

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 5, Number 41

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Thursday, Oct. 11, 2007

On-going

• Auctions at Scudder's Galleries Monday-Saturday at 8 p.m. Viewing from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 352 Main St.

• Live music every night at 7:30 p.m. and during brunch on Sunday at ...on the Verandah restaurant.

• Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn with Cy Timmons Wed-Sat 6 p.m. until.

• Hal Phillips at the piano at Skyline Lodge and Restaurant on Flat Mountain Road Fri. & Sat. at 6 p.m.

• Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mon, Wed, Thur. \$5 per class.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

Every Monday

• Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.

Every Wednesday

• "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.

Every Thursday

• At Main Street Inn, Lisa Price piano and vocals in the wine bar 6-9 p.m.

• Women's Bible Study at 9:30 am - 11:45 am at Community Bible Church.

Every Saturday

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.

Thurs.-Sunday, Oct. 11-14

• Broadway Melodies at the Playhouse. Thurs-Sun. Call 526-2695.

Friday & Saturday, Oct. 12-13

• Folk Art craft show "Don't Count Your Chickens" 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Highlands Community Center on U.S. 64 east.

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 12-14

• At Acorn's, Mary Louise/Bijoux de Mer Trunk Show.

Friday, Oct 12

• At Cyrano's Bookshop from 3-5 p.m., Stephanie Burt Williams will sign "Haunted Hills: Ghosts and Legends of Highlands and Cashiers, North Carolina" from 3-5 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 13

• At Cyrano's Bookshop from noon to 3 p.m. Sandra Brown will sign "Play Dirty," from 3:30-5 p.m. Ann Sharpsteen will sign "I Walked the Line" the autobiography of the late Vivian Cash.

• Yard Sale at Highlands School to benefit the Junior-Senior Prom.

• At Main Street Inn and Cyrano's Bookshop, Dinner and Walking Ghost Tour, Reservations required. Call 828-5626-2590 or 800-213-9142.

• 25th Annual Highlands Arts & Crafts Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center.

• JMCA Fall Forest Fest. Call 526-9938 ext. 320 to reserve your table for a night of great food, fun, door prizes, raffles and entertainment at HFCC.

Sunday, Oct. 14

• At Cyrano's Bookshop, Jim Melvin will sign 1-3 p.m. "The Pit" from 1-3 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 16

• Leadership Highlands is sponsoring a "Candidate's Forum" at the Highlands Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Restaurant parking plagues ZB

The restaurant parking issue just won't die.

At the Oct. 10 Zoning Board meeting, Carter Bruns, owner of Wild Thyme Gourmet on Carolina Way, requested a Special Use Permit (SUP) to legalize his seat-to-parking ratio in the restaurant.

"I lost spots when Macon

Bank built the new building so I made arrangements to replace the spots," said Bruns. "I replaced all, plus two on the new Macon Bank property and I was under the impression that I replaced two more than I lost."

Wild Thyme is one of the three restaurants in town with

grandfathered allowances to utilize off-site parking to satisfy parking requirements. The others are Fresser's Eatery and Don Leon's Café. However, the zoning ordinance was amended to disallow off-site parking for the purposes of satisfying parking require-

• See PARKING page 16

Greenway right of way discussed

Though the concept of a Greenway Trail through Highlands has been accepted by the Town Board, the realization of the trail is far from finalized.

To construct a walking trail through a municipality, ordinances must be adopted to protect both the Greenway and the property rights of those whose property the trail crosses.

That's the latest issue before the Planning Board.

At the Monday, Oct. 8 meeting, members heard from Greenway Trail board member Hillrie Quin and UNC-Chapel Hill intern Brian Levo concerning proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance concerning greenways.




The amendments mainly concern property setbacks and built-upon ratios that could be affected depending on whether property is donated to the Greenway or considered a dedicated easement.

Regardless of whether an easement or a donation, Quin said all Greenway Trail property would be dedicated to the town.

He also said a donation

• See GREENWAY page 19

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
60-39°F	61-40°F	63-41°F

Gorge Road tractor-trailer near misses continue



Tractor-trailer trucks aren't allowed on the Gorge Road unless they are making a delivery in Highlands. Yet, accidents and near misses continue. See story page 14.

Photo by Megan Lewicki

County's erosion ordinance final

The county's sedimentation and erosion ordinance is finally on the books.

At the Oct. 8 Macon County Commission meeting, commissioners adopted the ordinance which was presented at the September meeting but sent back to the county planning officials for tweaking.

"We've cleaned up the language and made it easier for the public, the contractor and the officer to understand," said Matt Mason, Macon County Erosion Control officer who presented the changes for Macon County Codes Administrator Jack Morgan who

was absent.

In a letter to the board Morgan wrote, "This is easy to read and understand, much more than our existing ordinance. I think most Macon County contractors will agree with us in making this statement. Being easier to read and understand will make a lot of the areas in the existing ordinance that appear as "grey zones" easier to interpret."

Foremost, the reference to "Approved Contractors" has been removed from the ordinance because labeling them as such gave the appearance to the public that

• See EROSION page 27

Boards try to talk things out

Experiencing a meeting of the Macon County Commission and the Town Board of Highlands is like witnessing a dysfunctional family try to communicate.

At a dinner meeting between the two boards held at the Boiler Room in Franklin last Thursday night, discourse which was easy during the small-talk phase, became increasingly strained as the evening progressed with Commissioner Herb James walking out of the meeting.

On the agenda were two issues: county funding of Highlands' recreation department and construction of the municipal solid waste transfer station at the land fill on Rich Gap Road in Highlands.

In a nutshell, neither side knew the whole story about anything – different commissioners on both boards knew pieces of issues which made communication and arriving at a consensus difficult.

County-operated recreation

The never-ending story about Highlands' recreation funding came up as usual. Now into the second quarter of the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the Town Board wanted to know if the county was planning on sending all or a portion of the \$500,000 typically sent.

With County Attorney Lesley Moxley on board, a legal contract delineating the county's and the town's fiscal relationship concern-

• See TALK page 6

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Forrester's column rightly assigns responsibility to husbands and sons

Dear Editor,

I want to thank you for printing the "Spiritually Speaking" article in the Sept. 13 edition of Highlands' Newspaper, by Rev. Sam Forrester of Whiteside Presbyterian Church. People at Community Bible Church noticed the article; in agreement.

We hope you didn't get negative letters.

The subject isn't intended to, nor does it make second-class citizens of our wives.

The message is to put the burden on us husbands to be responsible heads of the family to insure that our wives and families are properly taken care of and that our children (especially sons) are guided in the right direction. Daughters need direction, too, but usually don't create the problems sons do.

Unfortunately, too many families today do not have a husband/father to provide that direction and our society is suffering. Many less responsible, newspapers would not have published the article, but you are commended in doing so. Thank you.,

Walter Stumpff
Highlands

Our soldiers deserve better

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank Colette Clark for her response in Highlands' Newspaper to Ms. Brugger's diatribe on "Soldier Gods" in the Sept. 27 issue. She expressed my feelings very well and those of many others.

For one who "stayed away from politics," Ms. Brugger certainly espouses the liberal view of military history and politics. We hope she will refrain from writing about things she admits she knows nothing about.

I had not heard our military members referred to as "Soldier Gods" until the offensive New York Times ad controversy and Ms. Brugger's fear of a military takeover of our government (whose system she claims to be disgusted with). I'm curious to know what country she thinks has a better system

Jolene Niblack
A military wife in Highlands

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



• LETTERS •

The reasons behind a 'yes' vote for Highlands Library

Dear Editor

On the November 6 ballot is a bond referendum which includes \$3 million to build a new library for the Highlands community. Passing this bond issue will enable the county to build a new library facility that will be owned by the county. The new library will continue to operate as part of the Fontana Regional Library system, as does the present library. While land for the project is not included in the bond initiative, Macon County Manager, Sam Greenwood, recently wrote that: "...the Macon County Board of Commissioners understands its full commitment to the full project including land purchase whenever a site is approved plus additional operating expenses whenever the project is completed."

The Board of Trustees of the Hudson Library strongly urges all citizens to vote "Yes" on November 6 for the bond initiative that will enable the county to build Highlands a new library building designed to meet its future needs.

The Hudson Library, founded in 1884, is one of the oldest public libraries in the state of North Carolina. For most of its history the Hudson Library operated as an independent community library and even though it now operates as part of the Fontana Regional Library system, it still maintains some independence. The library building and the book and media collection housed within it are owned by Hudson Library, Incorporated and a board of trustees supports the library's activities and raises funds for virtually all book and media purchases.

It has been obvious for some time that the Hudson Library needs more room. The library's collection and services have become more diverse with each year and space is at such a premium that adding to the collection often requires that older items be "retired." Interior space is cramped and consumed by books (regular and large print), magazines, and newspapers, the many formats of video and recorded books, computers for local use and internet access, quiet space for reading and research, the children's reading and activity area, offices and work area, and public restrooms.

For more than 20 years the library has shared its building with the Bascom-

• See LETTERS page 43

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please email letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands' Newspaper

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• OBITUARIES •

Connie Jenkins

Connie Jenkins, age 69 of Highlands, NC died Saturday, Oct. 6, 2007 at her residence. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late Harry and Lillian Webb Baty. She was a homemaker and was a seamstress.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Junior Jenkins, four daughters, Ann Jenkins, Cindy Carver and her husband David of Highlands, NC, Angela Passmore and her husband, Tony of Sylva, NC and Holly Higgs and her husband, Regan of Highlands, NC; two sons, Robert Jenkins and Bobby Jenkins and his wife, Brenda of Highlands, NC; one sister, Judy Deal of Highlands, NC; four brothers, Robert Baty of Franklin, NC, Roy Lee Baty and Roger Baty of Highlands, NC, Carl Baty of Westminster, SC. Sixteen grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Shirley Webb.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 2 p.m. at Miller Cemetery with Rev. Jeff Houston officiating. Sam Jenkins, Jimmy Jenkins, Justin Passmore, William Passmore, Wayne Carver, Cory Baldwin, Roy Baty Fredrick Webb and Freddie Webb will serve as pallbearers.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mattie Louise Stiwinter

Mattie Louise Stiwinter, age 75, of Franklin, NC died Friday, October 5, 2007 at her daughter's residence in Jefferson, GA. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late John Wesley and Vergie McLean Fore. She was married to the late Lloyd George Stiwinter who died in 2003. She was a homemaker and a member of Walnut Creek Baptist Church. She was a lifelong resident of Walnut Creek.

She is survived by two daughters, Hattie Bosworth and husband, Jack of Highlands, NC, Diane Collins and husband, Chris of Jefferson, GA; three sons, Grady Stiwinter and wife, Muriel and Willard Stiwinter and wife Cindy all of Franklin, NC, Teddy Ray Stiwinter and wife Ann of Lula, GA.; one brother, Clyde Fore of Hollister, California. Twenty-four grandchildren, forty-three great-grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by two daughters, Gloria Webb and Judy Stiwinter and two sons, Ronnie and Doyle Stiwinter, three sisters, Helen Eubanks, Virginia Fore and Irene Cox; three brothers, Clifford, John Eldon and Esco Fore.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Monday in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home with Rev. Steve Ford and Rev. Jackie Bosworth officiating. Burial will be in the Strain Cemetery. The grandchildren will serve as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Strain Cemetery Fund, c/o Sharon Hunt, 4386 Walnut Creek Road, Franklin, NC 28744. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Harriet "Frissy" McKnight Peden

Harriet "Frissy" McKnight Peden was born in Conway, South Carolina, on August 16, 1944. She died on Oct. 5, 2007. Her parents were Dr. Robert Ross McKnight, Jr. and Harriet Frierson McKnight. She was a graduate at the University of Georgia in special education. Until Frissy was diagnosed with MS in 1982, she taught hearing impaired children in Augusta, GA. She was preceded in death by her brother, Robert Ross McKnight, III and sister, Jacqueline McKnight Hatcher. She is survived by her husband, W. Creighton Peden; son, Paul Taylor York and granddaughter, Kylie Shea York, of Augusta, GA; brother, Philip Taylor McKnight of Atlanta, GA; a sister, Robin McKnight Armstrong, of Eagle River, Alaska; step-daughter Lisa Peden Patzer, grandchildren, Tyler Mark Patzer and Laci Rose Patzer of Atlanta, GA; and step-daughter, Elaine Peden Foster, and grandsons Jason Hollis Foster and Beau Peden Foster of Atlanta, GA.

Frissy and Creighton moved to Highlands in 1990, for the purpose of developing the Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought. For many years, Frissy was subscription manager of the *American Journal of Theology & Philosophy*, which is the official journal of HIAAPT. She also was the photographic historian for HIAAPT. For the past sixteen years, Frissy has served as a volunteer at Head Start in Highlands.

A memorial service will be held at Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands, on Oct. 13, at 1 p.m. In place of flowers, contributions may be made to the *American Journal of Theology & Philosophy* (P. O. Box 2009, Highlands, NC 28741) or to The National Multiple Sclerosis Society (P. O. Box, 4527, New York, NY 10163 or at www.frissy.org).

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Perfect mountain styled home in Highlands Falls Country Club. Vaulted and beamed ceilings in the great room, high quality Kitchen Aid kitchen, separate dining room with wet bar and wine cooler, 2 BR/ 2BA on the main level plus a large family room and a 3rd BR and 3rd BA in the lower walk-out level. A 1 car garage and golf course frontage. \$695,000



Mountain contemporary home in Highlands Falls Country Club. A large great room with lots of glass, extra large vaulted kitchen, wet bar, master suite with attached office, his/ her baths, 2 private guest suites, 2 car garage plus a great deck. Did we mention the gorgeous mountain view? \$865,000.



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Everything I have is shrinking

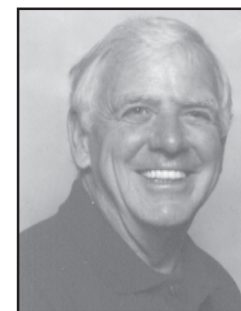
No, no, no, I know what you're thinking! You are bad, bad readers. This is not about that....but it could be. After all, I am a quarter-inch shorter in height than 10 years ago. My muscular arms have shrunk to mush since I left Highlands' cliffs and my six-pack abs have been replaced by the six-pack in the frig. Also, my brain is shrinking as I continue to kill off brain cells with yummy red wine. In fact, the only thing on me that isn't shrinking is my gut. Nature is soooooo cruel.

A friend recently gave me a book titled "Age doesn't matter unless you're a cheese." It's a fun book full of short quips that reminded me that none of us are getting out of this alive. Everything just keeps shrinking until you eventually wind up in an urn. This, of course, is the end shrink. Since there's nothing I can do about it, I have decided not to worry and just shrink away.

Actually, the shrinking I was referring to was my ability to live in the manner to which I am accustomed. I am one of millions of retired Americans living on a fixed income. For those lucky spermers who have never worked and have money flowing in from many sources, like dead Uncle Ted's trust fund, let me tell you that fixed income means you're getting the same bucks this year as you did last year....and the year before.

Fixed income from a pension is good though when you consider I didn't do a lick of work all year to get it. But inflation is eating away and that translates into my income shrinking even though it isn't. Like millions of American welfare recipients sitting around on their butts all day doing nothing, I am allergic to work. I depend on immigrants to do the really hard stuff, like vacuuming and cleaning the toilet.

But the immigrant doing my vacuuming and toilet swish is not on a fixed income because, each year, she asks for more money to do the same work and her income grows and mine shrinks. Eventually I will not be able to afford her and I will be doing her vacuuming, unless, of course, I croak first; a puzzle-



Fred Wooldridge

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Feedback
is encouraged!
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

ment. Did I mention I don't do toilets?

Shortly after my retirement, I sat down with a financial planner to help me figure out how to comfortably survive for the rest of my life. Financial planners are people who pocket huge sums of your fixed income and then tell you that if you live to be 70, you will be broke and have to go back to work. I will never forget his parting words as I left his office. "If you plan well, the last check you

write from your death bed should bounce." My kids cringe when I tell them that.

My fear is that our country will return to the Jimmy Carter era when 18% inflation meant less food in the pantry for my three li'l kids. Fortunately my kids are grown and a return to high inflation would mean my wine and travel budget would shrink. Right now, that's more important than my kids eating.

Here's my dilemma. I come from a long line of geezer genes. All my relatives lived until their late 80s and early 90s.

Unless I am struck by lightning or shot by a reader, I could be around for a while. That's my good news.

My bad news is that I have to figure out how to live in the manner I am accustomed until I croak. I won't be able to work because all my skills are young people skills. How funny is a 70-year-old cop? Or how about if you were to show up for your rappel lesson and find your instructor is 87 with a cane?

Because I only have young people skills, one friend suggested I become a politician but I can't because of strict moral codes; mine, not theirs.

I have a solution but hate to stoop this low. I know a guy in Miami who spends his days standing at a busy I-95 exit ramp with a sign that says, "Why lie? I need a drink." He's knocking down about 300 tax free bucks a day and he doesn't even drink. Hmmm, ya think that would work at 4th and Main Street?

Going home? Read Fred's column all year at:

<http://www.highlandinfo.com/newspaperdownload.htm>

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Our strongest weapon is freedom of expression

Last week I heard a guy declare with pride that no one in his family had attended Columbia University. It was an obvious reference to the university president's decision to invite Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to speak at Columbia.

Ahmadinejad is an unpopular character in the U.S. He is frequently described as crazy for his statements regarding the Holocaust, which he describes as a myth, and the State of Israel, which he suggests should be wiped off the map. Nonetheless, I applaud the decision to provide a forum for him.

The old phrase, "crazy like a fox" fits here. I compare him to Hugo Chavez, both of whom make tremendous capital at home by needling us. A reminder to our leaders, "Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can never hurt me." Nothing furthers their agendas more than reacting to them and providing them with an opportunity to stand up to the American bully, a sure way to achieve hero status at home. Both presidents desire to solidify and expand their regional influence, so "home" extends beyond their national borders. Our condemnation, far from weakening them, enhances their prestige.

President Ahmadinejad was here to address the United Nations. It is an unfortunate fact of geography that to get to the UN, one must pass through the USA. He thought a little sight-seeing might be in order and asked that he might be permitted to place a wreath at "Ground Zero," the site of the attacks on the World Trade Center. His request was rejected. I personally believe that was a mistake, but I think that much of our handling of 9/11 has been flawed.

Columbia University president, Lee Bollinger, who had issued the invitation to speak at the university, sniffed the wind, found the smell of outrage objectionable, and in his introduction declared Ahmadinejad a petty and cruel dictator. I don't believe it appropriate to invite a speaker and promptly ambush him, although it is clear that, like Ahmadinejad, Bollinger was playing to his audience.

Let their be no doubt that the utterances of the Iranian leader are offensive to most of us outside the Muslim world. His statement about the Holocaust is patently absurd. Yet, I think that we would have been the losers had opponents succeeded in blocking his appearance. I



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

don't suppose that the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of speech for foreign visitors, but I believe that we should act as if it did. We should demonstrate that we fear no ideas. If a position has merit, we should consider it. If not, we can quickly and decisively reject and discredit it. It is unfortunate that we grant freedom of speech for those who agree with us, and withhold it from those who offend us.

I'm not suggesting any involvement by the federal government. I mention the constitution because I believe that the first amendment provides an excellent guide to civil life in this country. We need not fear the ranting of this or any merchant of hate. We benefit by exposing his statements to international scrutiny. His Muslim audience already has full access to his venom, through television, the Internet, and the mosque. The historical record of the Holocaust can withstand assault without the aid of a muzzle. We may fear the suicide bombers and the road side bombs of our enemies, and shudder at the thought of another attack on the homeland. But we have no reason to fear their message, no reason to shout down the messenger.

We must engage our potential foes, use the tools of diplomacy and persuasion. We gain nothing by bundling nations as an "Axis of Evil," and by refusing to negotiate with them without unacceptable preconditions.

The Bush administration, not unlike Chavez or Ahmadinejad is playing to the home audience. I would rather that we reach out to those in the Muslim world who are potentially receptive to our message of freedom than attempt to control our own population by vilifying those whose beliefs differ from ours.

We cannot win the war on terror militarily. We cannot battle stateless Islamists by invading nation states. As long as fundamentalist Islam attracts Muslim masses, the terrorists will find an inexhaustible supply of warriors. Economic development, prosperity, education, equality, justice, religious freedom and representative democracy are the enemies of fundamentalist Islam and its bastard step child, terrorism.

Our strongest weapons remain the ideals developed by our founding fathers. Of these, freedom of expression is possibly the most important. We can afford to extend it to Ahmadinejad.

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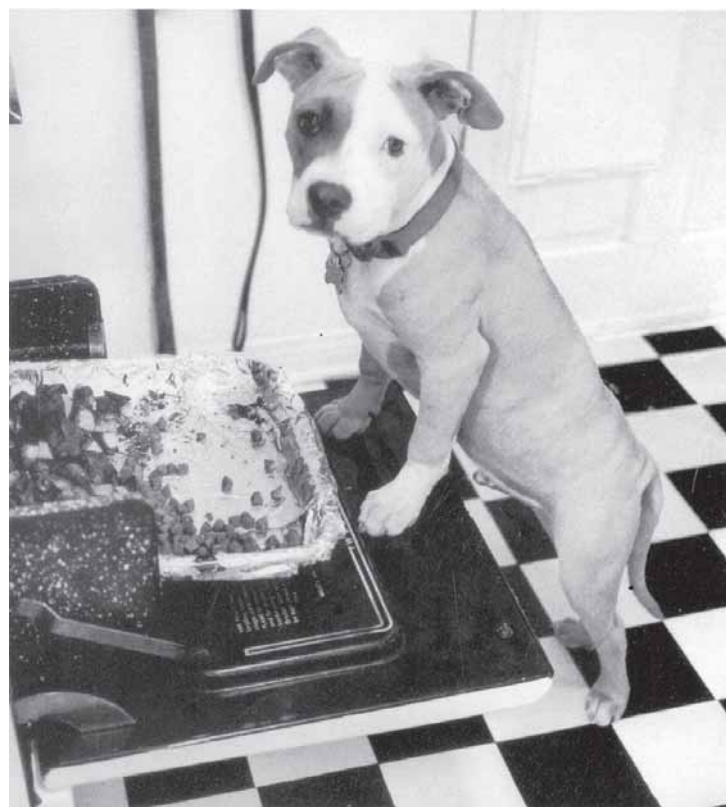
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... TALK continued from page 1

ing recreation through 2006-2007 was produced, signed and the due amount was allocated to the town.

But a similar contract has not been produced for fiscal year 2007-2008 because the county was waiting to see if the town wanted the county to take over its recreation operations.

"The \$500,000 usually allocated is in a reserve fund pending negotiations with Highlands about the new county recreation plan," said County Manager Sam Greenwood.

Since there are so many questions concerning the new agreement, the Town Board wants to take it slow.

"Is there an urgency to take over the town's facilities and operations?" asked Mayor Pro Temp Amy Patterson. "Can you pay us to date what we've spent on operations while we decide what we want to do?"

Eventually, the board agreed to enter into the same contractual arrangement for 2007-2008 but a new contract for the current year is pending. Once it is produced and signed, the county will send the town funds for either year-to-date expenses or all the money, if the town wants to wait until

next year to come under the county's recreation umbrella, said Greenwood.

After much discussion, the Town Board learned that the county doesn't consider the Performing Arts Center part of the town's recreation facilities but does consider the Rec Park, Pine Street Park, The Greenway, the baseball field and the fields on Buck Creek Road, Highlands recreation and as such could be operated by the county under the new scenario.

Since the town owns its facilities and the county only wants to take over operations and not expenses for capital improvements or expansion, the Town Board wanted to know how such expenses might be funded since recreation in Highlands isn't an enterprise fund.

"You said you wanted us to rent the facilities to you for \$1 a year, but what about maintenance and capital improvements? That shouldn't be subsidized by the taxpayers of Highlands," said Commissioner Patterson. "Furthermore, if the county expands facilities in town and on town property, how does that work? Without rent money for use of our facilities we'll need

money for capital improvements and maintenance."

Commissioner Patterson said due to folks perspective concerning the relationship between the county and the town, "I'm not sure our citizens will be willing to give the county our recreation facilities," said Patterson. "Giving away assets is a pretty big deal."

Attorney Moxley said in North Carolina there are various ways to handle costs associated with ownership between municipalities and counties without one entity turning over ownership to another.

"There are interlocal agreements where there are employees of one unit or another; where you define who owns what facilities; where a joint-recreation agency is formed and then the facilities are turned over to the agency which is accountable to both units of government. A long-term lease is another possibility where it is delineated who owns what," she said.

Moxley said the town's long-held opinion that PARTF regulations concerning use and ownership curtail any change concerning Highlands' recreation property isn't completely true.

"It's my experience that PARTF will work with you on this," she said.

After Commissioner Jim Davis learned that the town let all citizens use its facilities and not just town of Highlands residents, and since the Town Board appeared to be completely satisfied with recreation offerings as they now stand in Highlands, he questioned the need for the county to take over recreation at all. "If it's not broke, why fix it?" he asked.

Greenwood said that a county-run recreation department in Highlands would ensure the same recreational opportunities in Highlands as other places in the county. "The recreation study indicated that we could achieve a much higher level of recreational opportunities county-wide into the future," he said. "It may take 10 years of work and funding, but it has to be county operated."

Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station State regulations have changed the way the county disposes of its waste – both garbage and construction and debris. Come July 1, 2008 the land fill burial operations on Rich Gap Road will change.

Currently, J&B Disposal contracts with the county to haul the entire county's construction and debris (C&D) to the landfill on Rich Gap Road where it is buried.

• See TALK page 7

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... TALK continued from page 6

Since the trucks are empty going down, as a courtesy to the town, the county pays J&B to take Highlands' garbage, both the compacted municipal waste from within the town limits and the bagged garbage dropped off at the county's convenience centers by Highlands Township residents.

The estimated combined cost to upgrade the landfill from a its current "dump" status where garbage and construction debris is buried to two transfer stations – one for C&D and one for the town's municipal solid waste (MSW) is \$1.2 million.

The county is willing to pay for the C&D transfer station because C&D is a by-product of the construction industry which employs many of its citizens and which is a key component of Highlands' industry.

"A tremendous amount of C&D is generated in Highlands and Scaly so we're doing this as a convenience to the citizens, but also because the new C&D transfer station will pay its way with fees and charges," said Greenwood.

However, the county isn't willing to pay for the MSW transfer station which is solely needed and used by the Town of Highlands and that bothers the Town Board.

"We realize the C&D transfer station is a convenience so people don't have to haul their C&D all the way to Franklin. But the county doesn't operate a garbage collection system, the town does," said Greenwood.

Everywhere in the county except Highlands, residents and companies either contract with J&B Disposal for garbage pick-up or they take their garbage to the convenience centers where the county contracts with J&B to haul it to the landfill in Franklin.

The C&D transfer station is estimated to cost \$700,000. The MSW transfer station is estimated to cost \$475,000. "The county can't afford to build both the MSW and the C&D transfer stations. As it is now, the landfill operation pays its way through tipping fees."

Patterson said the town pays tipping fees to the county, too, but Greenwood said the county hasn't been charging the town tipping fees for its municipal waste. "J&B brings C&D up for burial in the landfill and hauls the town's MSW down at no charge to the town," he said. "J&B pays the tipping fees."

Commissioner James contended that all of this is an extension of the county's solid waste system. "You wouldn't have anything if it weren't paid for with Highlands' tax dollars," he said. "We're the high taxpayers."

Greenwood said the landfill has to be reworked into one or two transfer stations because the county simply can't afford to operate two landfills per the new standards which go into effect July 1, 2008.

Since the town's garbage is "compacted" in garbage trucks it is considered "co-mingled" and as such an elaborate sewer and disposal system would be required per new state standards. Bagged garbage doesn't

"co-mingle" with other garbage and leakage and contamination aren't issues.

Commissioner Patterson said the town would like to participate but would like to share the expense of the MSW transfer station with the county. "We don't think it's entirely our responsibility," she said.

But MC Commissioner Ronnie Beale said the town of Highlands is profiting from and providing a service to its residents within the town limits. "You don't have to meet the new state standards, but then you'll have to haul your garbage to the Macon County landfill."

Commissioner Hank Ross said he could see both sides of the argument but still asked if the county and the town could split the cost of the MSW transfer station down the middle.

Commissioner Davis said the county has an obligation to Highlands, but it seems the town doesn't have an obligation to the county. "We are providing this service to the Highlands area, the same as everyone else. So we already are paying for part of it," he said.

Meanwhile, Commissioners Alan Marsh and James expressed the highest amount of dissatisfaction with the discussion.

Some months ago, they met "unofficially" with Commissioners Charlie Leatherman and Ronnie Beale about the situation and came away from that meeting with the understanding that the county would foot the entire bill for the MSW transfer station. They became dissatisfied when they learned that wouldn't be the case.

Commissioners Leatherman and Beale verified that the four of them had met, and had potentially agreed "for the sake of good will," said Leatherman, to consider paying for the project, because Leatherman and Beale understood that Highlands didn't have the money to pay for the project.

But after speaking to Greenwood and learning that Highlands not only had the funds but had already budgeted for the project, Leatherman said he and Beale felt the town should pay.

Greenwood said he'd be glad to work with the town concerning financing of the project. "It might be better to fund with capitalize financing instead of taking the \$475,000 out of town coffers," he said. "This way it's paid over a number of years and not all at once."

No finite action was taken at the meeting accept that both boards agreed they should meet more often. – **Kim Lewicki**

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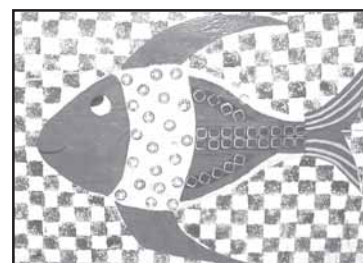
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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

A Perfect Mess

How many times have I gone to someone's home and they pled with me to "please ignore the mess," and how many times have I said it myself when someone dropped by? How often have I felt guilt because I can't keep my desk straight? Many of us feel shame and embarrassment about being messy.

I am a very organized person by nature. Right now I'm looking at a sign I put up by my computer: "Self-discipline is the easy way." I get angry when I lose something — I have learned it takes less energy to put something back where it belongs than to have to search for it later. More generally, you could say that a small amount of energy invested now pays off large dividends in the future. Yet I still have two very messy desks that I just can't seem to keep straight.

When I saw this new book at the library, I couldn't resist the title, *A Perfect Mess*. The subtitle is a good one-line description of the contents: "The hidden benefits of disorder." The author's main thesis is that our culture has developed a mania about order and that we would all be much better off if we relaxed a little and realized that not only is perfect order too costly to achieve, there are actually advantages to being (a little) messy.

I already felt better about my desks after reading the first page of chapter one which starts with this quote by Albert Einstein: "If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what then, is an empty desk?"

The authors, a professor of business and a business journalist, investigate mess in many areas of life — at home, at work, in art, in thought. They also categorize types of people, for example the "mess terrorist" who inflicts mess on others to achieve personal advantage, and the "orderly procrastinator" who avoids accomplishment by endlessly reordering her desk.

By "mess" the authors mean disorder in a system. Some of the benefits of mess are flexibility and invention. Any endeavor that involves creativity — which is in fact almost every area of life — benefits from not being rigidly ordered.

There are many fascinating examples of productive messiness in the book. My father lives near Case Western University and last spring when I visited I was startled by the sight of a fantastic building on the campus made of gleaming curves



Katie Brugger
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of steel with lines all askew. This building shows up in the book as an example of the inventiveness that comes from disorder. Architect Frank Gehry built a model and expected the contractors to work from that — there were no blueprints. The contractors were appalled at first but "freed from the constraints of blueprints, rigid

specification and standard operating procedures, the contractors and architects were able to collaboratively rethink the design and construction techniques." In addition to a stunning building many innovations resulted, including a new technique for framing curving interior walls. I recommend looking at some photos of this building: [www.case.edu, search site for "gehry."](http://www.case.edu/search/site/gehry)

I learned something interesting about classical music in the chapter about the aesthetics of mess. "In the 18th century improvisation was regarded as an integral component of serious music. The opportunity — the imperative, really — for improvisation was explicitly written into baroque compositions." Cello, bassoon, organ, and other low-range instruments only had chords written for their parts; the players were expected to come up with the individual notes. Concertos contained cadenzas that were the cue for the soloist to improvise. Even when notes were specified musicians routinely threw in flourishes around the notes, "and the ability to spontaneously insert such ornamentation was considered a basic element of musicianship."

The authors are dismissive of the huge industry devoted to helping people get more organized. Basically, they say you pay a personal organizer thousands of dollars to do two things: to make you carve out time to deal with your mess, and to force you to throw out stuff. Most people are pack-rats — it is probably an evolved survival strategy that has outlived its usefulness in our consumer society — so this is the area most of us need help in. But the amount we do manage to throw away is scary: "According to a study conducted by the Gartner Group, Americans place 133,000 PCs in the trash every day."

The authors are also somewhat dismissive of developing systems to organize life, such as a magazine's suggestion that people in a household

• See BRUGGER page 42

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• HIS & HERS •

A Toe-Tapping Good Time

As often as possible, I share time well-spent with America's greatest humorists and philosophers. This week it is Mark Twain and Thomas Sowell. That combination is not as odd as it first seems.

Philosophers dig down to basics, to find and state the truth. Think about it, humorists do the same, but faster. Humor is truth by surprise.

Mark Twain wrote: "When I arrived in Virginia City, there were 11 saloons, five jails, and some talk of building a church. It was no place to be a Presbyterian, and I did not remain one long." In those two sentences, he tells three different stories.

One is the truth about the wild West. There was nonstop drinking, gambling, fighting, and running around with loose women in the mining camps of the American West. All that is referenced briefly but effectively. The second story is the somewhat priggish nature of the Protestant churches of his day. He wasn't picking on just the Presbyterians. The third, and most interesting point is that Twain was not entirely displeased with the rough and ready life he found in that frontier town.

Right now, I'm reading Thomas Sowell's "A Conflict of Visions." I recommend it highly to everyone. The book is about differences in conclusions about society, based on people's assumptions about human nature.

The subject sounds incredibly dry, but in Dr. Sowell's hands, no subject is dry. He writes about the most complex subjects with a breathtaking simplicity and clarity. Reading his work is like looking through a cold mountain stream at the bright pebbles at the bottom.

The connection between Twain and Sowell is here: Late in his life, tragic events turned Twain to a darker vision, and more sardonic remarks. He wrote, "Let me write a nation's customs, and I care not who writes its laws."

Twain states here a basic truth about both human nature and politics, with which Sowell fully agrees. Laws which run against the customs of a



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nation will always fail. The question is only how soon and how badly. Prohibition is the classic example. In a moralistic uprising, we wrote Prohibition into the Constitution. More than two decades later, filled with speakeasies, bathtub gin, gangsters and public corruption, we threw

Prohibition out.

Consider the politically correct speech codes sanctimoniously established by entirely too many universities. Among the activities prohibited are jokes about various groups. I'll cut to the chase. The groups in society that you can still make fun of are whites, males, and lawyers. So, feel free to fire away at me.

Stern pronouncements of professors will not stamp out jokes. It will only make the professors into jokes themselves. But then, if academic prigs could understand jokes, they would not be prigs in the first place. Since the supply of politically incorrect humor does not need to be imported by bootleggers, every college dormitory on such a campus is automatically a speakeasy.

Here's a general rule I recommend to all. "Don't trust anyone who can't take a joke." That's especially true of jokes about ourselves and our own views. People who cannot laugh at themselves lack perspective to understand the views and beliefs of other people.

As Dr. Sowell writes so eloquently, advanced societies develop a collective wisdom over the centuries. Twain recognized that in his quip about customs.

Given the title and the subject, you probably thought I was going to comment on Larry ("Wide Stance") Craig, soon to be the former senator from Idaho. I could have written at length that I used to respect him. That he has demonstrated boundless hypocrisy, dishonesty, and egotism. That he has been surrounded so long by so many staff who tell him he can walk on water he thinks he can get away with anything, any time.

My wife says simply. "Larry Craig
• See HIS & HERS page 42

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Ding Dong...the (expletive deleted) are dead

After 13 years of striking fear in the hearts of everyone outside the greater New York area, the New York (gulp...I can actually type it now) Yankees died Tuesday, causes of death still have yet to be determined.

By the time that you read this, it is likely that Joe Torre will no longer be the manager of the New York Yankees. It is even more likely that after Torre is dismissed, free agents Mariano Rivera, Bobby Abreu, Andy Pettite and Alex (I do all my best work in garbage time) Rodriguez will no longer be wearing the pinstripes and the Yankees will enter a mode not seen in years...rebuilding. (I didn't even mention Roger Clemens, because I figure not even the Yankees can justify paying a guy 15 million dollars to get SHELLED when they can easily pick up Tony Armas to handle that duty.) I never would have dreamed that the demise of the Yankees would have occurred like this.



Ryan Potts
tyanpotts@hotmail.com

their dynasty on the backs of homegrown players such as Derek Jeter (who by the way sucked just as bad as A-Rod this postseason, but will get none of the blame) Andy Pettite, Mariano Rivera and Jorge Posada. The Yankees then added role players like Scott Brosius and Mike Stanton to build a team that murdered people with their patience at the plate and quality bullpen. However, with the success of their own

TV network and mountains of cash-owner George Steinbrenner figured that he would be better off overpaying for veteran players and building an all-star super team that could dominate. Unfortunately for George (and fortunately for the rest of us) he never realized that the key to winning the postseason in baseball is to have quality starting pitching (particularly young power pitchers) that can shut down stars in October.

If you will note the trend in the last couple of years, the teams that make the World Series have two or three stud starting pitchers that can neutralize powerful lineups. Thus, the Yankees have been beaten the last 5 or 6 years by teams that had the starting pitching to handcuff their lineup of power hitters and make Mariano Rivera a non-factor out of the bullpen. Don't believe me? Look at these names; Randy Johnson, Curt Schilling, Josh Beckett, Justin Verlander, Carl Pavano, Mark Beuhrle, Pedro Martinez and John Lackey all made their names by their performance against the Yankees in the postseason. By overspending on veterans, the Yankees spelled their doom and in turn brought joy to the hearts of everyone else in America.

So where do the Yankees go from here (Tampa Bay anyone)? The answer lies with GM Brian Cashman, who has made some progress building up their farm system, and will likely go with a youth movement in the Bronx. However, without Torre and his masterful abilities at handling the New York media, it is likely that we have seen the last of the Yankees in the playoffs-for a short while anyway. Unfortunately, much in the same way that Freddy Kreuger, Jason, Chucky and Michael Myers (who used to pitch for the Yankees by the way) always come back, it is only a foregone conclusion that they will return one day. Damn Yankees.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

On the road again...

As I have mentioned from time to time, I have had an increasingly difficult time being inspired to find a meaningful topic for this column. This is due largely to my not getting out of town since my medical misstep, however my son's wedding in South Florida put an end to that. What does getting out of town have to do with anything? Talk-radio produces a great deal of the fuel that stimulates my fertile, if feeble, brain and talk-radio is not easily accessed where I live.

Can you imagine my delight when I tuned in the other morning to find out that the rest of the world was in the middle of a vigorous battle of words about, if you can imagine, talk-radio.

Briefly, as I am able to put it together last week, Rush Limbaugh, Godfather of talk-radio and generally accepted spokesperson for the conservative movement, made a comment about a poster boy of the left, an alleged soldier who had served in Iraq and had come home with sordid stories about American atrocities. He was immediately embraced by the media and his story was broadcast far and wide. It was shortly learned that he washed out of boot camp after 44 days, had never served as a ranger, as he claimed, had never been to Iraq and had never seen the atrocities he had claimed to have witnessed.

Limbaugh labeled him and others like him as "phony soldiers." Well, after the Patraeus debacle, the liberal media had to create a distraction, so an outfit called Media Matters, A Soros financed, Hillary-inspired organization spread the word that Rush had said that any member of the military who didn't agree with Bush's execution of the war was a "phony soldier." Anyone who has listened to Limbaugh for any length of time knows he is a staunch supporter of the military and would never denigrate real military personnel, no matter what they thought.

This whole fraudulent matter came to the floor of the Senate where Tom Harken and others castigated Limbaugh for saying what he never said, but what Media Matters said he had said. The nitwit Harry Reid wrote a letter to Rush's co-boss

Clear Channel Communications, trying to force him to apologize for his remarks.

He could only get 41 Senators to



Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged. Email
swansonson@dnet.net

sign and it fell flat. Clear Channel suggested that Reid should find something better to do with the Senate's time (or words to that effect).

What is actually happening here? Hillary knows that talk-radio is the strongest opposition to her coronation and wants it silenced. Since Rush is the icon of talk-radio, go after him. The liberals would love to revisit the "fairness

doctrine," that requires some sort of balance in talk-radio presentations. Well, they've had Air America, a liberal talk-radio show that failed miserably, they've had the television network news channels plus CNN plus MSNBC plus the New York Times, the Washington Post, the LA whatever it is and almost all the print media in their pocket for years, and now they want equal time on talk-radio?

The problem the left has with talk-radio is who wants to hear their depressing

goings on about what's wrong with America, it's all our fault, we're the bad guys, they are the good guys, blah, blah, blah. Nobody wants hear it, that's who. The libs burn at the thought that Rush is broadcast on the military radio network, and would love to sever that connection. Their problem is that the military wanted to hear his show, and that they know that Limbaugh has always been on their side and is now, contrary to the distortion Media Matters has spun.

Now the real serious issue being raised through all this mess is why United States Senators are condemning a private citizen who happens to be a talk show host on the floor of the Senate? The term "Stalinist" is being used to describe the act of the government attempting to bully him silent. Regretfully, we learn that the House of Representatives spent a good part of the other night in the same manner.

Have you noticed that nearly every political issue these days has Hillary somewhere in the mix. She is running a brilliant campaign on many fronts and is making the competition look like amateurs. She has her "character assassination"

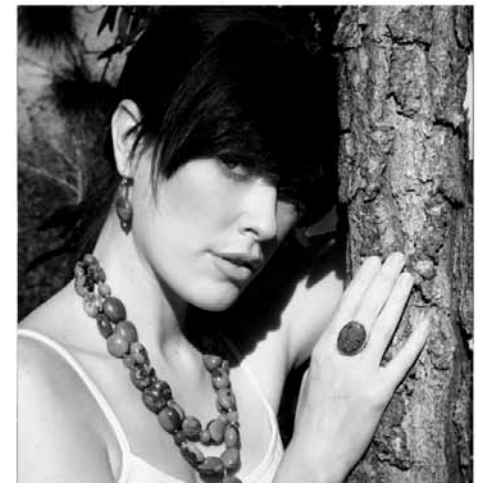
team in place and nobody who stands in her way is safe. She may have chosen the wrong target this time. It looks like Rush is coming out of this one smelling like a rose.

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• VIDEO GUY •

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Stuart of
The Movie Stop

The Storyline: Ten-year-old Jess Aarons (Hutcherson) is an awkward, angry and shy kid, living in a poor family, and is used to being picked on. 10-year-old Leslie Burke (Anna Sophia Robb) is the new girl at Jess' school, and is about to get used to being picked on.

After an awkward beginning, the two do indeed become friends, and use their vivid imaginations to create a fantasy world, Terabithia that is more pleasant and fun than their own real lives. As the friendship and their new world expand, their own lives fall a bit more in place

and they both become more comfortable at school and home, dealing with their own real world problems, encountering a few other peoples problems, and on occasion, solutions. Which is a good skill to pick up, because before the story is over, Jess will have some big issues to face.

A very good film, sweet without being sacherine, a few breif slightly scary parts, mostly suitable for the whole

family (although, without giving away any of the plot progression, there are some serious and tear jerking issues that unfold). Oddly, all the previews I saw seemed to indicate it was special effect driven, but really, the animation/special effects are impressive but minimal (it had an 80 million dollar production budget, not huge by some movie studio standards) and only incidental to the story. The story includes elements of a buddy film, a coming of age story, and a genuine drama, and it is a good representation of all three.

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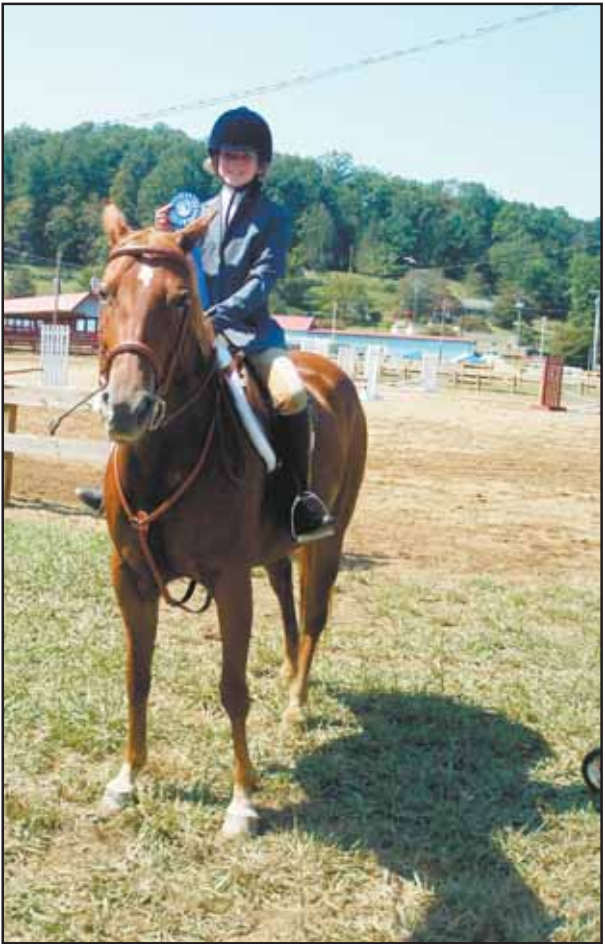
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Davis wins 10 first-place ribbons a show

Gemma Davis is shown here with her horse, Voltaire's Candide, and a first-place ribbon from the Macon County Horse Association Show at the Fairground on Sunday, Sept. 16. Gemma rode three different horses in the show and finished with 10 first-place ribbons, including English Pleasure Champion. All her classes were in the English discipline, with two jumping events.

Gemma has been training with Kristen Chlupacek at Dillard House Stables since October, 2006. This was her second horse show. Gemma is a 12-year-old homeschooler. Her proud parents are Dinah and Carter Davis of Highlands.



Varsity VB headed to conference



Senior Danny Puchacz serves the ball at the Hiawassee game Tuesday night. Highlands lost 3-0 but their overall is 4-2. The first conference game is at Blue Ridge Monday, Oct. 15.

Photo by Debbie Hornsby

• A REVIEW •

"Broadway Melodies"

The Highlands Playhouse's last show of the 2007 season "Broadway Melodies" is one of those feel-good productions.

It's not full of razzle dazzle but it is full of good-hearted singing delivered by strong singers with polish.

Two of the four-member cast have performed at the Playhouse in the past – Laine Binder who was in "The North Platte Canteen" and "Jerry's Girls" and Alli Simpson who also performed in "The North Platte Canteen."

New to the Playhouse stage but not to musical performances are Taylor Driskill and Kathleen McCook.

The four perform 30 songs from Broadway – some old, some new, some as a group, some alone — but always accompanied by pianist daMon Goff and percussionist Drew Simpson

The solo performances capitalize on the performers strong points. Laine does a great rendition of "Always a Bridesmaid;" Taylor does a hilarious take on "Taylor the Latte Boy; Kathleen, whose energy doesn't stop, epitomized "Raise the Roof," and Alli delivers thought-provoking pieces like "I Dreamed A Dream."

People leaving the performance were heard saying "That show makes you feel good." And it does.

Spend an evening or an afternoon with the four ladies of Boardway at The Highlands Playhouse, Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 11-14. Call 526-2695 for tickets or reservations.

– Kim Lewicki

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Highway Patrol needs to hear of near misses, not just accidents on Gorge Road

By Sally Hanson
Reporter

For both visitors and residents, traveling US 64/28 between Franklin and Highlands, also known as the Gorge Road, is often a considered necessary evil.

Tourists use the road to get to Highlands and to visit waterfalls like Bridal Veil Falls, and residents make the trek down the mountain to Franklin for shopping and other activities.

According to www.ncroads.com, the portion of US 64 that runs through the Gorge is very similar to the way it looked when it was first constructed during the 1920s. The one major difference is that the road itself originally ran underneath Bridal Veil Falls, until it was rerouted to its present location in front of the falls in the late 1950s early 1960s.

After originally being dismissed as impossible, the proposed road was planned in 1925 and undertaken by project engineer John Smith and superintendent T. Brewster from Asheville, according to www.chicora.org. Using air compressors, wagon drills, a steam shovel, farm wagons, 14 mules, and two horses, workers — many residents of Highlands — completed the road sometime between 1928 and 1929.

The Gorge has probably been a source of road rage for everyone at one point or another. Dump trucks coming from Franklin to Highlands slowly make the climb with lines of drivers behind them, who hope they will pull off and let the traffic go by. In the winter, black ice from the water that drips down the rocks, creates an early-morning hazard for those heading to Franklin. There have even been rock slides and fallen trees that have blocked the road, holding up drivers heading to work.

But the main problem facing travelers of The Gorge Road is tractor-trailers also called 18-wheelers using the road. The last thing drivers want to see is the front end of a semi-truck coming around any of the curves on the winding road particularly at the steepest, curviest part. But it happens, all the time.

Sgt. Charles McMahan of the NC State Highway Patrol, said it is illegal for semi-trucks to use The Gorge Road to get to places that can be reached via other routes, such as Highway 107 from Jackson County to Cashiers.

But 18-wheelers can use the Gorge Road if their destination is Highlands.

"It's just a case where businesses have to be served," he said. Signs are posted in Franklin and in Highlands warning trucks of the narrow curves and mountain terrain,

but as many residents know, drivers don't always heed these warnings.

Sgt. McMahan said that so far there have been three accidents involving tractor-trailers in The Gorge this year. "I don't know how much of a problem there is with these trucks traveling the road," he said. "We do not have large numbers of accidents involving these trucks."

Far more than accidents are near misses. Most people who travel the road on a regular basis have had near-misses while passing these trucks. Sometimes there are only inches between a car and the tractor-trailer which is usually going too fast and is way out of its lane.

Besides potential accidents and near misses is the wear and tear 18-wheelers inflict on the road, as well as the potential for two semi-trucks meeting each other at a curve.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is a part of the Department of Transportation, and its mission is to reduce the amount of accidents and injuries related to large trucks and buses. Sgt. Johnson of the FMCSA out of Asheville said that the maximum weight for trucks traveling the Gorge Road is 80,000 pounds.

However, according to the FMCSA's website, this is the maximum weight for all roads, and it doesn't take into account any special considerations. Additionally, there are restrictions on the amount of weight that can be carried depending on the number of axles the vehicle has.

"The maximum gross weight upon any one axle, including any one axle of a group of axles, or a vehicle is 20,000 pounds," and "the maximum gross weight on tandem axles is 34,000 pounds," according to the FMCSA website. With the number of dump trucks and other construction vehicles that travel the Gorge Road, one has to wonder if the dips and cracks in the road last paved in the spring of 2000 are the result of too much weight.

Officials say the problem with enforcing the rules is a manpower issue. The Gorge Road is out of the jurisdiction of both the Highlands and Franklin police, and Sgt. Johnson said while any state trooper can enforce the laws associated with the road, "we are stretched pretty thin."

When asked if larger vehicles like mobile homes or recreational vehicles were allowed through the Gorge, Sgt. Johnson said that they are permitted if they are routed via US 64. Sgt. Johnson also said that the restrictions for trailer length for trucks that travel the road don't allow trailers over

• See GORGE ROAD page 43

In honor of 'Miss Rooster'



Betty Fisher, and students, Colby and Abbi, and Highlands School Media Center Director look over books that Fisher donated to the Media Center in memory of Mrs. Ruth Parrish, fondly known as "Miss Rooster" to many, many children over the years. Every Wednesday for years, Miss Rooster was the storytime reader in the library to various classes. Fisher wanted to remember Ms. Rooster purchased several books that "Miss Rooster" might have read to the children.

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• JMAC NEWS •

Saving the Cheoah Hemlock

Thanks to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, the Jackson Macon Conservation Alliance and volunteer arborists Will Blozan and Jason Childs of Appalachian Arborists, the magnificent Cheoah hemlock tree, located on the Henry Wright tract, adjacent to the Kelsey tract, east of Highlands is being protected from the ravages of the hemlock woolly adelgid.

The Cheoah hemlock, located on H-C Land Trust Property, is 158 feet tall and has a girth of 16 feet. It is the third largest Eastern Hemlock listed on the southeastern inventory of hemlocks according to Will Blozan who previously measured the tree as part of an inventory he has conducted of Eastern Hemlocks.

While at the site, the foliage of the tree was observed to be healthy and with periodic re-treatment should remain so for years to come. Other trees nearby were assessed and

several were flagged by Gary Wein of the H-C Land Trust for treatment in the near future

This cooperative effort was planned as part of J-MCA's Adopt-a-Tree project. The initiative is focused on saving important representatives of the hemlock species with chemical treatment. J-MCA supplied the insecticide for the Cheoah treatment and conducted the outing with the H-C Land Trust and Appalachian Arborists.

Hemlock trees are rapidly declining throughout their native range. The H-C Plateau is no exception. Protecting hemlock trees from the ravages of the hemlock woolly adelgid through cooperative efforts like this project will assure that representatives of the species are preserved.

To help protect important hemlock trees and participate in JMAC's Adopt-a-Tree program, call 828 526-9938 x 256 or e-mail jmca@dnet.net.

... PARKING continued from page 1

ments.

At the July 12, 2006 Zoning Board meeting, the board allowed Wild Thyme's relocation of the off-site parking to six spaces on the Crosby family's property behind the restaurant and two at Macon Bank..

The Zoning Board consented to the relocation but the action was never documented with a SUP as required.

Town staff inspected the new off-site parking spaces on the Crosby property and though three of the spaces don't comply with the 10-foot width for unpaved spots, the alternate design was approved in lieu of cutting down two large trees.

At the Sept. 13, 2006 Zoning Board meeting, Brun, as represented by Attorney Zeke Sossomon, requested a variance to increase his seating to 54 seats. The variance was denied but Brun said he was told by Sossomon that the former Zoning Administrator had told Sossomon Brun was permitted 54 seats.

However there is no paperwork or minutes to back that claim up.

As it stands now, Wild Thyme has provided 15 spaces - eight on the shopping center property as allowed by letter and deed with the owner; six on the Crosby property behind Carolina Way and one at Macon Bank. After recalculating, the town realized that Macon Bank has only one spot to "give away" not two. "Macon Bank needs 16 spots and only 17 are available," said Interim Zoning Administrator Richard Betz.

The 15 parking spaces - six for employees on shift; two for the apartment upstairs; and 10 spots for restaurant patrons allows for 30 seats with one parking space per three seats.

The Zoning Board unanimously approved the SUP allowing 30 seats for 15 parking spaces but agreed that the Town Board should re-visit the entire issue.

"We should ask the Town Board again to address this," said Chairman Bill Rethorst. "Given the expansion of public parking on several streets in town, it would appear there is a case to re-evaluate the overall parking situation because parking has been expanded."

Member Bill Conway said as Highlands continues to grow, the issue is going to come up again and again.

"Growth in Highlands should be encouraged not discouraged," he said. "More and more people are moving here and more and more services, retail establishments and places to eat will be needed. This needs to be re-visited"

Evidently, Brun has been operating with 54 seats even though his variance was denied in September 2006 so Sharon Anderson, of Anderson Jewelers in Wright Square, questioned the town's enforcement policy.

"A year has passed since it was denied. Don't any of you check to see what's being done? The guy can go on and do whatever he wants to do?" she asked.

Betz said the zoning and planning department has been understaffed but since Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward has been hired, the town has been documenting restaurant parking versus seating in the B2 and B3 districts. "Letters were sent to all the restaurants letting them know that we will be inspecting how many seats and parking spots they have," said Betz.

Alan Shultz, owner of Fireside Restaurant in Wright Square, questioned the legitimacy of the eight spots deeded to Wild Thyme by the Clarys.

"If someone buys the old Macon Bank they are going to want to know exactly how many parking spots they have," he said. "It's important to know who gets what"

•See PARKING page 29

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Summit One Gallery opens 'All His Creatures'

Summit One Gallery opens All His Creatures by Betty Foy Botts on Saturday, October 13th with a reception for Ms. Botts from 5-7 p.m. As an artist, Betty Foy Botts has a specific viewpoint that is uniquely her own. "This is a gift from God. I am constantly impacted by the world around me. There is great beauty and yet there is also great pain. We live in a world of darkness and light. I choose to embrace the light," she says. She chooses to paint what she sees as beautiful and touching and that which resonates deep within her soul. She wants to touch the hearts and spirits of those who view her paintings so that when they walk away they will take with them a sense of who she is as an artist and also who she is as a child of God.

In her work, she attempts to go to those places deepest in her heart and mind that she is unable to put into words but can communicate by using color and texture. Movement is also an important factor in her work. "Life is not stationary, but always about being and changing. I am driven in my paintings to reach that place where they become real to me, living and breathing, not just paint on a canvas," she says. These paintings usually start out with some rudimentary drawings, and go through many processes until they start to take on their own form. She calls this the time when the painting starts to "be" and she becomes only an instrument. She has learned to trust that inner voice that speaks to her as she



explores and creates. "Something WILL happen if I just persevere and trust the process. This something is always more imaginable and delightful than I could ever conceive." Her work is about trusting her inner voice, willing to take risks, knowing when it's complete.

Betty Foy's current works deal with animals and nature. Aristotle says 'In all things of nature, there is something marvelous.' "I am attempting to capture the essence of the animal's spirit and his own unique individuality." All His Creatures continues through Nov. 13 Summit One Gallery is located in "The Galleries," South Second Street, Highlands N.C. 526.2673summitonegallery@verizon.net www.summitonegallery.com



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MountainTop Rotary admits Armor



Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Vice-President Dixie Barton, John Armor and Mountaintop Rotary President Nick Bazan.

The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary recently inducted new member John Armor. John lives in a restored farmhouse on Kettle Rock Mountain, that his grandparents bought in 1923. He is a writer, with seven books and several hundred articles to his credit, and a semi-retired lawyer who practiced 33 years in the US Supreme Court. His next book is "These are the times that try men's souls," about the life and times of Thomas Paine. John's father, G. Maxwell Armor, Jr., was a lifelong member of Rotary, and involved in Rotary leadership at several levels. John and his fiancée, Michelle, write an alternating, weekly column for the Highlands' Newspaper. Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at the Highlands Conference Center. Visitors are welcome.

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... GREENWAY continued from page 1

would be preferred as compared to an easement because the easements would have to be inspected by the town annually to ensure compliance with the requirements of a conservation easement.

But Interim Planner Richard Betz noted that donations of property do affect legal property lines which could in turn affect setbacks and built-upon ratios.

This bothered member Pat Taylor.

"If you deed property to the Greenway, the setback should not apply," said Taylor. "You should be able to build up to the Greenway Trail"

Member Mike Bryson, asked if the town would be donating its property to the Greenway and if so, would it be have to comply with the same setback and built-upon restrictions as private citizens?

Interim Planner Richard Betz said he didn't think so, but the Town Board would have the final say.

Levo proposed a 50-foot trail to include a 20-foot native vegetative buffer on each side of a 10-foot trail but said actual dimensions could change based on terrain and obstacles.

Chairman Griffin Bell asked if the town

gives an exemption for the setbacks how would that affect the state watershed rules and regulations.

That's another unknown about the Greenway.

The proposed mapped trail winds its way through town and private residential and commercial property but because the town has approved the trail in concept only, the actual trail route will likely change.

"Anywhere there is a straight line we don't know exactly where the trail will go, but where there are crooked lines, we're pretty sure," said Quin.

The material of the trail will be mulch, asphalt and boardwalk depending on where the trail is and the agreements outlined with owners donating the property.

The current map is being updated to show the exact route through town, residential and commercial properties and will be presented at the next Planning Board meeting on Monday, Oct. 22 at 5 p.m.

Once the final map is approved, it will be similar in nature and function to the town's Master Sidewalk Plan.

— Jim Lewicki

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*Why wait for a special occasion?
At Madison's
every day is special!*

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RESTAURANT AND WINE GARDEN

Highlands most beautiful upscale dining destination celebrates every day with their Elevated Southern Cuisine and their Wine Spectator Award Winning wine list. Lunch or dinner, the service will make you feel, dare we say, *special*.

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Don Leon's Cafe
Serving Lunch

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"Park any place but eat at Don Leon's!"

30 Dillard Road, 526-1600

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526-5010

COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

Wright Sq. 828-526-2520 | www.ccphighlandsnc.com | ccp4info@verizon.net

Mt. Fresh
787-2002



Blue Valley Falls Estates Fantastic designers home is located on 3 acres with lovely manicured grounds and a ridgeline view. Quality throughout, the interior features designer finishes with a split bedroom plan and fantastic living spaces. Greatroom with stone fireplace. Custom kitchen that has a pass through to the outdoor living room that is screened and overlooks the lower stone patio. Lower level has additional expansion area that is suitable for an additional family room with fireplace, media room, and 2 bedrooms with baths. A lovely front patio with water feature and 2 car garage \$1,295,000.00 MLS# 63331



NEW LISTING IN HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB. A magnificent view and a magnificent house on a flat lot atop Brushy Face. The main house has 4 bedrooms and 4 1/2 baths as well as guest quarters with kitchen over the garage. There are 4 garages. There are too many amenities to mention. Just know it is one of the finest houses ever offered in the Highlands area. Call for Keturah for more details and showing.



THIS 'ASID' DESIGNER HOME is custom furnished down to the tea towels. Features include Antique Tile and wood floors, gourmet kitchen, stone fireplace in great room. Large porch with portion screened with fireplace. Great views and located in the exclusive Greyrocks of Highgate. \$1,695,000. MLS# 62542



EXCEPTIONAL MOUNTAIN VIEW. The owner has seen the cars driving along the Blue Ridge Parkway on a clear night from this wonderful four bedrooms, three bath and two half bath home located in a gated community between Highlands and Cashiers. The craftsmanship with hand picked woods from Maine to South Carolina is fantastic! There are North American Cherry cabinets with antiques glass inserts in the kitchen along with granite countertops and stainless GE appliances. There is a fireplace on both levels. The wood floors are made of solid red oak tongue and groove. The master bedroom is on the main level and the master bath has heated tile floors. There is a full house generator and a water reservoir with pump in case of power outages. Fully furnished for \$1,650,000. MLS# 63329



This is a bargain priced A-frame chalet situated in a heavily wooded mountain setting located within the town limits of Highlands with numerous possibilities for renovation and upgrading. It is being offered for a quick sale at a price considerably below assessment by Macon County. Offered at \$158,000.



BRAND NEW AND A VALUE IN HIGHLANDS! 1,200 sq. ft. of finished area with lower level for expansion, 2 bedrooms, 1 large bath. Great room with fireplace. Wood floors, and cathedral ceilings. Huge covered porch. Almost an acre with some mountain view after some tree trimming. \$325,000. MLS #63267



INCREDIBLE VZTOP VIEW! Completely remodeled this tri-level end unit has three bedrooms, two baths, each bedroom has a private covered balcony. The living room features cathedral ceiling, dry stack stone fireplace and hardwood floors. This unit recently renovated with new HVAC, granite counter tops in kitchen, can lighting, new stainless steel appliances, hardwood floors in kitchen and living room, bathrooms updated with granite. Sold furnished with a few exclusions, obtain list from listing office. Gated access, tennis courts, MILLION DOLLAR VIEW, offered at \$440,000. mls #58111



Newly furnished posh get away. Perfect place to turn the key and leave the guarded gates of Cullasaja Club in charge. Zero maintenance, cabin chic, skyhigh beams. Unique wooded floors, 4 carpeted bedrooms and 4 1/2 stone tile Kohler baths with granite counters. Perfect kids or owners retreat upstairs. Great room has two stone fireplaces and a slate wet bar with ice maker. Carport. Offered at \$895,000. MLS #61700



NEW HIGHLANDS LISTING IN BUCKBERRY FALLS! 3 bedroom, 3 bath with large kitchen/dining room and a second fully equipped kitchen for deck entertaining or for caterers. Large great room. Expansive decks to enjoy views of Shortoff mountain and stocked fishing lakes. Furniture possible. \$549,000. MLS #63323

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The church is so different from when I was younger



Mike Harris
Associate Pastor
Highlands United
Methodist Church

Looking at the world we live in, each generation prior to the current one, says things were so much different when I was younger. When I was young we didn't have the problems that children today have to deal with. When I was younger the world was a different place. When I was younger children respected their parents and if they didn't they would get a lashing with the belt and they learned to respect. When I was younger people respected the flag, they were proud to be Americans. When I was younger neighbors took care of each other. When I was younger our teachers prayed with their students. When I was young...you fill in the blank.

I have to say, when I was younger we didn't have compact discs or DVDs, we didn't really have much in the way of Cable TV. I think we had maybe 5 stations and we were lucky at that. We definitely didn't have I-pods, I-phones, and the only phones that didn't have a cord were big and bulky, no such thing as cell phones. I remember my first Atari. My favorite video game was Space Invaders.

All this to say, times do change, Technology changes, people advance and things are different than when we were kids, whether that was 20 years or 70 years. Things are different now than they were then. The reason, we have TV that is shown by satellite all around the world that God created. We have more and better ways to communicate, to learn and to experience the world. Things that were isolated before now are widespread. So what has the world come to? What morals, values, and beliefs do we share? What do we teach our children, our friends and neighbors?

"When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" Luke 18:8. We know that over time, faith practices (going to church, being a church member, taking Sabbath rest) were much more important and ingrained in society than they are today. Studies have shown, as well as church records that church attendance is in decline, church membership is in decline and the number of churches that are closing their doors is increasing. Some have said we have moral decline in America and that family values are waning. So when we are asked the question of faith, what will the Son of Man find when he returns?

I have to say I think we place too much importance on the way things have always been done. I think the institution of church was important for our grandparents and not as much for our parents, and it seems today even less important for us. Church was the social club, it is where

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 31

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School - 10 a.m., Worship - 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting - 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rev. Cass Daly • Office - 526-2320

Sunday: Holy Communion - 11 a.m.

(Highlands Community Center on. U.S. 64 next to the ballfield in Highlands)

Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m.

at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES

3rd & Spring Streets

Sunday 11 a.m.

Wednesday testimony meeting 7 p.m.

Study room open Tuesday 2-4 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Prayer - 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service - 1st & 3rd Sunday - 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;

6:30 p.m. High School Group

Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Supper (free for kids 8th grade and under); 6:15 p.m., Adult Bible Study; 6:30 p.m.

programs for students.

Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan - Rector: 526-2968

Sunday: 8 A.M. - Holy Eucharist (Rite I) Chapel

8:30 A.M. - Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School

10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.

Monday: 4 P.M. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 A.M. Men's Cursillo Group

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

Thursday: 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

10:30 A.M. Daughters of the King

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977

Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.

(nursery provided)

Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens

Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School - 9:30

a.m.; Youth - 6:30 p.m.; Choir - 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids - 6 p.m.;

Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Mark Kayser, Interim Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Associate Pastor 526-3175

Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun.School - 9:30 & 9:45.

Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers

Choir - 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Senior Pastor Todd Struble; Asst. Pastor Mike Harris

526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.;

5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: Supper; 6; 6:15 - children, youth, & adults

studies; 6:15 - Adult choir

(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs:12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell

2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741

Sundays: Worship/Communion - 10:30

LITTLE CHURCH OF THE WILDWOOD

Services at the Church in the Wildwood in Horse

Cove. Sundays at 7 p.m. through Labor Day. Dress is

casual. Old fashioned hymn-sing.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Choir - 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871

Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC

CHURCH

Rev. Tien, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

Sundays: Mass - 11 a.m.

Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.

(through last Saturday of October)

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

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;

Evening Worship - 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth - 7 p.m.

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

828-369-3633

Lay Led Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Flu clinics in Highlands Oct. 18

The Macon County Public Health flu vaccination clinics for adults and healthy* children age 9 and older. Appointments are not needed for these clinics and vaccine will be given on a first come, first served basis. Individuals unable to wait in line may have someone wait in line for them and a nurse will take vaccine to their vehicle. 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center in Highlands.

The cost for the vaccine is \$25. The health center will bill Medicare and Medicare replacements, BCBS, and Cresnet, so bring your card for these. *Free vaccine for high-risk children and pregnant women will be available at a later date. This includes all children 6 to 59 months of age and those with certain medical conditions. For more information about flu clinics, call the Macon County Public Health Center at 349-2081.

CAROLINA
eyes

Eye Exams by Dr.
Campbell, Independent
Doctor of Optometry

141 Main Street
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Highlands
787-2020

I see you went to
Carolina Eyes and
got some shades.

Yea, I had to
after that loss to
the Gamecocks.

Welcome

People are reading...that means they're seeing the ads. Call 526-0782

Live in town at Chestnut Cottages in a park-like atmosphere

A Park Home Community
"Affordable, Peaceful and In Town"



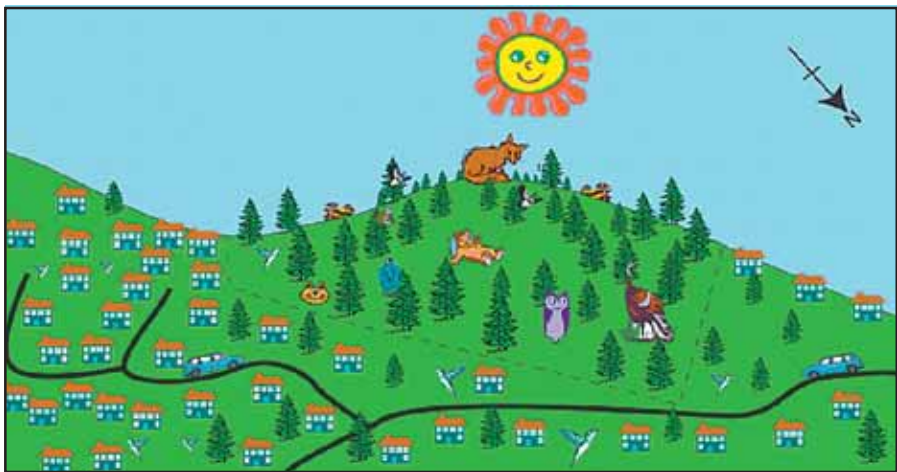
Lot and Cottage Packages from \$169K to \$199K

Call (828) 526-5939 or 828-526-1684 for an appointment or email: chestnutcottages@mac.com

Highlands plays tough game against RGNS



Senior Josh Hendricks with the ball at the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School game on Friday, Oct. 5. The next home game is against Murphy on Monday, Oct. 15, 6 p.m. at Zachary Field on Buck Creek Road.
Photo by Noel Athertaon



View from
Highway 64
traveling from
Cashiers to
Highlands

View from Whiteside
Estates and Highlands
Cove

Help me totally eliminate ANY development on 21 acres in the Chattooga Wild & Scenic River areas including the headwaters of Lick Log Creek. Also help me ensure decreased housing density on this knob on Cowee Mountain – visual to so many in Highlands and Cashiers.
www.cowee-chattooga.com

The Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center Thanks You!!!!

Through your annual donations, the PAC is able to continue to offer a premier performance space to the people of Highlands. The PAC is available to any local 501(c)3 organization for their use in the encouragement and promotion of the performing arts. Organizations that

enjoy use of the PAC include the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, the Center For Life Enrichment, the Highlands Community Players, Bel Canto, the Highlands Men's Chorus and Highlands Institute of American Religious and Political Thought.

PAC Celebrates Success of No-Go Hard Hat Party

The community response to this innovative fund-raising concept has been a resounding success again this year. The opportunity to support the Performing Arts Center, or the PAC, through NOT attending a function, appeals to many. In a summer season filled with an increasing number of charitable events, the No-Go offers a fun way to vote for the continued success of the PAC while not filling your calendar with another night out.

Nell Martin and Margaret Pennington, Co-Chairs, want to express their appreciation to all these generous donors who helped us . . .



. . . lay the carpet

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Signature Properties
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Mr. Richard Cornell and
Mrs. Margaret Payne
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We are most grateful to our 2007 Partners for their interest in nurturing the performing arts through donations and volunteerism. Membership in this group enables the PAC to pay for the "bread and butter" expenses of its operation and staff events. Our Partners help the community and the various performing arts groups. Our membership year begins in November, so expect to receive the new campaign mailing shortly.

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Mrs. Lucinda Painter
Ms. Melinda Paterson
Mr. and Mrs. Miles Pollard, Jr.
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Mr. Ronald Russell
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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sheehan
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Mr. and Mrs. Tom Warth
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Ms. Margaret Payne
Ms. Karen Hawk
Mr. Arthur Howell
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Mr. and Mrs. Alan Drennen
Mrs. Martha Dunson
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Mrs. Kaye Gorecki
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hall
Mr. and Mrs. M. J. (Bill) Hall
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Harrison
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jinks
Mr. Richard Joel
Mrs. Gay Kattel
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Koski
Mr. Clason Kyle
Mr. and Mrs. Bob McNairy
Ms. Helen Moore
Mrs. Jody Read
Mrs. Eloyce Richardson
Mrs. Lucille Roberge
Mr. Bruce Roelike
Mrs. Fabia Rogers
Mr. and Mrs. Grat Rosazza
Mr. and Mrs. Herb Ross
Ms. Nathalie Sato
Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Seabrook
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Sharp
Mrs. Jean Shields
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shirk
Ms. Barbara Talley
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Voke
Mrs. Josephine Weigner
Dr. & Mrs. C. Mark Whitehead, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Williamson
Ms. Janet Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Moss Herron
Ms. Mary McLaurin
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Sherman
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Threatt



During the "Combat and Target Identification" course, Officer John Cherry fires his weapon at target under the supervision of Firearms Instructor, Officer Tim Fish who is also a member of the Highlands Police Department.

Highland Police Department exceeds state mandated in-Service training

Friday, October 5 was an additional in-service training day for the full-time officers of the Highlands Police Department.

What did they do? Everyone reported to the Firing Range for additional In-Service Training at the Law Enforcement Training Center in Dillsboro. This year the Highlands Police Department has accumulated twice the number of state required continuing education course hours.

"I am convinced by preparing for more than what the state requires, we can provide a better service to our community," said Chief Bill Harrell. "In our training we focus on some things that are unique to our geographical location that are not prevalent in communities anywhere else." Currently the Highlands Police Department exceeds the state's curriculum in Legal Updates, Ethics-On-Duty/Off-Duty, Juvenile Minority Sensitivity Training, Current Youth Culture — "What's Hot, What's Not?," Interacting with Special Populations and Domestic Violence.

"I am gratified by our officers' commitment, diligence and efforts to continuing education," said Harrell.

In addition to meeting the North Carolina state requirements, the department has conducted training in accident investigations, rapid deployment for active shooters, combat courses, shoot & don't shoot

prism, and defensive driving. Instructors from other law enforcement agencies and three members of the Highlands Police Department — Chief Harrell, Captain Todd Ensley and Officer Tim Fish — are Certified State Law Enforcement Training Instructors. They conduct training sessions for the department in addition to providing training for officers from other agencies.

The training session at Dillsboro consisted of several sessions. All participants completed the Combat Course where they had to identify "Shoot or Don't Shoot Targets." The targets would rotate randomly and the officer had to make a rapid assessment as to whether the target was an innocent by-stander or criminal pointing a gun at the officer.

Chief Harrell also orchestrated a session entitled Rapid Deployment for Active Shooters. Since the tragedies at Columbine High School and Virginia Tech, the FBI and LAPD Swat Team have developed these rapid deployment tactics for law enforcement agencies. All police departments throughout the country have learned and continuously practice these tactics.

In addition, the officers are required to do calisthenics and running to increase the heart rate before rapidly moving through obstacles and firing at the appropriate targets.

• HOSPITAL NEWS •

Summary of Combined Sept. Meeting of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Board of Directors

To keep the news media and the public better informed about Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, we are providing you with a summary of the more significant actions and discussion items coming before the hospital's board of directors at its most recent meeting on Thursday, Sept. 27.

Board chairman Bud Smith began the meeting by introducing two new board members. Local developer Bill Nellis and retired medical device manufacturer executive George Maloney won't officially become board members until the October meeting, but attended the September session as observers. Each gave a brief introduction of themselves.

CEO Ken Shull presented an educational summary on hybrid hospitals, a health care business concept that has become fashionable in many metropolitan areas. Shull said such hospitals are usually for-profit facilities, owned by investors (often including physicians), and designed to capitalize on a "boutique" segment of the medical market. Shull said such facilities are usually oriented toward outpatient services, don't have an intensive care unit, and structure their services toward the most profitable segments of the health care market.

While it is not a for-profit hospital, nor geared simply to serve only the "boutique" patient, Shull said Highlands-Cashiers Hospital does share certain characteristics with hybrid hospitals. It does not have an ICU, nor is it geared to treating patients who require extensive inpatient stays. Most of the services it provides are on an outpatient basis and it gives its patients a high level of customer service. However, Shull pointed out that the hospital must serve all segments of the community, since it is the only hospital in the immediate area.

Shull went on to give the report of the Physician Recruiting Committee, announcing that an Atlanta general surgeon has agreed to open a practice here, beginning Nov. 5. He said Dr. Gus Dozier already has obtained his N.C. medical license and passed the hospital's rigorous background checks. Dozier will be in residence every other week, and Shull said the search continues for another general surgeon to complement Dr. Dozier's practice here. He said the hospital has several prospects, including another Atlanta surgeon of outstanding reputation. Still another surgeon, this one from inside North Carolina, visited the hospital the week

before, he said.

Shull said negotiations are still on track that would bring a gastroenterologist to the hospital, probably sometime after the first of the year. The recruiting committee continues to work on bringing another specialist in internal medicine to the area.

Board members heard some good financial news during the Finance Committee's report. The hospital made money in August, as utilization was up significantly. For one thing utilization of swing beds in acute was much improved, but general admissions were up as well.

Chief Financial Officer Mike Daiken presented the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1. That budget projects a smaller loss next year than this year's projected loss. The addition of general surgery services is expected to bolster the hospital's bottom line somewhat next year, although that extra income will be partially offset by first-year startup costs. Hospital officials had hoped next year's budget would be closer to breaking even, before depreciation. However, delays in the reintroduction of general surgery and gastroenterology have pushed back the timetable for a financial turnaround approximately 12 months.

Board members approved the new budget and there will now be discussions with the hospital's Foundation Board about funding the projected deficit.

In the absence of the Planning Committee chairman, Shull gave the committee's report, saying the group is taking another look at the area's and the hospital's employee housing needs, and has talked with the town's ad hoc committee about various possibilities. He said the committee will hear more on the subject from a consultant in October.

On another ongoing subject, Shull said the Planning Committee will meet Oct. 2 with the architects who have been working on plans for a new medical office complex to serve the greater Cashiers area. The architects will present several concepts for the project, which is planned for the old Oakmont Lodge property on NC 107 North.

Committee members also discussed a proposed strategic plan and mission statement for the hospital. No action was taken pending further work on the draft.

Chief of Staff Dr. Mark Wagner presented the unanimous recommendation

• See HOSPITAL NEWS page 25

of the hospital's Medical Staff to credential new general surgeon Gus Dozier, MD, FACS. Board members unanimously approved that recommendation, the final step in the credentialing process. Hospital board members also approved the Medical Staff's recommendation to grant privileges to radiologists with Virtual Radiologic, Corp., who will provide back-up reading services for hospital's own, full-time radiologist.

In his administrative report, Shull told board members that the WNC Health Network has been working with the University of North Carolina's Medical School to allow medical students to perform some of the third- and fourth-year rotations here in Western North Carolina. While most of the rotation time would be spent at Mission Hospitals or the Mountain Area Health Education Center in Asheville, the students would be required to spend part of the time at facilities outside Buncombe County. That could help rural hospitals across the region in recruiting future physicians.

Shull also reported that Mission Hospital CEO Joe Damore and COO Brian Aston visited Highlands-Cashiers Hospital several weeks earlier to discuss ways to increase cooperation between the two providers and identify various areas of mutual interest.

The hospital has also started a recycling program, which is already well under way. Shull said progress on remodeling for the new nuclear medicine camera is also well under way. In fact installation of the equipment is expected to begin Oct.

Hospital's fall blood drives set for Oct. 29 & 30

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and AnMed Regional Blood Center will conduct their annual fall blood drive in Highlands on October 29 and 30.

The AnMed bloodmobile will be at First Citizens Bank on US 64 East on Monday, Oct. 29, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., and at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital on Tuesday, Oct. 30, from 9 until 11 a.m.

The bloodmobile will also be at the Albert Carlton Community Library on Grouse Point Road in Cashiers from 1-5:30 p.m. on that same afternoon.

No reservations are needed to donate. Even if you have donated blood earlier this year, you can still donate again as long as it has been at least eight weeks. In fact, this fall's blood drive is several weeks later this year. It was delayed in order to give those who donated at the Relay for Life blood drive back in August enough

•See BLOOD DRIVES page 42

15, with the equipment to be operational by the month's end.

Finally, Foundation board member Charlie Sheehan gave a brief report of that board's earlier meeting, including recapping the changes in leadership that will

take effect Oct. 1. Long-time Foundation board member and past chairman Bill Gaston of Highlands will take over the chairmanship from outgoing chairperson Cassandra Manley of Cashiers.

At the end of the meeting, Smith pre-

sented plaques recognizing their service to out-going board members Tony Potts and Chief of Staff Dr. Mark Wagner (other out-going board members Rick Robson and Cassandra Manley were not present to receive their plaques).

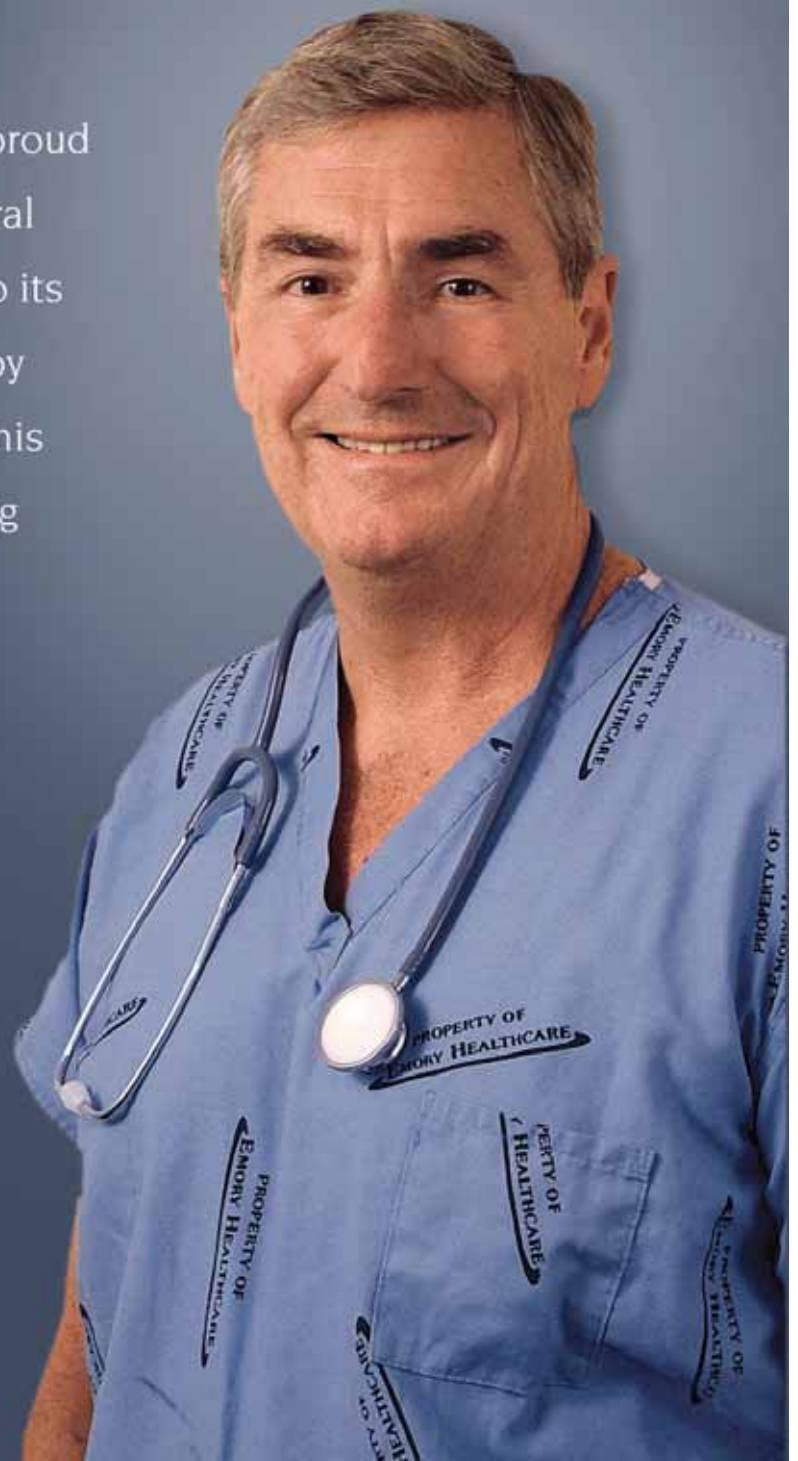
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To learn more about Dr. Dozier,
visit our website at
www.highlandscashiershospital.org



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• BASCOM FINE ART CENTER NEWS •



It took just a few days for workers to erect an Early American solid chestnut corncrib at the site of the Bascom-Louise Gallery's new fine art center. The corncrib was rescued and preserved by Wayne Yonce, second from left, who also procured the center's Ester Barn and covered bridge.

Bascom's first building erected on-site

Community encouraged to visit new corncrib and view plans

The Fine Art Center/Bascom-Louise Gallery's Oak Street construction site is undergoing a magnificent metamorphosis, and now it boasts its very first completed structure.

The first building on the property is an Early American solid chestnut corncrib that was rescued and preserved by Wayne Yonce. Yonce is the art center's procurer and consultant for several historical constructions, including the Ester Barn and a vintage covered bridge. He is also overseeing the Crane Stables project.

The crib has an interesting history. Corncribs were actually a Native American invention. The elevated structure with slatted walls allowed harvested corn to be stored for later use. Europeans adopted this storage method and in hard times were known to raid Native American stashes. As a result, native groups abandoned the crib

and buried their food in caches. By the 20th century, "corncrib" referred to large barns with special bins that housed the grain.

Yonce acquired this unique crib (he has never seen another like it) at the same time and place he obtained the mid-19th-century barn that will become the art center's *porta cochere*, which will grace the entry to the new center.

For right now, the crib will be set near the street. Building plans are displayed on the interior walls for visitors to view during the center's construction, and the community is encouraged to pop over and take a look at the plans. When the new center is complete, the crib will be repositioned across the creek from which visitors can enjoy the waterfall and creekside scenery.

For more information about the new art center, call (828) 526-0207.



The staff of the Bascom-Louise Gallery stands in front of the art center's first on-site building: a solid chestnut corncrib. From left are Kaye Gorecki, artistic director; Jessica Connor, director of marketing and administration; Mary James, business manager; Donna Woods, director of events; Margie Shambaugh, volunteer coordinator; Darlene Marett, administrative assistant; and Donna Rhodes, education director. (Not pictured: Bob Fisher, board chairman and acting executive director.)

• BASCOM FINE ART CENTER NEWS •



Two hundred people headed to The Farm at Old Edwards Inn last Friday night, Oct. 5, for the Bascom-Louise Gallery's annual Art & Wine Auction. The event raised much-needed funds for the nonprofit art center's operations, including free exhibitions and community art classes. Old Edwards Inn was the corporate sponsor. Dennis Hall served as the auctioneer. Above, Marty Greer bids on one of the 13 live auction items.

... EROSION continued from page 1

the county had given those contractors its "stamp of approval."

"This became a matter of serious concern to some who used these "approved" contractors and were severely disappointed in the performance," said Mason.

The advantage given to approved contractors was not requiring an erosion plan if land disturbance was under an acre.

"The previous ordinance gave the appearance that Macon County was discriminatory against contractors not approved by us," wrote Morgan. "Removing the label of approved contractors levels the playing field for all contractors."

Now anyone who is disturbing a ½ acre or more must get a land disturbance permit and submit an erosion control plan.

Under the new ordinance, the county can also revoke the land disturbance permit for refusal to comply with the ordinance standards or requirements.

"This will be a useful tool for enforcement purposes," wrote Morgan. "A person can't keep their permit if they are unwilling to comply with the ordinance. The old ordinance didn't make concessions for that type of action on Macon County's part."

There is also a time limit on land disturbing permits now, which will improve

the overall health of the county's waterways because the longer an area is left disturbed the more likely disturbed soil will wash into streams, wrote Morgan. Soil is no longer allowed to be left exposed indefinitely.

Most interesting to commissioners was the use of a new computer-generated penalty program which will remove the "human element" from assessing citations and the cost associated with them.

"Using the computer program will define the monetary rate of penalties which will make the process less arbitrary and more methodical," said Mason.

The program allows the administrator to enter information such as how much sediment was deposited off site, how many streams or properties did the violation affect, how much money did the violator save by not complying with the ordinance, etc. "These items are all relative in determining the amount of the penalty for the violation," wrote Morgan. "The program then places a multiplication factor on these items and establishes the amount of the assessed penalty for the violation."

Included in the ordinance is an appeal process that could eventually go all the way to the Superior Court for review.

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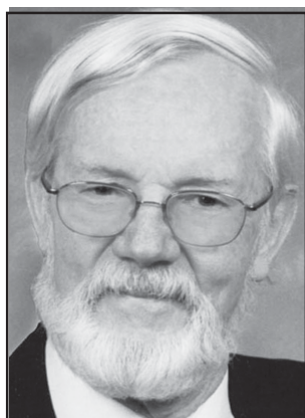
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Question #3 for the Town Board candidates: What are the some key issues facing Highlands today?



Larry Brannan

• Brannan:

Knowing which current issues a particular candidate considers the most crucial may give a voter some insight into the priorities of that candidate. However, just listing the issues is relatively easy but does not reveal what position or action the candidate might take on each current issue and especially the future issues. One need only to regularly read this newspaper and to look at the Highlands website (Town Board meetings minutes) to be aware of what the current hot issues are.

You are voting for three Commissioner seats that will be held for the next three years. Hopefully, most of the issues of interest now will be resolved long before then. So, it seems that knowing how each candidate will approach all complex and contentious issues is more important than his position on a particular topic.

If a candidate seems to be mostly interested in protecting the environment, you could be concerned about his support for the business community. Likewise, if candidates have a mostly business background, the voters may worry about protecting the appearance and unique qualities of our town. Like many of you, I have lived in and visited many places much less desirable, so, I do fully appreciate the beauty of Highlands and the surrounding forest and moun-



Dennis DeWolf

tains. I very much want to help keep it that way. My wife and I have owned commercial property for many years and owned and operated a retail business for 10 years. I know first hand the difficulty of managing a successful and prosperous small business.

I have heard many Highlands citizens complain about the changes made in town during the last four years. Most realize that changes will occur, but feel that the size, style and density of much of the construction were unnecessary and are detrimental to Highlands. I understand that we have to maintain a vital and prosperous business community and at the same time not degrade the appearance and 'feel' of Highlands. I feel that the balance has shifted more towards large construction projects and away from the 'mountain village' concept. I would work to restore the balance more towards the benefit of our local small businesses and all the people of the Highlands area.

It is not just the big newsworthy issues that make the difference. Each decision, however small and mundane it may seem, can impact the vitality and appearance of our town. It will take vigilance and perseverance when addressing large and small decisions to protect the interests of all in Highlands. As Town Board Commissioner, that would be intent and goal,



John "Buz" Dotson

If you would like to read or reread my personal information and/or my viewpoints on subjects previously published in this newspaper, please see my web page at internet address http://mysite.verizon.net/resrw81k/larry_town_commissioner/

• DeWolf

There are a significant number of important issues facing our town over the next several years. In view of the dynamics of change that will inevitably occur over time in our community one issue that seems important now can easily be superseded by another in a relatively short period of time. If there was one all encompassing aspect of continuing concern that I have however it would be for our environment, our sensitivity to the need for its protection, and the willingness of each of us to sacrifice personal expectations and perceived needs for the good of each other. To be specific about certain factors having an adverse impact on each of us it goes without saying that we are well behind improving some of our town utilities infrastructure – i.e. sewer connections for all segments of town, particularly in those areas of proximity to our lakes and perennial streams and storm water drainage systems to control runoff or pollutants and soil erosion. In addition effective waste management practices & recycling programs to encourage conser-



Gary Drake

vation is absolutely necessary. These are only a few of the important aspects of environmental protection that need our attention and accomplishing these tasks in a reasonable amount of time is a daunting task at a significant cost. The issue then becomes a question. What is the appropriate time line for accomplishing these goals that is fair in cost to the taxpayers balanced against the constant erosion of the environment that carries it own timeline.

To manage growth and development that inevitably impacts our environment it's important that we continue to develop, refine and enforce effective ordinances that guide and respect a balance between individual rights and the collective rights of the community with a goal of perpetuating a sense of character, spirit and economic vitality for all.

• Dotson:

There are a number of ongoing issues that need to be addressed. In no particular order of importance, I feel a few of them are as follows:

1. Parking in the Business District.

Parking issues need to be put to bed. We do not have a parking problem, we have a parking management problem. The physical make-up of the town has been driven by parking requirements. The Town of Highlands has expanded public parking over the



Alan Marsh

years, yet it continues to require some businesses to provide on-site parking when public parking is adjacent. We can't throw parking out the window, but solutions can be achieved.

2. Better communication with Macon County offices.

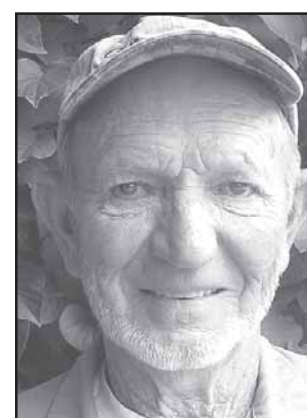
County building and permitting offices should be in direct contact with Town of Highlands Zoning Department so the Town will be on top of projects that get permitted through the county and completed, sometimes without the Town even being aware of the existence of the project.

3. Code Enforcement.

The Town of Highlands needs to provide for better enforcement of its Zoning Ordinance. Currently there are numerous violations of Town Zoning ordinances and this problem presents itself on everything from signage and property setbacks to projects that are not completed as permitted. This is a self-perpetuating problem in that current violations soon become "grandfathered" by lack of oversight. Regrettably, the turnover in zoning officials in the past 15 years has exacerbated enforcement problems. We need flow, continuity, communication and a level playing field.

4. Successful resolution of the ABC Store issues.

The Highlands ABC store generates tremendous revenue for the Town of Highlands. All local ABC



Larry Rogers

boards are independent political subdivisions of the state. I feel the town should support and help grow – within reason – the revenue stream that the ABC store provides.

5. Board Meeting Facilities.

The current Board Room in Town Hall does not provide for adequate attendance by the public. Until better facilities are provided, I would suggest that all meetings open to the public be held in one of the meeting rooms at the Civic Center. This would provide a far more accessible venue for the public and would allow for all boards to face and address the audience in attendance.

6. Public Restrooms.

Our public restrooms need a face lift along with updated signage.

• Drake:

Water Supply/Sewer Systems: For years silt has been going into our rivers and lakes which provide water to the town. The board seems to be doing all it can and taking the proper steps to protect our water, but we must stay on top of this serious problem. The board has allocated in the budget for the next several years to expand the sewer system; we must make sure the project goes forward.

Affordable Housing: I don't know the answer to this situation at this time, even if there is a problem or an answer due to the high

• See CANDIDATES page 31

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Sandra Brown Among Four Authors Signing at Cyrano's This Weekend

Acclaimed novelist Sandra Brown, whose addictive thrillers always climb the New York Times bestseller list, will sign "Play Dirty" at Cyrano's Bookshop this Saturday, along with Ann Sharpsteen, co-author (with the late Vivian Cash) of "I Walked the Line," a memoir about Johnny Cash. On Friday afternoon Stephanie Burt Williams will autograph her new book of ghost stories set in Highlands and Cashiers, and on Sunday Jim Melvin will sign his new fantasy novel.

Just in time for Halloween: On Friday, Oct. 12, from 3-5 p.m., Stephanie Burt Williams will sign copies of her latest collection of spooky tales, "Haunted Hills: Ghosts and Legends of Highlands and Cashiers, North Carolina."

Ms. Williams, a former reporter at The Highlander newspaper who now works for the Charleston Post & Courier, has collected 15 stories of purported hauntings that range from inns and summer mansions to Whiteside and Satulah mountains. Ms. Williams's earlier books include "Wicked Charlotte: The Sordid Side of the Queen City" and "Ghost Stories of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County." "Haunted Hills" is illustrated with many historic and contemporary photographs and will provide pleasurable tingles of fear and dread!

Sandra Brown will be at Cyrano's on Saturday, Oct. 13, from noon to 3 p.m. Ms. Brown (a lifelong Texan who has a house in Highlands) is the author of 55 New York Times bestsellers, including "Ricochet," "Chill Factor" and "White Hot."

Her newest, "Play Dirty," is sure to please her legions of fans and has already made it to the top of the New York Times hardcover fiction bestsellers. In "Play Dirty," Griff Burkett is a disgraced former Dallas Cowboys quarterback who has spent five years in prison. Now he has been hired to father a child for a paraplegic airline CEO and his wife who cannot have their own. That's a tricky triangle all by itself, but now the crooked cop who helped send Burkett

to the slammer is accusing him of an unsolved murder.

Publisher's Weekly says, "The seven deadly sins help propel this provocative, sex-fueled thriller from bestseller." The glamorous-yet-super-friendly Brown wowed her fans when she signed "Chill Factor" at Cyrano's two years ago.

Ann Sharpsteen will autograph at Cyrano's from 3:30 to 5 p.m. She collaborated with the late Vivian Cash — first wife of Johnny Cash and mother of his four daughters — on her new autobiography, "I Walked the Line: My Life With Johnny." New York Times book reviewer Janet Maslin called it a "wildly romantic book, but also a sad and wrenching one, a testament to the destructive power of hopes pushed past the breaking point" and predicted that it could be the "most surprising" music-related memoir of the season.

When Sharpsteen, a television and radio writer/producer in Tennessee, was working on a documentary about Johnny Cash for MTV, Vivian was the one person connected to the Man in Black who did not want to be in it.

Vivian thought her story would be slighted and that current myths about Johnny would win out. But she and Sharpsteen still became fast friends and decided to collaborate on a book about Vivian's relationship with Johnny. "I Walked the Line" is the result, with the manuscript completed days before Vivian died from lung cancer.

The greatest find here are dozens of Johnny's love letters to Vivian from the 1950s (they met in 1951 and divorced in 1968). Touching and revealing, they together with many family photos and Vivian's commentary add up to a book that the Washington Post calls "riveting and dishy."

From 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 14, Jim Melvin will be at Cyrano's to sign his new fantasy novel, "The Pit," Book One of the Death Wizard Chronicles, which will eventually have six titles. Mr. Melvin, an award-winning former journalist at the St. Petersburg Times newspaper now lives in Clemson, S.C. Melvin's work will appeal to sophisticated aficionados of other realms. The author says:

"The Death Wizard Chronicles is not for children and teenagers — or the faint of heart. But if you like graphic fantasy that is bursting with excitement yet still has a lot going on between the lines, I think you'll love my series. In a groundbreaking paradox, the Death Wizard, a champion of good, derives his power from a source traditionally seen as negative — death."

Cyrano's Bookshop is located at 390 Main Street in Highlands, North Carolina. Books can be reserved for autographing by calling (828) 526-5488.

... PARKING from pg 16

Betz said as the shopping center now stands with retail shops, service businesses and one restaurant, there is plenty of parking in the front and in the back to accommodate the current residents and any new ones that might occupy the old bank building or build on the vacant lot. "If another restaurant comes in that may cause a problem," he said.

Betz said Brun may ask the Town Board to amend the zoning ordinance for a reduced parking formula due to the number of public parking available and due to possible joint use of parking lots especially at night.

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Right: Former home of Highlands premier contractor Deadeye Potts. Wormy chestnut in living room, some hardwood under carpet. Wonderful pond in backyard with deck overlooking it. Private location, yet very close in. Downstairs basement area could be finished into more bedrooms and living space. Extensively remodeled in recent years. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Pond, privacy, excellent construction, in-town. Unoccupied and easy to show. Reduced 50K from 998,000 to 948,000



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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 21

we went to visit uncle Joe and the Houston's down the street. You received word on those whom you hadn't seen for the week. It was your source of "news". Church helped people who were down and out to have a little help and hope. Church also taught us a little about God too. We had our preaching and teaching then we finished up with a meal together. We didn't have TV preachers or Sunday afternoon soccer games. NASCAR was only for those who had a track near them. Local sports were not more important than worship. In reality church used to be an outlet for people. They served their purpose of faith and so much more in the relationship building of a community.

Today church is different. People do not attend because it is the place to be (although some churches are the place to be). People have plenty of other social choices for fellowship and friendship that the church does not have to be that place. There is a social club on every corner of this town or around every curve in the road. But the function of church and the way the younger generation looks at church is so different. Now I am not saying that the church is not important. In reality, when you say things are different than when you were younger, you have to allow the church to be one of those things that is changing to keep up with people today.

In no way do I think we should dilute the message that Jesus walked on this earth to share, but I think we have to realize that

2007 is much different than 2000 years ago when Jesus and his Disciples walked the earth. We took the teachings of Jesus as interpreted by Paul and others and built buildings and institutions to offer praise to our Awesome God, to come together to fellowship, to meet and learn and grow and socialize. It worked and now it is declining. Sure some churches are growing while others fail. All churches struggle.

We struggle with how to pay the bills, whose theology is more right. Which people we should reach out to and which ones we should not. We talk about those who know they sin versus those who don't realize what sin is. We talk about our brothers and sisters and decide who is and who isn't. We fight over what our kids will learn and which biblical leaders we want them to avoid, because we know they have it wrong.

I think that if we listen to the words of Jesus, nowhere did Jesus teach us to build walls and ceilings adding ornate artistry to our windows and seats. Jesus did not instruct anyone to build it and they will come. Jesus did not speak of budgets and programs. Jesus Always said to go. Go and do likewise. Go and teach them, baptize them, send them out. He spoke in parables rather than black and white. He taught with stories of love, acceptance, forgiveness and justice (not human justice but one of a God who so loved the world).

The stories in Luke that precede the question of will he find faith on earth, are

... CANDIDATES continued from page 28

cost of land and development on the plateau. I know businesses have issues with lack of employees due to the short supply of a work force on the plateau, but would affordable housing cure the problem? I don't think so.

Multi-families: Our most pressing problem today is multi-families living under one roof. This problem exists now and it must be controlled. There seems to be a blind eye to this and nothing seems to be done unless someone complains. If I can drive around our community and see the problems why can't our officials?

• Marsh:

The following key issues are the reasons I want to be re-elected to the Town Board.

Storm Water Control – The town just received the new state flood plain maps which show that parts of the town are in the flood plain. The town asked McGill Engineering to develop a Master Storm Water Plan for Highlands. The plan was paid for mostly with state Clean Water Trust Funds. We have received the plan and McGill estimates the cost to be up to \$12 million. We need to start on this plan as soon as possible. Hoping to get matching grant money from the Clean Water Trust Funds or other grant money.

Harris Lake Dwer Project – We are trying for a matching grant from the Clean Water Trust Fund to complete this project. In 2008 we have bedgeted more than \$1 million for our share.

For the last three years, I have pushed for sidewalks in the residential areas. We did complete the sidewalk on 5th Street from main to Chestnut streets. This fall the state highway department is going to repave Chestnut from 4th to 6th streets and add a sidewalk from 4th to 5th streets. Next year they are going to add a sidewalk from 5th to 6th streets. I am hoping the town will build a sidewalk on 6th Street from main to Chestnut streets next year.

The town owns all utility poles in the town and the Town Board has been working for the last few months on a new contract for Verizon Telephone Company and Northland Cable Company. The new contract would charge for renting each pole to being charged per attachment on each pole. This should double our income.

Rogers:

The key issues:

- The Handling of the ETJ.
- Extending town sewer to Mirror Lake and other outlying areas.
- Adding sidewalks with parking.

about faith. The faith of believers being as great as a mustard seed, being so small and yet that seed brings fourth such an amazing plant, so should our faith produce great things. The faith of a leper, an outcast of society similar to that of a Samaritan a non-believer and still showing that faith and compassion that ultimately made them "well" according to Jesus. Faith is what the widow showed in being persistent with the unjust judge. We are instructed to have faith like a child, trusting unconditionally as my 2 year looks to me for protection and security and comfort.

The answer lies not in the institution of church as the walls come crumbling down. The answer lies in the heart of you and me. The church can offer us help and hope in the way we live. The Church can give us insight into the world in which we live and teach us what is believed to be God's will. The church can be a great charitable organization caring for people.

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But the question of faith comes with how we live our lives. The question of faith comes with what do we share with our children. The question of faith falls to you and me.

Do we believe it when we read "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39. The answer to "will the Son of Man find faith on earth" is yes. God still to this day, despite how the world has changed, God has remained the same God who so loves us and nothing will separate us from that. So please stop trying so hard and allow yourself to see that God does love you.

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Holy Communion
11 a.m.

at Highlands Rec Park

All services are at the
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For more information, call the
Christ Anglican Church office at
526-2320

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ALL ARE WELCOME!

Highlander transplant saves church in Walhalla

By **Evan Schmidt**
Reporter

The year was 1874. Twenty-five people met in Walhalla, South Carolina to plan the building of their church, Saint John's Episcopalian. That church

built by Walhalla's first Episcopalians survived world wars to the present-day, but might not have survived had it not been for a series of events.
Maxie Wright Duke is the younger sister of Henry Wright, who at one time

was the mayor of Highlands and a botanist at the biological station. Even though she now lives in Walhalla, Maxie Wright Duke is very proud of her relatives – some of the first settlers of Highlands. “The [Highlands] connection is very strong,” she said. “If you go out to the cemetery, you’ll see lots of Wrights on the tombstones” – like James Wright, her great grandfather. “My sister, her husband, my Aunt Margaret, Aunt Francis, Harry and his wife are buried up there. And now my brother that was closest to me, Barrack Wright is buried there... and I’m going to be buried there.” She still owns the Christmas tree farm up on Cheney Lane inherited from Henry Wright, and property on Turtle Pond, which she inherited from her mother. She is also the only living daughter of Helen, the founder of Helen's Barn.
Ok, so what does Maxie have to do with the Episcopalians?
It was just last year that she was leisurely cruising through Walhalla where she now lives. Being on the committee for the Walhalla Tour of Homes, she was also keeping an eye out for prospective buildings for the tour. That was when she saw what she is now so devoted to restoring. “On North Pine Street, I came upon this little church sitting over there.” She

thought it to be a great building for the tour, and began to research it.
“I went ... to the *Keowee Courier* and got into their old files ... and I read all the stories I could find about the little church.” It all went back to 1874, when the Walhalla Episcopalians wanted to have their own church building, thus founding Saint John's Episcopalian. They held their first service in 1889, according to Maxie, after its completion. After the world wars, it went through a repeated process of being dedicated as a church and then becoming deconsecrated.
About 25 years ago, Jack Kelley of Walhalla spotted the church at its original Short Street location. Since the town owned it and could not take care of it, they gave it to him, provided he would move and maintain it. Maxie said, “he loved to collect things, he loved old things, he loved antiques, he had collections of everything ... and he collected a church.” Since his death, his son Harry now owns the property and church. Maxie proceeded to call Harry.
“I called the owner ... and he told me, ‘yes, you can have it on the Christmas tour of homes.’”
He also indicated she'd best hurry because the building was going to be split in

•See CHURCH page 33



The church building, formerly used as an Episcopalian church that Maxie is trying to save and move to the town park.



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... CANDIDATES continued from page 7

half and moved away from the area.

"I went home that night and said, you know, it's a shame - we don't need to lose another bit of Walhalla's heritage." But she didn't keep her opinion to herself. "I wrote a letter to the editor of this little paper here in Walhalla. He [the editor] was real good to me; instead of a letter on the inside of the paper, he made a story out of it and put it on the front page. And of course that got a good bit of recognition, and people started calling me. And after about the 13th or 14th call, I said, well we've got enough people to have a committee to do something."

Long story short, today the historical church remains on Harry Kelley's property. With several dedicated friends, Maxie started her "Save Our Church" committee. Harry Kelley canceled the previous deal, saving the church from being split in half and moved out of town. Kelley has given the church to Maxie's committee, provided they restore and move it to the town park.

Moving a church and restoring it is

not an inexpensive proposition. Maxie's committee began by applying for a grant with the Mountain Lakes Region of South Carolina's Heritage Corridor. "When I talked to the man in charge of that group, he said he didn't much think I was gonna get the money. And I started crying," she said, almost beginning to cry herself. "I really cried. I was so upset." Rescuing the church has been her passion ever since she had the first meeting. "It [the crying] worked," she added a moment later with a grin. He gave her a grant of \$10,000.

Maxie was extremely happy to receive that grant. But after applying for other grants which were refused, it became evident that they weren't going to get the money solely from grants. The committee went to work raising the needed money through a few different fundraisers. "Lemme tell ya this right now," Maxie continued. "Alberta is our quilting lady and she quilted a quilt; she gave it to our Save Our Church committee." Alberta Bowers is a friend of Maxie. Alberta said she has quilted and donated a quilt to a

charity each year for the past eight years. Her beautiful quilt this year will be raffled off to benefit Save Our Church. The "Bluegrass Benefit" was another fundraiser held at the church, where several bands volunteered to play.

As you can see, they have been diligently working on collecting the remaining \$20,000 of the \$43,000 needed to move the church and make the necessary repairs. As they reach toward their goal, there have been some setbacks, like some of the old windows being vandalized. As Maxie sits in the church and plays the old pump organ, she hopes that one day the church can be used as a wedding chapel. The planned town park location couldn't be a better site. It is just below the Depot Cultural Center, where many wedding re-

ceptions are held now. She hopes that can be used as the reception hall and her church for the service.

Raffle tickets for Alberta's quilt can be purchased, or donations can be made by calling Maxie at (864) 638-5200. The winner will be drawn on the third day of OctoberFest in Walhalla on October 21, 2007.

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Oct. 12-18

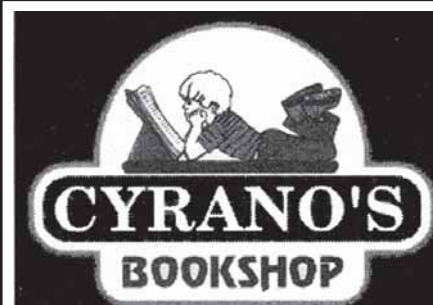
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THE GAME PLAN rated **PG**
Mon - Fri: (4:05), 7:05, 9:05
Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:05), 7:05,
9:05

THE KINGDOM rated **R**
Mon - Fri: (4:20), 7:00, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2:), (4:20), 7:, 9:20

3:10 TO YUMA rated **R**
Mon - Fri: 4:15, 7:00, 9:15
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:15), 7, 9:15



390 Main Street • 526-5488

Upcoming Book Signings

Oct. 12
Stephanie Burt Williams "Haunted Hills"
3-5 p.m.
Oct. 13
Sandra Brown "Play Dirty"
noon-3 p.m.
Anne Sharpsteen with Vivian Cash
"I Walk the Line" 3:30-5 p.m.
Oct. 14
Jim Melvin "The Pit"



Maxie Wright Duke (right) and Alberta Bowers, the quilter of the quilt.

Photo by Evan Schmidt



Highlands Playhouse

SUMMER SEASON

2007

"Broadway Melodies" at Highlands Playhouse

Oct. 11-14

Performances are Tuesday - Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday Matinees at 2 p.m.
362 Oak St. Highlands, NC 28741 828.526.2695
HIGHLANDSPLAYHOUSE.ORG

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

ITC lines up two weeks of comedy central -- workshop and acts

Next week on **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18TH**, The Instant Theatre Company Comedy Festival officially begins.

This is the first time Highlands has ever had a comedy festival and it will provide non stop cutting edge clean fun and laughs.

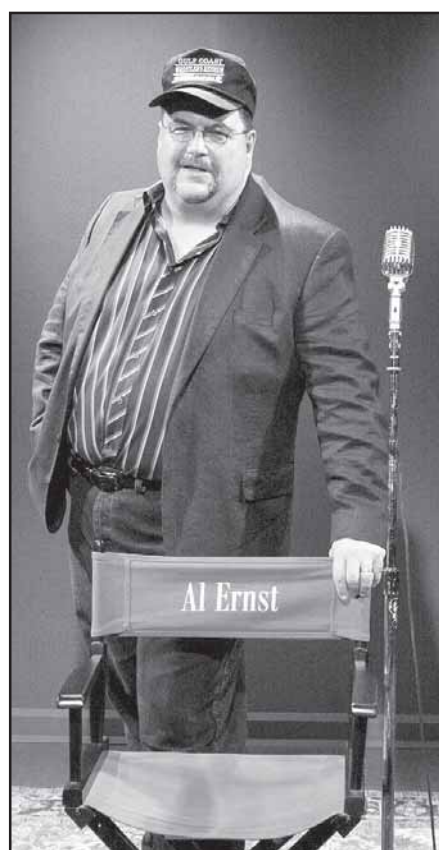
On that night at 7 p.m., 12 lucky people will be able to learn "What's Funny" in a Comedy 101 seminar from Highlands favorite funny man Al Ernst and veteran comedian and owner of the famous Atlanta comedy club "The Punch Line" Jamie Bendall. Participants will learn what is funny, how to write a joke and deliver those jokes in a their own unique style.

The next night **FRIDAY OCTOBER 19TH AT 8 P.M.** the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main presents Al Ernst and his Laugh Pack. with the incredible "Music Dude" Benny Skyn. Friday evenings "Laugh Pack" includes Impressionist Jim Gosset. When Jim hits the stage you don't know who will show up, it could be anyone from the President, or vice president to Jay Leno, David Letterman, Andy Rooney, Jesse Jackson, Ted Koppel or a host or others. He also takes much of his inspiration from the events of the day, adds his special magic and delivers a truly one of a kind hilarious performance not to be missed.

Sharing the stage with Jim will be nationally known comedian and pianist extraordinaire, Jerry Farber. Star of Atlanta and other national comedy clubs Jerry has a unique style of hip piano finesse and warm-blooded humor that has endeared him to fans for two decades. He has been voted One of the Top Five Celebrates in Atlanta, and Entertainer of the Year three times by "Atlanta Magazine."

Rounding out the evening will be funny man Gid Pool. Gid has been the house comedian for the Visani Comedy Zone, one of the winners at the 2006 California Comedy Conference in Palm Springs, CA and has been heard on National Lampoon Radio Show (XM Radio). Also on WSRQ 1220 AM talk radio. Listen to it on www.talk1220.com.

Filling out the evening will be western N.C. own singer songwriter Benny Skyn. Benny has been writing and performing for a quarter of a century. His sound has been compared to Tom Waits,



Woody Guthrie, John Prine, Sting and even Frank Zappa.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 20TH begins with AL's Eman Nation Radio Show being broadcast live from Oak Square on Main Street in downtown Highland from 9 to 11a.m.. Saturday afternoon brings a "Comedy PHD" seminar from 1-3 p.m.. Learn more about being the best funny person you can be. Again only 12 aspiring comics will be admitted so sign up soon. Rounding out the first

weekend of hilarity, Al Ernst the big E will bring more of his Laugh Pack with an all new show. Saturday night features funnyman Eric Hunter. Eric started performing standup at age 6 and has been going around the country nonstop ever since leaving his mark as a clean, funny, bright, friendly and original performer. "the LA Weekly" listed Eric in its "Some of the Funniest Comedians in America" section in October 2006. He has made multiple appearances on the nationally syndicated "Bob and Tom" radio show, and can also be heard on channel 150 on XM Radio. Al Ernst says "Eric is truly one of the best kept secrets in comedy.....as I am."

Joining Eric will be Dr. Babylon, Greg Ray. Dr. Babylon is the relationship/communication comedian/writer author of "Men are from Mars, Because Women Killed the Ones on Venus." He has performed on almost every comedy, corporate, or television stage where clean, clever, original comedy is welcomed. Greg Ray brings a new way of looking at men, women, political correctness, and how logic works and doesn't work in a relationship. Al also welcomes back Gid Pool and more musical musings of Benny Skyn.

That's just the first week, tune in next week for all new shows. **NO TWO SHOWS WILL BE THE SAME.** For a complete Menu of the "All You Can Laugh Buffet" pick up your own menu at the Chamber of Commerce, Cyrano's Bookshop, the Movie Stop or the Connection. Call the Instant Theatre box office 342-9197 or visit www.instanttheatre.org for details. It doesn't get any funnier than this.

ward room 201. It is designed for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. The group meets 10 a.m. until noon. For more information, call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

First Mondays

- Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

Every Monday

- Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.

Every Tuesday

- Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.
- Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.

- Open Studio Night Figure Drawing: Informal instruction available for beginners. Bring your sketch pad or paint box for a leisurely session of figure drawing/painting. Cost is \$12, \$10 for "Friends" of the Gallery.

Every Wednesday

- "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. The assigned readings for each week are taken from the book, "The Bible Tells Me So: uses and abuses of Holy Scripture" by Jim Hill and Rand Cheadle. This book is currently out-of-print so copies of each reading assignment will be handed out each week. The study will meet in the Fellowship Hall — beginning promptly at 6:15 and will last approximately one hour.

- Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club meets at the Highlands Conference Center at 7:30 a.m.

Every Third Wednesday

- Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Every Thursday

- At Main Street Inn, Lisa Price piano and vocals in the wine bar 6-9 p.m.

- Al-Anon Meetings, noon in the First Presbyterian Church basement at Fifth & Main Street.

- Women's Bible Study at 9:30 am - 11:45 am at Community Bible Church. Beth Moore's *Believing God*. All women are invited.

Every Saturday

- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.

- Children's classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery — cost is \$5 per student.

Every Friday

- The Girls' Clubhouse meets in the school cafeteria 3-4:30 p.m. All 6-8 grade girls are welcome. Come have fun while serving others. For more information, call Kim Lewicki 526-0782.

Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 11-13

- "Pattern, Rhythm, Beat, Measure, and Breath in Nature, Art, and Self..." The title is a mouthful, but it's also a bountiful platterful of ideas, techniques, exercises and processes that will make your artwork sparkle and zing. Laurence Holden, master of mixed media will offer this class at the Bascom-Louise Gallery on Oct. 11-13, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. "Pattern, rhythm, beat, measure and breath are the most essential elements in both art and life," said Donna Rhodes, the gallery's education director. "They are the alchemical elements that make us all kith and kin on this blue green planet. Join Laurence on a studio exploration of just how these elements can enliven our art and our vision of the world around us and within us." All levels of expertise are welcome. The cost is \$200 (\$165 for mem-

On-going

- Auctions at Scudder's Galleries Monday-Saturday at 8 p.m. Viewing from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 352 Main St.

- Live music every night at 7:30 p.m. and during brunch on Sunday at ...on the Verandah restaurant.

- Nantahala Tennis Association: Meets Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. -noon for Round Robin at Highlands Recreation Park. All levels of play welcome.

- Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn with Cy

Timmons Wed-Sat 6 p.m. until.

- Hal Phillips at the piano at Skyline Lodge and Restaurant on Flat Mountain Road Fri. & Sat. at 6 p.m.

- Live music with Angie Jenkins, Friday and Saturday nights at Old Clayton Inn on Main Street in Clayton.

- NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365 or go to the website: www.ncmana.org.

- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.

- Beginners Clogging class Tuesday, 6-7 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley Community Center. Come have lots of fun and exercise. Call 743-7663.

- At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

- "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Wood-

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

bers of the gallery). Call (828) 526-4949, 4#, for more information.

Thurs.-Sunday, Oct. 11-14

• Broadway Melodies is a foot tapping, sing-a-long musical tribute to the songs and women of Broadway who capture our hearts. Just a few of the wonderful songs you will hear are "Some People" Gypsy, "I Can't Say No" Oklahoma, "The Wiz and I" Wicked, and "Sun In the Morning" Annie Get Your Gun, along

with others from Les Miserables, Company, Cabaret, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, and Follies. To reserve tickets in advance please call the box office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday at 828-526-2695. Tickets are also available one hour in advance at the box office the day of the show. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and a Sunday Matinee at 2 p.m.

Thursday & Friday, Oct. 11-12

• Highlands Community Players box office at PAC opens for subscribers 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. Individual tickets go on sale Sat. Oct. 13. "The Raindrop Waltz" opens Thursday, Oct. 18.

Thursday, Oct. 11

• Public forums on Macon County School System Building Plan 7-8 p.m., at Iotla Elementary School gym. Driving questions and aims to be addressed:

What are our *Priorities* within the school system Facilities Plan? Why did we establish these *Priorities*? How will the *Plan* be carried out? Provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to provide the district leadership and Board of Education with feedback regarding the plan.

• The Western Mountains Reading Council will meet at the Franklin Library at 4:30 p.m. The program

• See **EVENTS** page 36

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2007-2008 Season**

**Oct. 18-21
Oct. 25-28
2007**

Evenings at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday Matinees 2:30 p.m.

Cash, Check, MC/VISA

Walter C. Spivey Performing Arts Center
501 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC

For Tickets Call: **828-526-8084**
www.highlandcommunityplayers.org



• UPCOMING EVENTS •

will be on N.C. Live

Friday & Saturday, Oct. 12-13

• Folk Art craft show "Don't Count Your Chickens" featuring items for home, garden, body and soul. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Highlands Community Center on U.S. 64 east.

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 12-14

• At Acorn's, Mary Louise/Bijoux de Mer Trunk Show. Mary Louise's exclusive line of 18k gold jewelry has a distinctively feminine flair. Bijoux de Mer or Jewels of the Sea, specializes in pearls and precious stones.

Saturday, Oct. 13

• "The Bright Forever" will be performed at the

UU Fellowship at 7 p.m. There will be a Pasta Potluck Dinner served at 6 p.m. (bring a dish to share). A \$20 donation benefits the UUFF Building Fund. Tickets available from any Board member, 524-6777 (leave your name and telephone #), from the Chamber of Commerce 524-3161 or at the Fellowship, 85 Sierra Dr. the night of the event.

• Yard Sale at Highlands School to benefit the Junior-Senior Prom.

• Guatemala Mission Trip Fundraiser at Toxaway Community Center at 6:30 p.m. Come for fellowship and fun and help raise money for this year's mission trip. The event will include a lasagna dinner, live en-

tertainment, clogging, baked goods and an auction for items and services. For more information call Dan Smith at 743-7917.

• At Main Street Inn and Cyrano's Bookshop, Dinner and Walking Ghost Tour, with Stephanie Burt Williams author of "Haunted Hills." \$45 per person includes four-course gourmet dinner. Cash bar at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Reservations required. Call 828-5626-2590 or 800-213-9142.

• 25th Annual Highlands Arts & Crafts Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center, Highway 64 East, Highlands. Free admission and parking. More than 100 vendors - four raffle drawings with prizes donated by popular artists - sponsored by the Highlands Woman's Club and the Highlands Recreation Department.

• At Cyrano's Bookshop, author Sandra Brown signing "Play Dirty" 1-3 p.m.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike to the potholes on the upper Chattooga River. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 10:00 or call leader for an alternate meeting place on Whiteside Cove road if coming from Cashiers. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Drive 15 miles round trip. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• At Main Street Inn and Cyrano's Bookshop, Dinner and Walking Ghost Tour, with Stephanie Burt Williams author of "Haunted Hills." \$45 per person includes four-course gourmet dinner. Cash bar at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Reservations required. Call 828-5626-2590 or 900-213-9142.

• Mark your calendar for the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance Fall Forest Fest. Gather a couple of friends and call J-MCA at 828-526-9938 ext. 320 to reserve your table for a night of great food, fun, door prizes, raffles and entertainment at the beautiful Highlands Falls Country Club.

• Hamburger grill-out and bonfire AMBURGER GRILL-OUT and BONFIRE at the Sapphire Valley

Community Center at 5:30 p.m. *weather permitting.* 743-7663.

• Ballroom Dance at the Sapphire Valley Community Center with live music by Minor Adjustment at 7 p.m. Light appetizers, BYOB mixers. 743-7663

Tuesday-Saturday, Oct. 16-20

• At Bascom-Louise Gallery, "Artist's Photo Reference," taught by internationally known color pencil painter Gary Greene, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Class begins with a photographic field trip, followed by a return to the classroom. All levels of expertise are welcome. The cost is \$350 (\$315 for art center members). For more information, call Bascom-Louise Gallery at (828) 526-4949, ext. 4

Tuesday, Oct. 16

• Public forums on Macon County School System Building Plan 7-8 p.m., at Macon Middle School media center. Driving questions and aims to be addressed: What are our *Priorities* within the school system Facilities Plan? Why did we establish these *Priorities*? How will the *Plan* be carried out? Provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to provide the district leadership and Board of Education with feedback regarding the Plan.

• Leadership Highlands is sponsoring a "Candidate's Forum" at the Highlands Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 18-21

• Highlands Community Players production "The Raindrop Waltz" at PAC. 8 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 18-20

• The Instant Theatre Company's Comedy Festival featuring funny man Al Ernst and other national stand-up comedians with music by Benny Skyn. Call 828 342-9197 for more info beginning Oct. 1.

Thursday, Oct. 18

• Steele/Shooting Star Vineyards Wine dinner at OEI's The Farm. Each dinner is \$169 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Call 828-787-2604.

• Public forums on Macon County School Sys-

Highlands Community Players 'Raindrop Waltz' to open Thursday, Oct. 18

Opening their 2006-2007 season the Highlands Community Players (HCP) present a beautiful, moving drama set in the Southern Appalachian Mountains, and introduced at each performance by the playwright, Gary Carden, a master storyteller, folklorist, and author of several plays and books. Gary will also play one of the mountain characters in the play, a role he performed years ago in the first production of "The Raindrop Waltz."

The story of the play centers on three generations of a mountain family faced with the difficult decision of how to best care for their aging grandmother, Agnes, a fiercely independent 82-year-old mountain woman who is no longer able to care for herself. Through the narration of her grandson, whom she raised, we learn of past joys and sorrows of Agnes's life.

The bittersweet tale is softened with humor and love, and sensitively depicts the characters and the mountain culture in which they live.

The cast consists of: Agnes is played by Sue Manning; grandson Jody Lee, by Colin Long; Agnes's son Ardell and his wife Snookie, by Ron Leslie and Sue Feldkamp. Jessica Bryant plays Jody Lee's mother, Derek Taylor, his father, David Rohrer, his grandfather. Jody Lee as a child is played by Dawson Bryant; Ma-

nard; an old reprobate, by Gary Carden; and Little Doc, by Dean Zuch.

Not only is the cast an outstanding one, but also the production team. Virginia Talbot, the director, has directed seven plays for HCP, coordinated all the annual holiday reading programs, and for 20 years, in her "former life," she says, she was a producer and director for a public television station in the Tacoma-Seattle area. Tanji Armor, the stage manager, has directed seven plays for HCP. Artist Kathy Evans, the set designer; has both theatrical and designing experience. Jim Gordon, the lighting designer; has designed lighting for many

HCP plays and for other organization, while John Williams, the sound designer and composer of original music, has a background so extensive and varied as to be impossible to include in this article!

"The Raindrop Waltz" opens Thursday, Oct/ 18, at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands, and continues Friday, Saturday & Sunday, and again the next week Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 28. Season subscriptions are still available, as well as individual tickets. HCP is now accepting MC/VISA. The box office is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. Please call 526-8084 for reservations.



Playwright and storyteller, Gary Carden.

Highlands Art & Craft show Sat. Oct. 13



The bowl above, is one of scores of mixed-media products created by Noel Atherton and for sale at the 25th Annual Highlands Arts & Crafts Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center, Highway 64 East, Highlands. Free admission and parking. More than 100 vendors - four raffle drawings with prizes donated by popular artists - sponsored by the Highlands Woman's Club and the Highlands Recreation Department.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

tem Building Plan 7-8 p.m., at Nantahala School gym. An opportunity for all stakeholders to provide the district leadership and Board of Education with feedback regarding the Plan.

- The Macon County Public Health flu vaccination clinics for adults and healthy* children age 9 and older. Appointments are not needed for these clinics and vaccine will be given on a first come, first served basis. Individuals unable to wait in line may have someone wait in line for them and a nurse will take vaccine to their vehicle. 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center in Highlands. The cost for the vaccine is \$25. The health center will bill Medicare and Medicare replacements, BCBS, and Cresnet, so bring your card for these. *Free vaccine for high-risk children and pregnant women will be available at a later date. This includes all children 6 to 59 months of age and those with certain medical conditions. For more information about flu clinics, call the Macon County Public Health Center at 349-2081.

Friday & Saturday, Oct. 20-21

- Art League of Highlands "Fall Colors Fine Art Show" at the Civic Center Recreation Park in Highlands, NC, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fine original art, jewelry, photography and much more by over 40 artists. Art activities for kids both days in the Children's Art Room. Free admission. Door prizes. For information call Karen Taylor at 828-526-2177 or Dottie Bruce at 828-743-7673.

Saturday, Oct. 20

- Mirror Lake Improvement Association Litter Pick-up Saturday at 9 a.m. Meet at Thorn Park.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3.5 mile moderate hike from the upper Whitewater Falls to the Bad Creek Reservoir parking area. There will be some scrambling over roots and rocks, but great views of the falls and in the gorge below. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10:00 a.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leaders

Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 4.5 mile hike from Wayah Crest to Sawmill Gap on the Appalachian and Bartram trails with an elevation gain of 1,000 feet and great views. Drive 25 miles with a short car shuttle. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Bill Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- REACH Of Macon County's Motorcycle Poker Run features a 70 mile colorful trip through some of Western North Carolina's most beautiful scenery. A hand is \$25 with additional hands available for \$10. The run begins at Franklin Ford on US 441 N of Franklin, between 8:30 am and 10 am. The run proceeds from Franklin Ford to downtown Franklin, then out NC 28N to the intersection of US 19. The run turns left at the intersection and goes to the Intersection of US 19 and the Wayah Road. Riders follow the Wayah Road to the intersection of Old US 64 W and the ride con-

cludes at REACH's Meadow Lark Farm on Old US 64 W. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and closes at 10 am. For additional information or advance registration, call 828-369-0854

Sunday, Oct. 21

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 2-mile hike on a pretty loop trail around Lake Chatuge and up a small mountain in Jack Rabbit Mt. State Park in Georgia. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2:00 p.m. Drive 55 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Tuesday, Oct. 23

- Public forms on Macon County School System Building Plan 7-8 p.m., at South Macon Elementary School gym. Driving questions and aims to be addressed: What are our *Priorities* within the school system Facilities Plan? Why did we establish these *Priorities*? How will the *Plan* be carried out? Provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to provide the district leadership and Board of Education with feedback re-

• See EVENTS page 38

JMCA Fall Forest Fest is Oct. 13



Mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 13. Gather a couple of friends and call J-MCA at 828-526-9938 ext. 320 to reserve your table for a night of great food, fun, door prizes, raffles and entertainment at the Fall Forest Fest at the beautiful Highlands Falls Country Club. Time is running out for this easy and fun way to help J-MCA and our natural heritage.

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance is your local conservation voice on environmental issues concerning our beautiful mountain area on the Highlands-Cashiers plateau.

Since its inception in 2000, J-MCA has been an advocate for clean air, clean water, and healthy forests for this fragile eco-system in which we live.

For years J-MCA has partnered with the Forest Service and Clemson University in the fight to save our hemlocks from the destruction by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

On other fronts, the organization has taken great strides to bring awareness and

environmental education to everyone from land development issues to recycling. Throughout the year JMCA offers forums, workshops and inspirational concerts for the general public as well as professionals and schools. They have eyes and ears on the state and local policy makers holding them accountable for poor environmental choices that are not advantageous to us and pushing for the changes that are good for the future of this beautiful area.

To maintain and improve our economy and wonderful life-style, we should all have the JMCA vision: A plateau with a high-quality natural environment- with clean streams and air and abundant forest and wildlife, and on which public and private decisions are grounded in a caring concern for the environment. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Attending the Fall Forest Fest Dinner Dance will be a fun way to show your support.

'Fall colors Fine Art Show' Oct. 20 & 21



Artists love to discuss their work with young people when they come by with a piece chosen from the donated art work in the Children's Room during the Art League of Highlands "Fall Colors Fine Art Show."

Oct. 20 and 21 are the big dates for the Art League of Highlands "Fall Colors Fine Art Show." The gymnasium at the Civic Center Recreation Park in Highlands will be overflowing with the original work of over 50 artists. Some of them will be demonstrating their talents and all of them look forward to meeting the public as they walk through the huge show.

Encouraging the young in artistic expression is one of the missions of the League. The traditional Children's Room will be abuzz with creative energy as the kids create paintings to hang in the "Hallway Hat Rack Show." They

will also have the opportunity to select a donated piece of art and then meet the artist who contributed it for children to choose.

Hours are 10-5. Admission is free and beautiful door prizes are given. For more information call Karen Taylor at 526-2177 or Dottie Bruce at 743-7673.

Regular meetings of the Art League are held the last Monday of the month. The October meeting will feature Kaye Gorecki speaking about the "Artistic Partnership" all artists can have with the Fine Art Center in Highlands. The meeting begins at 5:00 with refreshments at the Civic Center Recreation Park.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

garding the plan.

- N.C. Christian Women's Connection dinner with fashion show, music by Fashionable Melodies and speaker Mary Moore speaking on "Finding Peach in the Ashes of My Expectation" at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Building in Franklin. Call Georgann at 369-9117 by noon Oct. 18 for reservations.

- Highlands is sponsoring a "Candidates' Forum" at the Highlands Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday & Friday, Oct. 25-26

- The Instant Theatre Company's Comedy Festival featuring funny man Al Ernst and other national stand-up comedians with music by Benny Skyn. call 828 342-9197 for tickets.

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 26-28

- Highlands Community Players production "The Raindrop Waltz" at PAC. 8 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Saturday, Oct. 27

- Highlands School Fun Run at 10 a.m.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-

moderate 3-mile hike from Albert Mt. to Betty Creek. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 8 a.m. Drive 35 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, a hiking stick, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader George Gover, 349-1509, for information. No pets please.

- Giant Used Purse Sale and Bake Sale Macon County Community Building, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hundreds of purses including some Coach, Burberry, Liz, Louis Vuitton, D&B and more! Special Table with new purses donated by businesses in Franklin and Highlands. Sponsored by First Alliance Church to benefit The Dorcas House in Burkina Faso, Africa. Call 369-7977 to donate.

Sunday, Oct. 28

- Western Carolina Music Department Faculty Showcase performance at the First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. Featured are Ian Jeffress, saxophone, Shannon Thompson, clarinet, and Andrew Adams, piano performing "Unity" a selection for saxophone, clarinet and piano composed by WCU faculty member Tim-

othy Rolbs. The concert is free in the sanctuary with a reception following.

Monday & Tuesday, Oct. 29-30

- The AnMed bloodmobile will be at First Citizens Bank on US 64 East on Monday, Oct. 29, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., and at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital on Tuesday, Oct. 30, from 9 until 11 a.m. The bloodmobile will also be at the Albert Carlton Community Library on Grouse Point Road in Cashiers from 1-5:30 p.m. on that same afternoon.

Monday, Oct. 29

- Art League of Highlands monthly meeting at the Highlands Rec Park. Kaye Gorecki, Executive Director for the Bascom-Louise Fine Art Center will speak on "Artistic Partnership." She will update the group on progress of the Fine Art Center on Oak Street and propose exciting ways artists can be involved in the Center, which is to be completed in about a year. Refreshments at 5 p.m. followed by the meeting and program. All are welcome. For info call Priscilla Flowers at 828-526-4146.

Wednesday, Oct. 31

- At Instant Theatre Company Hurricane Creek Halloween Dance. Call 828 342-9197 for tickets beginning Oct. 1.

Saturday, November 3

- The Macon County Public Health flu vaccination clinics for adults and healthy* children age 9 and older. Appointments are not needed for these clinics and vaccine will be given on a first come, first served basis. Individuals unable to wait in line may have someone wait in line for them and a nurse will take vaccine to their vehicle. 9 a.m. to noon. at the Highlands Civic Center in Highlands. The cost for the vaccine is \$25. The health center will bill Medicare and Medicare replacements, BCBS, and Cresent, so bring your card for these. *Free vaccine for high-risk children and pregnant women will be available at a later date. This includes all children 6 to 59 months of age and those with certain medical conditions. For more information about flu clinics, call the Macon County Public Health Center at 349-2081.

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HELP WANTED

CONTROLLER NEEDED - for
Bascom-Louise Gallery, Highlands'
nonprofit art center. Degree accountant
desirable. Ideal candidate will be a highly
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functions. Send resume and recent salary
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connor_bascomlouise@verizon.net.

GALLERY SHOP MANAGER - sought
for Bascom-Louise Gallery. Full-time. Retail
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experience preferred. Email cover and
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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
— Highlands United Methodist Church, a
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Carolina, is seeking a fulltime Director of
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the church, including music for worship
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Submit resumes to Search Committee,
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YARD SALE

SATURDAY, OCT. 13 — Yard Sale at
Highlands School to benefit the Junior-Se-
nior Prom.

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ter suites with jetted tubs and showers,
sleeping nook with private bath, 4 fireplac-
es, 2 living areas, newly renovated. Private
dock with canoe and firepit. Call 828-342-
2302.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**FREE '07 HUMMER 3 WITH
PURCHASE OF THIS NEWLY
REMODELED HOME — 4 BEDROOM,
2.5 BATH HOME WITH BEAUTIFUL
LONG RANGE VIEWS, 2 LIVINGROOMS,
RECREATION ROOM, GRANITE
KITCHEN, FIREPLACE, GREAT
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY, CAN
BECOME A DUPLEX! \$369,000. CALL
305 458-0033**

COZY COTTAGE PRICED TO SELL.
— Features: 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, wood
burning fireplace, tongue and groove
ceilings, hardwood floors, whirlpool tub in
master bath, full finished basement great
for entertaining or as guest quarters. This
beautiful home is located on 3 acres in a
gated community with State Road paved
access under construction. Enjoy the noisy
stream from your large deck, take a hike
into USFS from your private hiking trail or
sit back and relax to the magnificent views
from the community gazebo on top of the
ridge. This home is a must see if you are
looking for beauty, privacy and seclusion —
a true sanctuary. \$329,000 — See photos
at www.SanctuaryNC.com. Call (828) 349
4465. Homes sites available.

BEAUTIFUL RV/PARK MODEL LOT
— Falls View Resort. Dillard, GA. \$72,000
706-746-0002

LOT — COWEE RIDGE ROAD,
Highlands (off Hwy. 64). 4,500 ft. elevation.
Great views, Two acres. Southern
exposure. 4 bedroom septic installed,

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 40

• CLASSIFIEDS •

community water, paved road, gated community. \$300,000 Firm. Call 478-741-8818. FSBO.

LOOKING FOR LAND? We are located only 3 miles from Main Street Highlands. Take Hwy.106 south toward Dillard go 1.8 miles just past the signs for Glenn Falls turn right on Mountain Laurel Dr., take the first left (Moonlight) 100' and turn right at our entrance on Falling Water Dr. There are two waterfalls as you enter the property but the drought has made them just a trickle. Our home sites are one to one and a half acres and afford a good deal of privacy. The land is very gentle, you can easily walk in this neighborhood, and there are mature hard woods, with lots of Rhodies and Mountain Laurel. We are off the main road enough so it is nice and quiet- no road noise. The property is protected by the North Carolina Planned Community covenants and is designed to protect your value and maximize the enjoyment of your community. Home values range from \$850,000 to \$1,800,000 - home sites start at \$179,000. Broker protected 7% - owner financing available for more info 828-526-9622

RV LOT – North Carolina Mountains: At Lake Toxaway Lot and 1/2 Beautifully Landscaped with Stone Work and Plantings Yearly Fees \$350. \$120,000. 863-651-1411

COACH CLUB HIGHLANDS NC – Chestnut Street. Gated Motor Coach resort lot in town Very nice 200 sq. ft. Lindal Cedar Coach House. Fully Landscaped with Extensive patio area. Outdoor kitchen, gas fire pit, overlooking 85 ft of stream Rare find. 828-787-1014 or 352-258-4187

CREEK IS FREE! – With the purchase of one or both of these wooded parcels, just off Highway 28 in the NE Georgia mountains within 15 minutes of Highlands. 1.09 acres and/or 1.10 acres on a county-maintained road. Serious inquiries only. Please call 864-710-4577 for information.

IN TOWN – 3 bedroom, 2 bath, stream, large level yard. Easy walk to Main Street. \$450,000, by owner. Call 828-226-6123.

HOUSE FOR SALE (ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA) – Two bedroom, one and ½ bath conch house for sale at Mile Marker 86, near Founders Park on Oceanside. House sits on a 8,520 square foot lot in a great subdivision with a public boat ramp on the next street over. Founders Park, which is across the street, has a park with a boat ramp, marina, pool, beach, tennis courts, etc. Great deal — owner moving out of state. \$475,000. Call 305-852-4369 for more info.

OCEAN FRONT – Beautiful home in Surf City, N.C. zoned residential/commercial. Walk to pier and town. 7-bed, 4 full baths. Separate apartment. Good rental income. Call 919-340-2280.

LAKEFRONT ACRE IN SCALY –

\$25,000 OBO. Details. P.O. Box 260789, Pembroke Pines, FL, 33026.

COMMERCIAL FOR SALE – Log cabin at crossroads in Cashiers for sale or lease. Call 526-4154.

COMMERCIAL FOR SALE – 3 acres. U.S. 64 frontage, cashiers Road. 2 acres, 3 warehouses, good income. Call 526-4154.

HOUSE FOR SALE – HFCC 2 story split, 3/2, large lot, lake, golf course, mountain views, membership available but optional. \$795,000. Call 526-4154.

LAND BY OWNER – 3/4 acre lot. Close to Toan. Very, very, level building lot. Community water available. \$79,000. Call Ginger at 828-526-4959.

OCEANFRONT LOT KEY LARGO, FLORIDA – Cleared, buildable with all services. Last unimproved lot in Silver Shores subdivision. \$599,900. For information and photos call Frank (954) 964-7649 or email ft442@bellsouth.net.

NC. OTTO, 38 ACRES 10 miles from Georgia State line, high elevation, big views, driveway and homesite cleared call owner, 770-952-9100

NEW HOME/CHALET – 10 minutes from town off Turtle Pond Road. 2/1 with loft, .897 acres, 1,177 sq. ft. \$189,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

IN TOWN — 3/2.5 log home. The cottages lakeside at Harris Lake. Less than 2 years old. \$329,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

PINE GROVE TOWNHOUSE CASHIERS. Two bedrooms two and ½ bath. Walking distance to crossroads, restaurants and shopping. Large deck overlooking green lawn \$229,000. Call Manuel de Juan 828-743-1021. Owner broker. Visual tour at www.pixelitvdeos.com/townhome

LOTS – Exclusive RiverRock, Tuckasegee Village: 2.1 acre Lot 48, great building site, adjoins horse farm. \$364,900; and THE premier view Lot 34, best view lot development. \$799,900 Call HUTCH (706) 831-0892 owner/agent.

MOTOR COACH SITE – Private, luxury motor coach site available for purchase. Downtown Highlands. Corner of Fifth St. and Chestnut St. Gated, restricted. Call 828-526-5333.

BY BUILDER – 4/3, new construction. Executive home. 1.5 acres, bordered by 2 creeks and a pond in a new up-scale subdivision less than 5 minutes from downtown Franklin. \$485K. Call 371-3669.

ADORABLE 3 BR/2 BA COTTAGE with wonderful mountain view. One mile from Main Street. Highlands. \$275,000. By Owner. For Appt. 828-526-1085.

ITEMS FOR SALE

FREE STANDING WOOD-BURNING STOVE – with blower. \$200. Call 828-349-3534.

FRIGIDAIRE UPRIGHT FREEZER.

Excellent condition. \$100.(828) 526-9107.

DINING ROOM TABLE & 8 CHAIRS – Great for Mountain Home. Nearly New. Good Condition. \$2,000. Call Linda at 526-1517.

KITCHENAID GAS RANGE. Like new condition, \$250; King-size headboard, \$40; Queen-size headboard, \$35; new glass fireplace screen, (still in box,) polished brass finish, fits fireplace opening Height 24 3/4 " - 29 3/4". Width 30" to 37 1/2," \$125. Call 828-371-2999

ART-ALL ORIGINAL. Art League of Highlands Fall Colors. October 20, 21. 10:00-5:00. Recreation Park, Route 64 West, Highlands, NC. Children's Art Room and "Hallway Hat Rack Show." Free admission. Door prizes. 828-526-2177.

COMPLETE SET: XM RADIO. Automobile unit, Home Boom Box, Remote Home Antenna by DELPHI over \$200 value for \$85.00. Call 526-2713

LATE KENMORE FLOOR MODEL VACCUUM 5.0 power with 2-motor systems. \$149. Call 526-4077.

TWO DAHON PORTABLE FOLDING BICYCLES. 6-speed. Like new. Kryptonite lock. \$275 for both. Call 743-5593.

MEDICAL LIFT CHAIR – Used one week. Paid \$615, asking \$500. 526-5558.

ANTIQUE CHERRY DINING TABLE from Estate Sale. Double drop-leaf. Rope carved legs. Seats 4-10 people Extends to 4x10 ft \$2,200. obo 828-787-1515

LARGE BIRDCAGE – 2 1/2 feet high by 1 foot 3 inches wide by 1 foot 2 inches deep. With feeders. \$40. Call 526-9245.

DOG KENNEL. 10' x 10' x 6', heavy gauge chainlink. Like New. \$175, was \$270. call 828.389.2722 Hayesville, NC

DELUXE VENTED GAS heater high btu, slightly used, \$100. 524-6038.

CUSTOM DECK SET – Painted aluminum Love seat & club chair with laminated waverly cushions. \$125. Call 526-1078.

MAHOUGHANY CHINA CLOSET. 6-ft plus, mirror back, 4 glass shelves. Must see. Call 787-2307.

BERNHARDT CHERRY DESK. mint condition. Paid \$4,000; sell \$1500. Call 404-354-7463.

CERAMIC KILN. 230V, 20A, dual control up to 2300°F. Interior 20" high, 18" diameter. Almost new. \$500. 828/787-2177.

USED PLAYSTATION 2 – With 10 games (Star Wars, Battlefront II, Lego Star Wars, Spiderman 2 and more) – Includes memory card, controllers, and other accessories. Asking \$350 or OBO. Call Gardner at 526-3008.

ANTIQUE SLOT MACHINES – 25c 1933 mills "war eagle" \$2,800; 10c mills 777 "special award" \$2,400. Mint condition. 828-862-3363.

ARMOIRE & DRESSOR W/ 3 WAY MIRROR. Light Maple color. Excellent condition. \$600 for both or will sell separately. 526-9107.

VANITY TOP SINK – 22"x37" with 4" back splash cream color, \$59. Call 526-4077.

NEW SHOWER DOOR – Still in box. 27" wide, gold color. Call 526-4077. \$79.

FARM HOUSE STYLE PINE TOP COUNTRY TABLE with white-washed legs, 6 chairs with white-washed legs. Best offer over \$700. Call 526-1597.

CHINA CABINETS desk, rope-bed, trunk framed artwork, quilts, and more. Call 828-526-3836.

ANTIQUE BEAMS, FLOORING AND STRUCTURES: Hand hewn beams in oak and yellow pine. Beautiful material, large faces, \$3.50-\$4 per board foot. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") \$6/board ft. Also selling entire log and timber frame structures. 215-529-7637 (www.jcwoodworking.info)

BEAUTIFUL FLOORING: Wormy white oak flooring, resawn, milled and ready to lay w/ t&g, 6-12" widths, \$8/sq. ft. 215-529-7637

LOG CABIN KIT – 32 x 24 8 1/2 inch yellow Pine logs. Walls only. \$9,999. Call 526-0241.

TIME CLOCK, Acroprint Model 125, and time cards. See Bob at SweetTreats, 526-9822.

BISTRO TABLES, 21" round (black and white), 2 black chairs. (4 sets @ \$125 per set). See Bob at SweetTreats 526-9822.

DINING ROOM FURNITURE. Very nice. Rectangular with two leaves 6 chairs, 2 with arms. Maple with upholstered seats. \$326 all inclusive. 864-972-8525 or cell 864-723-4101

HILTI TE 805 DEMOLITION HAMMER. New. Case & 4 bits. \$500. 828-526-2700 or 828-421-7886

SLEEPER SOFA – Neutral Plaid. Like New. \$145. Call 864-972-8525.

SOLID DARK OAK DINETTE CABINET. 19"x64"x84". 3 glass windows on top. 3 drawers on bottom. 2 bottom doors with keys. Imported from Belgium. Excellent condition. \$1,500. Call 369-3250.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

MITSUBISHI 2006 RAIDER PICK-UP TRUCK – 4WD, Tool Box, 10,5000 miles. \$18,000. Call 526-0539.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE FOR SALE – 2002 Discovery – 38P Cat 338 HP. Immaculate. Double Slide. Smoke/pet free. Original owner. All options Electric awnings. W/D. Six new batteries. Extended warranty. Brake Pro. 28,000 miles. \$105,000. Call 743-5593.

1984 TOYOTA COROLLA - 200,000 miles runs good/great gas mileage \$550 obo. Call 526-4741

1991 HONDA PRELUDE – 190K miles. Runs Good. Looks Good. \$800. Call 200-9824.

2006 SUZUKI DR 200SE MOTORCY-

• CLASSIFIEDS •

CLE – 29 miles, only, perfect condition, 1-cylinder, 4-stroke, 199cc. \$3,000. Call 828-342-6789 or home at 828-526-5507.

HANDICAPPED VAN – Dodge Grand Caravan, wheelchair accessible, automatic ramp, hand controls, 43,900 miles, \$16,000.00 526-9769.

1966 MUSTANG – 2-door coupe. \$12,000. Call 828-883-4214.

1999 CAMARO – New tires, low mileage, 5-speed, 6-cylinder, excellent condition. Call 828-369-3619.

1991 SUBURBAN 3/4 TON, 130K miles, 20K on Tranny, 350 V8, lift w/wheels & tires, good condition, never off-road, white/blue \$4350. Call 200-0013.

SERVICES

CAREGIVER – Mature lady will do assisted living in your home. Quality care for all your needs. Also, house and pet care. Clear background and driving record. Call 706-282-0021 for more information.

HOUSE SITTER AVAILABLE – NC writer with excellent local references, seeking opportunity to stay in Highlands for the winter. Responsible, quiet, handy. Some caretaking -- no problem! 828-743-9530 or 917-584-7673.

HOME CARETAKER – Live in position wanted. Will repair and remodel your home while you're away this winter. Experienced in home repair and landscaping. References available. Call Jim Martineau at 828-743-2273 or cell: 413-584-1911.

CUTTING EDGE TREE SERVICE – "Let us go out on a Limb for You." We specialize in tree removal, trimming, Lot/View clearing, under brushing and stump grinding. Quality work and Fully insured. For Free Estimate call 524-1309 or 421-2905.

SPIC AND SPAN CLEANERS – looking for part-time cleaners to clean banks in Highlands and Cashiers. Call 828-691-6353.

TREE SERVICE – From view clearing to the most complicated tree removal, under brushing, stump removal/grinding/brush chipping/hauling and storm clean-up. For good quality, dependable services, fully insured, give us a call at 828-526-2251.

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID TREATMENT – By J&J Lawn and Landscaping services. NC Licensed Applicator, Highlands, NC 828-526-2251.

J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES – complete lawn and landscaping service, spring cleanup, gutter cleaning, under-brushing, tree removal, lot clearing, storm cleanup, rockwork, retaining walls, flowerbeds, firewood. 828-526-2251.

CLOCK REPAIR & RESTORATION – Antique or modern. Call to discuss your repair needs. Visit my website at www.olderclockrepari.com or call Joseph McGahee at 706-754-9631 or email to mogaheeclockshop@yahoo.com – 9/13

PAINTING & PRESSURE CLEANING

– Decks and homes, senior discounts. Call the "Fussy Painter for Fussy People." ATM Painting. Insured. Alan Davies. Call 828-577-9262.

SHIPPING SERVICES - STORK'S WRAP, PACK & SHIP UPS Ground & Next Day Air services and large furniture shipping available. Packing services and/or supplies. Gift wrapping and fax services. 323 Hwy 107 N., Cashiers, NC (1/2 mile from crossroads) (828) 743-3222.

HOUSE CLEANING & ERRAND RUNNING – References available. Call 524-3261.

NEED YOUR HOME CLEANED? Call Charlotte at Letson Enterprise for a free estimate. 828-369-9127 or Bill at 828-421-0971.

PERSONAL COMPANION/CARE-GIVER Whatever your needs may be we can help. References available (828)421-5940,(828) 399-1749.

FIVE STAR CLEANING & MAINTENANCE – Light and detail cleaning. Call 828-332-7201.

D.P. PAINTING & PRESSURE WASHING – Interior and exterior painting. Quality Work. References. In business since 1984. Dennis Perkins. 526-3542 or 371-2277.

YARD WORK & PRESSURE WASHING – Yard and property maintenance. Pressure Washing and odd jobs. Call Bruce at 828-369-3168 or 828 371-2766. 8/18

H & D HOUSE CLEANERS – We're the team for minor cleans. Dishes, bed, floors, & baths. Give us a call 'cause we are the Best!" 706-982-1994 or 706-782-0376

SCOTTS CONSTRUCTION 'ME FIX IT' – Decks, roofs, pressure washing, painting, lawn service, small electrical, floors, carpet cleaning, house cleaning! No job too small. 30 yrs. exp. Call David at 828-369-5886 or 828-347-5051.

C&C CONTRACTING – We Get It Done — Small or Large – Remodeling, decks, doors, windows or the whole house! Call Art Doughty at 828-508-1360 Workmen's Comp, General Liability, References

HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE – Atlanta Airport Shuttle. Drive - Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.

MARK'S SEDAN DRIVING SERVICE – All airports – Atlanta, Asheville, scenic tours, parks, special occasions, restaurant trips, auto delivery. Town Car. Call 828-524-0424 or cell (239)-292-3623. 10/25

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2007 MUNICIPAL ELECTION, COUNTY WIDE BOND REFERENDUM & LEVY OF LAND TRANSFER TAX REFERENDUM

The **Municipal Election, County Wide Bond Referendum and Levy of Land Transfer Tax Referendum** will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2007. The **Town of Franklin** ballot will have the following items: **Mayor, Alderman, Bond Referendums and Levy of Land Transfer Tax Referendum.** The **Town of Highlands** ballot will have the following items: **Town Commissioners, Mixed and Malt Beverage, Bond Referendums and Levy of Land Transfer Tax Referendum.** Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. The polling places will be located at:

North Franklin - **SCC (this building is located beside the Macon County Courthouse.)**

- South Franklin – The OLD Library.
- East Franklin – East Franklin Elementary School. (Behind Hardee's)
- Iotla – Iotla Elementary School.
- Union – Macon County Community Building- located across from the Whistle Stop Mall.
- Millshoal – Holly Springs Community Building.
- Ellijay – Cullasaja Elementary School.
- Sugarfork – Pine Grove Community Building.
- Highlands – Highlands Civic Center.
- Flats – Scaly Mountain Community Center.
- Smithbridge – Otto Community Building located above Otto Fire Department.
- Cartoogechaye – The OLD Cartoogechaye Elementary School. **Located on Hwy 64 West.**
- Burningtown – Burningtown Community Building. Located **behind Burningtown Baptist Church.**
- Cowee – Cowee Elementary School.

Absentee ballots are allowed. Requests for an **absentee ballot must be**

made in writing and received in the Macon County Board of Elections office by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 30, 2007. Requests may also be done in person at the Macon County Board of Elections for the Absentee Ballot to be mailed. Absentee Ballots are required to be mailed. Absentee voting begins on Monday September 17, 2007. All voted Absentee ballots must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 5, 2007.

One-Stop Voting will be held in the Board of Elections Office beginning **Thursday, October 18th.** The Board of Elections is located in the Macon County Courthouse, Room 127A which is on the 1st floor of the Courthouse. **Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** In addition to regular office hours, the office will be open on **Saturday, October 20th, Saturday, October 27th,** and the last day of One-Stop voting will be on **Saturday, November 3, 2007.** For One-Stop voting on **Saturday's** the office hours will be from **8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** **If you do not vote early you will be required to go to your polling place on Election Day.**

All residents of Macon County who are registered to vote with Macon County Board of Elections may vote in this election. All residents who are registered to vote in the Town Election may vote on all issues. County residents may vote on Bond Referendum's. Last day to register to vote is Friday, October 12, 2007. A person may register at the Board of Election Office or may register by mail.

For additional information contact the Macon County Board of Elections at 828-349-2034.

Sara Waldroop, Chairman
Macon County Board of Elections
10/11

• THANK YOUS •

Thanks to community

The Highlands School Baseball program and the Lady Highlanders Basketball team would like to thank the community and boosters club for helping support the teams in our recent fund-raisers.

These events have been fun and enjoyable for all who participated in these events. Money is going to help with expenses the teams will have for the upcoming seasons.

If you would like to help, donations are always welcome! Hopefully these are things that the athletic department can continue to do!

The Highlands School Baseball Program & the Lady Highlanders Basketball team

Thanks to doctors

The athletes and coaches of Highlands School would like to thank Dr. Patti Wheeler, Dr. Olson, Jennifer Fernandez, and MacKenzie Cook with their time and dedication.

These doctors provided two days of physical examinations for our athletes. It is nice to have dedicated physicians in the community who help us out.

Thank you!

The Highlands School Athletic Department

... BRUGGER continued from page 8

have individual towel colors. I love systems and am always looking for new ideas. Many years ago I read about a young man who was faced with raising three small children after his wife died. The first time he went into the kitchen to make a grocery list he panicked. How could he possibly know what to buy? So he developed lists for the items that each pantry shelf should have when fully stocked and taped each list to the door of the cupboard. To make out his grocery list all he had to do was run down the list

on the door and check against the contents of the shelf. I have been doing a variation of this scheme ever since and I love it; it has made keeping our pantry stocked a breeze.

And for those who can't seem to get on top of the mess in their lives, there's hope in technology: "The growing availability of dirt-cheap chips with built-in radio transmitters is expected to create an opportunity for Google to let people call up the exact location of their car keys."

WET BASEMENT?

All-Dry

of the Carolinas

Basement Systems

Basement & Crawl Space Specialists

- ✓ Save Up to 50% Over Other Methods
- ✓ Transferrable Written Warranty
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Schedule your appointment TODAY and receive a FREE book!

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7 Days A Week 24 Hours A Day...Even Holidays



We will locate, excavate and pump it!

MENTION THIS AD & SAVE \$25

Roto-Rooter Plumbing & Drain Cleaning of Highlands and Cashiers now offers septic tank pumping, drain field cleaning and septic field location.

Think your drainfield needs replacing?

The majority of drainfield problems occur due to build up in the drain lines. Roto-Rooter can clean lines, saving you thousands of dollars when compared to replacing lines.

Based in Highlands • Call 526-8313 • Free Estimates

... HIS & HERS continued from page 9

sends his shirts out to be stuffed."

That makes the final point about humor. As Twain wrote in "The Mysterious Stranger," only humor has the capacity "to destroy a public humbug at a single blast." Boss Tweed of New York City was immune to prosecution because he controlled the judges. The cartoons of Thomas Nast made a joke of Boss Tweed and eventually brought him down.

Perhaps in this era when absurdity is all around us, we need more humor and less philosophy to fight the public rot. As the best of both humorists and philosophers will agree, humor is just philosophy without the long words and pages of explanation.

As I was about to publish this, Larry

Craig lost his vain effort to withdraw his guilty plea, and then violated his own pledge and said he intended to stay in the Senate. It is time for an intervention.

When Justice William O. Douglas was getting senile at the end of his long service on the Supreme Court, a delegation of his three closest and longest colleagues came to him and made it clear he should step down. It is time for a handful of Republican Senators to do the same to, and for, Larry Craig.

• About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu He lives in the 11th District of North Carolina.

... BLOOD DRIVES continued from page 25

time to allow them to donate again in this drive, should they wish to do so.

AnMed Blood Center in Anderson, S.C. has supplied blood and blood products to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital more than 20 years. It is the only blood center utilized by the hospital.

Potential donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds,

and be in good health. Even those who take medication for high blood pressure can usually donate blood. In fact, most medications won't disqualify potential donors. In fact, new research has shown that some prospective donors who might not have been considered eligible in the past may now be able to participate.



Full Service Property Care and Management
Family owned, full-service property management and maintenance company

MHM will take care of all of your property needs: bi weekly and monthly inspections, housekeeping, grounds keeping, pet sitting, concierge service, house sitting, holiday lights, winterizing your home, boat, car snow removal and more!

Fore more information and a complete list of services visit our web sight www.mountainhomemgmt.com

Jeff Nickerson, owner-operator
828-230-2989

• POLICE & FIRE •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Sept. 29-Oct. 9. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Sept. 29

- At 6:30 p.m., \$200 of building supplies were reported missing.

Oct. 1

- Officers responded to a 9-1-1 hang-up from Old Edwards Inn & Spa.
- A citizen parked on Main Street reported her cell phone stolen off the front seat of her car. It is valued at \$250.

Oct. 2

- At noon, an attempted breaking and entering was reported at a residence on Wilson Road which resulted in damage to a \$200 door.
- At 4:39 a.m., officers on patrol found the front door to Town Hall open.

- At 5:45 p.m., a motorist at Hicks and Mirrormont was cited for speeding 53 mph in a 25 zone.

Oct. 4

- At noon, a motorist on N.C.

106 was cited for speeding 54 mph in a 35 zone.

Oct. 6

- At 1 p.m., a breaking and entering with larceny was reported where an electric chainsaw and a pressure washer. Thieves allegedly entered through a bathroom window.

- During the week officers issued 7 warning tickets and responded to 1 alarm.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Oct. 5-10

Oct. 5

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Bonnie Lane. The victim was transported to Bryant Funeral Home.
- The dept. responded to an

accident on U.S. 64 west near Dry Falls. There were no injuries.

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Cobb Road which was set off by workers.

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Smallwood Ave. which was set off by workers..

Oct. 9

- The dept. was called twice to a home on Blackrock Circle to conduct a carbon monoxide check.

Oct. 10

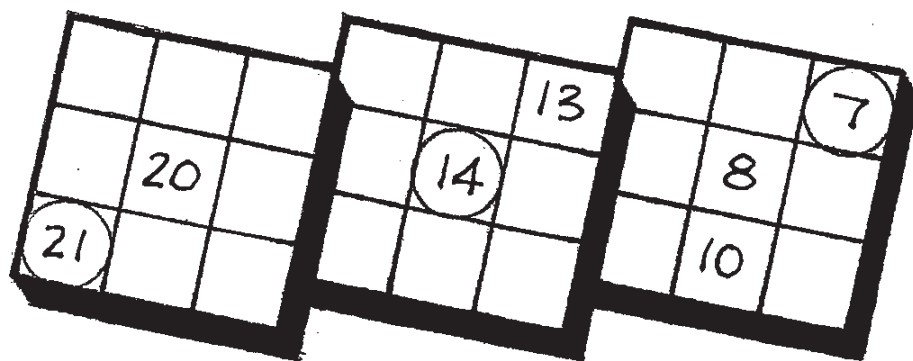
- The dept. responded to a brush fire at the Meadows.

NOTE:

The dept. requests that all citizens display their 9-1-1 numbers at their residents. To know where to put them, call 526-3645.

PseudoCube®

#CN4F - Level of Difficulty - Moderate



THE SETUP:

The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through the center number of the middle layer. Each diagonal contains 3 numbers equalling the total of the three center numbers. One of the diagonals is shown with circles.

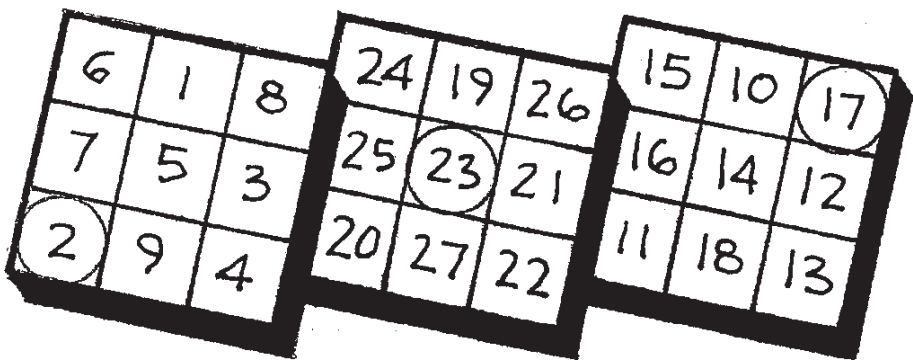
THE CHALLENGE:

Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

The first correct solution emailed earns a coupon for a FREE cup of coffee from Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street.

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com

Solution to #BN3D in the Oct. 4 paper



... GORGE ROAD continued from page 14

70 feet, unless the truck is delivering in the area.

"If we don't know about a problem, we can't fix it," Sgt. Johnson said. This could be an indication that the public needs to raise awareness about any and all issues pertaining to the Gorge Road.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

Louise Gallery, but in the next year the gallery will be moving into its new facility at the Fine Art Center on Oak Street. The Library Board of Trustees is currently planning how best to use this space once the Gallery's move is complete and the library is able to expand to fill the entire building. In the next year the library board will begin to raise the funds needed to renovate the vacated gallery space for library use.

However, even this additional space may not be enough.

Last year the library board hired the library consulting firm of Dubberly-Garcia Associates to help guide them in planning for this expansion. As a result of this planning, the board has been told that due to the pace of growth on the plateau, a 8400 square foot building would only serve the Highlands community for another few years and that by the year 2016 Highlands will need a facility almost twice this size. While it is possible to expand the current building beyond its current footprint, a structure of nearly 16,000 square feet cannot be

built at the library's current location while still adhering to generally accepted standards for library layout and accessibility or without disrupting current library services.

The current Hudson Library is a legacy that we have received from past generations of Highlanders. Passing the library bond referendum will enable the county to build a new library building designed to meet the future needs of citizens and visitors to the Highlands community. The Library Board of Trustees urges all citizens to vote "Yes" on the November 6 bond initiative to build Highlands a new library.

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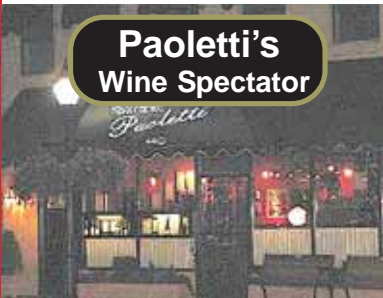
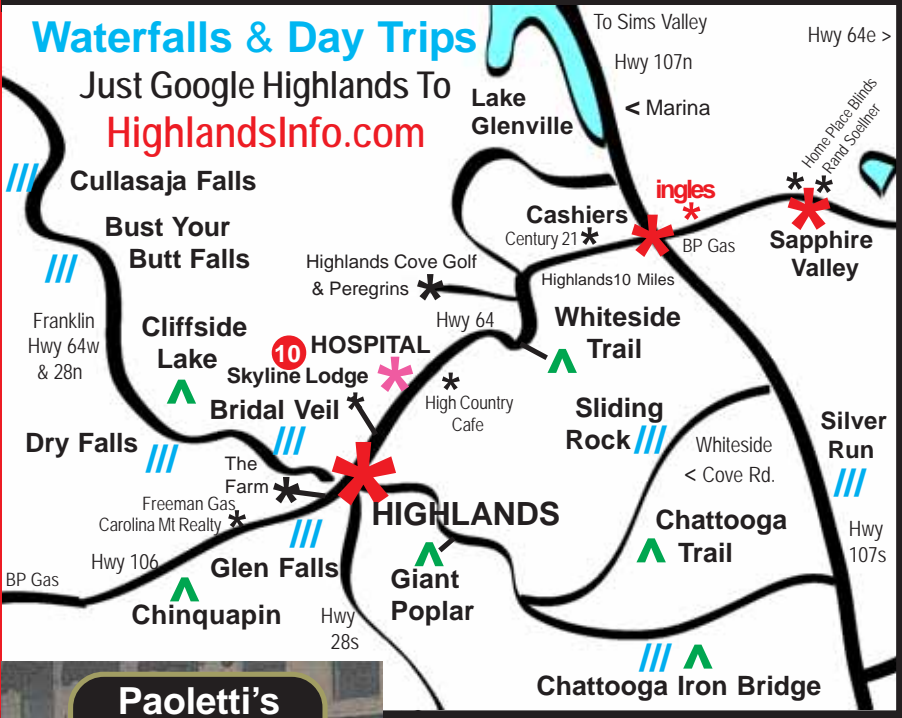
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