NC has 7 confirmed cases of H1N1 Flu

Macon County Health Director Jim Bruckner reported that as of 4 p.m., Tuesday May 5, North Carolina now has seven laboratory confirmed cases of the H1N1 flu, or Swine Flu as it is commonly known.

The seven confirmed cases and one probable case in NC are located in Onslow County (2), Craven County (4), and Carteret County (1). A case in Wake County remains probable.

"Macon County public health officials are taking appropriate steps to safeguard the health of residents. This includes active surveillance and making preparations for the distribution of antiviral medication received from Strategic National Stockpile and other materials for fighting infectious diseases, such as gloves and masks if needed," said Bruckner. The Macon County Public Health Center is participating in daily conference calls with state public health officials to remain updated on the latest surveillance, testing, and treatment guidelines.

Macon County residents are encouraged to visit the county’s website at www.maconnc.org for links to information about the H1N1 flu and prevention guidelines. In addition, a toll-free number from the CDC, 1-800-CDC-INFO provides recorded information.

Irene ‘Granny’ James dies at 103

Irene Picklesimer James, who saw more change in her lifetime than most will ever see, died Saturday leaving a legacy of family, love and memories.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS DISCUSSED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S STIMULUS TITLE 1 AND IDEA FUNDS AS THEY PERTAIN TO EIGHT NEW PROPOSED POSITIONS AT THE APRIL 27 MEETING, BUT HOW IT WILL ALL PAN OUT ISN’T YET KNOWN.

Board of Education members discussed the federal government’s stimulus Title 1 and IDEA funds as they pertain to eight new proposed positions at the April 27 meeting, but how it will all pan out isn’t yet known.

Evidently, additional Title 1 funds are headed for Macon County through the stimulus package, as are IDEA funds, but Title 1 funds come with lots of strings and that has the administrative staff concerned.

Board members discussed the life expectancy of the proposed eight teacher facilitator positions with board member Frieda Bennett adding, “It’s a good move, but we need a little more information on the positions before we can make an informed decision.”

When someone’s been around for 103 years — a month shy of 104 — you just don’t expect them to ever go! But Irene Picklesimer James, who saw more change in her lifetime than most will ever see, died Saturday leaving a legacy of family, love and memories.
**FORUM**

**Memories survive**

Kim Lewicki

Publisher

We all know death is inevitable, but it’s always a surprise when it comes. Whether someone is old, young, sick or seemingly healthy, we never really expect it.

This past week death hit Highlands hard and because of the intimacy of this community, it touched everyone.

Randy Reby, 42, a man in his prime, was struck down suddenly by heart disease - a disease he didn’t even know he had.

A long-standing place at the grill has been vacated with the death of Joe Geoghagan, 66, known far and wide for his barbecue and his readiness to offer up a plate at local benefits.

Gibson McConnaughey, a resident at Chestnut Hill, will be sorely missed by her circle of friends and family.

And, the death of Irene Picklesimer James, 103, not only marks the end of a long life but closes a door to Highlands’ past.

I met Irene when she was in her early-90s but because Irene never acted her age, she seemed like a spry 70-year-old to me.

A golf ball found by the USFS at the McCall cabin in Blue Valley - the last home of Irene’s Aunt Albie, who also died at 103 - led me to Irene, her sister Almetta, their cousins Itta Owens, Doshie Wilson and subsequently their kin.

And, the death of Irene Picklesimer James, 103, not only marks the end of a long life but closes a door to Highlands’ past.

When I'd go visit, I'd be warned of her young, sick or seemingly healthy, we never really expect it.

W

**LETTERS**

**Wake up, America!**

Dear Editor,

I thought it might be interesting to bring to point a couple things to your reader. Things I have already pointed out, but now are coming to light!

I had warned people that the fairness doctrine was floating around in the house so as to kill our freedom of speech and now the leftists are coming out about that! Telling us how it needs to be passed. But what they don't want you to know is what this bill entails. Like how it will affect the Christian radio, or any kind of conservative talk shows, etc.

But Christian Radio and conservative talk shows are the only fair the conservatives receive because of the mainstream media!

I mean just look at the story about the homeless camp in California? A British news program proved that this was a false story made up by our own media! Propaganda! But I have said all along that this was coming. Now this president is moving to make a move on this through the back door so you can't see it coming. Like he did with the private business invasion! Not that he would want you to know it but he had to do a 380 in the GITMO thing, now also because I said before, other countries will not take these people, so now we keep GITMO open or we have these people in our country so they can form their cells, etc.

People, wake up! If you do not, then we are about to lose all that made this country great! As John Quincy Adams said “Nip the shoots of arbitrary power in the bud, is the only maxim which can ever preserve the liberties of any people. So those who helped get the gentleman in there, should now stand to get the rascal out!”

The highest glory of the American Revolution was this; it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principle of Christianity making our nation on the greatest of all nations and setting us apart from all other nations! But look at how it is now being destroyed right before your eyes, by taking the freedom of press away, thus holding knowledge from us and weakening our understanding of where our leaders are taking us!

There is one fact and that is that freeedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under God is acknowledged. Ronald Reagan said this, and I believe that above all, we must realize that no arsenal or weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and mor-
Obituaries

Randy Raby

Randy Raby, 42, of Scaly Mountain, NC, died Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Born in Transylvania County, NC, October 1, 1966, he was the son of Bobby Joe Raby and Barbara Ann Watson. He was a roofer and brick mason in the construction industry. He was a U.S. Army Veteran and a member of the Mount Sinai Assembly of God Church.

He is survived by his wife Carolyn Billingsley Raby of the home. His parents, Bobby Joe Raby of Franklin, NC, Barbara Ann of Highlands, NC; a son Christopher Allen Raby of Scaly Mountain, NC; two sisters, Sandra Raby James of Salem, SC; and Michelle Elliott of Otto, NC and one daughter-in-law, Janice Talley of Scaly Mountain, NC; two brothers, Mike Raby and Gary Raby both of Franklin, NC; two sisters, Sandra Raby James of Salem, SC; and Michelle Elliott of Otto, NC and one daughter-in-law, Janice Talley of Scaly Mountain, NC.

Funeral services were held Sunday, May 3, 2009 at the Flats Middle Creek Baptist Church in Scaly Mountain, NC with Rev. Dwight Loggins officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Hunter Funeral Home of Clayton, GA, was in charge of arrangements.

Irene P. James

Irene P. James, age 103, of Highlands, NC, died Saturday, May 2, 2009 in Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late Edward P. and Cora Rogers Picklesimer. She was married to the late Lawton P. James who died 1944, and was an elementary school teacher. She was a member of Highlands United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women, and was a member of The Highlands Chapter #284 OES. Mrs. James was a loving mother, grandmother and teacher.

Surviving are two daughters, Wilma Gordon and Gari Crowe and her husband Wayne, all of Highlands, two sons Tom James and wife Hilda and Herbert James and wife Barbara of Highlands. Seventeen grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild also survive. Mrs. James was preceded in death by a daughter Barbara Taylor.

Funeral services were held Monday, May 4 in the Highlands United Methodist Church with Rev. Paul Christy officiating. Burial was in Scaly Mountain Methodist Cemetery. Pallbearers were grandchildren Allen James, Tommy James, Dana Gordon, Jeff James, John Gordon, Michael Crowe and Billy Crowe.

Memorials may be made to Highlands United Methodist Church, P O Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741.

Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

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The Socialist Republic of the United States of America

The war was over in a flash. Actually, it wasn't much of a civil war. Once all the lawyers had been systematically slaughtered and the country's top CEO's were in prison for life, things started to quiet down immediately. As it turns out, shutting down and killing off the wimpy media was the easiest part. Oh, sure, there are a few jerks still around with their hunting rifles, waving their American flags, but they're like gnats around a dog'sanny, they'll be dead by the first snow. Thank God it's finally illegal to possess a gun.

Soon it will be the best of times. The new government has just taken over the banks and auto industry. More control is on the way. A new world order with new world currency will render our old money worthless. Each citizen will be allotted the new currency according to their needs. There is free housing, free health care and free transportation to wherever a person needs to go. Citizens want for nothing. There are no rich people or poor people, just people working together for a common, blissful good.

Everyone works according to their ability...but everyone works. Retirement has been redefined as death. I am old and find it harder and harder to work much longer. Soon, I will be a burden on society, won't be able to keep up and it will be my time to be eliminated.

I sat up in bed, covered with sweat. I looked over at the li'l missus to confirm it really was a bad dream...no, a nightmare. I slipped from my bed without waking her and walked to the ship's balcony. Opening the glass sliding door, I walked out and leaned over the rail, staring down at the ocean, nine stories below. The moon was full and glistered off the calm water. A strong balmy breeze blew in my face. I stared at the water for a long time before closing my eyes to pray and thank God I’m a capitalist. I resisted the urge to rush to my desk drawer, pull out money and smell it. God certainly wouldn’t approve of that.

I’m sure the insanity of my nightmare was brought on by the gluttony and luxury of this cruise. In a few hours I will have breakfast in bed, doze for another hour before awakening again to a day of relaxed activity aboard the Emerald Princess, bound for Europe and eventually Copenhagen.

I won’t apologize for this disgusting display of luxury. I’m neither a rich man nor a poor man. After my Ma and Pa died, my inheritance was exactly one dollar. Ask the li'l missus. We were not born members of the Lucky Sperm Club. Everything I have, I earned with the help of my wife. We're a team. I've never asked for or received a handout from the government...or anyone, for that matter.

At age 14, I worked after school in a laundry for 60 cents an hour. As a policeman, I made a decent salary but almost lost my life several times. Put a priortag on that. While policing, I paid my way through college and cleaned toilets as a landlord, maintaining a profitable homerental business. Finally, at age 65, I retired from another profitable but dangerous rappel business in Highlands. It was the first time I had been unemployed since I was 14. I'm pretty damn proud of that.

So, excuse me if I don't apologize for my gluttonous behavior. All I ever wanted from my government was the privilege of being free so I could work hard and be a capitalist. I could have chosen to sit on a dinder block and do nothing. My government wouldn’t permitted that also. Actually, they would have paid me to sit on that dinder block if I promised I was looking for work. That’s what American freedom is all about.

So here we are, sitting right smack dab in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, two capitalists celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary and blowing out our kid’s inheritance. Being married that long is a huge accomplishment. There's no hypocrisy in our marriage. We are independent individuals who speak their mind. We’ve had some doozy debates (some folks call them fights) and there were good times and bad over the years. Fortunately, we always agreed on the management of our money. So here we are, 50 years later, surrounded by water, more in love with each other than when we first married Whodathunkit!

Later that afternoon, after another short nap on the Promenade deck, I walked into the ship’s library to poke around. A ship’s attendant asked if she could help. I asked, “Do you have a book titled Animal Farm? She informed me children’s books are in the teen center on the Sun deck. I gave up my search and decided to read it again when I got home. When evening came, I sat in my bed, staring at more bad news from CNN World Network. I’m amazed we have TV in the middle of the ocean. There was talk from China about creating a new world currency.

I pinched myself to make sure I had not dozed off. In fear of another nightmare, I decided to stay awake as long as I could.
The swine, excuse me, Mexican, excuse me H1N1 flu

There can’t be anything funny about a flu pandemic, can there? It is comforting to know that the severity of the illness is probably less severe than was originally feared. It is amusing, but at the same time reassuring, that the Obama administration has responded aggressively to the potential crisis.

The President is saying, “I’m not George Bush and this isn’t going to turn into Katrina.” President Obama doesn’t have Michael, “Brownie, you’re doing a heck of a job, Brown working for him, but he is saddled with Joe Biden. Biden, who suffers from foot-in-mouth disease, if not the swine flu, advised Americans against air travel, and said that he would discourage his family from flying. Of course, the rest of us don’t have the luxury of calling Air Force 1 when our plans call for air travel. The Vice-President might have crushed the struggling economic recovery with that one, fortunately, no one listens to him. So maybe there is at least a little humor in the potential pandemic.

Egyptian pigs can’t find anything to laugh about. The government of Egypt ordered the slaughter of the entire pig population of the country, roughly 300,000-350,000 animals. Egypt’s Muslims, 90% of the population, don’t eat pork, but its Christian minority raises and consumes pork. One might ask if this action, condemned by public health officials and PETA, is a way of saying, “We don’t need no stinking pigs, or Christians, in our country.”

If there were a goat flu, and if the U.S. government ordered the slaughter of goats in Detroit and Houston, American cities with large Muslim populations, you can bet that we would be accused of cultural insensitivity at best, and religious persecution at worst. Egyptian officials have said that the pig farmers will not be compensated for their loss, because they will be able to sell the meat. Egyptian Christians can expect bargain basement bacon prices in the coming weeks.

In a rare show of solidarity with his Muslim brothers, ultra-conservative Israeli Health Minister, Yakov Litzman, asked that the disease be renamed, “Mexican Flu.” He doesn’t seem overly concerned with solidarity with Mexico. The term swine flu, he explained at a news conference, was offensive to Jews and Muslims alike. If Litzman and his ultra-conservative colleagues demonstrated more concern for the legitimate concerns of Palestinian Muslims, the Middle East would be less of a mess, but including Muslims in an expression of cultural outrage was a nice touch.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack, joined the chorus of those calling for a new name, explaining that the term “swine flu” implied a problem with pork products. His effort was clearly intended to protect pork producers rather than pigs. Pig farmers, on the other hand, are taking drastic measures to protect their herds. They are banning visitors for fear that the swine might become infected by humans. It is not clear why anyone would want to visit a pig farm. It’s not exactly the Grand Canyon or Mount Rushmore.

The World Health Organization acquiesced to the pressure and now refers to the disease as H1N1, which is about as vanilla as we can get. The panic seems to be lessening, as the illness has yet to claim its first American life, but it has not completely subsided. My sister-in-law called and proudly declared that she had bought the last available surgical mask in Greensboro, NC. At last count, North Carolina has yet to record a case of the swine, excuse me, Mexican, excuse me H1N1 flu.

... SWANSON from page 7

call it swine flu anymore. It’s killing the pork biz. That will protect the homeland, all right. She says it’s the H1N1 virus. That slips right off the tongue, doesn’t it? Isn’t she the one who says we should call terrorists “man-made disasters” or something equally as stupid?

Speaking of stupid – “FAA Memo: Feds Knew NYC Flyover Would Cause Panic.” Really? Let’s do it anyway, shall we? And then there’s Joe Biden, caught up in the SF panic, told us that we should stop flying and to avoid enclosed places where other people hang, and if we need to go to Mexico, we shouldn’t take the subway. He then jumped on the train and went home. The grand and glorious Ms. Pres. showed up at a benefit for the poor in S$540 SNEAKERS Clasy. And finally, and my personal favorite, the White House reporter who asked Obama what was the most “enchanted” moment of his first 100 days. GAG.

Enough of this nonsense. I’m going to take a ride through the countryside and enjoy the beauty of nature.
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Hi s & H ers

Mothers

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

Mothers’ Day is coming up this weekend, so it’s gotten me to thinking about mothers. Last night, I was reminded of two mothers, in particular – Mother Nature and Necessity, the mother of invention. I found a wonderful documentary on PBS about the eagles on the Scottish island of Mull. There we were, transported to this marvelous, wild area where all of a sudden – flash, bang, and then total darkness. I grimly remembered something John had said when I moved in several years ago about Kettle Rock Mountain being nicknamed “Lightening Knob.” Hmm. Suddenly, all of this made sense.

“Don’t worry!” boomed John in his chirpy “I can fix this in no time” voice. “Stay where you are. I know where the candles are.” Well, I know where the candles are, too, but whether or not I could find them in pitch black darkness without doing grievous bodily harm is another story. So I sat in the darkness with Weasel on my lap until even she jumped down in disgust and slunk off to parts unknown. (I’m convinced that the cats have a secret cat bar somewhere in the house. They sneak off there and hang out, drinking strong cat drinks and telling bad dog jokes.)

Several years ago, I ordered a terrific gizmo from a catalogue called “Joie de Vivre.” As the name implies, they carry all manner of interesting products from France – food, CDs, calendars, and most importantly, in this case, a wonderful gadget which was about to deliver us from darkness, quite literally. It is a tin box, with a candle holder on top. The box is filled with spare candles and has a clever little handle on the side so that you can hold the box/candle holder as you walk through your cluttered house, dodging unwieldy furniture and cats. Every house should have one. In fact, every floor of your house should have one.

After what seemed to be ages, John appeared on the stairs, fabulous French candle holder in hand. “Comeon, Hon!” he called out, “Let’s go to bed.” It was 9:30. What else were we going to do? Read the Constitution by candlelight? I remembered that my father had given me a battery-operated radio that had come as a freebie from Omaha Steaks. Grabbing the radio in the darkness, I tripped into the bedroom. I lit the candle on the mantel piece, and found a second one in the red room to put in the

bathroom. I’d forgotten that most of our candles are scented ones, and don’t necessarily blend well. At best, it’s an odd combination of smells. At worst, it’s like being stuck next to a guy with cheap aftershave during a long movie. Turning on the radio, we realized that we’d stumbled on the NPR program of Celtic music, and soon the candlelit room was filled with Scottish harps

Finally, we settled down for the night. No cats appeared, but perhaps an unexpected change in their nighttime routines had put them off. John apologized in advance for his snoring. Without any electricity, he couldn’t use his CPAP machine. I accepted his apology, and apologized in turn for potentially murdering him in his sleep, when the snoring got so bad that even earplugs could not save me. Then the electricity came back on two hours later. Looking out the window, we saw that other people had theirs back, too. I heaved a sigh of relief, knowing that we were not going to have to sit down and eat the entire contents of both our refrigerator and freezer.

Of course, Maman is spared these sorts of things now. She lives at Summit Square, which has an emergency generator. Also, we won’t be getting together for Mothers’ Day this year. I’m saving my trip to Virginia for later on in the month. Maman fell and broke her arm two months ago, and has been in Assisted Living, not her usual apartment. While she has been marvelously well looked after, she still misses being in her own place. Her house on Shawnee Road has just been sold. Given the current state of the housing market, we know how lucky we are to have found a buyer, and to have gotten a reasonable price for the house. Still, it’s the last house my mother could call her own. It’s the last house she lived in with Daddy, whose ashes are scattered in the back garden. And while my brother Eric had no great attachment to the house, it was the place I visited regularly, to escape the noise and hectic pace of New York. It was, as my mother always liked to say, “a perfect house.” That part of our family life is over.

The solution, if there is any solution, is to try to make our house a warm and welcoming place for Maman, especially now. Having her piano in the living room is a huge step. Thered room upstairs is now

* See MHS & HERS page 9
It's amateur hour, 24/7

O.K., so you're doing whatever you do in lower Manhattan the other day and you hear the sound of low flying airplanes. You look up to see a giant airliner being followed by a fighter plane and they are flying at a level of 1,000 feet, precisely the level that the 9/11 attackers flew their weapons of terror into the WTC buildings.

It just so happens that you were in the same place on September 11, 2001, and saw firsthand the carnage that ensued. Logically, you assume it's a play and you have a panic attack, run out in the street and catch a taxi the hard way.

Now this is hypothetical, although for all anyone knows, it may well have happened. No doubt any negative incidents resulting from the White House ill-conceived flyover photo shoot were quickly squashed. If you don't believe me, I'm told this happened, let me tell you a story. Early one morning, July 18th, 1996 to be exact, since I slept seemed out of the question, I turned on the news.

It was the first I'd heard of the crash of TWA flight 800 that had blown up and dropped into the Atlantic Ocean just off East Moriches, NY. The news reporter was on the scene of the recovery operation and was interviewing Leon Panetta. Even in my sleepless condition, I thought it strange that the White House Chief of Staff was there. Curiously, I thought, I never saw Panetta again in any subsequent newscasts. He had accomplished his purpose of squashing any evidence that the plane was shot down.

Subsequent investigations proved the government's story of how the explosion occurred were bogus. Many eyewitnesses were marginalized, labeled as drunk or crazy, even though they all reported seeing a missile-like object striking the plane.

The government can and will cover up the damage done by their screw-ups and this low-level flight over Lower Manhattan qualifies. The mayor of New York was uninformed that this Kodak moment was going to take place and our commander-in-chief pleaded ignorance as well. The Mayor was livid. The President says it was a mistake and it will never happen again. That's reassuring. "Oh, did I press that red button? My bad. I certainly won't do that again."

Then there are the "mistakes" of Janet Napolitano, who can't let a week go by without damaging our relationship with someone or another. Her apology to the veterans was hardly out of her mouth when she told the Canadians that the 9/11 bombers came to us through the Canadian border, which they didn't. "Then, in an interview with CNN, she let the viewers know that illegally entering the country is not a crime. WHAT?" This is the Secretary of Homeland Security speaking. Well, I feel safer already.

Now that we are involved in a world wide near-pandemic, it would be good to hear from the Surgeon General. What? You say we don't have one? Oh, we've got an acting SG, but not the real deal. I wonder what's about? OK, what does the Secretary of Health and Human Services have to say? What? We don't have one? We have an acting Secretary? Criminy. Didn't anybody pay their taxes? Oh, you say the Senate confirmed Gov. Sebelius? A woman whose biggest financial supporter is the king of late-term abortions? Perfect qualifications for protecting our health (if we survive childbirth).

Speaking of health, have you seen a photo of one of our faves, Lindsay Lohan? The child looks like she weighs about 83 pounds. She is just a wisp of a thing and apparently she isn't strong enough to get in trouble. The stable has been strangely quiet lately and I can't figure out what's happening. Oh well. Having totally run out of anything worthwhile to say, let's consult the Drudge report and see what's going on.

Man, it's swine flu, wall to wall. Ms. Napolitano, who seems to be ubiquitous these days (look it up), says we shouldn't hear from the Surgeon General. What? You say we don't have one? Oh, we've got an acting SG, but not the real deal. I wonder what we don't have one? Oh, we've got an acting SG, but not the real deal. I wonder what's about? OK, what does the Secretary of Health and Human Services have to say? What? We don't have one? We have an acting Secretary? Criminy. Didn't anybody pay their taxes? Oh, you say the Senate confirmed Gov. Sebelius? A woman whose biggest financial supporter is the king of late-term abortions? Perfect qualifications for protecting our health (if we survive childbirth).

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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

The exceedingly great and precious promises

T

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is founded on the promises of God. II Peter 1:3-4 “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.” These promises have been given to everyone who will come by faith believing in Jesus Christ and his work.

If you want to know these promises in an experiential way and have them bring joy into your life, then you must meditate on them. These promises give nothing to those who only look at them from a distance. They have to be handled, squeezed if you will, to cause them to give up their nectar. It is when you are putting effort into understanding them that you will receive the rewards they promise. They are not designed to bless by osmotic means. They bless only when mixed with faith.

Along with meditation comes another important requirement. You must seek to receive these promises in your heart and to believe they are from God. You know very well that when you are promised something from other people in this world you tend to check out those making the promise before putting your hope in their promise being fulfilled. You carefully stop and consider the character of the promise maker. So, with the promises of God, your attention must be focused on the One making the promise and not the reward the promise offers. This is what allows even the most unwise man to be successful when the mark looks to what he will gain and not to the character of the one promising.

When you go to the Scripture to see who has promised such wonderful things as salvation and peace and joy for an eternity it will become clear these promises are real. The Bible shows us a God that is eternal, all knowing, all powerful, ever-present and unchanging. He is a God who cannot lie, a God who does not change and his words are true. He has not altered one thing that has ever gone out of his mouth. He has never had to recall one word he spoke. He has never fallen short on the power to fulfill his promises. He made the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. He has never failed in his wisdom of knowing how and when to reveal the promises of life. Therefore, seeing that it is the word of this great and unchanging God who is true in everything to his own character, is possessed of all power and wisdom, you can place all hope in the promises he makes.

Open your Bible and read these wonderful promises. Meditate on them and consider the character of the One who has made them and they will change your life.
... HIS & Hers continued from page 6

House. It will have Hardiplank siding, but basically is a long garage, said Town Planner Joe Cooley.

Town Manager Jim Fatland said NC General Statutes require formal bidding on equipment exceeding $80,000 but towns can bypass that requirement by using piggy-back rules set out in the code which was OK’d at the April 15, 2009 meeting as required by law.

Administrative Assistant Bob Houston said the department has requested a .001 increase in fire tax for 2009-10, from .008 to .009 to build back its reserve.

Of the 11 volunteer fire departments in Macon County, Highlands has the lowest fire tax at just $8 per $100,000 property valuation.

Hess said Highlands’ property valuation is precisely why the fire tax is so low. The requested .009 rate would translate to $9 per $100,000. Highlands property valuation is $3.84 billion.

The Macon County fire commission has OK’d the .001 increase but the final word must come from the MC Commission which meets Monday, May 11.

Commissioners also set a special meeting Wednesday, May 13 at the Community Building to discuss larger stormwater detention area as well as a larger park area for Kelsey Hutchinson Park which may include a one-way street around the park rather than a road through the park.

... STIMULUS from pg 1

filled by current employees in an attempt to save jobs.

To ensure the longevity of those positions, staff said data must be collected verifying student and teacher improvement. “I understand that the stimulus package will take care of the first year, but I’m concerned with the second year,” said Bennett.

Essentially, the state is cutting MC Schools’ budget by a very large amount and superintendents are expected to use the federal stimulus funds to create new positions that will have a long-term impact.

“We can not simply pick up eight teaching positions paid by state funds and start paying those positions out of federal revenue,” said Brigman. “We would be supplanting and that is not permissible.”

The current expectations of the state is to return funding levels to school districts at the 2008-09 level in two years, thus giving adequate funding to sustain the positions.

“I do not know what will happen in two years but hope this local initiative will be sustained once we see the impact on teaching and student achievement throughout our school district,” said Brigman.

A called meeting has been set for Thursday, May 7 at 1 p.m. at the administrative office to discuss the use of federal stimulus money. The House of the Dead Title I funds must be presented by mid-June.

... SWINE FLU from 1

tion about the H1N1 flu in both English and Spanish.

Bruckner says anyone who shows flu-like symptoms should remain at home, avoiding work, errands, school, church, or other public gatherings. Flu-like symptoms include: a fever over 100 F, chills, headache, extreme fatigue, dry cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, and body aches. Anyone exhibiting these symptoms should contact their health care provider to determine if testing is needed.

He also said that common prevention measures are the best way to stay healthy. These actions include covering your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve if you cough or sneeze, avoiding touching your eyes, nose, or mouth; washing hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based sanitizer; and avoiding close contact with sick people.

... LADDER continued from page 1

called “Maman’s room,” and has French books in the book case, copies of Paris Match on the bedside table and paintings of Notre Dame Cathedral and Napoleon on the walls. She nuggles under the duvet, and watches her own little TV, fighting the battle for the remote controls. She snuggles under the duvet, and watches her own little TV, fighting the battle for the remote controls. She snuggles under the duvet, and watches her own little TV, fighting the battle for the remote controls. She snuggles under the duvet, and watches her own little TV, fighting the battle for the remote controls. She snuggles under the duvet, and watches her own little TV, fighting the battle for the remote controls. She snuggles under the duvet, and watches her own little TV, fighting the battle for the remote controls.

John and I lost a dear friend, Gibson McConnaughey on Saturday. Only a week before, we’d been heading to Cashiers, and stopped by Chestnut Hill to see her. Gibson was in the lobby, chatting with the receptionist. We hadn’t seen her since she’d arrived back in Highlands, so she did a double take to see me. “OK, kiddo!” I said, with a fake gangster voice. “Grab your bag. We’re springing you from this joint!”

Gibson dropped her hands in delight. “I don’t need a bag just need to get out.”

We bundled her into the car, and went for a marvelous ride in the country. The sky was the shade of blue I’ve only seen in the Carolinas. The trees and flowers were in bloom. It was the most glorious day. We caught up on all our news. Gibson was happy and animated. Before we dropped her off, we made a date to pick her up on Thursday to take her to Writers Group. Gibson was the shining star of our group, with what she called her “silly poems” – a misnomer, since these poems were anything but silly. More often, they were keen insights into the follies and foibles of society. Gibson had a great sense of observation and a delightful wit. When we showed up on Thursday, her door was closed. She had been taken to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Wedelivered the bad news to Writers Group, and went to the hospital after the meeting.

Gibson was pale and puffy, but glad to see us. We didn’t stay long since we could see every thought and bit of conversation was weighing her out.

On Saturday morning, we received a call from our mutual friend Jay. Things had taken a turn for the worse, and Gibson wasn’t expected to make it more than a few days. Just before getting into the car, I went outside and gathered some violets which carpeted our yard. I clutched them in my hand as I entered the hospital room. Gibson was surrounded by family and friends. I took Gibson’s hand in mine. It was cold

that was expected to make it more than a few days. Just before getting into the car, I went outside and gathered some violets which carpeted our yard. I clutched them in my hand as I entered the hospital room. Gibson was surrounded by family and friends. I took Gibson’s hand in mine. It was cold

and clammy. I showed her the violets, which brought a smile to her face. “Oh, I wish I could see them in person!” she sighed. She passed away several hours later.

Some times your life is changed by major events. Sometimes change just slips in by the back door, before you know it. Mothers’ Day reminded us that mothers are special, to be acknowledged and cherished. Our own mothers, we often take for granted. If we’re very lucky, we get to share other people’s mother’s lives, too, delighting in dear blue Carolina skies and delicate violets that disappear before you know it.

About the Author: Michelle A. Meade-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. While not a mother herself, she is stepmother to Dori and Karen, two of the most beautiful and dasy girls on God’s earth.

Lordy, Lordy, Lori Sue is forty!
Moms deserve special treatment, especially on Mother’s Day. Serve her something deliciously different—a baked ravioli dinner that the kids can help create.

Natural foods expert and cookbook author Maribeth Abrams has cooked up an easy and great ravioli recipe that’s sure to make mom happy. “I’m always looking for ingredients that are versatile, quick and easy,” said Abrams. “I love using Nasoya wraps because they’re fresh and all natural, so they make healthy eating convenient and fun.” In addition to using wraps for ravioli, Abrams likes to use large square wrappers in place of lasagna noodles and small square or round wraps as mini pastry shells for fruit tarts, baby quiche and chicken salad cups for snacking.

For this special ravioli, kids can help fill the wraps and seal them up by painting a line of water along the sides of each wrap. Let them do the crimping with a fork and the cheese sprinkling, too. Have them set the table with the good dishes and silverware. Some fresh flowers and handmade place cards are easy ways to dress up the table for mom.

For fun new ways to use Nasoya wraps any time of year, visit www.nasoya.com.

Baked Sweet Potato Spinach Ravioli

Yield: 24 Ravioli

Place oil in large skillet over medium high heat. Add onion and garlic and cook, stirring, for 5 minutes. Add sweet potato and cook, stirring, for 3 minutes. Add broth, bring to a boil, cover, reduce heat to low, and cook, stirring occasionally, for 8 minutes. Add spinach, cover, and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until it is bright green and tender. Add cumin, ginger, salt and pepper to taste. Stir well and set aside.

Preheat oven to 375°F. Mist a baking sheet with non-stick cooking oil spray and set aside. Fill a small bowl with water. Place 1 teaspoon sweet potato mixture onto one wrap. Dip a finger into water and “paint” a line of water along each side of wrap. Place second wrap on top, then crimp edges together tightly with fingers or tines of a fork. Place filled ravioli onto prepared baking sheet and repeat with remaining wraps.

Mist tops of the ravioli squares with non-stick cooking oil spray, and sprinkle them generously with Parmesan. Bake for 8 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool for 5 minutes on a wire rack and serve.

Sage Brown Butter Sauce (Optional):

Place pancetta and sage in hot saucepan with olive oil and sauté until slightly brown and starting to crisp. Add butter. Remove from heat when butter starts to brown; add pepper to taste.
The Lady Highlanders struck first on a goal from Lady Bulldogs, with the game being played in less than stellar conditions. The Lady Highlanders pushed their lead to its final margin of 2-0. An insurance goal midway through the second half to give Highlands a 4-2 lead. Cruz then followed with a beautiful assist to freshman forward Sayne Cruz to give Highlands a 4-2 lead. However, Murphy proved resilient, equalizing just moments later on a goal off of a free kick, and then kept the momentum by scoring again just a few moments later to take a 2-1 lead. After a frantic last few minutes in the first half, Horstby again scored for the Lady Highlanders to equalize just before the half. Despite the halftime tie, the Lady Highlanders continued to press, and dominated possession in a manner reminiscent of the game in Murphy. Horstby scored her third goal of the game early in the second half, and then provided a beautiful assist to freshman forward Sayne Cruz to give Highlands a 4-2 lead. Cruz then followed with another goal late in the second half to provide the final 5-2 margin.

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Women’s Varsity Soccer team finished up a successful regular season with two victories over conference rival Murphy to win the SMC conference soccer championship. Thursday saw the Lady Highlanders travel to Murphy to play the Lady Bulldogs in one of two conference matchups. The game was dominated from the start by the Lady Highlanders, who possessed the ball the majority of the match and kept constant pressure on the Murphy keeper. Senior forward Carolyn Horstby finally pushed through a goal late in the first half to give the Lady Highlanders a 1-0 halftime lead. The second half saw the Lady Highlanders allow Murphy to stay in the match by missing on several scoring opportunities before Paige Stanley finally gave the Lady Highlanders an insurance goal midway through the second half to push the lead to its final margin of 2-0.

Monday provided a rainy day rematch with the Lady Bulldogs, with the game being played in less than stellar conditions at Zachary Field. Once again, the Lady Highlanders struck first on a goal from Carolyn Horstby to take a 1-0 lead. However, Murphy proved resilient, equalizing just moments later on a goal off of a free kick, and then kept the momentum by scoring again just a few moments later to take a 2-1 lead. After a frantic last few minutes in the first half, Horstby again scored for the Lady Highlanders to equalize just before the half. Despite the halftime tie, the Lady Highlanders continued to press, and dominated possession in a manner reminiscent of the game in Murphy. Horstby scored her third goal of the game early in the second half, and then provided a beautiful assist to freshman forward Sayne Cruz to give Highlands a 4-2 lead. Cruz then followed with another goal late in the second half to provide the final 5-2 margin.

As for the hockey playoffs, all you need to look at is game 4 of the Carolina Hurricanes-New Jersey Devils series to give you an example of the excitement of playoff hockey. Carolina blew a 3-0 lead and yet was able to steal a victory with a goal in the final second of regulation. Even more exciting was game 7 of the series, in which Carolina scored 2 goals in the final 90 seconds to erase a 3-2 deficit and win the series. Playoff hockey is intense throughout, but when you add in the tension of the power play and the excitement of pulling the goalie in the final minute it can be a very exciting viewing experience.

As I close this column with the continued refrain of “watch these sports!” I am continually reminded of my preschool experience with Mrs. Gordon and how we always tried new things. It certainly was difficult to taste that kiwi fruit at first, because it looked awfully strange and not what I was used to—but once I tried it and liked it, I was a fan for life. As a fan, I would warn you to be careful if you start watching the NBA and the NHL during playoff season—you may become a fan for life.
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See pages 4 & 6
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How little we know

Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

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On-going Events
• Registration is now open for the 2009 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: “WOW – A World of Wonder” (ages 4-6), “Amazing Animals” (ages 7-10), “NatureWorks” (ages 8-11), “Mountain Explorers” (ages 10-14), and “Junior Ecologists” (ages 11-15). Some camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/ hbs.

• See EVENTS page 15
As everyone now knows, last week we got the great news that the town has received approval of a grant totaling three million dollars from the Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the Mirror Lake Sewer Project. We were one of 36 communities in the state to receive a grant and actually got one of the largest ones. This grant includes $1.5 million with another 1.5 million in interest-free loans over a 20-year period. This is the first phase of grants issued and hopefully we will obtain more in the next phase for the Lake Sequoyah Sewer Project. We continue to seek through the stimulus program funds for removing the silt from Big Creek which is a tremendous need for us. In fact, this has been our priority all along.

We are indebted to the hard work of our new town manager, Jim Fatland, put into these projects.

The new parking study will be completed soon and the Board of Commissioners will have some decisions to make on major changes in traffic and parking in the downtown area which will have to be coordinated with the NC Department of Transportation. We are making great progress in making Highlands an even more pleasant place for both visitors and residents while continuing to maintain the village character of our town.

Along those same lines we are in discussions regarding stormwater control in the Fifth and Pine Street areas before we can complete plans for the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park. McGill Engineering has been working with us on planning this important project. A central urban park is a vital part of most viable towns and must be planned with great care for the good of all people concerned.

We therefore have some important board of commissioner meetings coming up. This Wednesday we had a special meeting at the Fire Station to discuss the purchase of a new ladder truck for our volunteer fire department. This will be a commitment of almost half a million dollars for this much-needed vehicle. And then on May 13 another special meeting will be held to discuss the stormwater situation at Fifth and Pine along with the future of the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park.

The paving of the streets torn up because of the Harris Lake Sewer Project is now taking place just in time for the summer season to get started. As soon as the sidewalks and curbs are completed around the new Faith and Fellowship building of the Presbyterian Church, Fifth Street can also be paved. The sewer project in that area is now back on schedule and should be completed by mid-summer at the latest. In spite of the inconveniences that project has brought about, I think everyone will be pleased with the end result. Our town engineer, Lamar Nix, has done a great job in pushing along that important construction. Now we can move on with the Mirror Lake Sewer Project.

On the entertainment front, this Thursday at the Performing Arts Center the Highlands Cashiers Players will open with that great comedy by Neil Simon, "Rumors." This will be the next two weeks and promises to be a great performance by a wonderful acting company. Everyone will want to see this as it starts off a new season of excitement and fun in Highlands. Get ready for a wonderful summer in entertainment and activities in our little mountain town everybody.
Audubon to offer bird-banding program

On Monday, May 11, the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will offer a demonstration and talk on bird-banding. The scientific research done in the field, through the use of mist nets to catch birds, will be explained and the use of the nets will be demonstrated. There will be an opportunity to see some of our Spring migrants up close, in the hand, and to observe how the birds are measured and weighed. A talk on the research and what it means for our local birds will begin that evening.

Researcher Kirk Stodola, of the University of Georgia, grew up in Minnesota and gained an appreciation for wildlife though his experiences with his grandfather. Kirk has years of experience both in our area and in the northeast and southwestern U.S. After having worked with California Condors, Western Tanagers, Aplo- modo Falcons, and others, he has developed a special interest in forest songbird species. He received his B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Biological Aspects of Conservation at the University of Wisconsin, and his Masters in Natural Resources at the University of Minnesota.

Kirk is currently conducting field work on the life-history trade-offs between a population of Black-throated Blue Warblers in New Hampshire. He hopes to determine what these differences mean in light of potential climate change.

A special license is needed to conduct such research, and the Audubon Society is delighted to have an experienced field scientist present such a program in our area. The morning demonstration will begin at 8 a.m. and will take place at the Audubon Office. A talk on banding warblers will begin at 2 p.m. and will take place at the old Highlands Ranger Station, Flat Mt. Road. Be sure to bring binoculars and cameras. The evening program will begin at the Highlands Civic Center, with refreshments at 7 and the program beginning at 7:30 p.m. You don’t have to be an experienced birder to appreciate what Kirk hopes to share with us. For further information or questions, please call Rommy Bathurst, 526-1939.

Sacred concert at First Presbyterian

The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will offer a bird-banding demonstration and talk on bird-banding. The scientific research done in the field, through the use of mist nets to catch birds, will be explained and the use of the nets will be demonstrated. There will be an opportunity to see some of our Spring migrants up close, in the hand, and to observe how the birds are measured and weighed. A talk on the research and what it means for our local birds will begin that evening.

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HCP's 'Rumors' opens Thursday night

The Highlands-Cashiers Players try their hand at Neil Simon’s “Rumors” on stage at the Performing Art Center on Chestnut Street, Thursday-Sunday of this week and Fri-Sun of next week. Watch for familiar faces and newcomers to the HCP stage. Due to language and themes, it is appropriate for mature audience only. For ticket information call the box office at 828-526-8084 or visit online at www.highlandscashiersplayers.org.

WCU and First Presbyterian Church of Highlands will co-sponsor a faculty showcase concert at 4 p.m., Sunday, May 17 in the sanctuary. The public is invited to attend this free concert that will last about an hour.

The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society field trip to the Franklin Greenway to look for migrating birds. Meet at the Main Street Greenway pavilion at 8 a.m. To carpool from Highlands meet at the public parking area next to the Town Hall at 7:30 a.m. Call Brock Hutchins at 787-1387.

The American Cancer Society Team Captain’s meeting is Thursday, May 7 at the Civic Center beginning at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a Bird Banding demonstration that morning beginning at 8 a.m. at the former USFS Ranger Station on Flat Mountain Road near Highlands. Call Brock Hutchins at 787-1387.

The Highlands Nature Center will host an excursion to White Rock. Join Joe Gatins and Highlands Biological Station staff for a free, 4.5-mile (3-4 hour) moderately-paced and moderately difficult hike to White Rock, approximately six miles from Highlands just off the Bartram Trail, offering good views of the Tesserent Valley and spring wildflowers. Wear comfortable clothes and appropriate footwear; bring own water and snacks, and walking sticks if you use them. The event is free and no reservations are necessary; please, no pets. Meet at the Highlands Nature Center, 9:30 a.m. Call 828-526-2602 for more information.

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Choose drought-tolerant plants

By Emily Compost

We currently have a moderate drought in Macon and Jackson counties. Conditions are not as dry as last summer, but it’s still important to minimize non-essential uses of water. What’s a gardener to do?

Go for succulents and other drought-tolerant plants, like daylilies, foxglove, hostas, and moss phlox (Phlox subulata). Look for great choices at the Mountain Garden Club plant sale in Highlands on Saturday, May 23.

Drought tolerant does not mean plants will grow without water. It means they can survive with less water. Drought tolerant plants should be watered when first planted and may need supplemental watering during their first year. Deep, infrequent watering and the use of mulch will help promote healthy, deep root systems.

Succulents naturally conserve water by storing it in their fleshy leaves and stems. Succulents come in many different shapes, colors and textures and grow well in containers as well as in the garden.

Sedum, also called stonecrops, are the most popular succulents in our area and many varieties are winter hardy. Sedum spectacular ‘Autumn Joy’ grows 16-18 inches high and has pink blooms in late summer. As fall approaches the blooms darken to a handsome rust color, making a nice feature in a fall garden.

Other succulents, like Sedum reipertum (Rocky stonecrop), are mat-forming evergreen species that go great in rock gardens and between steppingstones.

Most succulents have the same needs for growing. They need well aerated soil for quick draining, which can be accomplished by mixing 40 percent grit and sand with potting soil.

To bring out the brightest foliage colors, place succulents in full sun. Fertilize monthly with liquid 10-10-10 fertilizer and water when the top inch of soil is dry.

In the late spring and early summer, place containers of succulents throughout an agarden or other outdoor areas to add color and visual interest.

Ghost plant (Graptopetalum paraguayense) is a fast-growing native succulent of Mexico with silvery green leaves on foot long stems. Ghost plant should be brought indoors before the first frost and kept where temperatures do not fall below 45-55 degrees.

To propagate tender succulents like Ghost Plant indoors, cut some stems from each plant. Place the stems in a shallow container for two or three days until they form calluses on the ends. Then moisten a sandy soil mix and place the stems in it. Water when dry.

To buy succulents and other drought-tolerant plants, come to the 27th Annual Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale Saturday, May 23, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the baseball park in Highlands on Highway 64E. Make sure to arrive early to get the best selection!

... FORUM from page 2

fading memory, but as soon as I said “Hey, Irene, it’s Kim from the paper,” she seemed to know who I was and with very little prodding her memory box sprang open.

She told me about her grandpa Benson, his two wives and their children; her mother Coral and father Edward who met as a college student, respectively, at the one-room schoolhouse in Clear Creek; about trips to the wagon with her father to Walhalla, SC, to sell produce and buy supplies; about escapades with her sister Mimi including their 5-mile walk to school in town from their home on Clear Creek through the woods and up the mountain every morning and back again in the evening.

How they left so early in the morning they carried a lantern they hung on a tree branch in the evening.

For more on Irene’s life and her exotic memories, see FORUM page 20.
HELP WANTED

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY in Highlands is hiring for a full time grill position in our new open kitchen. Must have previous experience. Email jobs@MFGro.com or call 828-342-5174.

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY in Highlands is hiring for a full time position in our produce department. Must be able to lift 40 to 50 pound crates. Email jobs@MFGro.com or call 828-526-2400.

WAITERS, WAITRESSES, COUNTER, COOKS, DISHWASHERS: Apply in person at Sweettreats 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 UPSSCALE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, 8 hours per week. At Ashland Hill, 54 clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC. Or email your resume to dotty.guenther@gmail.com. Drug screening and background check required. EOE.

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

MEDICAL ASSISTANT/NURSE – needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Physician office setting, full-time position available. Current certification and/or NC license and BLS required, ACLS recommended. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RECEPTIONIST – needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Physician office setting, full-time position available. Previous medical/office practice experience required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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Residential For Rent

APARTMENT FOR RENT: Partly furnished, 1BR/1BA, 6 mi. from Highlands NO dogs, NO smoking, $425/MO includes power/water/heat, negotiable rent. 828-787-1515.

TURTLE POND - 3 bd/2 1/2 bth, hot tub, furnished, no smoking/pets. $1,300 + util 828 526 2759 martzg@hughes.net (st. 5/7)

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)

PATIO APARTMENT - Furnished, Queen Bedroom, all utilities except phone, $650 a month. First & last month’s rent for at least a 5-month lease. Call 828-526-2679.

HOUSE FOR RENT ON MIRROR LAKE – 3 bed/3 bath, with 4 acres, master suite on main level, covered front and back porches, lake with dock on property! $549,000 Call Ann at Cabe Realty 828-526-2475.


TWO-STORY APARTMENT FOR RENT — (3 minutes from Highlands/Cashiers Hospital). Recent Remo-

ation. Fully furnished. 2 bedrooms/2 baths. 3 extra large closets. Kitchen with dishwasher and new Jenn-Aire cook stove, dining area, living room, native stone fireplace, wash-
**CLASSIFIEDS**

- **RENTAL SPACE IN WRIGHT SQUARE** — Half a building or two floors of one building. Call Harold Bannister. 828-526-5763. 416
- **2300’-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.
- **16’ FISHING BOAT NEW WITH Trolling motor Charger, New Batteries! **Unippitable! $1000 OBO Call 828-200-0701.
- **BOAT ENGINE, TRAILER** — Great for fishing. Needs some work. $600. Call 828-200-0701.
- **WOODBURNING FIREPLACE INSERT** — Strong and sturdy, 36 inches wide, 29 inches deep and 67 inches high. $375. Call 526-5749.
- **HONEY FOR SALE** — Blue Valley honey, perfect amber color, 3/4 lb. bears, $5 each. Work in town. Call Bruce at 526-8021.
- **WHITE PROFILE WIND/TOP GAS RANGE WITH DOWNDRAFT** — Like new. $385 Call 787-2232.
- **KOLCRAFT JEEP WAGONEER TANDEM DOUBLE STROLLER** — Used rarely. Basically brand new. $100 obo. Call 526-3536.
- **125-GALLON ALL-GLASS AQUARIUM** — Over 6 feet in length, was a salt-water shark-only tank. Comes with Eheim Pro series-2 external canister filter, and optional mag-hogany base. Will settle for $500. Base, extras and help moving it are optional but free. Call 828-342-2809.
- **DRY, HARDWOOD, FIREWOOD** — Priced to Sell! Call 828-226-4946 or 828-200-0688.
- **SMALL EMERALD AND GOLD RING** — Originally $300 Asking $275. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m.
- **BABY LOCK SEWING MACHINE** with extra spools of thread. $200. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.
- **3-PIECE BEDROOM SET** — Oak, cherry, maple, dresser, vanity, desk, mirror. $500.
- **METAL ROLLER SHUTTERS** — Complete set. $70 each. Call 706-740-9121.
- **ANTIQUE 8 AIR CYLINDER MUSIC BOX** — ca 1880s mahogany & rosewood marquetry — good condition - PLAYS. Serious buyers only. Call 828-787-1515.
- **ORVIS FLY FISHING COMBO** — Battenkill Ibis 5/7 reel and Clearwater mid wt 7”9” rod. One year old but NEVER used. Orvis Padded reel case and rod tube/bag included. $200. 828-339-9427.
- **NEW, NEVER WORN, WEDDING DRESS**
- **COMMERCIAL FOR RENT**
- **LAKEWAY HOUSE NEAR MIRRRO LAKE** — 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 car garage, fully furnished, 900 sq. ft., tunnel under Hwy. 211, walk in closet, balcony, small pets allowed. 828-526-3363.
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- **GOLF CLUBS CLASSIC — SET OF MacGregor Tourney 9 irons (2-9 P.W.) $1900. Persimmon Drivers, new. $50. Used $25. Also miscellaneous items cheap. Call 706-746-3046. (Sky Valley.)**
- **SOLID OAK, LADDERBACK dining room chairs with woven seats. $400 for set. Call 526-3048.**
- **5-PC BEDROOM SET C.1920 Bed/Chest of Drawers/Vanity-style Dresser/Stool/Mirror. Rosewood inlay Original brass hardware. Good condition. 995. 828-200-1160 or highlandsnative@yahoo.com**
- **CRACKSMAN 10” RADIAL ARM SAW WITH STAND. Old but used very little. Excellent working condition. $150. 828-787-2177.**
- **COLONIAL GLASS — set of 12 Sherbet Goblets, and dessert plates. $35. Call 526-4063.**
- **WATER PURIFYING CHLORINATOR PUMP** with large heavy duty plastic holding tank. Was $75. Now $50. Call Randy at 828-498-2199.
- **TWO ELECTRIC WATER COOLERS for sale. Approximately 38” tall x 12” square. Put bottled water on top. $50 each. OBO. Call 526-3262.**
- **FREE BRICK FRONT FOR BUILT-IN FIREPLACE W-48”x52” $Call 828-342-2260.**
- **LENNOX SPACE HEATERS - full set mint condition, original price $45 each. Also jewelry call 369-0498, 7-9 p.m.**
- **THREE “HOUSE OF DENMARK” BOOKCASES — various, 3 x 6, containing TV, tape player, turn table, radio CD. Sold as an entertainment unit including 2 Advent speakers. $550. Call 526-6273.**
- **MISC. ITEMS — Various proof coin sets, old 78 LP. Old Walt Disney movies (never opened); Girls’ bicycle; Collectable Basketball Cards (never opened). Call 526-9123.**
- **Vehicles For Sale**

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![Image of Mountain Rayz Tanning Salon](image)

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Panther Prowl Wins Tournament

Panther Prowl 8U Travel Baseball Team traveled to Morganton, NC, May 2-3 to compete in the Catawba Meadows Hit & Run Tournament sponsored by Nations Baseball. Despite the battle with rain, The Panther Prowl returned to Franklin as the Silver Division Champions! Pictured front from left: Tyler Harrison, Blake Gibson, Jesse Saagle, Hunter Jamison, Jay Buick, Camden Williams. Middle Row from left: Austin Ramey, Kent Cochran, Dylan Burt, Tyler HARRELL, Jacob Koch. Back Row from left: Coach Mike Gibson, Head Coach Bill Harrell, Coach Matt Sullivan.

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... FORUM continued from page 17

near the HARBISON House when it got light, retrieving it on the way back home.

How they used to walk to their aunt’s house in Cashiers up the mountain then down Rich Gap and through Horse- and Whiteside coves.

The stories are endless.

I wasn’t around when her husband Lawton or her daughter Barbara died so I never saw as sad Irene until her lifelong buddy, Mett died. As sisters who lived through so much change in America, not to mention Highlands, who connected like no other, Mett’s death at 95 hit Irene, who was 93, hard.

They called each other countless times during the day and watched their favorite pastime, baseball – specifically, the Atlanta Braves – on TV, only over the phone – Irene from her easy chair in her living room and Mett from her couch in her upstairs room.

During a visit after Mett died, Irene was sad and quiet – not her regular disposition. I asked her if she was OK and she said she missed Mett and wanted to be with her. I honestly thought she would die soon after but her extended family pulled her through and she lived for another 10 years.

When I visited her in the hospital the Sunday before she died, she was sitting up in a chair, talking and dosing. When I asked her if she was going home soon, she said she reckoned she would but she didn’t feel up to it, yet. That was an abrupt about-face for Irene.

When she ended up in the hospital, on the mend or not, she was always ready to go home. So, I think Irene had grown tired and was ready to be with her lifelong loved one. I had asked her that question, it’s likely she would have answered her signature response, “Well, now, that’s right.”

We will miss Irene, but we should remember her fondly and feel so lucky to have known her at all.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

al courage of free men and women. That is a weapon our adversaries in today’s world do not have.

Well there is one more quote that pretty much proves to be true, today, more than any other time in our history and that is: “Government’s view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it and if it stops moving, subsidize it.”

Johnny Owens  
Highlands NC
The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from April 23. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 23
- At 1 p.m., a larceny of outdoor lighting fixtures was reported at a residence on Cobb Road. The fixtures are valued at $150. The case is under investigation.

April 29
- At 10:20 a.m., officers responded to an accident at U.S. 64 east and Carolina Way. There were no injuries.

May 1
- At 1:30 p.m., officers issued a parking violation concerning an abandoned car on Webbmont Road.
- At 10:20 a.m., officers conducted a residence check on Paul Walden Way when a part-time resident called to report her utility bill had increased from $10 a month to $30 a month so she suspected someone was living in the house. The back door of the residence was unlocked but police said everything seemed OK. It was secured when they left.

May 2
- At 5:12 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hicks Road where a car was in a ditch. There were no injuries.

May 3
- Officers at a traffic stop on U.S. 64 west conducted a breathalyzer test on a driver when they smelled alcohol in the car. Her breath registered a 0.00. The odor was from a cake in the car that contained alcohol.
- During the week the officers issued 6 citations and responded to 1 alarm.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from April 29:

April 29
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Main Street. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD and supplied water for a brush fire on Norton Road.

April 30
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Oak Street. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. responded to a rescue call at Cliffside Lake where a 64-year-old had fallen and broken an ankle. He was transported to the hospital.

May 1
- The dept. responded to a life-line alarm at a residence on Dogwood Drive. No one was there.

May 2
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Cliffside Lake where a 64-year-old had fallen and broken an ankle. He was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. responded to a rescue call at Cliffside Lake where a 64-year-old had fallen and broken an ankle. He was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at the Mountain Retreat Learning Center. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Elizabeth Salzarulo new owner of Harry Norman

On May 1, Elizabeth B. Salzarulo assumed ownership of the Highlands’ Harry Norman, Realtors office. Salzarulo became a NC real estate broker five years ago and is eager to put her expertise and passion for real estate to work as she heads up the Harry Norman team.

Former owner and broker-in-charge Pat Allen will now be able to devote her time solely to sales and serving her clients. Long time Highlander Monica Calloway, with Harry Norman for three years, will assume the role of broker-in-charge. Brokers Molly Leonard, Bert Mobley, Frank Scudder and Cy Timmons will remain. A recent addition to the staff is broker Gwen Cuzce.

Salzarulo is thrilled with the opportunity to be a part of the revered firm, members of Leading Estates of the World and Who’s Who in Luxury Real Estate. Salzarulo’s plans for the firm include integrated marketing and PR initiatives, but the emphasis on customer service, the foundation of the office, will remain unchanged. “The office’s greatest strength is its incredible group of brokers and passion for serving its customers and I feel fortunate to be working with such talented and dedicated professionals.”

Harry Norman, Realtors is located at #1 Mountain Brook Center.
828-526-8300.
The Girls’ Clubhouse travels to Charlotte, NC for service & fun

Commemorating its 12th year of community service in Highlands, The Girls’ Clubhouse traveled to Charlotte, NC, to perform a community service project and have some much deserved fun. The girls prepared lunch at the Hall House which is a home for women and their children, who suffer from poverty, addiction or abuse. The girls also enjoyed a night on the town, a day at Carowinds and a day at the Discovery Museum and Imax Theater. Special thanks go to Highlands Rotary, Old Edwards Hospitality Group, the Highlands United Methodist Church and Hillrie Quin for their generous donations.

One of the original Girls’ Clubhouse members, Rachel Lewicki, let the club stay at her apartment in Charlotte and helped with hair do’s Friday night. Pictured are McKinley Moseley, April Moss, Elizabeth Houston, Grace Brassard, Veronica Garcia, Meredith Garren and Ivy Satterwhite.
• BZ NEWS •

Ruka's Table in Wright Square is open

Ruka's Table Restaurant features a warm, inviting atmosphere perfect for all ages. A seasonal menu centers around high quality ingredients at peak freshness provided by various local food artisans. It is open for breakfast, lunch and light dinner fare seven days a week. The Roddy family enjoyed a meal on Sunday.

The family-owned, family-operated and family-friendly Pizza Place on Main Street

For pizza, sandwiches and salads every way you like them, it's The Pizza Place open seven days a week. Family owned and operated by the Robinson family, Charles, Charissa, Payton and Karalee.

Highlands Hill Deli at 4th & Main now has inside seating!

Expanding into Mrs. Wong's space has made all the difference for Highlands Hill Deli. Now you can place your order and eat in or take out. The choice is yours.

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