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Highlands' Newspaper

Volume 1, Number 15

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Oct., 24, 2003

FREE

The week of Oct. 24-31

Oct. 24

- Stephen Corley of Monticello Vineyards and Corley Family Wines from Napa Valley California will be conducting a free wine tasting and discussion at Highlands Wine & Cheese from 2-5 p.m.

- Zorki is playing at Buck's Coffee Cafe from 8-11.

- Cy Timmons will present a free concert in The Wine Bar at Highlands Wine & Cheese at 7 p.m.

Oct. 25

- Zorki is singing and playing his guitar at Town Square from 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, weather permitting.

- The Cool Creek Ramblers of Brevard, NC will present a free concert of great country music in the Wine Bar at Highlands Wine & Cheese at 7 p.m.

- Highlands School's 5K Fun Run and Annual Fall Festival at the Highlands Civic Center from 5-9 p.m. All proceeds benefit the school. To register for the 5K Run, call 526-0454.

- Highlands School elementary teachers are having a carwash done after the Fun Run on Saturday, Oct. 25 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at First Citizens Bank. They are raising money to attend the N.C. Reading Conference in March.

- The Satolah/Warwoman Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Golf Tournament is set for 9 a.m. at Kingwood Resort in Clayton, Ga. For more information, call Seth Schmitt at 828-371-1221.

Oct. 28

- The Instant Theatre Company (ITC) will hold auditions for its Christmas play "Nick the Beard" by Collin and Scott Paxton on Wednesday, Oct. 28, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Peggy Crosby Center in Highlands.

Oct. 29

- The Rev. Alexander "Bucky" Hanks. He comes from Asheville with his banjo on his knee — literally, and his guitar and fiddle, too, to entertain with Celtic and mountain music. Dinner is at 6 p.m., program at 6:45 p.m., and Compline at 7:45 p.m. Call 526-2968 for reservations by noon, Monday, Oct 27.

– Q & A with Art Williams –

The real Old Edwards Inn & Spa story



Photo by Jim Lewicki

"All I ask is that the people of Highlands give us a chance to prove that through the restoration of Old Edwards Inn, we are giving you a beautiful piece of property which you can be proud of. Give me until next spring and after you walk through the complex, you tell me if it's a plus or not."

By Kim Lewicki

Development at The Old Edwards Inn & Spa on Fourth and Main streets is the talk of the town.

Some people are excited about the changes the company is making and about the spillover business the complex will bring to town. Others are wary of change and competition.

But owners Art and Angela Williams feel by refurbishing the inn and many of the structures in the vicinity, they are preserving and thereby perpetuating a part of Highlands' history.

"We love Highlands as much as anybody," said Williams. "I've been coming to here since the 40s and I don't want to see it change in a negative way, either. But Highlands is changing and it's smart to manage that change."

In his heart, Art Williams believes his "world-class spa" project is good for Highlands. And he's ready to tell you why.

■ See Q&A with WILLIAMS page 23

Cable companies collaborate about lines

By Kim Lewicki

It's likely to be a long process, but it's a start.

On Tuesday, Oct. 21, representatives of Highlands Cable Group, Northland Cable and Verizon met with town officials and employees to review the ground rules for determining which

company is out of compliance on Town poles. But there are unresolved issues for everyone involved.

"Basically, there was no consensus on anything in regards to what had to be done and who has to pay for it," said Town Engineer Lamar Nix.

At the Oct. 15 Town Board meet-

ing, Northland and Verizon claimed Highlands Cable Group had moved their lines, putting them in violation. Highlands Cable claimed in many instances, the other companies were in violation prior to its arrival.

■ See CABLE page 2

Development and zoning can work hand in hand

By Kim Lewicki

Change is not always bad, especially when it actually makes things better.

That's been the case for several commercial projects, which were initially clouded with controversy — namely Regions Bank, Dale Miller's

Harris Lake development, Village Walk and Hardscrabble Ridge to name a few.

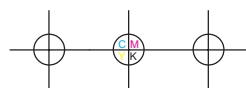
"These ended up being successful environmentally sensitive projects which are a result of properly complying with the watershed requirements," said Zoning Administrator

Larry Gantenbein.

"Many of the areas were actually blighted and through proper development they've been restored."

Dale Miller who is developing the south end of Harris Lake carted away

■ See ZONING WORKS page 18



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... CABLE GROUPS from page 1



Pole number one was at the intersection of Mirror Lake and Hicks road. The group only made it to four poles.

In a last-ditch effort to salvage its franchise agreement with Highlands Cable, commissioners agreed to let the three companies "talk it out" with town representatives as long as cables in violation were fixed and all safety issues addressed.

"The first thing was to get them to agree on the clearance issues, and Lamar got them to do that," said Richard Betz, town Administrator. "Next the group plans on going to each pole to see what's in compliance."

On Tuesday the group only made it to four poles before it was obvious several questions had to be answered before any progress could be made.

"Both Northland and Verizon had viable issues they needed answers to before they could proceed," said Nix.

Verizon wants to know if what they strung in the 80s was in compliance then, and if so, is it grandfathered in, even though compliance regulations have changed.

Northland, who alleges that Highlands Cable Group moved their cables to make room for its cables, thought they were supposed to put their cables back before new issues were addressed.

"The Town Board was hoping the cables could be rearranged to accommodate all three companies as the next step, so this could all move forward," said Nix.

But Northland reps said it had to check with the company for its orders before proceeding.

Eventually, the group will visit each

▪ See CABLE page 18

• Obituary •

Jack Erwin Gryder, Jr.

Jack Erwin Gryder, Jr., 44, died after an extended illness.

He was born April 19, 1959, graduated from Jackson Preparatory School in 1978, attended the University of Mississippi and was a member of the EAE fraternity.

He resided in Buford, Ga., at the time of his death and was employed by Southerlin Nissan.

His wonderful personality, sense of humor and love for people was admired by many. He will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Erwin Gryder, Sr., and adored grandmother, Zollie Hales.

He is survived by his parents Lauch and Jane Magruder of Highlands; three daughters, Haille and Neille Gryder of Nashville, Tenn., and Ashley Gryder of Jackson, Miss; five sisters, Claudia Featherstone of Knoxville, Tenn., Pam Carr of Pensacola, Fla., Susan Vassar of Claremore, OK., Kay Van Skiver of Delta, Colo., Sandy Scheer of Tulsa, Okl., and 10 nieces and nephews.

The funeral was Thursday, Oct. 23 at 11 a.m.

A memorial fund is set up at GUTS Church, P.O. Box 471393, Tulsa, Okl., 74147.

Farmers Market/Exxon comes through for school



The Farmers Market – Exxon secured a grant from the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program and presented Highlands School with a \$500 check, last week. The good thing is there are no strings attached to the grant money – the school can spend it on anything it wants. Highlands School was one of 4,000 schools nationwide which received a grant from ExxonMobil. The ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program is designed to provide their companies an opportunity to invest in the future of their communities. Pictured are David Land, president of the corporation that owns Farmers Market, Principal Jack Brooks and Farmers Market manager, Lenny Metrick.

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Front row from left: Margie Potts, Alan Wilson, Angela Aspinwall, Iyali Ruiz,. Back row from left: Kayla McCall, Janice Talley, Anna Claire Sims, Jessica Potts, Rosalyn Ashburn and Caitlin Rawlins.

Highlands School girls varsity volleyball team wins conference

By Coach Rick Rawlins
Contributor

The Highlands Women's Varsity Volleyball team finished the regular season as conference champions with a 5-1 conference record, and became the conference tournament champions Oct. 16, by winning an exciting four game match against Nantahala.

The Highlanders went into the conference tournament as the number one seed, and defeated Blue Ridge 3-0 Oct. 14 in their opening match 25-12, 25-20, and 25-21.

The Highlanders led from the beginning, and dominated play behind Caitlin Rawlins' season high 27 kills and the excellent passing and setting of her fellow teammates Margie Potts, Alana Wilson, Jessica Potts, Angela Aspinwall, Rosalyn Ashburn, Janice Talley, Iyali Ruiz, and Anna Claire Sims. Angela also had a good serving match, scoring on 14 out of 19 serves and only one service error.

In the Thursday night tournament finals, Highlands went head to head with Nantahala, the Number Two seed in the tournament.

Nantahala came out playing tough volleyball and defeated Highlands in the first game 25-20. The Highlanders came storming back to win the next three games 25-22, 25-22, and 25-23 behind a great team effort on defense and offense.

The Highlanders were again led by Caitlin Rawlins with 32 kills, and they had good setting by Margie Potts and Janice Talley. Alana Wilson, Angela Aspinwall, and Iyali Ruiz also aided the Highlands attack with good kills on well placed hits and good hustle.

Defensive specialist Jessica Potts and Rosalyn Ashburn made some great saves and digs, and played well on defense the entire match. Serving specialist Anna Claire Sims did an excellent job of serving with only one service error for the entire match.

Highlands will begin the state tournament on Tuesday at 6pm with a home match against Polk County. The Highlanders have an overall season record of 13-7 and enter the tournament with a 5 game winning streak.



• Life Under Construction •

Highlands' Newspaper - Friday, Oct. 24, 2003 - Page 5

If not this – something better?

Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

There has been a lot going on in my life lately. So, I've decided from this day forward, when I don't get what I want or when my expectations fall short, I'm just going to say, "If this does not work out, then I know something better is headed my way." What do you do?

Our power is in choosing how we respond to every situation we encounter, so why not decide to respond with an attitude that expects something bigger and better to be in store for us. Optimistic, you bet. Why not?

I believe at the core of this is the issue of trust. Trusting that what will happen next is what we need. It may not even be what we expected, or it may not even be better, but it is vital to trust ourselves. To know that we can handle whatever it turns out to be.

Just maybe it would be better sometime to go into a situation not having any expectations regarding the outcome. Of course, then, you would not be disappointed. You might even be pleasantly surprised.

The truth is: "It's all okay." Doubt rolls in but one must let it roll out just as easy as it rolled in. Things get broken at



times, but most of the time, they are manageable. It all comes back to how we choose to handle our situations and how we view the life around us.

Nothing stays comfortable long. That's just the way life is most of the time. I'm thinking it might be easier to just trust the universe and enjoy the comfort while you can. Be careful not to fall into the trap I call "comfortable misery". That's when you might be comfortable because you know what to expect and yet you are not happy. What value does comfort have for you?

If not this...something better? It's a lot easier to say than do, but looking ahead seems so much more rewarding and promising than looking behind. Done is done.

Where do you need to put your trust?

Everything we thought was possible, is. It just doesn't look like what we thought it would, and it's not in the places we thought it would be. But it's there; it's there.

—Geneen Roth

Dr. Maryellen Lipinski is a psychologist by profession and an international professional speaker. She coaches individuals to obtain their goals in life and works as a Realtor at Village Realty of Sapphire Valley to help them find a home in these majestic mountains. Her first book, *Random Thoughts and Mine Always Are. Conscious Detours to Creative Power* will make you laugh, cry, and think! Her next book, *Life Under Construction...A Work In Progress* is at the printers! www.maryellenlipinski.com

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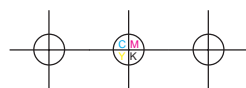


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• Laughing at Life •

Do I need a contract on my contractor? Nah!

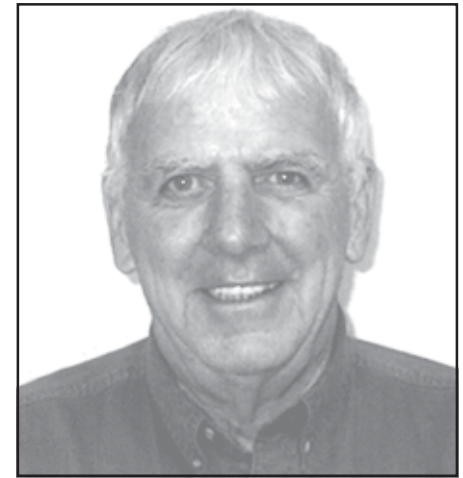
Signing on the dotted line with a building contractor for a home improvement is like waking up in the morning and realizing you got married. The reaction is the same, "I did what?"

Home improvement seemed like the right thing to do at the time. But in the cold light of morning, after they have ripped the whole front of my house off and replaced the walls with see-through plastic, complete with air holes so the bugs can get in, I have this sick feeling in the pit of my stomach. Bad enough my neighbors now know I have American flag underwear, but they shouldn't point and laugh during my morning exercises. "Get a life," I shout, making unfriendly hand gestures I learned while driving in Miami.

My contractor failed to tell me that my work order was going on the bottom of a very large stack of other work he has not yet completed. The reason he ripped my house apart the very next day is so I couldn't change my mind. They stacked a pile of lumber on my Kentucky 31, killing it forever, and parked an earth mover three inches from my brand new car. Then they left and never came back. I feel like a big fish on their hook. They'll net me when they're ready.

I know of one couple who just completed a six figure home improvement. The contractor was so happy when he got the final payment while the loving couple still have choke marks on their necks from trying to strangle each other in all the mess.

With much research, I have developed a plan to get my builder, who is literate challenged, to show up. My plan will put him on the hook and get me off. This may



Fred Wooldridge

not work with all contractors but with mine, it's a sure thing. I will exploit his weakness. You see, he would rather hunt than breathe.

Here is how it works. First, I dress properly. Old green work pants, plaid, long sleeve shirt and boots covered with red clay, are a must. Also, a CAT baseball cap, dirty fingernails and a toothpick in the corner of my mouth won't hurt either.

I won't call him to say I am on my way over because he will know what I want and disappear. Once inside his office, I will put my feet on his desk, offer snuff but don't smile because that connotes weakness.

Never smile at your contractor as you will never get another thing from him. Proper dialog is essential. (Clip this part out if you are going to use my plan on your contractor.)

"Hey (This means hello.) Dilbert, how you?" "Oh, purdy good, en you?" "Oh, purdy good, en you?" "Oh, purdy good, en you?" "Fine" "Watchaneed?" "Nothin, just dropped by to say hey. (Long pause; Dilbert feels real uncomfortable because he knows why I am there)

Finally, I break the silence. "Been huntin' this year?"

"Yeah, got four, but they was smallin's. You hunt?"

"Nah, but if I did I could bag a bunch, don't cha know."

"How's that?"

■ See WOOLDRIDGE page 9



The 14 players on the team are Ramsey Ashburn, Rebecca Ashburn, Tiffany Austin, Sarah Bates, Katie Bryson, Maggie Dearth, Stephanie McCall, Callie Rawlins, Maggie Rogers, Angela Sanchez, Toni Schmitt, Anna Trine, Leslie Wilson and Rebecca Wyatt.

Highlands JV volleyball finishes season as conference champs

By **Coach Rick Rawlins**
Contributor

The Highlands Junior Varsity volleyball team finished their season Thursday night, Oct. 16, by defeating Hiwassee Dam in an exciting final match of the conference tournament held at Blue Ridge.

In the first game of the match, Hiwassee Dam jumped out to a 3-0 lead before the Highlanders took the lead for good at 7-6. Angela Sanchez served for five points, followed by seven points on the serving of Maggie Dearth, which included two aces.

The Highlanders went on to win the first game easily 25-11 behind the excellent defensive and offensive play of Callie Rawlins, Ramsey Ashburn, Anna Trine, Toni Schmitt, Becca Ashburn, and Leslie Wilson.

In the second game of the match, Hiwassee Dam matched the Highlanders point for point with the teams tying the score 24 different times. With Highlands up 23-20, Hiwassee tied the score at 23-23. The teams swapped the lead for the next 12 points until the High-

landers finally prevailed 30-28 to win the match 2 games to 0.

The Highlands starters who played a great second game were Callie Rawlins, Ramsey Ashburn, Maggie Dearth, Anna Trine, Toni Schmitt, and Becca Wyatt. Angela Sanchez and Becca Ashburn also played well in substituting for the starters when placed in the game.

Our girls had a good season, and they finished with a great conference tournament that gave them the regular season and conference tournament championships. We finished the season with an 8-7 winning record, with six of those losses coming at the hands of Franklin, Swain, and Rosman, three non-conference opponents. Although we lost to these larger schools, we played well and all six of the matches could have gone either way.

Other players on the JV team that have had an important role in the success of the team this year were Leslie Wilson, Katie Bryson, Stephanie McCall, Sarah Bates, Tiffany Austin, and Maggie Rogers. Assistant coach is Danielle Schmitt.

School's literary class wins award

Highlands School Literary Magazine "Crossroads" won First Place in the 2003 Student Publication Award Competition in the high school division.

Certificates will be presented in

the auditorium of the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh, Nov. 14 at 1:30 p.m. by representatives of the N.C. Literary & Historical Association.



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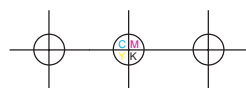
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• Sports Picks •

Parents: Take a "chill pill"

Have you ever noticed that certain feelings or actions are influenced by other outside forces?

For example, the amount of money spent by a husband on his wife is dependent upon the outcome of said husband's favorite team.

Another good example is how whether or not your cat or dog poops on the floor is dependent on how your day went at work.

However, my personal favorite of these observations is how the behavior of a parent at a sports event is in direct correlation with the number of children they have on the playing field.

I have seen respectable, intelligent and just plain nice folks turn into Bathshazer the Bleacher Demon at the mere sight of their child playing a sport. And trust me folks, if you think that you are excepted from this disease, chances are that you have already been infected.

The overbearing parent syndrome shows no favoritism, as I have seen it overwhelm men of the cloth and women whose mouth was tighter than the middle seat of a coach flight.

One bad call, one wrong play or one smart remark and a mild-mannered parent suddenly turns into a version of Anna Nicole Smith, babbling meaningless words and casting dark shadows on the surrounding area.

Sometimes this mental breakdown can be harmless and even amusing. My dad is a great example of this. My dad is my hero, and I consider him to be the nicest man in the whole world, but when I played basketball, he

suddenly became a ref-baiting machine.

I truly believe that before each game the parents divvy up the responsibilities. I can see one saying, "I'll take traveling" and another saying "I'll take holding." My dad's specialty was three seconds in the lane, and you better believe that if the official wasn't watching three seconds in the first quarter, he would be watching it by the fourth quarter.

Dad also had a gift for variety in his ref-baiting tactics. "He's parked in the lane," "Three Seconds Ref!" "He's camping out in the lane" "He's building a house in the lane" were some

of the various one-liners that I heard from the stands back in the day.

Harmless comments and some not so constructive criticism from the stands is one thing, because it allows the parent to voice displeasure without embarrassing their children or themselves. However, I fear that today, the overbearing parent syndrome has stretched from the stands to the practices, meetings and overall business of the team concept.

I have seen parents that were perfectly normal, loving people turn into jealous monsters over playing time for their kids. I have also seen people that I know and love seriously hurt other people all in the name of "looking out" for their child.

News Flash: Every parent who is worth his salt thinks his kid is God's gift to the universe, but that doesn't mean that everyone needs to hear about it. The people that



Ryan Potts

■ See SPORTS PICKS next page

... SPORTS PICKS continued

suffer the consequences of overbearing parents are the coaching staff and the kids themselves.

Coaches are hired because of their ability and their willingness to perform a thankless, stress-filled job for little or no pay. Trust me, it is hard enough to deal with the challenges that young men and women present at athletes, but when you add in the meddling parent who is old enough to know better, it can be devastating.

What saddens me the most is how I have seen some fantastic men and women treated like dirt because of a matter as simple as starting one player over another or criticizing a player's weakness.

A coach's job is to ensure the kids have fun, but it is also to be successful, and sometimes that success comes when parents understand that not everyone can play all the time.

Parents who interfere in their children's athletic lives are not only making themselves look petty and foolish, but they can end up destroying the team they are supposed to be supporting.

So all you parents out there brush up on those ref-baiting one-liners, raise your pom-poms high and cheer your hearts out for your kids and their friends. Leave the coaching to the coaches and the profanity to the Osbournes, and save your energy for supporting your kids. Don't they deserve it?

... WOOLDRIDGE cont. from pg. 6

"They're all over my property. The little missus had to shoo a big buck away from the dinner table last night. Musta smelled the fresh corn and got himself under the plastic. Told the grand kids to stop feedin' em but they don't mind. Got deer everywhere. Gettin to be a real problem, ya hear?" (Pause here, look around for a place to spit, then I scratch a part of my body) "Well, gotta go. Don't forget we put coffee on at seven."

Har, Har. The hook is in, because Dilbert will say "We'll probably get out there tomorrow, if it's OK with you."

I will walk slowly toward the door but don't turn around. "Take your time. Gotta good venison recipe I'll give ya when ya show. It was my pa's.

Now there was a huntin' man. The stories I could tell you, man, oh man" (The hook is in deeper) "I'll take ya up on that recipe. See ya in the mornin." "Ten four."

Then I stop by Cyrano's book shop on my way home, pick up a cook book with a good venison recipe in it and copy it onto the inside paper from a pack of Camels (no filters).

The coffee will be on at seven, and Dilbert will be in my net.

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• **Movie Pix** •

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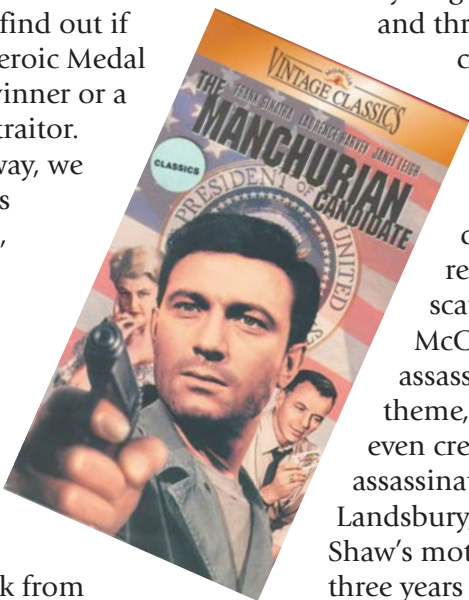
"Manchurian Candidate"

A 1962 PG13 thriller, based on the novel by Richard Condon, directed by John Frankenheimer, starring Frank Sinatra, Laurence Harvey and Angela Landsbury.

Dark and surreal, it's a Thriller as well as Political Satire, a little comic if you like your comedy dark and grim. Filled with a lot of neat camera work and editing, it gives this film its creepy/funny quality.

The Story Line: A small group of US soldiers is kidnapped and brainwashed during the Korean War, then released after one is given subconscious instructions that turn him into an assassin. Several of the men later have reoccurring dreams that make them suspect all is not as it seems with former Sergeant Raymond Shaw (played brilliantly by Laurence Harvey, he is sullen, quiet and eminently unlovable). Major Bennett Marco (Frank

Sinatra) tries to remember the real details of his Korean ordeal and find out if Shaw is a heroic Medal of Honor winner or a dangerous traitor. Along the way, we meet Shaw's power-mad, loathsome mother (Angela Landsbury is terrific in this role, a far cry from her Disney work from about the same time frame), the moronic Senator



Islan (James Gregory), who is a thinly disguised Joe McCarthy, and thrown in for no reason I can understand, Rose (Janet Leigh) as love interest to Major Marco.

The film was rather controversial at its release, not only for its scathing treatment of McCarthy, but also the assassination/conspiracy theme, which made the film even creepier after the Kennedy assassination. A bit of trivia, Landsbury, playing the role of Shaw's mother, was only about three years older than Laurence Harvey.

A few other Psycho Thrillers



Stuart Armor

are "Usual Suspects," "Rear Window," "Phone Booth," "Taxi Driver," and "Apocalypse, Now." A couple of good political films are "Contender" and "Wag the Dog."

These and about 5000 other titles are available at Movie Stop Video, stop on by and give a look.

Stuart Armor owns and operates The Movie Stop and the Brick Oven in the Mountain Brook Center. Each week he reviews a movie for our readers.

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• Hiking the Plateau •

Hiking the environs of Horse Cove

By Leah Ferree
Contributor

This will most likely be my last article, although it will span across two weeks. I have decided to leave you with my favorite place in the area, Horse Cove.

There are so many different things to explore; from waterfalls and natural waterslides to granite caves and hardwood forests. There is a lot of uncharted territory down there ready for outdoor enthusiasts.

Any of you that have ever hiked up to Whiteside Mountain have looked down upon this area. It is intriguing and beckons for exploration.

I have chosen a few destinations spots to highlight and briefly describe to give you an idea of your options.

To reach Horse Cove, continue down Main Street past Mountain Fresh and the Hudson Library. Once you pass the Nature Center on your left, you will be on a two lane road with many switchbacks.

The first destination spot that you will come to will be the Giant Poplar Tree. This tree is estimated to be more than 150 years old. It is 70 inches in diameter and 147 feet tall. To reach it, turn right onto Rich Gap Road about 2.6 miles from Main Street. Park your vehicle at the Forest Service sign. Here you will find directions to the tree. It will only be about 100 yards away.

Next, continue back down Horse Cove Road. You will come to a fork about 4.5 miles down where you can either take a right and go to the Chattooga River or you can turn left and head towards Cashiers. Either way will provide you with ample hiking opportunities.

If you take a right at the fork, you will first come to the trailhead for Ellicott's Rock Wilderness. Ellicott's Rock is an engraved rock, with an NC, marking the boundary of North Carolina and Georgia at the Chattooga River. You will see a National Forest sign on your right. You can reach Ellicott's Rock by either the Ellicott's Rock Trail (3.5 miles) or The Bad Creek Trail (3 miles).

Both of these distances are one-way. The latter trail is a little more moderate. The first trail requires fording the river to reach Ellicott's Rock but on the Bad Creek Trail you take a left once you reach the river onto the Chattooga River Trail to reach your destination.

If you continue past Ellicott's Rock Wilderness, after about two more miles you will reach the Iron Bridge that crosses over the Chattooga River. The Iron Bridge area is a great place to admire the river on any of the accessible rocks or to enjoy a picnic lunch. The scenery is gorgeous and if it is a pretty day, the sun will feel great. The temperature will be warmer than Highlands as you have declined in altitude.

There is a trailhead on your left before the bridge that will allow you to follow the riverbed either in a loop, which will be about two miles roundtrip or if you continue straight on this trail, it will lead you to Whiteside Cove Church. The latter trail is 6.25 miles one-way and is described as a difficult hike.

If you chose to do the simpler loop, follow the trail along the riverbed until you reach a wooden sign (about a mile down) labeling the loop as turning to the left. Take the trail to your left and you will be following back the same way that you came just on a higher route further away from the river.

If you chose to take the Chattooga Trail to Whiteside Cove, I would suggest picking up a copy of a "Guide to Day Hikes" from the Highland Hiker as the trail is too complex to describe in this short article.

After exploring around the river, you can either turn around and head back through Horse Cove the way that you came, or you can drive over the bridge and continue straight on this road until you reach Hwy 107.

Take a left onto the highway which will take you to Cashiers. Once you reach the stoplight in Cashiers, take a left to get back to Highlands. Join me next week, and I'll tell you about more scenic spots in Horse Cove.

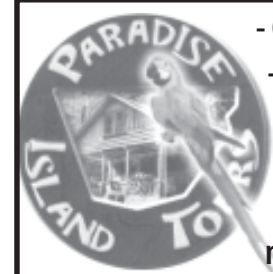
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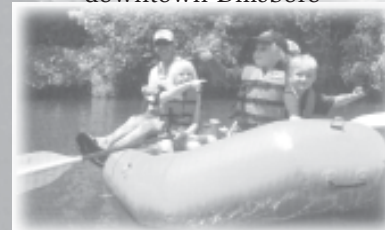
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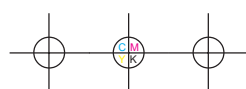
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Highlands performing tradition coming to an end

Stephen B. Coleman, Jr.
Contributor

After 14 summers of filling the Friday evening air with her folk singing, Sylvia Sammons will move away from Highlands. Tourists and regular weekend inhabitants of the town, who have so enjoyed hearing her sing and play the guitar from her balcony on Fourth Street, will regret the absence of her performances, which have been one of the few remaining vestiges of authentic Appalachian culture, and one of the only nighttime attractions, in Highlands.

On Friday evening, Oct. 24, she will sing her final concert from her balcony "on the hill" overlooking the intersection of Spring Street and Fourth Street (Highway 28), where since 1990 she has performed for crowds that gather informally on the sidewalk below.

Accompanying herself on six-string and twelve-string guitars, a harmonica in-the-ready, she is a master performer. Her repertoire includes music brought by the early settlers from Scotland and Ireland, like "Kilgara Mountain" or "Amazing Grace." And she performs works written in Appalachia, like "Across the Blue Mountains," which in its rhythmical plaint resonates the sounds of Scottish bagpipes, punctuated with the sound of Sylvia's harmonica between the verses.

Another is "Timberline," an old mountain song which has been preserved for

centuries by families who lived back in the coves and valleys of the Blue Ridge. Sylvia's hard and fast rule is that songs must be original Appalachian songs or Scottish tunes, and even those which she has written herself have to be in that authentic Celtic style.

True to her art, she creates sounds that once resounded in the Scottish Highlands and were brought to the Blue Ridge Mountains by settlers long ago. Besides writing some of her own songs in this tradition, she searches "lost music" that exists only in the memories of Appalachian people. One of her songs, for example, is "Waterbound," a song she learned from an old lady in nearby Jackson County.

Forty or so years of blindness have made her more determined to live a normal and independent life.

In 1981 Sylvia purchased her lot at the top of the hill on Spring Street and hired a contractor to build a two-story stucco block building of her own design. Living and working there all by herself in the summer months, (her winters are spent in Mount Dora, Florida,) this six-foot-tall, dark-haired, strong and beautiful woman lives by herself. Fortunately, she has family in Greenville, SC, about two hours away, and she has had friends who stay with her from time to time. But by and large, Sylvia and her dog make it on their own.

The ground level houses her "Woodcraft" shop where people wander in to browse over

mountain-styled curios, many of which Sylvia has made herself. During store hours walk-in customers browse around her crowded little shop and rarely notice that the

about her condition. On one occasion, she will tell you, she heard a man enter the shop. Needing some male brawn, she asked if he would mind helping her by carrying a big box

operated her electric radial arm saw, band saw, plane and sander, constructing everything from jewelry boxes to candlesticks, whistles to bookends. With a Braille tape measure, she set the miter gauge on her radial saw and carefully pulled the whirring saw blade through. Having escaped with all digits intact, about two years ago she gave up the power tools, deciding her fingers were best-suited to the guitar.

While switching from her guitar to her banjo, Sylvia tosses off a couple of good jokes, and the ever-swelling crowd laughs. A statuesque figure in a red and orange muumuu with straight brown hair and round rosy cheeks, she can belt out a tune when she wants, and her banjo's twang lends great background support to the "lead belly" tunes, which she throws in occasionally for variety.

More and more tourists who walk the streets after supper on Fridays, taking in the fine cool evening air, are pleasantly surprised to hear Sylvia's contra-alto voice echoing from up the hill, and they wander up to listen. Cars coming down the street slow and often pull off to park. A little girl with blond pigtails rolls down her window and careens her head out to see and hear. A young mother walks up with a stroller and a black Lab. A little boy in calf-length shorts bends down to pat the Lab, and the dog's mistress grabs his collar so as to keep him quiet.

There has been no real



Photo by Cynthia Strain

Sylvia Sammons performing during a typical Friday night "...on the hill," during the season in Highlands.

gregarious storeowner, seated behind a small desk with a German shepherd at her feet, is unable to see them. It's not until she asks a paying customer what the denomination of the bill is that she's been handed that he notes that she is blind and that her shepherd is a trained "seeing-eye" dog. But she has been blind since the age of six.

Having a marvelous attitude, she is able to joke

to the back. Indignantly, the visitor burst forth.

"My Lord, you must be blind!" he exclaimed. "Can't you see I'm in a wheelchair?" After an instant of silence, Sylvia burst into laughter, and came back in the same tone of voice.

"My Lord, man, can't you see? I am blind!" They then joined in a big laugh together.

For years, in her carpentry shop in back she

■See TRADITION page 22



Modern potters keep age-old traditions alive

By Kim Lewicki

Nowadays most people buy the ceramic plates and bowls they use every day at department stores, but there was a time when such vessels were crafted by hand.

At the Potters of North Carolina exhibit at the Bascom-Louise Gallery 17 potters are showing and selling "functional" wares which exemplify a by-gone era. Vessels like lamps, bowls, pitchers, cups, plates and platters.

Patrick Taylor, Highlands' own potter, is featuring sets of bowls glazed blue, maroon, and brown and cream, but there's nothing "ordinary" about the colors. They're deep and rich with hints of other colors mixed within.

Taylor, whose wife Sallie is the art teacher at Highlands School, has been a potter for 30 years. He operates Pinecrest Pottery Studios here in Highlands where he produces functional stoneware.

He has a B.A. in Art from Valdosta State University and was the founding chair of the Department of Visual Arts at Kennesaw State University. When

he's not throwing his own pots, he teaches ceramics, sculpture and art education at Piedmont College where is the chair of the Art Department.

His good friend, Sid Luck, a potter from generations of potters, hails from Seagrove, N.C., a "potters' haven" which has seen a resurgence ever since the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources began promoting Seagrove as a state treasure. "Pottery is a big cottage industry in Seagrove," said Luck. "A lot of the families who live here are ascended from the Coles and Cravens — potters who settled in Seagrove from Standfordshire, England in 1750."

Now that Seagrove is a potters' colony heavily promoted by the state, about 200 potters, many from elsewhere in the country, now call Seagrove home.

In the old days potters were farmers who threw pots as supplemental income. "They produced enough to send out," said Luck. "They sold them to the shipping industry and to general stores for general household use."

At 58, Luck is now a full-time potter who can actually make a living off his pots. But he spent 18 years teaching chemistry and math in the North Carolina public school system.

Luck is continuing a family

tradition. His father was a potter as was his father before him. "It's always been a family business, a cottage industry," said Luck. "My Dad got me started to keep me out of trouble but it's my first love. There is instant reinforcement that comes from turning a blob of clay into a pleasing form," said Luck.

Luck works with traditional forms using the patterns and teachings of his family. Though he does colorful glazings, right now he's focusing on salt glazing — an old German technique.

"You heat up a piece in the kiln and when it begins to melt, you throw salt in and the minerals in the clay determine the color," he said. "They can come out red, green, browns and creams."

He's resurrected his father's old wood-fired kiln which tends to create an earthy look to a fired pot.

The hard part about operating a wood-fired kiln is that you need a lot of wood, said Luck. "The fire burns for 12-16 hours and soft wood is best, because it burns completely. If you use hard wood, it creates deep beds of ash which must be cleaned out."

Luck lives on 100 acres of wooded land. His studio is an old chicken coop with a dirt floor heated by a wood fire.

Potters create their own glazes — for Luck it's the "Crawdad Slip" — a slurry he dips his pots in before firing. Sometimes they come out green, like the lamp at the Bascom-Louise Gallery, sometimes other colors.

For Pat Taylor it is the "Highlands Ash Glaze." "I take the ashes from-wood burned in fireplaces in the Highlands area and I use that with other ingredients to make glaze," said Taylor. "It's an old traditional folk pottery way of making glazes. The wood you use affects the quality, color and texture of glaze and it gives you a certain affect."

The cream-colored pieces are examples of the Highlands Ash Glaze.

The red copper glaze, occurs from way the kiln is fired and the draft in the kiln. "It's a fairly rare glaze at high

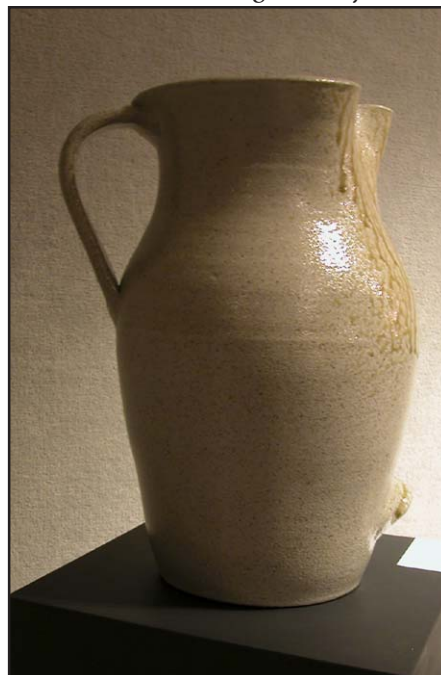
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Highlands' Patrick Taylor crafted luminous bowl sets for sale and viewing at the gallery.



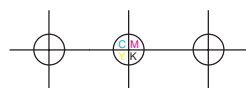
Luck's Crawdad Slurry created the green in the lamp. Salt-glazing created the "earthy look" natural look of the pitcher.

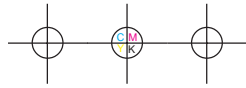


Sid Luck at work at his wheel in his studio in Seagrove, N.C.

temperatures," said Taylor. The blue is from a cobalt carbonate glaze.

The exhibit runs through Oct. 29.





• Candidates Q & A Forum •

Question 3:

The wastewater treatment plant is being expanded, yet many residents within the town limits are still not connected to the sewer system. How committed are you to making this option financially feasible to in-town residents before expanding services to outlying areas?



Mike Cavender

The citizens of Highlands paid for the waste water treatment plant through their taxes and fees to the city. They should have first consideration for using the system before areas outside the city limits get service. A reasonable exception to this policy was the sewer line extension to the new soccer fields that the county built because the county has granted some support to our plant from the county's general revenues.

The town has a sewer plan it adopted about 10 years ago when it built the new plant. It looks good on paper, but a lot remains to be done. The town doesn't serve most areas and they aren't likely to be because of the tremendous cost involved in extending trunk collector lines.

With the proposed expansion of the plant, the town board needs to take a serious look at what areas of the community are most in need of service and how the town can provide it at reasonable cost. At the same time, the board needs to grapple with the issue of



Eric Pierson

I feel people living within the city deserve precedence in receiving sewer service over others who are not and have not been paying city taxes.

Therefore, the Town of Highlands should provide this utility to in-town residents before it considers expanding this service outside of the town limits (with exception to the hospital, which is a vital entity of the town and essentially a part of the town).

Running sewer lines around Lake Sequoyah and Mirror Lake area a priority to ensure protection of the town's water source. And in order for the wastewater treatment plant to become a self-sustaining enterprise, the Town must expand its sewer lines to add customers and create the necessary income for this entity to support itself.



Alan Marsh

We should be proud of our state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant. I toured the plant with the Mayor two weeks ago and was very impressed with the operations of the plant.

The sewer lines should be expanded as soon as possible. The town is in the process of getting a federal grant to clean up the lakes of Highlands which are the source of our drinking water.

At the same time, run sewer lines to keep septic tank run-off out of the lakes. A tap fee of a reasonable amount should be charged. The town could set up a payment plan to help anyone pay their hook-up fee.

These funds could help the town expand the sewer lines to more homes.



Dennis DeWolf

Waste water treatment through our Town system is a multifaceted challenge no matter what direction you take.

From an idealistic viewpoint one could say that all citizens within the Town of Highlands are benefactors of the system as an ultimate protection of our domestic water source and the overall ecology of our environment.

In that context, each property owner should and does contribute to the funding of this system according to the value of his property whether it is served by the system or not.

In an effectively designed system the individual collection lines to the main plant are planned for land areas that are not appropriate for septic tank systems. Herein becomes the first big challenge.

If you're trying to give sewer line service to a specific piece of property in Town that crosses in front of several neighboring owners that are considered to have satisfactory septic tank systems is this still the public's financial responsibility? For the sake of argument let's say



Herb James

I am committed to providing sewer service to residents inside town before service is expanded to outlying areas.

Current town policy has not permitted water or sewer service to outside areas unless they are annexed.

If an area is considered for annexation, the plan to annex it should require the property owners in the area to pay for sewer service.

In any event, the town's wastewater treatment plant expansion project will have to be completed before any area of considerable size can be provided service.

The hard part of this question concerns making the cost of sewer service feasible to in-town residents.

In 1989, the Town Board had its engineers make a comprehensive sewer study on serving the existing town. The estimated cost to accomplish this was approximately \$20 million at that time.

After the sewer plant expansion project is completed, some Town Board will probably have the task of trying to figure out how to provide sewer

The election is Nov. 4. Up for grabs are three seats on the Town Board. Voting booths are set up at the Highlands Civic Center.

▪See CAVENDER page 16

▪See DeWolf page 16

▪See James page 16



• Healthy Living •

Don't diet, exercise – It's healthier

By **Bonnie Powell**
Contributor

As I stated in an earlier article, exercise is the number one choice of dieting.

The benefits of eating one food over another does have valid reasons for why some people can lose weight and others can not, but it really boils down to the individual's metabolism.

The choice of food items is important because of the fat and calories contained, but if we actually eat "a serving" of each food we would be a head of the game for fat loss. What is a serving? The size of your fist, a deck of cards, the size of your computer mouse, these are sizing comparisons for a serving.

A serving of food is 3.5 – 4.0 ounces. Notice that we all eat for 2-4 people per meal by our serving amounts, we would feel deprived and cheated if we actually got true servings. Exercising and sticking to correct serving sizes would be the second best diet next to exercise.

Let's look at some of the effects of habitual dieting:

1. Weight loss
2. Weight gain (in fat)
3. Decreases metabolism
4. Decreases self-esteem
5. Increases heart disease

Oftentimes we do not have enough water in our bodies to help metabolize what we are eating. In other words, we border on or are dehydrated. In this state of dehydration our bodies cannot benefit the food we eat, there's just not enough water to make the 'gravy' of all the nutrients we have consumed to get absorbed and metabolized. The body is smart. It knows this but it also knows to save the nutrients and it does that also. Guess how it does this? It converts them to a form to be saved and used at a later time, that form is a fat cell.

When we were hunter-gathers and had to chase and gather our food(s), we were lean and sinewy-strong bodies and we needed that stored fat cell for energy to run, chase, and gather with. Today we might chase the 'remote' around under our chair when we drop it, but on the average, we chase nothing, but

our bodies still store that fat cell in case our next meal isn't caught or gathered. This is where the exercise component comes in. It becomes our 'hunting-gathering-chasing' for our food. We now HAVE to create activity for healthy survival and leaner-stronger bodies.



Can you even imagine running after your food for the day? Now that is novel, think about our populations now and consider how obese we would not be if we had to run, chase, hunt, gather, prepare the food; then gather the wood, split and start a fire to cook over. Yeah, we've come a long way to the bad habits of progressive disabilities.

Exercise is a modern notion, when we left our rural base of self sufficiency, resourcefulness and physical demand we entered into unknown territory such as human-kind had never known in this country. The body was created 'to work and be worked'. Today we call it aerobic activity, that is when the body is doing an activity that increases the heart rate for a long enough time (30 minutes or greater) to heat the body up. When this occurs, the body cannot keep up with the energy juice (glycogen). It requests the fat cell to come down and participate in this form of energy output.

Now, we are burning calories from the Fat Reserve, instead of our body 'eating' its Muscle Reserve which is what the body DOES if it is not 'hot'. That is why it is so important to know what your target heart rate zone for exercise is and stay in it. If the heart rate is too low or too high then you are not getting the aerobic benefit of having that fat cell come on down and melt while you work-out. You are going through the motion and getting the least amount for your effort or getting nothing. Yes, you are moving and that is better than dead, but it isn't doing much to prevent or decrease your risk factors. Work smart, stay aerobic, stay in your heart rate zone. Now let us look at the benefits of habitual exercise.

1. Weight loss (primarily fat).
2. Increased lean body mass
3. Increased metabolism
4. Increased self-esteem

5. Decreased risk of heart disease
6. Decreased resting heart rate
7. Decreased blood pressure
8. Increased oxygen uptake
9. Increased cardiac output
10. Increased capillary density of muscle
11. Increased mitochondrial density of muscle
12. Increased HDL
13. Increased muscle strength
14. Increased endorphins
15. Improved endurance
16. Counteracts osteoporosis
17. Counteracts obesity
18. Improved heart uscle
19. Improved heart vascularization
20. Improved blood sugar control.
21. Improved structure & function of ligaments, tendons, and joints.

It decreases the effects of *stress* on us, it helps defeat the aging process and it makes you feel good. We look better, become trimmer and fitter even if our weight stays the same, since we build muscle and use up body fat. Adding exercise to a low-calorie diet not only burns more calories, but also helps prevent the loss of muscle mass and drop in metabolic rate that usually accompanies dieting.



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• Obituary •

Mary Hunt Spitzer

Mary Hunt Spitzer, 89, of Highlands, died Wednesday, October 22, 2003 at her home. She was born in Miami, Fla., the daughter of the late Frank E. and Ruth Plummer Hunt. She was married to Arthur William Spitzer who died December 23, 2001. She was a school teacher and a member of Highlands Presbyterian Church where she was a choir member. She was an artist and organized the Pickle Painters in Highlands and was a member of the Seekers Group in Highlands.

She is survived by two daughters, Kathy Crane and her husband Oscar

and Linda Spitzer all of Highlands; one son, James Spitzer of Twin Falls, Idaho; four grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Joint memorial services for Mary and Arthur Spitzer will be held today, Friday, October 24 at 11 a.m. at Highlands Presbyterian Church with Dr. Don Mullen and Rev. Hunter Coleman officiating. The family will receive friends after the service at the home of Mary Spitzer.

Memorials may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

... CANDIDATES from page 14

Dennis DeWolf

that it is. If the sewer line is then installed to the person's property in question at the general taxpayer's expense then that person may still be faced with the need for a sewage ejector and various other electrical and ditching expenses in order to connect to the system. Granted this then becomes the individual owner's expense.

This is a long way around trying to answer the question but it illustrates that many of those who have not tied on to the system could have suitable septic tanks and chose to avoid the cost of the sewer connection and the monthly expense associated with it.

Some communities have decided to disallow septic tanks altogether and create a sewer system to serve all with a mandate to connect within a reasonable period of time. At the same time they have offered low interest financing to and/or arranged for "block grants" to ease the financial burden.

It's in our best interest as a community to do what is fair and reasonable in helping to reduce costs to individuals while being true to our values of protecting the environment that sustains us. Once appropriate and effective plans are in place and construction is complete it might then be the time to at least consider expansion of sewer services beyond the Town limits.

In conclusion, I would say there are many other scenarios that have been discussed in an effort to move this process of planning forward. There are many more to come before conclusions can be effectively drawn. The sewage plant does need to be expanded. The question is how much and for what purposes? Do we have the appropriate information at hand to judge the amount of land we need to sewer in Town? If additional annexation is considered what data do we have to understand the impact of that decision?

Herb James

services for the existing town.

Some of the options to consider may be sewerage the entire town at the same time, if financially possible; or providing service on a priority basis over a number of years.

Mike Cavender

whether or not to require citizens to connect to a sewer line if the town installs it next to their property. Also, the town should consider a policy of letting citizens pay the connection fee over a period of years, perhaps

If the second option is chosen, the low-lying areas around lakes and streams would be the first priority because current town policy requires this in an effort to protect the town's water supply.

installment payments on their utility bills. Sewer service is a very positive benefit to the community, but the cost shouldn't be a burden that discourages its use.

• Police Report •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of Sept. Oct. 15-22. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

Oct. 15

• At 11:50 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at RBC Centura. All was secure.

• At 5:06 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Bank of America. All was secure.

• At 5:07 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Macon Savings Bank. All was secure.

• At 10:30 a.m. officers responded to an accident at Main & Oak streets. There were no injuries.

• At 5 p.m., officers responded to an accident at Poplar & U.S. 64 east. There were no injuries.

Oct. 17

• At 4:50 p.m., officers verbally warned two females parked in a business lot on N.C. 28 south about underage drinking.

Oct. 18

• At 12:30 p.m. officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road. All was secure.

• At 11:50 a.m., officers assisted a motorist on Mirror Lake Road when his car rolled into a ditch.

Oct. 19

• At 12:30 p.m., a motorist was cited for illegally parking in front of the EMS garage doors.

• At 3:30 p.m., officers investigated a suspicious vehicle parked on Sixth Street but it was unfounded.

• At 4 p.m., Juliana's on Main Street reported a china tea set valued at \$1,595 had been stolen from the store sometime Oct. 18 or Oct. 19.

Oct. 20

• At 3 p.m., officers returned a purse and wallet found on Main Street to its owner.

• At 6:35 p.m., officers investigated a complaint of noise and speeding traffic.

• Officers issued parking violation tickets to vehicles parked in a prohibited zone.

Whooping Cough scare precautionary only

Earlier this week, when a Highlands School parent told officials her kindergarten had been exposed to Whooping Cough, the Macon County Health Dept. began mobilizing.

"But it was all just precautionary," said Highlands School Principal Jack Brooks. "The child was inoculated, but she was exposed to someone who isn't

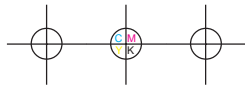
in the public school system who had a confirmed case. To make sure no one else catches it, the Health Dept. instructed everyone in the class to go on antibiotics."

By law public school students must have up-to-date inoculations to enter school but about three percent of those inculcated can still catch the virus.

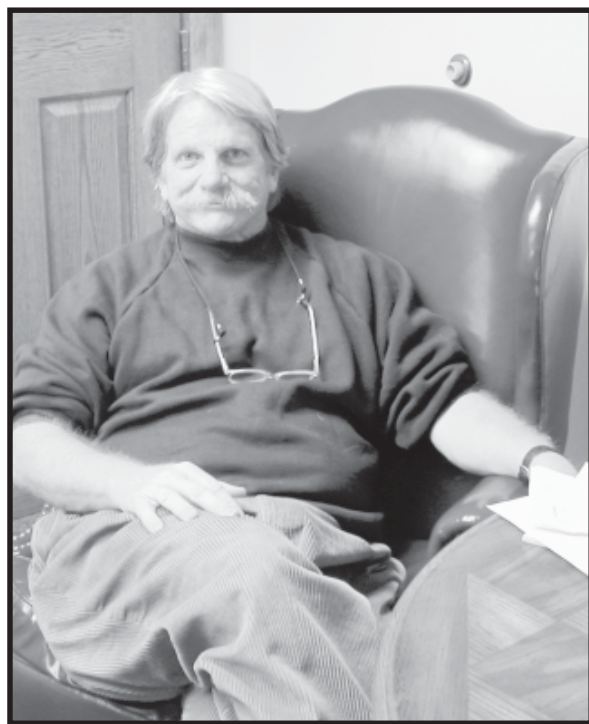
Girls' Clubhouse helps at HUMC



On Oct. 17, members of The Girls' Clubhouse helped folks at the Highlands United Methodist Church get ready for its Octoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 18. It was lots of busy-work, but they never mind helping others.



■ Spiritually Speaking ■



Stephen Hines, Interim Pastor

New pastor moves into Church of the Incarnation

Now that the expansion at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation is finished, Father Mike has moved on – retired, really – taking it easy until Beth finishes out her teaching contract in Franklin.

While the church looks for a full-time minister, Stephen Hines will be the Interim Pastor, a position he's held elsewhere in his 30-odd years in the ministry.

Interim positions are typically for a year – he's signed on at the Episcopal Church for a year but will go month to month after that.

But the last interim position he took lasted for 12 years in Asheville. It was a part-time job for three-and-a-half days a week. On his days off, he headed back to Cashiers where he owns a home. From 1982-1990 he was the minister at the Cashiers Episcopal church.

His home in Cashiers has kept him in touch with the area. That and the fact that as a youth he spent every August in Highlands where his family vacationed.

Hines' father was the Episcopal Bishop in Texas and each summer he brought the family to Highlands and their home on Satulah.

"I'm glad to be back in the area. The people here are nice folks," said Hines. "I'm just here to hold the ship steady and hopefully to maintain the enthusiasm while they look for a full-time minister," said Hines. "I'm excited about making use of this beautiful new space and hopefully bolstering the youth program."

In his downtime, Hines likes to play golf and tennis.

■ 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
526-2830
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

Interim Priest: Stephen Hines, 526-2968
Sundays: Holy Eucharist – 10:30 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 p.m.
Thursdays: Bible Study – 10 a.m.
Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m. & 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. Oct. 19, the children will lead worship as part of the Children's Defense Fund's 12th anniversary.
Wednesdays: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study & activities – 6 p.m.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Family – ELCA

Rev. Pam Mitcham, Pastor,
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30 a.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
Friday: Sept. 12 Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

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
Aug. 31: Rev. Melvin Shuler, a Pentecostal preacher will preach. For more information call 526-3212.

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 lay people.
Every Sunday Memorial Day - Labor Day at 7 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin

526-9769
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time)
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.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.



Eric Pierson for Town Board



- 10 years combined service on Town and County boards
- Proponent of "managed growth"
- Need positive Town/County relations
- Six years with Highlands Fire & Rescue
- 6th generation Highlander

**Exercise your right to
VOTE on Nov. 4!**

... CABLE continued from page 2

of the 63 poles in the first node and once that node is corrected, they will move to the next. There are about 200 poles.

"If a pole needs to be changed out so all three cable groups can fit on it, the town will do that," said Betz. "But the companies on the poles will share in the cost." At that point, the group has to determine who pays what percentage.

The town has ordered that the portion of Highlands Cable Group's cost

of changing out poles will not come out of its Performance Bond which will stay intact on deposit.

Once the companies decide how many poles have to be replaced, the town will hire a contractor to do the job. It will request the three cable groups to split the cost and reimburse the town within 30 days.

Meanwhile, representatives from the three groups will meet Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 9 a.m. to ride-out the rest of the 63-pole node.

... ZONING WORKS continued from page 1

six 10-wheeler dump truck loads of landfill trash. "Literally, washers and dryers, car parts and a lot of other stuff that was basically in the lake and wetlands area," said Gantenbein. "That all got cleaned up."

Village Walk on Chestnut Street was somewhat controversial because of the beaver pond and streams but Gantenbein said Bill Nellis, the developer cooperated fully with all regulations. "That property incorporated about 2,000 linear feet of siltation fencing," said Gantenbein.

"Nellis complied fully with all siltation and sedimentation and erosion

control measures and what they've got is a very nice environmentally sensitive project," he said.

Regions Bank on Spring Street became embroiled in the "new" 100-ft. buffer regulation set forth by the Dept. of Water Quality, a stipulation levied after paper work began on the project. In the end, the project didn't have to comply with the 100-ft. buffer but developers did clean up a long-blighted area.

"They did that stream a favor," said Gantenbein. "They've also incorporated permanent storm water run-off control measures, something they

Auditions for Instant Theater's Christmas Play set for Oct. 28

The Instant Theatre Company (ITC) will hold auditions for its Christmas play *Nick the Beard* by Collin and Scott Paxton on Wednesday October 28, from 5pm to 7pm at the Peggy Crosby Center in Highlands.

ITC is seeking 2 to 3 girls ages 7 to 14 and 2 to 3 boys ages 7 to 14. Also available are two female roles ages 60 and above and one non-speaking male age 50 and above. To sign up for an audition slot, please call artistic director Adam Heffernan at 526-1687, stop by the ITC office in room 218 at the Peggy Crosby Center or e-mail instanttheatre@earthlink.net.

Performances are Wednesday December 3rd through Sunday Dec. 7 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing

Arts Center in Highlands. Rehearsals begin early November and will be on a flexible schedule to suit the needs of the cast.

Nick the Beard tells the story of a reformed crime boss now working for Santa Claus. The play was originally produced by the ITC in 1982 and 1983. The Paxtons are currently reworking and revising the script with new characters and plan to offer it to Samuel French, Inc. for publication upon completion. Samuel French currently publishes Ms. Paxton's play *Papa's Angels*, which was first produced by the ITC in Highlands. In 2000 a television version was made for CBS with *Quantam Leap's* Scott Bakula and *Sex & the City's* Cynthia Nixon.

Highlands Playhouse shows/auditions set for 2004 season

Artistic director David Kleist has announced the 2004 season for the Highlands Playhouse. The 2004 season will open on Saturday, June 12 and will be as follows:

June 12-July 4 - The Broadway hit "Annie"

July 8-18 - One of America's funniest favorites, "The Odd Couple"

July 22- Aug 15 - The 2000 Oliver Award winner for The Best New Musical, "Honk."

Aug 19-29 - A Romantic Comedy, "6 Rms Riv Vu."

Auditions will be held Saturday, Nov. 8, 2003 at the Playhouse. Parts

for children and adults are available for the musicals "Annie" and "Honk" and adult parts for "The Odd Couple" and "6 Rm Riv Vu." Please note there are no parts for children under 12.

Applicants are asked to be at the theatre on Nov 8 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon and 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Bring a head shot, resume and have prepared for the musicals one up-tempo song and one 1-2 min contemporary monologue.

For the plays 1-2 min. monologues are required - one humorous and one non-humorous.

approved by the Environmental Management Commission with the State Division of Water Quality.

Some developers, like the Piersons developing Hardscrabble Ridge on Bowery and Dale Miller at Harris Lake include deed restrictions which require environment protection measures on the lots they sell.

"They have incorporated strict watershed built-upon requirements in their deed restrictions," said Gantenbein. "Stricter than the town."

Gantenbein said contractors are schooled in sedimentation and erosion control measures and it shows.



• Highlands Eateries & Light Fare •

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Live Entertainment Thurs., Fri. & Sat. evenings

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Highlands Plaza Mon.-Sat. 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
526-3775 Sun. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Whether you want to pick up picnic supplies or grab breakfast, lunch or dinner ready-made, Bryson's Food Store has it. From Boar's Head meats and cheeses to home-made fried chicken it's here. Bryson's Food Store is in Highlands Plaza and is open Mon.-Sat. 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Sun. from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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526-3775 Sun. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

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Sports Page

526-3555

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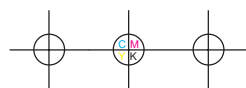
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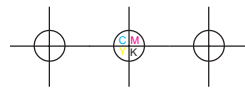
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• Upcoming Events & Activities on the Plateau •

On-going

- Highlands School needs a microwave. The one in the Teachers' Lounge died, recently. If you can help, call 526-2147.

- Support Highlands School with a banner about your business to be displayed in the gymnasium all year long. Call 526- 2147 for details.

- Turn in your used printer ink cartridges to Highlands School. It means money to the school.

- There is a "Teacher Wish List" at the school. Call the office at 526-2147 to see how you can help. Teachers need everything from paper to pens.

- Karate lessons are being taught at the Highlands Civic Center Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:15-4 p.m. Call 526-4318 for more information.

- Step Aerobics at the Highlands Civic Center Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays at 4 & 5 p.m. and also on Saturday mornings. Cost is \$5 per class.

- Women's Bible Study at HUMC every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. A nursery is provided.

- Community Christmas Choral rehearsals are Mondays at 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church.

- Potters of North Carolina and Georgia through Oct. 29 at the Bascom-Louise Gallery in the Hudson

Library.

- The Instant Theatre Company Education Program is for children grades first through 12 and adults over 18. Children's Beginning Acting & Theatre Games Grades 1- 4, Mondays 4-5 p.m. Beginning Acting & Theatre Games Grades 5 - 8 Wednesdays 4-5 p.m. Teens Acting & Improvisation Grades 9 - 12 Mondays 6 p.m. to 7

p.m. Adults - all ages Scene Study & Improv - Wednesdays 6-7 p.m. To sign up call 828-526-1687, or stop by the ITC office at the Peggy Crosby Center, room 218, 5th Street in Highlands. All classes are held at the Peggy Crosby Center. Email at instanttheatre@earthlink.net

- The Chamber of Commerce is having a Christmas Art Contest for the T-shirts that will be sold at the

tree lighting and also for the drawing that will be used on the posters for this event. The categories are adult...this picture will be used on the shirt and children to age 16. This picture will be used on the poster. The adult category will win \$100 and the children's will win \$50. This event is sponsored by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. Any questions please call me at 743-2052 Marianne Vines

Oct. 25

- Highlands School's 5K Fun Run and Annual Fall Festival at the Highlands Civic Center from 5-9 p.m. There will be BBQ, baked goods, lots of booths and prizes to win. All proceeds benefit Highlands School. To register for the 5K Run, call 526-0454.

Oct 30

- Halloween in Highlands will take place a day early. Trick or treaters will be parading throughout the downtown district showing off costumes and getting treats.

Nov. 6-9

- The Highlands Community Players present "You Can't Take It With You," Thurs.-Sunday at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. Shows are at 8 p.m., Thurs. through Sat., and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. For tickets call 526-8484 or visit the box office from 10-2.

Highlands School Fall Festival

Saturday, Oct. 25

5-9 p.m.

at the

Highlands Rec Park

There will be award-winning barbecue and hot dog supper by Highlands own Doc Wilson; bingo, a haunted house, cake walk, bake sale, cotton candy, dunking booth, face painting, pumpkin painting, a photo booth and a raffle.

There will be five raffle winners: \$100 groceries at Bryson's Food Store; \$100 gas from D&J Express Mart; \$150 groceries from Mountain Fresh Fine Foods; \$100 Savings Bond from Wachovia; and \$200 gift certificate from Reeves Hardware. Tickets are 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5.

The 5K Run is a 9 a.m. - pick up registrations forms at the D&J Express Mart or Highlands Pharmacy. The Fun Run is at 10 a.m.

Remember, all proceeds go toward Highlands School!

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...TRADITION continued from page 12

advertisement of the concert, just a poster on the door to Woodcraft and 12-of-mouth mention around town. Many of the people just happen along and linger to listen

and be pleased and thrilled to hear such wonderful old mountain melodies streaming out across the little village.

As the concert nears its end,

people notice that she has lowered a half-gallon sized paint bucket down on a string, which is there just in case anyone is moved to drop in a little cash. Several people already have wandered across to stick in a few folded five or ten dollar bills, contributions given freely just as Sylvia gives freely of herself in song and spirit from the balcony.

Announcing that she is about to perform her final number, she comments to the crowd.

"At eight o'clock when I come out and begin singing, being blind, I do not know if anyone is down there on the street. I only hope that my music will reach someone out there. By the time I've sung a few songs, I've heard your voices and your applause, and I begin to feel your presence. By the end of the hour, I sense that I, the performer, and you, the audience, have formed a kind of amiable bond, a communion of our spirits

that arises mystically out of the communication of music. It is really quite wonderful for me to sing here for you, and I hope you also have enjoyed this common bond that grows between us."

A lump in their throats, listeners make confirming comments and clap briefly. But largely there is a silence in the audience, a quiet reaction to that very communion of song that she has mentioned. While she sings her closing song, "Give Yourself to Love" by Kate Wolf, this plaintive folk melody floats out into the darkening evening air and echoes all the past generations of Appalachian people who have lived and loved and died and left us their hearts in the music of their mountain home.

Afterwards, people walk away, feeling blessed to have heard Sylvia Sammons offer so personally to them her gift of song.

Be sure to hear Sylvia Sammons' last Highlands performance, Friday, Oct. 24 "on the Hill."

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... Q&A with ART WILLIAMS continued from page 1

Highlands' Newspaper - Friday, Oct. 24, 2003 - Page 23

How do you view the economic condition of Highlands and what are your predictions for the future?

Highlands is one of the few places in the U.S. that is almost guaranteed to grow in value. You can't beat the weather – it probably has the best golfing environment in the world. Since so much land is owned by USFS, land is limited and so is development. And it's two to four hours driving distance away from literally millions of people in Atlanta, Charlotte and Greenville who are just dying to get away from the cities. Since the 9/11 attack, statistics show that 20-25 percent of those millions of people refuse to fly on commercial airplanes. That means they're not vacationing in California, Mexico, or Europe, but they still want to vacation. They're coming to Highlands and that's good for business.

What inspired you to come to Highlands?

When I sold my insurance company in 1989, Angela and I started thinking about where we wanted to retire and since we love Highlands we retired here. We've been coming here since the 1940s. We used to stay at Lee's Inn. We loved the family dining table with the college kids serving us – the whole thing. The best part is Highlands is only two hours from my grandbabies in Atlanta who are a big part of our lives.

Why did you buy the Old Edwards Inn?

We love everything old. We've never lived in a new house. And we fell in love with the uniqueness of one of the oldest buildings in Highlands.

You are doing far more than renovating the inn. What propelled you to enlarge the scope of the project which appears to be growing in leaps and bounds?

We had to figure out a way to make the property work financially. Our engineers kept finding major problems with the building – it was a disaster. There were plumbing, electrical and major foundation problems. It had never been refurbished properly or upgraded. We couldn't justify putting that much money into it with only 19 rooms and a restaurant. We couldn't generate enough money. We love to go to small, intimate spas and Angela came up with the idea of a spa destination place. To make that work, we needed 30-50 rooms. Statistics show hotel business has declined in the last 10 years, but spa business has increased 300 percent. People want a destination and they want to be pampered. To have enough rooms, we had to purchase properties to either build new rooms or take over existing properties like the Kelsey-Hutchinson Inn. As a businessman, that was a smart move. Kelsey-Hutchinson has bookings all the way into 2004. This way we can offer rooms at different price ranges but still offer everyone the spa experience.

Even though everything you renovate and build has proven to be top-notch, what do you say to people who claim you are "buying up the entire town?"

We're not buying up the town. Years ago we bought property across from the ballfield. We don't have any plans for that but it's a good investment. We bought property on Fourth Street as an extension of the inn because statistics show we need 30-50 rooms to make the spa work. We bought the Salem Farms off Arnold Road so we can give people who want more of a "country experience" that. But we don't have any plans to develop it yet. We'll see how the spa goes first.



Merchants and food establishments worry that the businesses you plan to incorporate into the Old Edwards Inn & Spa will duplicate what is already here, further diluting the market.

Everyone would like to be the only hotel or the only restaurant in town. But that's just not reasonable. People come up with better ideas and that's what keeps our economy going. People who come to the spa are going to shop in the other shops, eat in the other restaurants. It will be good for the economy of Highlands.

How many people do you expect to employ year-round at the Old Edwards Inn & Spa and will your complex be open even in the "slow" time – Jan., Feb. and March?

We will employ about 150 people. The season is getting longer and longer in Highlands. More people are buying second homes and choosing to live here year-round. We may close off some rooms during the slow season, but yes, we will stay open all year.

Do you intend to hire locally, or are you bringing people in from elsewhere and if so, will you provide housing?

We are definitely hiring locally but there aren't enough people. So we will be hiring from outside the community, too. We are building employee housing, as well as cottages for spa rental on the Rib Country lot.

Rib Country is a very popular restaurant in town and since the property has changed hands, the owners need to relocate. If a restaurant is planned for the Rib Country site, why couldn't Rib Country just stay there?

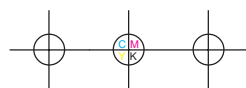
It isn't what we want for the complex. The restaurant on that site will offer "Southern-type" food three meals a day and be moderately priced. This way we can offer guests a five-star restaurant in the Old Edwards Inn or a Southern food restaurant. Underneath, we will house our laundry because there isn't a place in town that can handle our volume. The site will also be used for valet parking because a spa has to have that. **Will the complex offer activities other than spa-related pass times – golf, tennis, equestrian, youth activities, hiking and rafting – or will you partner with existing establishments for those activities?**

Yes, we would be stupid not to use all the businesses that have all those things here in Highlands. We even have four to six golf courses we are working with so we can offer golf. **Highlanders are very concerned about keeping a balance – attracting people but still keeping the small-town quality. Quality not quantity. Will what you are creating upset this balance?**

We want to keep what we love about Highlands, we don't want another Cherokee or Gatlinburg and it's up to the town government to make sure that doesn't happen. We are attracting an upper-income person who wants to stay in a more expensive room and who wants to be spoiled.

If you lose interest in the project or become incapacitated, who will perpetuate the Old Edwards Inn & Spa enterprise?

I hope to live here the rest of my life. I don't want to sell my house or the inn. I want to keep them in the family and make it work. I'm proud to have something like this – a beautiful piece of property, a world-class spa, something that is missing right now. This isn't costing anyone but me. I'm the one putting the money into it. If it doesn't work, I've left Highlands with a beautifully restored property. But it's going to work for two reasons. It's right for our target consumer, because there's no place like it in Highlands and the spa business is a business whose time has come.





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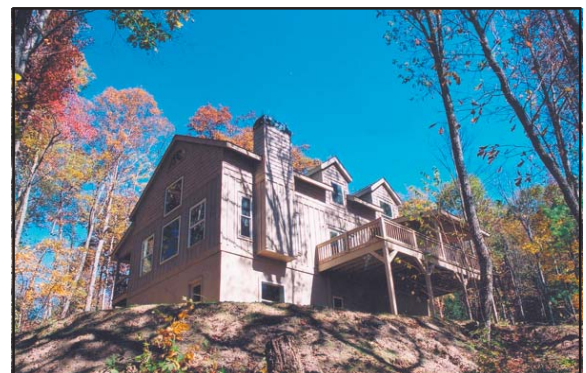
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