breakfast, and a full tour with proprietor Mary Ann Hardman; a 3L Screaming Eagle Cabernet Sauvignon; a Helena Meeks painting; a 1,000CC etched and signed limited edition bottle of 1996 Grace Family Vineyard, Napa Valley Cabernet; and more.

**Live auction items:**
- The silent auction on Friday will feature, in addition to many hard-to-get and large-format wines, a 3L Fisher Vineyard 2006 Unity Cabernet Sauvignon and VIP tasting and lunch for six with the Fisher family; an avertical of Silver Oak Cellars Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon; a wine class and training for 12 conducted by Dean Michaelis, certified sommelier; a vineyard dinner for eight at Kettle Rock Vineyards; Highlands dinner and wine for four at Lakeside Restaurant, Highlands; dinner and wine for four at Five and Ten in Athens, Ga.; hors d’oeuvres for 20 delivered to your door along with two hours of entertainment by guitarist Cy Timmons; a vintage Lake Sequoyah cocktail cruise for six (circa 1928); and more.

For a full list of live and silent auction items, visit www.collectivespirits.com.

"These magnificent auction items are a great way to add to your collection, plus the whole event is a terrific way to entertain friends who might be visiting over the weekend," said Donna Woods, The Bascom’s event director. "Come and celebrate the love of good food and great wine at Collective Spirits."

Tickets for the wine festival are on sale now at www.collectivespirits.com or (828) 526-4949.

**Singer Loosier to perform at PAC June 5 & 6**

Songstress Lynn Loosier will lead off a series of musical events at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street with appearances on June 5 and 6. Ms. Loosier’s concert will include a mixture of blues, jazz and even soul. She will be followed on June 27 by Highlands’ favorite bluegrass group, The Dappled Grays, and a whole month of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival starting July 5. Folkmoot returns to the stage at PAC, on July 15. On July 23 Judy Collins will sing for Highlands. September 4 - 6 perennially popular Robert Ray will perform. Bel Canto is scheduled September 13; the Male Chorus on September 25, and on December 19 the Chamber Music Festival will provide a Christmas Concert. For times and ticket information visit www.highlandsperformingartscenter.org.
Having a car wash on Saturday, May 30th and from
CLE)
beck. (Friday, May 29, 3:00-5:30, Highlands Biolog-
recently published by Harvard. He and Railsback
Darwin’s famous book “On the Origin of Species” was
John Steinbeck. Costa’s annotated edition of Charles
tribution between naturalist Charles Darwin and author
ing based on his or her location, soil and grape vari-
als. The three of them together will delight and enter-
ty you as you learn more about “farming grapes”
and how different and delicious they can be in the
als Vineyards, Washington State; Allison Steltzner of
Steltzner Vineyards, Stag’s Leap District, and Mat
Each has a very different approach to winemaking
beginning at 12:30, Karen Matoian, Gulf States Re-
utemor at the Highlands Civic Center, doors opening at
7 - 9:30 pm at the Episcopal Church in
Join J-MCA for wine and nibbles at
slaferty@verizon.net
2009 Green Living Fair set for July 24-25
Planning is in full swing for the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance’s (J-MCA) 2009 Green Living Fair being held in Highlands the weekend of July 24 & 25. The 2008 event, a first of its kind for the area, was a huge success with an attendance of over 300 people and host to 30 participants. Unsure of what the first year would bring, J-MCA was conservative with booth space and speaker/discussion sessions. Since then the response has been overwhelming positive and reason for the expansion of the number of eco-conscious participants and speakers able to take part in the 2009 event.
Join J-MCA for wine and nibbles at their pre-event gathering Friday, July 24th at 7 - 9:00 pm at the Episcopal Church in Highlands. Enjoy an evening with presentations from regional nature photographer Bill Lea and award-winning author and naturalist Janisse Ray. The Green Living Fair will be held on Saturday, July 25th at the Highlands Civic Center, doors opening at 9:30 am until 4 pm, rain or shine, and will be held to more than 40 regional commercial vendors, conservation groups, local easy to moderate hike, with an elevation change of 400 feet, on the new Ranger Falls Trail that includes a 40-foot waterfall and is designed to teach children and adults about nature. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 or at Cliffside Lake Recreation Area on US 64 (4 miles west of Highlands at the parking lot for the picnic area) at 9:45. Call Leader Jim Whitehurst at 526-8134 for reservations.

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Highlands Little League Teams

Twins - 9/10 Baseball Team

Twins - 11/12 Baseball Team
Back Row from left: Paul Schmitt, Luke Rodgers, Brent Amundrud, Alex Bronaugh, Philip Murphy, Davis Moore, Daniel Moore, Chase Harris, Tay Bronaugh. Front Row from left: Quinn Rodgers, John Murphy, Robbie Calloway, Jacob Watson, Taylor Schmitt.

Highlands Little League Baseball Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>7/8 Twins vs Marlins</td>
<td>June 4</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>9/10 A's vs Twins</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>9/10 A's vs Dodgers</td>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>9/10 A's vs Cardinals</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>7/8 Twins vs Dodgers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>9/10 Twins vs Indians</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>11/12 Twins vs Brewers</td>
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<td>May 31</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>9/10 Twins vs Red Sox</td>
<td>All games are at the Zachary Park on Buck Creek Road and are subject to change due to weather.</td>
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HELP WANTED

NAIL TECH NEEDED – part-time or full time, for a very busy upscale salon in Highlands, NC. References needed. Please call Tracy at 828-787-2343. 5/21

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WAITERS, WAITRESSES, COUNTER, COOKS, DISHWASHERS. Apply in person at Sweetreats from 2-4 p.m. Call 526-9822. (st. 5/7)

HOUSEKEEPER: Happy person who loves clean homes needed in Sapphire Valley once per week May through October. 561 706-7555, 4/30

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

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. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

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 inquiries to Matt Shuler at the Highlands Town Office (828) 526-2118.

LAUNDRY ATTENDANT needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time and PRN positions available with weekend rotations. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 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 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

UNIT CLERK/CNA II needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full Time, night position available. Current NC RN license, along with BLS and ACLS certifications required. Outstanding opportunity for a sound clinician who adores mentoring others. ER/Critical Care experience is a must. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RN needed in the Emergency Room at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full Time position available. ER experience required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA or CNA II at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. PRN positions available. 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.

ADOLABLE 2/2 Joe Webb log cabin only a stone’s throw from Mirror Lake.

Completely furnished for only $499K. Call 800-335-9215 and view pics at: www.HighlandsRentals.net/ StonesThrowPics. 5/28

$17 weekly • SERVICE DIRECTORY • $17 weekly

Deluxe, Indoor Climate Controlled Self Storage
With covered loading zone
Highlands Storage Village • 828-526-4555
Cashiers Road

Nails - Tanning Spray Tans
The only tanning salon serving Highlands and Cashiers!
Mon.-Sat., – 10 to 6 Walk-ins Welcome Manager Jenna Schmitt, Nail Technician
616 Pierson Drive Highlands • 526-8266

Lawn - Grounds - Property Maintenance
Mowing - Weed eating Leaf Brush Removal Painting General Services
Miguel Romero 828-369-7696 OR 828-371-1691
Prime Retail Space
2,000 sq. ft.
Entrance - Main Street & Oak Street
Special Incentives
Call 828-526-4154
or 954-547-1547

$11.00 to $14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

YARD SALE
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 22 & 23 – Scaly Mountain General Store, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Big variety of yard and household items, collectibles, leather and more.

LOST & FOUND
LOST – A MALE BLACK Cat, Keesa, lost in vicinity of Mt. Lori and N. Cobb. Wearing a hot pink rubber flea collar. Please call Tanya at 828-301-3696. FOUND: POOL CUE, Call 404/237-4333

RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE
4.28 FLAT LOT IN PINE FOREST, Sapphire. Private community, paved roads, underground utilities, approved septic permit. 828-743-2800 / 371-0645 st. 5/21

ADORABLE HIGHLANDS COTTAGE — 2/2, totally remodeled, one car garage, community lake, and lots of outdoor living space! Call now for more details: 1-800-526-1648 ext. 1218, Green Mountain Realty Group. 5/28

SPACIOUS 3/2 ON .83+/- ACRE stone fireplace, impeccably kept, new granite counter tops! $399,000. Call now for more details: 1-800-526-1648 ext. 1398, Green Mountain Realty Group. 5/28

CUSTOM HOME WITH LAKE — 3/2 on 1.34+/- acres, master suite on main level, covered front and back porches, lake with dock on property! $549,000. Call now for more details: 1-800-526-1648 ext. 1208, Green Mountain Realty Group. 5/28

LOT #2 RIVER RIDGE DEVELOPMENT – 28 1/2 +/- acres, master suite on main level, covered back porches, lake view. From $250,000. Call 828-421-7922. 5/7

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT
GREAT 2 BEDROOM/1BATH APARTMENT – Main Street, Highlands includes 9 foot ceilings, central heat & air, balcony, large laundry room with washer/dryer. $900 per month plus utilities. Lease and references required. Contact John Dotson - 526-5667, st. 5/21

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

GARAGE APART. FULLY FURNISHED IN LAUREL FALLS – close to downtown and hospital. $475 a month plus utilities. Call 828-767-2423.

APARTMENT FOR RENT – 1 bed, 1 bath with washer/dryer. $900 per month plus utilities. Contact John Dotson - 526-5667, st. 5/21

HOUSE FOR RENT – Scaly Mountain, 2 bedroom, 2 bath cabin rent is $800. Call 423-715-7757. 6/4

AFT. FOR RENT – 1 bed, 1 bath, furnished, 1/2 miles from town. $750 per month, includes utilities, satellite TV, W/D, Available June 1. Call 526-4598 or 526-3612. (st. 5/7)

ONE BEDROOM GARAGE APARTMENT – Walk to Town. Sparsely furnished, year round for responsible single or couple. $550 plus utilities. 526-5558.

APARTMENT FOR RENT – partly furnished, 1BR/la, 6 mi. from Highlands NO dogs, NO smoking, $425/mo includes power/water, negotiable rent 828-787-1515.

YEAR-ROUND RENTAL HOUSE AVAILABLE ABOUT A MILE FROM MAIN STREET – One bedroom, one and a half baths, furnished or unfurnished. Includes washer and dryer, hardwood floors, vaulted wood ceilings, nice sunny deck with mountain and pond views, private. No smoking or pets. Rate negotiable but first, last and security deposit required. (828) 421-7922. (St. 5/7)

HOUSE FOR RENT ON MIRROR LAKE – 3 bed/3 ba, with w/d, central h/a, deck. $1,100 per month plus utilities. Security deposit required, yearly lease, no smoking. 828-526-4073.

IN-TOWN HIGHLANDS, MIRROR LAKE

Office Furniture Liquidation!
Top Quality solid Cherry, House of Denmark Brand 7 desks, 3 computer desks, 9 file cabinets, assorted desk and side chairs. Conference Table.

Priced to Sell! Call Doug at 828-226-2999.

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT
GREAT 2 BEDROOM/1BATH APARTMENT – Main Street, Highlands includes 9 foot ceilings, central heat & air, balcony, large laundry room with washer/dryer. $900 per month plus utilities. Lease and references required. Contact John Dotson - 526-5667, st. 5/21

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

GARAGE APART. FULLY FURNISHED IN LAUREL FALLS – close to downtown and hospital. $475 a month plus utilities. Call 828-767-2423.

APARTMENT FOR RENT – 1 bed, 1 bath, living area including 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.


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

THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE – 1 BR, 1 BA in town @ 526-1684. 4BR, 2BA COTTAGE NEAR MIRROR LAKE – In town. $1,250 per month. Very clean. 770-977-5692.

NEWLY REMODELED RETAIL, OFFICE – $1,400 a month, 1,000 sq. ft. 535 N. 4th Street. Call 770-827-0450. 7/9

TENTAL SPACE IN WRIGHT SQUARE – Half a building or two floors of one building. Call Harold Bramer. 828-526-5673. st. 4/16

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

VACATION RENTAL
ADORABLE CABIN FOR TWO – Four blocks from town on Chestnut Street. $80 per night. Available beginning June 5. Call 828-526-9375. 5/28

RESTORED FARMHOUSE ON SHORTOFF ROAD, — 2 bedrooms, 2 baths in a country setting. Fully furnished with a large screened porch. See details and pictures at www.homeaway.com #23644 $800 per week. (912) 354-6917

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB – Sorry, golf 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

APPLIANCES — white Whirlpool electric stove. Like new, $200.00, white Frigidaire dishwasher $100 very good condition. 349-6402

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

COMPUTER DESK— Oak-tone, slide out keyboard ledge, gently used $40 5/21

DINING ROOM TABLE — 45x60, dark walnut wood, 6 chairs; $650. 828 526 9589 5/21

KENMORE REFRIGERATOR WITH ICE MAKER — 17.7 cu. ft., almond $100.00 828-342-9440

BEDS — Remodeling projects makes top-of-the-line Sealy Posturpedic mattresses and box springs available. 1 king, 2 queen sets. Best deal of the decade. $250 and $350. 5/28


 classifieds page 32
RECLAIMED, ECO-FRIENDLY BUILDING MATERIALS AND FLOORING. Hand hewn beams, siding, and flooring. All from dismantled early American buildings; beautiful, high quality and recycled! Available in truckloads or smaller quantities. www.jcwwoodworking.info or 267-404-2214. 5/28

BEAUTIFUL, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY OAK FLOORING. Character grade worry wormy oak cut from dead stands. Widths from 5-12", lengths 8-14 ft. Incredible character. 267-404-2214 or www.jcwwoodworking.info. 5/28

JOSEPHARNA RANCHER 55 CHAIN SAW Excellent Condition. $230. Call 787-2124 or 200-1250.

TWO PIECE CHINA DISPLAY CABINET Boof – top and bottom scrolled, inset lighting, glass shelves, ornate brass handles, beveled glass door. Must see. $800 OBO. Call 828-396-9212, or 828-349-2405. 4"X6" OAK TIMBERS Lengths 12’-30’ $10 per foot. Delivery available. Call Joye at 828-734-0101 1/52

BUFFET – top and bottom scrollled, inset lighting, glass shelves, ornate brass handles, beveled glass door. Must see. $800 OBO. Call 828-396-9212, or 828-349-2405. 4"X6" OAK TIMBERS Lengths 12’-30’ $10 per foot. Delivery available. Call Joye at 828-734-0101 1/52

ANTIQUE 8 AIR CYLINDER MUSIC BOX – ca 1880s mahogany & rosewood marquetry - good condition. $10. Call 306-5635.

BRAND-NEW, NEVER WORN, WEDDING DRESS AND VEIL. Beautiful, ivory with beading at waist and scoop neck. Size 6. Price tags: dress $640 each, veil $25. Also jewelry call 369-0498. New. All from dismantled early American door. Must see. $800 OBO. Call 828-369-9212, or 828-349-2405. 4/24

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

DESIGNER LOFT ART DECO FURNITURE

CRATE & BARREL 10” RADIUS ARM SWIVEL STOOL

OLD SOLID OAK DINETTE – HW used but very good. Excellent working condition. $150. 7/82

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 828-469-2183.

TWO ELECTRIC WATER COOLERS – on top. $50 each. OBO. Call 526-3262.

FREE BRICK FRONT FOR BUILDING – Blue Valley honey, per-...
The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from May 6. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

May 6
• At 3 p.m., officers conducted a welfare check at an apartment on Horse Cove Road.

May 11
• At 4:15 p.m., officers conducted a drug check with canine Ruby at a vehicle parked in the Sweetreats parking lot.

May 12
• At 9:55 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on 4th and Maple streets. There were no injuries.
• At 2:09 p.m., officers were called concerning a mental patient who had a firearm and was threatening to use it. The firearm was taken away and the Meridian Behavior Services was called to help.

May 13
• At 10:30 a.m., officers were called concerning a suspicious person at a home on Dillard Road that was supposed to be unoccupied. Police found no one.
• At 8:25 a.m., officers were called concerning a suspicious vehicle on U.S. 64 that was weaving on the road. Officers stopped the car and a friend took the driver home.

May 15
• At 2:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Church and S. 4th streets. No one was hurt.

May 16
• At 3:29 a.m., officers responded to an animal complaint concerning a bear on Webbmont Road. The bear was gone when the police arrived.
• At 5 p.m., officers responded to a call of a larceny of $21 from the vicinity of the new ABC Store in Highlands Plaza.
• At 9:51 p.m., officers conducted a welfare check at a residence on Wyanoak Drive where the resident said he heard strange noises. Nothing was found.

May 17
• At 9:30 p.m., officers responded to a call of a suspicious vehicle parked at PAC overnight.
• During the week the officers issued 23 citations and responded to 10 alarms.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from May 13-20:

May 13
• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clubhouse Trail Road. There was no transport.
• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clubhouse Trail Road. The person was transported to the hospital.

May 15
• The dept. responded to the call of a lightning strike at a house on Paul Walden Way. Everything was OK.

May 17
• The dept. responded to an accident on Buck Creek Road where a car was in the creek. There were no injuries.

May 18
• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Dillard Road. The person was transported to the hospital.
• The dept. responded to an alarm at the hospital but it was cancelled by the alarm company.

May 19
• The dept. responded to a rescue call at Whiteside Mountain parking lot where a man was locked in the bathroom. They removed the door.

### Hex-a-Ku© 2009
by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

**OBJECT:**
A mystery word or phrase using all different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words will appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different mystery word or phrase (no spaces). Assign different letters to each square of each column and row. In addition, 3x2 cells in the puzzle layout have the same different letters. (This is similar to Sudoku but uses letters instead of numbers.)

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

**Mystery Word:**
Charities (6)

#### Across
1. Droop (3)
2. Embrace (3)
3. Express disgust (3)

#### Down
4. United Airlines (Abbr.) (3)
5. Owns (3)
SAGEE MOUNTAIN. New renovation on this contemporary 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath plus a den or office. Soaring living room with stone fireplace, wood floors and a wall of glass to take in the spectacular view of Horse Cove and 50 miles of as far as the eye can see. Custom kitchen with granite and stainless steel. One of a kind hand hammered sinks. Huge deck and 2 car garage. Offered with some furnishings at $1,475,000. MLS #67565

Old Highlands Charm with this charming cottage that sits overlooking the headwaters of the Cullasaja River with lake access to Mirror Lake. Recently renovated, this home is in excellent condition and is an exceptional opportunity. Launch you canoe or boat after closing and enjoy the benefits of living on the water! Offered at $575,000.00. MLS #67443

Charm exudes from this professionally decorated 3 bedroom, 4 bath home located on Mountain Laurel lane near Highlands Country Club and Mountain Laurel Tennis Club. 3 bedrooms and 4 baths, Lofty ceilings and a wonderful outdoor living room with fireplace. Furnishings are negotiable and a great opportunity for $895,000. MLS #67295

A great way to get to the Mountains on a budget! Located on Buck Creek Road, this two bedroom, two bath plus loft has spacious rooms and has been renovated with a new kitchen and bathrooms. Enjoy cool evenings sitting in a rocking chair by the fireplace. Great yard and garage with good storage space. Offered at $299,000. MLS#66631

Satulah Ridge 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, large greatroom with stone fireplace that expands onto large screened porch. Partial slab basement with great workshop. Some furnishings are negotiable and it is in move-in condition! Offered at $335,000. MLS# 67111

Satulah Ridge 3 bedrooms, 3 baths plus 2 one car garages and an extra Lot. Great family home or getaway. Excellent family home or getaway. Excellent condition and owned by the same family for over 25 years. Lower level has additional family room with kitchenette. Offered at $ 595,000.00 MLS# 66952

CULLASAJA CLUB LOT #149. Brand new with an excellent location convenient to the clubhouse, private location with a wonderful stone cliff in the back yard. The dwelling features four bedrooms, four and one half bath, great room with custom kitchen that features Stainless kitchen aid appliances and granite countertops, custom stone fireplaces and stone pillars. Landscape package with stone terraces and spring that feeds a custom waterfall. Two car garage. Covered porch takes in the awesome mountain views. Offered at $1,295,000 MLS#60810

This close to town cottage has it all! New wood floors, granite countertops, new appliances, new paint, new roof and is furnished to the T. The stone fireplace is great for winter nights and the deck has a mountain view. It has three large bedrooms each with their own bath. Upstairs has a sitting room or library with a great mountain view. Go see this home, owner wants offer!! MLS # 67580, Offered at $ 499,000.

Privacy and solitude with this 10 acres that back to US Forest Service lands 3 Bedrooms, 2 baths plus a full basement and 2 car garage. Bright sun room and in excellent condition. Additional room for grandkids in the attic area, and a full unfinished basement for a workshop. Offered at $535,000. MLS #67183

Lake Sequoyah Located on the Big Creek arm of the Lake, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath has a wonderful setting and is very usable for your outdoor living. Level lake access and a private setting. Huge downstairs level for hobbies and an office. In excellent condition! Offered at $629,000. MLS #67260
New Artists at Summit One Gallery

The first exhibition of the season introduces the new artists at Summit One Gallery, opening Saturday, May 23rd, Memorial Day Weekend with reception for the artists from 5-7p.m. Joining Summit One Gallery are Ken Wallin, Pat Calderone, Bobbie Doyle-Maher, Dawn Dambax, and Chery Cratty.

Ken Wallin’s oil paintings have been described as powerful and magnetic with a profound use of color to convey his passion for particular regions of the world’s landscape. He’s influenced by the impressionists and the places he travels to: France, Italy, Mexico and the coastal areas of the US.

Pat Calderone works in several mediums, including charcoal on wood. Although she has a reputation as a realist, she loves to experiment with the effects of suggestion and her own particular interpretation of reality.

Bobbie Doyle-Maher is a self-taught artist and proficient in several mediums. She moves between traditional painting and digital imaging with ease and finds in doing so she sees with new perspectives. Her landscape paintings come from her imagination and strong kinship with nature.

Dawn Dambax has been painting since college, where she received a BFA with a concentration in painting from the College of Charleston. The emotion and intensity of places she has visited are captured in the starkness and whimsical oil paintings she creates. For her, painting is the therapy to life and a sacred time to be true to whom she is supposed to be.

Chery Cratty is an inventor as well as an artist. Her technique is more sculptural than flat. She places pigmented bits of plant fiber onto a black fiber background with a porcupine quill, bringing light from darkness. The paint, which she invented, is plant fiber pulp mixed with the same pigments used in fine art paints.

Sunday, June 14th in the Courtyard at Summit One, bring your lawn chairs and blankets for an afternoon Poetry Reading of Painted Leaves, by poet Joyce Foster and art by Jane Smithers.

Summit One Gallery is located in “The Galleries”, South Second Street, Highlands. 828.526.2673 summitonegallery@verizon.net www.summitonegallery.com

Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles announces The Top Listing and Sales Agent for April was Sherman Pope.