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Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 2, Number 6

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Feb. 13, 2004

The week of Feb. 13-19

ON-GOING

■ SCOREBOARD SPONSORS –

The HS Booster Club needs sponsors for the Buck Creek Fields scoreboard. Business sponsors are \$500 and logos will be displayed permanently on the board. Call Mary Dotson at 526-5868.

■ SPONSORS NEEDED – High-

lands School junior Matthew Keener will be representing Highlands when he plays in the World Soccer League in Sweden this July. The trip will cost about \$2,600 and he's looking for sponsors. If you'd like to help, send checks made out to the Sports Tours USA, to Matthew Keener, P.O. Box 1746, Highlands, N.C. 29741

■ **SPONSORS NEEDED** – The Afterschool VIP program at Highlands School has families who want their children to attend, but can't afford to send them. To see how you can help, call Brenda Owens at 526-1961, 2-6 p.m.

Feb. 12

■ **HS PTO MEETING** – PTO will meet at 4:30 p.m. to talk about Science Fair set for March.

Feb. 13

■ **BBQ DINNER** – Fundraiser, 4 p.m. in the cafeteria, the night of the Highlands vs. Blue Ridge Basketball game. \$8 per plate includes BBQ, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls, tea and dessert.

■ **CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY** – Beginning Friday, Feb. 13, after school until 4:30, HUMC is hosting two six-week sessions of the God and Country series and a Beth Moore Bible Study called "Jesus, the One and Only." Call Kim Ingram at 526-3376.

Feb. 16

■ **HABITAT NEWS** – There is a MC Habitat for Humanity meeting 6:30 p.m. at the Conference Center. Habitat is seeking applicants for the Habitat for Humanity home that will be built this year. Call 369-3716.

■ **LITTLE LEAGUE** – Little League Baseball Registration is through March 1. Cost is \$30 for first child and \$25 for each sibling. Forms are at Highlands School and the Rec Park. Call 526-3879.

Feb. 17

■ **MOVIE NIGHT** – Whiskey Galore, Tuesday at 7 p.m. at PAC. It's free, but donations are accepted.

New cell phone provider coming to town

By Kim Lewicki

Verizon has long had the hold on the cell phone market in Highlands, but soon consumers will have another choice.

Ramcell of North Carolina has moved into the area with its first

transmitter going up on the GTE tower on Satulah Mountain.

Though technically competitors on the cellular side which is Verizon, GTE is leasing a spot on its tower to Ramcell. "We co-locate with them on other sites in the county, too," said A.

S. McDuffie with Ramcell.

But before Ramcell could go to GTE for a lease, it had to prove to the town that none of its nine wireless communication facilities would do.

"And they've done that," said

■ See CELL PHONE pg 2

Health clinic has new home on Buck Creek

By Kim Lewicki

Since mid-July, the Macon County Health Center's Highlands clinic has been housed in temporary quarters, but no more.

As of Wednesday, Feb. 11, the Highlands clinic is now permanently housed at the county fields on Buck Creek Road.

"For years people have been asking for county offices up here and now that the county owns a building here, we might as well use it," said Macon County Commissioner Allen Bryson.

It took a while for it all to come together. The 1,800 sq. ft. basement of the sports complex concession

■ See CLINIC pg. 2

New building going up on old Post Office site

By Kim Lewicki

The Premier House, set to go up at the old Post Office site at Pine and Fifth streets before the month is out, has undergone much scrutiny over the last few months.

Owner of the property Joel Crook first went to the town with plans to renovate the building but agreed to wait until the Chamber of Commerce finalized its pavilion plans for Pine

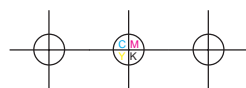
■ See BUILDING page 2

A blaze in the dead of night



Photo by Jim Lewicki

For some months now a house behind the ballfield on Hickory Street has been a training site for the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. Training involves torching the house, putting the fire out, working in a smoke-filled house, etc. At 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, the house which had been set on fire and put out several times, was torched for good. When citizens saw the flames in the middle of the night, they called the fire, police and media, but it was a controlled burn and all was well. "I was wondering why they were all in such good spirits," said Hickory Street resident Ginger Slaughter who ventured out into the night. It was cold, dark and windy but Chief James Manley said "This is good. This is when fires start – in the middle of cold, windy nights." Instead of putting the fire out this time, the younger members – mostly the ones in training – kept the surrounding area wet while the house burned to the ground.



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P.O. Box 2703,
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(828) 526-0782

email: highlandseditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor – Kim Lewicki

Copy Editor/Proofreader
Tom Merchant

Advertising – Carol Werner

Production – Darlene Melcher

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... CLINIC continued from page 1

building had to be finished – a floor poured, walls erected and examining rooms created.

The health center takes up most of the space, but some has been set aside for future county offices. "In the future those spots could be used as a Sheriff or inspection office," said Bryson. For now they're empty.

The clinic is open the second and third Wednesday of each month – from 9:30 to 11:30 the second Wednesday and from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. on the third Wednes-

day.

Appointments are needed for some services – WIC, drug testing, water samples, family planning and adult health screening. Call 349-2081 24 hours in advance.

Otherwise the following services are offered on a walk-in basis — routine immunizations, blood pressures, Tb skin tests, blood sugar tests, hemoglobin, urinalysis, pregnancy tests (urine), throat swabs for strep, lab tests ordered by a doctor. Medicare-covered tests are only done in Franklin.

... BUILDING continued from page 1

Street.

Those plans have been put on the back burner, so now Crook is ready to develop the property – basically raze the current structure and build a colonial-style building to house a home furnishings store.

Though the appearance commission went over the plans with a fine-toothed comb, most of what it suggested can be ignored by the owner, builder and architect, said Town Planner Larry Gantenbein.

"The appearance commission is allowed to regulate color, texture and materials," said Gantenbein. "The only request the builder has to comply with is the 30 percent stucco rule." In the plans seen by the appearance commission, each facade was stucco. The town ordinance allows for only 30 percent of a facade to be stucco.

Peter Jefferson, new to the appearance commission, claimed flaws in the design. "The overall design

is not in context with the town," said Jefferson. "It's a combination of Georgian, Colonial and Federal architecture."

The commission suggested changing flat-roofed porticos to hip-roofs; changing the size of dormer windows to be consistent with the design; changing the columns to staked stone and reducing stucco to 30 percent of the façade.

At the Feb. 11 Zoning Board meeting, architect for the project, John Ziebarth, said Crook agreed to stone-clad the exterior. Stucco will only be used on the one side of the building no one can see, he said.

The Zoning Board approved the Special Use Permit for construction of the new building contingent upon the stone-clad exterior and the submission of a detailed landscape plan to the appearance commission outlining planting materials not just placement of them.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Protecting the forest

Dear Editor:

I would like to make a comment about the fine book review Feb. 6 by Katie Brugger about *The Appalachian Forest* by Chris Bolgiano. The review laments the lack of tax incentives for people who want to protect their land rather than exploit it.

Your readers might be interested to learn that tax incentives do exist for land owners to protect their lands from development. The concept is called a conservation easement, in which the property owner gives up certain development rights to a I.R.S. qualified organization such as a land trust. In exchange for the donation of development rights, the land owners may get substantial federal and state income tax benefits based upon the difference in land value before the gift and after the gift. And, in some cases, they might be able to get a reduction on their property taxes.

The Highlands Land Trust currently protects 247 acres in Highlands and Cashiers through conservation easements with the private land owners. People who are passionate about conserving the natural heritage of our community do have a way that may save them taxes at the same time. We can help. Call 828-526-9938, ext. 25, to find out how. We're here to help preserve the beauty of our area.

Mike Cavender
Executive Director

... CELL PHONE continued from page 1

Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein. "Their experts and our expert which is Metrosite, have agreed that the town's telecommunication sites are either too short or the property too small to house extra equipment."

All the town's poles are 80 feet monopoles and to get enough broadcast propagation, towers need to be high enough to clear the mountain ridge line, said Gantenbein.

Though Ramcell is leasing its site from GTE, since the tower is within the town limits, the town still has a say as to its appearance.

At the Feb. 11 zoning board meeting, the board granted the Special Use Permit with the stipulation that Ramcell's transmitting and receiving devices on the GTE tower be camouflaged, and that Ramcell repaint the GTE pole a camouflage color. The dish is four feet in diameter, and the reflector is 12 inches wide by about 80 inches long.

"At this point, we can't force GTE to camouflage its pole because our ordinance was adopted after GTE leased the spot so it's grandfathered in," said Gantenbein. "But we can make Ramcell camouflage its attachments and paint the pole."

On the privately owned Satulah Mountain site, Ramcell's attachments will be 40 feet up, practically in the tree line, said board members.

The town's nine sites are an 80-foot camouflage monopole at Town Hall; the Ravenel Ridge Water Tank which is for attachments only; an 80-foot camouflaged monopole also on Satulah Mountain; the Satulah Mountain Water tank which only houses attachments; the Upper Brushy Face Water Tank for attachments only; the 80-foot camouflaged monopole on Hickory Hill; the 80-foot camouflaged monopole at the Town Warehouse; the Little Bear Pen Water Tank for attachments only; and the Big Bear Pen Water Tank Tower which has a tower which can be replaced or extended which can house attachments, too.

Ramcell of North Carolina offers cellular service throughout Graham, Swain, Cherokee, Haywood, Clay, Jackson, Macon, and Transylvania counties. It offers features like Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, 3-Party Conference Calling, Busy Transfer, No Answer Transfer, and Follow-Me-Roaming Plus, dialup Internet service and paging.

Thompson makes Dean's List at Duke



Gabrielle Thompson, 21, of Highlands was named to the dean's list at Duke University for the Fall 2004 semester. To make the dean's list, a student must rank in the top third of their college; for dean's list with distinction, the top tenth of their college. She was among 1,979 students who achieved that honor. Gabrielle is pursuing a career as a child psychiatrist.

Seventh 'Annual Great Backyard Bird Count' set for Feb. 13-16

Join one of the largest citizen-science projects in the world and participate in this fun event. Developed and managed by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, all who enjoy birds will be able to participate.

Simply count the birds in your yard or neighborhood and submit your observations through BirdSource (www.birdsource.org).

Whether you count a few minutes or several hours, participants will help determine the status of birds continent-wide.

Old Edwards Inn & Spa to host 'Community Hard Hat Tours' Feb. 29

The management of the Old Edwards Inn and Spa invites the Highlands community to preview the new property Sunday, February 29, from 2-4 p.m. Guests will be shown the renovations, in progress, to the historic inn and the new world-class, European-style spa.

Staff members will conduct the "hard hat" tours and be available for questions and comments from residents. Refreshments will be served,

and reservations are suggested by calling 526-8008.

The Old Edwards Hospitality Group, LLC, founded in 2003, includes the Old Edwards Inn and Spa, Madison's restaurant, The Farm special events facility, Acorns retail shop, Kelsey & Hutchinson Lodge, and the Highlands Diner.

For more information, call 828-526-8008 or toll free at 866-526-8008.

RBC Centura starts 'Tribute to Teachers' campaign

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Winning Nomination Prizes: Twenty special teachers from the Southeast region will be selected as community leaders from the nominations received through Feb. 22 and each will be awarded \$500 "Classroom Cash" to be used on learning tools for their classrooms.

Go to www.RBCcentura.com, click on "Tribute to Teachers" on the right side and click on "Tribute to Teachers" Nomination at the bottom.



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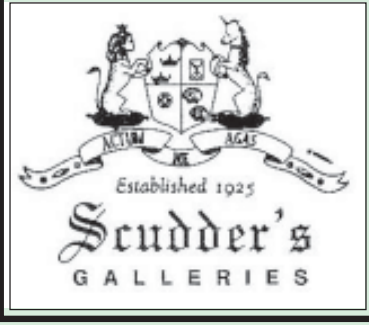


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• LIFE UNDER CONSTRUCTION •

Have you stopped constructing?

Usually January is a month I do some planning for the rest of the year. Well, at least it was when I lived in the warm climate of California. I do a lot of thinking while I walk. I even meditate when I hike. Although I have been doing some planning, I must admit, I have been procrastinating about other things in my life. Sitting at home by the fire in the winter and reading is just too inviting.



Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

that it is nothing, than to procrastinate about something that you think needs attention.

A friend of mine had a saying, "Anything worth doing is worth doing poorly." I used to be appalled when he said this. Now, I get it. He meant that you just

have to get started. A colleague of mine, Robert Davis, wrote a book called, "Implement Now, Perfect Later. 52 practical ways to increase gains and decrease pains of perfectionism." Perfectionism certainly can be used as an excuse not to take action. Believe me, if I waited for perfection to write this column, it would never happen. I try to get it right and I proof read this column up to five times, and yet the few times I pick it up and read it in print, I often find a mistake. The point. I still keep writing the column.

So you know what's coming, don't you. What are you procrastinating about?

For me, it was the column this week. I am very close to my deadline for submission. If you only knew how long it *really* takes me to write this column.

And yet, this column has been very uplifting for me. I'm ready to unpack boxes that still hide in the corners of my spare bedroom, lose weight, pay all my bills, get up earlier and stay up later. Yeah, right!

What are you going to tackle this week? Just start for a few minutes today and keep going. Nothing to it, but to do it. Only two steps. 1. Get started. 2. Keep going.

"It is better to begin in the evening than not at all." English Proverb

OK, I admitted it. So, let's talk about procrastination. For many, procrastination ranks among the top three self-defeating behaviors. There is hope, however, because a procrastinator can become an activator when he's around others. Maybe that is why we have hiking buddies or workout partners or self-help groups.

Here are some tips to stop procrastinating.

1. Stop wasting time putting yourself down.
2. Don't say, "Next time it is going to be different." Just do it. Sound familiar?
3. Arrange to work with a partner or find a friend that will be supportive.

I read somewhere that a cure to procrastination was to give yourself a raise.

I think this means that your time is valuable and you are worth it!

One thing I know for sure. Procrastination is never good when it has to do with your health. I've done it before and paid the consequences. It's better to err on the side of worrying about something little and finding out

Have you picked up your copy of Life Under Construction? Stop by Chapter 2 in Cashiers or Cyrano's Bookshop in Highlands or email 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. Her first book, *Random Thoughts and Mine Always Are. Conscious Detours to Creative Power* will make you laugh, cry, and think! www.maryellenlipinski.com



• ASK FRED •

Stumped in math

Dear Fred:

I am only three credit hours away from receiving my degree in engineering but I am struggling in a math course I am taking. Please review this formula and if you can add a hypothesis, please help as I am about to flunk this class. Here it is.

Using L as a constant, consider $L\pi$ = the ratio of 27 minus the circumference of M as a radical to the 3rd power. I have approached this problem using several theorems, including the Quantum Four and Schlepp methods but nothing works for me. I remain bogged down. You might just be my last hope.

Stumped at MIT

Dear SMIT:

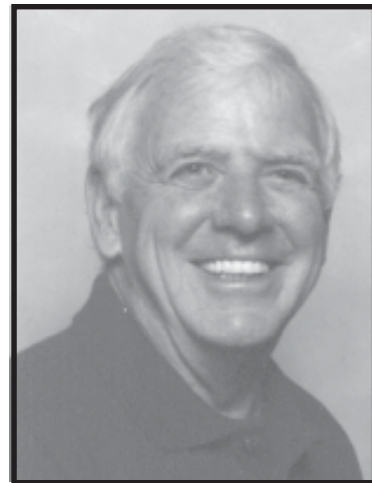
You are soooooo lucky to have written me with this problem as I am an expert in this particular field.

Don't take this as an insult, but I can tell by the wimpy, snuffle tone of your question that you defiantly are not a member of the "I Phelta Thi" fraternity. You guys are all the same, walking around with that John Forbes look on your face. I'll bet you haven't kissed a girl since high school, if then.

I know your type. You sleep with your slide rule and eat Shredded Wheat for dinner just because someone told you to loosen up a little.

Now you need a guy like me to bail you out. Well, I have been saving guys like you for years now and I can be of great assistance, if you just follow my plan.

Do not consider using L as a constant and never use the Schlepp method when you have a



Fred Wooldridge

perfectly good car sitting in front of your dorm. In fact forget about L and Quantum Four altogether and find a very smart girl in your class who is making As. Even if she is uglier than a Highland's public restroom, make a move on her and do whatever it takes to get into her study group.

Next, take off that stupid looking hat you've been wearing to class and do not, I repeat, do not have a half dozen pens stuck in your shirt pocket when you meet her for the first time.

Definitely no pencil behind your ear either, at least not for the first date. Don't even bring up math. Talk about girl things and show lots of interest in her. Ask about her mother; stupid stuff like that.

Then, when the moment is just right, pour a glass of her favorite wine, put on some soft jazz background music, make sure the fire is crackling in the fireplace and then, and only then, snuggle up close to her on the couch and whisper softly in her ear as you secretly pull out your calculator,

"What is the answer to number six?"

Want to have some fun this winter? Our very own Contributor/Columnist Fred Wooldridge is ready to answer your questions about Highlands with tongue in cheek – in ASK FRED. The sky's the limit. All published questions are anonymous and, of course, don't expect a straight answer. E-mail us at askfredanything@aol.com. Put "Dear Fred" in memo line. We reserve the right to edit questions.



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A CD of songs for Madison

Kyle Wiggins-Rowan, a junior at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School, initiated a fundraising effort to benefit Madison Schandolph, a four-year-old girl who has Leukemia. She has produced a CD of songs which can be purchased by sending an email request to pwiggins_rowan@yahoo.com. Additional contributions may be sent to: The Madison Fund c/o Marlene Alvarez, 1536 Franklin Road, Highlands, NC 28741.

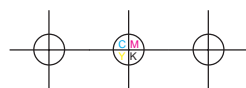


Historical Society fundraiser



The Highlands Historical Society has pewter plates to sell to raise much needed funds to help complete the Highlands Historical Village on Fourth Street. The society hopes to open the Village to the public this year. Paving the driveway and sidewalks will lead to

landscaping and final finishing touches. Volunteers will be needed to staff the Prince House and a curator will be needed for the Library. Plates are \$75 and are available by contacting any Highlands Historical Society board member.



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Dr. Joe Mason

why our Dentist Proof program is built around the individuals needs and lifestyle. Just as a fine tailor fitting you for a new suit takes your measurements first, we start with an assessment of your current oral health, a detailed periodontal exam

Countless times throughout your life you've heard about the necessity of "brushing and flossing", starting in school, from your dentist and in television ads. Brushing and flossing is somewhat like treating cancer with aspirin. It might help with the pain but it will never cure the cancer.

Our Dentist Proof program goes much further, it is a comprehensive preventative program that when used properly will guarantee you lifetime optimal dental health.

You would be amazed at the common problems shared by all patients. Not only do they share many of the same problems but they return again and again for subsequent treatment of those problems. Great for dentists, bad for you. Cure and prevention is the only way to end this costly cycle.

Our Dentist Proof program is focused on identifying your underlying problems first and eradicating them. Then we formulate a personalized prevention program that eliminates the need for the typical continuous succession of dental appointments that merely treat the inevitable progression of any dental disease.

The problem is there is no one standard that fits everyone. What works for one person can be ineffective for the next person. Each individual's teeth and mouth is a unique environment that's

with extensive gum evaluation and an oral cavity bacterial measurement that all help to establish your current state of oral health which enables us to identify your personal needs. Then with you we formulate a program that will work for you, designed to fit your lifestyle and schedule so as to cure your problems and eliminate the need for further treatments for the rest of your life.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Prevention defines the Dentist Proof program; it was developed and has proven to be 100% effective when used daily. All dental diseases (other than bite problems) have been scientifically proven to be infections caused by bacteria. We teach you to micro manage the bacterial state of your mouth.

With our Dentist Proof Program there simply is very little chance for gum disease to develop, and as for tooth decay, it can certainly be stopped. Bacteria control is only one aspect of the program. There is much more, but this is a vital and necessary first step.

Scientific study has decisively linked oral health to many other serious health problems.

Call our Cashiers office at (828) 743-5560. For more information on this subject, go to www.pankey.org



Adelgid Monitoring Workshop

By Cynthia Strain
Chair, JMCA

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance is sponsoring a Hemlock Woolly Adelgid monitoring workshop at the Highlands Nature Center on Saturday Feb. 21 from 9 a.m. to noon.

JMCA is partnering with Georgia Forest Watch, Chattooga Conservancy and the Georgia Forestry Commission in a comprehensive adelgid monitoring project. They are counting on lots of citizens to help with the project to closely monitor the spread of this infestation. They are hoping to avoid the environmental disaster that will befall the region if nothing is done.

Once you know what to look for, adelgids are easy to spot. They make cottony white sacs on the needles of hemlock trees. But simply knowing they are out there somewhere is not enough. JMCA needs to know exactly where they are and how many there are so that they can do something about them.

JMCA has played a key role in fighting this dangerous pest. While the adelgid has killed 80% of the hemlocks in the Shenandoah Valley, it is a relative newcomer here. Nevertheless, it has spread very rapidly, making many people ask what they can do to make a difference. In response to the threat, JMCA headed

up a successful effort to create a breeding facility at Clemson University for raising predator beetles.

The monitoring project will help map and monitor the infested areas so that the Forest Service and the Clemson lab can schedule releases of the ladybird (PT) beetles in U.S. Forest Service lands and other special places. The releases will begin this spring.

Dr. John Pickering from the University of Georgia will present the Nature Center program. His plan is to allow people all over the region, from north Georgia and western N.C. to South Carolina to register their survey results on-line (www.discoverlife.org). The results will be available to the public, the Forest Service, universities and other interested parties.

If forest scientists learned nothing else in Virginia, Connecticut and other places in the Northeast, they learned that dealing with the adelgid as soon as possible is critical to success. There is a unique opportunity in the Highlands-Cashiers area. JMCA is asking hikers, hunters, fishermen, and other people who spend time in the woods to participate in this important project. Attending this workshop is a critical first step. For more information, contact Cynthia Strain at (828) 526-9227.

OEI to hold forum on Feb. 24

By Bill Bassham
Chamber Director

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Old Edwards Inn and Spa will hold a forum on Tuesday, February 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center for Chamber members.

Representatives of the Old Edwards Inn and Spa will present an update on their total project including opening dates. This is an opportunity to become informed on their perspective, answer your questions and debunk any rumors. They will be sharing the vision of the entire project as it relates to the High-

lands business community.

"We look forward to meeting with our neighbors in the Highlands business community," said Manuel de Juan, General Manager of the Old Edwards Inn and Spa. "It is our goal to be an integral part of this community while being good neighbors. We are delighted to share our vision with them as well as our future plans."

If you have a particular question that you would like asked, please send it to the Chamber office. The Chamber will combine similar questions and ask them of the Old Edwards staff at the forum.

MACON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER

Schedule of Services at the Highlands Clinic

52 Aunt Dora Lane, Highlands, NC 28741
~Located off Buck Creek Road at the Soccer Field~

To schedule an appointment,
please call 349-2081 at least 24 hours in advance.

Second Wednesday
Of Every Month
9:30 to 11:30 A.M.

Third Wednesday
Of Every Month
9:30 to 11:30 A.M.
1 - 3 P.M.

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY:

- WIC
- Drug Testing
- Water samples

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY:

Family Planning
Adult Health Screening
Drug Testing
Water samples

W/Out AN APPOINTMENT:

- Routine immunizations
- Blood pressures
- Tb Skin Tests
- Blood sugar tests
- Hemoglobin
- Urinalysis
- Pregnancy tests (urine)
- Throat swabs for strep
- Lab tests ordered by a doctor

WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT:

Routine immunizations
Blood pressures
Tb Skin Tests
Blood sugar tests
Hemoglobin
Urinalysis
Pregnancy tests (urine)
Throat swabs for strep
Lab tests ordered by a doctor

(Medicare covered tests done in Franklin only)

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Seniors get \$1 off all regular evening shows everyday.

-- **50 FIRST DATES** --
rated PG-13

7:15 & 9:15 Nightly
4:15 Tuesday & Thursday
Matinee
2:15 & 4:15 Sat. & Sun,
Matinee

-- **MIRACLE** --
rated PG

7 & 9:30 Nightly
4:30 Tuesday & Thursday
Matinee
2 & 4:30 Saturday & Sunday
Matinee

-- **THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT** --
rated R

7:10 & 9:20 Nightly
4:20 Tuesday & Thursday
Matinee
2:10 & 4:20 Sat. & Sun.
Matinee

-- **CATCH THAT KID** --
rated PG

7:05 Nightly
4:05 Tuesday & Thursday
Matinee
2:05 & 4:04 Sat. & Sun.
Matinee

-- **BIG FISH** --
rated PG-13
9:05 Nightly

Instant Theater seeking performers for 'Cabin Fever Variety Show'

Are you in an undiscovered band that's looking for a gig?

Are you tired of the unappreciative Karaoke Bar audiences?

Have you been working on that brilliant clogging routine to "Dancing on the Ceiling" but need a venue to show off?

The Instant Theatre Company needs you to audition for the First Annual Cabin Fever Variety Show performing on March 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands.

The Instant Theatre Company seeks to discover and promote the untapped artistic potential in western North Carolina, and what better way than an old-fashioned variety show? Professionals, amateurs, young and old, the ITC is seeking all types of performers/entertainers

for the event.

The top winner will walk away with \$500 and a DVD of their performance will be sent to a major talent agent. Other performers will have the option of purchasing a DVD of their own act.

Auditions will be held March 13 at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. To sign up for an audition time, please call (828) 526-1687 or e-mail info@InstantTheatre.org.

**1st Annual Cabin Fever
Variety Show
Produced by The Instant
Theatre Company
Performing March 20 at 7:30
p.m. at The Martin-Lipscomb
Performing Arts Center**

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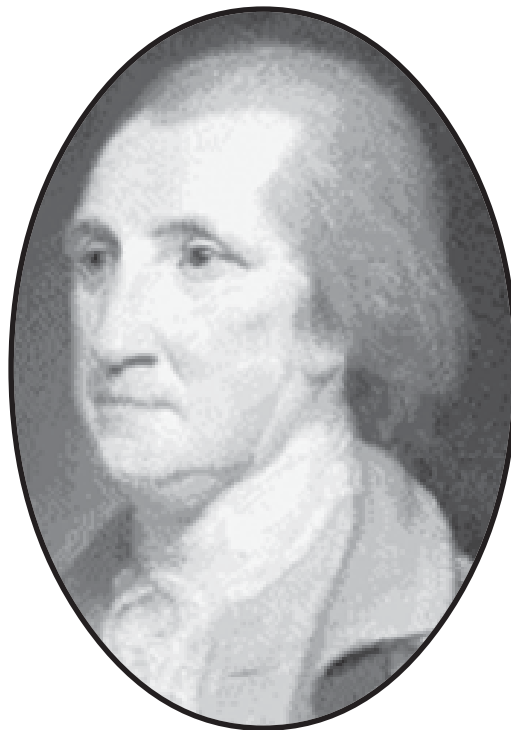
Highlands' Newspaper Internet Directory



Presidents' Day: How it began



Abraham Lincoln
(1809-1865)
No. 16
1861-1865



George Washington
(1732-1799)
No. 1
1789-1797

... and who has been to Highlands & WNC

By Kayla McClure
Contributor

Presidents Day, originally Washington's Day, began during George Washington's final term in office to commemorate his birthday and the birth of the country.

According to the old-style calendar used since at least the mid-18th century, George Washington was born February 22, 1732. However, other sources put his birth on February 11, 1732. As late as 1796, some Americans celebrated his birthday on the Feb. 22 while others marked the occasion on Feb. 11.

When the United States won the American Revolution against England, Washington was chosen to be the first president of the United States of America. He served as a role model for later presidents. On December 14, 1799, about three years after leaving office, he died from a cold he had caught two days earlier.

The original version of this

grand holiday commemorated Washington's birthday and paid honor and tribute to him.

Presidential birthday celebrations were elaborate and included "Birthnight Balls," speeches and receptions given by public figures, and much revelry in taverns throughout the land.

Lincoln, though considered equally great as Washington, was not immediately included in the day of celebration. But during the 19th century Americans also celebrated Abraham Lincoln's birthday which is on Feb. 12, 1809.

He guided the country through the brutal Civil War. A few days before the war ended, April 14, 1865, as he and his wife sat watching a performance in Ford's Theater in Washington D.C., he was assassinated.

In 1968 legislation (HR 15951) was enacted, which affected several federal holidays. Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays were combined into

Presidents' Day. The actual day was shifted to the third Monday in February to honor both Washington and Lincoln whose birthdays are so close together. This clarified annual calendar celebrations for Americans and gave federal employees a three-day weekend.

At least three presidents visited Macon and Jackson counties over the years. President Franklin Roosevelt visited Sylva in 1936. He took great interest in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

President Gerald Ford came to Highlands for a wedding in 1947. He was a guest at the the Westervelt Terhumes wedding for his daughter Elise "Sooky" at the Episcopal Church. And of course President George Bush attended a fundraising event for his son in Highlands the summer of 2000.

Presidents' Day is a way to remember and honor the men who have lead and continue to lead our country.



Franklin Delano Roosevelt
(1882-1945)
No. 32
1933-1945

He visited Sylva and went on to tour the Great Smokey National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway in 1936.



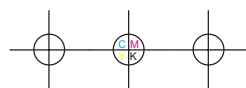
Gerald R. Ford
(1913-)
No. 38
1974-1977

Came to Highlands for a friend's wedding in 1947



George Bush
(1924-)
No. 41
1989-1993

Visited Highlands summer of 2000 to raise funds for his son's campaign for presidency.



• FLORIST TIPS •

Sending your love on Valentine's Day

Whether you express your love by saying "I love you," "Je t'aime" (French), "Ti amo" (Italian) or "Te quiero" (Spanish), your true love probably expects to also receive a special token of your love this week. You would not want to disappoint him or her. So let's think creatively about that special gift.

Flowers are a traditional Valentine's Day gift and often they take the form of long stem roses. Red roses traditionally express the sentiment "I love you." Not quite there yet? How about pink roses which can mean "I admire you" or yellow roses which signify friendship? White roses signify innocence and just might be the perfect message you wish to send to that certain someone.

Flowers other than roses can have significant meanings as well. Red tulips indicate your declaration of love while yellow tulips

stand for passionate love. Daisies portray innocence and orchids tell that special someone she is a beautiful lady.

Moving beyond flowers there are many other wonderful Valentine's Day gift ideas. Chocolates as well as other types of candies are very popular gifts. Cuddly stuffed animals are also a big hit with gift recipients both male and female. How about a bouquet of balloons rather than flowers? Jewelry is good, too.

Want to really send a big message? How about some of each? A dozen red roses, with a Teddy Bear, Valentine's Day balloon and a box of chocolates with a ring inside should just about cover all your bases and insure that the love of your life will remember this Valentine's Day for a long time to come.

Come by Best of the Bunch this week and we'll help you fill that special order.

— Kathy Corrigan



Best of the Bunch



Valentine's Day is Saturday, February 14th!

We will be open from 9:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. Feb. 12-14 to meet your gift-giving needs.

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The birth of Valentine's Day

By Sally Hanson

Contributor

Perhaps it is fitting that a day of romance has mysterious origins. According to theromantic.com, several possibilities explain the tradition of Valentine's Day. The first involves a medieval European belief that February 14 was the start of birds' mating season. Europeans would send letters of love and affection to mark this day.

The Valentine's traditions also may have arisen from the ancient Roman feast of Lupercalia. This was a celebration to honor Juno, a pagan deity. She was the goddess of women and marriage. As was custom in that day, women wrote romantic letters and put them in a large jar and men would draw out one of these and find the woman who had written it.

According to howstuffworks.com, the Catholic Church honors more than one Saint Valentine. However, all three are said to have been executed on February 14. The most likely character for the origins of our modern-day Valentine's traditions is a Valentine from Italy's third century.

He was a priest and carried out secret Christian marriages while Claudius II was Emperor of Rome. This was forbidden by the Emperor. He believed that soldiers who were unmarried made better warriors. He also thought that single men were more likely to become soldiers than married

men.

Soon, Valentine was caught and imprisoned. While awaiting his execution he fell in love with a girl. Before being taken to his death on February 14, he wrote a love note to her and signed it "from your Valentine." This was the first Valentine.

At the end of the fifth century, February 14 was officially de-

clared a holiday by the pope. Interestingly, Pope Paul VI took Valentine's Day off the calendar in 1969. This hasn't affected the commercial recognition of this holiday, however. Pink, red and white show up in the stores by mid-January,

and Valentine's Day is one of the busiest for florists and candy makers around the world.

So if you have a sweetheart, treat him or her to an extra special day this February 14. Highlands has much to offer your valentine. You can start by sending candy, cards, or flowers. You may choose a gift certificate for a massage, or you could make that commitment and select jewelry for your special someone. Presentation during a candle-light dinner will most surely win his or her heart.

However you choose to celebrate, Valentine's Day is a day to let those you are close to know how much they mean to you. It can be summed up in three simple words: I love you.



Highlands Community Players understand the 'Importance of Being Earnest' and having fun, too

By Sally Hanson

Contributor

The Importance of Being Earnest" is the Highlands Community Players' current production in progress. The cast consists of seven actors and actresses who range in age from 15 and up. Some have little experience in the field of theater while others have made it an integral part of their lives. But all the Players have one thing in common. They all enjoy the thrill and challenge of acting.

They are volunteering their time and energy to give a memorable performance for the Highlands community, and also to have fun. The play itself is a lot of fun as well. Written by Oscar Wilde and set during the 1890s, it is a farce centering around two comical love stories.

In the first, a man called Jack is seeking the hand of his friend Algernon's cousin, Gwendolen. Her mother, Lady Braknell, doesn't want her daughter marrying Jack. She doesn't regard him as a favorable husband since he comes from a lower social class.

The other lovers are Jack's ward, Cecily, and his friend Algernon. Cecily lives in the country, while Algernon and Gwendolen live in the city. Algernon learns of Cecily when he accompanies Jack to his country home. Of course, Jack doesn't want Algernon to marry Cecily, and likewise Algernon doesn't approve of Jack's marrying Gwendolen. Other characters who add to the drama are Miss Prism, who is Cecily's governess, and also Reverend Chasuble.

Playing Jack, also known as Ernest in the play, is Stuart Armor. Having been with the Players for most of its nine-year history, he is a veteran of the Highlands theater scene. He also has been involved in acting for about 30 years. Armor especially enjoys comedy. "It is important not to be afraid to look ridiculous. Being in a comedy and looking halfway ridiculous is more embarrassing than looking all the way ridiculous." He also thinks



Derek Taylor as Algernon with Megan Lewicki as Cecily, and Madeleine Davis as Gwendolen with Stuart Armor as Jack. "The Importance of Being Earnest" by the Highlands Community Players, runs March 4-7, 8 p.m. nightly and 2:30 Sunday at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$10.

Wilde is a good comedic writer. "The dialogue is very witty, the characters are rather silly and shallow people, and the lines are clever." Armor also notes that many scripts attempt to round out these "shallow characters," while the version the Players are performing is strictly traditional. Armor is also owner of the Movie Stop and the Brick Oven.

Portraying Algernon is Derek Taylor. He is new to the Players, and this is his second play. Taylor's one other role was in November's *You Can't Take It with You*, in which he had a small part. He is a bit nervous about being cast as Algernon, as it is a bigger part than he initially wanted. However, Taylor's director has every confidence in him and he looks forward to the challenge and also the experience he will gain. He learns the acting trade best by

"watching other people, especially other actors, but also by watching TV." He finds that using a tape recorder is the best way to learn his lines. Outside of *Earnest* rehearsals, Taylor keeps busy at the Highlands Decorating Center, which he owns.

The character of Lady Braknell is being portrayed by Virginia Talbot. She is another Players veteran, and appeared in the first production almost a decade ago. Her background is quite diverse, and includes teaching, journalism, radio, and television. Talbot even has two West Coast Emmys for educational pieces she did in the pacific northwest. She enjoys playing Lady Braknell, and describes her as a person who is "aristocratic, and hasn't a clue that her way isn't the only way. Her only interests are society, proper behavior, and seeing that her daughter marries well." Talbot's

other hobby is hiking, and she's found a perfect place to live to do so. She belongs to the Nantahala Hiking Club, and enjoys leading hikes and working on trails.

Madeleine Davis is taking on the role of Gwendolen Fairfax. She has been involved with the Players for the past six years. Before coming to Highlands, Davis took part in plays in high school and in college. She has a master's degree in theater, but she knew early on she didn't want to pursue acting professionally. "I didn't want to have a New York kind of life. You have to sacrifice an awful lot." Luckily for the Highlands community, she chose to concentrate on amateur theater. She also does some acting for the Monford Park Players, which is a group in Asheville that presents Shakespeare in the Park each summer. However, Davis' loyalty is to the Players. "They are my first home," she says.

Cecily, Jack's ward, is being played by Megan Lewicki. She is the youngest of the Players, but at 15 has almost two years of experience in theater. Cecily is her biggest role yet. Many teenagers would find it uncomfortable to be working with an exclusively adult cast, but Lewicki takes it in stride. "I like working with adults. It helps you learn how to act in mature situations." She also values all her past acting experience, no matter how small the role may have been. Cecily, however, is turning out to be a lot of work. Lewicki has never had so many lines or stage directions to remember. But she is up to the challenge, and also sees the humor in the play. "It pokes fun at aristocrats. It also plays at Highlands' society. There are a lot of people in Highlands with an aristocratic nature," she said.

Ronnie Spilton is Miss Prism, Cecily's governess. She says "this role isn't like my personality at all." Miss Prism is repressed and uptight, and not a bit glamorous. However, Spilton finds it is

■ See EARNEST pg 13

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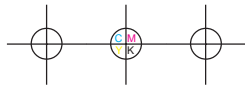
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... EARNEST continued from page 11

"wonderful to be able to do this for fun." She has been acting since she was 13, and has been with the Players for three years. Spilton is retired, but she has a Ph.D. in communication arts and was a drama teacher. Originally from New York, she came to the south for graduate work and never left. "I'm a New Yorker by birth and a North Carolinian by choice." Spilton directed the Players' last production, *You Can't Take It with You*, and has directed two other shows previously. "It's really fun to take words on a printed page and bring them to life," she said.

The last character is the Reverend Chasuble. Dean Zuch takes on this smaller part. In real life he is married to Virginia Talbot, and has been with the Players for eight years. Before this, his last acting took place in college. His professional background is mostly in public television and radio, but he became involved with the Players when he accompanied his wife to the *Dearly Departed* auditions more than eight years ago. He was asked to read a small part, and has been involved ever since. Zuch's first role was also as a minister, but Chasuble is different. "He is very enamored of Miss Prism, but is also very didactic. Wilde is poking huge arrows into the ministry. He uses him to move the scene along a bit here and there, but it isn't a huge part at all."

Another integral character for the Players is Ginny Harris. She is the current stage manager. Harris directed plays in high school, and also worked in theater when she lived in Asheville. She also taught drama and English for 27 years in Atlanta. She has been with the Players since 1998. One of her main duties is to block. This involves telling the actor where to stand when talking to other

characters, and also to write these directions down and remind the actor during rehearsals. During the actual production, a stage manager coordinates the beginning and end of each scene and act, when the curtain opens and closes, and also has props ready. In addition, Harris helps actors know when to go on and also she helps change the scenery.

Earnest's assistant director is Mary Adair Leslie. She has appeared in many of the Player's plays over the years, and now is learning to direct. As assistant director, she offers creative input for the director to consider. "There's more to directing than many people think." Directors (and assistant directors) are responsible for choreography, making sure no one walks on another person's line, and also for offering input on costumes, lighting, and many other aspects of the production process. Leslie was involved in acting as well as ballet in college, but she soon got married and had children. It is only since she moved to Highlands that she has gotten back into theater. She also owns the Summit One Gallery, but loves getting to do what she loves to do in her spare time. "It can be fun even for those who have no background in theater," said Leslie.

To share in the fun, check out the Player's web site at <http://www.highlandscommunityplayers.org>, or call 526-8084 for ticket information from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. "The Importance of Being Earnest" is set for Thursday, March 4 through Sunday, March 7 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Evening performances are at 8 p.m., Sunday's matinee is at 2:30 p.m.

Come out and support community theater in Highlands and enjoy an evening of comedy.

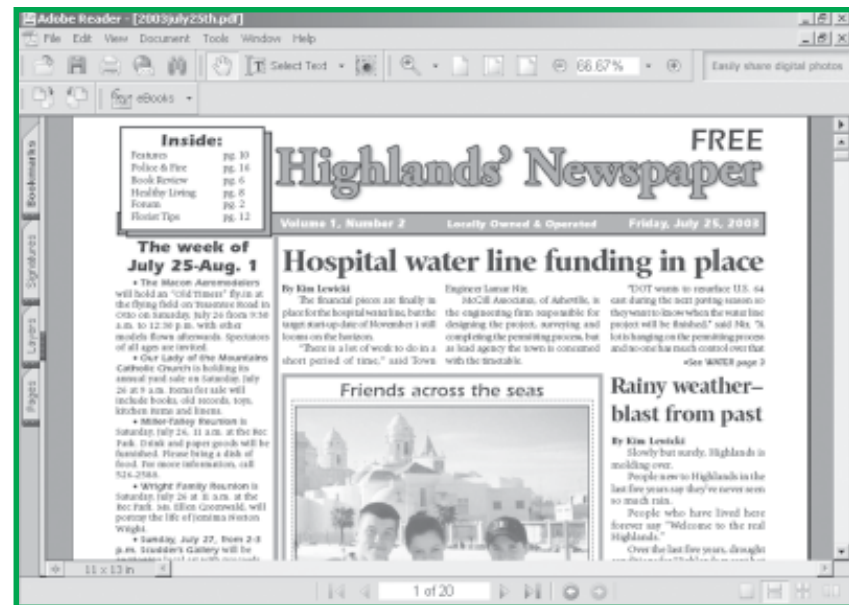
**Megan Lewicki,
Derek Taylor, Stuart
Armor and
Madeleine Davis
with Dean Zuch,
Virginia Talbot and
Ronnie Spilton in
forefront during
rehearsals.**



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ACC mid-season report card

A: Duke Blue Devils

The Devils have dominated the first half of the ACC conference schedule, going 5-0 on the road and winning most games in convincing fashion. Sheldon Williams gives the Devils their inside presence, and JJ Redick's range extends all the way to the locker room. But what makes this Duke team different is that they win on the defensive end. Look for the Devils to stumble on the road either at FSU or NCSU, but finish the conference at 15-1 and receive a number one seed for the NCAA tournament in March.

A: North Carolina State Wolfpack

The Pack sits at second in the ACC

standings on the strength of their funky halfcourt offense and superstar Julius Hodge. The Pack has been dominant at home and able to stay at .500 on the road, which is a huge accomplishment this year. Emitmov and Atsur have played smart basketball, and it looks like Herbal Sendek has pressed all the right buttons so far in conference play. Imagine how good these guys would be with Josh Powell, who must have been smoking some herb when he decided to go pro-hope you like European food Josh!

B: Georgia Tech Yellowjackets

The Ramblin Wreck has stumbled a bit in the conference after their

blistering start, but they have the guard play to keep them in every game. No one expected that Paul Hewitt would have this level of success, especially in a murderously tough ACC schedule, but Tech has hung tough and should finish at .500 in the conference. Special shout out to Luke Schensher, who gets the "Ryan Potts big goofy white dude" award for this year.

B: Florida State Seminoles

Leonard Hamilton has done a great job with the Noles, who have beaten the top tier of the conference and appear to be peaking at the right time. If the Noles can go 8-8 in the ACC then they are in the dance, and with their young talent can compete for the ACC title next year. Tim Pickett is my nominee for POY at this point, with spectacular performances against North Carolina and Georgia Tech.

B: Maryland Terrapins

Gary Williams has done a great job with this Maryland team, getting the most out of senior Jamar Smith and rotating his freshmen nicely. Sophomores John Gilchrest and Nik Caner-Medley look like potential all - ACC candidates, and Maryland has been able to win some tough ballgames despite their youth. Waterboy Gary Williams is at his best when he can maximize the talent of his players, and I think that Maryland will be even better the second half.

C: Clemson Tigers

You may wonder why the Tigers are getting a C despite having no chance at the tourney and a poor league record. Here's why: they are playing fantastic basketball and getting the most out of their players. Clemson is by far the least talented team in the ACC, yet they are competitive every ball game and have pulled some upsets. Look no further than Oliver Purnell for the catalyst - he is a great coach and Clemson made a wonderful choice when they hired him. Clemson is going to improve tremendously under this guy-and I am sure that all Tiger fans (this means you Bryson) are giddy over their shellacking of the Tar Heels.

C: North Carolina Tar Heels

Yes, I am biased. UNC has played very well at times, but they deserve an

"F"

because I picked them as my 1a to start the season and they have laid an egg in conference

play. Supremely talented, well coached, but softer than a baby's bottom. Huckleberry Hound is trying to instill toughness in the Heels, but how much toughness can you glean from a coach that cries at the drop of a hat? On the bright side for the Heels, their schedule the second half isn't bad, and McCants is bringing his A game every night. The Heels have the talent to make a huge run, but they better quit playing like newborn kittens and start playing like bulldogs if they want to have any say in the ACC.

C: Wake Forest Demon Deacons

The Deacs have been decimated by injuries and have slowed to a crawl after a great start. Eric Williams is getting in foul trouble, and their guard play isn't as consistent as it was in the early part of the season. However, there is hope - the Deacs can claw to an 8-8 mark and be dancing if they will start getting the ball inside more and toughen up on the defensive end. Skip Prosser has done wonders with his squad this year, but if they don't get healthy it may not be enough.


F: Virginia Cavaliers

First off, I love Pete Gillen. The guy is a quote machine, he looks like an overgrown oompa loompa, and he knows hoops - but it is time for a change in Charlottesville. The Cavs have talent, but its all in the wrong places-plus, they look lost on the floor at times. Gillen had this program in the right direction, but the departure of Roger Mason Jr and the repeated injuries to Majestic Mapp really hurt the growth of this team. Now it looks like a lost cause.

In closing, I'm giving a lot of love to my little sister - who plays her last home game in an HHS uniform Friday night. I'll be there watching every second of it - so Go HIGHLANDERS!



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■ SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING ■

Why we're here

Reflections on Forgiveness by Elsa Joy Bailey

Daily Inspiration, Spiritual Growth, Spiritual laws, self fulfillment, Personal Growth, spiritual inspiration. Imagine a brilliantly colored world atlas spread out, vast as a tablecloth, across your dining room table.

You stand before it, peering at its endless nooks and crannies, its giant pools of blue water, looking over the exotic and unfathomable names of cities and countries beyond your awareness.

You take in the whole of this mammoth map, parts of which are familiar as dust, parts of which are completely alien.

And pretend you've been given an assignment: to bless and forgive every piece of this huge map; every name, every river, every mountain, every desert, every village, every spa, every bridge, every coast, every battleground, every street sign.

Now you can stop pretending. Because in truth that's exactly the way it is. You and I have been given such an assignment: to forgive everything, everyone, everywhere. That is our human potential. You ask: but with a world that stretches so many miles out of sight, with such an immense list of characters and events, how on earth do we accomplish such a herculean task?

Piece by piece by piece.

Actually, it's simpler than it seems. (Simpler – but not easier). This world is much like a hologram, which means that to entirely forgive and bless the small piece of map on which we stand and live is to forgive

the whole.

So we start right where we are. Day by day, we are here to learn to see past what our eyes and ears report; to see through surface to essence.

We are learning to forgive it all. The ripe lush strawberry that made us itch. The pothole that tore a hole in our tire.

The grocery clerk with an attitude. The relatives we try to avoid. The co-worker who appears to hate us. The newspaper report of a gang shooting. The water bill that is inordinately high.

The washing machine that shrank our sweater into a doll's dress. The driver that splashed mud on our new jacket. The sun that refused to come out when we needed it.

The endlessly long line at our favorite restaurant. The head that blocked our view at a concert. The checkbook that doesn't add up. The irate letter from a landlord. Everything.

These are our daily assignments; the extraordinary opportunities we are given to see past the skin of all moments and catch the shining innocence that waits beyond and beneath the obvious.

Is it easy work? No. Does it take a long time to complete? Yes. But of course we are given a lifetime in which to do it.

And when we have moved through our private map, piece by piece by piece, and, with the help of the Divine Love at our center, have come to release each face, each instance, each folly -- what happens then?

Freedom.

• PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU •

Blue Valley Baptist Church

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

Buck Creek Baptist Church

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

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
Wednesdays: Boy Scouts of America mtg. – 6:30 p.m.; Young women's activities – 6:30 p.m.

Christ Anglican Church 743-3319

"A Bible-based liturgica church"
Services: Tuesdays at 5 p.m. at the Community Bible Church in Highlands
Holy Communion at most services.

Clear Creek Baptist Church

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

Community Bible Church

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

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Interim Priest: Stephen Hines, 526-2968
Sundays: Choir – 9 a.m.; Bible Study & Book Study classes – 9:15 a.m.; Holy Eucharist – 10:30 a.m.; Children's – 10:30 a.m.
Mondays: Search Committee – 11 a.m.; Women's Cursillo Group (Library) – 4 p.m.;
Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8 a.m.; Pastoral Care – 9:30 a.m.; Outreach – 4 p.m.
Wednesdays: Vestry Mtg – 4 p.m.; Supper and Program in Jones Hall – 6 p.m.
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.
The Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14

First Baptist Church

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

First Presbyterian Church

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

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

Highlands Assembly of God

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

Highlands Seventh-Day Adventist Church

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

Highlands United Methodist Church

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

Lutheran Church of the Holy Family – ELCA

Rev. Pam Mitcham, Pastor,
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30 a.m.

Macedonia Baptist Church

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Rusty Wolfrey, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.;
Choir – 6 p.m.
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 p.m.
For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

Rev. William M Evans, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Wednesdays & Fridays: Mass – 12 noon
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. Baker Crane
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin

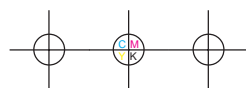
526-9769
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time)
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

Westside Baptist Church

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

Whiteside Presbyterian Church in America

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



• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-Going

- New After-Work Aerobics Class at the Highlands Rec Park with Sandy Trevathan, certified in AFAA and ACE training. Classes are at 5:15 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Call 526-5852.
- Daisys, Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts meet 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Highlands United Methodist Church. Come join them.
- Highlands School is still collecting used ink cartridges. The staff just sent in 150 and they're ready for more.

Please take used ink cartridges to the main office at Highlands School. It means money to the school.

- Every Friday and Saturday night, Cy Timmons sings and plays his guitar at Highlands Wine & Cheese from 7-11 p.m. It's free.

- Every Saturday night there is live music at Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street.

- The Mountain View group of Alcoholics Anonymous now meets in the

remodeled basement meeting room of the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary, in Highlands. It's accessible from both Main and Church streets. Meeting times remain the same: Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wednesdays and Fridays at noon. For further information, call (800) 524-0465.

Feb. 12

- HS PTO meeting, 4:30 p.m. at the school to talk about Science Fair set for March.

Feb. 13

- Mountain Top Rotary breakfast meetings at 7:30 a.m. in the back of the Baptist Church. Mountain Top Rotary Club Assembly

- On Friday afternoons, beginning Friday, Feb. 13, Highlands United Methodist Church will have an after school opportunity for children in grades 1st through 6th. There will be two six-week sessions that will include the God and Country series and a Beth Moore Bible study for children called Jesus, the One and Only. A snack and transportation from school will be provided. It will finish at 4:30 p.m. All children are invited. For more information or to register, call Kim Ingram at the church at 526-3376.

Feb. 14

- Zorki is playing at Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street starting at 8 p.m.

Feb. 16

- Macon County Habitat for Humanity will hold an orientation meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center. Applications will be for the recipient of the Habitat for Humanity home that will be built this year. For more information, call 369-3716.

- Highlands Little League Baseball Registration is Feb. 16 through March 1. Boys and girls who are five by Aug. 1 of 2004 are eligible to play. Cost is \$30 for first child and \$25 for each sibling, thereafter. Forms are at Highlands School and the Rec Park. Forms should be returned to the Rec Park. Call 526-3879.

Feb. 17

- Whiskey Galore, a great comedy from the British film industry starring Basil Radford, Joan Greenwood, Gordon Jackson will be presented Tuesday at 7 p.m. at PAC. It's free, but donations are accepted.

Feb. 20

- Mountain Top Rotary breakfast meetings at 7:30 a.m. in the back of the Baptist Church. Ann Greenlee head of the laboratory at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will talk about relevant local clinical capacity and issues.

Feb. 21

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an 8-mile strenuous hike from Coweeta Lab up the Ridge Trail to Dyke's Gap and down by the Cunningham Creek road. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 10 a.m. Call Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations, information, or weather info.

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See SIDEWALK pg 2

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Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (EOE): Staff Physi-
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348 S. Fifth St., Highlands, NC 28741; 828-526-9227
or JMCA@dnet.net for more info.

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• COOKING ON THE PLATEAU •

A sweet breakfast from the heart



Happy Valentine's Day from Thea & The Green Man

Thea's Waffles from the "Heart from Thea's Kitchen"

2 eggs (farm fresh) separated
1 3/4 cups (organic) milk
1/4 cup (unrefined, cold pressed vegetable) oil
1 3/4 cups (unbleached) white flour
2 Tablespoon (raw) sugar
4 teaspoon (aluminum free) baking powder
1 teaspoon (sea) salt

Beat egg yolks, stir in milk and oil. Add flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Don't over mix. Beat egg whites until stiff and gently fold into batter. Bake and serve with organic strawberries, whipped cream and/or real butter and maple syrup.

On her way to the top



Highlander, Casey Jenkins, takes second place on the balance beam and seventh place on vault with an eighth place all-around finish, in the Carolina Crown USAG gymnastic competition on Feb. 7, in Mooresville, N.C. She's headed for the State Competition in March.



• POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

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

Feb. 4

- At 11:40 a.m., a motorist on Main Street reported a hit and run of his vehicle.
- At 2:14, officers responded to a call of a domestic violence order from someone at the post office.
- At 2:56 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Old Cove Road. All was secure.
- At 3 p.m., officers assisted a motorist driving a fork lift down N.C. 28.

Feb. 5

- At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to an accident on Pierson Dr. There were no injuries.

Feb. 6

- At 3 p.m., officers responded to an accident in the parking lot behind Town Hall. There were no injuries.
- At 5:40 p.m., a motorist was cited for driving while her license was suspended at Chowan and U.S. 64 west.

Feb. 7

- At 1:58 a.m., officers investigated a 911 hang up from Mountain High Lodge. All was OK.

Feb. 8

- At 1:20 a.m., officers on patrol found an open door at Mountain Fresh. All was secure.
- At 4:10 p.m., officers responded to a dispute between two employees at Mountain Fresh.

Feb. 9

- At 8:30 a.m., a motorist at Fourth and Spring streets was cited for driving without registration.

Feb. 10

- A.C. Young, 38, of Greenville, S.C., was arrested for larceny of a TV from Old Edwards Inn after he failed a lie detector test and confessed.
- At 8:04 a.m., officers responded to an alarm on Main Street. All was secure.
- At 9:20 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Brushy Face Road. All was secure.
- At 11:30 p.m., officers responded to a call of a house fire on Hickory Street. It was a controlled burn.

Feb. 11

- At 7:43 a.m., officers responded to an alarm on Main Street. All was secure.
- At 4:30 p.m., a motorist was cited for possessing blue lights in his car.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the week of Feb. 6-10.

Feb. 6

- The dept. was first responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Helen's Barn Ave. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Feb. 8

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly-Sky Valley Fire Dept so they could attend to a structure fire. Highlands stood by.
- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club building. It was a false alarm.

Feb. 9

- The dept. responded to an accident at Mountain Laurel Road. There were no injuries.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers while that dept. attended a fire.

Feb. 10

- The dept. responded to a controlled structure burn on Hickory St.

... EVENTS continued from page 16

• 9 a.m. til noon – Hemlock Wooly Adelgid monitoring workshop at the Highlands Nature Center. This project, sponsored by JMCA, is for any citizen who wants to learn how to identify and report infestations of the adelgid in order to help efforts to control this pest. Call 526-9227 for more info.

Feb. 22

• Highlands Community Ecumenical Worship Service is at 10:45 a.m. at the Community Bible Church on the Cashiers Road. Rev. Dan Robinson of First Baptist Church will be preaching and Holy Communion will be celebrated.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5-mile loop hike to Patton Springs on woods trails with a couple of short, steep climbs. Meet at 2 p.m. in Franklin at Westgate Plaza opposite Burger King. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for information.

Feb. 27

• Senior Luncheon at the Rec Park at noon. It's free but donations are accepted.

• Mountain Top Rotary breakfast meetings at 7:30 a.m. in the back of the Baptist Church. Robin King Austin will represent the Rotary Foundation for a local presentation.

Feb. 28

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 5-mile, easy-to-moderate, hike from Park Creek to the Park Ridge Trail, in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9:30 a.m. Call hike leader Bud Colcord, 524-9952, for reservations, information, or weather info.

March 6

• The annual Chili Cook Off and Salsa Contest will be held on Saturday, March 6 at the Highlands Conference Center. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. It is sponsored by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Laurel Magazine. Cost for the evening which includes music by Hurricane Creek is \$20. For an application to enter or to purchase tickets, please contact the Chamber office at 526-5841.

Consultant completes fact-finding visit for Macon County Library system

Ronald L. Dubberly, the consultant hired to study Macon County Public Library's future space needs, finished his first fact-finding visit last week. He listened to library staff members outline their ideas for what they need to keep pace with the county's future growth.

He visited the three Macon County public libraries in Franklin, Nantahala, and Highlands and also

met with members of the county's Public Library Board.

The final report is due April 5 and will be presented to the county Board of Commissioners.

Several public meetings will be scheduled before then so Dubberly can hear from county residents and groups about their ideas for future library services.

Greenville man arrested for larceny

It eventually happens – Highlands Police catch up with criminals.

A.C. Young, 38, of Greenville, S.C., was arrested and charged with larceny of a Samsung 22-inch flat-screen TV reported missing from Old Edwards Inn at 10 a.m. January 12.

On Feb. 10, Young confessed to the crime after failing a polygraph test, said officers.

"We had several suspects lined up to take the test. He was the first one to take it, he failed and confessed," said arresting officer Todd Ensley. "Now detectives in

Greenville are trying to track down the location of the TV which he allegedly sold to someone there."

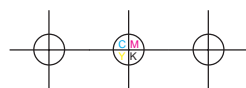
The TV is valued at \$7,500.

The SBI District Office out of Asheville routinely conducts polygraph tests for district counties.

About twice a month, polygraph tests are given by the SBI at the Sheriff's Dept. in Franklin.

"The SBI is the only organization licensed to give the polygraphs and we have to schedule the tests," said Chief Jerry Cook.

Young was employed by Southern Painting out of Greenville.





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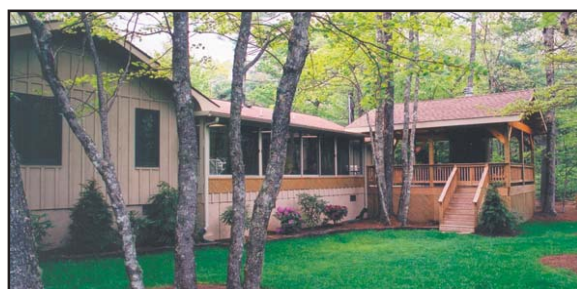
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Casual Mountain Elegance. Charming 4-5 bedroom, 5 ½-bath, Southern Living design home on private cul-de-sac featuring spectacular views of Satulah and Brushy Face Mountains. Main family room includes massive two-story native stone fireplace. Lower level family room in pine with stacked stone fireplace. Master includes cozy sitting area with the third stone fireplace. Granite countertops in kitchen and master bath. Many custom built-ins including desk and bookcases in fifth bedroom/study. Elegant high-end window treatments and extensive professional faux finishes. Wide plank pine flooring throughout two upper floors. Two-car garage including large unfinished room above. This gem has loads of curb appeal. Asking \$1,095,000.



Highlands Falls Country Club. This 3-bedroom, 2-bath in the Laurelwood Golf Villas features views of the 11th fairway, a pond, and mountains in the distance. The interior has been fully renovated, with a new kitchen and baths, all of top quality materials and workmanship. Exterior has been freshly painted and has a two-car garage. Equity Membership is available at market rate. Membership requirements. Offered at \$575,000.



Sagee Mountain Drive. Located on a private lush wooded lot, this 4-bedroom, 3-bath features single level living. Living room with cathedral ceiling and fireplace, huge glass porch and deck. Covered entertaining porch with fireplace. One-car garage. Offered at \$750,000.



Beautiful Log Home. This spacious log home on two beautiful wooded lots in Highlands Hills has three bedrooms and three baths on two levels each with its own deck. The great room with vaulted ceilings and a large stone fireplace makes this home a great mountain retreat. Offered at \$449,000.



Highlands Hills. Easy living on one level, this lovely ranch is located on a wooded lot with a lovely fenced back yard. The dwelling features a spacious living room with fireplace, three bedrooms, two baths, and one-car garage. Access to community lake and a great walking area. Offered at \$339,000.



A Glorious View From Every Room In The House. This four-bedroom, three-bath ranch sits high upon King Mountain on 2.04 acres and boasts a full southern exposure from dawn to dusk. This home has vaulted ceilings, a wonderful double-sided native stone fireplace, covered deck, art studio. Double garage and generator that runs the entire household. This is a very well maintained home with new furnace, major appliances, carpet, double pane windows and glass doors. Amenities include tennis, pool, trout pond, gated entry and road maintenance. Offered at \$695,000.

www.highlandsinfo.com/ccp/ccplist.htm



New Listing with Nice View. Located in Flat Mountain Estates. Three bedrooms, 2 ½ baths, living room with cathedral ceiling, screened porch, deck, fenced yard, two-car garage with unfinished bonus room. \$595,000 furnished.



On Satulah Ridge. Beautiful view lot on Satulah Ridge, town water with two-bedroom septic approval. Views of Whiteside, Sunset Rocks, Ravenel Ridge and beyond. Gated access with shared private entrance. Offered at \$249,000. Bonus! Small treehouse that would be habitable while you are building.



Charming Vintage Home. Charming home with a very private in-town location. Vintage charm describes this 3-bedroom home with antique pine doors beaded board ceilings, wainscot, extensive crown molding and wood floors throughout. The great room has an oversized masonry fireplace with built-ins and French doors opening onto the screened porch and deck. The semi-octagonal dining room has floor-to-ceiling windows looking out to the English country garden setting. The farmhouse kitchen has custom beaded board cabinetry, tiled cook center and butcher block bar opening to the great room. The spacious master suite offers a whirlpool tub, over-sized tile shower and sit-down vanity. There are two separate guest suites located for privacy, one finished as a den with a massive stone fireplace. This home is top quality and well located adjacent to the Highlands Country Club. Offered at \$695,000.