

Inside:

Police Report	pg. 27
Candidate Q&A	pg. 4,6
Fred Wooldridge	pg. 5
Ghost Story	pg. 12
Sports Picks	pg. 11
Life Under...	pg. 7

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 1, Number 16

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Oct., 31, 2003

The week of Oct. 31- Nov.6

Oct. 31

- Residents at the Eckerd Living Center will hand out ghoulish goodies from 6 to 8 p.m. Stop by and show off your costumes.

- The Auxiliary of Highlands/Cashiers Hospital will meet Nov 3rd at 10 a.m. in the board room.

Nov. 1

- The Nantahala Hiking Club plans a hike from Sloan Bridge to Indian Creek. The five-mile hike with shuttle begins at 9:30 a.m. from Cashier Wachovia Bank with a 40-mile drive, round-trip. The Group will return between 3 and 4 p.m. Call Dick Watson for more information – 828-235-2137.

- A golf tournament of the Healthy Carolinians has been rescheduled for Saturday at Highlands Cove. Registration is \$100 a layer or \$400 for a team. Tee of time is at 11 a.m. Call Kathy McGaha at 349-2426 for more information.

- The Highlands-Cashier Hospital Auxiliary meets at 10 a.m. in the hospital board room.

- The Macon County Commissioners November meeting will be held at the Highlands Conference Center a 6 p.m. Included will be a public hearing about the Highlands School Gymnasium project.

Nov. 4

- HIARPT meets from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Community Room of the First Presbyterian Church.

Nov. 6-9

- Highlands Community Players presents "You Can't Take It With You," Thursday through Sunday, at PAC. Shows are 8 p.m. with a Sunday matinee at 2:30. Call 526-8084.

On-Going

- The Highlands Rec Dept. is running a special on Fitness Memberships. One year for \$90 per person.

- 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.

'OK' didn't come easy for Old Edwards

By Kim Lewicki

They've been there before – lots of times, actually – but this time Old Edwards Inn & Spa representatives had to work for an "OK" from the appearance board.

Project contractors needed approval of a four-unit hotel efficiency – one of three such buildings planned for the Rib Country site.

Though the plans indicate the final product is likely to be as beautifully designed and precision-built as previ-

▪See OLD EDWARDS page 14

Remedy to ailing sidewalks could be in the works

By Kim Lewicki

To the casual observer it seems the newly formed planning and appearance committee is somewhat obsessed with things like sidewalks and benches. But their efforts over the last several weeks have finally provided the town with much needed information.

Some months ago, Town Board members were made aware of scores of sidewalks around town that were in bad need of repair.

Estimated to cost about \$30,000, the board voted to wait until the planning and appearance committee fine-tuned the master sidewalk plan and indicated which areas should be concrete and which brick.

At the Oct. 27 planning and appearance committee meeting, members presented Town Engineer Lamar Nix with their plan which delineates type, width and placement of sidewalks.

"You have answered the most urgent questions prior to making repairs," said Nix. "But it's up to the Town Board to give the final word and to budget for the project."

Town Administrator Richard Betz said the town has been budgeting for sidewalks for about four years the board just has to decide how much they want to spend at a time.

Sidewalks slotted for repair are:

▪See SIDEWALKS page 14

Oct. 25 was a day for Highlands School



Photo by Jim Lewicki

It started at 9 a.m. with a 5K race, then the Fun Run at 10 a.m., the Teacher Car Wash and ended 12 hours later with the culmination of the annual Highlands School Fall Festival. Coach Smith clocks Stephanie Smart as she crosses the finish line during the one-mile Fun Run. For more photos, see page 9.

Site work done – next up, the gymnasium

By Kim Lewicki

The site work is finished, the contract has been signed and delivered, now all contractors are waiting for is the

"go ahead."

They're itching to go," said MC Schools Superintendent Rodney Shotwell at the school board meeting,

Oct. 28.

"We met with them yesterday, and

▪SeeGYMNASIUM page 14



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• Letters to the Editor •

Hunters & contractors offended

Dear Editor,

I don't know if you print responses from your readers or not, but after reading Mr. Wooldridge's article in your paper today, I feel I must speak out even if no one else reads what I have to say.

As a Highlander I have read many articles in local papers that I found personally offensive in one way or another. Mr. Wooldridge's article was by far the most offensive to date. He begins immediately by insulting not only his own personal contractor but all contractors. Then he goes on to insult deer hunters as well. As if to say the only way to get us dumb hillbillies to work is to lure us in after a fresh kill.

To say that he also personally offended at least 50 percent of the local Highlands population would probably be an understatement. I am willing to explain to Mr. Wooldridge how he managed to upset so many people.

First of all most of the hardworking local men and yes even some of the women are in fact deer hunters. If that in some way seems hard to understand for you well then I guess your income means that you have plenty of money to go out to the grocery store and buy your family groceries. My husband is in fact a deer hunter a carpenter and a volunteer fireman. Yes, sometimes he does leave and hunt for several days. To provide for your family do you not get up and go to work? Well, for us his hunting provides for us in the same way. We eat the venison he brings home when otherwise we would have nothing.

To respond to what you say about the contractors taking forever to get to the work that you needed done, I have this to say. The people in this town and particularly construction workers must do what is called lining up work. That means that someone has to wait his or her turn.

I don't know whom you hired but I don't know any home improvement company that you could call today and reasonably expect them to show up tomorrow. Of course if you're like most people you expect that you should be the priority but Mr. Wooldridge welcome to the real world. I suggest you either do the work yourself or have a little patience.

Now that you have alienated the entire labor population I seriously doubt you'll ever get anyone to show up anyway. Perhaps you should try a little understanding and do more of that smiling that you are so against and you could get better results.

Your entire article was simply a seemingly harmless joke towards people just like us. Guess what? We're not laughing.

Holly Henry
Highlands

Talking trash

Dear Editor,

There are some particularly annoying words and terms that remind me of litter left on the roadsides. Some may say, "Girl, get a life" but my life would be made more pleasant if these irritations were eliminated. Bear with me, please.

First of all and most annoying

of all is the use of the word KID for child. A kid is a baby goat, the skin of a goat, or even something made from the skin of a goat not very often a young person. The word kid has almost replaced the words, tyke, tot, youth, child, baby, infant, son or daughter...even niece and

▪See LETTERS page 15

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. Letter deadline: Monday prior to publication.

**Highlands School elementary teachers
raising funds for conference**



Photo by Jim Lewicki

When the Fun Run ended about 11 a.m., the Teacher Car Wash began at First Citizens Bank. Elementary teachers are raising money to attend a reading conference in the spring. They need about \$2,400. They raised \$750 on Saturday. More car washes are planned.

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Eric Pierson for Town Board



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- Proponent of "managed growth"
- Need positive Town/County relations
- Six years with Highlands Fire & Rescue
- 6th generation Highlander

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• Candidates Q & A Forum •

Question 4

Many people feel Highlands is no longer a "youth friendly" town. Except for the playground at the Rec Park for young children, there isn't a place for older children to play. The pool shuts down after a brief summer season and there is no place for youth to ride bikes safely, to use scooters or skateboards. Nearby Cashiers is working hard to make Cashiers a family-town. It raised money to build a mega playground; it's working hard to construct a skate park for its youth and is even raising money for a year-round pool and sports complex. What steps would you like the town to take to make Highlands a year-round, "youth friendly" town?

Q & A continues on pages 6 & 8



Mike Cavender

Several efforts have been made in past years to create activities and entertainment for our community's young people. The success rate has been disappointing. Too often, adults impose entertainment activities on youth that leave out the opinions of young people. The right mix can be difficult to achieve. Also, we must be very cautious about using tax dollars for entertainment activities, many of which are already provided through the schools and recreation park. I think we already are a "youth friendly" town. Just look at the devoted parents and teachers who help guide and educate the terrific children of Highlands. They are the best and most important resources we have when it come to raising children.

Having said that, I would favor creating a committee composed of P.T.O. representatives and elected youth leaders to devise with town



Eric Pierson

What Cashiers is doing goes to show that Highlands can go a long way to improve youth activities in town. Through a lot of effort, a new soccer field has nearly been completed off of Buck Creek Road. This county project is a large step in the right direction for youth in and around town.

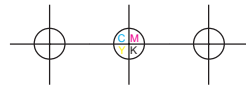
A year-round pool and skate park sound great but I do not know what kids today enjoy doing and I don't want tax dollars wasted on something that is not going to be used.

Therefore, the first step in making Highlands more "youth friendly" needs to be a great deal of communication between parents, children, town officials and concerned citizens to find out what exactly is needed and wanted for our youth.

From these discussions, the town can get an idea of which direction it

■ See CANDIDATES page 8

■ See ERIC PIERSON page 6



• Laughing at Life •

Do we need a contract on Fred? (Nah.)

It was bound to happen sooner or later. In an attempt to make people laugh, I have apparently stepped on toes and angered a few of Highlands' contractors with last week's article about a fictional, dumb as toast, character named Dilbert.

If you have been reading my stuff for at least a year, you will remember that this same Dilbert was my hunting instructor last year, but gave up on me in disgust because I was the clumsiest, most inept, city slicker in the woods.

Most folks who read me regularly, know what I am all about; absolutely, positively, unequivocally full of nonsense. Never fall into the trap of taking me serious.

I write fiction and satire 90 percent of the time. There is no truth to what I write, people know it, and that is what makes it fun. If I mention a real person by name, I always call ahead to get permission to make fun of them. I am seldom ever refused because it's all in fun. This happens because what I write is not meant to be hurtful or mean-spirited in any fashion. Most folks laugh at what I write. It's a sad world if people can't laugh at themselves or what they do for a living once in a while.

In past issues I have made fun of the police. I am comfortable in doing that since I was an officer for over 28 years. I love to needle those pesty summer people which is exactly what I am and those inept city slickers (yep, that's me also). Getting old is another issue I love to write about (have you seen what an old geezer I am?) Highlands' toilets and the Bowery Road are my favorites. Did you see my article on



Fred Wooldridge

dogwood parking meters and chicken cannons? Or how about Yoga classes taking over the world or winter wimps and those scary bridge players.

So why should contractors be a sacred cow that I can't poke fun at?

Most of all, I love to make fun of

myself. How about me trying to crank my chain saw for a half-hour when a local person walked over and turned the switch on. Laughing, he said, "Ya ain't from around here, are ya?" I even accused my editor, Kim Lewicki of using "Subliminal Mind Use Triggers" on her readers. She printed it. It was not true, but it was funny.

I can't imagine any contractor in Highlands, or anywhere for that matter, being able to identify with that column on Dilbert. If there really is a Dilbert out there somewhere, I guess I owe him an apology, but I don't think so.

So for all those folks that currently have their shorts in a wad over my recent work, I would only ask that you lighten up a little. No harm was intended and no harm was done. Reread the article, not as a contractor, but as a customer, preferably one who is in the middle of construction and doesn't know a single thing about hunting. And remember, it's a satire.

Because I write mostly fiction, you probably have already guessed that I don't have a contractor working on my house. There is no Dilbert or clear plastic with holes in it wrapped around my place.

Like most always, it's all fiction, except for the part about my American flag underwear. That part is true. Do not make fun of my underwear.

"DEAR FRED" column coming

Want to have some fun this winter? Starting with the Nov. 14 issue, Highlands' Newspaper will feature an advice column with our very own Contributor/Columnist Fred Wooldridge. The sky's the limit. All published questions are anonymous and, of course, don't expect a straight answer. E-mail us at askfredanything@aol.com. Put "Dear Fred" in memo line.

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• Candidates Q & A Forum •



Alan Marsh

The Town Board should ask the planning board to study all recreation areas in Highlands.

The planning board should ask all interested residents to bring suggestions to the board for consideration.

With the addition of the new county soccer and sports center on Buck Creek Road and the 30-plus acres in the recreation park, this should give us a great area for future use.

Since Jane Woodruff donated the recreation park building, wouldn't it be great if Art Williams donated a couple of million dollars for recreation park expansion?

Eric Pierson

needs to proceed (looking for suitable locations, costs, etc...) and start seriously considering ways to implement the ideas brought fourth by the community.

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



Dennis DeWolf

Unfortunately it's all too easy to forget all the past efforts of so many parents, teachers, churches, non-profit organizations, individual citizens, the Town Board and its staff in their past attempts and successes in providing for our children. When looking at where we are now we need to reflect back on those efforts and build on them. When we see the results in Cashiers and understand how it all happened we realize that their success was created by a handful of key individuals that spread their enthusiasm to others. We've had a number of successes in our own community that have been less noticeable and yet very effective in the short and long term. The true success of the Cashiers effort will be measured by the amount of use that the recreation project gets over the next several years.

Our efforts in Highlands, as they are in Cashiers, become reality when there is a concerted effort to recognize what true needs there are for our young people. We need to more fully understand what can and can't be realistically accomplished through our school system and/or the recreation park and why. We need to be cognizant of the fact that a relatively small number of young people in any age group and a differing mix of personalities within those age groups can cause an up and down interest level in one activity or another over time. If additional year round recreation facilities are provided within our ex-

▪ See CANDIDATES page 8

• Life Under Construction •

Follow your bliss

Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

Joseph Campbell spoke of "following your bliss." What is your bliss? What activity makes you smile, makes the hours slip away, makes you loose track of time?

What do you think your talents are? Are you using them? Maya Angelou stated that she believed that talent is like electricity. "We don't understand electricity. We use it. You can plug into it and light up a lamp, keep a heart pump going, light a cathedral, or you can electrocute a person with it. Electricity will do all that. It makes no judgment. I think talent is like that."

Many years ago when I lived in Florida, I attended a personal growth workshop and was introduced to Joseph Campbell for the first time. I read a quote of his and it went like this. "When you follow your bliss...doors will open where you would not have thought there would be a door and where there would not be a door for anyone else." Six months later, I moved from Florida to San Francisco to start a new adventure.

Don't let your life parallel this quote. "What an interesting life I had. If only I had realized it sooner!" That is what constructing a life is all about. Paying attention to your life so you can live it to its fullest. Using your talents, sharing your spirit, enjoying every day.

These beautiful fall days make it relatively easy to be content. But all days are not equal. Even though I once again followed my bliss when



I moved from California to Cashiers, everyone has tough days. You know the kind I am talking about. When there is no bliss to be found anywhere. But keep looking, it's there.

Maybe it's in the small pleasures and cheap thrills. For me, just a cup of coffee at the Schoolhouse in Cashiers or Bucks in Highlands can put things back into a state of bliss. It's very important to find the cheap thrills or small things in life that give you pleasure. They may be very tiny things. First, you have to notice them. Even go so far as to treat them as a delicacy. There is bliss in all of us.

Are you willing to do a bit of homework? Make a list of things or events in your life that creates a cheap thrill or brings a smile to your face or others. How long is your list? Is it long enough? Why not stop right now and pick something from that list and have some fun.

"It isn't the big pleasures that count the most; it's making a great deal out of the little ones." Jean Webster.

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 available for purchase at Chapter 2 in Cashiers. www.maryellenlipinski.com

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DeWolf for Town Board

I've spent the most of my adult life working with

individuals, couples, governing boards, organizations and the like, helping them develop visions that evolve into reality. Whether the end result is a building, a master plan of development or somewhere in

between, the success of the effort is inevitable when those involved are sensitive enough to recognize that mutual compromise and understanding bring people and their

environment in balance. I've had the opportunity to partic-

ipate in many of the Town governmental decisions and private Architectural practice affecting that balance over the last 30 + years that Highlands has been so much a part of me.

I'm asking for your vote to place me on the Town Board to further my efforts to plan for the present and future of our community.

Sincerely,
Dennis DeWolf

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... CANDIDATES from page 4

Mike Cavender

officials a comprehensive recreation plan for our young people.

After the plan is properly conceived, we can try to find funding sources that don't strain our tax-based budget. Sources might include a combination of state or federal grants, special grants from the chamber of commerce room tax funds, private donations and town appropriations.

I am happy to use town leadership resources to help the project along, but I don't think the taxpayers should have to bear the major portion of the cost. We should

always be willing to do more for our children whenever we can. With all the resources this community devotes to adult entertainment and activities, there's no reason we can't shift some of our resources to our young people.

We have enormous talent and leadership in our community. With the right combination of people, energy, enthusiasm and resources, we can accomplish a lot. Just look around town and see what a few hundred residents have already accomplished in other areas of Highlands!

Dennis DeWolf

isting recreation park what will be the impact of seasonal young people on those facilities. Is there a need for a full time activities director? These are just a few thoughts that come to mind.

There is every reason to believe that our community as whole could benefit from an interchange of ideas in a public work session that would invite all individuals and groups to share their present and past experiences together. Needless to say that session would involve the participation of the young people as well. We are so fortunate to have so many in our community that have their share of suggestions and truly care. We need to hear some of the hopes and dreams for a better place and be able to express them in an atmosphere of unbridled respectful discussion. For ex-

ample: Is it possible to build an enclosed/heated swimming facility? How many different activities could that provide and for what age groups from young to old alike? Can the old Galax Theater be purchased? If so could it offer similar fun activities for the young people as does The Factory that Drake established in Franklin - or different because our needs are determined to be different from theirs? Is Helen's Barn available for purchase to create a place for the youth to enjoy? Does it need, then, to be privately owned and run or is it possible to incorporate it into our recreational program?

There is every reason to believe that we have a youth friendly Town but there is always a way to make it a "great youth friendly" Town.

Herb James

There is much information needed before I can answer this question. Perhaps a committee can be formed to study this matter which should include representatives from the Town's Recreation Dept., school personnel, church youth group leaders and youth groups.

The budget for the Town's Recreation Dept. is currently more than half-million dollars. Some questions that may need answering are: Should changes be made in existing pro-

grams?; What will the cost be to add additional programs?; How will the cost of new programs be paid?; What has the experience of other towns been?; What has the experience of previous efforts in Highlands been?

When the town expands the functions of its Recreation Dept., the costs are generally paid from its revenues. Therefore, I feel much work must be done before an informed answer is possible





A day dedicated to Highlands School



Highlander Glenda Bell made it across the 5K finish line with a smile. The Fun-runners line up at the starting line on Laurel Street.

Photos by Jim Lewicki



Katie Potts is totally focused on her pumpkin at the Fall Festival



Highlander Steve Hott was the first across the finish line for the 5K race which started at 9 a.m., Saturday morning.



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Painted faces by big girls for little girls



Katie Ingram and Desiray Schmitt are absolutely blissful about winning a trophy at the Fun Run. Austin Baty enjoyed playing Bingo with the big guys.

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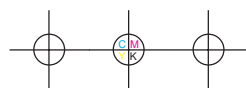
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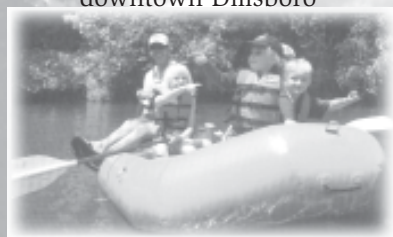
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• Movie Pix •

The Video Guy presents:

"Papillon"

A 1973 film, starring Steve McQueen and Dustin Hoffman, directed by Franklin Schaffner.

Another great prison movie, wonderful performances by Hoffman and McQueen, and a terrific supporting cast.

Based on the true story of Henri Charriere (played by McQueen), a safecracker convicted of a murder he claims not to have committed, and is sentenced to the infamous prison colony in French Guiana in 1931.

Along they way, he meets (befriends would be too strong a word) the wealthy, smart, and frail counterfeiter, Louis Degas (played perfectly by Hoffman).

They form a partnership for protection and help and as years go by, they grow into friends and share hazards, escapes and recaptures.

Finally they end up on Devil's Island, now old and battered, and in the most secure section of the prison colony, from which there is no escape. Or is there?

Well filmed, in Spain and Jamaica, with the closing credits shown over scenes of the now abandoned prison colony itself. The scenery is occasionally beautiful, the editing in of Charriere's hallucination scenes



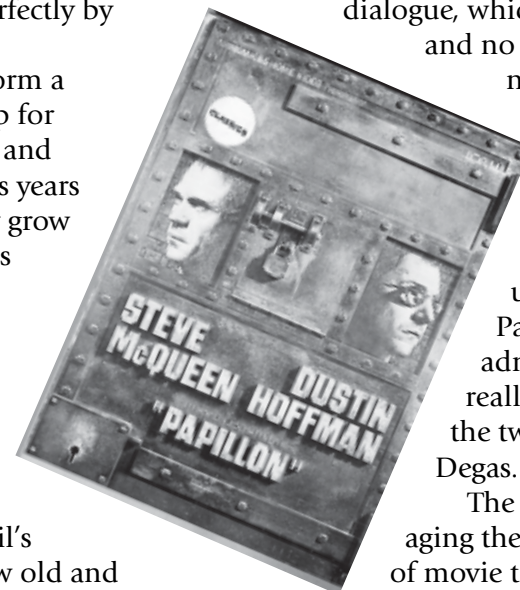
Stuart Armor

good (and adding some needed color, as they come in a long sequence of scenes depicting years of solitary confinement) and one segment, showing his stay with some South American coastal tribes, done entirely without dialogue, which is pretty cool, and no longer than it needed to be.

Really solid performances by the principals, McQueen as the heroic, stoic, and unstoppable Papillon is nearly admirable, Hoffman, really the better actor of the two, plays a perfect Degas.

The make up work, aging the two is great. A bit of movie trivia, somewhere in the film is Billy Mummy, from the TV series "Lost in Space." I was unable to find him in the film, maybe you can.

Some related films are "Life," "Count of Monte Cristo," "Prisoner of Honor," "Escape from Sobodor," and of course, Steve McQueen in "The Great Escape." Also worth seeing, the original "Thomas Crown Affair."



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.



• Sports Picks •

Support school sports

You know, the Bible says that when we die we will stand before the Lord for our actions. I often imagine it as a giant movie screening with just me and God. It will be strange, seeing your every mistake and your finest moments.

I am particularly interested in my thoughts and dreams as a youngster. I remember dreaming as a kid not about playing for Duke or Carolina or the Bulls – but playing for Highlands High School. I remember watching and hearing about HHS heroes from the basketball court, and practicing to be like the ones I saw on Friday nights, not the people on the television.

I have always maintained a strange sense of pride in Highlands School, as well as the town in general. There is no better feeling for me than when I first drive back into town and see friendly faces that I have known for so long. And sometimes it is hard when those friendly faces aren't there, replaced by unknown faces drenched with Florida or Georgia sun.

It is also hard to watch things change around town — new businesses, buildings and places I love being bought by a heavy wallet, and the quiet streets of youth replaced by the bustling of a busy community.

Alas, change is inevitable — and often very profitable, so who am I to stand in the way of (supposed) progress. However, there are some changes that are disconcerting, and even less logical.

With all the money and stature brought by the influx of folks to our small town, it seems as if the pride in the school has diminished through the years. No longer do I see kids wearing school colors or talking up the sports teams.

I am extremely pleased with the new rush that the soccer program has brought to HHS, and I think that coach Mueller has done a fantastic job. Unfortunately, as popular as soccer is with the kids and as successful as the team has been, the attendance among the



Ryan Potts

general public hasn't been what it should be.

And it isn't like residents are the only ones not participating.

The 20th was opening day for basketball practice and there were only six players. Last year HHS didn't even field a baseball team. As a supporter and an alumnus, this is fairly disturbing. Some may think that because I no longer reside in Highlands full time that I don't have the proper perspective, but I feel that this gives me an outside view.

I don't claim to have any insight as to what has caused this, although there are many possibilities. I know that the philosophies inside the school have changed significantly the past few years, and this may affect school pride. Also, students have changed — they have more to do and less time to do it in, making athletics a sweatier, less palatable option.

Even more so, with the increased business in town, folks have less time to support their hometown team. Or it could be that folks have lost faith in Highlands' ability to be successful. (Which is clearly misguided. The baseball team has won many conference championships, soccer has been dominant lately and the volleyball team is almost always competitive. In fact, basketball, which is the most popular sport is also the least successful!)

•See SPORTS PICKS page 15

Alan Marsh for Town Board

"My wife and I came to Highlands 35 years ago because of its natural beauty and small town atmosphere. I will try to keep the small town charm that we have all enjoyed.

I have attended 95 percent of the Town Board meetings for the last 15 years.

As a member of the appearance commission and planning board I keep up with proposed construction and changes going on in Highlands.

I have a feel for what is going on in our town and I will work for you."



- Member of the Highlands planning board
- Vice President of Highlands Land Trust
- Highlands Visitor Center Volunteer for 5 years
 - Member of Highlands Rotary Club
- Director of Upper Cullasaja Watershed Asso.
- Trustee of the Highlands United Methodist Church

Vote for Marsh on Nov. 4

Paid for by Alan Marsh

Highlands' Newspaper

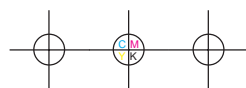
Advertise your business each week in a "fresh package" to 5,000 potential buyers in Highlands, Cashiers, Scaly Mtn., Franklin and Lake Glenville & Sapphire who don't have to buy the paper to see your ad. Advertise in Highlands' Newspaper and get a free link on www.highlandinfo.com

Mill Creek Cottages – In Town



A Highlands Vacation Rentals exclusive

Indoor & outdoor Jacuzzi, screened porches, BBQs, AC, fully equipped kitchens and linens provided – overlooking Mill Creek.



A SCALY MOUNTAIN GHOST STORY

By Barbara Lawrence
Contributor

The wind howled and the rain pounded on his windshield. The road from Highlands was slick and treacherous "What a night this is turning out to be," thought Mike. During the day, this had been a beautiful drive. The fall leaves were in full color, showing themselves off, twirling in the breeze with alternating shades of red, orange and yellow. The mountain air was crisp and clean. He always felt rejuvenated by a trip to Highlands.

At last he came to a small town. He could just read the sign through his rapidly swiping windshield wipers. Scaly Mountain Community. Ahead were the flickering lights of a small gas station. "At last," he thought, "This may be my last chance to get gas tonight." As he walked into Ron's Market, the warmth enveloped him and the owner greeted him cheerfully from behind the counter. "Come on in and have a cup of coffee, it's a

terrible night to be out and about. This is a freak storm, and I was just about to close up."

"You are right. I just came down from Highlands. It's rare for me to be low on gas, and you can't imagine



how relieved I was to see your sign," said Mike.

The owner Ron made Mike a perfect cup of coffee, without even asking how he liked it, and the two men sat and talked about Scaly

Mountain

"This a great little community" said Ron. "The people here are good-hearted and go out of their way to help one another."

By the time he had finished, Mike was contemplating buying a cabin in the area. He paid the owner, and found when he emerged from the gas station the rain had eased up, the coffee had warmed him and the rest of his journey was pleasurable. He listened to the soft music from Highlands Radio as he drove. He actually enjoyed the remainder of his trip back to Georgia.

Arriving home, Mike removed his soggy clothing, and as he pulled out the change from his pocket he noticed that Ron had given him \$100 bill by mistake. He called the store the next day. A cheerful voice announced "Scaly Mountain Hardware."

"Hi," said Mike, "Is Ron there?" There was a pause. "Oh no, this has not been Ron's Gas Station for 20



years now. Actually, it was 20 years ago yesterday that Ron had a tragic accident on the road from Highlands. There was a freak storm, heavy winds and rain and the road was slick from the fall leaves. It was terrible really, because he had only gone to Highlands to collect \$100 from a customer. I'm his granddaughter Claire. You just caught me here today. I am starting at the Community College tomorrow."

Mike looked at the old crumpled \$100 bill. Was it possible that he had safely completed the journey for her grandfather? He smiled as he anonymously enclosed enough money for Claire's two-year tuition. He would look at some cabins in the area on his next trip.

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■ Spiritually Speaking ■



Habits of the Heart

Rev. Kim Tyree Ingram

Scripture: James 1:17-27

Consider the voices that are speaking to us in today's society: TV, newspapers, magazines, movies, music, and the like. What are the primary messages that our contemporary, post-modern culture is teaching us?

A primary ethos of our society is as Walt Mueller says, "The 'I' determines all things ethical. 'I' does what 'I' want to do." We are lacking an objective, transcendent authority outside of self. More often, people will take their beliefs about different things and create their own "religion" or value system based on that. Individualism is valued more than community.

What are the primary things that you value? Consider how you spend your money, your time, and your energy. From where are you learning what to value and how do they follow with what the Bible teaches?

In the scripture listed above, James encourages us to not only hear the word of God but that in order to be faithful, we must be doers. Romans 12:2 says it this way, "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Transformation means to change in character, to change in composition. When we become Christian, we are a new creation. We live differently because Jesus is living in our hearts. Our habits witness to what our heart has heard. Steve Harper wrote about John Wesley, "He learned to be fully engaged in the affairs of life and simultaneously involved in prayer to God."

What are some habits that do not reflect Christ living in your heart? What are some changes that you might make in order that practices of life would follow with the will of God for your life?

Even a passive life of NOT sinning does not equal a life of righteousness. Leonard Sweet describes someone who lives out of their faith as having a "had to" mentality. When someone is asked why they tried something that was difficult, challenging, strange, they can only respond "had-to."

"Had-to" Christians live in a way that brings heaven as present as possible here on earth. As we

■ See SPIRITUALLY page 15

■ 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 – 11 a.m.
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.

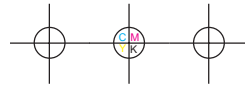
Westside Baptist Church

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.





Re-elect Mike Cavender

Highlands Board of Commissioners

My greatest honor has been to serve the citizens of Highlands for the past 4 years. With your help, I hope to continue representing you in the challenges we face.

Vote for:

- ✓ Experienced, conservative leadership
- ✓ Preserving our natural & cultural heritage as we grow
- ✓ Sound municipal management that respects the taxpayers



Background:

- ✓ Executive director of the Highlands Land Trust
- ✓ Member of Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Club
- ✓ Owner, with wife Paulette Webb, of The Mill Creek Store
- ✓ Board member of the Highlands Biological Foundation
- ✓ Past board member of: Macon County Planning Board, Highlands Chamber of Commerce

VOTE next Tuesday, NOVEMBER 4

Paid for by Mike Cavender

... SIDEWALKS cont. from page 1

Fourth Street beyond Foreman Road; Fourth Street from the Rec Park to Mill Creek; Mill Creek to Maple Street; the walk around HillTop Grill; Pine Street from Fourth to Fifth streets; Fifth Street from Pine to Carolina Way; Fifth Street beyond Carolina Way and portions along N.C. 28.

The committee defined the sidewalk plan as follows:

- Mandatory brick sidewalks on both sides of Main Street from First Street to Leonard Road and on both sides of Fourth Street from Spring Street to Carolina Way on one side and to Maple Street on the opposite side.
- Brick would be red paver brick consistent with current brick used in town. In mandatory brick areas, the running bond pattern will be used consistent with the existing pattern.
- In the commercial district, sidewalk width will be no less than six feet

and seven feet where possible. All other areas a minimum of six feet.

- If significant or historic trees are in the sidewalk right-of-way, then the Town will work around the trees.

- Developers are responsible for sidewalk in front of their building and if a tree has to come out, they must replace it with another.

Members said they would like to see all of the downtown district and the adjoining residential areas sidewalked.

John Cleaveland said it would be nice to be able to walk everywhere comfortably and safely.

"I'd even like to see some lights put up along the way. It gets awful dark out there."

Nix said he will approach the Town Board about sidewalk repairs. If the board gives the go ahead, he will suggest contracting the work out.

grading and drainage. The total package was for \$2,618,340.

A final public hearing on the matter will take place at Monday, Nov. 3 during the MC Commissioners meeting in Highlands. After that, it's a go.

... LETTERS cont. from page 2

nephew. Every person not yet of age is a "kid" Yuk...Maybe our vocabularies need to be expanded. Kid for child, OK, sometimes, but not always. This is just as annoying as Marlboro packs on the roadside.

Here is another case of overuse. The exclamation mark!!! I wish it had never been invented. These pesky punctuation marks are everywhere. It seems that the user of this punctuation mark things the reader cannot decide whether something needs special stress of not, so this decision is made for the reader. I think of them as cigarette butts in the parking lot. Just so much careless litter.

OK, here is another peeve of mine. The misuse of apostrophes is enough to make my skin crawl. We have the name Sanders, which is a name, s and all. One should not put an apostrophe to show ownership before the "s" because "s" is part of the word itself.

Now we have the pronoun "its" to show possession. There is no apostrophe in this word unless it

means "it is." As in it's not for me to say. The dog protected its food.

Apostrophes are often used for no reason whatsoever, as in "The Jones Family loves its new house." No apostrophes, please. The Jones' house is a source of pleasure for the family does require an apostrophe.

How about the word "Their" used with a singular noun like their heart. They love them with all "their" heart. Do they all have only one heart?

Now that these petty problems are off my chest, maybe they won't bother me any more. If some day the word "children" returns to popular use, exclamation marks are saved for true emergencies, and apostrophes are used only when appropriate; their hearts, just as my heart, will become warm with pleasure and satisfaction. I would feel the same relief I feel when the roadsides are stacked with those orange bags full of trash.

**Glenda Bell
Highlands**

... OLD EDWARDS cont. from page 1

ous structures at the complex, the absence of a landscape plan concerned members.

"It's hard for us to envision the whole picture in relation to each structure without a landscape plan," said appearance commission member Ginger Slaughter.

Representatives said a landscape plan was in the works, but it wasn't quite ready.

"But we haven't done anything ugly yet and we're not about to let that happen here," said George with McCarroll Construction.

McCarroll wanted the appearance commission to sign off on the project so it could go to the zoning board for a final OK on Nov. 12.

But the reason commission members consider the landscape plan important is because they find the backside of the proposed buildings objectionable and they are concerned about screening.

"The front looks very charming, but that's not what people other than your guests are going to see from the road," said Commission Chair Linda Clark.

The back of the buildings consists of an 11-foot stuccoed foundation wall which will support two stories.

Though the back of the four-unit

building will be screened by some foliage, commission members were also concerned about the other two multi-unit structures planned for the site whose backs will face N.C. 28 and Spring Street.

Though contractors were only there for approval of the four-unit building, renditions of all three buildings were submitted and seen by the commission.

"I'm not willing to approve this building without knowing what's going on at the other buildings," said Clark. "We want to make sure the overall appearance fits with the town and looks nice and is an asset."

McCarroll representatives suggested incorporating archways or windows in the stucco-base to break up the appearance.

"We'll do whatever you want us to do to dress it up," said George. "We just need approval because we're in a time-sensitive situation."

In the end, the board OK'd the plan contingent upon submittal of a landscape plan proof that architectural "window-dressing" would be added to the back of each structure.

"We want this to be attractive when you drive into town, too. That's our name up there," said McCarroll representatives.





... SPORTS PICKS from pg 10

Perhaps I am overreacting and perhaps I was naïve and different in my desire to wear the blue and gold, but I don't think I am alone. I think there are many former Highlanders whose spirit rises when they see a Highlander in the Asheville paper (or even the Frank-er Macon County News.)

I also think that there are many parents who would love to see more games, but cannot because of work. Even so, those parents who cannot cheer their child on the field can support them off of it.

Maybe we should encourage our children, and when a coach demands more of our children, teach them to meet the demands, rather than run from them.

Hours spent in the gym or on the field are hours that our kids aren't being pressured to do drugs, have sex or cause problems. And while the summer may be time off from school, it isn't time off from the problems of being a kid.

Athletics isn't the solution to every problem, but it can and has helped many young people be successful. How many kids have gone to college on scholarships and obtained degrees?

As I write this, people start rolling their eyes wondering how many HHS kids will play at Duke or Clemson. The answer is: probably none. But ask me how many could obtain degrees from small schools like Montreat, Guilford, North Georgia or Mars Hill? It may not be as glamorous, but the knowledge learned is the same, and it is knowledge that could change someone's life.

Young men and women need this knowledge — they need to know that they can succeed at anything if they work hard enough. They need to know that there will always be an opportunity, but only if they have the guts to sweat a little more, or knock at the door a little harder.

So let's start small — maybe cancel that afternoon appointment or leave a few minutes early so that you can watch the soccer team advance in the state playoffs, or the volleyball team, or the basketball team, or baseball. And don't do it because you feel obliged, or you will feel guilty. Do it because it's fun. I can't think of a better way to spend an afternoon or evening than watching the future — because one day, the future will be the present.

... SPIRITUALLY from pg. 13

pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." When asked why we do what we do, we respond "had-to."

What are some things in your life that you do because it is so impressed upon your heart that you must do it as a response to your faith? What are areas of growth for you in this regard? When the word you hear becomes the things you do and they are like Christ, then as James says, "our religion is pure and undefiled before God." Then we will be blessed in our doing.

• Highlands Eateries & Light Fare •

Bryson's Deli

Breakfast and Hot Lunches everyday.

Made to order sandwiches with

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Daily specials.

Fresh made salad and soups.

Hot dogs - 2 for \$.99

The Best Fried Chicken Anywhere!

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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.

Bryson's Meat Market

We sell only USDA Prime Black Angus and choice meat.

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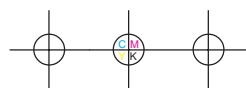
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• Upcoming Events & Activities on the Plateau •

On-going

- The Highlands Rec Dept. is running a special on Fitness Memberships. One year for \$90 per person.

- 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.

- 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 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.

- 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. All classes are held at the Peggy Crosby Center. Email at instanttheatre@earthlink.net

Nov. 7

- The American Red Cross Adult CPR with AED and Infant/Child CPR course will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Macon County Public Health Center Pre-pay and pre-register at the health center by Wed., Nov. 5. For more info, call 349-2439.

Nov. 8

- The Eastern Star is holding a breakfast buffet at the Highlands United Methodist Church from 8-19 a.m. Adults are \$6 and children under 12 are \$4. Proceeds will benefit Eastern Star projects and the HCCDC.

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.

Nov. 9

- Jean-Luc Joillot, the president of the Pommard Winemakers Association in Burgundy, France will be in Highlands conducting a tasting of his fine wines at the Falls on Main. The tasting will include fine cheeses. Seating will be limited to the first 36 reservations. The charge will be \$25

per person or \$45 for two persons. Call Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop at 526-5210 for more details or to make reservations.

Nov. 11

- The film, "The Mystery of George Masa," 7 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street.

Nov. 12

- The "Conservation Easements and Other Land Preservation Techniques" workshop 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ramsey Center at WCU. For more info, call 919-515-3723.

Nov. 14

- Hurricane Creek will be at Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street, Friday, from 8-11 playing "country-fried" rock & blues.

• Obituary •

Essie Mae Owens Talley

Essie Mae Owens Talley, age 94, of Franklin, died Thursday, October 23, 2003 in a local nursing home. She was born in Brush Creek, Ga., the daughter of the late Evan and Dora Brown Owens. She was married 44 years to Walter Monroe Talley who died in 1972. She was a member of the Flats of Middle Creek Baptist Church. Mrs. Talley loved the Lord and loved people. She was a homemaker and gardener.

She is survived by four daughters, Helen Conway of Apopka, Fla., Dorothy Higdon and Hazel Reaves both of Franklin, N.C. and Mary Lou Anderson of Lewisville, Texas; three sons, Harvey Talley of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Raymond Talley of Highlands, N.C., and Homer Talley of Franklin, N.C.; two sisters, Louise Vandiver of Tiger, Ga., and Edna Bryson of Clarksville, Ga.; one brother, Rev. Eldon Owens of Franklin, N.C.

Grandchildren, Cheryl Duncan, Dr. Allen Conway, Jane Nelson, Linda

Dryman, Duane, Danny, and Darin Talley, Tammy Thomas, Phil Anderson, Jr., and Mike Anderson; great-grandchildren, Andy and Madison Conway, Angelina and Kylie Duncan, Kayla, Justin and Brannon Talley.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Oct. 26 at 1 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home with Rev. Charles Hutson officiating. Burial was in the Scaly Mountain Methodist Church Cemetery. Laland Owens, Billy Owens, Horace Owens, Larry Bryson, Gary Bryson, Robert Dryman and Larry Raby served as pallbearers.

The family received friends Saturday from 7-9 p.m. at Bryant Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Higdonville Baptist Church, c/o Harold Rayborn, 1459 Cat Creek Road, Franklin, N.C., 28734.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

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Badges for all MC School employees



Highlands School Principal Jack Brook poses for his badge shot.

At the Oct. 28 school board meeting, school officials debuted the new clip-on badges all employees are required to wear, effective immediately.

Each badge displays the employee's name and title. "School folks know each other but members of the public don't always know everyone in the school," said School Board Chairman Kevin Corbin. "When parents come to the schools, they will know who they are talking to."

Employees in the central office are making the badges with a digital camera, computer software and combo printer/badge maker.

"By doing it ourselves this costs us 19 cents per badge," said Superintendent, Dr. Rodney Shotwell. "It's a considerable savings."

He said it will likely take until December to make badges for all 7,000 Macon County School employees.

Russell Bridge closing decision still in discussion stages

By Kim Lewicki

Though the decision is far from final, there is a slight possibility the Russell Bridge over the Chattooga River at the Georgia/South Carolina line could stay open during repairs.

Construction is set to begin sometime during the fiscal year 2006.

Deputy Commissioner Harold Linnenkohl with the GA DOT answered questions in a letter to Joe Gatins and others dated Oct. 7. The Oct 7 letter was in response to a letter penned by Gatins on Sept. 2.

Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue forwarded the letter to Linnenkohl because "GA DOT is the state agency with the expertise to respond to your inquiry," wrote the Governor.

Linnenkohl wrote: "Our position would be that we would like for the road to remain open during construction. However, we have always qualified that by stating that we must also comply with all of the federal laws and regulations that are in place to protect the valuable natural and historic resources that are in that location. We will continue to work with

all of our Federal, State and local partners in developing this project."

In the impassioned, detailed Sept. 2 letter, Gatins explained how the closing of the bridge would have devastating affects on the day-to-day lives and the livelihood of residents of North Carolina, Georgia and South Carolina.

Referring to two petitions, one with 100 signatures and one with 700, Gatins wrote: "Many of the signatories live in neighboring North and South Carolina and must, by geography, use the Russell Bridge.."

Gatins said citizens went to the highest elected official in Georgia when it appeared previous efforts to dissuade authorities fell on "deaf ears."

DOT has suggested rerouting traffic through a 50-mile detour for at least six months until one lane of the new bridge can opened. Total construction time is about 18 months.

Before the final decision is made, the Federal Highway Administration will hold another public hearing.

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• Police & Fire Report •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of Sept. Oct. 22-29. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

Oct. 22

- At 10 a.m., A motorist at U.S. 64 east and Cullasaja Drive was cited for failure to secure a load.
- At 10:30 a.m., a motorist on U.S. 64 east and Poplar was cited for improper passing.
- At 8 p.m., Homer Patrick Kelly, 26, from Florida, was arrested for driving without a license, or insurance and for possession of drug paraphernalia and a controlled substance. He was released on a \$1,000 bond.

Oct. 23

- At 5:30 p.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 east and Carolina Way for driving without insurance and with a fictitious tag.

Oct. 24

- At 5:30 a.m, officers responded to an incomplete 9-11 call from Kelsey Hutchinson Lodge. All was OK.
- At 8:30 a.m., officers responded to a OnStar Panic Alert from a black BMW car, but it was found empty.
- At 1:50 p.m., a resident reported a sign missing from his property.
- At 4 p.m., a visitor reported losing a backpack.
- At 9:20 p.m., a resident complained about a barking dog.

Oct. 25

- At 9 a.m., officers provided traffic control for the 5-K Run.
- At 8:40 p.m., a motorist was cited for driving without a license and for not putting a youngster in a safety seat in the car.

Oct. 27

- At 11 a.m., a visitor reported losing a cell phone.
- At 1:15 p.m., a motorist reported vandalism to his truck.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the week of Sept. Oct. 15-29.

Oct. 16

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS on Main Street where someone fell.
- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Old Wagon Road. No damage.

Oct. 17

- The dept. responded to an accident on Buck Creek Road. There were no injuries.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS on Main Street. The victim was transported to H-C Hospital.
- The dept. was first-responder to assist EMS at a residence on Rich Gap Road. There was no transport.

Oct. 18

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on N. Fifth Street where someone sustained a football injury. The victim was transported to H-C Hospital.

Oct. 21

- The dept. was first responders to assist EMS at a residence at Highlands Mountain Club where someone fell. The victim was transported to H-C Hospital.
- The dept. participated in a controlled burn on N.C. 28.

Oct. 22

- The dept. helped clean up a mud spill on North Fourth Street.

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New Listing in Highlands Falls Country Club. Enjoy seasonal or year-round living surrounded by trees and the sound of a waterfall in the beautiful rock outcroppings. This immaculate and charming home has three bedrooms each with its own bath. The large screened porch opens off the great room and master bedroom. Many upgrades have been made by the present owners. A decorator's dream and probably the best buy in Highlands Falls.



In Sagee Mountain. Spectacular long range view, great decks, great house for entertaining in one of Highlands' best neighborhoods – Sagee Mountain – with almost two acres of woods in the town of Highlands, two miles from town. \$1,095,000.



Brushy Face. Located on a long private lane, this in-town, four bedroom, four bath is located on 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 two stone fireplaces. A glass room brings in the spectacular vistas to the south and west. Loft and additional family room is great for guests. Offered unfurnished for \$1,395,000.



Cullasaja Cabin. Conveniently located by 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 \$525,000. Club membership available at market rate and subject to club approval.



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, two minutes to a grocery store, large, bright rooms. There are two large 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.



Commercial Possibilities. More than 200 feet of highway frontage on Hwy.64 east with commercial possibilities that include shops, restaurant, B&B, and currently used for apartments with good rental income. Beautiful setting overlooking lake and golf course at Highlands Falls Country Club. Offered at \$955,000.



Equestrian Setting. 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, a large deck. This beautiful almost new mountain home is a great value at \$850,000.



Good Office or Retail Space. Located on 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.



Brand New Home Under Construction. Located on Lot 7B (1.35 acres) in Lake Sequoyah Subdivision, one mile from downtown Highlands. This 3 or 4 bedroom, 3 ½ bath home will have a great view of the lake. The main level consists of nice living room with fireplace, taller ceilings, wood floors and walls, and lots of glass to see the lake. Tastefully appointed kitchen with nice cabinets and appliances. The large master bedroom and bath, with Jacuzzi and shower and his-and-her vanities and a half bath for your guests, complete the main level. The upper floor has two very large bedrooms that share a bath. The lower level's large room with bath would make a great game room or bedroom. City sewer and water serve this home. New paved driveway. Offered at \$489,000.

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