

Inside:

Relay for Life	pg. 5
Wooldridge	pg. 4
Features	pg. 14-15
Movie Pix	pg. 6
Hiking	pg. 17
Police & Fire	pg. 20
Cooking...	pg. 10

The week of Aug. 12-19

- This week at Highlands Wine & Cheese -- Wine Flights Thurs., Fri., and Sat.: 4:30-6:30. The Wines of Burgundy. Special Guest on Sat.: Scott Cohen from Joseph Drouhin wines. Wines by the Glass and Cheese Plates, Wed. - Sun.: 1:30-4:30. Complimentary Tastings Sat. & Sun.: 1-4:30.

- At Wolfgang's on Main -- Get Uncorked **THURS-SUN.** 4-6:30 p.m.: Wine and Appetizer Pairings, Flights of Wine, Wine by the glass or bottle/Appetizers; **SUNDAYS:** Dinner and Jazz 6:30-9:30 p.m. Call 526-3807 for reservations. **MONDAYS:** Fine Art, Fine Wine and Fine Dining, 6 pm -- Passed Appetizers. 6:30 pm -- Dinner. Reservations. Call 526-3807.

Aug. 12

- Zahner Conservation Lecture Series at the Highlands Nature Center. Susan Cerulean of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission presents "Tracking Desire and the Swallow-tailed Kite: Habitats and Species Conservation." 7 p.m. Free.

Aug 12-22

- "6 Rms Riv Vu" at the Highlands Playhouse. Performances are Tues.-Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m. Adult tickets, \$20; Children 12 and under, \$9. Call 526-2695

Aug 14

- Historic Home Tour, sponsored by Highlands Historical Society, 9:30 to 3. Call 787-1050 for reservations. Shuttle departure from the Civic Center on the half hour.

- Zorki at "Paoletti's Late Night" 10:30 p.m.

Aug 15

- Annual Audubon picnic at the Highlands Civic Center south shelter. Cost is \$5 per person for hamburgers. Bring a covered dish. Call 787-1387.

- Final Gala Concert of the H-C Chamber Music Festival 5 p.m. at the PAC and concludes with dinner at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Tickets are \$100 for the concert and dinner. \$40 for the concert only.

Aug.16

- HIARPT lecture series presents Dr. Edward Barrett, who will present "Washington and the Will to Live Wisely," Monday at 7:30 p.m. at PAC.

Aug. 17

- Juniors, seniors & their parents are invited to the Highlands School cafeteria at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., respectively, to talk about preparing for the senior year and graduation from high school.

- Hudson Library Cooking Class with Swiss chef Peter Ryter. Call 526-3031.

FREE

Highlands' Newspaper

Volume 2, Number 32

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Aug. 13, 2004

State might foot bill for stormwater controls

By Kim Lewicki

Now is the time for the county and the town to voluntarily take steps to control storm-water runoff if they want access to federal and state grants earmarked for such projects.

At the Aug. 2 Macon County Commissioner's meeting, Bob Wright, with the Macon County Watershed

Council, briefed the board on Bill S1210, ratified by the N.C. General Assembly on July 12. It implements temporary rules for Federal Phase II Stormwater Management Requirements and has the potential to affect Macon County by legislating an unfunded mandate upon local governments.

He said before legislative

implementation of a federal stormwater program is set in stone, a local government and partnering nonprofit watershed organizations could be eligible for grant funding of voluntary stormwater projects which will eventually be required under the NPDES Phase II mandates.

■See **STORM WATER** page 13

It's a family affair at Fire Dept.



Photo by Jim Lewicki

Ann Marie and Emily Crowe, daughters of F&R volunteer John Crowe, and Jessica Tilson, daughter of F&R volunteer, Jerry Tilson, were three of hundreds of children who enjoyed lunch and firetruck rides at the Highlands Fire & Rescue annual Open House Saturday, Aug. 7.

Roving roadside vendors could be prohibited

By Kim Lewicki

Soon the county may adopt an ordinance prohibiting roadside vendors from setting up shop along county roads.

At the Aug. 2 Macon County Commissioners meeting, Commissioner Allan Bryson suggested the county consider such regulations on the grounds that such vendors "compete with local merchants and are a safety hazard."

"Just about every weekend you see people selling merchandise on pull-offs along the road right outside the Highlands town limits," said Bryson. "They are competing with stores that pay sales tax, rent, utilities and everything else."

Commissioner Mark West said roadside vendors constitute a safety hazard, too. "I saw someone try to pull over to one of those vendors at the last minute and they almost had an accident."

Bryson said all winter people work and pay county taxes and during the season roadside vendors set up shop without any overhead. "It's just not right," he said.

The board took the recommendation under advisement noting that enforcement of the ordinance would be an issue to consider, too.

'Sale final when taxes paid'

By Kim Lewicki

Property owners must now verify property taxes aren't due on real estate before recording the deed.

At the Aug. 2 Macon County Commissioners meeting, the board adopted a resolution requiring tax certification in an effort to collect delinquent taxes.

The Register of Deeds won't accept any deed transferring real estate until the county tax collector certifies there aren't any delinquent taxes of any kind on the property.

"We strongly suggest you adopt this," said a tax office representative "Lots of property has changed hands without delinquent taxes being paid."

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Printed by the Asheville Citizen-Times, Asheville, N.C.

• **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** •

Scaly Mtn. Flea Market a success

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the members of the Scaly Mountain Women's Club we would like to express our deepest thanks to everyone who helped to make our recent Mountain Market Place benefit an unqualified and record-breaking success.

Donations of time, talent, items for the flea market, live auction and other important resources have translated into almost \$4,000 for local scholarships and contributions to area human service agencies.

Very special appreciation goes to the owners of the Scaly Ski Lodge, auctioneer Bryan Snider, area media and Cabe Realty for their invaluable and generous help.

Together we will continue to improve the quality of life for many in our community and look forward to a repeat performance next year.

Faye Bellwood and Karen Muns

Co-chairmen

Scaly Mountain Market Place 2004

Dear Editor,

In the biased media (this paper excluded of course) we've heard a lot in recent weeks about the promise of embryonic stem-cell research to cure diseases as Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis. Too bad it's based on speculation and wishful thinking. The truth is not one human being has been treated with embryonic stem cells – not for lack of funding, but because such cells have been known to create malignant tumors in lab animals.

One prominent scientist, D.G. McKay of the National Institute for Neurological Diseases and Stroke, has called the notion that embryonic stem cells will provide an antidote to Alzheimer's disease a "fairy tale."

What's more, such research requires the loss of life, because the embryo- a tiny human being- must be destroyed for it's cells to be extracted. This is not true in the case of research done using stem cells taken from such sources as the pancreas, the brain, and placenta. That type of science, adult stem-cell research, has actually shown great promise in treatment of scores of debilitating conditions.

So, don't be fooled the next time you hear that conservatives want to ban stem-cell research. We simply want to support the most ethical, promising form of it – so that there's a real chance of helping those who suffer.

Darlene Melcher
Highlands

Historical house tour this weekend

Faraway, built by Dr. Mary E. Lapham in 1897, is one of the four historic homes on tour in the Satulah Mountain Historic District on Saturday, Aug. 14, sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society. Dr. Lapham founded the TB sanitarium and was an important member of early Highlands Faraway has been carefully and lovingly reconstructed by its present owners Bill and Julia Crumbles. Tickets are \$40 per person and can be reserved by calling 787-1050 as well as at the door. Shuttle departure is from the Civic Center. Morning departures are filled but some space is available during the afternoon between 12:30 and 3 p.m. on the half hour.



Huge turnout keeps firetrucks rolling



Photo by Jim Lewicki

It's an annual affair - free rides on the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department firetruck and a hot dog lunch with all the fixings also for free at the department's open house. Volunteer fire and rescue personnel were on hand from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7 helping children and parents on and off the firetruck. Each ride lasted about 15 minutes and participants got a tour of Highlands with sirens blasting. Asst. Fire Chief, Ricky Bryson said about 500 hot dog plates were served. Donations to the tune of \$1,900 were gladly accepted.

Chamber endorses Amendment One

By Bill Bassham
Chamber Director

The Board of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution in support of Amendment One which will be on the North Carolina ballot in November.

Amendment One will allow local units of government to issue self-financing bonds to finance public improvements including water, sewer, storm-water facilities, streets, parking facilities, and other amenities to leverage private sector investment in targeted areas for a variety of economic and community development purposes such as downtown revitalization, affordable housing, Brownfield redevelopment, and industrial parks.

The local unit issues bonds for public infrastructure that, when combined with an associated private project, results in an incremental in-

crease in the property values of the project area. The revenue from the incremental increase, generated by the project within the development district, is dedicated to retiring the bonds that leveraged it.

Unlike general obligation bonds, self financing bonds do not require the local unit to pledge its taxing authority to secure the bonds. The risk is taken by the bond holder and not the taxpayer.

North Carolina is currently one of only two states in the country that does not allow self-financing bonds. This has put our economic developers at a disadvantage with neighboring states. As a result, former Governors Hunt, Holshouser, and Martin are actively campaigning for the passage of this amendment.

A nearby example of what these bonds can do is the redevelopment of downtown Greenville, S.C.

Highlands Historical Society

TOUR OF HISTORIC HIGHLANDS HOMES IN THE SATULAH MOUNTAIN HISTORIC DISTRICT **SATURDAY AUGUST 14**

Departure from the Civic Center (Rec Park)
between 9:30am and 3 pm on the half hour.

Tickets \$40 per person

Call 787-1050 to reserve departure time.

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• LOOKING AT LIFE •

A walk on the moon (In The Cullasaja River Gorge)

Most of our regular readers know my wife and I once owned a rappelling school here in Highlands. This column is based on one day of the 13 years we were in this thrilling business.

What do rappelling instructors do on their day off? They go rappelling.

Our packs full beyond their capacity, the three of us headed out into the cool, drizzly morning. The oversized ponchos draped over our bodies made us look like characters from a "Star Wars" movie as we trekked through the foggy, rain soaked forest, compass in hand, unable to identify the mountain ridge we needed to find our way.

Following our instincts, we reached the cliff's edge just as the rain stopped and the sun began to burn away the fog. Soaked with perspiration, we dropped our packs and sat, staring at one another, gulping in air. After what seemed like an eternity of silence, Cindy spoke. "Dad, why are we doing this?" No one answered.

Dave Lindsay was the first to stand. He unzipped his pack and pulled the rope slings from their dry environment without a word. Why was everyone so quiet? Instinctively, we all got busy rigging the site for what was to become the most wild and crazy thing we had ever attempted. We would rappel the South wall of the Cullasaja River Gorge.

I had been staring at the cliffs since I arrived here in 1968. Big, bold and dangerous, they beckoned me. Every trip to Franklin, I would look at them across the vast gorge. Now, here I was, lifting 600 feet of rope on my back to begin the descent.

"See you at the bottom" is all I could think to say. Not very original for a bold moment such as this. Hacking my way through the ten feet of undergrowth near the cliff's edge proved to be more strenuous than I had anticipated. By the time I reached the granite, my breathing



Fred Wooldridge

was labored and my heart was pounding from excitement and fear.

Once I was in the clear, I turned to drink in the view. It was one of the most beautiful sights I had ever witnessed. Off my right shoulder, the vast gorge widened before me toward Franklin. To my left, the threatening gorge

deepened and narrowed. Turning in my harness I looked toward highway 64 and saw Dave Jellison, tiny as an ant, sitting on the guardrail, video camera poked in his eye. I took a deep breath and looked down between my legs. Far below, the tops of seventy foot pine trees seemed to point their limbs toward me. I could not see the bottom of my journey as it was just too far away.

I pulled rope from the oversized pack and slowly started my descent. A cool breeze blew across my face which seemed to calm me and give me confidence. It was remarkably quiet out on the face of the cliff. The only sounds were my feet crushing the sun dried lichen that had, long ago, attached itself to the sheer rock. I slowly descended, drinking it all in. There, in a small crack in the rock, green growth and a tiny white flower. Am I the first human to see this flower? Why am I so impressed?

Midway, I became overwhelmed with the vastness of this giant piece of granite rock. I felt so isolated, like a walk on the moon. Had any other human ever gone this way? So much barren, vertical rock. I felt so small, so insignificant. "Get a grip," I whispered softly and continued my descent.

When I reached the tops of the trees, I turned to wave good by to Jellison and lowered myself out of sight. Seventy feet below, the terrain was hostile. I couldn't find a suitable landing spot. I moved horizontal across the face of the rock and suddenly, as if God were guiding me, I spotted a tiny, flat opening in the

Dealing with cancer – an insider's story, continues

Editor's Note: This article is part of a series based on the experiences of a man whose wife has bladder cancer. He has chosen to share his story in the hope that more people will participate in, and contribute to, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life for Highlands and Cashiers. The Mountain Top Relay for Life will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 27, and will continue throughout the night until 7 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 28.

On a sunny Friday morning, Dr. William Scaljon, a urologist at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta, did a cystoscopy on my wife Cynthia and informed us that he had been able to surgically remove eight of the nine malignant tumors that were in her bladder.

But he was so concerned about the tumor that remained that he ordered a CT scan for the following Monday morning. We decided to stay in Atlanta over the weekend, rather than return to our home in the Highlands-Cashiers area. He would be ready to discuss the situation with us on the following Wednesday.

The weekend was not a pleasant one. The uncertainty of our situation was overbearing. We were staying with Cynthia's daughter, and she tried to keep us entertained and distracted. Short of a nuclear attack, I doubt that we would have been able to think about anything other than the cancerous growth in Cynthia's bladder.

Of course, the technician who conducted the CT scan could not tell us anything. We would still have to wait until Wednesday. The tension grew, almost by the minute, until we could meet with the doctor.

And, of course, he had more bad news for us on Wednesday. He was almost certain that the tumor had grown into the outer lining of the bladder. He was just as sure that some of the cancer cells had escaped the bladder and were now eating away somewhere else in her body.

As we sat there, stunned once more, Cynthia said to Dr. Scaljon, "What have I done that would have caused this thing to happen to me?"

"Do you smoke?" the doctor

asked.

"I quit smoking in 1986," she said.

"Well, that's what caused your cancer. Ninety-eight percent of my patients who have bladder cancer

either smoke or have smoked at some time in their lives."

You could have knocked me over with a feather. Cynthia was never a heavy smoker; a pack of cigarettes would last her two days. We had read somewhere that, after 10 years, your lungs are almost completely cleared of the tobacco damage. We thought that danger was behind us.

Dr. Scaljon referred us to an oncologist at Piedmont Hospital, Dr. Richard Lauer. We had an

appointment to see him on Friday. So, we headed back to the mountains to repack for another round with the doctors.

Over the weekend, I decided to check with the American Cancer Society (ACS) to find out more about the relationship between tobacco and cancer.

Despite everything I had read, I was again shocked to see how bad the smoking problem has become.

In 1982, the Surgeon General said: "Cigarette smoking is the major single cause of cancer mortality in the United States." The ACS had this to say: "Because cigarette smoking and tobacco is an acquired behavior, one that the individual chooses to do, smoking is the most preventable cause of premature death in our society."

There's nothing like a reformed smoker. He or she will preach for hours about the dangers of cigarettes and will boast about how easy it is to quit. I made up my mind years ago that I was not going to be a typical reformed smoker.

I've changed my mind. I'm going to preach to every smoker I can find. If I can convince one person to give up cigarettes, my life will be better for it.

Cynthia and I had always thought that we were OK as long as the doctor didn't find a spot on our lungs. That is just the tip of the nicotine iceberg.

Cigarette smoking causes about 30 percent of all cancer deaths, according to the ACS.

More than 440,000 people die every year from tobacco use. The kicker is that they don't all die of lung cancer.

Smoking is also the major cause of cancers of the larynx, oral cavity, pharynx (throat), and esophagus. It is a "contributing" cause in the development of cancers of the bladder, pancreas, liver, uterine cervix, kidney, stomach, colon, rectum, and some forms of leukemia.

For the life of me, I can't think of one good reason that we should

*Are you a cancer survivor or
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Funds raised will benefit cancer research,
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**For more information on getting involved in Relay For Life
Please contact one of the following volunteers:
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• MOVIE PIX •

Throw Momma From The Train

The 1987, PG13, dark comedy, written by Stu Silver, directed by DeVito, starring Billy Crystal, Danny DeVito, and the positively terrifying Anne Ramsey.



Stuart Armor

This is a screamingly funny dark, comic and silly movie, and while Crystal does a great job in this film, no one but DeVito and Ramsey could have pulled off their characters.

The Storyline: it starts off innocently enough, Larry (Crystal) teaches a particularly dreadful creative writing class, and in that class is Owen (Brilliantly played by DeVito, no one could be as bumbling or cowering), who is a man with a problem. Actually Owen has a Sears catalogue of problems, but all he needs help with at the moment is killing his mother (Ramsey is wonderfully horrible and obnoxious in this role). Owen knows Larry has a problem with his thieving ex wife, and drawing inspiration from Hitchcock's "Strangers on a Train," decides that they swap murders.

Larry is strangely reluctant to join in this venture, but meeting Momma does help matters along. Not only would Momma be a little hard to kill, just being near her is a bit of a danger.

Can't give away too much of the story, because while most of it

will be fairly obvious, there are a few very funny twists that are best left as a surprise. But there are a few murder attempts, and some hilarious insights to Owen's imagination.

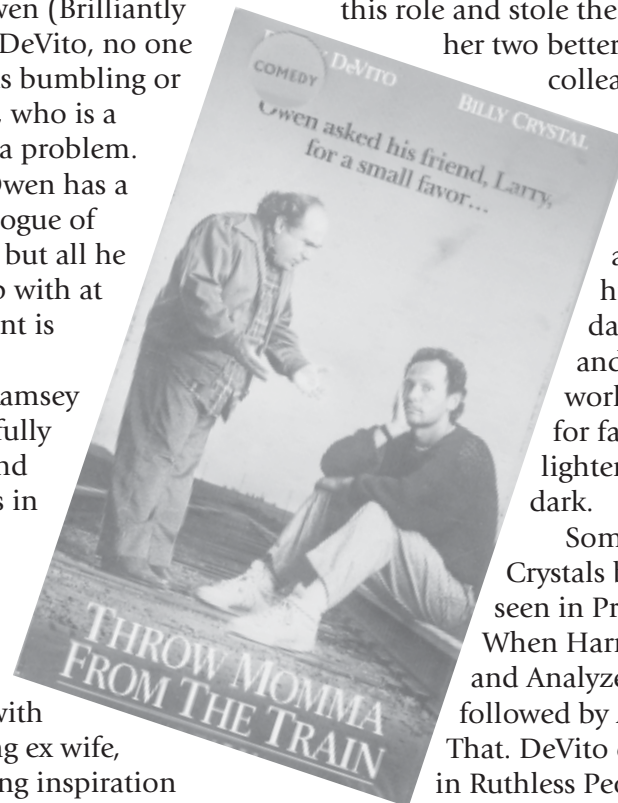
Ramsey, who won Best Supporting Actress for her role, has flawless facial expressions and a voice that could drown out a fog horn, is perfect in every way for this role and stole the show from her two better known colleagues.

DeVito also directed this picture, and it shows his ability in dark comedy and physical work. A must see for fans of the lighter side of dark.

Some more of Crystals best can be seen in Princess Bride, When Harry met Sally, and Analyze This, followed by Analyze That. DeVito can be seen in Ruthless People, Jewel of the Nile, and War of the Roses.

Other comic murderers worth seeing are I Love You to Death, Unfaithful, Murder by Death, Eating Roul, and Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid.

These and about 5,000 other titles can be seen at Movie Stop Video, stop on by.



... LOOKING from pg 4

forest. I stopped just two feet from the forest floor, not wanting it to end. All alone, I stepped to the ground.

I am almost too embarrassed to tell you the antics I went through at the bottom. First there was dancing, then a couple of high five's against the granite, all the time talking and singing out loud. Then, in a moment of solitude, I leaned forward and kissed the rock. "I beat you, you @#\$%&@."

Watching my daughter and Dave descend the wall was fun. There were hugs, high five's and hand shakes at the bottom. I never told them I kissed the rock, then cursed it.

Our trip out of the gorge was just as challenging and adventurous as our trip in but there's just not room to tell it.

Now, when I take trips to Franklin, I glance at the cliff and smile. "Been there, done that."

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2 Sat. & Sun. Matinees

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- Penne Pasta in a creamy tomato sauce w/garlic, chili pepper & vodka; topped with cavier

SECONDO PIATTO

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- Char-grilled Applewood bacon wrapped aged filet mignon

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- Sesame & ginger-crusted pan seared yellowfin tuna

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Speakers set for 2004 Native Plant Conference

Highlands Biological Foundation's annual Conference on Landscaping and Gardening with Native Plants is fast approaching. This year marks the fifth anniversary of the conference which will take place Sept. 10-12 at PAC.

This year we are pleased to present a special Friday evening program about the famous French botanist André Michaux, creatively presented by Mr. Charlie Williams, Librarian and Michaux Scholar. Mr. Williams will also join Bob and Glenda Zahner in leading a tour of the Zahner Gardens that focuses on "Michaux plants." These are species first collected and named by Michaux from his collections in the Southeast.

Participants will also have an opportunity to enjoy Friday and Sunday afternoon garden tours, a Friday evening patrons' reception with the conference speakers, a Saturday evening wine reception, and a native plant auction.

Saturday's lecture program includes presentations by Mr. Jim Plyler, Botanist/Horticulturist and Owner of Natural Landscapes Nursery (The Evolution of a Naturalistic Landscape); Ms. Carol Denhof, Conservation Coordinator at the Atlanta Botanical Garden (Rare Species Recovery and Restoration in the Southern Appalachians); Dr. Allan Armitage, Professor of Horticulture, University of Georgia (Native Herbaceous Plants for my Daughter Laura); Ms. Meredith Clebsh, Horticulturist and Owner of Native Gardens Nursery (Good Grasses: Growing and Using Native Southeastern Grasses); and Mr. Randy Burroughs, Landscape Architect (The Art of Landscaping with Nature: Principles and Practices).

The event always fills the Performing Arts Center to capacity with native plant gardeners who welcome the opportunity to learn new gardening methods and to exchange ideas with professional gardeners, landscapers, and horticulturists.

The regular registration fee is \$100 and the patrons' registration fee is \$200. Registration forms are available from the Highlands Biological Station or call 828-526-2602.

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Outside the cabins, a new waterfall empties into the rock-lined pond situated next to the gazebo-covered hot tub.

Despite the innovative décor, one thing has remained a constant at the Old Creek Lodge; southern hospitality at reasonable rates. Always a good sign, many guests of the Old Creek Lodge are in fact residents of the Highlands-Cashiers area, historically as well as currently.

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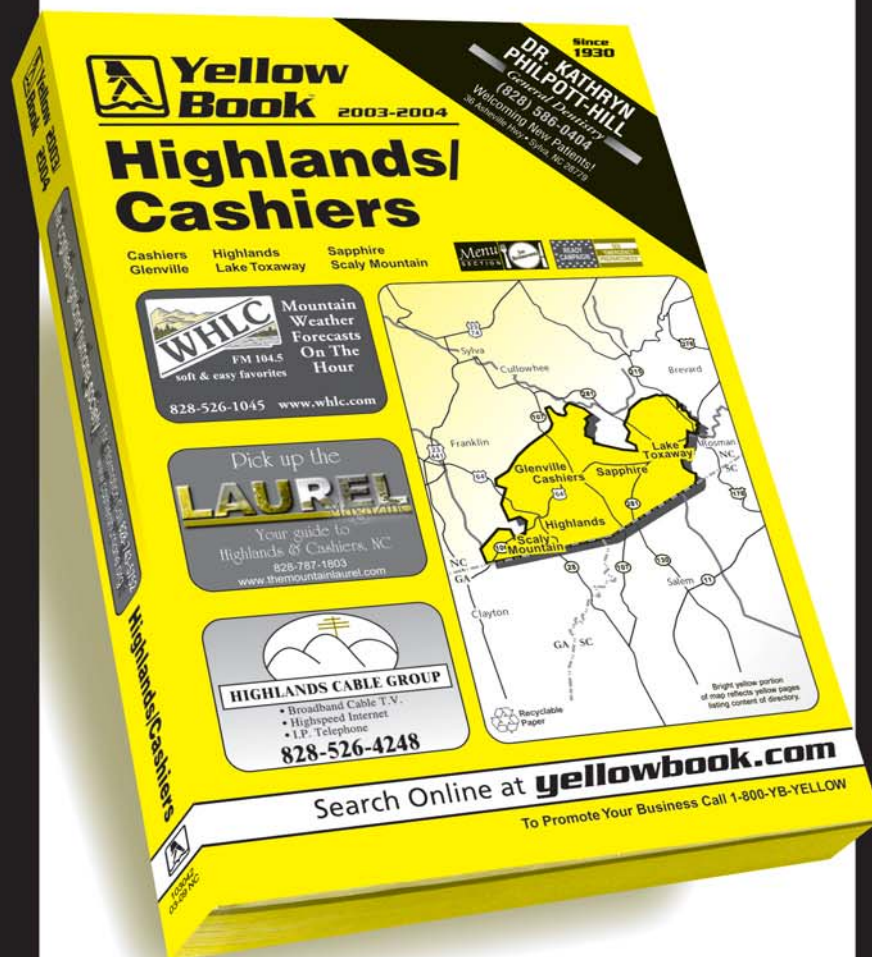


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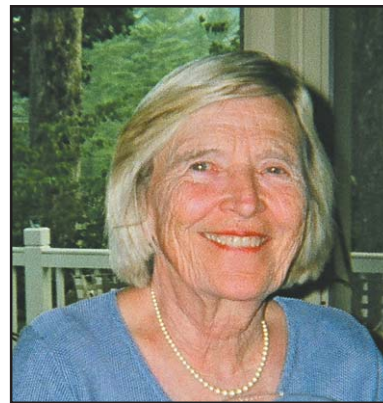
Highlands Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center,
located above town hall, Oak St. and 4th St., Highlands



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• COOKING ON THE PLATEAU •

'A Cooking Affair'



Pat Boyd shares the best of her 50 years of cooking.

By Barbara Lawrence
Contributor

Long time Highlands resident Pat Boyd enjoys entertaining and cooking for people. Over the years she has kept boxes of favorite recipes.

"I was thinking of a way to share and give something of myself to all the people I love," she said. "It seemed that a cookbook would collect the memories of happy meals shared with family and friends. I can think back to a continuous flow of friends and visitors at my home. The coffee pot was always on."

Pat realized she had a passion for cooking when she was first married in 1950. Her husband was a navy pilot and she started collecting favorite menus. The navy captains and commander would come over to their home and try her innovative menus. "I love to feed people; it is a way of life for me. This book is my labor of love." says Pat.

"A Cooking Affair" is really a family affair. Pat's young granddaughter Sara drew the delightful pictures for the book while Pat was sorting through her boxes of recipe clippings.

Pat also had collaboration from local caterer Chuck Hammock. She was encouraged in her work by friends Helen Moore and Jane McNairy. "They were a constant inspiration to me" said Pat.

A Cooking Affair



Pat Boyd
of Highlands, NC

Call Pat at 526-5954 for a copy of this eclectic cookbook, or pick up a copy at "Let Holly do the Cooking" at the Peggy Crosby Center.

Here's one of her favorite recipes from "A Cooking Affair."

Heavenly Chicken Casserole

1 4oz box wild rice
½ cup butter
½ cup onion, chopped
½ cup green pepper, chopped
½ cup celery, chopped
2 cans cream mushroom soup
1 cup sliced almonds
2 cups cheddar cheese,
shredded
4 cups cooked chicken, cubed
1 jar pimiento, drained
1 can drained sliced
mushrooms
Salt and pepper to taste.

Cook wild rice according to package directions until partially done, and then drain. Melt butter in saucepan and add onions, green pepper and celery. Cook until tender. Put into large bowl and add soup and almonds, 1-1/2 cups shredded cheese, chicken, pimientos, mushrooms and cooked wild rice. Blend well and season. Pour mixture into a greased 13" x 9" baking dish and bake 20 minutes in 350 oven. Sprinkle remaining cheese over top and continue to bake for 15 minutes. Enjoy!



Photos by Kim Lewicki

A sneak preview of the First Annual Highlands International Film Festival sponsored by Cyprus International Cuisine was held Monday, Aug. 2 at Cyprus Restaurant. Plans for the festival were unveiled and sponsors honored. A sumptuous buffet of finger foods was supplied by the Cyprus staff.

Film Festival coming to Highlands

The first Highlands International Film Festival opens Aug. 25 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center.

The four-day event will offer an exciting selection of foreign and independent films, documentaries and shorts, all new to the area, as well as showcasing some films spotlighting North Carolina.

Sponsors enable the festival to keep ticket prices low.

August 25 – 2 p.m.

Chaplin, The first 100 Years,
August 25 – 6 p.m.

The dinner Game (French with English subtitles)

August. 25 – 8 p.m.

The Mystery of George Masa
August 26 – 2 p.m.

Kops (Swedish with English subtitles)

August 26 – 7:30 p.m.

Precious Images, Off the Map
August 27 – 2 p.m.

The Rising Place
August 27 – 7:30 p.m.

Mutual Love Life, Grey Owl
August 28 – 10 a.m.

Spy Kids 3D – The Game Is Over
August 28 – 2 p.m.

Rewind, Moi Cesar (French with English subtitles)
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Vita Vera," ...true living...where shared experiences and friendships are reinforced around the table. Here in the mountains, many people are entertaining and looking for that perfect table setting. Carolee and Bob Williams can create that perfect setting with the many colors they offer. Their fabric and tablecloths complete the look. In addition to dinnerware, Mamma Ro' has bakeware that goes from oven to table. Their baskets make the perfect gift items along with candles and gourmet food items. Open Daily except Sunday. Bridal Registry and gift wrapping available.



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... LIFE continued from page 8

we can do it or we just don't want to make a mistake. If only we could reach a little bit into the future to know that almost always it gets easier the second time. It's just getting through the first time.

When we reached the waterfall, a girl, a guy, and their dog looked up as if to greet us. We exchanged a few words and I asked where they started from and if they knew the name of the waterfall in front of us. He said it was the Schoolhouse Falls

and from that information, I knew they did not know where they were. I wasn't sure where I was either but I knew this waterfall was not the Schoolhouse Falls. I shared my Pathertown map with them. It was late in the afternoon, so I encouraged them to go back the way they came and like an older adult, which I was, I encouraged them not to go back into this 6,700 acre forest again without a map. I suggested they could pick up a trail map at the Highland Hiker in Cashiers or

Highlands

And then a funny thing happened. The gal looked up at me and said this may be a funny question, but are you MEL? I paused and said well, yes I am. It turned out she had been at the Western Carolina University teacher's conference that I keynoted last week. At the conference, I introduced myself as MEL. I pronounced at that meeting that I was over 50 now and just simply wanted to be called MEL at this juncture in my life. Funny, she remembered. It's a small world.

Two lessons in one day. A reminder that it is a small world and we are all in this thing called life together and an even more powerful awareness. Don't live with fear-based protection. It's too easy to give into fears or worries about the future and forget to live during the present. What, you say? All this from fording a small stream. If you stop long enough there are many lessons right in front of our face. It's not a padded world and there are some rough edges but our inner wealth can be an enormous strength.

“Don't be too timid and squeamish about your action. All life is an experience.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

Need a cup of delicious coffee and one of Maryellen's books? STOP by the Schoolhouse in Cashiers! Email me for further information. melspeaks@aol.com. Dr. Maryellen Lipinski is a psychologist by profession and an international professional speaker by design. Currently, she coaches individuals to obtain their goals in life and works as a Realtor at Village Realty of Sapphire Valley. www.ilovemountainrealestate.com! www.maryellenlipinski.com

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... STORMWATER from page 1

"After state legislation designates a local government for regulation, the federal and state grants won't be available," said Wright.

With The Clean Water Act in 1972 – called NPDES Phase I – point source discharges came under attack and stormwater controls were set in place for municipalities with a population greater than 100,000; for construction sites disturbing five acres and for 10 industry categories.

In 1999, NPDES Phase II extended storm water management programs to small municipalities with more than 10,000 in population; for construction sites disturbing between one to five acres; and previously exempt industry categories.

In 2002, the EPA started talking about giving municipalities five years to initiate a storm-water management program with permits renewed every five years.

Though neither Highlands or Macon County are considered urban areas, streams and water bodies labeled "impaired" will likely be the reason the county will be ordered to comply, said Wright.

"A recent EMC evaluation of Highlands stormwater sewer system indicated that the town's stormwater discharge could potentially impact water quality," said Wright. "The 2002 Division of Water Quality assessment found Mill Creek to be impaired." Franklin's Crawford Branch's daily maximum pollutant load for a waterway is considered high, he said, according to the report.

In 1996, stormwater run-off from impervious areas – roads, parking lots, roof tops – was named a major contributor to water quality problems for 13 percent of the state's impaired rivers; 21 percent of the state's impaired lakes and 45 percent of the states impaired estuaries.

Also sited was construction site discharges also affecting six percent of the state's impaired rivers; 11 percent of both the impaired lakes and estuaries.

Studies claim development substantially increases impervious surfaces on which pollutants from concentrated human activities settle and remain until a storm event washes them into storm drains and ditches.

Commissioners took the information under advisement.

But Wright reminded them that voluntary projects equal grant money; regulated projects equal no grant money.

Though temporary rules have been put into place, there is still time to take voluntary measures, he said.

• HOME DECOR & FIXTURES •



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Members of the North Mecklenburg Ice soccer team in Highlands last weekend for a scrimmage with the Smoky Mountain Soccer Club at the Buck Creek Field. The group made themselves at home over the weekend at the Keener's house off Flat Mountain Road.

First row from left: Inman McCallister, Alex Sellers, Mary and Jamie Keener's granddaughter, Kelsey Manning, Alexis Ballard and Gretchen Gauvreaux.

Second row from left: Kailyn Overcash, Brooke Arey, Lara Peppercorn, Manisod Cline and Lindsey Zamiela.

Third row from left: Assistant coaches Steve Arey and Mike Manning, Maddy Lennon, Stephanie Isidori, Paige Zartman, Michaela Amato and Head Coach Danny Sellers.

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Team comes to grandma's town to scrimmage & play

By Kim Lewicki

When Sharon Manning asked her mom and dad if she could bring 14 girls and four adults home for the weekend, Mary and Jamie Keener said what was expected. "Sure."

"Growing up there were always lots of people at our house," said Sharon. "It was never just family, it was always somebody else, too."

The Mannings live in Charlotte, N.C., and their daughter Kelsey, 11, plays for the North Meck Ice soccer team in the U-12 girls' league.

With the summer sun beating down on the Charlotte soccer fields, Highlands started looking like a great place for a three-day soccer retreat in the mountains.

Coach Danny Seller said Highlands' offered a cool respite from the hot fields in Charlotte where scores of teams vie for field time. "And we figured this would be a good bonding experience for the girls while exposing them to a slower lifestyle away from the city," he said.

The girls arrived Friday afternoon and left Sunday. In between they scrimmaged with the Smoky Mountain Soccer League from Waynesville on the new Macon County fields on Buck Creek Road.

The Smoky Mountain Soccer team is made up of girls from

Franklin, Waynesville and Canton – a Classic team of U-12 players.

North Meck Ice is an established Challenge team preparing for two soccer tournaments – The Carowinds Soccer Tournament and the High Point Furniture Classic.

Besides playing soccer twice a day, the girls played tourist in Highlands. They shopped, swam in the pool at the Rec Park, and rode the fire truck at the open house at the Fire & Rescue Dept. on Saturday.

"They really had a good time," said Sellers. "We appreciate everything everyone has done for us."

Commissioner Alan Bryson and others had the Buck Creek fields in shape and lined for the scrimmage in a day's time.

John Shearl invited the girls to the Fire Station for rides and lunch and in between they shopped and went swimming at the Rec Park. All in all the girls got a whole-hearted Highlands' welcome.

Manning said they've participated in soccer camps in Charlotte, but this was a whole different experience. "On top of everything else, the girls got to camp out and actually see stars in the sky," he said.

Bryson hopes this is the beginning of a trend in Highlands. "I would love to make Highlands a destination spot for sports teams."

Haitian mission coming to fruition

By Nancy Welch

Contributor

Jane Chalker sits in a small chair in her classroom in Highlands School. Her Great Beginnings classroom is about to fill up with smiling little people ready to learn. She happily anticipates their arrival.

But Chalker's summer was, for the fifth year, a labor of educational love for young people in the village of Conge, Haiti.

Chalker is a true believer in learning, and when she heard the call, the need in Haiti, she answered.

"This was my fifth year to travel there," she said. "The Episcopal Church here answered a call for support there."

Dr. Paul Farmer established a hospital in Conge and serves one-eighth of the population of Haiti. But Chalker's call was not as a doctor or a nurse, it was as a teacher.

"Beth Jones, wife of our former priest here, and I really love to go every year," she said. "We were told about their need for a school in the area and their wish to learn English. They needed help in grades K through eight," she said. "The first year we taught English and stayed for a week. At night we taught the teachers (English) and during the day we taught the students."

"The focus there was hospital, school and church, in other words, body, mind and spirit working together," she said.

The first need, Chalker said, was a library. Then the area needed a new school in nearby Muscady. And so, with the help of The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands and other very generous organizations, they began to build.

"We offered to bring volunteers to help build the school, but they said, 'No, we should build our own school and the money paid to the local builders will bring money to our village.'"

"They understood the need to build their local economy," Chalker explained.

Chalker said the day they began construction on the new school, each child brought rocks and stones for the foundation. This, she said, signified their determination to construct their own school.

"The new school will open in September," she said proudly. She shows a photograph of the construction, a fine building, close to the primitive edifice nearby that has been serving as the school.

"They have had 200 students. The new



Jane Chalker with Beth Jones and Albert, the principal of the school at Tierra Mouscady. The old school is next to Jane and the new school is in the background. The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation sent funds and the people are building the school. The funds not only built the building, but gave people jobs. Members of the church were there for the ground breaking last April. The school children carried rocks to the site. They all want to be a part of building their school. The dedication will be in October when the group visits again.

school will have 400," Chalker said. "It is the only school in the entire area."

Over her years of visiting and working in Haiti, Chalker has watched many of the students learn and grow.

"One little boy asked me to be his 'god-mother' for graduation," she said. "This is an honor granted a special friend. I was very touched."

Chalker also served as speaker for the ceremony.

The New Beginnings teacher from Highlands School said there was little time for rest during her stay.

"The sun was up from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.," she said. "We went to bed at 8 p.m. and got up at 2 a.m. It was noisy all the time. We were just down the road from the hospital and there always seemed to be lines of people waiting to see the doctor. You could hear the sounds of

babies wailing. Some people slept in the walkway leading to the hospital. There were two doctors from Cuba, one pediatrician and one or two Haitian doctors."

She said this year was the first year Conge had electricity.

"But they still cooked outside on charcoal fires," she said.

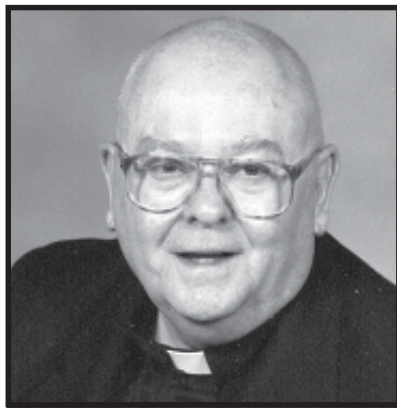
Although political unrest has been the norm in Haiti for several years, Chalker said she always felt secure.

"I really didn't see any signs of trouble, but we did see the presence of the United Nations Force in Port Au Prince," she said.

Chalker won't be waiting to return to Haiti until next summer, she said.

"I'm lining up a substitute so we can go for seven days in October," she said. "I'm looking forward to it."

• **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** •



Father Bill Evans - Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

One of our missionaries in Brazil once confided that one of the hardest truths of working among the very poor was that even they are subject to the vice of "greed," or "avarice" – one of the seven deadly sins. Any small improvement in their lot – a better crop yield, or job security, does not necessarily bring them happiness. It seems to me, at least, that "the more we have, the more we want" is a part of human nature.

Our modern consumer culture in these United States thrives on this principle. The function of all advertising is to make us feel insecure, inadequate and dissatisfied with what we have – that is true from automobiles to X-lax.

Or, as the comedian George Carlin pointed out, most of life is spent worrying about our "stuff," acquiring "stuff," protecting "stuff," storing "stuff," and moving "stuff." For many years, this acquiring of "stuff" was my own pet vice. After I received a Ph.D., I thought that I should acquire every book I could get my hands on. So, I wasted money right and left buying books, most of which I never even read. Only a few years ago, was I able to break this vice and gave almost all of my books away.

Where will we put the latest "stuff" when we get home? Besides myself, Imelda Marcos, the wife of the former dictator of the Philippines, is an example of one who suffered from this "stuff" disease in the most drastic way. It is true that they said she had 50,000 pairs of shoes? Can't you see her now trying to decide which pair of shoes she was going to wear while preparing to flee the Philippines?

Jesus understood that people needed the basics in life. Some of his most spectacular miracles were a direct response to physical needs – food, safety, health, even wine for a marriage feast – after all, 600 gallons of wine would go a very long way.

But he also knew that anxiety over our physical welfare could so preoccupy us that the deeper agendas of life – intimacies with God and relationships of love with one another – would get scant attention.

■ See **SPIRITUALLY** page 19

• **PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU** •

Blue Valley Baptist Church

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

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

Buck Creek Baptist Church

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

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

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

Christ Anglican Church

743-3319

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Holy Communion at most services.

Christian Scientist Church

526-2830

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Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

Study Room Open Tues. and Fri.: 2-4 p.m.

Clear Creek Baptist Church

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

Community Bible Church

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Steven E. Kerhoulas, Pastor, 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east
Sundays: School – 9:30 a.m.; Worship – 10:45;
Youth "The Rock" meeting.

Tuesdays: Women's Bible Study – 9:45
Wed: Supper – 6 p.m.; Bible Study – 6:45 p.m.

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Interim Priest: Stephen Hines, 526-2968
Sundays: Choir – 9 a.m.; Bible Study & Book Study
classes – 9:15 a.m.; Holy Eucharist – 10:30 a.m.;
Children's Chapel – 10:30 a.m.
Women's Cursillo Group (Library) – 4
Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.

The Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14

First Baptist Church

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sun.: Worship – 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.;
School – 9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir –
7:15

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. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Wednesdays: Children's Devotions – 9:30 a.m.;

Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.

Thursdays: Bible Study – 10 a.m.

Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m. & 5

Highlands Assembly of God

Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, 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

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
Sundays: School – 9:30 & 9:45 a.m.; Worship – 8:30
& 11 a.m.

Wednesdays: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study &
activities – 6 p.m.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Family – ELCA

Rev. Pam Mitcham, Pastor,
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

Macedonia Baptist Church

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

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

Mountain Synagogue

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Friday: Sept. 12 Sabbath Eve Services at 7
For more information, call
(706)-745-1842.

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

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

Scaly Mountain Baptist Church

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

Scaly Mountain Church of God

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

526-9769

Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time)

Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

Westside Baptist Church

Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby
Sundays: Fellowship & Worship – 11

Whiteside Presbyterian Church

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

● HIKING THE HIGHLANDS PLATEAU ●

Preserving special places – Land Trust approaches a century of work

By Mike Cavender
Contributor

All of us have a deep love for the abundant natural beauty gracing these mountains, and we have a strong tradition of protecting it.

That tradition of service and stewardship first showed itself in 1909 when dozens of Highlanders — rich, poor and in between — combined their resources through the Highlands Improvement Society to save the top of Satulah Mountain. Within a few weeks the people had raised \$500 to buy the 60-acre mountain top to prevent a hotel from being built there. Now the breathtaking vista is preserved for everyone to enjoy forever. (A favorite hike which affords a view of three states.)

In 1914, the Ravenel family donated for public enjoyment 10 acres overlooking the town of Highlands to the west and Horse Cove to the east. The view from Sunset Rock has been the most popular vista in Highlands for generations. (An easy, popular hike and a great place to watch sunsets.)

These conservation efforts were combined in the late 1980s, when the two organizations protecting those spots merged and changed their name to the Highlands Land Trust. It signaled a conservation renaissance.

"We are attracted to these mountains for their beauty and majesty," says Bill Stiefel, president of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. "We certainly have a duty and responsibility to preserve some of this wonderful natural heritage to pass on to future generations to enjoy. What a travesty if we just ended up consuming what brought us here and left nothing behind."

The original head of the old Kelsey Trail, which once meandered five miles from the town to Whiteside Mountain, was bought in two transactions, ending in 2001. The purchase of the first 3.6-acre tract in 1998 was made possible by the Ralph Sargent family, whose large donation made the purchase possible. The second 7.8-acre tract was purchased in 2001 with funds from donations and a special bequest from an estate. The 11.5 acre preserve at

the end of Fifth Street winds through old forest to the gap between Big and Little Bear Pen Mountains. (A wooded trail that meanders from the end of Fifth Street to the top of Little Bear Pen).

More protected land was added to the top of Satulah in 1998 when \$650,000 was raised in a few months to buy an adjoining eight acres. The purchase allowed deeded pedestrian right of way from the north side of the mountain, something that had not existed before the purchase.

Stewardship of the Satulah summit has come at a high price. The Highlands Land Trust had to go to court in the mid 1990s to defend its claim of right-of-way along the western trail. The expensive litigation resulted in a deeded right of way along the western slope, as well as a donation of an additional five acres of land on the top from the defendants.

The Nature Conservancy gave a 22-acre tract of land to the land trust in 2001. Called the Henry Wright Tract, the steeply sloped valley, where Ammons Branch creek begins, contains ancient hemlocks more than 300 years old.

Three parcels of donated land are along busy streets in Highlands. This welcome green space softens the expansion of commercial and high density residential development.

Other, smaller, tracts around Highlands that are protected by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust add to the natural beauty we sometimes take for granted on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau.

A recent natural area donation is an 18-acre park along the Bowery Road in the Sagee Subdivision. Given by Mrs. Ermee Dixon, the park provides an area of tranquility in a rapidly developing residential area. Mrs. Dixon and her late husband maintained the wooded area for decades as their special project. A valley with old growth hemlock was given to the land trust in December, 2004, by the developers of Ravenel Ridge. The 11.5 acre tract is between the Fodderstack Mountains and the development.

Now more than 400 acres have been protected for everyone to enjoy. Working with land owners through donation, purchase or conservation easement, the Highlands-Cashiers

Land Trust has been very active trying to protect the splendid natural heritage that draws us here and keeps us here.

In 2003 the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, as part of its new strategic plan, decided to expand its conservation services to Cashiers, N.C., vastly increasing the amount of land we might protect.

In addition to protecting land, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust has been very active working with organizations such as the Highlands Biological Station, the Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau and the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association to advance the awareness of conservation in an area that has one of the truly unique environments in the nation.

With the launch of a membership program in September 2001, more than 500 people have joined to keep the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust's conservation mission active and successful.

After almost a century of conservation service to the Highlands area, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is in the early stages of offering its land stewardship programs to the Cashiers area. Plans are being developed for how best to introduce and implement protection for special places in a community that has no land use planning. This early phase is expected to be completed within a year. A part of the expansion was to change the organization's name to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

"This expansion is perhaps the greatest leap forward we have ever considered," says Mike Cavender, executive director of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. "We are encouraged by initial proposals and are very excited about the possibilities."

While keeping with the traditions of those who came before us to protect our natural heritage, we are looking forward to protecting much more of what we love for generations yet to come.

For more information about the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, call 828-526-9938, ext. 250, or write to P.O. Box 1703, Highlands, NC 28741.

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CLE presents Cherokees' lost history

Consideration of "Erased History: Cherokees and Revolutionary War(s)," will be the subject of the lecture by Professor Tom Hatley on Wednesday Aug. 18. Coming from the campus of Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C., Professor Hatley will present the lecture sponsored by the Center For Life Enrichment at the Recreation Center (Highlands Civic Center) at 8 p.m.

Dr. Hatley is a graduate of Davidson College, with a master's degree in history from the University of North Carolina.

He earned a degree as Master of Forest Science from Yale University in 1980 and then, in 1988 received his Ph.D. in Colonial/Environmental History from Duke University. He currently holds the chair as Sequoyah Distinguished Professor in Cherokee Studies within the History Department at Western Carolina University.

Dr. Hatley's presentation will fo-

cus on the Indian War of 1776, including information as to what led to it, why information is missing from the standard histories, and how it changed the destiny of the Cherokee and American nations. Dr. Hatley's teaching, research, and program development in the area of Cherokee, Native American studies and historical relationships with First Nation Communities will make this an extremely interesting subject.

The Center For Life Enrichment is a non-profit organization, created in Highlands 11 years ago. Its mission is to bring speakers and programs to the local area which will enrich the lives of participants intellectually and culturally.

The lecture will start promptly at 8 p.m., lasting one hour, and ending by 9:30 p.m. allowing time for questions and discussion. It is free and open to the general public.

Library cooking classes continue

The third Hudson Library Cooking Class for 2004 will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 17. The class will be led by Swiss chef Peter Ryter of the national award winning Evergreen Restaurant of Anderson, South Carolina. The class will be held in Highlands at the Partain's Ravenel Ridge home.

Peter Ryter is Chef-owner of the Evergreen Restaurant and Day Spa in Anderson, S.C.

Although Chef Ryter was born and trained in Switzerland, his "1109" Dining Room has been recognized as one of the Distinguished Restaurants of North America - Best of the Best 5 Star. Ryter has also been recognized by the International Restaurant Association and received the Millennium Chef Award: Peter Ryter-Top 100 chefs in the 20th century.

Working in the beautiful Ravenel Ridge setting, with active student participation, Chef Ryter should deliver an unforgettable experience for the participants in the third cooking class.

The Library Cooking Classes have been a popular part of the Highlands summer season for fifteen years. Cooking Class openings are limited and reservations are required. A few openings remain for some of the 2004 classes. Contact the library at 526-3031 for more information.

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What better example of this than the two brothers fighting over their inheritance. Family conflicts over money and things can consume people, destroy relationships and bind the heart for years to come with bitterness and anger. If you don't believe me, come back five years after you die and take a good look at your own children – most of them will still be bickering over who got what and whether they deserved it.

"Avoid avarice in all its forms," Jesus warns us. It destroys the spirit,

robs us of freedom and the capacity of joy. It is truly a deadly sin.

The parable of the rich farmer brings home this message. Flush with a surplus crop, he lies awake planning his expanded storage barns, calculating his wealth into a comfortable future. That is so much like you and me when we buy a lottery ticket. Like the fool in Psalm 13 who says in his heart, "There is no God," this farmer is self-made and self-satisfied. He even prays to himself: "I will say to myself, you have blessings in reserve." This is

utter delusion, Jesus warns us.

Death will come for him that very night, and the pity is not that he was focused on wealth, but that in pursuing it, he had neglected life's real treasures. He was allowed to die between barns, so to speak.

This parable is one for our consumer age, learned too late by too many who race through life consumed by work and the upward spiral of wanting, needing, and getting more stuff.

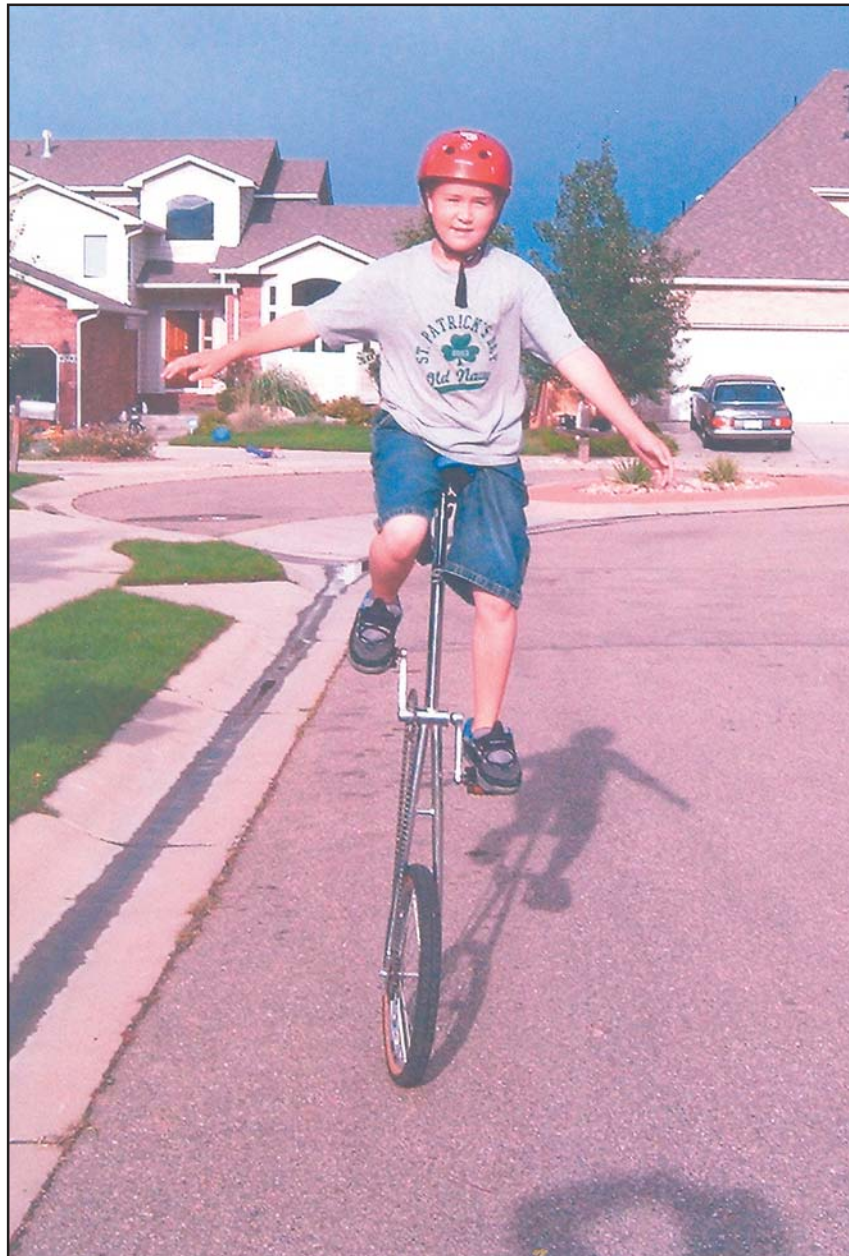
We read obituaries in the newspaper and register the truth

that life is short. We go to garage sales and yard sales and auctions and note the dust on other people's treasures, the foolishness of getting too wrapped up in stuff. The late blues singer that you all know, Peggy Lee, captured Qoheleth's lament better than anyone else ever has: "Is this all there is?"

The answer is of course that there is so much more, but learning to see it requires conversion of the heart. To really trust Providence is not to neglect our gifts or fail to

▪ See SPIRITUALLY page 25

A bicycle built for one



Nine-year-old Eli Zahner of Boulder, Colo., rides his five-foot tall unicycle in his neighborhood. His father has to put him upon the bike when he wants to ride, but then he's off. Eli is the grandson of Bob and Glenda Zahner of Highlands who took this photo while visiting there last week.

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Art show busy last Saturday



Photos by Jim Lewicki

The Macon County Art Association was graced with sun last Saturday while scores of visitors to Highlands roamed the grounds of the Catholic Church on Fifth Street.

• SHOPS AT VILLAGE SQUARE •

This is the sixth year that Shakespeare and Company has been open in Highlands. The shop is the perpetuation of the dream of Silvia Beach, an American who operated a bookshop by the same name in Paris during the first half of the twentieth century. During the Nazi Occupation that store was forced to close but in 1963 another American, by the name of George Whitman, renamed his shop Shakespeare and Company and it is still in operation. Shakespeare and Company in Highlands seeks to keep the world's finest literature in circulation and promote good writing. This week it will be hosting a writer's workshop under the direction of Rosemary Daniell. As is the tradition of Shakespeare and Company, there is a writer's guesthouse where writers may come and work in Highlands. The shop is open from noon till 5 p.m., and closed on Sunday. The store sells predominately used books but this year is featuring a few new best sellers and books by regional authors. All books can be sold back to the shop for 50% of the sales price. Stop in when you have time to browse and if your lucky Katherine Willoughby, the owner, might even fix you a cup of tea.

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of Aug. 4-11. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

Aug. 4

- At 3:20 p.m., officers assisted a motorist in the Highlands Plaza parking lot whose trailer had come unhitched.
- At 6:40 p.m., officers responded to a complaint of a barking dog at a residence on Foreman Road.

Aug. 5

- At 1:05 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles at N. Fourth and Main streets. There was a minor injury.
- At 1:05 p.m., a motorist at N. Fourth and Main streets was cited for failing to stop at the stop sign and causing an accident.
- At 6:50 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence. All was secure.

Aug. 6

- At 10 a.m., officers responded to a call of verbal threats to an ex-employer on Main Street.
- At 11:23 a.m., a resident reported losing his cell phone.
- At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles in front of Reeves Hardware. There were no injuries.
- At 12:45 p.m., a visitor reported losing a wallet near the Village Boutique on Main Street.
- At 6:40 p.m., police instructed several young adults having a verbal disagreement were told to leave the parking lot area behind SweetTreats and not to return.
- At 8:30 p.m., police instructed several teenagers who were throwing a tennis ball in the parking lot behind SweetTreats were told to leave.
- At 5:30 p.m., a resident on Satulah Ridge Road complained about construction noise.

- At 10:30 p.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 53 mph in a 35 zone at U.S. 64 west and Webbmont.

- At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles in Highlands Plaza. There were no injuries.

Aug. 7

- At 4:30 p.m., Horacio Lopez Jimenez, 25, of Highlands, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance when his vehicle was stopped by police at U.S. 64 west and N.C. 106. He was cited for driving without registration and an expired license tag. He was released on a \$1,000 secured bond.

Aug. 8

- At 5:40 p.m., a motorist at Third and Oak streets was cited for speeding 35 mph in a 20 zone and failing to stop at a stop sign.

- At 10 p.m., Jose Roberto Barbosa, 50, of Florida, was arrested for driving with a suspended license and cited for driving with an expired tag. He was released on a \$250 cash bond.

- At 9:50 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at Wachovia Bank drive through. All was secure.

Aug. 9

- At 11:07 a.m., officers received calls about a possible child custody problem but it was unfounded.

- At 6 p.m., Gilbert Torres Mitzi, 36, of Cullowhee, was arrested for not having proper identification at U.S. 64 and N.C. 106. He paid the \$175 fee and was released.

- 10:35 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Sequoyah Ridge Road. All was secure.

• See POLICE & FIRE page 24

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-Going

- New Pool Schedule: Mon-Fri 3-5 p.m.; Sat & Sun 1-5 p.m. After Aug. 13 weekends only Sat & Sun 1-5 p.m. Lap Swim daily until Labor Day, Sept. 6.

- Heart Healthy Exercise Group Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8-9 a.m. at the Civic Center. Each session is divided into two parts – a brief warmup for 30 minutes of walking and cooldown exercises and mat exercise for 25 minutes. Cost is \$15 per month. Call Nancy Freese at 743-0135 or sign up at the Civic Center.

- The musical talents of Regis at the Piano at Cafe of the Arts, until 9 p.m. every night.

- The Mountain View group of Alcoholics Anonymous now meets in the remodeled basement meeting room of the Presbyterian Church sanctuary, in Highlands. Meeting times are Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wednesdays and Fridays at noon. Call 524-7395.

- This Week at Highlands Wine and Cheese -- Wine Flights Thursday, Friday, and Saturday: 4:30-6:30. The Wines of Burgundy. Special Guest on Saturday: Scott Cohen representing Joseph Drouhin wines. Wines by the Glass and Cheese Plates available Wednesday through Sunday: 1:30-4:30. Complimentary Tastings Saturday and Sunday: 1 until 4:30.

- At Wolfgang's on Main – Get Uncorked **THURS-SUN.** 4-6:30 p.m.: Wine and Appetizer Pairings, Flights of Wine, Wine by the glass or bottle/Appetizers; **SUNDAYS:** Dinner and Jazz 6:30-9:30 p.m. Call 526-3807 for reservations. **MONDAYS:** Fine Art, Fine Wine and Fine Dining, 6 pm – Passed Appetizers. 6:30 pm – Dinner. Reservations needed. Call 526-3807.

Aug. 12

- Zahner Conservation Lecture Series at the Highlands Nature Center. Susan Cerulean of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission will give a talk entitled "Tracking Desire and the Swallow-tailed Kite: Habitats and Species Conservation." 7 p.m. Free to the public.

Aug 12-22

- "6 Rms Riv Vu" at the Highlands Playhouse. Performances are Tuesday-Saturday at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Adult tickets, \$20; Children 12 and under, \$9. Call 526-2695 for tickets.

Aug 14

- Historic Home Tour, sponsored by Highlands Historical Society, 9:30 to 3. Call 787-1050 for reservations. Shuttle departure from the Civic Center on the half hour.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3.5 mile moderate-to- strenuous hike to Three Forks, a lovely spot where three cascading streams join to form the west fork of the Chattooga River. Hikers must do

some scrambling and a river crossing is involved, requiring water shoes. Bring a swim suit. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. Call leader Mo Wheeler at 526-9561 for more info.

Aug 15

- Annual Audubon picnic at the Highlands Civic Center south shelter. Cost is \$5 per person for hamburgers. Bring a covered dish. Call 787-1387.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile easy-to-moderate hike along a pretty creek to an old amethyst mine in

comfortable shoes. Call leader Gail Lehman at 524-5298 for more info

- Sunday will be the Final Gala Concert of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival. The Gala will begin at 5 p.m. at the Highlands Performing Arts Center and conclude with dinner at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. A few tickets are still available and are \$100 per person for the concert and dinner. There are also a few tickets available at \$40 per person for the concert only.

Aug,16



Joyce Guyer, Metropolitan Opera soprano who will star in the 12th Annual Bel Canto Recital on Sun., Sept. 5, at PAC is shown as Angelica in Handel's "Orlando," a role she sang in the Glimmerglass Opera production broadcast last week on National Public Radio. Guyer will partner with Isaac Hurtado, in the vocal recital benefitting the permanent art collection at the Bascom-Louise Gallery.

Blue Valley. This is a mostly level hike with an uphill climb near the end. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 1:30 p.m. Call leader Jim Whitehurst at 526-8134, for more information.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike to Wayah Bald on the Appalachian Trail to the Bartram Trail, returning on the old Trimont Trail. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy,

- Dr. Edward Barrett, Professor of Philosophy and Religion Emeritus, Muskingum College in Ohio, will present the eighth public lecture in the Highlands Institute's Public Lecture/Seminar Series on Monday at 7:30 p.m. at PAC. The topic of Dr. Barrett's lecture is "Washington and the Will to Live Wisely."

Aug. 17

- Juniors, seniors & their parents are invited to the Highlands School cafeteria at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., respectively, to talk

about preparing for senior year and graduation from high school. Graduation, scholarship and financial aid requirements, PSATs, ACTs, SATs will be discussed.

- The third Hudson Library Cooking Class for 2004 will be held on Tuesday. The class will be led by Swiss chef Peter Ryter of the national award winning Evergreen Restaurant of Anderson, South Carolina. The class will be held in Highlands at the Partain's Ravenel Ridge home. Contact the library at 526-3031 for more information.

- A Seminar with Dr. Barrett with HIARPT will be held on Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Lower Floor of PAC to discuss is Monday lecture. The public is invited to both the free lecture and the seminar.

Aug. 18

- The Center For Life Enrichment Presents: "Erased history: Cherokees and Revolutionary War(s) on Wednesday, at 8 p.m. at the Recreation Center (Highlands Civic Center). Professor Tom Hatley from the WCU Dept. of History will lecture and lead the discussion concerning The Indian War of 1776.

Aug. 19

- Kevin Howell, guide, author and owner of Davidson River Outfitters (Brevard), will be the featured speaker at the Plateau Fly Fishing Club on Thursday, 7 p.m. at the Cashiers Library.

Aug. 20

- Mountain Gospel Music 7:30 p.m., Friday at the Sky Valley Pavilion. Bring a lawn chair. Enjoy recording artist Bird Youmans, Carol Westbrook, Anita Bray. It's FREE.

Aug. 20-Sept. 5

- The 7th annual Cashiers Designer Showhouse will feature small private enclave overlooking wildflower meadows, long mountain views and beautiful Lake Glenville. The Showhouse kicks off Friday, Aug. 20 with the Picnic at the Point Patron Party catered by Lee Epting. The Showhouse will be open Aug. 21-Sept. 5, 10 – 4 daily and noon – 4 on Sundays. For tickets call 828-743-7710.

Aug. 21-22

- A cast of five directed by Dean Zuch will present Neil Simon's witty and biting comedy, "The Sunshine Boys," as a Readers' Theater production, Saturday, Aug. 21, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 22, at 2:30 p.m., at PAC. Reservations taken during the week of Aug. 16 at the PAC or by phone, 526-8084.

Aug. 21

- The Hudson Library in Highlands will hold an event from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. the same day, with musical entertainment by Katie Brugger and Arthur Hancock, a visit from the Reading Rover bookmobile at 2 p.m., door prizes and refreshments.

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Hospital honors volunteers for more than 9,000 hours of service

Amid mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres, and array of fancy desserts and the strains of live music, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital said thanks last Thursday to its many volunteers for more than 9,000 hours of service during the past year.

Nearly 100 of the hospital's 155 active volunteers came out to the annual volunteer fete, held again this year at Highlands Falls Country Club. After enjoying sumptuous fare prepared by the club dining room staff, volunteers heard several members of the hospital's administration sing their praises for many different jobs well done.

Hospital Administrator Jim Graham told volunteers they play an important role in helping the hospital serve its communities. He said the hours they donated last year were the equivalent of more than a quarter of million dollars last year.

David Taylor, RN, the hospital's new manager for clinical services, told those gathered for the party that they make a real difference in the lives of the hospital's patients. Referring to the hospital's mission to provide excellence in care, Taylor told the volunteers "we simply cannot achieve that without you."

Several other hospital managers also addressed the group to express their thanks, including HealthTracks manager Yvonne Smith and Kurt Abshire, new manager of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Hospital pharmacist Jim Cothran gave a special tribute to retiring volunteer Lee Updegraff during the proceedings, thanking her for 10 years of work in that department.

"We are really going to miss her. It seems as if she was always there - week in and week out—and we came to depend on her," he said. Mrs. Updegraff and her husband Pete (a volunteer in the hospital mailroom) will be leaving the area later this summer.

The overall number of volunteers has grown in recent years at the hospital, unlike in some communities.

"We have been very fortunate not to have a shortage of volunteers as I understand is the case in other areas of this community," said volunteer coordinator Lynn Delgado following the party. "Of course, there are still many jobs that need doing and we are always happy the have new volunteers join us."

It was the second year for the event to be held at Highlands Falls. "The hospital certainly thanks Highlands Falls for hosting the event, and Market Fresh of Highlands for donating the wine," she added. "These volunteers do so much for the hospital and their communities. This is our chance to do something special for them."

Yoga classes to begin at HealthTracks

HealthTracks, the fitness and wellness program at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, will soon begin an on-going class in yoga.

The new yoga class will begin Aug. 19 and be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 p.m. and Monday mornings at 7:30 a.m. at HealthTracks on the lower level of the Jane Woodruff Medical Building at the hospital. The class, taught by Heidi Zellie, replaces the yoga/pilates class which ended Aug. 5.

Ms. Zellie is certified in Thai, Hatha Yoga and Therapeutic Massage and currently teaches yoga at both Mountain Fitness and Yoga Luna in Highlands. She is currently studying Iyengar Yoga, which focuses on posture and body alignment.

This class will focus on Hatha Yoga, which is general physical yoga with some meditation for relaxation at the start and end of each session.

Cost of the class is \$8 per session.

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Taylor Earman and Richard Joel reshearse their parts as Ben Silverman and Willy Clark in Neil Simon's "The Sunshine Boys" to be presented by the Highlands Community Players, Aug. 21-22 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center.

'Sunshine Boys' set in motion by HCP

A cast of five directed by Dean Zuch will present Neil Simon's witty and biting comedy, "The Sunshine Boys," as a Readers' Theater production, Sat., August 21, at 8 p.m. and Sun., Aug. 22, at 2:30 p.m., at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center.

Richard Joel and John Gaston have been cast as the two elderly ex-vaudevillians, Willy Clark and Al Lewis, who were once a successful comedy team, but haven't spoken to each other in years after a rancorous quarrel.

Taylor Earman will play Ben Silverman, Willy's nephew, a young theatrical agent who attempts to reunite the former partners for a nostalgic TV special. Michelle Hott and Mary Lou Worley will play the two nurses involved in the plot.

For those not familiar with Readers' Theater, director Dean Zuch explains: "The actors stand at podiums on stage and read/act their lines without scenery or movement on stage. These productions are surprisingly effective and past audiences who saw HCP's earlier productions - 'Spoon River Anthology,' 'All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten,' 'Over the River and Through the Woods,' and 'Brighton Beach Memoirs' have always been enthusiastic. For 'Sunshine Boys' we have a great cast who are well able to bring the play to life."

Richard Joel has been acting since

high school and has played more than 40 parts at three universities and with community theaters in Atlanta, Tallahassee, Knoxville, and Highlands. He was last seen in HCP's production of "Over the River and Through the Woods."

John Gaston is new to HCP but not to theater. He acts and sings! He has played in Godspell and Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat and recently in "The Wizard of Oz" at the Highlands Playhouse. He is also cast in Instant Theatre's upcoming production of "Cotton Patch Gospel."

Taylor Earman who plays Willy Clark's nephew is acting for HCP for the first time. He has not been on stage since high school, but has been using his dramatic talents as a tour guide in Charleston. He has recently moved to Highlands and is working at the Highland Hiker.

Michelle Hott, who plays the nurse in the Sunshine Boys TV skit, is an HCP regular, appearing most recently in "You Can't Take It With You." She and her husband Steve also act in Carolina Murder Mysteries Dinner Theater. Mary Lou Worley, who plays the real registered nurse, is the librarian of Hudson Library, and is, of course, a great reader. She is appearing for HCP for the first time.

Reservations for the play will be taken during the week of August 16 at the Performing Arts Center or by phone, 526-8084.

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... POLICE & FIRE from page 20

Aug. 10

• At 6:25 p.m., a motorist at Third and Oak streets was cited for failing to stop at a stop sign.

Aug. 11

• At 6:15 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 west and Webbmont was cited for speeding 49 mph in a 35 zone.

• At 6:35 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 49 mph in a 35 zone at Log Cabin Road and N.C. 106.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue log entries for the week of Aug. 5-11:

Aug. 5

• The dept. responded to a vehicle roll-over on U.S. 64 west. There were no injuries.

Aug. 6

• The dept. responded to an accident between a motorcycle and a pickup truck on N.C. 28 south. The cyclist was airlifted to Mission Memorial Hospital in Asheville.

• The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on VZ-Top. It was false.

Aug. 7

• The dept. responded to a strange smell coming out of a furnace in a residence on Hill Road. Rats had crawled in and died and began burning when the furnace was turned on.

• The dept. responded to a report of a fire in the vicinity of Harris Drive. But it was a controlled burn..

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call about a bee sting reaction to a person on Main Street. There was no transport.

Aug. 8

• The dept. responded to a call of smoke at a house but it was construction debris burning in an ash dump.

Aug. 10

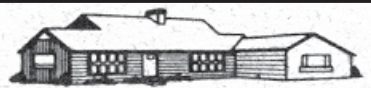
• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Satulah Falls Lane. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Aug. 11

• The dept. checked a resident's fire alarm on Lynn Lane.

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... SPIRITUALLY continued from pg 19

manage our resources prudently – it is to get our priorities straight.

We should store up treasure for ourselves in heaven, keep our eyes on the prize that is Jesus. Stretch our heart and make it generous, especially in hard times.

We should always choose people over things. Walk away early from temptation of avarice before it infects you with desire or envy or dissatisfaction.

The calculating heart will never be at peace. A flexibility in accepting both gain and loss each

day, an openness to surprise, a sense of humor, are all marks of freedom. The kingdom of God will open wide for us if we travel light, and stay alert to every opportunity to give ourselves away.

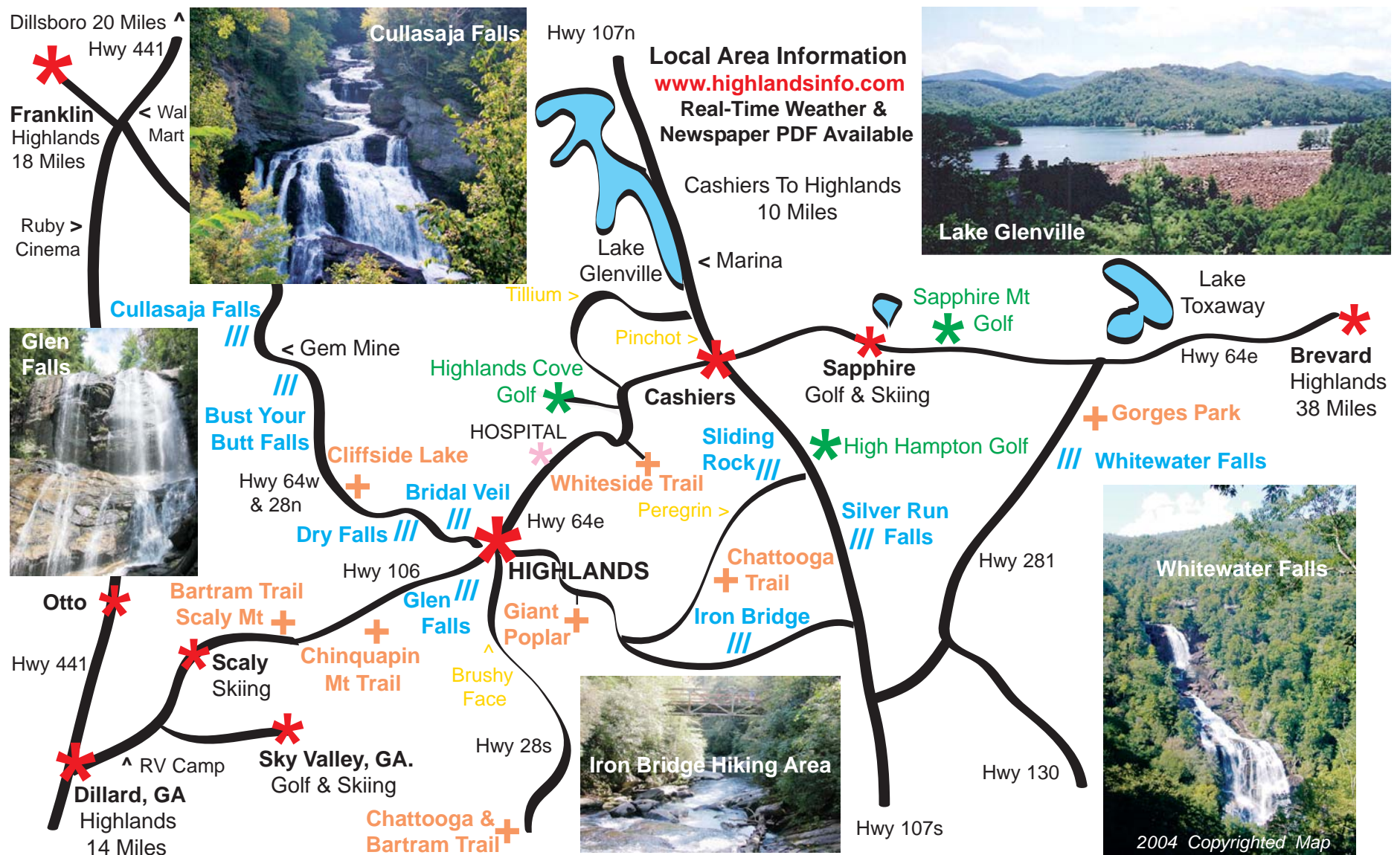
And when we do give ourselves away, heaven will come to earth in our lives.

A good measuring rod is this: If you have anything at all that you would grieve over, except human beings and pets, if it would all burn down tonight, and you grieve, you have too much.

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Humans and pets to love, enough to eat, and enough to shelter yourself – I might even add comfortably – and work that you enjoy to support yourself and those you love. You also need a really good insurance policy to replace your "stuff" if it is all destroyed. Oh, and just one other thing – you need the biggest possible heavenly bank account just crammed full of graces and blessings and raking in eternal interest.

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