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## The week of July 18-24

• **“A Walk in the Park,”** co-sponsored by the Highlands’ Historical Society and the Highlands Community Players is set for Friday and Saturday, July 18-19 from 6 to 8 p.m. and Sunday, July 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. Shuttles leave from the Conference Center. Tickets are \$10 and available at Cyrano’s and D&J Express Mart.

• Tickets are on sale for **Highlands Playhouse** summer season. Currently playing is Hay Fever, July 17-27. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$9 for children. Performances are Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. For more information, call 526-2695.

• **Kirkin’ O’ The Tartan** at the First Presbyterian Church, July 20 at 11 a.m.

• **Wolfgang’s on Main and Summit One Gallery** present an evening of fine art, wine and dining, Monday, July 21, featuring art from Vicki Ferguson, wines by Mondavi and food by Wolfgang. For more info call 526-3807.

• **The Highland Hiker** offer a half-day hike with wildlife biologist Liz Dominique hikes from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 19.

• **Highlands-Cashiers Hospice** conducts The Circle of Life Support Group every Friday, 10 a.m. until noon at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Conference Room. For more information, call Susan Silverthorn at 526-1462.

• **Madeline Epp** is teaching a watercolor workshop every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Rec Park through August. For more information, call 369-6051.

• **HealthTracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital** offers weekly yoga classes every Tuesday from 5-6 p.m. The cost is \$5. For more info, call Bonnie Powell at 526-1469.

# FREE Highlands’ Newspaper

Volume 1, Number 1

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, July 18, 2003

## ‘Cable Group’ franchise in jeopardy

**Kim Lewicki**

Recent actions by Highlands Cable Group have risked the company’s construction franchise extension OK’d by the Town Board at the July 2 meeting.

At the July 16 Town Board meet-

ing, Town Administrator Richard Betz distributed two letters he sent to Nin Bond, owner of Highlands Cable Group.

In a letter dated July 8, Bond was told to stop attaching equipment to

Town poles until the conditions outlined by the Town Board and the requirements of the Cable Television Ordinance and Franchise Agreement were met.

▪See **FRANCHISE** page 15

## Town eyes water use and flow

**By Kim Lewicki**

There are some things most of us just don’t think about – the color of water, the components of water, the amount of water flowing through the town’s treatment plants.

But those are the kinds of statistics Highlands’ Town Engineer Lamar Nix watches carefully.

Of late he’s concerned with two things. The turbidity in Big Creek – Highlands’ primary drinking water source – and the number of gallons of sewage being treated at the wastewater treatment plant.

The turbidity is the amount of suspended particles in the water – soil mostly.

“Anyone can see it, just look at the lakes after a storm or this time of year when water from the bottom of the lake works its way to the top,” said Nix.

But the reason it’s more prevalent this year than last is what concerns Nix.

▪See **WATER** page 15

## Peace permeates Horse Cove



Photo by Cynthia Strain

**Joel B. Walden** recounts summer days as a youth at family’s homestead in Horse Cove. See story page 8.

## MC Health Dept. finds new home in Highlands

**Kim Lewicki**

The bad news is the Macon County Health Department is no longer working out of the Peggy Crosby Center. The good news is very soon county offices will be

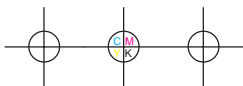
housed in the county building on Buck Creek Road.

“For years people have been asking for county offices up here, and now that the county owns a building here, we might as well

use it,” said Macon County Commissioner, Allen “Ricky” Bryson.

Until the basement of the building on the site is finished, Women’s Infant and Children’s

▪See **HEALTH DEPT.** page 4





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(828) 506-1574

email: [editor@highlandsnewspaper.com](mailto:editor@highlandsnewspaper.com)

**Publisher/Editor**

Kim Lewicki

**Advertising:**

Carol Werner

**Production:**

Darlene Melcher

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## ■ FORUM ■

Welcome to the first edition of Highlands' only locally owned and operated weekly newspaper.

Highlands' Newspaper is a newspaper about Highlands for Highlanders and all her visitors and residents – the day-trippers, overnighters, vacation renters, year-rounders or seasonal residents.

It is my hope that Highlands' Newspaper will bring to Highlands what it's been lacking, the benefit of a hometown newspaper whose interests, financial and otherwise, reside in Highlands.

My family and I live here in Highlands on Oak Street year-round and have lived here for six years. Our kids attend Highlands School, we are members of Highlands United Methodist Church and truly feel lucky to be able to not just call Highlands home, but feel "at home" here.

What you will see within the pages of Vol. 1 No. 1 is a sampling of what is to come. There are lots of exciting and interesting features and columns in the pipeline – just not enough hours in the day or days in the week this first time around!

Our printer – The Asheville-Citizen Times – requested the paper days earlier than expected in case there were bugs to work out. Though production time was cut short, know this is the first of what promises to be an exciting publication.

Our production manager is Darlene (Nugent) Melcher, a talented and artistic Highlands School graduate who was awarded a full scholarship to WCU. She also attended Asbury College in Kentucky.

In charge of advertising is Carol Werner whose energy and enthusiasm are endless.

Highlands' Newspaper is free and 5,000 copies will be available all over town and down the mountain every Friday here on out.

We will continue to post the breaking news as it happens on our Internet site – [www.highlandsnewspaper.com](http://www.highlandsnewspaper.com) – so whether here or away our readers can stay in touch.

I am currently accepting email submissions at [editor@highlandsnewspaper.com](mailto:editor@highlandsnewspaper.com). I look forward to hearing from you, working with you and enjoying a mutually satisfying long-term relationship.

– Kim Lewicki, Publisher/Editor

## ■ Letter to the Editor ■

### Change is good

Dear Editor,

We, the merchants and property owners in the Highlands Historic Merchants district, welcome Highlands' Newspaper to the community.

It will be refreshing to know we have an independent, unbiased newspaper in town.

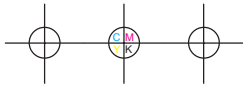
Let us all support it.

Earl Young, Highlands

**We welcome letters from our readers. All letters are subject to editing. We reserve the right to reject letters. Anonymous letters will not be accepted. Letters bearing identification can arrive by post or email. Published letters do not necessarily represent opinions of Highlands' Newspaper.**







# In her 98 years, she's seen it all



Irene Picklesimer James turned 98 years old on June 12 – a milestone reached by few.

As the years have marched on, so has Irene with her loving, extended family by her side.

Irene has never stopped smiling as she's watched the world change around her. And she'll tell you that's the way to be with her telltale phrase, "Well now, that's right."

As a child she walked from the Picklesimer homestead down in Clear Creek up to town to go to school at the Highlands School behind Town Hall. She and her sister Almetta Brooks would start out before dawn, lantern in hand. When the sun rose, they'd hang it on a tree near the Harbison home on the Walhalla Road to be retrieved on the walk home.

She and Almetta used to walk to Cashiers by way of Rich Gap Road to visit their aunt who had married a Zachary.

She's seen the Macon County School system evolve into what it is today – starting first as a student and then a teacher in the one-room schoolhouse where her mother taught before her.

Her husband died early on and she was left to raise her four children alone – Wilma Gordon, Tom and Herb James and Geri Crowe. Thanks to them she is surrounded with generations of offspring who are never far from her side.

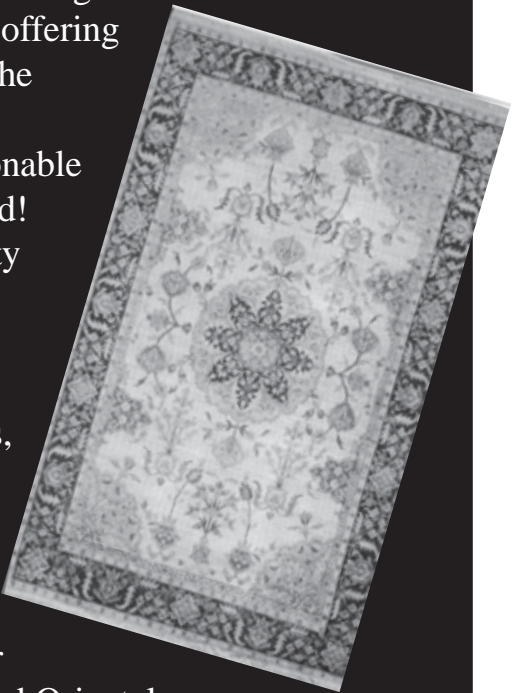
Irene Picklesimer James epitomizes the "pioneer spirit" of the families – especially the women who have made Highlands what it is today.– **Kim Lewicki**

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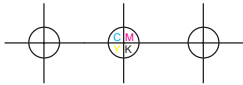
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.....Health Dept. cont. from page 1



Photo by Kim Lewicki

**Macon County Commissioner Ricky Bryson, LuAnn Bryan of the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and landscape architect Hank Ross inspected the concession building at the Buck Creek Sports Complex recently. After the lights go up, next comes the irrigation system topped with sod. Everyone's hoping the site will be ready for school and county sports when they start up this coming school year. N.C. Parks & Recreation matched the county's \$250,000 to build the complex. As a finishing touch, the county is hoping someone will donate some kind of foliage to buffer the complex from Buck Creek Road.**

services (WIC) and the prenatal, women's and children's clinical services will be handled at the Franklin facility on Emory Lake Road. "Unless we can find a temporary spot in Highlands," said Ken Ring, MC Health Department director.

Through the WIC program, families who financially qualify get vouchers for various food items like baby formula and food, eggs, milk, juice, fortified cereals, beans, lentils and peanut butter. "They also receive nutritional counseling," Ken Ring, MC Health Department director.

Though the particulars are still being worked out, in the approximately 1,800 sq. ft. in the concession building basement, commissioners are considering housing a building inspections office, a sheriff's office and the health department, said Bryson.

Ann Jones, director of the Peggy Crosby Center said the center is sorry to see the health department go because of the con-

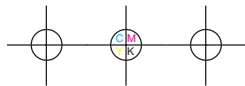
venience the location provided residents but is glad the county has found a place in Highlands.

With fiscal cuts an issue in most county departments, Ring said the decision to move out of the Peggy Crosby Center was largely about funding. "The county is saving money and a county building will be utilized," he said.

The Health Department's lease at the Peggy Crosby Center ran out June 30. It hopes to be housed at the Buck Creek sports complex within a couple of months. "One good thing is we'll have a lot more parking at the Buck Creek location," said Ring.

Ring said about 17-30 people visited the department's four-hour clinic each of the two Wednesdays a month it was at the Peggy Crosby Center.

Bryson said the county is working on finishing out the basement of the concession building as fast as it can.







## ■ Life Under Construction ■

### Dealing with the ebb and flow of it all

By Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

I have come to believe that one never knows where life is going or how long it will last. Joseph Campbell said it best, "We must be ready to get rid of the life we've planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us."

Life is ongoing, always changing and fluid. Even the best laid plans need redesigning, restoring, reframing, renovating, and reconstructing.

This column will ask the following questions:  
Are you the architect of your future?

Are you building the life you really want to live? Are you using quality materials? And finally, Are you at home in your life?

After visiting the Western North Carolina Mountains for 20 years, I finally moved here in March 2000, and decided to build my own home. Those of you who have done this, know what is involved when you design, plan and build your own home. The same is true about life.

My intent is to gently nudge you to stop and think for a moment about your life by sharing information about things that have happened in my life. It started when I decided to give myself a fiftieth birthday present.

Yep, you guessed it, a home in the mountains. What followed that decision and the seven months that it took to build my home, was an opportunity to examine my life.

Let me be frank. Sounds like a general contractor and looks like a general contractor. Hmm, I wonder?

From the very beginning of the process, I soon realized that the general contractor I hired was building his house and not my home.

So, I don't get in BIG trouble after writing my first column, I want you to take note. What I am writing about is only my experience building my home. Just one person building one home.

All general contractors are not equal. Having said that, I will

continue. After many meetings and long distant phone conversations I reached the acute awareness that the general contractor I hired was building his house and not my home. So, I did what any sane, single, almost 50- year-old woman would do when they had just moved across the country from California to North Carolina. I fired him.

Whether you are building your home or your life; it's essential to surround yourself with supportive, knowledgeable, and skilled people.

Now the job of general contractor (GC) was all mine. I pulled my own building permit and grabbed my tools, which I might add, were a bit lacking. I was not the sharpest tool in the shed when it came to building my home, but that probably was not enough to stop me. I gave this decision some serious thought. Actually, I started by stopping and confronting some hard questions. Did I have the stamina and courage to do this or



was I just being foolish? Despite my answer, I started building. Basically, Life is Under Construction...A Work in Progress, which just happens to be the title of my second book.

What are you building in your life right now? Are you constructing the life you want? What do you say? Let's start the building process!

**Dr. Maryellen Lipinski is a psychologist by profession and an international professional speaker, author, Realtor and life coach by design. Contact her at [www.maryellenlipinski.com](http://www.maryellenlipinski.com)**

### New 'digs' to greet students/faculty at Highlands School

It's hard to believe school starts Aug. 7.

Area shops and restaurants won't have the "all-day" help from students they've enjoyed since school got out the end of May.

Instead of fun in the sun, students will have to start thinking about things like World History and American Literature.

As always, new faces will greet students and faculty when they walk through those glass doors three weeks from now..

Noel McJunkin who taught U.S. History and ELP has taken a teaching job out west. Teacher Simeon Hickman from Cashiers moves into that slot.

Carol Bowen, from the Atlanta area takes over as Librarian at Highlands School, a post long held by Margaret Bryson who has transferred to a school in Franklin.

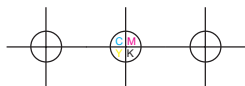
Teacher couple, Carla and Terry Harris will teach Exceptional Children in the elementary and high school, respectively.

The search is on for a high school Chemistry and Physics teacher to replace Coach Richard who took a job at the Cullusaja Club Fitness Center.

Meanwhile, community members have spruced up the school.

Andrea Gabbard spearheaded a project involving Highlands United Methodist Church and Youth Challenge. They painted areas inside the school, mulched the playground and landscaped the flower bed in front.

With the budget crunch, Gabbard said the community's help is really needed. Also new this year is a rock garden around the Highlands School sign on the front lawn, thanks to John Beck.





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## Cooking on the Plateau

### 'It Just Tastes Better in the Mountains'

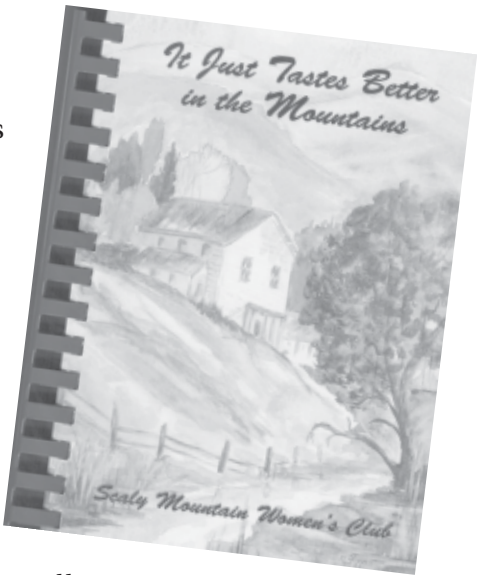
By Barbara Lawrence

The beautiful cover of The Scaly Mountain Women's Club Cookbook "It Just Tastes Better in the Mountains" is just an introduction to the wonderful treats inside.

The 'good cooking' ladies have put together their favorite recipes in this innovative cookbook.

This Club of 65 members has raised nearly \$42,000 from the cookbook sales for community projects, such as local scholarships.

There has been great support from local businesses who sell these books, such as Highlands Office Supply, Kitchen Gourmet, Dusty's Supermarket and Don's Village Market. Stop by for copies of these great cookbooks.



### Vidalia Onion Pie

from Marilyn Christoffersen

- 1 baked pie shell
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 3 cups thinly sliced Vidalia onions
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons melted butter
- 2 eggs, well beaten
- 1/2 cup milk
- 6 bacon slices, crisply fried and crumbled
- 1 1/2 cups sour cream
- 1/2 cup toasted, slivered almonds

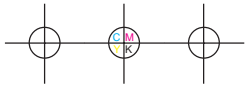
Sauté onion in butter until lightly browned and wilted. Spoon into pastry shell. Whip flour, salt, milk and 1/2 cup sour cream until blended. Whisk in the remaining 1 cup of sour cream and eggs until well blended. Pour the mixture over onions. Bake in preheated 325 oven about 30 minutes until firm, Garnish with bacon and almonds. Serves 6.

Vidalia onions are plentiful and have a superb flavor - sweet with just the right "zing" for this pie.

This recipe is one of my favorites from the cookbook. I have used it for several "pot luck" dinners and always received compliments. Marilyn is a superb cook, as all of us who have been fortunate enough to sample her dishes know. So enjoy your cooking!

Each week recipes from various local cookbooks will be featured.





## ... Spiritual message

### Uncomfortable Places

Rev. Eddie Ingram  
Highlands United  
Methodist Church  
Scripture: Mark 1:9-15

**The life of faith  
has to be worked out  
in a life of  
unpredictability.**



God’s Spirit in the form of a dove cast Jesus out immediately after his baptism into the wilderness, an unpredictable place where his faith was tested.

We tend to live under “healthy illusions” believing that one day our current crisis and situation will be over and life will be better. The truth is, after one crisis, another will come. Life is not easy. Is there a way we can find our hope not when the struggle is over, but in the midst of the struggle?

When have you tried to make for yourself a “predictable” life instead of embracing the unpredictable journey of faith that Jesus walked?

**The church is called to fish in deeper waters which are unpredictable, but where there are fish.** In church, pews are bolted down and pulpit furniture is hard to move. So are hearts and minds.

Where has God challenged your notions of church and religion? How did you respond?

**We need to always remember God’s passionate love for us as we deal with life’s self-destructive choices.**

The voice of God (verse 10) proclaimed that God was well-pleased with Jesus. We need to know that God is well-pleased with us, or else we fail. Sin is self-hate.

Can you recall a poor choice you have made simply because you forgot how precious you were to God?

#### Scripture: Mark 1:9-15

At the time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert forty days being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news.”

**Each week men and women of the cloth will feature spiritual food for thought.**

## ■ Places of Worship on the Plateau ■

### Blue Valley Baptist Church

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11 a.m.  
Sunday night services every second and fourth Sunday at 7 p.m.  
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

### Buck Creek Baptist Church

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.  
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

### Christian Science Services

On the corner of Spring and Third streets  
526-2630  
Sunday: Morning Service – 11 a.m.  
Wednesday: Evening Service – 7 p.m.  
Tuesday & Friday: Study room open 2-4 p.m.

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329  
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627  
Sundays: Worship – 10 a.m.; school & primary classes – 11 a.m.; Women’s & Men’s Org. – noon  
Tuesdays: Women’s Org. – 6:30 p.m.; Library – 6-8  
Wednesdays: Boy Scouts of America mtg. – 6:30 p.m.; Young women’s activities – 6:30 p.m.

### Clear Creek Baptist Church

Pastor Everett Wilson, (828) 743-3379  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.; Prayer – 6:30 p.m.  
Evening Service – 7 p.m.

### Community Bible Church

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)  
Steven E. Kerhoulas, Pastor, 526-4685  
3645 U.S. 64 east  
Sundays: School – 9:30 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.  
Tuesdays: Women’s Bible Study – 9:45 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study – 6:30  
Thursdays: Guys Sr. High Discipleship – 6 p.m.

### Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Rev. R. Michael Jones, D. Min., Rector: 526-2968  
Sundays: Holy Eucharist – 8 a.m.; 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.; Adult Class – 10 a.m.; Children’s – 11 a.m.  
Tuesdays: Men’s Cursillo @ Hampton Inn – 8 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Supper and Program @ First Presbyterian Church – 6 p.m.  
Thursdays: Women’s Cursillo Group @ Library – 9:30 a.m.; Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.

### First Baptist Church

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153  
Sundays: Worship – 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15 p.m.  
Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.; Student & Adult Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30

### First Presbyterian Church

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175  
Sundays: Worship – 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. (child care at 11 a.m.); School – 9:30 & 9:45.  
Wednesdays: Children’s Devotions – 9:30 a.m.; Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7:30 p.m.  
Thursdays: Bible Study – 10 a.m.

Saturdays: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

### Highlands Assembly of God

Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7 p.m.

### Highlands Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study  
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

### Highlands United Methodist Church

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376  
Sundays: School – 9:30 & 9:45 a.m.; Worship – 8:30 & 11 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study & activities – 6 p.m.

### Macedonia Baptist Church

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Rusty Wolfrey, (706) 782-8130  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.; Choir – 6 p.m.  
Wednesdays: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

### Mountain Synagogue

St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871  
For more information, call (706-745-1842, (706) 754-3334 or (828) 293-5197

### Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

Rev. William M Evans, Priest  
Parish office, 526-2418  
Fridays: Mass – 9 a.m.  
Saturdays: Mass – 4 p.m.  
Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

### Scaly Mountain Baptist Church

Rev. Clifford Willis  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7  
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

### Scaly Mountain Church of God

Pastor Allen Melton  
Sundays: Radio Program 1340 AM – 8:30 a.m.; School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.; Evening – 6

### Shortoff Baptist Church

Pastor Rev. Baker Crane  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7 p.m.

### The Church in the Wildwood

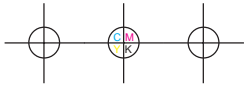
Horse Cove Road  
Old-fashioned hymn-singing led by laypeople.  
Every Sunday Memorial Day - Labor Day at 7 p.m.

### Westside Baptist Church

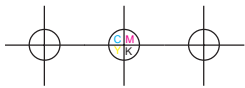
Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon  
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby  
Sundays: Fellowship – 11 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.

### Whiteside Presbyterian Church in America

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.







# Coming Home to ‘The Cove’

**Joel B. Walden**  
Contributor

**T**he summers of my youth were spent in what my parent’s called “God’s Country.” That phrase means something entirely different to me today than it did back then. When I was young, I thought of it as “God’s Forsaken Country.” But now, as an adult, it’s exactly where I want to be.

My family has lived in Highlands since the late 1800s and our roots grew deep in this peaceful place. I am the youngest grandson of the late Mack D. and Perdita Mae Edwards. They had 10 children – Dan, Virginia, Truie, Floyd, Troy, Bertha, Cecil, John, Ralph (Bruce), and Felicia.

We traveled to Horse Cove every summer from central Florida. As a child, utter dread would befall me as we approached “the Cove.” I thought it was the most boring place under the sun. One television station – Channel 4 out of Greenville/ Spartanburg – was all we could get at the house and most of the time it was too snowy to watch.

There were no decent radio stations and the town of Highlands seemed to be on the other side of the universe.

Alas, what was a kid to do? Most of the time we would sit and listen – mostly for cars approaching the house.

At the sound of an approaching vehicle we would run to the living room window in heightened anxiety. More times than not, however, it was a car traveling down Walking Stick or Rich Gap roads. When a car did come, it meant a temporary relief from the boredom.

The boredom of being stuck in this God forsaken place with no friends and no entertainment. A place with the darkest nights on Earth and a place with tree frogs as loud as an AC/DC concert.

The highlights of the day were fish feeding time, watching the cows pass through the yard at four in the afternoon on their way to the barn from the pasture, and supper time.

Of course there was always the brief excursions to Highlands or

Franklin to buy groceries or visit family.

Trips to Franklin to pick up a pig and listen to it squeal the entire way back to the Cove.

A trip to Elberton, Ga., to pick up a dog – Shep number three after Shep number two passed away.

puzzle piece she’d been looking for since before breakfast that morning.

Boring, boring, boring!  
I can still remember the big rock that sat in the window of the gem shop “up town.” It was huge and had purple crystals inside of it. Someone had cut a big hole in the side of it so

we were headed back down the mountain to the Cove.

In the evenings, after supper, we would run around and catch lightning bugs or go worm hunting. Catching lightning bugs was fun for about an hour – after that it became just another entry into the list of boring things to do.

Now, nightcrawler hunting was different. We got an old squirt bottle and filled it with a little dry mustard and some water, shook it up real good and then went looking for nightcrawler holes.

When we found one, we squirted the mixture into the hole and out they’d come. My Uncle Cecil taught us that trick and we had a blast with that one.

After I got a little older and had my driver’s license we would go here and there to sightsee. I remember the titillating feeling as I drove up from Franklin to Highlands with nothing but a two-foot concrete barrier between the road and the Gorge. Scary stuff at 17 when the only hill you’d driven was an overpass on the Interstate. On weekends in the Cove we’d listen to the weekly obituaries on the radio. Now that was entertainment.

As I have grown older and slightly wiser, I would give my left arm to go back to that “boring place.”

When I go back to the Cove I hear the voices of my youth. I can see the footprints we left there. I can smell the scent of fresh baked biscuits on the wood stove. I can hear the sound of the butter churner going “kathump, kathump, kathump.” For the most part those sounds and smells are long gone. Ah, to be that “bored” again.

Happily, what remains is the foundation – God’s foundation.

My parent’s were right when they called the Cove, “God’s Country.” They appreciated the peace and tranquility that thrived there. They appreciated the stunning beauty of the majestic hills that surrounded us all summer long. Whatever the reason, the name fits, and I’m glad to be coming home to God’s country for good.



Photo by Howard Suzuki

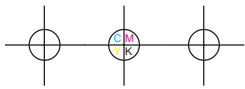
**Throughout the year and through all time, The Cove emits an endless sense of tranquility.**

Waking up to the sound of my grandmother churning butter in the kitchen.

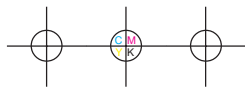
Wondering when we were going to see the sun after days of drizzling fog. Listening to everyone tell stories of the “old days” as they sat around the supper table. Noting the elation of my mother at finding a jig saw

you could look inside the rock. We would stop and stare for what seemed like hours at the rock. Occasionally, mom and Aunt Sis would drop us off at the miniature golf place by Helen’s Barn.

Now there was some relief to the boredom! But it never seemed to last long enough and before we knew it







# Youth travel to Highlands to make a difference

By Kim Lewicki  
Publisher/Editor

Changing the world one shingle at a time had a group of 24 volunteers working hard on Buttermilk Lane.

As a ministry of the North Carolina Missions Board with the Southern Baptist Convention, World Changers came to Highlands the week of June 23-27 and literally changed a couple's life.

In one week's time, the group transformed Roy and Mary Baty's home from a building in bad need of repair to a home that can fend off whatever Mother Nature sends its way.

Baptist church youth groups from Virginia to Texas have come to Macon County with World Changers for the past three years, this time making a stop in Highlands.

The Baty family was selected as a recipient by Macon Program for Progress and as such got a new roof, new ceilings, a new floor in the bathroom and new windows which tilt inside for easy cleaning. As Betty Loper, a youth volunteer from Virginia, put it, "What we're doing will keep them warm in the winter and keep the bugs and icky spiders out of their house."

The renovation is valued at least \$15,000, but donated and government-issued building

materials coupled with almost 1,000 hours of volunteer manhours brought the project in for much less.

"This is a great way to love on people," said Virginia volunteer, Carla Bragg.

Each of the 20 youth had to pay their own way to participate in the project, \$150-\$250, but they all said it's worth it.

"It feels good to help other people and it's good to be around friends," said Ryan from Camden, S.C., who's a first-timer with World Changers. "It's been a lot of fun to help this group get this house rebuilt and to have the fellowship and worship."

Jennifer Wilkins from Raleigh, N.C., is a seasoned World Changer. "It shows me different aspects of ministering to people. Not just talking, but showing that life is good," she said. "Being able to help out in ways when people can't help themselves."

World Changers worked on three houses in Macon County using schools in Franklin as their base.

After working from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., the group headed down the mountain for dinner, fellowship and worship.

At night, they camped out on mattresses and sleeping bags but they didn't seem to mind.

"This has been an amazing experience," said Christy Fritz, from Virginia. "I'm thrilled to be able to help."

She said the best part is Mary Baty. "When she comes along she just keeps smiling."



Photo by Kim Lewicki

**The Baty home got a face-lift inside and out in one week's time thanks to the hard work of a group of 24 volunteers who came to Highlands mid-June. Youth paid to participate in this community service project and had to travel from as far away as Texas.**

## HS Literary Magazine wins awards, again

It begins as soon as school starts up in the – well, summer now. This year, teachers go back Aug. 1. Students return Aug. 7.

Highlands School literature teacher Beverly Van Hook starts rallying English and creative writing teachers, the art teacher and students from every grade level – even teachers with a creative flair – to submit examples of their best creative endeavors to the school's literary magazine – "Crossroads."

Over the past several years, the magazine has won awards for excel-

lence in various categories.

This summer, the magazine was recognized as a Magazine of Honor by the NC Scholastic Media Association Summer Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill.

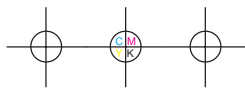
Highlands School students won two, third-place and three, honorable mentions in layout, photography, features, fictions and poetry.

Over the school year, students in the elementary school, middle school and high school submit everything from poems to novelettes; original works of art to photo-

graphs. Artwork is scanned and generally placed alongside written works with a similar theme. Artwork and written works typically complement each other perfectly.

The Literary Magazine class collects and edits all the material, selects the artwork, designs the magazine on PageMaker software and ultimately prints each copy.

The magazine costs \$5 and proceeds finance the project. The "Crossroads" magazine is available at Highlands School.







■ **Movie Pix** ■

**Good Stuff from the Coen Brothers**

by Stuart Armor, Movie Stop

**The Hudsucker Proxy  
By the Coen Brothers**

This 1994, PG-13, movie is one of the lesser-known Coen Brothers productions.

It is lighthearted fare from a writing team known for dark, dark, comedies. The actual story line (good guy/bad buy corporate greed, improbable/inevitable love interest) is predictable, and the similarities to Frank Capra's work have to be on purpose, but do not be deceived!

This is a real treasure, both for the stellar performances by Tim Robbins (goofy good guy trying to make it big in the big city), Jennifer Jason Leigh (hardened headstrong reporter) and Paul Newman (obviously having way too much fun as the very evil CEO of Hudsucker Industries, with very big and very evil plans), and for the surreal quality of the cut-aways and the silly/clever humor this team is known for.

The basic story-line has the evil corporate board plucking the cheerful and clueless Tim Robbins from the mailroom and setting him up for failure, which, natch, does not happen.

The rest is detail, with terrific facial expressions, hidden references to many older films

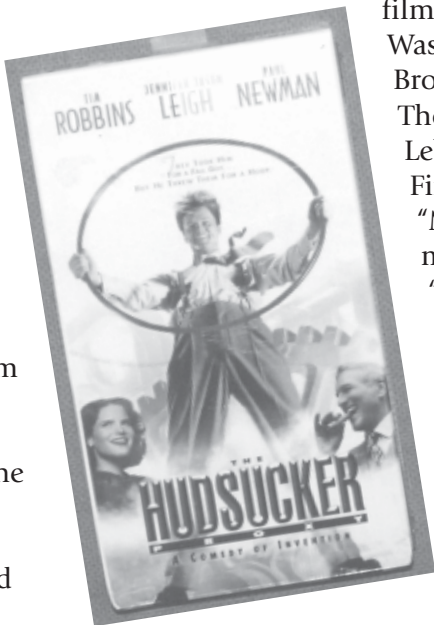


(including a lot of Capra) , and some really cool cinematography. Coen Brother fans, Tim Robbins fans, and fans of smart and strange movies will enjoy this film. Don't let anyone tell you about Norville's (Robbins) brilliant idea before you get a chance to see this one for yourself.

Other Coen Brothers films are "The Man Who Wasn't There," "O' Brother, Where Art Thou?," "Fargo," "Big Lebowski," "Barton Fink," "Blood Simple," "Millers Crossing" and my all time favorite, "Raising Arizona."

These and about 5,000 other titles are available at Movie Stop Video next to Brick Oven Pizza. Stop on in and give them a look.

New-release movies rent for \$3.25, regular movies rent for \$2. There's also "Two for Tuesday," excluding new releases, and "Five for Five" – 5 movies for 5 days for \$7. Hours are Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. noon-8:30 p.m.



Stuart Armor will be submitting movie "reviews" regularly.

■ **Florist Tips & Secrets** ■

**The art of stem-cutting**

By Jan Burchett, Best of the Bunch

Most everyone knows florists cut flower stems at an angle, but do you know why? There's actually a scientific reason for it.

If you want a long vase-life out of your cut flowers, always cut the stems on an angle.

Use a knife or clippers exclusively for flower and foliage stems. If you use all-around-the-house scissors or dull clippers they will crimp the membranes of the stem which means the flowers can't "drink" the water.

Also, cutting stems of flowers and foliage on an angle, exposes more of the inner stem which means makes it easier for the flowers to drink.

Think about it. If you cut a stem straight across and place it in a vase of water, the end of the stem sits flat on the bottom of a vase. When it sits flat, the stem isn't exposed to the water so it can't "drink."

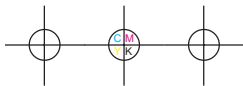
Cutting stems at an angle prolongs the vase-life of your cut flower arrangement dramatically.



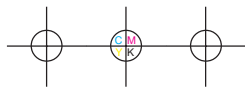
**Always use sharp scissors or a knife used exclusively for flowers.**



Each week, various florists in town will be submitting columns – sharing their secrets with our readers.







■ Book Review ■

Zero: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea, by Charles Seife

By Katie Brugger

Have you ever named computer files with numbers? If you number files 1, 2, 3, the files are listed in proper numerical order until you get to 10. Then something funny happens. Ten is placed after 1 but before 2. Why? Because the computer is only looking at the first digit to rank the files. It can't distinguish between the ones in the number 1 and the number 10.

What about the zero?

"Zero: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea," by Charles Seife, is a fascinating book on the history of zero. The book begins by exploring the beginnings of numerical symbols in the Middle East cultures of Greece, Egypt, and Babylonia a few hundred years before the beginning of the current era. Have you ever thought about how amazing the invention of a number system is, or a language? Learning how to express ideas in an abstract form that you can use to communicate to others?

The need for accurate counting and record keeping by trade and business people stimulated the development of number systems. The first systems started counting with the number 1. Who would start with zero? The natural place to start counting is with the number one. Would we say, "My child is zero years old"? Of course not. But how many years old is your baby for that year before his/her first birthday if it isn't zero? But we don't say that. We say he/she is six months. We don't think in terms of zero. The Mayans did, though. They had a symbol for zero, and they counted 0, 1, 2 . . . 19, where we would inaccurately count 1, 2, 3 . . . 20.

The history of zero (at least west of India, this book does not cover China) begins in the Babylonian civilization concurrent with ancient Greece. The Babylonians discovered how to write numbers using a place system, and this necessitated a placekeeper meaning "naught."

For example, in the number 104 the zero can be thought of as "naught-tens" or "no-tens." This system spread to India and in about 700 AD, because of Hinduism's openness to the concept of "void," the Indian mathematicians were able to take the idea one step further to invent the idea of zero, of nothing, the opposite of infinity, an actual number 0.

I had always thought it was the Arabs who discovered zero, but they actually learned it from the Indians. It came to Europe from the Arabs, so that is why they have gotten the credit.

Without zero there can be no place system, which means numbers can't be manipulated,

thus without zero there can be no mathematics (other than geometry) and no science. Imagine trying to multiply numbers written in Roman numerals. For example, what is XLII x CXXVI? (42 x 126 = 5292) Due to the discovery of zero, mathematics and science flowered in India and in the Arab world in the years 700 A.D. to 1500, but this was not the case in Europe.

The first half of the book traces the resistance to the idea of zero from the early Greeks and Egyptians to Aristotelian-influenced Christianity. None of these cultures' belief-systems could allow for the concept of the void, of nothingness. Christianity had absorbed



Greek philosophy and one of the elements of this philosophy was the aversion to the idea of nothing. The Greeks did not believe that nothing or infinity existed. Even though the Bible begins with God creating the universe out of the void, the Judeo-Christian tradition ignored this to follow the Aristotelian credo that there is no void and there is no infinity.

Zero was heretical to the Catholic Church. In fact it was through the denial of infinity (the polar opposite of nothing, thus its twin) that medieval Christians proved the existence of God. (The proof in essence said: the universe was composed of concentric spheres moving out from the central earth, there was a finite number of these spheres, and consequently there had to be a 'prime mover,' something that caused the spheres to turn. This could only be God. Ergo, God exists.)

Only with the Renaissance did zero become accepted in Europe. With the Reformation came the loosening of strictures against free thought, and the European mind opened up to new ideas. With the introduction of zero began the advances in mathematics and science that have led to the technological civilization of today.

Zero is a latecomer to our culture and we have not completely integrated it into our cultural paradigm. We still treat it as if we could live without it, as if it were insignificant. It is our aversion to zero that got us into the argument over which was the first year of the millennium. The monk who decided on the exact year of Christ's birth in order to set up a standardized calendar for the whole Christian world (in 527 A.D.) didn't assign the first year the number 0. He, naturally, called it year one — 1 A.D. What is the year before 1 A.D.? It is 1 B.C. There is no year 0. The calendar system began with the year 1, and therefore the first year of the new millennium was 2001.

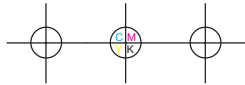
Look at a computer keyboard. Zero is not in its proper place. It is not before 1 where it belongs; it is dangling up above 9. Look at a telephone. Zero is stuck below the three-by-three keypad of numbers in a limbo symbol-land of asterisk and pound sign.

The author goes on to trace the development of science, using zero as the focal point, up to modern-day quantum physics. Quantum physics gives an understanding of zero analogous to white light. As white light contains all colors, zero contains all within in it. There is no such thing as nothing. Vacuum is not nothing; it is everything. The discussion of vacuum begins with this quote: "To physicists, vacuum has all particles and forces latent in it. It's a far richer substance than the philosopher's nothing." –Sir Martin Rees.

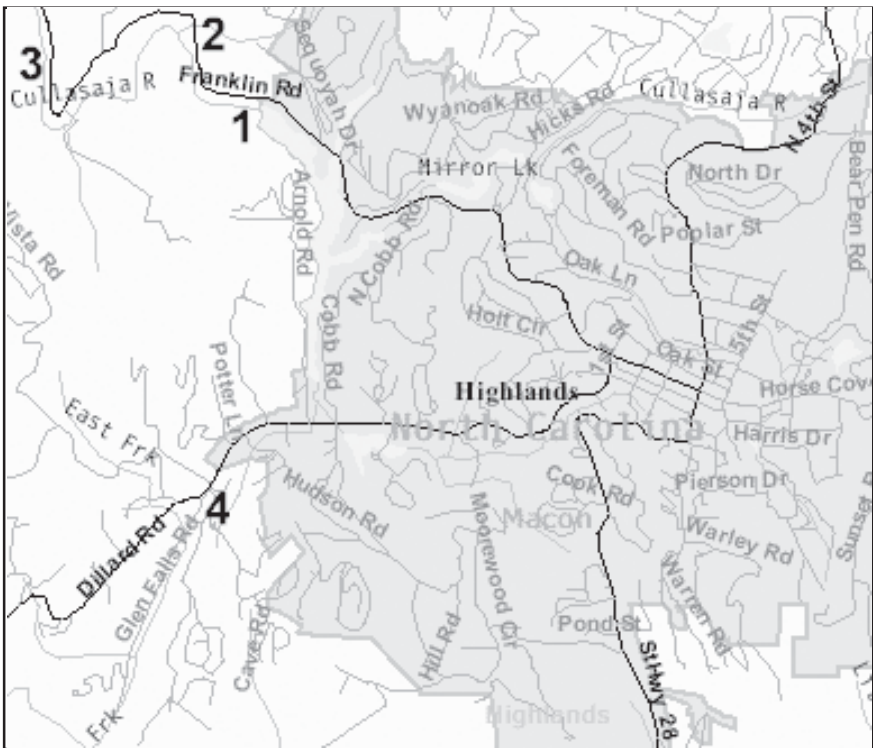
An interesting side-point. The next time someone calls you "a zero" or you hear someone use zero as a pejorative term, you will know that person is ignorant of the true meaning of the word. Zero is an important number and is as big as infinity. To be zero is to be everything.

This is just the kind of book I love. It covers mathematics, history, philosophy, the history of science, and quantum physics. I highly recommend it and it's available at the Hudson Library on Main Street call number 513C.

Katie and her husband Arthur perform at Buck's Coffee Cafe featuring all kinds of music including songs they've written.



## Waterfall Hikes



- 1) **Kalakaleskies Falls:** Located off Hwy. 64W about 1 1/2 miles from town on the Cullasaja River. The Sequoyah Dam is at the head of these falls. There are 18 small falls within a quarter mile, each paralleling US Hwy 64 west.
- 2) **Bridal Veil Falls:** This picturesque fall cascades over US Hwy. 64W about 2 miles from town. Cars may even drive under this waterfall.
- 3) **Dry Falls:** On US Hwy. 64W, about 3 miles from town. Parking is provided by the Forestry Service where a path is taken to the falls. They are certainly not dry.
- 4) **Glen Falls:** Located off a dirt road 3 miles south of town on Hwy. 106. The turnoff is marked by a U.S.F.S. sign. Glen Falls is composed of a series of 3 large falls dropping approximately 60 ft. each on the east fork of Overflow Creek in the Blue Valley area. The one mile foot trail down to the falls is steep.

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## Healthy Living

### Back Safety at the Office

By Ginger Flowers

Back discomfort is a common problem. And frequently, the workplace can be the cause if one is not conscious of good posture and proper body alignment. Keeping your back free of pain may be as easy as proper posture and improved technique.

Body mechanics and upright posture eases stress and pressure on discs and also strain on muscles and ligaments of the spine.

Sitting for long periods can be a common cause of low back pain. Remember to use some means of orthopedic support such as a small pillow or rolled towel. More expensive types of devices are also available from health or medical supply stores. According to the American Council on Exercise, it is a good idea to remove the support every half-hour or so to give your back a change of position. They also suggest that the ear be in line with the shoulder and the jaw be parallel to the floor. Try to avoid a chin jutting, head forward posture.

Some small modifications to your sitting posture can be of great benefit. Remind yourself to sit up straight, facing directly forward rather than leaning to one side. Keep your chair close to your desk. Check the arm rests on chairs to be sure they allow such an adaptation.. Adjust your chair to a height that will allow you to relax your shoulders while doing desk work. The back rest should be upright to encourage proper spinal alignment. Tilting the seat forward will help you avoid slouching. A chair that swivels is a good idea to minimize torque. Try to place frequently used items closer and when you bend forward, try bending from the hip instead of the waist.

Did you know that using your shoulder to help hold a telephone can cause neck strain? If you are a frequent phone user, check out the use of headsets or just make an



effort to keep hands free for holding the phone.

Another tip for general back comfort is movement. If you sit for a long time, rise and walk a bit and/or try tilting your hips forward – gently – to relieve stress from a slouched position.

Don't forget exercise. General strengthening of the trunk and legs can be very beneficial. Stretching, flexibility and relaxation methods such as yoga or meditation can reduce tension in muscles.

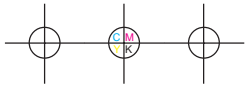
Remember to avoid exercises that are uncomfortable or cause undue stress on your back. Information on appropriate back exercises is available from a number of sources on-line or from your local library or bookstore. Consult your doctor for specific recommendations if you have an existing condition or have undiagnosed back pain. Exercise professionals are also a great source for general advice.

As always, it is the best idea to consult your physician prior to beginning any exercise program.

Reference: American Council on Exercise, "Protecting Your Back at Work," February, 2003

**Ginger and other fitness gurus on the plateau will be submitting columns weekly.**





## ■ Upcoming Events and Activities on the Plateau ■

### This weekend

- "A Walk in the Park," co-sponsored by the Highlands' Historical Society and the Highlands Community Players is set for Friday and Saturday, July 18-19 from 6 to 8 p.m. and Sunday, July 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. Shuttles leave from the Conference Center. Tickets are \$10 and available at Cyrano's and D&J Express Mart.
- Tickets are on sale for Highlands Playhouse summer season. Hay Fever, July 17-27, The 1940's Radio Hour, July 31-Aug. 17 and The Real Thing, Aug. 21-30. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$9 for children. Performances are Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. For

more information, call 526-2695.

### July 24

- The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cashiers-Highlands PEO Sisterhood luncheon is Thursday, July 24 at Trilium Links and Village in Cashiers. Registration and social time begins at noon with lunch at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$20. There will be a cash wine bar during social time. Reservations should be made payable to Margaret Kaminer, P.O. Box 2088, Cashiers, N.C., 28717. For more information, call Nancy Bannerman at 743-5061.

### July 26

- Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church will hold its annual yard sale on Saturday, July 26 at 9 a.m. Items for

sale will include books, old records, toys, kitchen items and linens.

### Aug. 3

- The "Great Storytelling Festival is Saturday, Aug. 2 at PAC. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets are available at Hudson Library, Regions Bank and Highlands Office Supply.

### Aug 4

- The Highlands Playhouse Golf Tournament is Monday, Aug. 4 at Highlands Cove. Shotgun begins at noon. Application forms are available at the Playhouse. The cost is \$125. Profits support the Playhouse. Dinner is included at Nick's at the Cove.

- HIARPT Lecture Series presents Dr. Raymond

Williams, Aug. 4 & 5 at the performing arts center on Chestnut Street. Williams will speak on "Religion and Post-1965 Immigration in America."

### Aug 11

- Starting Aug. 11, the Rec Park pool will be open on Saturday and Sundays only. Adult swim will continue as scheduled until the pool closes after Labor Day, Sept. 1

### Weekly happenings

- The Highland Hiker offers half-day hikes during the week with Mike Smith all summer long. Hikes are from 1 to 5 p.m. and cost \$5 per person. Hikers leave from the Highland Hiker Church Street store. Bring a bag lunch and plan to hike July 29, Aug. 5, and Aug.

26. Wildlife biologist Liz Dominique hikes from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 19, Aug. 15 and Aug. 16.

- Highlands-Cashiers Hospice conducts The Circle of Life Support Group every Friday, 10 a.m. until noon at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Conference Room. For more information, call Susan Silverthorn at 526-1462.

- Madeline Epp is teaching a watercolor workshop every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Rec Park through August. For more information, call 369-6051.

- HealthTracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital offers weekly yoga classes every Tuesday from 5-6 p.m. The cost is \$5. For

more information, call Bonnie Powell at 526-1469.

- Highlands Writers and Poets Workshop meets every Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Hudson Library. Novice and experienced writers welcome.

- ACBL Sanctioned Duplicate Bridge games are played every Wednesday and Friday through October. Games start at 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. For more info, call Ernie Tate at (706) 746-9951.

- The Highland Hiker offers fly-fishing lessons throughout the year. For more information, call 526-5298.

- Email events to: editor@highlandsnewspaper.com

## ■ Highlands Eateries & Light Fare ■

### Hilltop Grill

526-5916  
Fourth & Spring "on the Hill"  
"Where the locals eat"  
Hamburgers, fries, sandwiches & salads  
Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### Pescado's

526-9313  
Fourth Street "on the Hill"  
Fresh Mexican  
"The fastest food in town"  
Lunch 7 days: 11-3; Dinner: Tues.-Sat. 5-8:30

### Highland's Hill Deli

526-9632  
Fourth Street across from Old Edwards Inn  
Made to order sandwiches,  
green & fruit salads, ice cream  
Open 7 days a week 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

### Brick Oven Pizza

526-4121  
Mtn. Brook Center next to Movie Stop  
Made-to-order pizza, calzones & salads  
Open for lunch & dinner year-round

### Don Leon's

526-1600  
Dillard Road next to Farmer's Market  
Cajun & European specialties  
Sandwiches & more  
Tues. - Sun. 11 - 7

### Dave's Meats & Seafood

526-5241, Dillard Rd. next to Farmer's Mkt.  
Meats, Seafood & Prepared Foods  
Open 6 days, 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Closed Sundays

### Sports Page

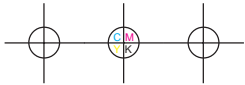
526-3555  
314 Main Street  
Made-to-order specialty sandwiches &  
salads, soups, & desserts  
Open for lunch Mon.-Sat. 11 - 4

### Buck's Coffee Cafe

526-0020  
384 Main Street  
Coffee, grilled sandwiches, desserts & wine  
Entertainment Thurs. - Sat.  
Open 7:30 a.m.-11 p.m., Tues. - Sat.  
Until 6 p.m., Sun. & Mon.

### The Pizza Place

526-5660  
On Main Street  
Pizza, specialty sandwiches & salads  
Eat in or carry out  
Open for lunch & dinner





## ■ Questions & Answers ■

In this weekly column area therapists will answer just about any question put to them. First up is Betty Holt. Holt, M.Ed., is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Life Coach in private practice in Highlands



**Question:**

I feel so disconnected with the community around me. My husband and I are retired middle class people living on a fixed income. My daughter and her husband live in town with their two teenage sons. We see them occasionally during the week and for family suppers every couple of weeks, but I feel like I need more of a relationship. My husband and I feel very much alone. What should we do? – 83 year-old woman

**Answer:**

It sounds like you need to make some new connections with people in your community.

The easiest way to meet people is to start with the things you are interested in. What have you enjoyed doing in the past? If you've enjoyed the theatre, maybe volunteering with the Playhouse would be an option you'd enjoy. Have you been a churchgoer in the past or would you like to investigate that now? Churches are usually full of meaningful projects and looking for people who have the time to help with them. Do you like children? Would you like to be a mentor or help a child learn to read? Both Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Literacy Council are two great organizations who need people willing to connect with children. Even though it's sometimes difficult to reach out in a new

community, you may have to take the first step. There are usually many opportunities to meet people through volunteering your time, and often just the act of helping gives people a real sense of connection and well-being. How about having a brunch in your neighborhood and meeting the neighbors you haven't met yet? Or inviting a few people you have met and asking each of them to bring a friend? And last, but certainly not least, how about any of those talents or yearnings you had years ago and wanted to follow up with "if only you had the time". Feeling disconnected is not always an outward thing – sometimes it has to do with our connection to ourselves. Perhaps there is a part of you that would

like expression through something creative such as writing, painting, cooking, gardening – really anything that serves as an outlet for something that is uniquely you.  
**Email anonymous questions to editor@highlandsnewspaper.com. Include gender & age.**


## ■ Highlands Service Directory ■

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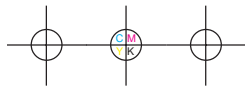
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.....**FRANCHISE continued from page 1**

The July 8 letter was sent when Town officials learned that shortly after the July 2 Town Board meeting, Bond attached cable to four Duke Power poles and one Town pole along Hicks Road.

In the second letter, dated July 14, Betz reiterates discussions Mayor Buck Trott, he and Bond had on July 11 concerning insurance documentation and alleged permission to attach to poles within the town limits.

In the July 11 meeting, Bond allegedly said Town Engineer Lamar

Nix gave him permission to attach to Town poles. He also allegedly said he had instructed Wayah Insurance Group to forward documentation of adequate insurance coverage to the Town several years ago.

But at Wednesday’s Town Board meeting, Nix said not only did he not give Bond permission, he said as Town Engineer he doesn’t have the authority to give Bond permission to do anything.

“I’ve only met the man one time when he rode with me to show his

concerns about pole violations in town. He said he planned to come into town on Hicks Road and to attach to Duke Power poles,” said Nix.

Mid-June, Bond told commissioners he was ready to string cable in town but needed an extension to his construction franchise.

Commissioners OK’d the construction extension contingent upon several requirements including proof of insurance, proof of financial means to complete the project and submital of a detailed make-ready plan –

most of which they haven’t received, said Betz.

The board took no action, but Acting Mayor Amy Patterson said it was apparent Bond strung cable while his franchise was in limbo. “He’s risking the town considering the agreement null and void,” she said.

Betz wrote Bond that if the Town finds out he has attached any more equipment to Town poles without meeting the requirements outlined at the July 2 meeting, he’ll recommend the franchise agreement be revoked.

.....**WATER continued from page 1**

“We thought it was because of construction activity near the creek upstream of the plant – maybe construction without erosion control devices,” he said. “But we really haven’t found a smoking gun.”

What he did find were several small sites whose cumulative effect could be the cause of the turbidity. But nothing is conclusive, he said.

A rise in turbidity occurs every time it rains. What’s confusing about the current situation, said Nix, is that

it hasn’t been settling out a few hours after a storm like it usually does.

Regardless, Nix said turbidity isn’t affecting the water treatment plant’s ability to perform. The permissible national turbidity unit count is 15-20 and if Big Creek’s count gets anywhere near that Nix shuts the plant down until it clears up. “We don’t have to shut it down, but we choose to so we don’t have to discard our chemicals,” he said.

Because of the rain, water

consumption is down “a hair” from last summer despite the increase in people using the system this year, said Nix. “Sprinkler systems take up a lot of our water and they’re just not being used this year.”

Meanwhile, across the way, the wastewater treatment plant is churning away.

“We’re treating a lot of sewage, a lot more than last year,” said Nix. “Which means there are a lot more people using their facilities.”

This is the first summer S&B Associates, which services part of Highlands Country Club, has been on line at the wastewater treatment plant and he said that accounts for a lot of what’s being treated each day.

Even with the rainy weather, Nix said what’s being treated at the plant is not storm water. “It’s sewage. and it’s consistent day after day.”

With usage climbing, Nix said he believes expansion of the wastewater treatment plant is a necessity.

■ **Police & Fire Report** ■

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of July 9-15. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

**July 9**

• At 2 p.m., officers investigated an accident where a truck rolled down an embankment on Horse Cove Road when the shoulder gave way. There were no injuries.

**July 10**

• A little past midnight, officers responded to a complaint of noise from the apartments near Rib Country on Spring Street. The residents were told to be quiet.

• At 9:02 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Big Bearpen Road. All was secure.

• At 9:50 am., a driver was cited for driving with an expired registration sticker and expired inspection sticker at Spring Street and N.C. 106.

• At 5:42 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at Regions Bank. All was secure.

**July 11**

• At noon, the owner of C.K. Swan reported a shoplifting incident where a painting valued at \$900 was reported missing.

• At 1:29 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles in Dusty’s parking lot on N.C. 106. There were no injuries.

• At 5:03 p.m., officers removed a copperhead snake from Cosper’s Flowers on N.C. 28.

**July 12**

• At 8:30 a.m., employees at 64 Stop and Shop reported a billfold left at the store. Police have returned it to the owner.

• At 9:02 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Hudson Library. All was secure.

• At 4 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles on Main Street. There were no injuries.

July 13

• At 11:20 a.m., officers assisted a person locked in a store.

• At noon, a motorist on U.S. 64 and N.C. 106 was cited for driving with

a false tag.

**July 14**

• At 7:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., officers responded to a domestic dispute between a mother and son at a residence on Wyanoak.

• At 5 p.m., officers responded to an accident on Horse Cove Road where the driver of a rented motor home hit the side of the mountain.

• At 5:30 p.m., officers responded to the Rec Park Pool where \$80 was reported missing from the cash box.

**July 15**

• At 3:50 p.m., officers responded to a domestic dispute at a residence on Wyanoak Drive.

• At 4:15 p.m., a resident reported hearing gunshots fired.

• At 5:10 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a construction site. All was secure.

• At 5:45 p.m., officers responded to a report of juveniles drinking at the Rec Park.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries

for the week of July 9-15.

**July 10**

• The department was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Chestnut Hill. The victim was transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

**July 11**

• The department responded to a motorcycle accident on Buck Creek Road. The victim was transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

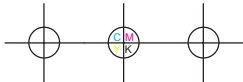
**July 12**

• The department responded to an accident on Horse Cove Road. There were no injuries.

• The department was first responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Cardwell-Eaton Road. The victim was transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

**July 14**

• The department was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Highlands Manor Court. The victim was transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.







# COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

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Enjoy the views of Satulah and Brushy Face from this great year around or weekend getaway home. There are 3 bedrooms, 2 ½ baths, 2 fireplaces, skylights, and storage areas. The lot is about 1 ½ acres and nicely landscaped. All this for only \$225,900.



Two bedroom, two bath home features a lovely covered porch to enjoy the super mountain view. Stone fireplace, open great room plan. A good value at \$195,000.



Located in the Sagee Woods off Bowery Road. Four bedrooms, four full baths and two half baths. Spectacular view of Whiteside Mountain from the living areas and huge porch with stone fireplace. Three additional fireplaces grace the great room, family room and master bedroom. Shown by appointment. Offered at \$3,200,000.



Over 200' of highway frontage on highway 64 east. Commercial possibilities include shops, restaurant, B&B, and currently used for apartments w/good rental income. Beautiful setting overlooking lake and golf course at Highlands Falls Country Club. Offered at \$995,000.



New listing in Highlands Falls Country Club. Enjoy seasonal or year-round living surrounded by trees and the sound of a waterfall. This charming home has 3 bedrooms each with it's own bath. Many upgrades have been made by the present owners. A decorators dream and probably the best buy in Highlands Falls. \$659,000.



Turning Leaf Condo. This spacious 3 bedroom, 3 bath Turning Leaf Condo at Highlands Cove has one of the best views available and has many extras and custom features. Offered at \$660,000. Don't miss looking at this one if you are in the market for a Turning Leaf Unit.



Constructed on a beautiful acre plus lot overlooking a picturesque equestrian setting with common area stable, some of the amenities include 3 bedrooms, 3 ½ baths, and a large deck. This beautiful almost new mountain home is a great value at \$ 830,000.



Spectacular long range view, great decks, great house for entertaining in one of Highlands' best neighborhoods: Sagee Mountain. With almost 2 acres of woods in the city of Highlands, two miles from town.



Brand new home under construction. In Lake Sequoyah Subdivision (aprox.. 1.35 acres), one mile from downtown Highlands. This 3 or 4 bedroom, 3 ½ bath home will have a great view of the lake. Tasteful kitchen with nice cabinets. The large master bedroom and bath, with Jacuzzi and shower and a half bath, complete the main level. The upper floor has two very large bedrooms that share a bath. City sewer and water serve this home. New paved driveway. Offered at \$489,000.



Four bedrooms, 3 ½ baths, large den, living room with stone fireplace, dining room, gourmet kitchen with breakfast area. Screened porch with fireplace. Courtyard rock walled garden with stream waterfall. Close in, city water and sewer, close to Highlands Falls Country Club, over 3300 sq. ft. with large double garage and storage. Offered at \$1,100,000.



This fantastic Highlands estate contains all the features people come to Highlands to enjoy: wormy chestnut paneling and heavy hand drawn beamwork, stone fireplaces and flagstone floors. Three bedrooms, 3 ½ baths, guest house, stable. Outdoor living room overlooks lake and over 16 acres of privacy. Exclusively listed and shown only by appointment. \$4,400,000.



Back on the market on Little Bear Pen Mountain. This traditional home with lovely guest house has it all ... charm, views of Whiteside Mountain and others, 2 minutes to a grocery store, large, bright rooms. There are 2 living areas in the main house each with a stone fireplace. New decks... a total of 6 bedrooms and 4 baths. You must enter this home to appreciate its many attractions.



Cullasaja Club Cabin. Conveniently located near the yacht club and lake on a very quiet cul-de-sac. This cabin features 3 bedrooms and 3 baths, large open great room with fireplace and wood floors. Large screened porch off living room for dining and entertaining. Offered at \$569,000. Club membership available at market rate and subject to club approval.



Cullasaja Club. This spacious home features open airy rooms and an excellent floor plan for a family or guest. 4 bedrooms, 4 ½ baths plus exercise/media room and additional kitchen. Main level kitchen is top quality and would be a joy to prepare meals in. This home sits on a knoll and features a ridge line view and overlooks Ravenel Lake. It also comes with partial ownership in an additional lot for privacy and has direct lake access. A great package offered at \$1,395,000.



This in town, four bedroom , four bath is located on a long private lane with a four acre setting of lush landscaping with some level yard, a stone walled pond, and a spectacular mountain view! The dwelling was built by one of Highlands' finest builders, and features wood floors with beamwork and 2 stone fireplaces. A glass room brings in the spectacular vistas to the south and west. Loft and additional family room is great for guest. Offered unfurnished for \$1,395,000.



Good office or retail space is located in Highway 28 with excellent commercial exposure. Currently a busy beauty salon but has many possibilities and a lower level for expansion. Offered at \$185,000.

OTHER **CP** LOCATIONS

Main Street • Mountain Fresh

