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Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 2, Number 12

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, March 26, 2004

The week of March 26-April 2

March 25, March 27, March 29

▪ **COUNTY SOCCER** – Spring soccer season starts April 15. Registration is at the Community Building in Franklin Thurs., March 25 from 6:30-8; Sat., March 27 from 10-2; Mon, March 29 from 6:30-8 The cost is \$25 for players who registered and played during the fall 2003 season and for all others \$30. The spring league is for children 14 years and younger. For info, call Tony Esterwood at 524-1928

March 26

▪ **LUNCHEON**– Sr. Citizen Lunch at the Rec Park at noon. Donations.

March 27

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

▪ **CAR BUFFS** – Car Show from 11 am to 3 p.m. at the Whistle Stop Mall parking lot on U.S. 441 South, Franklin. Free general admission.

▪ **FOOD & MUSIC** – The Satolah (Ga.) Volunteer Fire Department's annual bluegrass & barbecue benefit Saturday at the firehouse on Route 28. Just below the N.C. boundary line Dinner is at 5 p.m., music at 7. Cost is \$6.50 for adults, less for children.

March 28

▪ **ACTORS WANTED** – Auditions for the Highlands Community Players spring play, the drama "Proof," is Sunday, at 3 p.m., at PAC on Chestnut Street. The cast of four actors requires two women, one 20 to 30, one 30-40; two men, one 20-30, one 50 to 60. Call director Virginia Talbot, 526-4904.

▪ **REVIVAL** – The Scaly Mountain Church of God is having a revival starting on Sun. night, March 28, 6 p.m. through Wed. night, March 31. The speaker on Sunday night will be Rev. Wayne Depew from Dayton, Tenn. Mon.-Wed. at 7 p.m, the speaker will be Rev. Russell Ward from Pigeon Forge, Tenn. For more info, call 52-3212.

April 1

▪ **ABOUT HISTORY** – Highlands Heritage Forum, Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the Conference Center. If attending, please respond to the Chamber at 526-5841 by March 29.

HS principal question still unanswered

By Kim Lewicki

It was broadcast on WLOS-TV News the morning of March 18.

"Two new principals are coming to schools in Mitchell County. The board picked Jack Brooks to take over the helm at Mitchell High School and Rick McCourry will be the new principal at

Buladean Elementary. Both men will start their new jobs July 1."

People in Highlands who watched the news program on Channel 13 that morning wondered if the announcer was talking about Highlands School principal Jack Brooks. "I thought there might be two Jack Brookses," said

Bobby Houston with the fire department.

Meanwhile, Jack Brooks who was in Montero, Bolivia on the recent mission trip knew nothing of the broadcast announcement. He said he did interview with the Mitchell County

▪ See **PRINCIPAL** pg 2

Proposed strip along Spring Street could house OEI materials

By Kim Lewicki

The Town Board has come up with a way to both minimize OEI's future construction clutter and develop parking on the south side of Spring Street – if OEI agrees to fund the idea.

At the urging of the board, Town Engineer Lamar Nix designed a plan to grade and gravel a 12-foot to 16-foot strip of the town's right-of-way along the south side of Spring Street starting from where the current parking ends to Third Street.

Initially, the strip would be used as a construction area for storage, loading and unloading of materials and vehicles for OEI, but when OEI is finished building, the town will pave the area and mark it for permanent parking.

"It's a win-win situation," said Nix.

The idea was briefly discussed at previous Town Board meetings with OEI representatives, but there are details concerning funding, loading and unloading, traffic regulations and the time-frame to iron out, said commissioners.

▪ See **SPRING STREET** page 5

Back in Highlands on Spring Break



Photo by Kim Lewicki

Many were shocked when Donnie and Bitsy Calloway announced they were moving to Big Oak Ranch in Alabama to work as house-parents for boys "who need a second chance." Now they've come home on spring break with their boys – a testament to positive reinforcement and love. See story on page 8.

Renovations OK'd by board

By Kim Lewicki

Highlands' facelift continues.

At the March 22 planning and appearance board meeting, board members learned of three renovation projects and one new building project

set to begin.

Though discussed at length, all the applications were approved subject upon a landscape plan.

The Museum of American Cut

▪ See **RENOVATIONS** page 15

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• LETTER TO THE EDITOR •

Help keep judicial elections clean

Dear Editor,

You may not know this but people can do their bit to clean up elections in North Carolina!

When you file your N.C. tax return, there is a box on the form called NC Public Campaign Financing Fund.

If you are willing to fund this effort, check off the box – \$3 will be sent to the state board to fund judicial campaigns. If judges no longer have to

campaign and raise funds to be elected, it would help ensure impartial decisions.

A bipartisan group of former N.C. governors and Supreme Court judges, civic leaders and good-government advocates is asking you to "Check it Out, Check it Off."

Find the box and make a difference.

I hope you'll do your part.

Edna Foster
Highlands

... PRINCIPAL continued from page 1

Schools Superintendent but didn't know if he had been hired and hadn't accepted the position at that point.

And as of Tuesday, March 23 that's still the case.

At the March 23 Macon County School Board meeting held at Highlands School, Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell told the group of parents, PTO representatives, teachers and administrators that "as of right now Jack Brooks is still the principal of Highlands School."

He said should Brooks tender his resignation, he will advertise the position and begin the hiring process.

Citizens at the meeting were anxious to learn about the hiring process – particularly if there would be input from the community.

"It will be done like I do it everywhere else," said Shotwell. "A committee of teachers, staff and PTO representatives from each level at Highlands School will interview all the candidates with me. I will ask them to pick five. Then I will select one applicant who I will take to the board."

But ultimately, the school board has the last say, said MC School Board Chairman Kevin Corbin.

Shotwell said if a new principal is sought for Highlands School the person won't be the winner of a popularity contest. "It will be the best person for the job, he said. "The person we pick will work well with the teachers and parents and number one get along with me," said Shotwell. He said the principal of Highlands School is not going to be located in Franklin.

Dr. Patti Wheeler was most vocal at the meeting. "We want the right person in the office so we don't have to go to you," she said. "Someone everybody can work with — an advocate."

Shotwell also put an end to rumors circulating Highlands that he spoke

negatively of the school and community when he addressed the faculty at a special-called faculty meeting last week about the potential of Brooks leaving

"They didn't tell you the first thing I said, did they?" he asked. "The very first thing I said was Highlands School is one of the best schools in North Carolina. It has the highest SATs in Western North Carolina if not the state.

"What I did say is it's difficult being a principal of a K-12 school because each "school" within the school has its own set of issues and each "school" wants the full attention from the principal. "One minute you have kindergartners hugging your knees and the next minute a fight breaks out in the high school wing.

"When I was a high school principal in the inner city, I knew what to expect every day. I knew there would be drugs and guns everyday.

"You have issues at every level of Highlands School you don't see coming," said Shotwell. "They come at you like a rocket and many times it's difficult because you're not learning about it until it comes to a head."

Wheeler said principal candidates need to know that Highlands can be a difficult place to live in for a lot of reasons. Many times families of Highlands School have to provide their own resources due to board, county and state limitations, she said. "We're willing to work and do more than our fair share," she said. "We just want a supportive administration that is responsive to our students."

Shotwell said if the principal position at Highlands School comes open, it will be filled by the end of May.

"That way when everyone goes home for the summer they'll know who their principal is," said Shotwell.

Literacy Council patrons decorate the walls of their expanded facility at the Peggy Crosby Center.



Literacy Council is active and growing

Now in its 10th year of operations, the Literacy Council continues to grow and serve in the community as volunteer tutors enable the programs to expand. Thanks to individual donors and grants, the council has been able to add new rooms to the space rented in the Peggy Crosby Center.

The newest program is the Volunteer Youth Council, sponsored by a grant from the Carolina Mountain Trust for Children & Youth. It is an outgrowth of the after school tutoring program to help teenage students develop leadership skills and contribute to their community.

Their first project is to decorate one of the newly rented rooms on the Literacy hall. They chose to include the younger students in the project to help them develop a sense of ownership and contribution.

The Literacy Council provides after school tutoring, adult education, English as a Second Language and a General Education Development program (GED) for those wishing to earn a GED

certification.

Services are provided by volunteer tutors. Tutor training is available and there is a place for everyone wishing to volunteer. Tutors and students are carefully matched, and there is always a need for more tutors.

No student pays for service, so funding needs are crucial and donations are greatly appreciated.

The next fundraising project will be the annual Monte Carlo Night coming up on May 22 at the Highlands Conference Center.

The Highlands Rotary Club helped to develop this idea and the members continue their support by manning the gaming tables and working in all areas for a great night for fun for everyone. Most businesses in the community contribute services and goods for an auction, food and drinks.

For more information about the Literacy Council programs, opportunities or funding needs, please call 526-9938, ext. 240.

ITC's 'Cabin Fever' winners

The Instant Theatre Company's 1st Annual Cabin Fever Variety Show played to a packed house at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center last Saturday night. Originally, ITC was giving a \$500 cash prize to the act the audience chose as a winner. But in the end, ITC gave away \$1,000 in cash prizes – \$500 to the age group 15 and under and \$500 to the age group of 16 and up.

The winners in the 15 and under age group were Sherrie Marling, from Highlands, and Laurel Walker, from Waynesville. The girls are students at the Dance Centre of Western Carolina. They performed a ballet/jazz duet.

The winner in the 16 and older age group was Silas Kenna, of Highlands, playing a variety of styles on a 12-string guitar.



Sherrie Marling and Laurel Walker.



Silas Kenna

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• LIFE UNDER CONSTRUCTION •

Refrigerator findings

Sorry I was absent from last week's newspaper. The flu decided to invade my body and stayed way too long. Without health, we are in trouble. I'm keeping this column light this week. After all, it is the first week of spring.

Not having much appetite with the flu, I found myself staring at the refrigerator.

Pausing just long enough that I actually started looking at what was clinging to it, which involved a confetti of messages. Let me attempt to categorize my findings.

Photos. I'm partial to photos of family and friends. I have one of my dad and one of my dad and me and one of my dad and the next door neighbor. I guess you know by now that my dad is very popular with me. There is a photo of my grandmother and one of a foot race I finished, and finally a photo of one of my best girl friends with her two little girls. Running out of space you might ask. Heavens, no!

Notes and messages are found in miscellaneous spaces. My favorite is "Get Over It!" On the softer side, there is a reflective note entitled, "Thoughts to Live By."

Of course there is a 2004 magnet calendar. I actually look at this fairly often. My business post card which has a beautiful photo of Bald Rock and my web site address but really I only think of work when I look at it. That's not going back on.

A well-meaning friend gave several magnets but I do have a favorite. It resembles a flying angel with a magic wand and reads, "Star light, star bright...where the hell is Mr. Right?"

Who could live without several note pads on their fridge? One that

boasts "don't forget...to get," another reads "errands," one that has "shopping list" written at the top and

finally, a "things to do" note pad. I'm not sure why I need any other writing tablets anywhere in my house.

And then there is the Schoolhouse magnet. In case you may not know, the Schoolhouse is our coffeehouse in Cashiers. This magnet makes me

sad because I long for the Schoolhouse to open as it closed for the winter. It's just not the same with no place to meet for coffee. Of course, there is Buck's in Highlands, but it seems like a long drive during the winter and I don't get there as often as I would like.

Another proclamation boasts information on the 53rd Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, April 21-27, 2003 in the Great Smoky Mountains. Oops, that was last year. As the temperature drops below freezing tonight, I wonder, will spring ever really arrive?

Alas, there is one useful item. A flashlight that adheres to the right side, just in case I can't find the other two that inhabit my home.

Finally, a certificate good for \$60 at Wolfgang's on Main. Something I still have yet to find time to enjoy.

I was looking for a quote to end my column. With all that stuff on my refrigerator, you would think I would find at least one. Oh well.

That's the refrigerator story, affectionately known as the RS saga. I'm sure there is a message in this column, although for the life of me, I still don't know what it is. I guess I'll just put my refrigerator back together again and aim for a little more white space on the outside and a little more food on the inside.

It's almost time for some spring-cleaning. Why not make a little room for one of my books, Life Under Construction...a work in progress? 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



Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

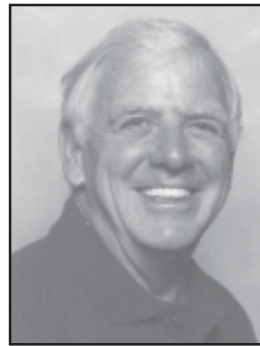
• ASK FRED •

OEI tensions

Dear Fred:

I have lived in Highlands a long time and I can't remember there ever being this much bitterness and tension on any other issue than has been created by the OEI purchases and current construction. I know I probably won't get a straight answer, but do you have any ideas on how to lower the tension on this issue?

Worried About Rising Tensions



Fred Wooldridge

Report. Now read the Police Report in its entirety. Now close your eyes and think about the biggest problem confronting Highlands this week. Was it the bear in the back yard or the alarm going off for the umpteenth time on Bowery Road? Or did the cops nail another

speeder on highway 28?

Hello everyone... Highlands doesn't have any really important problems. It is still the paradise that it was before Mr. Williams found this place. Sure, Highlands has changed a great deal with more on the way but maybe Highlanders have become more negative in their attitudes toward change. Mr. Williams did not put a paper mill or asphalt factory on 4th Street, he's building a 5 star spa. He wants to make some money. Can anyone out there identify with that? By the way, have you smelled a paper mill lately? Or better still, head toward Franklin and sniff the asphalt factory.

Anyway, by reading the Police Report I get a handle on just how bad things are here. Our tiny town is still over 4000 feet elevation, the moon and stars are just as bright at night and the smell of the forest is just as awesome. No one can take that away from us. So if you let OEI projects jack you up, read the police report.

For myself, I would never allow anyone to have that much control over my emotions, especially since I can do nothing about it anyway.

And finally, you said you can't think of any issue that has brought more bitterness and tension to Highlands. I have two words for you. Burger King.

Dear WART (as in worry):

Here is my very best straight answer. I don't want to say I told you so but.... I told you so. Many publications ago I warned Highlanders to get ready for massive changes and growth in Highlands. I also said there wasn't a tinker's dang you could do about it except move out or live with it. TA DA, the Great Wizard's predications are coming true. There's a lot more on the way that you're not going to like, so stay tuned. In your anguish, remember not to kill the messenger.

But fear not, troubled Highlanders, I have a solution. In May I will unveil a grandiose plan that will make Highlanders who hate all these changes very happy. Even rapid change artist, Mr. Williams, czar of OEI, will be pleased with my plan. Look for it only in the *Highlands' Newspaper*.

Personally, I love Highlands just the way it was in the old days, whatever that is, and I am betting you do also. Until my plan is unveiled, this is what I suggest you do. It has worked well for me.

First, take a deep breath with your eyes closed. As you slowly let the air out, open your eyes and the *Highlands' Newspaper* to the Police

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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... SPRING STREET continued from page 1

Engineer for OEI projects, Bronce Pesterfield said the current projects are finishing up and other areas have been found to house materials and equipment. So what's going on now is not the issue, he said.

"What they would need this for is when they begin the Highland Hiker/McCully building project." Once it begins, he estimated the time-frame for that project to be one year to 18 months.

Whether the Town moves forward with the plan is contingent upon OEI agreeing to pay for grading, graveling, and the installation of the storm water drain infrastructure.

"We also need to outline rules and regulations," said Commissioner Amy Patterson. "This doesn't give them carte blanche to use Spring Street as a loading and unloading zone or to impede traffic."

The town has heard complaints about forklifts impeding traffic on Spring Street in the past and commissioners want to make sure that doesn't happen in the future.

But Commissioner Dennis DeWolf said it was important to keep the idea a win-win situation for both

sides.

Also, since the idea is for OEI to fund the project, only vehicles and construction materials related to OEI would be allowed to use the graveled strip. But Commissioner Herb James said it would be as if they were paying the town rent for almost two years so that would be OK. "This is going to cost them a lot," he said.

If pursued, OEI would pay for work the town eventually planned to do itself, said Patterson.

The board asked Nix to take the idea and the plans to OEI to see if they are are willing to fund the project, adhere to guidelines and submit a time-frame for construction completion in the area.

Also at the March 24 Town Board meeting, commissioners agreed to grant OEI's request for valet parking as long as provided parking would be on off-street property. Otherwise 20 parking spaces per designated valet parking space would be required. The 15-minute parking space on Fourth Street will stay and the 15-minute space on Main Street near OEI will be converted to the valet parking space.

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• SPORTS PICKS •

The art of watching B-ball

A hhhh, the morning after. That fresh feeling that you get when you wake up from four straight days of madness and gaze upon your broken bracket with bleary eyes. (Thanks to Beverly Vanhook for the knowledge behind that impressive display of alliteration)

There is something about 60+ hours of basketball that is liberating, almost cathartic, even.

In one session you can see so much. It really suits everyone's taste. For lovers of the underdog-you get to watch mighty Nevada and scrappy (there, are you happy? I think sportswriters are contractually obligated to use the word scrappy when discussing underdogs) UAB fell the mighty. For lovers of drama, you get to watch Tim Smith and ETSU fall in a heartbreaker, you get to watch GTech and Wake Forest escape, and you get to see Vanderbilt and Matt Freijie pull out a miracle. And, for corporate people that love big business, you get to watch Duke, Oklahoma State and UConn all crush their opposition like Microsoft crushing a dotcom business or Oprah Winfrey crushing her posturepedic.

So what did we learn from this weekend? Well, I learned that the Sports Babe, like most women, doesn't understand the madness. After one game she was done for the day, at least until UNC came on. And we also learned that Billy Packer is an idiot. Oh wait, we already knew that. At least anyone who has watched ACC basketball since Reagan was President knew that Packer is the most bitter, obnoxious, self absorbed announcer since, well never.

We also learned that East-Coast Bias cannot be bias if it is true-and what is true is that the sport of basketball is apparently nonexistent west of the Rockies. The Pac-10 had a miserable showing, and to make things



Ryan Potts

worse, perennial Rodney Dangerfield Gonzaga flamed out in the second round. We also learned that some teams were destined to lose (UNC, Stanford, Florida) after being handed a worse draw than Martha Stewart's defense lawyer. And we learned that UConn now has a wider road to

the final four than Ruben Studdard's front door.

So what is left? We've got two #1 seeds, two #2 seeds, three #3 seeds and a hodgepodge of others. Duke, UConn and Oklahoma State have rolled through the first 2 rounds. Pitt and Alabama have been very impressive in close games against good competition, and Nevada and UAB have glass slipped their way into our hearts and the Sweet 16.

For Kansas versus UAB it is a matchup of two different styles. UAB wants to press and run and Kansas wants to punish you defensively. I go with KU in a tight one because of the emergence of Aaron Miles for the Jayhawks.

Next we have Georgia Tech and Nevada, who both like to run and both have superb athletes. Tech is the pick here because of their deep guard rotation. The game of the weekend should be Wake Forest versus St. Joseph's because of Jameer Nelson and Chris Paul, not because of two balding jackholes like Packer and Phil Martelli. I like Wake Forest due to the strength of Eric Williams inside. Oklahoma St. and Pitt is a matchup of two tremendous defensive squads, but OSU has more firepower with John Lucas Jr and should win a close game.

In the other half of the Sweet 16, we start with UConn and Vanderbilt, which looks like a mismatch and is unless Matt Frieije and Mario Moore come out smoking. Vanderbilt can matchup with UConn because they will bring Okafor away from the basket with their Princeton offense, but UConn is still too deep and talented.

■ See SPORTS page 7

**Linda Parrish
of Big Brothers
& Big Sisters and
Pastor Kim
Ingram of
H.E.L.P.**



Big Brothers Big Sisters Gets H.E.L.P.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Program of Highlands received a \$500 grant from the Highlands Effective Living Program (H.E.L.P.) committee to help pair mentors with students from the Highlands School.

The program now has 12 students, some of whom are participating in an M&M Plus Program that allows the mentor and the student to leave the school for a wider range of activities.

These dedicated mentors give their time and energy to offer students a positive role model and a friend who is there to listen to anything they have to say. The

students who have participated in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program tend to perform better in school, get along with peers and adults, use drugs less, and avoid pregnancy and legal problems.

H.E.L.P., receives its funds from the Highlands ABC Board and offers grants to those organizations whose purpose is to promote education, prevention, and treatment of substance abuse. Organization with these goals can submit a grant request from the H.E.L.P. committee.

Grants are usually awarded in December. For more info, call the Peggy Crosby Center at 526-9938.

.. SPORTS PICKS from page 6

Syracuse and Alabama is a tough one to call, but Alabama has been tested all year against top competition and will win a close game against the defending champs. Xavier and Texas is another toughie because Texas is so deep on the frontline that Xavier looks overmatched. However, the way Xavier's guards have been playing- they will never be out of a ball game. I'm going with Texas though, because of the play of Royal Ivey at the shooting guard position.

Finally we have Duke-Illinois, which is a fantastic matchup of guard play between Dee Brown and Deron Williams versus Chris Duhon, JJ Redick and Daniel Ewing. The guards should even each other

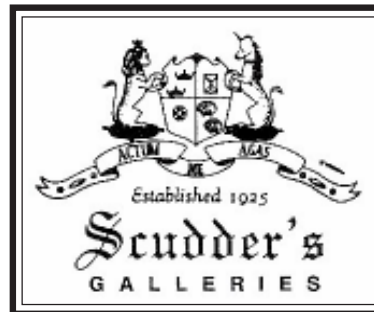
out, leaving the battle to be won on the inside, where Shelden Williams will be a nightmare for the human beanpole otherwise known as Nick Smith.

No matter what the outcome of this weekend's games, it should be a fantastic display of basketball for those who truly love the game. And while my brackets are in worse shape than Michael Jackson in a Georgia State Prison, I will still be watching, and hoping, and praying, and eating (did you know that I am addicted to Jelly Beans now?) and yelling, and screaming, and booing Billy Packer. Why, you ask? Because it's madness baybee (copyright Dick Vitale) and I'm mad I tell you, mad!!!

SCC seeking alumni for 40th anniversary

Southwestern Community College will begin celebrating its 40th anniversary this August. In doing so, the college plans to highlight graduates over the past 40 years. If you would like to nominate a

graduate of SCC to be highlighted in upcoming news releases, contact SCC's Public Information Office at 586-4091 or (800) 447-4091, Ext. 265, by April 16.



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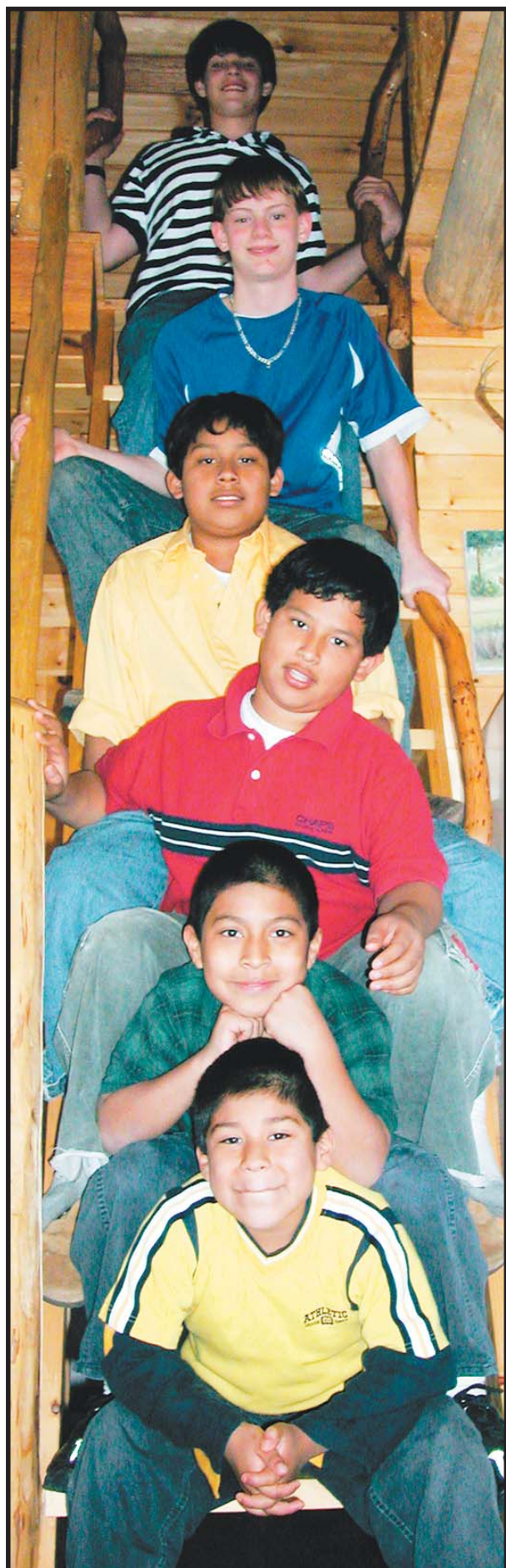
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Offer ends 5/31/04**

And now they are eight



From the top, Jacob, 15, Daniel, 14, Francisco, 13, Mariano, 12, Elias, 10, and Cisco, 8.

By Kim Lewicki

It's been seven months and Bitsy and Donnie Calloway say it's the hardest thing they've ever done. It's also the most rewarding.

The Calloways left Highlands for Alabama where they live and work as house parents on Big Oak Ranch – "A Christian Home for Children Needing a Chance" last August.

Within two weeks of being there, they acquired their first family, three boys – Jacob, Josh and Daniel. Since then, Josh returned to his family, but Jacob and Daniel are still with them.

"We lost Josh," says Bitsy. "He made a choice to leave and went home at Christmas." Since then he has called and says he wishes he hadn't left, but he can't return, she said.

"The founder of the ranch John Croyle said a second, second chance rarely works," said Donnie.

The ranch gives boys from dysfunctional homes – children who were abandoned, neglected, abused and orphaned – a haven in which to heal. They go to the ranch school, are given love, attention, structure, rules to live by and chores. "We're here to give them family structure," said Bitsy. "Life with a mom and a dad, life with rules, structure and a lot of positive reinforcement."

So Josh is gone, but in his place came Francisco, 13, Mariano, 12, Elias, 10 and Cisco, 8, on Jan. 5 – two sets of brothers born in America whose parents are from Hondouras.

So now the Calloways are eight.

The boys who come to the ranch are products of their environment and are initially full of anger and rage, said Donnie. "Something that's hard to break in a short time." Some come to the ranch voluntarily like Daniel others are placed there by the State.

Bitsy said rehabilitation is a slow process because each child comes with a different set of circumstances, difficulties and needs. There are physical, emotional and psychological hurdles to clear for all of them as well as common learning disabilities like ADD.

"But we're seeing progress in baby steps," said Bitsy.

Daniel, 14 and Jacob, 15, who've been living with the Calloways since August have become different people in seven months.

"I used to be quiet. I didn't like shaking people's hands," said Daniel who Donnie says had little self-confidence. "I'm happy now and I do better in school. I'm not under as much

stress," he said.

Jacob was the "dark" one, says Bitsy. "He wore black all the time and never smiled." Now it's hard to wipe the smile off his face.

"He has an inner peace," said Bitsy. "He enjoys reading the Bible and has accepted the Lord."

Both Donnie and Bitsy said their job as house parents would be impossible without a strong marriage and God's strength. "You need that extra bit of assurance from God," said Bitsy. "It's carried us through many a day."

Most of the boys' mothers are single-moms who care, said Bitsy, but are just in situations where they are unable to take care of them.

All the boys have weekly contact with their mothers. "Interaction is good for them," she said.

For Donnie, working at Big Oak Ranch may be the first step toward realizing a life-long dream. "I've always wanted to have some kind of Christian home in Highlands," said Donnie. "This may be why we've been called to do this."

Over the years, while raising their own family in Highlands, Donnie and Bitsy took in about 40 boys. "One called me last week to invite me to his wedding," said Donnie. "He said I was a big part of his life."

Personal experience has shown him that there is a need for such a haven in Highlands. "I was separated from my family due to a death and spent time at the Tamassee-DAR school," he said. "I was trying to raise myself at 13 and 14 years old and fell into a lot of traps. People in Highlands opened their doors for me. Highlands has been my big extended family."

A home of healing in Highlands could be the Calloways next calling but for now they are dedicated to their brood of six on Big Oak Ranch.

In Highlands on spring break, they are fishing, hiking, riding golf carts, going to the Fun Factory, enjoying the hospitality of the Schmitts in Horse Cove and scores of others in Highlands.

On the way back to Alabama, they're going to shop at the Mall of Georgia and play at Six Flags.

Once home it's back to school, housework, never-ending laundry, cooking, lots of paperwork and carting the boys to basketball, soccer, baseball, football, horseback riding and piano lessons. But for now, they're just a normal family on a normal spring break vacation.

• MOVIE PIX •

Video Guy Presents:

James and the Giant Peach

The 1996, PG animated and live action children's story, based on the classic book by Roald Dahl. Featuring the faces or voices of Pete Postlethwaite, Susan Sarandon, Richard Dreyfuss, and many more.

The Storyline: Poor little James, whose parents were unfortunately killed off by a magic rhinoceros (sad, I know, but it does happen sometimes) now lives with his wonderfully nasty and wretched aunts, Spiker and Sponge.

Life is pretty miserable for James, and it seems that he will never will attain his dream of going to that most magical, wonderful place on Earth, New York City (it IS a fantasy after all).

But things start to look up after he meets a strange man and accepts a bag of treats from him (don't try this at home, kids).

These treats are magic green glowing things, and marvelous things await those who possess them, unless they are unfortunate enough to drop them on the ground.

Well, you guessed it, but nonetheless, marvelous things DO



Stuart Armor

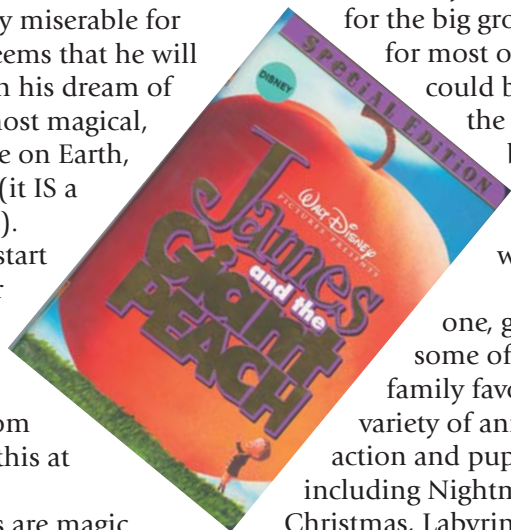
happen.

Accompanied by a sound track from the great Randy Newman, and a variety of different styles of animation (stop motion, traditional animated cells, and some cutout action) and some excellent, funny, scary, and sexy voice-overs, James and his over sized insect buddies, begin a journey that is cute, funny, dark and spooky, as well as a great deal of fun.

The story is exciting enough for the big grown kids, suitable for most of the little ones, could be a bit scary for the smallest, maybe, but probably not nightmare stuff, fun for the whole family.

If you like this one, give a look to some of these whole family favorites that use a variety of animation, live action and puppet work, including Nightmare Before Christmas, Labyrinth, Alice, Watership Down, Plague Dogs, Cool World, Who Framed Roger Rabbit, and Princess Bride.

These and about 5,000 other titles are available on VHS and DVD at Movie Stop Video, stop and by and give us a look.



'Jethro' needs a good home

If you have a large pasture with plenty of room to roam and would like to adopt a 1 1/2-year-old Holstein steer, give Ann Green a call at 526-9870.

Jethro has been given a type of antibiotic that makes him unsuitable as food. He was never intended as food by the Green family anyway,

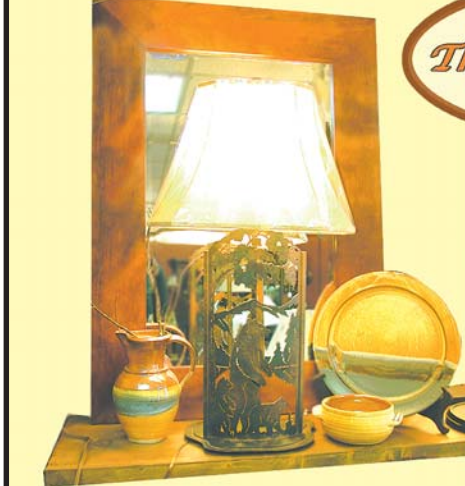
only as a pet.

Their youngest son brought him without thinking that their home wasn't large enough for him. They raised him from a calf and he is tame.

He is a beautiful animal with nice markings. He has a white diamond shape in the middle of his forehead.

Please call after 4 p.m.

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rated R

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4:15 Tuesday & Thursday Matinee

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Matinees

HIDALGO

rated PG-13

7 & 9:30 Nightly

4:30 Tuesday & Thursday Matinee

2 & 4:30 Saturday & Sunday
Matinees

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

rated R

7 & 9:20 Nightly

4:20 Tuesday & Thursday Matinee

2 & 4:20 Saturday & Sunday
Matinees

'Be a Star for a Child' 2004 – Plans get underway

Barbara Lawrence

Contributor

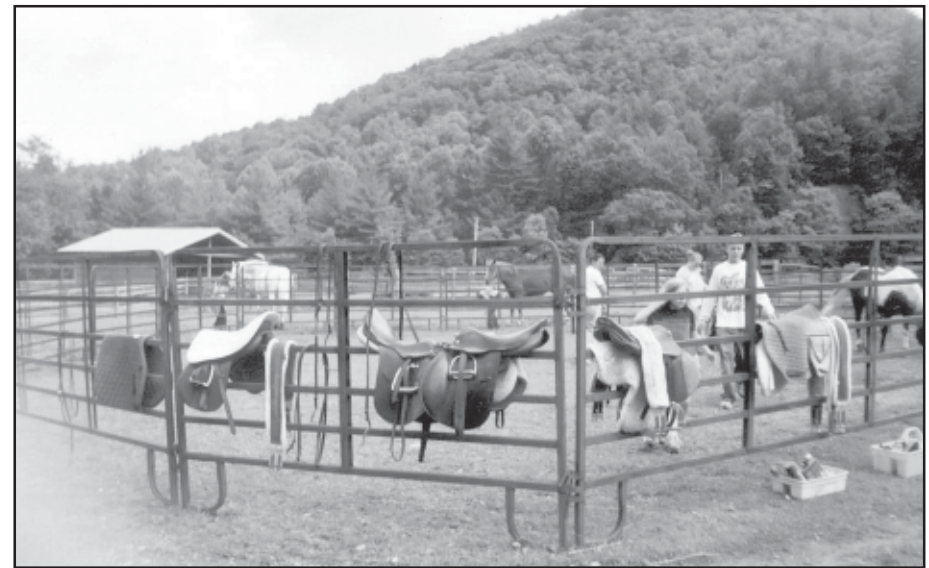
You just have to look outside and see the promise of spring. Everything is coming alive again, buds are about to burst with joy and the song of birds returning from their winter vacation fill the air, which means that the "Be a Star for a Child" team is up and running. Invitations have recently been mailed, and plans for a wonderful evening are underway.

Along with the sound of birds, sounds of children fill the air at Carpe Diem Farms. The Gar's Kids Experiential Adventure after school program is in full swing two

afternoons per week.

The program, which includes horsemanship as well as arts and crafts, is part of CDF's Commitment to the children of Macon County. Participants learn valuable skills working with the horses. It is well known that horses serve as mirrors to humans. They show us our leadership styles and skills. Farm chores and caring for the horses, a major part of Gar's Kids, teaches teamwork, communication skills and so much more.

The children also delight in the art lessons provided by Carpe Diem. The tables are filled with an array of



Carpe Diem campers preparing to ride.

art materials, and the children have made some spectacular art and craft pieces, some of which will be displayed at the upcoming "Be a Star for a Child" Country Dinner and

Auction on June 12.

Again this year we have wonderful support from local and nationally acclaimed artists, such as Julyan Davis, painter of dreamy mountain landscapes, and Robert Tino, with a spectacular painting of Gypsy Soul, one of a collection of the beautiful and sturdy British horses, bred for centuries for their calm manner and strength.

Rosemary Stiefel has contributed her artwork, and we also have many different items to delight you this year, from a turned wooden bowl from John Rymer, a handmade book from yours truly, weaving from Marge Rohr a hand-knitted scarf from Midge Rothermel, to a 24-ft. Sea Ray Cabin Cruiser donated by Jack and Judy Brinson.

We expect this to be the Event of the Year, and we look forward to seeing old friends, and making new ones at this community event.

The February through May 2004 Gar's Kids after school program is generously supported by: The Highlands Rotary Club, the James and Peggy Woodruff Foundation, The Hayes Family Foundation, The Highlands Community Foundation, Gerry and Avary Doubleday, David Parrish, Diane and Frank Warren and the Whitehead Family Foundation.

The 'Be a Star for A Child' Country Supper and Auction supports the summer Gar's Kid's program and will be held at Carpe Diem Farms on June 12 at 5.30-9 p.m.

Back by popular demand, the Bishop Brothers will be playing for you while you enjoy your delicious meal. Country Casual is the dress. We look forward to seeing you there.

• BUILDERS & ARCHITECTS •

Team Approach to Craftsmanship and Values in Building

For years, Koenig Homebuilders has been setting the standards of craftsmanship and values that many area Builders are envious of. Koenig's product speaks for itself, but the company's level of expertise is what makes it so desirable.

When asked what sets Koenig Homebuilders apart from the competition, company President, John Koenig was quick to reply, "value in craftsmanship. Unlike most Builders that sub-contract much of their framing, siding, trim and specialty work (such as timber framing), we do it all in-house. With almost 50 folks on our payroll, we have a better handle on schedules, budget, and most importantly, craftsmanship levels. Our whole team's proud of the capabilities within our company, and this shows in the finished home."

Koenig seems to shy away from using the word "Quality" when describing his company's product. "The Q word seems to be the most mis-used word in home building today," John says. "Almost every builder in the country will tell you that quality sets him apart from the rest, but often that just isn't the case!"

Koenig Homebuilders obviously uses a team approach to custom

John Koenig
Zac Koenig

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building, and Production Manager Zac Koenig is the person coordinating that team. Zac describes it in just one sentence. "We're a very process oriented company, with a strong commitment to both the client and the project."

From land selection and conceptual design right through punch list and warranty, Koenig tries to make your

process as painless and seamless as possible. Their belief is that building a home should be fun, not drudgery.

If you're considering building in the Highlands-Cashiers area, you owe it to yourself to check out Koenig Homebuilders. They would like the opportunity to be your "Custom Builder of Choice."

● UPCOMING EVENTS ●

On-Going

• Time to register for swimming lessons at the Rec Park for children and adults, ages 3 and up. First 20 children/adults will be accepted. Call the Rec Park at 526-3556 to register.

• Registration for Summer Camp at the Highlands Rec Park is on. The camp begins June 14 and ends July 30. The camp will be closed the week of July 5-9. Camp is for children ages 5-10. Children must be 5 by June 14. No exceptions. Cost is \$2 per hour per child. Applications available at the Highlands Rec Park or call 526-3556 for more information.

• 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.

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

• 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.

• Horticulture News is available for free from the Macon County Extension Center. Call 349-2046.

March 25, March 27, March 29

• The Macon County Soccer Club wants soccer players to get ready for a brand new Spring Soccer Season. The season is planned to start on April 17 and continue through May. Registration will be at the Community Building in Franklin the following dates Thurs., March 25 from 6:30-8; Sat., March 27 from 10-2; Mon, March 29 from 6:30-8 The cost will be \$25 for players who registered and played during the fall 2003 season and for all others \$30. The spring league will be limited to children 14 years and younger. If you would like to coach call Tony Esterwood at 524-1928

March 27

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

• Car Show from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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. Proceeds help defray expenses for 2004 Macon County Senior Games/Silver Arts. More information: (828) 349-2090.

March 27

• The Satolah (Ga.) Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual bluegrass & barbecue benefit Saturday at the firehouse on Route 28. Just below the boundary line with North Carolina. Dinner starts at 5 p.m., courtesy of the department's auxiliary, with music warming up at 7, with both Foxfire and Curtis Blackwell and the Dixie Bluegrass Band on tap. Cost of the dinner plates is \$6.50 for adults — somewhat less for children — with a choice of pork barbecue or fried chicken, plus cole slaw, baked beans, apple sauce and a roll.

March 28

• Auditions for the Highlands Community Players' spring play, the drama "Proof," will be held Sunday, at 3 p.m., downstairs at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. The cast of four actors requires two women, one 20 to 30, one 30-40; two men, one 20-30, one 50 to 60. Rehearsals will be held during the month of April with performances May 6 through 9. A copy of the play can be read at the Hudson Library in Highlands. Call director Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for more information.

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 1

• The Highlands Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Highlands Historical Society and Smoky Mountain Host will present a Highlands Heritage Forum on Thursday, April 1, 5:30 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center. This meeting is in answer to President Bush signing into federal law, legislation designating our region the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area. In order that enough materials will be provided, please respond to the Chamber at 526.5841 by March 29 if you plan to participate.

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. For more information call 349-6011 or 369-3810.

April 6

• The film "Enchanted April, at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. A British film about two men who in order to escape their boring lives and demanding wives, decide to rent a luxurious Italian villa for a month, taking on two very different women as housemates. Donations accepted.

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 HUMC. A fund-raiser pancake breakfast will be held at HUMC from 8-10 a.m. To participate, sponsor a walker or for more information, call Beth Graham at 743-6688 or 526-3852.

April 19

• There will be an organizational meeting for Adult Softball at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center. Anyone interested in having a team must attend this meeting.

April 20

• A film "Strangers in Good Company," at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center. A Canadian film about a group of women temporarily stuck in the Canadian wilderness when their bus breaks down. There they get to know each other while revealing their secret fears and desires. Donations accepted.

May 19

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

May 24

• Highlands School baccalaureate at HUMC at 3 p.m.

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Lunch 7 days: 11-3;
Dinner: Tues.-Sat. 5-8:30

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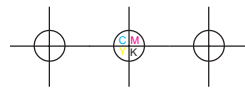
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Sports Page

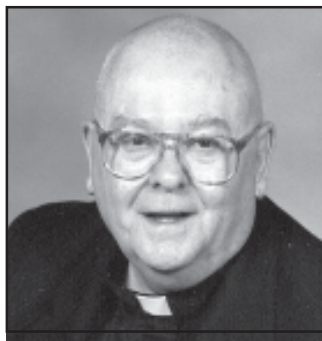
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■ SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING ■

Who is with us?



Father Bill Evans
Our Lady of the Moun-
tains Catholic Church

The genius of Mr. Charles Schulz who created the Peanuts comic strip was his ability to present his little people in situations with which all of us can identify. Take this episode for instance.

In the first panel of the strip, Lucy says, "my life is a drag. I'm completely fed up. I've never felt so low in my life." Her brother Linus advises her: "When you're in a mood like this, you should try to think of things you have to be thankful for. In other words, count your blessings."

Lucy explodes. "Ha! That is a good one. I could count my blessings on one finger! I've never had anything, and I never will have anything. I don't get half the breaks other people do. Nothing ever goes right for me! And you talk about counting blessings? You talk about being thankful? What do I have to be thankful for?"

Linus responds. "Well for one thing, you have a little brother who loves you." Lucy looks at Linus, and then tearfully hugs him. Linus looks out of the final panel at the reader and comments, "Every now and then, I say the right thing."

Every now and then the scriptures say the right thing, too. It may not be said in exactly the way we would like it, but in the end it is always the right thing.

God says the right thing to Moses in the first reading: "I have witnessed the affliction of my people and have heard their cry of complaint, so I know well what they are suffering. I have come down to rescue them." But then when Moses tries to pin God down about his name, Moses is not quite sure if he likes what he hears.

As the child uses "Mommy says so" as the source of authority to keep other children in line, so Moses wanted to use God's name as his source of authority. God, on the other hand, seems to say to Moses, "You are created in my image and likeness, go on your own authority. I have brought this problem to your attention – I AM with you, but it is up to you to find a solution." So it has been throughout all of history.

The God who liberates us does not liberate us – without us. He frees us to free others. When we ask God to establish peace and justice, to feed the hungry, to shelter the homeless, what do you think he responds? He says: "You do it! I AM with you. And when we don't do it, we have sinned. That is called "the sin of omission" – we omit doing the right thing. That is possibly the greatest and most frequent sin of the Christian human being.

■ See SPIRITUALLY page 14

● 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.





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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.

L.P.N., Physician's Office at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (EOE): Full-time, weekdays. Competitive pay and an excellent benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. For details call: Mary Osmar, Human Resources, 828-526-1301.

Wound Care Nurse, RN/LPN at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. If you are a team player and love working with the elderly, WE WANT YOU! Our Edenizing facility has friendly, compassionate workers, supportive team leaders, and provides residents with the best in continuity of care.

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

Shenaut Construction Company is looking for the following in the Highlands area: Supervisor – \$12/hr., Carpenters' Helpers – \$9/hr. All applicants must have driver's license, transportation, and hand tools. Company paid insurances after 90-day probation period. Call 828-684-2102 for more information.

Highlands Inn & Hampton Inn in Highlands now hiring for Night Audit position, 11 p.m.-7 a.m., day and evening shifts. Call Tim for appointment at 526-9380.

• BY OWNER •

For sale. Authentic schunk wall unit from Germany. H6'9" L11' W22" A beautiful piece. Contact Brad and Donna Nelson 524-9204.

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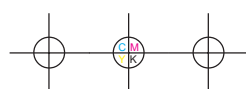


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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 12

The scriptures always say the right thing but sometimes it is an embarrassment to us. We know in our hearts that securing justice and the rights of all the oppressed is not an impossible dream. Something can be done. Our problem is our own misplaced priorities.

If the scriptures always say the right thing, how should we take Paul's words when he says, "They (the writings in the Hebrew scriptures) have been written as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come." No other generation

in history has had the potential we have, the potential to end the ages. Paul believed that the end of the world would come in his lifetime. We know we can make it come in our lifetime by our own hands. We can just blow up the world. And maybe the fundamentalist Arabs intend to. That is the real danger of fundamentalism anywhere. The fundamentalist believes he has divine authority to do or say whatever he wants to do or say.

What "right things" are said in today's gospel? Jesus tries to set the record

straight. God does not use accidents or tyrants to punish evildoers. Much more mysterious is Jesus' warning as to our fate if we do not reform. What does he mean when he says, "But I tell you, you will all come to the same end unless you reform? Could he mean that the ivory towers we have built for ourselves may fall in on us if we do not bring about our ideas on peace? Could he mean that if we do not return to the Christian ideal of love of our enemies we will all perish by the sword in which we have put our trust?

It was G.K. Chesterton who said, "The Christian ideal has not been tried and

found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried."

Peter Maurin picked up on that theme and added, "Christianity has not been tried because people thought it was impractical. Men have tried everything except Christianity, and everything that men have tried has failed."

Our presence here today is our "burning bush" experience. We stand on holy ground to hear God speak to us. His message is twofold, "Reform, and bear fruit."

Every now and then the scriptures say the right thing. What we hear today is both a consolation and a challenge. For one thing, we have a God who loves us. That is the consolation. I AM is with us. That is the challenge.

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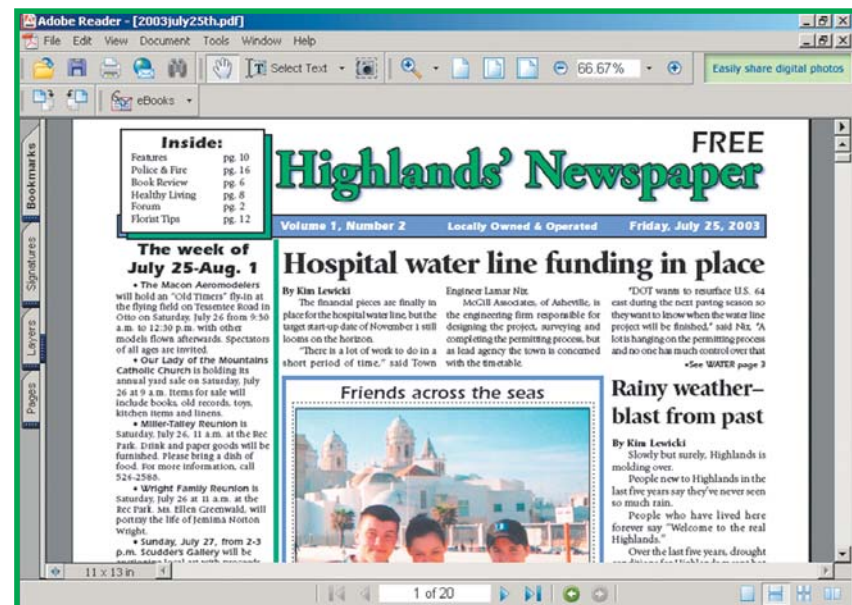
The paper is posted on a directory that **consistently** gets traffic because it's all about news, dining, lodging, shopping, events, hiking, waterfalls and real estate in Highlands.

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Fifth grade students check out Science Fair projects in the Highlands School gym during a break from PE.

Science Fair winners to compete at WCU

By Nathan Heffington, 12th Grade Mountain Trail staff writer

The results are in and the winners have been announced for this year's Highlands School Science Fair. Topics for the winning projects ranged from superheroes (Devan Schiffli) to dog mouths (Samuel Wheeler and Jose Feria) to mouthwash (Ashley Owens and Sally Wheeler).

First place winners move on to compete in Western Carolina University's Regional Science Fair March 22-23. Selected projects from the Grade 3-5 division will also participate in the WCU Science Fair to compete against projects from schools throughout western North Carolina.

Stephanie Smathers, Middle School science teacher and coordinator of the Fair, was pleased with the projects entered this year. "All the projects were excellent, and I am very proud of each student," Smathers commented, "There is a lot of potential among students headed for middle school next year!

All Highlands School Science Fair participants received a certificate and participation ribbon. Winners received both a certificate and a ribbon for first through third place. This year's winners are:

GRADE 3-5 DIVISION

1st place: Marlee McCall and Emily Green, Spencer Houston, Jonah Forrester, Samuel Wheeler and Jose Feria, Parker Sims.

2nd place: Cody Houser and Christopher Potts, Kelly Baty, Ben Kennedy, Danielle Potts.

3rd place: Justin Watson, Devan Schiffli, Sam Nix, Robbie Vanderbilt, Matthew Perkins, Ricki Reyes.

GRADE 6-12 DIVISION

1st place Matt McClellan, Jonathan Smith, Luke McClellan and Andrew Billingsley, Jake Heffington and Spencer Schultz, Robby Archer, Savanna Clark, Jenna Shearon, Lacey Tucker.

2nd place: Ashley Owens and Sally Wheeler, Haley Chalker, Casey Jenkins, Greg Porter and Josh Hendricks, Andrew Watson and Parker Schultz, Tripp Putney.

3rd place: Caden Brown and Hunter Leffler, Marisol Ruiz and Sarah Moses, Katie Henderson and Megan Ehrenkaufer, Will Edwards and Ezra Herz, Danielle Reese, Haley Rice.

Didn't get a chance to see the projects? Don't sweat it; the projects will be displayed at the Highlands School PTO meeting on April 22 at 6:30 pm.

The public is also invited to attend the WCU Science Fair.

• POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of March 17. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

March 17

- At noon, officers responded to a minor accident at Fourth and Main streets. There were no injuries.

- At 11:15 p.m., officers were called to Hampton Inn to deal with an intoxicated person. He was sent to bed.

March 18

- At 8 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Macon Bank. All was secure.

- At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to the call of a domestic dispute at D&J between an estranged couple.

March 19

- At 9:10 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Many Road. All was secure.

- At 8 p.m., officers responded to the call of a domestic dispute at a residence on Wyanoak Drive.

March 20

- At 9:40 a.m., officers responded to construction noise complaint.

March 22

- At 11 a.m., officers were called to Gas Light Cafe where CDs and a CD player with a total value about \$140 was reported missing.

- At 1:57 p.m., officers responded to a domestic dispute at a residence on Wahoo Drive.

- At 7 p.m., a motorist was cited for driving without a license at U.S. 64 west and Webbmont Road.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the week of March 18-24

March 18

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Picklesimer Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clear Creek Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

March 19

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Dillard Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

March 20

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers on structure fire.

... RENOVATIONS continued from page 1

Glass got permission to erect a rock-faced, fire-proof storage building toward the rear of their lot on Chestnut Street. Some board members requested the exterior to be board and batten but in the end the plan was accepted as submitted.

Most board members were thrilled with the The Highlander newspaper's renovation. The "Jim Fox" design will be altered significantly "into something more in keeping with the rural mountain character of Highlands," said the company's architect. The "wings" will be removed and the façade squared off and clad with board and batten and wood shingles.

Board member Peter Jefferson said he was sorry to be losing a Jim Fox Highlands landmark, but the plan was accepted.

John Lupoli presented a plan to extend the back of the building that houses Village Kids with a 16- by 23-foot extension. The backside of the building which fronts Oak Street will be significantly improved and the apartments upstairs renovated.

Eric Schmitt presented a plan for a new building to be constructed behind Schmitt's existing building on Pierson Drive. The building will be used as an office and model for an offshoot company owned by him and his brothers called Carolina Homes by Design. Materials used on the building will showcase what will be used in their home designs "and give people an idea of the kind of house we are going to be building."

Applicants will present their plans to the zoning board at the April 15 meeting at Town Hall.



Highlands School Community Bible members fasted for world hunger.

Students fast to raise money for hungry

Ryan Sprague

Contributor

Each day 29,000 kids around the world die from hunger and hunger related diseases. But... last weekend nineteen people from Community Bible Church made a difference. A group of Highlands School students (and one from Rabun Gap) made the decision to go without food for 30 hours in order to raise money and awareness for world hunger.

The "30 Hour Famine" is an event coordinated by an international ministry called World Vision. Nearly 16,000 groups of kids from all across the country participated in the Famine this year, and the youth group at Community Bible Church was one of those groups.

The kids began their fast at 6 o'clock on Friday morning – although many had not eaten since the night before – and the fast culminated with a "break-the-fast" brunch at noon on Saturday. The participants all wore bright orange T-shirts which made them fun targets at the school on Friday.

Other kids were offering to buy them meals and give them food to see if they would give in. It was all in good fun, but the kids remained strong nonetheless. When asked about how it felt to go for so long without eating, Nick Kerhoulas, said "I could have eaten an entire hippo!" The kids all had a good time and learned a lot about what it really means to be hungry.

But the greater outcome was that the kids raised more than \$1,400 for World Vision. \$360 feeds a person for

one year, so the kids have provided food for a year for four kids around the world. That may not seem like a lot, but perhaps the following story will paint a better picture.

A young girl was walking along a beach that was littered with starfish. It was low tide and these starfish had been stranded when the tide went out. As she walked up to a starfish she would bend down, pick up the starfish, and put it back into the water. A man walked up to the girl and questioned her, "Why are you doing that with the starfish?" Her reply was simple, stating, "If they don't get back into the water they will die." The man chastised her, "You can never get all of these starfish back into the ocean so what is the point, you are wasting your time, what you're doing won't really matter." The little girl glanced up at the man, looking down on her, and placing a starfish into the ocean she ended the conversation by saying, "It matters to this one."

The kids from Community Bible Church made a difference in the lives of four kids from across the globe. It may not appear like much but I can promise you that it matters to each one of those four kids. Congratulations Famine participants – YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!

If you would like more information on the "30 Hour Famine" you can access the website at www.30hourfamine.org. If you want more information about the student ministry at Community Bible Church you can access their website at www.cbcsn.net or call 526-4685.



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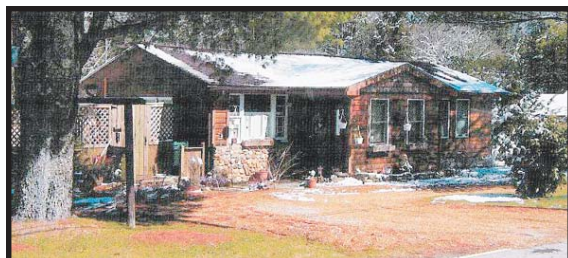
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TRILLIUM PLACE. Walk to shopping, theatre, and hiking trails from this lovely three bedroom, two and one half bath townhouse at Trillium Place. Enjoy the breezy covered back porch and maintenance-free living on the quiet side of town. This light and airy home is being offered fully furnished for \$379,000. Just listed, very desirable.

www.highlandsinfo.com/ccp.htm



ALL ON ONE LEVEL. Great room with vaulted cedar ceiling, open kitchen dining, Anderson windows, 10 skylights, huge screened deck, 2-car garage, excellent construction. Vaulted ceilings in guest bedroom and master bed. Creek running along back of property. Beautiful landscaping, sunset views. All of this offered at \$585,000.



STONE MANOR. Located on a small knoll overlooking a lush meadow, this stone manor sits amidst the weeping evergreen trees and affords a serene pastoral setting. Custom-crafted by a local Highlands stone mason for his personal residence and lovingly renovated by the current owners. This residence will stand the test of time. Four bedrooms, 4 baths, plus guest quarters in the lower level. Lovely wood floors and custom trim. Don't miss this one if you want a historical old home to make your own. Offered at \$695,000.



WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN VIEW. This three-bedroom plus a den, 3-1/2 bath home features a large great room plan with pine paneling and a wall of glass that opens to a covered porch and deck to enjoy the spectacular vista of Whiteside Mountain and into cashiers valley. The interior is warm and inviting, with beautiful fabrics and window treatments. If you want the Wildcat/Whiteside area, don't miss this one! Offered unfurnished at \$1,200,000