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Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 2, Number 10

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, March 12, 2004

The week of March 12-19

March 12

▪ **IDENTIFYING TREES** – "Buds and Bark" Workshop Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Highlands Nature Center. It's free.

▪ **COOKIES FOR SALE** – Junior Girl Scout Troop #49 will be having a Girl Scout Cookie Booth at Bryson's Food Store at 11 a.m. All variety of cookies will be available for \$3 per box. For more information contact Paula Gordon at 526-9582 or Marjorie Crowe at 526-4876.

March 13

▪ **COOKIES FOR SALE** – Brownie Troop #219 will be having a Girl Scout Cookie Booth in front of The Little Flower Shoppe on Main Street All variety of cookies will be available for \$3 per box. For more information contact Paula Gordon at 526-9582 or Marjorie Crowe at 526-4876.

▪ **LIVE MUSIC** – Arthur & Katie strumming and singing at Buck's Coffee Cafe from 8-11 p.m.

▪ **AUDITIONS** – Auditions for The Instant Theatre Company's "1st Annual Cabin Fever Variety Show" are March 13 at PAC, call (828) 526-1687 or e-mail info@InstantTheatre.org for an audition appointment.

▪ **MOVIE TIME** – The movie Chariots of Fire 7 p.m. at PAC. Two British runners compete for England in the 1924 Olympics. Staring Ben Cross, Ian Charleson, Nigel Havers and John Gielgud. It's free but donations are accepted.

▪ **HIKE IT OFF** – The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 7-mile hike in Black Rock State Park in Georgia. Meet at the Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 8:30 a.m. or in the Piggly Wiggly parking lot in Dillard, GA at 9 a.m. Drive 70 miles round trip. Bring a drink, a lunch, wear sturdy comfortable shoes and clothing appropriate to the weather. Call leaders Carol and George Fritz, 369-0047, for more information.

March 15

▪ **RECYCLE** – Recycling & Environmental Fair 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Factory in Franklin. Educational program with awards distributed for participation.

Discrepancy over figures but growth to be steady

By Kim Lewicki

The long awaited population study is in but town and county officials aren't sure it tells the true story about future growth in Highlands.

Though the Marketek study is mainly about Highlands and the Highlands Township, Macon County Manager Sam Greenwood said

Marketek's forecasted figures for Highlands are low. "Our study shows the county population increasing to 100,000 by 2015 and part of that is Highlands." He attributes his figures to the growing seasonal residents and the fact that Macon County has become a "resort" county.

"Conventional studies don't have a chance when they're trying to

determine trends in resort counties like Jackson, Transylvania, Macon, Clay and Cherokee," said Greenwood.

Mayor Buck Trott is afraid the study doesn't take into account the new businesses in town – namely Old Edwards Inn which has said it will employ at least 200 people. "Those people could represent new families

▪See GROWTH pg 15

First 2004 mission group takes off for Bolivia



Photo by Jim Lewicki

Neither snow in Highlands nor Dr. John Baumrucker's recent mild heart attack stopped the group of 34 Highlanders headed for Bolivia on March 10. They met up with Dr. John in Montero to continue mission work started several years ago. See more on page 9.

New rating means lower insurance rates for some

By Kim Lewicki

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Department has been approved for a new six-mile fire district rating and that translates to a savings for homeowners.

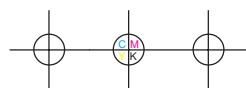
"This rating will provide lower insurance rates for home owners outside the five-mile district," said department administrator Bobby Houston. "The rating in the six-mile district has dropped from a 10 to a

9E."

A 9E rating means 9-extended, basically extended from the five-mile district which is rated 9.

Ratings are changed by the In-

▪See RATES page 2



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Remodeled on Flat Mountain Road



This beautifully remodeled home on Flat Mountain Road is perfect for anyone wanting to get that first home in Highlands. The upper level has three bedrooms, currently rented, with a kitchenette suite. Perfect for a family or also could be used as a rental. Offered at \$239,000. MLS# 51723



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Monster winds pound plateau



Photo by Jim Lewicki

Though completed pre-fab homes at OEI's Sassafras Employee Village were just fine, Sunday night's 40 mph gusts tipped over half a structure destined to become a home.

New wall, sidewalk and railing



Photo by Jim Lewicki

Old Edwards Inn is replacing the sidewalk in front of the Inn on Main Street which had been damaged during construction at its own cost. OEI is also erecting a new banister along Main Street from Fourth to Fifth. General Manager Manuel de Juan said work on the wall and brick sidewalk should be completed in two weeks, and then the handrail work would begin. At the March 3 Town Board meeting, Bob Wright, on behalf of the First Presbyterian Church, asked if the church could improve public access to the front of the church by constructing a set of steps inset into the sidewalk, like those at the Acorn's building. The Board agreed to the proposal in concept, and asked that a drawing be submitted.

... RATES continued from page 1

insurance Commissioner of North Carolina and are based on several criteria.

"The Insurance Commission has basically said, 'we can go farther away from the station now than 30-40 years ago due to better roads, trucks, equipment and technology,'" said Steve Chenoweth with Wayah Insurance. "The rating also depends on the availability of second responder fire departments like Cullasaja, Satolah and Cashiers, who frequently assist our department." Highlands Fire & Rescue reciprocates for them as well.

Other factors include how fast the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department traditionally responds to a call, whether there is a substation nearby, and the number of fire hydrants in a subdivision, said Houston.

Highlands Fire and Rescue which covers the one-mile radius of the Town of Highlands and six miles outside the town limits, is usually on scene in less than 10 minutes.

"That's pretty good considering

all our guys are volunteers and are coming from their homes or businesses," said Fire Chief James Manley.

A one-step rating change can mean as much as a 20 percent drop in insurance rates, said Chenoweth.

But he said that percentage isn't a guarantee because insurance rates are often different for applicants.

"There are a lot of factors that go in to determining the cost of a policy," said Chenoweth. "The age of the applicant, the age and condition of the house, the applicant's claim history, the applicant's credit history, whether the home is a primary resident or a second home even if the applicant has an auto and home insurance package."

Regardless of insurance rates, homeowners in the town of Highlands and the Township of Highlands enjoy a top-notch volunteer fire and rescue department.

"A town this size is lucky to have the calibre of fire and rescue department that we have," said Mayor Buck Trott.

Town sidewalks to get concrete and brick face lift

By Kim Lewicki

The town of Highlands is getting nipped and tucked everywhere you look.

Soon work will begin on several sidewalks in serious disrepair in town.

At the March 3 Town Board meeting, commissioners approved the sidewalk project contingent upon re-submittal of the bid.

PACO Construction Company won the bid for \$63,079.50, but the work was bid as individual jobs, rather than as one job. Commissioner Hank Ross said the bid would probably be lower if the work were combined into a single project.

Lamar Nix, town engineer, said PACO is in town working on a job and if the company could do sidewalk repair as one job at one time the price might be lower.

The cost was higher than originally estimated because of brick

sidewalk stipulations laid out by the newly adopted master sidewalk plan. But, Town Administrator, Richard Betz, said the town has the money.

"We have \$50,000 budgeted for paving and \$100,000 budgeted for sidewalks or additional paving, so we can make the repairs this year," said Betz.

Only one bid was needed due to the scope of the project, but Commissioner Herb James asked that next year, more than one bid be requested.

Sidewalks at Chandler Inn and U.S. 64 east; U.S. 64 east and Forman Road; U.S. 64 east at the Historical Society complex; Oak Street at Scudders; Fifth Street at the Episcopal Church, Carolina Way and Pine streets; Pine Street (which will be brick); and most of Pierson Street; South Street; a length along N.C. 28; along Second Street and along Main Street (which will be brick).

Answer to utility pole question coming

By Kim Lewicki

Commissioners have made the first step in tabulating the town's utility pole situation – including location, attached paraphernalia, and who's responsible for what.

At the March 3 Town Board meeting, commissioners voted to award the job of tabulating the system to Paul Schmitt Architectural Design Studio at the cost of \$16,000. Although the company wasn't the lowest bidder, it was more responsive to software requirements, and also included references for the personnel conducting the study, which included AutoCad, GIS, and power industry (Nantahala Power) experience, said Town Administrator Richard Betz.

Bidders were asked to conduct an audit and visual inspection of all utility poles, including locating all of the poles; recording the location and size of transformers on each pole and any other electrical equipment such as reclosers and street lights; recording the communication lines attached to each pole; and recording the clearances between power lines, communication lines, and the ground to assure

conformance to the National Electric Safety Code.

The audit is to be submitted in the form of maps, AutoCad, and ArcView shapefiles conforming to the Town's current GIS database, and was intended to provide the basis of a list of communication lines that were not in compliance with the National Electric Safety Code.

The nine bids ranged from \$145,000 to \$11,630.

The lowest bid, received from Joint Use Solutions, was the only bid based on a unit cost basis (\$1.05 per pole, etc.) "What concerned us about this bid is that the company relies on its own software, rather than AutoCad or ArcView we use in the office," said Betz.

A time constraint was not issued as part of the bid but commissioners said that will be nailed down before work begins.

The bid was awarded contingent upon negotiating a reasonable schedule for completion of the work. They also agreed that penalties would be levied if the work isn't done within the agreed upon time schedule.

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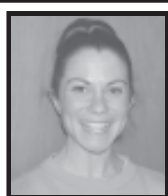
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• LIFE UNDER CONSTRUCTION •

Serenity. Do you have it?

For some reason, the rapid change in the weather yesterday accompanied by the unpredictable howling winds challenged me to entertain thoughts about serenity.

Do you have a "serenity drawer"? Tell me more you ask? Or not! Could this possibly be for men as well? You bet if you stay open to reading further. A serenity drawer contains "stuff" that comforts us for those moments that try our soul. It might contain gifts from others that make you smile when you look at them. Maybe a special book that soothes you when you read from it. This can be a guy thing. Chocolates, if you are a chocolate lover, but just a one serving size. It might be a favorite after dinner cordial, an unusual tea, bath salts, or just lighting a candle that has special meaning. Who said bubble baths were not manly? Certainly not a person of sustenance and knowledge would question this.

The month of March can bring about extreme weather changes. This week, for example, sent a comfortable 65-degree sunny day with calm winds, catapulting to a cold 30 degrees with strong gusty winds and snow. All this was in the space of a few hours. These changes can impact your internal atmosphere as well.

Since this year was leap year, I must admit, I seized the moment



Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

(or the day). I saw it as an extra day and since it fell on a Sunday, it was perfect. It was *my* day with no guilt attached.

Understand, I am not talking about taking a day to retreat very often, because I know that

it is very difficult to carve out that much time, but consider some time every week, just for you. It's not selfish. Quite the contrary, it usually makes one more available for others.

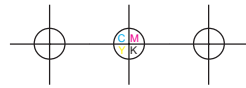
Today, if only for five minutes, retreat to a quiet place where you can sit or even lie down and relax your mind and body. Close your eyes and slow down your breathing. Listen to the silence within. Consider for the future, carving out ten to twenty minutes a day to mediate. That is all, merely consider.

Suggestions for keeping serenity in your life.

1. Avoid people who still prefer that you pretend.
2. Remove the rock from your shoes rather than learning to limp comfortably.
3. Try completing only one task at a time.
4. Leave room for a little magic.

Restoring serenity, and we all lose it at times, can dramatically increase the quality of your life. Thoreau said, "To affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of arts."

It's almost time for some spring-cleaning. Life Under Construction...a work in progress just might help? 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 •

Meat & 'tater guys

Dear Fred:

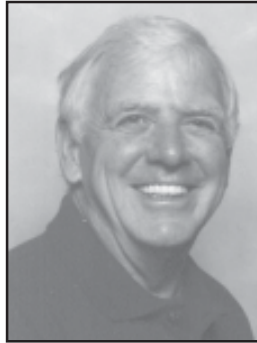
I am a 15-year-old girl and I have been dating a 17-year-old boy for several months (I'll call him Bruce). My problem is every time we go out to eat, Bruce orders steak and potatoes. Neither of us have a great deal of money to spend, but I usually have to pay for the meal most of the time and I end up having to order a salad because that's all I can afford. I'm thinking of breaking up over this. Do you think I should?

Miss Skinny

Dear MS:

Never break up with someone just because he is a good old fashioned meat and tater guy. They are a rare group these days with all the food fads being what they are out there. Tofu, bean sprouts, twigs and berries are the "in" food today. A recent study has revealed that M & T (that's short for meat and tater) guys make very good boyfriends, but are declining in numbers.

All that protein builds big muscles, which is what girls like to



Fred Wooldridge

see. I always say, "If you can snag a M & T guy, hang on to him at all costs." There is nothing more vitalizing than having a 16 ounce Sirloin steak coursing through your veins while working out at the gym. Be thankful that he doesn't eat Sushi. Have

you ever smelled the breath of people who eat raw fish dunked in that awful smelling gobbly-gook?

I realize that none of this very important information is helping you with your problem so I would try several things with Bruce before breaking up. First, get a job after school so you can afford to pay for Bruce's meals and maybe occasionally have a steak yourself. Next, start cooking for him at home. Supermarket steaks are a lot cheaper than restaurant beef. If he balks at this, back off immediately and tell him you will also take in ironing to earn extra bucks to buy steaks and taters with.

You must be the envy of every girl at school. I'm impressed. Tell your girlfriends I'm a meat and tater guy myself, but I am also spoken for.

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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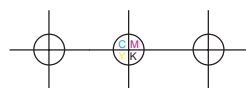
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Easy money for Highlands School

Marjorie Crowe
Contributor

There are several ways Highlanders can support Highlands School and you don't even have to have a child in school to participate. With today's school budgets all the help they can get is very much appreciated.

1. When grocery shopping at BiLo, be sure to register your Bonus-card so that Highlands School gets a percentage of your purchases. For more information call 1-800-950-BILO or go to BI-LO.com, use code #5959 for Highlands School.

2. Apply for an Ingles Advantage card and save not only on in store specials, but give Highlands School a portion of your purchases. Use code #11091 for Highlands School.

3. Save Box Tops from participating brands such as Cheerios, Checks, Lucky Charms, Pillsbury Yoplait, Betty Crocker, Green Giant, Chex Mix, and Bisquick. Take a moment to check your groceries for this logo and clip them off. For a complete list of participating products go to boxtopforeducation.com. Highlands School receives 10 cents for each box top redeemed.

4. Clip and save labels or UPC codes from all Campbells, Pepperidge Farm, Swanson, Prego, Pace and Franco American Brands. Highlands School earns free school equipment for each label redeemed. For more information go to labelsforeducation.com.

5. When buying Tyson chicken products clip and save Project A+ labels. The Junior Beta Club at Highlands club gets 24 cents for each la-

bel that supports a child in a hunger starved nation.

6. Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and redeemed for \$2 each. Save Hewlett Packard, Canon, Lexmark, Xerox, Campaq, Apple & Dell cartridges.

7. Purchase a banner from the Booster Club to support school athletics. Not only will the school benefit but your business will get constant exposure in the gym. A one year sponsorship is only \$200.

8. Register your Target Visa or Guest card by calling 1-800-316-6142 or visit target.com. Highlands School will receive 1% of all purchases made at a Target store and ½ percentage of all other purchases.

9. Next time you shop online, first log onto one of these sites so that Highlands School will receive a percentage of total sales; schoolcash.com, schoolpop.com or escrip.com. Most major merchants are represented including, Ann Taylor, LL Bean, Lillian Vernon, gap, PetSmart, Hallmark, Avon, OfficeMax, The Company Store, Dell, Spiegel, Eddie Bauer, and hundreds of others. Rebates to Highlands School range from 1 to 18 percent of purchase total.

Visit Highlands School to see more on these and other programs featured on the bulletin board in the lobby. Collection boxes for these items can be found in the school office and also at several area churches and clubs. Won't you do a little to make a big difference in the life of a child?

For more information contact Marjorie Crowe, PTO Volunteer Coordinator at 526-2147.

MC Senior Games fundraisers

A car show and a flea market are two "early bird" fund-raising events for the 2004 Macon County Senior Games/Silver Arts this spring.

The car show is Saturday, March 27, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Whistle Stop Mall parking lot on the Georgia Road (U.S. 441 South), Franklin. Registration fee for cars to be displayed is \$10 per vehicle and will be accepted from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. the day of the show.

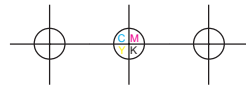
Trophies will be awarded to the top 20 cars. General admission to the auto show is free and refresh-

ments will be on sale.

The annual Senior Games spring flea market is Saturday, April 3, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the County Community Building gym, 1288 Georgia Road, Franklin. Sale booths rent for \$20 each. Refreshments will be available for sale.

Proceeds from both events will be used for the 14th Annual Macon County Senior Games/Silver Arts set for April 28-May 15.

For more information, call Senior Games Coordinator Teresa Holbrooks at (828) 349-2090.



Upcoming seminars at hospital

Southwestern Community College's Business Assistance Center will present two business seminars on March 18 and 19 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

"Successful Marketing for the Craftsperson and the Artist" will be presented from 1-4 p.m. on Thursday, March 18. A light afternoon snack and beverages will be provided as participants learn to take their craft or art from a hobby to a business. Pricing techniques will be covered, as well as how to professionally approach galleries and shops.

"Building Your Business Image"

will be presented from 9 a.m. until noon on Friday, March 19. Participants will be served brunch during this fast-paced, information-packed session that details how to develop and market the business image. This seminar contains marketing ideas that have been proven to be successful, even on a low budget.

Each seminar is \$10 and seating is limited. Participants must preregister by 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 16.

To preregister or for more information, call Southwestern Community College at 743-6688 or at 349-1278.

Second SOAR race set for June 26

Luke Osteen
Contributor

Adventurers from across the country are invited to participate in the Special Operations Adventure Race in Highlands, NC, at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 26.

The grueling course will challenge racers' running, mountain biking, repelling and paddling skills. Participants are expected to make their way through the course with only a map and compass – no GPS devices are allowed.

Advance registration is required and check-in will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, June 25.. Cost of the 4-8 hour race is \$85 for a single entry and \$150 for a two-person team.

There are six categories: single male under 40, single female under 40, two-person team under 40, and the Masters Division, which offers the same categories for those over 40.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, which provides scholarship grants to the children of Special Forces personnel killed in an operation or training. Since 1980 the Special Operations community has lost more than 370 members, leaving behind more than 400 children.

For more information, call Marianne Vines at 743-2052

Annual Crop Walk set for April 17

By Luke Osteen
Contributor

With the advent of spring weather, walkers, strollers and all-around Good Samaritans are stretching and preparing for the Highlands CROP Walk, slated for 9 a.m. Saturday, April 17.

Crop Walk is a gentle 2-mile stroll through town, starting and stopping at Highlands United Methodist Church. CROP, Christian Rural Overseas Program, funds hunger alleviation projects throughout the world.

CROP Walks have been held in Highlands since 1996 and the local effort has raised over \$53,000. Donations are being collected by area churches or people can sponsor a walker. Collection jars have been placed at The Pizza Place, Movie Stop, Don Leon Deli Cafe, Fireside Restaurant, Bryson Food Store, Mt Fresh Fine Foods, Buck's Coffee

Shop, Pescados Highland Burrito, Sports Page, Gas Light, Subway, and the International Friendship Center.

This year, 25 percent of funds raised locally will be donated to the International Friendship Center, a non-profit agency with the mission of providing information to the growing international populations of Macon County and Jackson County.

Its objective is to establish relationships of confidence and mutual respect between the local community and the international community.

From 8 to 10 a.m. on the day of the race, a fund-raiser pancake breakfast will be held at Highlands United Methodist Church. Walkers, sponsors or anyone looking for a delicious meal are invited to attend.

To be a participant, sponsor a walker or for more information about CROP Walk contact Beth Graham at 743-6688 or 526-3852.



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Heading for State Finals



Ashley Thurston (left), Casey Jenkins, Katherine Munger and Ashleigh Culpepper (not pictured) are representing New Vision Gymnastics when they travel to Mooresville, NC this weekend to compete in the North Carolina State USA Sanctioned Junior Olympic Gymnastic Competition. Miss Thurston is a Level 10 gymnast from Sylva, NC, and attends Smoky Mountain High School. Miss Jenkins and Miss Munger are Level 8 competitors. Casey is a student at Highlands School and Katherine is home schooled. Miss Culpepper will compete Level 7 and goes to East Franklin Elementary.

Summer 'Edventure Camp' registration Mar. 25

Registration for Macon County Schools Summer Edventure Camp will be held on Thursday, March 25, 5-7 p.m. at East Franklin School in the cafeteria.

Summer Edventure Camp is a seven-week enrichment camp that will run from June 7 through July 23, at Union School in Franklin. The cost is \$550 per camper, with a \$25 registration fee. Registration forms will be

available at East Franklin School on March 25, and copies of a birth certificate, immunization record, and recent photo are required as part of the registration form.

For more information about the Camp, please call 524-5028 or 524-4414. For questions regarding subsidized child care, please contact Anne Brogden, DSS child subsidy worker, after April 12.



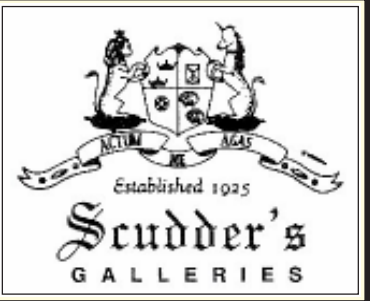


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Highlands At Falls on Main (Above the Bird Barn) (828) 526-1764 TF: 866-863-2578	Cashiers At the Crossroads (Beside Brookings) (828) 743-2905 TF: 866-397-2544
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When you buy or sell a home through any of our agents, a donation is made to the Children's Miracle Network



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- Oriental Rugs
- Fine Art
- Accessories

• AT RUBY CINEMA •

in Franklin, N.C.

Evening Shows (After 5 p.m.)
 Adult - \$6; Child - \$4
 Matinee (Before 5 p.m.)
 Adult - \$5; Child - \$4
 Seniors get \$1 off all regular evening shows

Beginning Fri., March 12

<p>– SECRET WINDOW – rated PG-13 7:05 & 9:20 Nightly 4:20 Tuesday & Thursday Matinee 2:05 & 4:20 Saturday & Sunday Matinees</p>	<p>– HIDALGO – rated PG-13 7:00 & 9:30 Nightly 4:30 Tuesday & Thursday Matinee 2:00 & 4:30 Saturday & Sunday Matinees</p>
<p>– STARKY & HUTCH – rated PG-13 7:10 & 9:10 Nightly 4:10 Tuesday & Thursday Matinee 2:10 & 4:10 Saturday & Sunday Matinees</p>	<p>THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST rated R 7:00 & 9:30 Nightly 4:30 Tuesday & Thursday Matinee 2:00 & 4:30 Saturday & Sunday Matinees</p>

• MOVIE PIX •

Video Guy Presents:

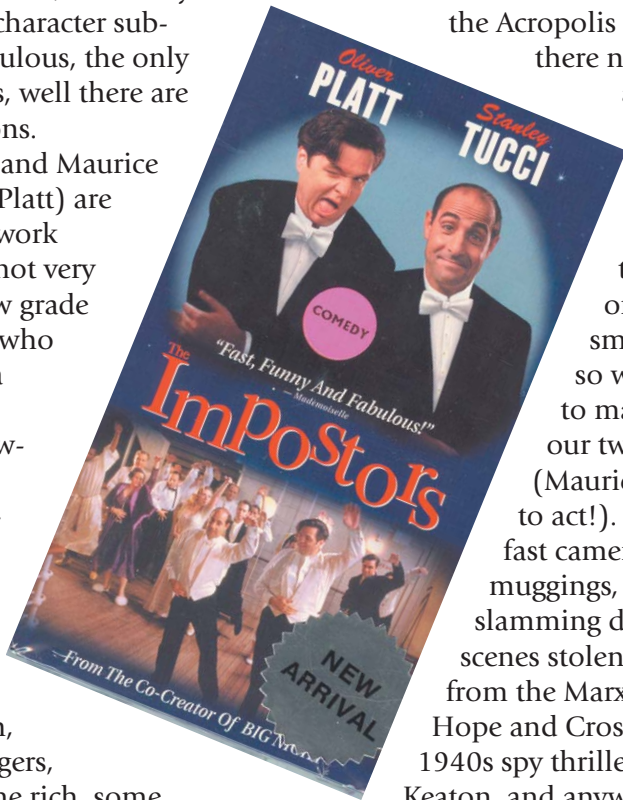
"The Impostors"

A 1998 film, written and directed and starring Stanley Tucci, and a spectacular cast that only starts with Oliver Platt, Steve Buscemi, Tony Shaloub, Isabella Rossellini, and Billy Connely, and many more.

If you are looking for high art and drama, and uplifting and inspiring story, one that shows how noble people can be, then this should not your film choice this evening. This is a hilarious farce, fast paced, extremely silly, every character sublimely ridiculous, the only exception is, well there are no exceptions.

Arthur and Maurice (Tucci and Platt) are two out of work actors and not very effective low grade con artists, who end up, a la Hope and Crosby, stow-aways on a trans Atlantic steamer filled with revolutionaries, con men and women, suicidal singers, royalty, some rich, some impoverished, gun shy detectives, savage Gypsy lovers, and more. As our two heroes try to hide on the ship in a variety of personas, they find that about half the passengers are trying to kill the other half.

Will anyone be able to save the innocent? Is there a chance to stop the murderous anarchist (superbly played by Tony Shaloub, who can portray any character, dramatic or comic)? Will Happy Jack succeed in his greatest wish,



Stuart Armor

which is to kill himself? Can the larcenous be stopped in their evil plans of fleeing the stupid? Will Billy Connely ever be able to wrestle naked on the steps of the Acropolis again? Is there no one brave and smart enough to save the day? No, there is no one brave or smart enough, so we will have to make do with our two thespians (Maurice, it's time to act!). Sight gags, fast cameras, face muggings, slap stick, slamming doors, and scenes stolen direct from the Marx Brothers, Hope and Crosby, old 1940s spy thrillers, Buster Keaton, and anywhere else a scene might have been left about unsecured. A very cool sound track accompanies the story, that adds even more to the silliness.

If you like this one, try Così, Noises Off, Bullets Over Broadway, Illuminati, Happy Texas, Vanya on 42nd Street, or Big Night. These and about 5,000 other titles are available on VHS or DVD at Movie Stop Video, stop on by and give them a look.

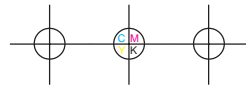


Photo by Jim Lewicki

Sunday, March 7, pastor Kim Ingram of Highlands United Methodist Church assisted by Wiley Sloan, blessed the group going to Bolivia from HUMC. Each participant was presented with a cross which they will give to a person they meet in Bolivia. The group left Wednesday, March 10. From left are Jack Brooks, Sarah Brooks, Kim Ingram, Eddie Ingram, Rachel Lewicki, Megan Lewicki, Matthew Keener and Susie Coffeen. Not pictured are, Zack Woodcox, Rebecca and Miranda Dotson, Alex Osteen, Catlin Huitt, Maggie Dearth, James View and Rebecca and Nate Brooks.

2004 Mission group bound for Bolivia

By Kim Lewicki

It's become an annual affair – Highlanders heading for Bolivia.

This year 34 people headed to Montero, Bolivia to work with Dr. John Baumrucker and his wife Joanna on several mission projects.

Two groups are going – some left Wednesday, March 10 and return Sunday, March 21, others leave March 19 and return to Highlands March 28.

What's new this year are the number of youth participating in the mission effort. About 17 youth from Highlands and Cashiers are going and most of them have been coupled up to stay with families in Montero.

The rest of the group will stay where the mission group has stayed for years, at the Pinochio Hotel.

The volunteers will work on several projects. Everyday they will prepare meals and serve the poor of Montero; some will work with Dr. John Baumrucker, Dr. Rebecca Brooks and Dr. Rodenbeck at the local hospital and dental clinic assisting with health care needs; others will help build new homes for families; some will work with chil-

dren at local orphanages; and one day the group will worship with prisoners at a local jail.

Fun is planned as well. An evening will be spent in Santa Cruz, sightseeing trips are in the works as is a visit to Samiapata, a local archeological site.

Throughout the 11-day stay, the group will perform several worship services and share faith through music and testimony.

"Personally we all need to have experiences which pull us outside of ourselves by thinking about Jesus and his love for all God's children," said HUMC Pastor Eddie Ingram. "I enter into this trip not anticipating but just participating in what God has in store for us. I feel certain that what we receive will be so much more than what we give."

About a dozen youth from HUMC are on the trip.

"I am excited about how this experience will have an impact on the lives of the young people going with us," said Ingram. "I am also excited about how God will use this trip to impact the way we do missions in Highlands when we return."

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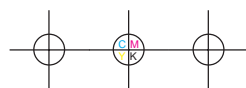
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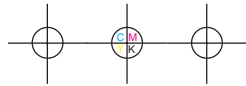
Fourth Street "on the Hill"

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Public input needed to update MC Library system

On March 16, a public forum about the Macon County library system will be held at the Hudson Library at 1 p.m. and at the Macon County Library in Franklin at 6 p.m.

Participants will be asked for their opinions on library features.

Those who can't attend are encouraged to submit their opinions in writing to the County Library Manager, Karn Wallace at the Macon County Public Library, 108 Wayah Street, Franklin, N.C. 28734.

Scholarships for nursing available

The Judy Moore Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee is now accepting applications for the Judy Moore Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship program for nurses was established in 1997 to honor Judy Moore who was killed in 1996.

A resident of Macon County, Judy was an inspiration to both nurses and patients in her role as a community health nurse and an OB-GYN nurse practitioner.

Two scholarships for \$1,000 will be made available for the year 2004-2005. The application deadline is May 17, 2004 for both undergraduate and graduate scholarships. Applicants must have completed their first semester in nursing and meet other eligibility requirements.

For more information, call Anne Hyder at Macon County Public Health Center at 349-2424.

Historical Society fundraiser

The Highlands Historical Society has pewter plates for sale to raise 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. Plates are \$75 and are available by contacting any Highlands Historical Society board member.

Local lands part on WB's 'One Tree Hill'

Highlands' own Adam Heffernan will soon be seen on the WB's popular "One Tree Hill." He's auditioned several times and finally landed a "small part," says Heffernan. He began shooting Thursday, March 11 in Wilmington, N.C.

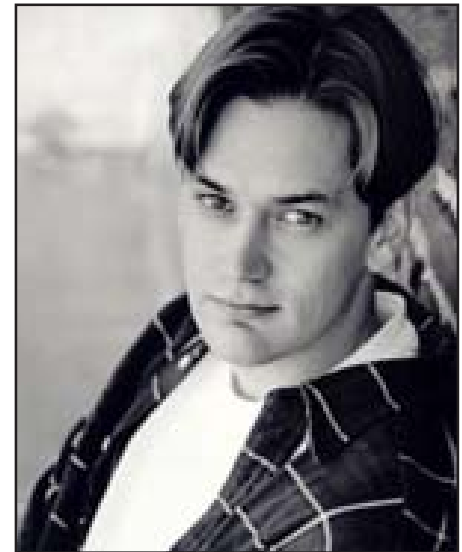
"One Tree Hill" is WB's family-and-basketball drama that airs Tuesdays at 9 p.m.

The show does particularly well among the teenagers and young adults whom the network targets.

"It's the No. 5 drama on network TV among female teenagers, trailing only "7th Heaven," "The O.C.," "Everwood" and "Gilmore Girls," say WB officials.

Heffernan promises an on-set report. Stay tuned.

Heffernan is artistic director for the Instant Theater Company. Previously he was artistic director at the Highlands Playhouse where he also performed in "Bye Bye Birdie," and "Hay Fever."



Adam Heffernan

• HEALTHY LIVING •

Buying fresh behind its cancer-fighting power

In the Jan. 23 issue of Highlands' Newspaper, Bonnie talked about "The Power of Food Prevention" as it relates to disease.

She noted that broccoli and most cruciferous vegetables are good sources of dietary fiber. A cup of boiled broccoli contains about 4.5 grams of fiber. She said the entire "family" can protect against prostate, breast and colon cancer with its powerful compounds of 13C. Indole-3-carbinol which reduces harmful hormones that promote tumor growth and sulforaphane which boosts production of cancer-blocking enzymes.

Now she tells us a sure fire way to buy broccoli at its best.

The most popular anti-cancer food is broccoli. It grows mostly in California and is available fresh year-round though most abundant and least expensive October through May.

Shopping tips for fresh broccoli, it must be picked young. Examine the stalks attached to the florets; they should be on the slender side and be so crisp that if you broke one, it would snap clean. The florets should be



Bonnie Powell
HealthTracks

tightly closed and uniformly green or purplish; yellow florets are a sign that the broccoli is past its prime.

The good color also indicates the nutritional quality. The florets that are dark green or purplish or bluish green have more beta carotene and vitamin C than the paler ones.

Refrigerating broccoli slows the conversion of sugar to lignin, thereby preserving the texture, flavor, and vitamins. Store broccoli in an open plastic bag in the refrigerator crisper, this will

provide the right balance of humidity and oxygen. Do NOT wash broccoli before storing. This will cause the growth of mold.

It is best eaten within two days of purchase or if you are a gardener...fresh is the best.

By weight, fresh broccoli that has been boiled and drained has 16 percent more vitamin C than an orange, and roughly as much calcium as milk.

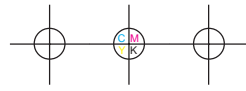
Broccoli isn't called the "King of the Crucifers" for nothing. It contains a variety of other nutrients to help fend off a host of conditions from heart disease to osteoporosis.

Broccoli also ranks up there with diamonds as a woman's best friend. It is one of the best sources of calcium, packing in 72 mg. per a cooked cup, about a quarter of the amount in an 8-ounce glass of skim milk.

Instead of throwing away the stalks and leaves (peel the stalks if tough) chop them up fine and add to a soup or puree for a thick broccoli stock.

* Quote from Food Remedies, by Selene Yeager and Editors of Prevention Health Books





■ SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING ■

Who are Unitarian Universalists?



Dr. Alex Redmountain
Co-president Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Franklin

Unitarian Universalists, UUs, are very much a part of the Judeo-Christian tradition. Although we are sometimes confused with the Unity Church (new age movement) or the Unification Church of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon, UUs are in no way related to either of them.

We are a small denomination but our individual members have had an enormous impact on American life. Benjamin Franklin and John Adams are just a couple of the Founding Fathers of our nation who were adherents to UU theology.

It doesn't end there by any means. Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, Carl Sandberg and e.e. cummings, Clara Barton and Dorothea Dix, Linus Pauling, Joseph Priestley and Alexander Graham Bell – the list could go on for pages.

It isn't particularly surprising. Unitarian Universalism is, on average, the best-educated denomination in the U.S. But, as you will find out if you keep on reading, we aren't just a disembodied head without a heart.

Unitarian Universalists trace their earliest roots to the Jewish prophets. Confronters of kings and generals, the prophets spoke truth to power. They were unafraid of secular rulers and struggled ceaselessly for justice. This is the essential part of UU tradition. From anti-slavery to civil-rights, from urban labor to migrant labor conditions, in every fight against totalitarianism, UUs have stood front and centers.

The Unitarian Service Committee, displaying the now famous symbol of the flaming chalice, helped numerous people in Europe escape from concentration camps and, after the war ended, thousands of refugees with relief supplies and relocation. Today we

■ See SPIRITUALLY pg 12

• 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 liturgical 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 Chapel – 10:30 a.m.
Mondays: Women's Cursillo Group (Library) – 4 p.m.;
Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8 a.m.
Wednesdays: Supper & 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

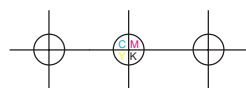
526-9769
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time)
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

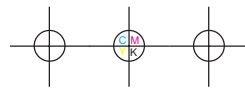
Westside Baptist Church

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.





... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 11

are working in Africa, Asia and the former Soviet Union. We make no attempt at converting those we serve.

We are, above all, an inclusive religion. There are Christian UUs, Buddhist UUs, and secular humanist UUs. There are interest groups of "conservative UUs" and

"libertarian UUs." We are deeply welcoming of lesbians and gays in our congregations and to people of all ethnic backgrounds and races. The first woman ordained as a minister in America was a Universalist, and today more than half of our clergy are women.

There is a poignant saying in

our religion. You don't have to think alike to love alike. And we certainly don't all think alike. There is no common creed, or set of beliefs to which we must adhere, unlike most religions. But we so share basic principles and points of view. We are, after all, like the citizens of our beloved

land, deeply steeped in democratic ideals which bind us together.

Among these are a commitment to kindness and decency toward others; a belief in the worth and dignity of every human being; in the freedom of religious expression; in the authority of reason and conscience; in the never-ending search for truth; in the importance of a religious community; and in the compelling force of love.

So if you think of Unitarian Universalism as a religious manifestation of democratic principles, you won't be far off the mark. One of our bumper stickers implores, "Less Judgment/More Curiosity." Another urges "Question Authority." But what probably defines us best of all is: "You don't have to think alike to love alike."

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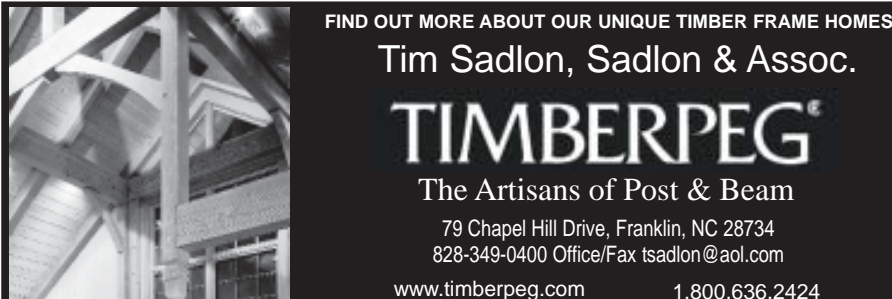


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with my customers that extend beyond the completed home.

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— DW

• OBITUARY •

Alice Ethelynnne McInnes

Alice Ethelynnne McInnes, age 89, of Highlands, NC, died Monday, March 8, 2004 in Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was a native of Stark County, Ohio, a daughter of the late Ralph and Leatha Chapman. She was married to the late Raymond McInnes, who passed away in 1962. She was a homemaker.

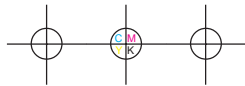
She is survived by a daughter, Lorinda Pace of Orlando, Fla.; three sons, Raymond McInnes of Courtland, Ohio, Thomas McInnes, and Ben McInnes of Franklin, N.C.; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren also survive.

A memorial service will be held Friday, March 12 at 11 a.m. at St. Agnes Episcopal Church, with Father Henry Burton officiating.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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**Highlands Vacation Rentals/CCP
office at Mountain Fresh Center**

Apartment For Rent. In Town. Fully furnished, 2-bed-room, 2 1/2 bath, garage, indoor hot tub. Call (404) 226-5415.

Cooks - Year-round employment, competitive pay. One full-time and one part-time position, first and second shifts. Experience in institution, restaurant, or quantity meal preparation is preferred. Excellent benefit package for full-time position. Pre-employment substance screening. For details call: Mary Osmar, Human Resources, 828-526-1301.

Staff Physical Therapist – Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Active inpatient and outpatient caseload. Monday-Friday, 8:00 – 4:30. Excellent benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, Human Resources, 828-526-1301.

R.N.s – Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (EOE) Three positions open for nights; 36 hours per week. Prefer ACLS, TNCC, ENPC, or PALS with E.R. and cardiac background. Full-time R.N. in the O.R. Hospice Nurse. Competitive pay and an excellent benefit package included. Pre-employment substance screening. For details call: Mary Osmar, Human Resources, 828-526-1301.

Maintenance Mechanic/Plumber - Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (EOE): Preventive maintenance and repairs to hospital buildings, equipment, and machinery. Two years apprentice and four years work experience preferred. Some computer experience preferred. Competitive pay and an

excellent benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. For details call: Mary Osmar, Human Resources, 828-526-1301.

Manager of Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time, 40 hours+ per week, day shifts, but must be flexible. Responsible for operations of 80-bed LTC facility, including financials, budgets, payroll adjustments, survey preparation, marketing, policy/procedures, QA, safety, and environment. Works closely with Assistant Manager (DON) to maintain an Eden environment for our residents. Candidates with previous LTC and Eden Alternative experience preferred. Pay depends on experience. Excellent benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. For details call: Mary Osmar, Human Resources, 828-526-1301.

Hilltop Grill looking for two people. Kitchen & counter positions available. Busy restaurant. Must be dependable and energetic. Call 526-5916 or come by. Corner of Fourth & Spring streets in Highlands.

Full time receptionist for busy veterinary office. People, animals, variety and responsibility. An active desk job that is rarely dull. Call 526-5206

• BY OWNER •

Green plaid sleeper sofa, glass/wood coffee table, separately, BEST OFFER for both. Free chair (needs reupholstering) with purchase. 526-5558.

For Sale by Owner. Commercial and residential building 4,200 sq. ft in-town. Call (404) 226-5415.

Retail spaces for rent on 4th Street and also in Highlands Plaza. Call 864-630-0808 for information.

Cedar 3/2, 7 acres, 40x60 barn, pasture, stream, cove, Highlands 12 miles, huge loft, basement, garage, generator-ready. \$249,000. (828) 524-4350

New Log Cabin Re-assembled on your site



Size: 31'x26', 1-1/2 story, hand-hewn white pine logs and timberframe, half-dovetail notches, covered front porch. Asking \$47,000. Call: 828-526-1301 or 526-5834.

• HIGHLANDS AREA SERVICE DIRECTORY •

"The All 'Round Handyman" Larry Holt. Cleaning Services, Yardwork, Caretaking, Security Call: 526-4037 (home) or 828-371-1982 (cell).

Photography by Cynthia Strain. Offering photography services for events and special occasions, mountain landscapes. Call (828) 526-9227 or email:cypicturelady@aol.com

Green's Home Care. 20 years of local, honest, dependable service. Painting, Drywall, Rock Work, Ceramic Tile, Brush Clearing, Decks, Roofing, Undergroving. Call: 526-9870.

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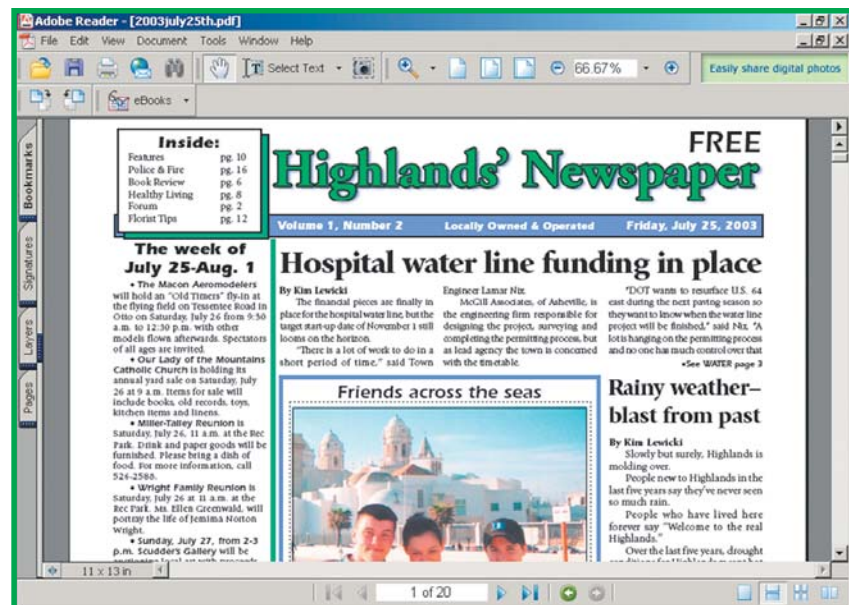
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(828) 787-2124
jim.meiring@verizon.net



Highlands' Newspaper

Online PDF version at
www.highlandsinfo.com

It's the way to keep up with what's
happening in Highlands wherever you are –
and people are doing just that.



ADVERTISERS:

When you advertise in Highlands' Newspaper, not
only is your advertising dollar far-reaching, it's
long-lasting.

Viewers are reading the newspaper on-line each
week from all over the country.

What's more, statistics prove viewers are reading
PAST issues July through January in their
entirety – ads and all – RIGHT NOW.

Advertising in Highlands' Newspaper is a sound
way to spend your advertising dollars.

Highlands' Newspaper is posted on a directory
that consistently gets traffic.

- In 2003, more than 1/4-million visitors averaging 5 minutes per view visited the directory
- In 2003, more than 5,000 foreign viewers visited Highlands' Newspaper Internet Directory at www.highlandsinfo.com

It has everything you want to know about
news, dining, lodging, shopping, events, hiking,
waterfalls and real estate in Highlands.

To advertise in Highlands' Newspaper
call: 526-0782 or email at:
highlandseditor@aol.com

Earthlink statistics are posted on the directory for verification.

Sam Word to host 'Cabin Fever Variety Show' at PAC on March 20

Funnyman Sam Word, of Highlands Playhouse fame, returns to town on March 20 to host The Instant Theatre's *First Annual Cabin Fever Variety Show* which starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street.

After spending Christmas in Japan touring with Atlanta's Center for Puppetry Arts, Word is thrilled to make an appearance in the community he has called his summer home for five seasons, "I only hope Highlands enjoys me as much as I enjoy Highlands," Word said "and hopefully all the arrest warrants have expired by now."

Word is a close friends with ITC artistic director Adam Heffernan who cast Word last summer in two plays at Highlands Playhouse, *The 1940's Radio Hour* and Tom Stoppard's *The Real*

Thing.

The two have also acted together in 2001's *Bye Bye Birdie*, also at the Playhouse. "I'm thrilled that Sam will serve as emcee for *Cabin Fever*," remarked Heffernan, "he's one of the funniest and most creative performers I've ever had the pleasure of working with and he also does a mean Maureen Stapelton impression."

If you have a talent you would like to perform for the enjoyment of the community, and to take a chance on winning a \$500 Cash Prize, sign up for the auditions to be held March 13 at PAC.

All types of performers and entertainers, professionals, amateurs, young and old, are encouraged to call the Instant Theatre office at 828-526-1687 or e-mail info@InstantTheatre.org.

Acting classes line up for summer

Does your child or grandchild dream of seeing his or her name in Broadway lights someday?

Do they have an overabundance of creative energy and a wild imagination?

Do they like to tell stories or recreate their favorite scenes from movies? If this is the case, The Instant Theatre Company has a summer activity especially for them. "The Instant Theatre Summer Acting Classes" is the official title, and starting this month, ITC will be accepting applicants for the three 2-week sessions.

Session One will be for children ages 10 to 13 and will be instructed by Instant Theatre Artistic Director, Adam Heffernan. The dates are June 14-25.

Session Two is aimed at children ages 6 to 9 and will be instructed by professional actors Sara-June and Jeff Treadwell, both actor/teachers from Seattle who have both worked at the

world-acclaimed Actors Theatre of Louisville among other theatres. The session will run from June 28 through July 9.

Session Three is aimed at teenagers, specifically ages 14 to 18. The Instructor will be Max Vogler, a professional actor from New York and frequent guest star on NBC's *Law & Order*. The session will run from July 12 through the 23.

Classes will be from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday with a public performance on the last day (a Saturday). The cost of the classes are \$150 per session which is payable upon sign-up. There is a limit of 12 participants for each session. Scholarships are available.

During the winter months the ITC offers children's acting classes once a week for free.

For more information call the Instant Theatre Company at (828) 526-1687 or e-mail at info@InstantTheatre.org.

Booster Club comes through for school

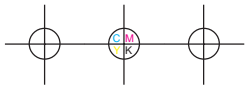
Highlands School Booster club has been hard at work supporting school sports.

This week the group donated \$500 to the JV and Varsity Girls' Soccer Team.

Last month, the group gave \$250 to the teachers to help fund their con-

ference trip this summer.

Members solicited donations from area businesses as sponsors for the electronic score board at the new county fields on Buck Creek. Highlands School baseball and soccer games will be played there.



• POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of March 2-10. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

March 2

- At 1:13 a.m., a motorist on Wilson Road was issued a warning citation for an unlit headlight.

March 3

- At 7:20 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 east and Poplar was cited for speeding 41 mph in a 25 zone.

March 4

- At 7:10 a.m., a motorist at Main and First streets was cited for driving with a “blue light.”

March 5

- At 6:50 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 west and Chowan Drive was cited for driving with a “blue light.”

March 6

- At 5:15 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Wachovia Bank. All was secure.
- At 10 a.m., officers responded to a complaint of construction workers for Old Edwards Inn blocking the road.
- At 7:15 p.m., a motorist at Chestnut and U.S. 64 east was cited for driving without a license.

March 7

- At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a complaint of trespassing at Hampton Inn.

March 8

- At 10:20 a.m., a carpenter on a jobsite on Wyanoak called police about a fiberglass tub being vandalized.
- At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to an accident at Main and Sixth streets. There were no injuries.
- At 5 p.m., a resident on Chestnut Street called police about a tree on his house.

March 9

- At 10:20 a.m., Bardo Garcia Lugo, 28, of Highlands was arrested for driving while his license is revoked, driving without insurance, driving without an inspection sticker, driving without registration and giving false information.
- At 6:30 p.m., officers responded to a report of collision on U.S. 64 west where a motorist lost control due to ice and slammed into an embankment. There were no injuries.
- At 9:20 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Brushy Face Road. All was secure.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the week of March 3-8

March 3

- The dept. responded to a fuel oil spill at Highlands School. It was cleaned up with oil/dry.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on VZ-Top. It was a false alarm.

March 5

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on West Knoll Drive. The victim was transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

March 8

- The dept. responded to an accident on Main and Sixth streets to assist EMS with a rollover. There were no injuries.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Forman Road. Something burning on the stove set off the alarm. There was no damage.

... GROWTH continued from page 1

Projected Growth 2003 to 2025						
Town of Highlands						
Population			Households			
	Yr-Rd	Seas.	Total	Yr-Rd	Seas.	Total
2003	958	3,867	4,825	474	1,289	1,763
2025	1388	5,899	7,287	723	1,966	2,690
Highlands Township						
Population			Households			
	Yr-Rd	Seas.	Total	Yr-Rd	Seas.	Total
2003	2,826	8,108	10,934	1,299	2,703	4,002
2025	4,395	12,579	16,973	2,015	4,193	6,208

to the area,” he said.

Marketek forecasters say both Highlands and Highlands Township will see an increase in population between 2003 and 2025, but only by less than three percent annually both in town and in the township for both year-round and seasonal residents. But statistics show those numbers are still significant.

In 2025 the Town of Highlands’ year-round population is expected to increase by 430 people and 249 households. That’s up from 2003 census figures of 958 year-round people and 474 year-round households.

In-town seasonal residents are expected to increase to 5,899 and 1,966 households. That’s up from 2003 census figures of 3,867 seasonal people and 1,289 households.

Increases translate to an annual jump of 20 year-round people, 92 seasonal people; 11 year-round households and 31 seasonal households.

In 2025 the Township of Highlands’ year-round population is expected to increase by 1,569 or 716 households – an annual increase of 71 year-round people and 33 households

Township seasonal residents are expected to increase to 12,579 in 2025, up from 8,108 an annual increase of 203. Seasonal households will swell to 4,193 up from 2,703 in 2003, an annual increase of 68 households.

Using the most “simple case” scenario – using intact vacant parcels and ignoring the possibility of redevelopment on presently owned parcels, Marketek concludes that developable land could accommodate projected population growth over the

next 20 years.

“If growth occurred solely on existing vacant parcels, there would be a remainder of 48 vacant parcels in the town and 221 vacant parcels in the township,” they said.

According to Marketek statistics, there are 3,200 parcels of land in the town of Highlands of which 2,156 are developed. There are 942 vacant parcels of which 32 are undevelopable. There are 128 lots that could be redeveloped.

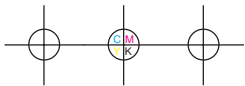
Redevelopable land is any parcel having a building valued from \$1 to \$50,000 which makes it a potential “tear down,” they said.

In the Highlands Township, there are 6,981 parcels of which 4,308 are developed. There are 2,427 vacant parcels of which 96 are undevelopable. There are 341 redevelopable.

The town spent \$18,000 on the study which encompasses a demographic overview including population and household growth; age distribution; household income distribution, racial composition, lifestyle characteristics and employment trends. A residential analysis includes national housing trends; local housing characteristics; second home buying market. And buildable land supply which includes methodology and a summary.

The study will be used by Town Board members and the Land Use Committee to both forecast infrastructure needs and trends and to devise a land use plan to accommodate the future of Highlands.

The study is available at Town Hall.



● UPCOMING EVENTS ●

On-Going

- The Junior Girl Scouts are collecting aluminium cans to raise money for their trip to Savannah. Please deposit them in can on Church Street behind the Highlands United Methodist Church.. Will be collecting cans until the end of March.

- The Green's dog Bingo has undergone an operation for paralysis and the family needs help paying the vet bills. If you can help, please send checks to the Highlands-Cashiers Humane Society, Bingo Fund, P.O. Box 638, Cashiers, N.C. 28717,

- Daisys, Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts meet 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Highlands United Methodist Church. Come join them.

- 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. Meeting times remain the same: Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wednesdays and Fridays at noon. For more info, call (800) 524-0465.

March 10, 17, 24, 31

- Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop at Falls on Main presents a four-week seminar on wine tasting, food and wine matching, and general discussion at 5:30 p.m. \$95 per person includes the wine, the Wine Bible and one white and one red wine glass.

March 12

- How do you identify trees in the winter without leaves? "Buds and Bark" Workshop Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Highlands Nature Center. It's free.

- Junior Girl Scout Troop #49 will be having a Girl Scout Cookie Booth at Bryson's Food Store at 11 a.m.-. For more information contact Paula Gordon at 526-9582 or Marjorie Crowe at 526-4876

- The Bascom-Louise Gallery will be hosting the first annual Regional High School Juried Art Exhibit this month. The juror will be Mr. Martin DeWitt, Director of the Art Gallery at Western Carolina University. The best of the best will receive prize money totaling \$500 to be used in furthering their art education. The exhibit runs

through March 25.

- Invitational High School Workshop at the Bascom-Louise Gallery with Instructor Julian Davis.

- The North Georgia Community Players present "The Odd Couple," 7 p.m. Friday, 3 and 7 p.m. Saturday and at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$15 for reserved seats and \$10 for general admission. The performance is at the Rabun-Gap Nacoochee School. For more information, call (704) 212-2500.

March 13

- Brownie Troop #219 will be having a Girl Scout Cookie Booth in front of The Little Flower Shoppe on Main Street on Saturday, March 13. All variety of cookies will be available for \$3 per box. For more information contact Paula Gordon at 526-9582 or Marjorie Crowe at 526-4876

- Arthur & Katie strumming and singing at Buck's Coffee Cafe from 8-11 p.m.

- Auditions for The Instant Theatre Company's "1st Annual Cabin Fever Variety Show" are March 13 at PAC, call (828) 526-1687 or e-mail info@InstantTheatre.org for an audition appointment.

- The movie Chariots of Fire 7 p.m. at PAC. Two British runners compete for England in the 1924 Olympics. Staring Ben Cross, Ian Charleson, Nigel Havers and John Gielgud. It's free but donations are accepted.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 7-mile hike in Black Rock State Park in Georgia. Meet at the Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 8:30 a.m. or in the Piggly Wiggly parking lot in Dillard, GA at 9 a.m. Drive 70 miles round trip. Bring a drink, a lunch, wear sturdy comfortable shoes and clothing appropriate to the weather. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leaders Carol and George Fritz, 369-0047, for reservations, more information, or in case weather look doubtful on morning of hike. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

March 15

- Recycling & Environmental Fair 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Factory in Franklin. Educational program with awards distributed for participation.

March 16

- Film at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center sponsored by the Bascom-Louise Gallery. It's free but donations are appreciated.

- The Macon County Horse Association

will meet on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the FFA Building at the Macon County Fair Grounds. The guest speaker for this months meeting will be Dr Brad Smith, DVM. The public is invited to attend. For more information on club activities, trail rides and show schedules and dates of upcoming shows visit our web site at www.geocities.com/MCHorseassociation.

- Public forum about the MC library system will be held at the Hudson Library at 1 p.m. and at the Macon County Library in Franklin at 6 p.m. Participants will be asked for their opinions on library features. Those who can't attend are asked to submit their opinions in writing to the County Library Manager, Karn Wallace at the Macon County Public Library, 108 Wayah Street, Franklin, N.C. 28734.

March 17

- Art After School Session 4, at Bascom-Louise Gallery. Art for students in grades 4 through 8 from 3 to 4 p.m.

March 17 & 18

- Southwestern Community College's Business Assistance Center will present two business seminars at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. "Successful Marketing for the Craftsperson and the Artist" will be presented from 1-4 p.m. on Thursday, March 18. "Building Your Business Image" will be presented from 9 a.m. until noon on Friday, March 19. Each seminar is \$10 and seating is limited. Participants must pre-register by 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 16. To pre-register or for more information, call Southwestern Community College at 743-6688 or at 349-1278.

March 20

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

March 25

- PTO Board meeting 4:30 p.m. at the Highlands School Library.

March 27

- Arthur & Katie strumming and singing at Buck's Coffee Cafe from 8-11 p.m.

- Car Show from 11 am to 3 pm at the Whistle Stop Mall parking lot on Georgia Road (U.S. 441 South), Franklin. Registration fee is \$10 per car from 11 am to 1 pm day of the show. Top 20 cars to be awarded trophies. Free general admission. Refreshments will be on sale. Proceeds help defray expenses for 2004 Macon

County Senior Games/Silver Arts. More information: (828) 349-2090.

March 31

- Art After School Session 4, at Bascom-Louise Gallery. Art for students in grades 4 through 8. 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

April 3

- Flea Market from 8 am to 2 pm, annual spring Macon County Senior Games flea market at the County Community Building Gym, 1288 Georgia Road, Franklin. Proceeds from \$20 booth rentals and refreshment sales help defray expenses for 2004 Senior Games/Silver Arts program. More information or to rent a booth, call (828) 349-2090.

April 4

- The Macon County Horse Association will hold a Fun Show at the Macon County Fair Grounds. Practice classes begin at 11 a.m. with preview and instruction for our point shows and Games beginning at 1 p.m. There will be no fees for classes and no ribbons given. Come out and have a good time with your horses. For more information call 349-6011 or 369-3810 or check our web site for a class list at www.geocities.com/MCHorseassociation.

April 14

- Highlands School Seniors Cap & Gown pictures 9 a.m. at Highlands School.

April 17

- Highlands annual Crop Walk, a gentle 2-mile stroll through town starts and stops at Highlands United Methodist Church A fund-raiser pancake breakfast will be held at Highlands United Methodist Church from 8-10 a.m. To be a participant, sponsor a walker or for more information about CROP Walk and the good work it does locally and around the world, contact Beth Graham at 743-6688 or 526-3852.

May 19

- Highlands School senior and parents supper at Highlands United Methodist Church at 5:30.

May 24

- Highlands School baccalaureate at Highlands United Methodist Church at 3 p.m.

May 29

- Highlands School graduation practice at the Highlands Civic Center at 9:30 a.m.

- Highlands School graduation at Highlands Civic Center at 7 p.m.