

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

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Volume 3, Number 15

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, April 15, 2005

OEI reworks Church Street 'streetscape' plan

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

OEI architects have devised a way to clean up the look of Church Street to just about everyone's satisfaction, but it requires the rezoning of a 50-ft. strip along the street.

At the April 6 Town Board meeting, commissioners approved 3-2 to send the rezoning request to the Planning Board which meets April 25.

The new plan revolves around a 12-foot high bluff OEI has been trying to work around for several months.

On the Kelsey-Hutchinson Inn property on top of the bluff is the foundation of an old building that is in the Church Street setback. That means a sidewalk can't be constructed on the south side of Church street without just-

■ See OEI page 18

April 15

• Buck's Coffee Cafe presents live music by "Mountain Voodoo" from 8-11 p.m.

April 16

• Buck's Coffee Cafe presents live music by "Wildcat William Jude" from 8-11 p.m.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5 mile hike from Whitewater Falls to Bad Creek Reservoir. Call leader Jim Whitehurst at 526-8124.

April 17

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike on the Kimsey Creek trail. Call leader Kay Coriell at 369-6820.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 5-mile hike to Rough Run and High Falls near Glenville. Call leader Carl Blozan at 743-1765.

April 15-17

• At OEI - Burgundy Wine Weekend at The Old Edwards Inn and Spa Friday, April 15 - Sunday, April 17. For information or to make reservations, please call 828-526-8008.

April 21

• Flying Single in a Couple's World -- All single adults are invited to the group's first covered dish dinner at the Church of the Incarnation's Jones Hall at 6 p.m.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 5-mile hike to Rough Run and High Falls near Glenville, with many wildflowers in bloom. Call leader Carl Blozan at 742-1765.

April 22

• At Cyprus Restaurant -- Haitian Mission Benefit, 4-6 p.m. All donations to benefit May trip. Tax-deductible donations may also be sent to the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

• The Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau is sponsoring a plant "walkabout" to identify some of the native plants of the Highlands Plateau. This experience is offered as a wildflower walk at a beautiful garden in Highlands. The rain date is the April 25. Meet at the Gazebo on Pine Street at 9:45 a.m. to carpool. We will be going to a place that cannot accommodate a lot of parking. No need to RSVP.

School SACS visit a success

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

On April 7, months of teamwork came together at Highlands School when the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) representatives walked through the front door to evaluate the school from top to bottom.

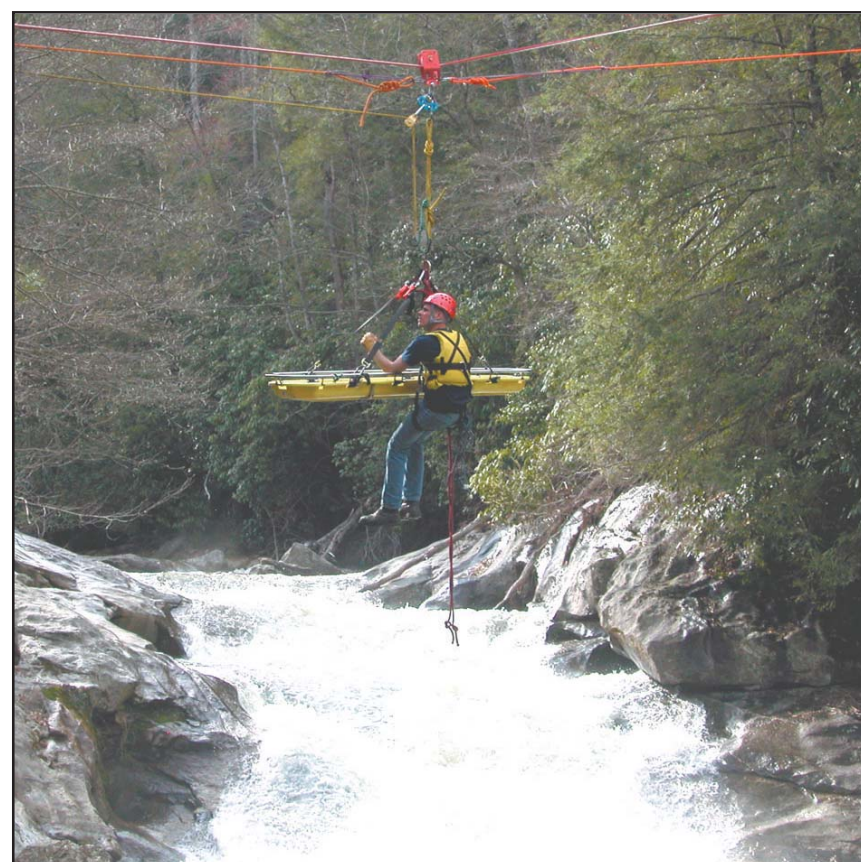
"The whole day was a real celebration of the school's success. I feel that it went very well," said Principal Monica Bomengen. "The presentations were outstanding, particularly the student presentation."

Typically, schools are evaluated every five years for continued accreditation, but in Macon County schools, a three-year plan for school improvement is used. To be prepared for the SACS visiting team and continued accreditation, schools maintain a three- to five-year School Improvement Plan to monitor their own progress.

As new administrators, Bomengen and Vice Principal Mark Thomas were faced with both the need to write the new three-year School Improvement Plan and to write up a report for SACS on the guided self-study process at

■ See SACS page 7

Rescue classes conducted on Cullasaja



Rescue Three - a company that trains fire & rescue departments in rappelling, swift water rescue and more - has been in the Highlands area for the last two weeks teaching rescue workers from Macon, Mecklenburg, Clay and Swain counties. Mike Cotton, with the Clay County Fire Department dangles over Bust Your Butt Falls Monday, April 4. Crews on both sides of the river worked to get him across.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Lottery could be answer to state budget woes

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

The fourth time could be the charm for the North Carolina Lottery. With the bill still under consideration in the Senate, many are crossing their fingers but want assurances as to funding

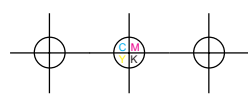
allocations.

"I support an education lottery for a variety of reasons. The primary reason is because states bordering North Carolina already have lotteries, so revenue that potentially could benefit NC education is going to Virginia,

Tennessee, Georgia, and South Carolina instead," said Highlands School Principal Monica Bomengen.

The pending bill was referred to the Senate Ways and Means Committee March 24. If it passes in the Senate, it




■ See LOTTERY page 8





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FRI	SAT	SUN
		
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• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Murder by judicial decree

Dear Editor,

Many people have been conned into believing that Terri Schindler would have gladly been tortured to death when there is no evidence to indicate any insanity on her part before her suspicious "accident."

Out of an extensive list of violations and disregard of Florida statutes, not to mention the Constitution for the state of Florida here are two of the more egregious violations committed by this man who, according to some, "was just following the law." Sorta like the Nazis excuse at Nuremburg, "I was just following orders." Didn't work for them and it shouldn't work for Greer.

I could write reams about the violations of law and common decency in this case but since this is a letter to the editor I will sum up with 'Judge' George "Grim Reaper" Greer's actual order, an order which did not even mention feeding tubes but the barbaric torture by removal of nourishment and hydration from someone who was known to be able to swallow. That is analogous to an order which would not only disconnect a ventilator but, in the event the patient started breathing on her own to smother her with a pillow! It was hard for me to believe that many people could countenance such cruelty and such obvious violations of law in pursuit of the agenda of death.

Following is the order which was tantamount to a death sentence for a physically healthy woman who was brain damaged (not brain dead).

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that absent a stay from the appellate courts, the guardian, Michael Schiavo, shall cause the removal of nutrition and hydration, from the Ward, THERESA SCHIAVO, at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 18, 2005.

Danny Crane
 Highlands

Here's to accurate reporting

Dear Editor,

I want to congratulate staff writer Erin Brown on being a truly fine reporter. She very accurately covered the Land Use Planning Committee meeting of April 4 in the article in Highlands' Newspaper dated April 8, 2005. I especially appreciated her accurately quoting what I said at the meeting. In my opinion, the mark of excellent reporting is accurate quotation of those making comments. She must have excellent shorthand skills or use a recorder because she got it "down pat."

I am sure that a great newspaper career is a part of her future. I hope that she enjoys Highlands and someday loves it as much as I do.

Jim Whitehurst
 Highlands

Kindergarten registration – April 22 at noon

Great Beginnings or traditional Kindergarten? Is one better than the other?

For parents new to Highlands School, these are logical questions. As your principal, I'd like to share my thoughts on how to make the choice based on extensive observations and familiarity with both programs.

In either case, your child will have a superior teacher and an excellent teacher assistant in the classroom. Mrs. McClellan and Mrs. Chalker are both highly qualified, experienced, truly outstanding teachers.

Both programs follow research-based best practice, of which there are many. There are several different ways

to teach students to read, to gain math literacy, and to practice social skills, not one single best way.

If my two kids were five years old again, I would have put my daughter into Kindergarten and my son into Great Beginnings. This has nothing to do with either teacher or curriculum and everything to do with the kinds of learners my children were at that age. My daughter thrived in a structured environment, whereas my son liked being able to self-direct.

If you have any questions, email me at monica.bomengen@mcsk-12.org or call me at the school at 526-2147. I will return your call within one business day. – **Monica Bomengen**

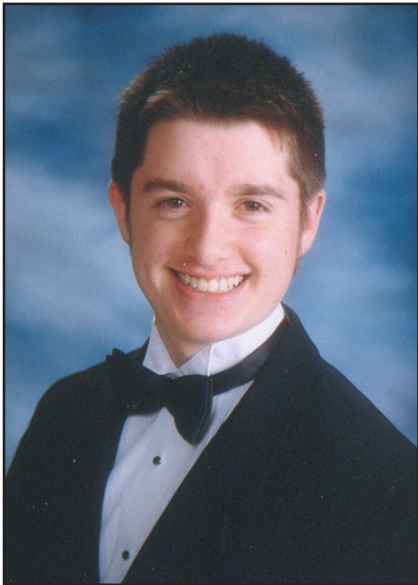
Honored for 50 years of service



Photo by Kim Lewicki

Irene James, center, who will turn 100 years old on June 12, was honored Saturday by Marie Mizelle, Worthy Grand Matron of North Carolina Order of the Eastern Star for hitting the 50-year mark with Eastern Star. A luncheon in her honor took place at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Pictured with Irene from left are Marie Mizelle; granddaughter Sabrina Cashion; grandson Dana Gordon; daughter Geri Crowe, son Tom James; and daughter Wilma Gordon. Sabrina and Wilma are also members of Eastern Star.

2005 - Top students selected



Valedictorian
Alex Osteen

Alex has been accepted to George Washington University, UNC - Chapel Hill and Wake Forest University.



Salutatorian
Kayla McCall

Kayla has been accepted to UNC - Chapel Hill and plans to attend.

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When is knotweed not weed?

(When it's for breakfast!)

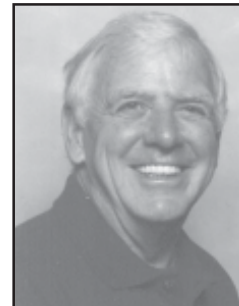
Unless you have been living on Mars, (that's where I came from) or maybe Suches, Ga., you know about this pesty little plant called knotweed. I say pesty because I have just learned knotweed is a very bad thing. In fact, the spread of knotweed is growing faster then the PT beetles are eating the woolys, if you can believe it.

Amazingly, knotweed is a Japanese ornamental plant, the key word here being ornamental. That is why I recently put in my order for 200 of the little guys to decorate my front yard. They were advertised as fast growing and hard to kill, perfect for a person like me who has a black thumb. Now, I pick up the paper and learn, not only is knotweed not good, it isn't even edible. At least with the kudzu I ordered, I could make a salad.

I grabbed the phone and called knotweed salesman Ling Dung who has a small office in downtown Tokyo. “Mr Dung,” I said excitedly, “you have sold me knotweed plants and I now learn they are a weed. Cancel my order” At first there was silence, then Ling laced into me. In his broken English he said, “Knotweed not weed. Knotweed beautiful plant. Where you live, in mountains? Everyone in mountains worry too much. Besides, you too late. Order on way. I hang up now.”

“Wait, wait,” I pleaded, “don't hang up. If the people here learn I have ordered 200 of the very same plant they are trying to eradicate from the area, they will lynch me. God knows they already have cause. Can't you recall the order?” Ling was losing patience fast. “You got daisy plants? You got periwinkle? They all weeds. Air very thin there? You see doctor, I send plants.” With that, Ling Dung hung up.

Well, you and I know that nothing, I mean nothing, goes unnoticed around here. Someone at the post office will spot the box from Japan and see from the invoice that it contains knotweed. That person will tell their spouse and by next Sunday's services, the entire town of Highlands will know I am a knotweed nurturer. I



Fred Wooldridge

will have the Garden Club burning a cross in my front yard. What am I to do?

Then it hit me, POW! I will need a study, a research program of my own, conducted right in my front yard. The study will determine the best way to kill knotweed in its tracks. I will advertise for helpers in

the paper, then everyone will know I am doing a study. And, if I find a new method of eradication, I will go from goat to hero overnight. I am brilliant.

Eventually, my order arrived from Japan and I got busy planting knotweed in my front yard. Even though I got no volunteers to help me, the word is out that I am now a researcher.

Unfortunately, the study is not going well. I was going to put a tarp over the plants and pitch my tent on top of the tarp. Then I learned that every tarp in North Carolina has been shipped to Florida where people are using them for roofs. In the meantime, the plants are growing fast and are spreading. More study is needed.

Once I learned that knotweed is a member of the buckwheat family, I knew exactly what to do. Maybe this stuff is edible. I can see my name in lights. “Fast Freddie's Knotweed Pancakes.” Using my coffee grinder as a mulching machine, I ground the plants into a powder. It put off a terrible smell, which I ignored. I stirred the powder into a mixture of flour and water and poured the concoction into the skillet, again, ignoring the smell.

Once they hit my plate they didn't look too bad. Maybe a little too green for me, but what the heck. First I poured on the maple syrup and let that all soak in real good. Then I poured on more maple syrup and let that soak in some more. Then one last dose of the sugary substance just to make sure. Then I squirted on lots of liquid butter until it puddled on my plate. Hmmm, hm, I had myself quite a breakfast. It was delicious.

I did spend the rest of the day sitting on the throne.

Do you think it was the knotweed pancakes?

Ladykillers

The 2004 criminal comedy, starring Tom Hanks, Marva Munson, Marlon Wayons, Tzi Ma, and many, many more (look for cameos by Bruce Campbell, and I think Eddie Murphy, although he's not listed in the credits). Music artfully done by the brilliant T. Bone Burnett and the fairly brilliant Carter Burwell. Written and directed by the amazing (and rather frightening) team of Ethan and Joel Cohen, of Fargo, O Brother Where Art Thou?, Raising Arizona, and many more films of twisted genius.

The Storyline: It is essentially the same storyline as the original 1955 film of the same name, but decidedly darker and with some twists. It starts with the elegant, semi-literate, and verbose Professor Goldthwaite Higgins Dorr (Tom Hanks, who does as good a job in this as he did in Terminal, Castaway, Saving Private Ryan, and more. Is there any role this guy cannot do?) seeking to procure a domicile from the widow Irma P. Hall (Marva Munson is screamingly funny).

He and his Renaissance sacred quintet also need some rehearsal space, and by the most amazing coincidence, the widow Hall has a root cellar that has the perfect



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acoustic quality. An even more amazing coincidence is that said root cellar also happens to be in close proximity to the underground vault of a casino. Professor Dorr and his variety of villains of course, have no interest in sacred music, but mere filthy lucre (his band of bandits are assembled from those who have answered the classified add in the local paper). As they tunnel towards the vault, they have to go to greater and more extreme lengths to conceal their nefarious purpose from their landlord.

Not everything goes exactly as planned, and there is some doubt that the supply of Hefty garbage bags will outlast the supply of bodies that need disposing.

While the basic story outline is similar to William Rose's screenplay (so capably done by Sir Alec Guinness), the Cohen Brothers make this version their own, adding their characteristically dark style, as well as their unique filming technique, that really does make this a different story. The cast of co-criminals is great, but there is no question that this is Hank's and Munson's film. Fast, funny, and dark, it compares well to other Cohen Brother's films (Man Who Wasn't There, Barton Fink).

Macon County Commissioners working to solve stray problem

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

Funding a county spay/neuter program is the first step toward solving the stray animal problem haunting Macon County.

At the April 4 Macon County Commission meeting, commissioners unanimously agreed to fund costs to spay 250 animals over the next year, an allocation of \$25,000 – which amounts to about \$100 per animal.

Under the new program, any

Macon County resident, regardless of financial need, can get an animal spayed.

But spaying is just part of the problem. At the meeting, county residents complained about stray animals roaming freely, intimidating other animals and their owners.

In the midst of legal battles and without a contract agreement with the county, Macon County Humane Society stopped taking strays some months ago.

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of Animals sued Macon County Humane Society for poor conditions at the shelter.

The county stopped allocating money to the Humane Society until a contract could be agreed upon and the situation cleared up. They also dismantled the sheriff department's animal control operations so citizens have no one to call about strays.

Before entering into new contracts with either group, county officials are investigating what a

county-operated animal shelter would entail.

"There is legislature in the works at the state level with new guidelines for shelters," said Chairman of the Macon County Commissioners Allan Bryson. "We have to wait to see what happens there before we proceed."

Meanwhile, Bryson and other commissioners are visiting shelters in nearby counties to see how those facilities are run.

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SPECIAL



Photo by Ashley Pitt

First grader Ketzaetzli Gonzalez discovers something just as interesting as books in the library of Highlands School. Gonzalez was trying to name the frog while waiting in line to check out his book. When asked about his favorite books, he said, "I like to read about frogs and bugs."

UNC-CH photojournalists capture life in Highlands

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

A group of University of North Carolina students got a "photo opportunity" to look at Macon County and Highlands in particular as they took part in a photojournalism workshop.

Some of the topics included shadowing Mayor Buck Trott for a glimpse into Highlands government; the religious conviction of Highlands School Head Coach Butch Smart and goings-on from day to night on Main Street.

The program was designed as an extension of a documentary workshop course and is the final class in a four-part sequence. The workshop is designed to familiarize students with intense story work. The students worked with guest editors from the Charlotte Observer, the News Observer in Raleigh, the Virginia Pilot and the Knoxville News Sentinel. The editors donated their time to the group of juniors, seniors and graduate students.

In the second year of the program, Assistant Professor Pat Davison, who designed the workshop, said that it has been a humbling and challenging opportunity.

"This group of students is truly exceptional," Davison said. "Everyone has had an exceptional week and performed above their previous best."

"It's been really great getting to work with the editors one-on-one," said Ashlie White a UNC-CH senior. "We edit with them and they really coach

us on technique."

White's subject was Dave Linn, a tri-athlete who is coping with left-side only cerebral palsy.

"I really feel like I gained something from his story," White said. "It really changed me."

White said the most important thing to remember when doing a story on a person is the fact that your photographs need to say something intimate about that person.

"You want to show as much about them as you can, but you also want to do them justice," White said.

The students covered their topics for five days taking up to 150 pictures a day, but only 12 were needed for the project.

"I want to show how much Dave has accomplished and can accomplish with left-side only cerebral palsy," she said.

The group was housed in the Highlands Biological Station's Valentine House in partnership with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Carolina Environmental Program.

"We've been able to pull this off at no cost to the students because we were provided with accommodations," Davison said. "It's a great place and everyone had a great time."

Davison was part of the *Rocky Mountain News* photo staff that received the Pulitzer Prize in Journalism for Breaking News Photography in 2000, for coverage of the Columbine High School tragedy. Davison joined UNC-CH in 2001.

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Gymnasts competing for the top

On the weekend of March 18-20 gymnasts from all over the state who qualified to participate in state competition for levels 8, 9 and 10 came together in Matthews, NC in hopes of placing and qualifying for Regional Competition in April 2005. New Vision Gymnastics from Franklin was well represented at the State meet. In the level 10 state competition, Ashley Thurston placed 7th on floor and 2nd on vault, balance beam, uneven bars and all-around. At



Ashley Thurston and Casey Jenkins

level 9 Casey Jenkins placed 8th on vault, 7th on bars, 4th on beam, 3rd on floor and 5th all-around. Ashley Thurston and Casey Jenkins (left to right) will represent New Vision Gymnastics in the 2005 Region 8 Level 9 and 10 Regional Championships April 14-17 at the Memorial Gym at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

Participants at the regional championships are based on the gymnasts scores in the state competition.

... SACS continued from page 1

Highlands School.

"This was a nice serendipity, because we had the opportunity to guide the design of our "own" plan for improvement as opposed to coming into the middle of an existing plan," said Bomengen. "Guiding the faculty, staff, students, and parents through the self-study was a great way for Mark and I to learn about the history of Highlands School, the strengths and challenges it has and how to move the school forward."

At the beginning of the school year, a survey was distributed to teachers, staff, students, and parents. "We asked them to identify the three main strengths of the school, and to list three things they would change about the school if they could," Bomengen said. "The results of this survey formed the starting point for everything we did for SACS and re-accreditation. We were able to use the data to inform the process and structure the new School Improvement Plan."

Between SACS reviews, it is the school's duty to maintain accurate records and to continually analyze them to see if improvement plan goals are being met, whether the goals need to be revised or adjusted, and what other issues may have arisen to influence the school's ability to achieve its goals, said Bomengen.

"Ideally, this process is supervised by the principal and entails communication among the School Improvement Team, the faculty and staff, the students, the parents, and other community stakeholders. This is

called the 'guided self-study,'" she said.

Getting ready for evaluation included everything from cleaning the school from head to toe, to formulating presentations at every grade level to provide a "visual" story of the school's current performance and future aspirations.

Highlands School teachers divided up the 10 standards for school accreditation, with each school committee taking one or two standards. They compiled evidence to show that the school is meeting the standards and designed a brief presentation for the Visiting Team.

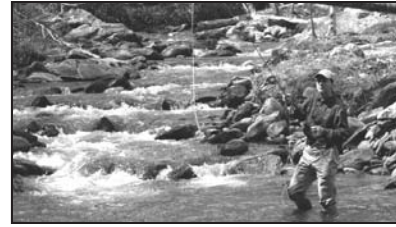
"Standards Nine - Citizenship - was assigned to a group of high school students. The presentations ranged from PowerPoint to tri-fold display boards to picture displays," said Bomengen. "The Visiting Team was very complimentary in their remarks to the faculty."

By the end of April, the SACS visiting team will summarize its findings, including commendations and recommendations.

"Highlands School has always passed the SACS accreditation process with flying colors," said Dr. Melissa Porter, with the Macon County Schools central office. "What makes Highlands School dynamic is the fantastic faculty and staff. High expectations for behavior and academics will always yield a successful school and the foundation of any successful school is its staff."

At May's PTO meeting, SACS presentations will be displayed.

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Photos by Barbara Lawrence

Highlands Rotary inducts new members



Sponsored by Luther Turner and Selwyn Chalker, the Rev. Brian Sullivan became a new member of the Rotary Club of Highlands on April 5. Rev. Brian admired the Rotary Centennial coin. Kay Gorecki, executive director of the Bascom-Louise Gallery, was also inducted.

... LOTTERY continued from page 1

will then be ratified and signed by Governor Easley.

Projected receipts for the Macon County school system is \$612,635 of a \$200 million total for the state.

"I'm torn on it for a variety of reasons, the money should go directly to support education," said County Manager Sam Greenwood. "If they are dedicated to education it could work, but there are better models for the lottery in neighboring states."

A lottery failed in 2002 in the House by 19 votes. The Senate has voted three times - in 1989, 1991 and 1993 - for a lottery. In 1993 it failed when Democrats, who typically support a lottery, held a 26-24 majority.

As it stands now, North Carolina dollars support neighboring states' lottery games. Officials say North Carolina loses \$300 million a year in lottery proceeds and an additional \$50 million to \$100 million a year in sales tax revenue to them.

Proponents say states implement lotteries for two main reasons. The first is the recent trend of state courts ordering departments of education to increase spending in order to ensure adequate educational opportunities for all students. As a result, states are forced to seek alternate funding sources.

The second is that states are playing a larger role in setting academic goals for public schools, and in turn they want more say in how education funds are spent.

But Greenwood said there are no guarantees with the state. "Things aren't always what they appear to be," he said. "The greater bulk could go toward

Raleigh play money than actually help education."

Bomengen sites three primary problems with using lotteries to fund public education.

The first is that it is essential that states commit to use lottery funds to enhance, not replace, education funding appropriations. The Georgia Lottery has demonstrated that if a state legislature is willing to designate the entire net proceeds of a lottery for education only, it is possible to finance major reforms, such as the HOPE Scholarship.

"I was a teacher in Gwinnett County when Zell Miller first began proposing the Georgia Lottery," said Bomengen. "The initial funding initiatives were technology infrastructure and HOPE Scholarships, including teacher scholarships for masters' degree programs."

The second problem with lotteries is it's not possible to predict revenues with much accuracy. Income generated by lotteries depends on the size of the jackpots. Economic history also shows that revenues from all lotteries tend to decrease over time.

And finally, lotteries are not efficient ways to generate revenue compared to the imposition of taxes. On average, states award about half of the monies generated by lotteries as prizes. Administrative costs can range from 3 percent to nearly 30 percent.

One study cited in *Education Week* found that "a typical tax imposed by a state requires just a nickel to raise a dollar; lotteries require between 10 and 40 cents."

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Dr. Lindsay practiced in Brevard, NC, for 14 years prior to relocating to Cashiers. A native of High Point, NC, Dr. Lindsay earned his medical degree from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in 1988 and completed both his internship and residency in family practice at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC, finishing in 1991. He is also an experienced emergency room physician.

He is board certified in family practice, and a member of both the American Academy of Family Practice and the North Carolina Academy of Family Practice.

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Bill Martin, vice president of the Highlands Community Foundation presented Highlands School Principal Monica Bomengen with a check for \$2,500 to fund staff development for the mathematics faculty to attend Accelerated Math training.

Highlands Community Foundation makes grants for community programs

The Highlands Community Foundation (HCF) has announced two grants in support of local projects:

Macon County Sheriff's Department received money to clothe inmates and Highlands School recieved money to finance Accelerated Math training.

The HCF is an affiliate of The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (CFWNC). CFWNC is a non-profit organization that has served the mountain region for the

past 27 years by professionally managing charitable funds created by individuals and families, and by using those funds to make grants to local non-profit organizations.

Individuals wishing to make a tax deductible gift to the HCF should make a check payable to CFWNC-Highlands Community Foundation and mail it to P.O. Box 1150, Highlands, NC 28741.

For more information about the CFWNC call (828) 254-4960 or visit www.cfwnc.org.



Sam Hollis, chairman of the Highlands Community Foundation with Macon County Sheriff Robbie Holland and Pat Smith, president of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. Holland received a check for \$1,473.60 to purchase winter clothing for inmates who pick up trash along the highways as part of the Community Inmate Beautification Project.

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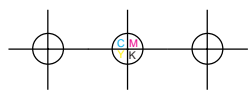
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Remembering the Pope

The year was 1980, and we had just finished our concert at the Hall of Five Hundred in Florence's Palazzo Vecchio. As I went off the stage, a very excited staff member approached me with the news that the Vatican had just called and said they would like for my Boy Choir to sing at Pope John Paul II's Wednesday audience in St. Peter's Square. Could we do it?

You can imagine my reaction, not being a Catholic, or having a clue to what this would involve. Fortunately, I said yes without even reflecting on it.

Immediately we set about changing all our tour plans, dates etc., in order to prepare for this historic occasion. Right away we left for Rome with 50 choir boys, numerous older counselors and a staff which included musicians, a doctor and a nurse.

The Vatican had secured lodgings for us in Rome, at the beautiful Domus Maria Convent which is on Via Ardeatina. There, the nuns served food for the boys, which was truly heavenly. Fortunately, there was also a large chapel with an organ where we could begin learning the Latin works to be performed at the Papal Ceremony.

Upon arrival in Rome, I called my old friend, Monsignor Colino, choir director at St. Peter's, and asked him to immediately send me some suitable music for the event. We rehearsed intensely Monday and Tuesday and when the important day came, we were ready.

Our large motor buses arrived at St. Peter's near the Bernini Columns and there waiting to greet us were several Vatican representatives in their white ties and tails with two very tall Swiss guards carrying their lances. With great difficulty, we made our way through the throng of tens of thousands to the Pope's Dias. The boys were photographed, patted on their heads and blessed by scores of priests and nuns.

Once inside the Papal Enclosure, the Pope arrived and began the service during which we were coached by a young American Priest. We sang the liturgy of the Mass, as well as several Medieval Latin motets, and the Pope gave his homily in 15 different languages, an ability which enchanted

Fletcher Wolfe is founder and was director of the world renowned Atlanta Boy Choir for 45 years. He is now retired and lives in Sky Valley. Wolfe recounts his 20-year relationship with the late Pope John Paul II and how it changed his life.



Fletcher Wolfe and his Atlanta Boy Choir with Pope John Paul II during one of their several visits to the Vatican in Rome.



On the Pope's way out of the square after his Wednesday audience, he stopped the procession and summoned Fletcher's wife, Bobbe, over to the barrier where he greeted and shook her hand.

the boys.

At the end of the service as the Pope's procession passed by, he suddenly stopped and came over to speak with me. Unaware of the protocol for meeting the Pope, I wondered what to do. After all, does a non-Catholic kiss his ring?

Not to worry, as he came up he grabbed me by the arm, gave me a warm embrace and said how beautifully the boys sang. He asked if we could sing something else for him. I said, unfortunately we had exhausted our liturgical repertoire during the services, but we could sing something secular if he wished. He said yes, please, and the boys began singing some German Folk Songs, which they had prepared for their tour. He listened intently, and then said, he knew and loved those songs and would we mind if he joined in. Would we mind? It was truly a love fest. He hugged the boys, blessed the crosses of the Catholic boys and invited us to come again.

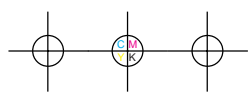
On his way out of the square one of his assistants mentioned that my wife, Bobbe, was in the audience. He stopped the procession and summoned her over to one side of the barrier where he greeted and shook her hand.

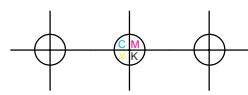
You can imagine the exhilaration and excitement we all had at this moving, monumental experience. Newspapers from all over the world picked up the pictures of the boys and the Pope over the Associated Press wire.

This was to be the first of many occasions over the years where the choir was invited to sing at St. Peter's and to renew our relationship with the Holy Father.

The next invitation from the Vatican came the next year in 1981. We made plans and once again were asked to sing for the Papal audience. Then the event which shocked the world; on May 13, 1981 the Pope was shot!

On our arrival in Rome, Maria Pia Fanfani, the choir's Italian Patroness and wife of the Prime Minister, sent word that the choir was to go to R.A.I. Television Station where they were waiting for us to make a tape which would be shown to the Pope in his





hospital room.

A few days later, several of the choir boys delivered the film to the hospital. On this trip the boys sang Mass inside St. Peter's, where everyone prayed for a speedy recovery of the Holy Father.

Several years went by, and we were again invited to sing for the outside audience with Pope John Paul II. This time I took along my men's choir, as well as the boys. The Pope arrived in his "Popemobile," greeting the men and boys and insisting on standing in the middle of them for photographs.

Also, amazingly, once again on his way out of the square, he recognized my wife in the crowd, even though she was wearing a Minnie Pearl style hat. He came over to speak to her. She's still embarrassed and wished the photographer had skipped this one.

We were scheduled to sing Mass the following Saturday evening at St. Peter's and the Pope said, although he would not be able to officiate, he would hear us sing. After the Mass was over, the men and boys were processing out of the square, still in their robes, when a voice came over the loud speaker at the Pope's Balcony expressing appreciation for the choir from Atlanta and their beautiful singing.

Time had gone by for both of us, as his amazing Papal Duties took him all over the world for the cause of peace. Truly he was the most important person of our time. Our choirs also traveled a great deal during this period, giving concerts around the world and going back to Rome now and then to sing at St. Peter's. Time takes a toll, but as one gets older and reflects on life's many experiences, certainly nothing could ever equal those of my having been with this loving and spiritual man who embodies the spirit of Christ on Earth. I can say with him, I experienced this spirit in person.

2000 marked the year of the Jubilee in the Catholic Church, and we were again invited to sing Mass at St. Peter's for this historical occasion. By this time The Pope was growing frail, and we all wondered how he could keep such a pace and survive. We soon found out.

We were summoned once more to sing for the Papal audience, but this time it was not held in the great square where the attendance numbered 50,000, but in the recently constructed Papal Audience Chamber,



which accommodates some 15,000 worshipers. Many of the other pilgrims could not get in, but did see it on closed television.

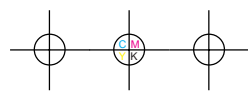
As the red robed boys found their spot in this cavernous assemblage, word came down from the Dias that we were to sing the Battle Hymn of the Republic. After their performance the Pope gave us a high sign and invited us to join him on the platform.

He hugged the boys, blessed me and gave me a rosary, which I treasure. He also got into the middle of the choir to have his picture made and this time a picture of him with one of our Chinese boys made papers around the world.

This was the last time I saw the Pope in person. He is gone now, and lately I have been very sad, but I realize what a privilege it was for us to have had these experiences.

It is true that great men are usually simple. Pope John Paul II was such a man, but also he was the Vicar of Christ.

Wolfe with the Atlanta Boy Choir in the great square outside St. Peter's while the crowd and Pope John Paul II look on.



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A Monte Carlo night out for 'Literacy'

The excitement of a casino and the drama of an auction house come together under one roof for "A Night in Monte Carlo," sponsored by the Literacy Council of Highlands on Friday, April 29 at the Highlands Country Club, a new location for this year.

Dozens of local merchants and dining establishments have donated a significant number of gifts and services for the live and silent auctions. Items may include

jewelry, hand blown glass, paintings, sporting goods, gift certificates to many of the area's finest restaurants, as well as the area's finest lodging establishments and golf packages from some of Highlands' distinguished golf

courses and much more.

Several of Highlands' most talented chefs have created a variety of heavy hors d'oeuvres for the evening. Snacks will be offered as well. Beverages will include wine, beer and soft drinks. Set ups are available for this BYOB event. If you are feeling lucky then, tickets for "A Night in Monte Carlo" are \$50 in advance or at the door and are subject to availability.

For more information about

"A Night in Monte Carlo," or to learn more about the Literacy Council and its programs, contact Breta Stroud at 526-9938, Ext. 240.

All proceeds benefit the programs at the Literacy Council.



Play 'Anne Frank' coming to PAC

'The Diary of Anne Frank' is the Highlands Community Players (HCP) next production to be presented at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center May 5-8, 14 and 15.

Based on the famous diary written by 13-year-old Anne while her family was in hiding from the Nazis during the final years of World War II, the play chronicles the everyday life of the two Jewish families occupying close quarters of the "secret annex."

The Frank family includes Mr. and Mrs. Frank, played by David Spivey

and Millie McKim; daughters Margot and Anne, played by Callie Rawlins and Kayla Bott; the other family, Mr. and Mrs. Van Damm played by Leon Hananel and Jean Morris, and their son Peter played by Ian Holloway.

Stuart Armor plays the dentist Mr. Dussel; Erin Brown plays his assistant Miep; Carlos Green plays Mr. Kraler, the factory owner; and Jason Moore rounds out the cast as a Nazi storm trooper.

For ticket information call 526-8084.

Highlands Audubon Society line-up of events through May

On Saturday, April 30, the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will host a work day on the Highlands Greenway Trail. Plans include building steps and cleaning up the trail. Meet at the Rec Center North Picnic Shelter at 9 a.m.. Contact Edwin Poole (526-2775) if you have questions.

Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers is the title of the program to be presented by Scott Dean of Asheville on Tuesday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. For this kick-off event, the Chapter will host a pot-luck supper beginning at 6 p.m. Drinks will be provided. Bring a favorite food item and

join the group before the program. If you have questions, contact Kay Poole, 526-2775.

Plans for Highland Audubon's only fund-raising event of the year are under way. This year's Birdathon will be held May 21, lead by Edwin Poole, Don McCormick, and Brock Hutchins Pledges

will be solicited by each team for how many bird species can be identified on that Saturday with all participants treated to lunch after the event at The Pizza Place on Main Street in Highlands.

Contact Mary Jo Askew at 526-1750 after April 24.

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I Cor. 15:12-26



Hunter Coleman
First Presbyterian Church

It's one thing to say that we can never be sure exactly how the resurrection happened; it's quite another to say, as some in the so called Christian revisionist movement say, that it doesn't matter if it happened, or, for certain it did not happen. What's important is Jesus' spiritual resurrection, his on going spiritual influence. The truth of Easter, say the revisionists, is grounded in the continued experience of Jesus through the centuries, not on what did or didn't happen on a particular Sunday, 2000 yrs ago.

St. Paul says it does matter. The bodily resurrection of Jesus is central to our faith. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sin. Christianity without the physical resurrection of Christ is mere faith. It is faith in faith. It is faith in eternal verities. It not faith in the living, breathing, walking God. Without the physical resurrection, death doesn't die.

Thomas Lynch in his book "The Undertaking," challenges the revisionists. "Easter," he writes, "was a body and blood thing, no symbols, no euphemisms, no half measures. If God had raised anything less, as St Paul points out, there would be no Christian faith."

The resurrection — did or did it not happen? Is God in control or not? Is human existence rooted and grounded in divine justice and righteousness or is it merely a scramble for wealth and power? Is humanity's best efforts poured into an abyss? Where does the final word lie? With love, goodness, and truth, or with hatred, evil and error? Is there a supreme power that vindicated Jesus' life and death by restoring him to life?

"Why do you seek the living among the dead?" The angel's question to the women who had come to anoint Jesus' dead body, answers the question. On the third day, he

• See SPIRITUALLY page 16

• PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU •

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Rock" meeting.

Tuesdays: Women's Bible Study — 9:45

Wed: Supper — 6 p.m.; Bible Study — 6:45 p.m.

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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

Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall — 8

Wednesdays: Liturgy Mtg — 4 p.m.; Christian Education — 5

p.m.; Supper & Program — 6 p.m.

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Prayer — 6:15 p.m., Choir — 7:30 p.m.

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. — 7 p.m.

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Sundays: School — 10 a.m.; Worship — 10:45 a.m.; Evening

Worship — 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study — 7

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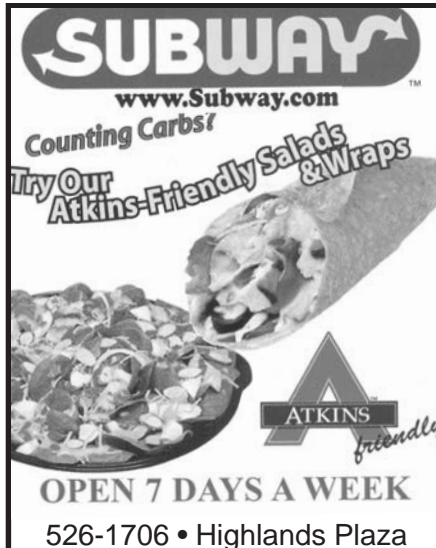
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POLICE & FIRE

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of April 7-13. The only names printed are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

April 7

- At 7 a.m., officers responded to a gas drive-off at the U.S. 64 Stop & Shop.

- At 6:10 p.m., officers were called to Town Hall for a security matter.

April 8

- At 8:10 p.m., officers took a call concerning a domestic situation.

April 9

- At 3:20 & 3:30 p.m., officers took complaints about a dog on Mirror Lake Rd.

- At 4 p.m., officers issued a nuisance dog notice to an owner on Mirror Lake.

- At 8:30 p.m., an injured man was dropped off at the police station. He was taken to the hospital.

April 10

- At 10:45 a.m., a motorist was cited for driving without a license.

- At 1 p.m., a man was cited for selling crafts in the Conference Center parking lot.

- At 6 p.m., suspicious activity was reported at a house on U.S. 64 west but it was unfounded.

April 11

- At 7:12 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Brushy Face.

April 12

- A little past midnight, officers helped a motorist change a tire on Main St.

- At 8:30 a.m., a resident reported losing his license.

- At 11 a.m., officers responded to an alarm on N.4th St. All was secure.

April 13

- A little past midnight, officers responded to an alarm at RBC Centura Bank. All was secure.

- At 7:20 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 64 mph in a 35 zone at N.C. 28 and Sassy Lane.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue log entries for April 7.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Shortoff Rd.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Elm Drive.

Group home worker charged with sex crimes against children

During the evening of April 6, Macon County Deputies responded to a local Children's Home after a report of a sexual assault. Macon County detectives arrested an employee of The Children's Home Inc. Family Restoration Program for committing sexual acts against one of the females residing at the Children's Home.

Torrey Fitzgerald Wilcox, age 34,

was charged initially with one felony count of Crimes Against Nature and one felony count of Sexual Activity by Custodian.

He was arrested and about to be released on a \$10,000 bond when detectives learned of his committing other sexual acts with two additional female juveniles at the home. Prior to leaving the jail, detectives arrested him

again and this time bond was set at \$125,000.

"Mr. Wilcox was hired and entrusted by the Children's Home Inc. to assist in caring for children living at their facility, many of whom are dealing with a wide variety of issues," said Sheriff Robert Holland. "Wilcox violated that trust and only contributed to the problems any of

these girls may have already been living with." Sheriff Holland concludes,

Holland said his department will continue to investigate the allegations and build a case against Wilcox. "I intend to advocate for Wilcox to be prosecuted and dealt with to the fullest extent of the law," he said.

• HIGHLANDS UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

- Al-Anon Group meets at noon on Thursdays in the Community Room at First Presbyterian Church.
- Mountainview Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the remodeled basement room of the Presbyterian Church sanctuary, Mondays in Highlands at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wed. and Fri. at noon.

April 16

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5 mile hike from Whitewater Falls (highest falls in NC) to Bad Creek Reservoir. Trillium and other wildflowers will be in bloom. Meet at Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m., or at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:50 a.m. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8124, for reservations or more information.

April 17

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike on the Kimsey Creek trail where many wildflowers will be in bloom. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 5-mile hike to Rough Run and High Falls near Glenville, with many wildflowers in bloom. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 1:30 p.m. Call leader, Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations or more information.

April 15-17

- At OEI – Burgundy Wine Weekend at The Old Edwards Inn and Spa Friday, April 15 – Sunday, April 17. For additional information or to make reservations, please call 828-526-8008.

April 18 & April 20

- An American Red Cross Adult CPR with AED, Infant/Child CPR, and First Aid Basics course, will be sponsored by the Macon County Public Health Center. The course will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2005 from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at the Macon County Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Drive. You may take individual parts or the entire course. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay at the Macon County Public Health Center before Monday, April 18, 2005. If you have questions, please call Jennifer at 349-2439.

April 19-20

- High School Comprehensive Test for 10th Grade.

April 20

- Macon County Senior Games registration deadline is Wednesday, Games and SilverArts events run from April 25-May 14. Dozens of sports and artistic categories, Senior Follies May 7, annual banquet May 14. Registration fee: \$10. Call 349-2090 for details.

April 21

- Flying Single in a Couple's World -- All single adults are invited to the group's first covered dish dinner at the Church of the Incarnation's Jones Hall at 6 p.m.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 5-mile hike to Rough Run and High Falls near Glenville, with many wildflowers in bloom. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:30 a.m. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader, Carl Blozan, 742-1765, for reservations or more information.

April 22

- The Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau is sponsoring a plant "walkabout" to identify some of the native plants of the Highlands Plateau. This experience is offered as a wildflower walk at a beautiful garden in Highlands. The rain date of the 25th. Meet at the Gazebo on Pine Street at 9:45 to carpool. We will be going to a place that cannot accommodate a lot of parking. No need to RSVP—just show up wearing comfortable shoes and a bottle of water. We return to the gazebo in time for lunch.

April 23

- Highlands-Cashiers Earthday Celebration. Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Village Green, Cashiers (Weather Permitting) Live music and fun, free admission Hosted by UCWA, JMCA & H-C Land Trust. Call (828) 526-9938 ext 230 for more info.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6-mile hike in Panthertown Valley over Blackrock mtn. to see trillium, pink shell azaleas, and three waterfalls. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:30 a.m. Call leader, Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations or more information.

April 24

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous, STEEP 2.5 mile hike to Yellow Mountain, the highest in the Highlands area at 5,127 feet., with a 360 view from an old fire lookout tower. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 1:30 p.m. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations or more information.

April 25

- Annual Spring Cleanup Coming. The Town has designated the weeks of April 25 and May 23 as Spring Cleanup Week this year. Residents may arrange for the collection of white goods, such as old washing machines or refrigerators, during that week by calling the Town Office at 526-2118 during business hours, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

April 26

- The Chamber of Commerce Annual Spring Fling at Fressers Eatery in Helen's Barn, 6-9 p.m. Music provided by HOTt Acts. Tickets \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Call the Chamber at 526-5841 for reservations.

April 26

- The "High Mountain Squares" will NOT square-dance on Tuesday, April 19. They WILL dance Tuesday, at the Macon Middle School on Wells Grove road, Franklin from 7 to 9:30 p.m.. JACK HOWIE, Greenville, SC. Will call Mainstream & Plus. All modern western square dancers are very welcome!! Info: 828-349-0905/706-782-9846

April 29

- "A Night in Monte Carlo" sponsored by the Literacy Council of Highlands at Highlands Country Club. Tickets are \$50 in advance or a the door. For more information call 526-9938, ext. 240. Ticket includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and snacks, wine, beer, soft drinks and set-ups for BYOB.

April 30

- Audubon Work Day on Highlands Greenway Trail. Meet at the Rec Center North Picnic Shelter, 9 a.m. For more information contact Edwin Poole, 526-

2775.

- The Nature Center is offering a workshop for adults on stream salamander communities, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Teachers can receive 3 science contact hours towards one CEU. Learn to identify species, collect and measure aquatic salamanders, and examine the relationship between stream microhabitat use and body size. Bring shoes for wading. Cost: \$15. Pre-registration is required due to limited space. To register, call 526-2623 by April 16.

- "A Taste of New Orleans" Dinner, Art, Jazz. Dinner 7 p.m., music 8:30 p.m. Paintings & Giclee prints. Cash Bar. Wine and Beer. Reservations required by Friday April 22. Call 828-349-0502.

Through May

- Artist Sharon Eng's mixed media collages and abstract photographs are on display through May at New Mountain Medicine, 1573 Highlands Road, Franklin, just off the Hwy. 64 East Bypass. Call Dr. Carlos Vargas at 828-349-4747 for hours or to arrange a special appointment to see the exhibit.

May 3-5

- Last Month for Competency Test for Seniors only.

May 7

- Audubon Birdwalk, Rich Gap Road for spring migrants. Meet at the Town Hall Parking lot at 7:30 a.m. to car pool. For more information contact Edwin Poole, 526-2775.

May 10

- Highlands School PTO meeting at Highlands School – 6 p.m.

- Audubon Program, Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers, Scott Dean of Western North Carolina, Naturally. Potluck supper at 6 p.m., program 7:30 p.m., Highlands Civic Center. For more information contact Edwin Poole, 526-2775.

May 16

- Highlands School Athletic Banquet at the Rec Park. 6 p.m.

May 19

- InterChurch Pot Luck Supper at Our Lady of the Mountains Church at 6 p.m. For more info, call Pat Griffin at 526-2418.

May 20

- Highlands School Academic Banquet at the Conference Center. 6 p.m.

May 21

- Bird-a-thon, a day of counting birds to raise funds for Audubon programs. Mark your calendar and watch for more details.

May 23

- Highlands School Awards Assembly grades 8-12 in the new gym at 10 a.m.
- Annual Spring Cleanup Coming. The Town has designated the weeks of April 25 and May 23 as Spring Cleanup Week this year. Residents may arrange for the collection of white goods, such as old washing machines or refrigerators, during that week by calling the Town Office at 526-2118 during business hours, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

June 3

- Highlands School Scholarship Assembly for Seniors in the old gym at the school at 10 a.m.

... SPIRITUALLY from page 13

arose. Mary's boy, God's only son, got up physically by the power of Almighty God and walked out of the tomb to live and reign forever more.

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On the third day, Jesus got up and walked out through the tomb's open door. Before

ascending back to heaven, he invited followers huddled in fear in an upper room to reach out and touch the scars on his hands and side; later he appeared to them again, showed them his hands and feet, reminded them a ghost doesn't have hands and feet and asked for something to eat; ...he broke bread at the end of a long day with two disillusioned followers; cooked breakfast for a boat load of turncoats and asked them to rejoin his expedition for people.

Everything about love that was fleshed out in Jesus, everything that makes it the milk and

honey of the promise land, the heavenly treasure that thieves can't steal, moth and rust can't consume, ...its heart, soul, mind, and strength together as one got up that Sunday morning and walked out...., never more to die.

In this season of Easter tide, let us walk through the door marked "belief," the door that opens to the empty tomb, to resurrection and life everlasting. We don't have to cower in fear. We don't need to hold back parts of ourselves from others. We can love as Jesus commands: with our whole being- - our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

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HIGH COUNTRY CAFE — Now accepting applications for all positions. Apply in person or call 526-0572. Located on Cashiers Road next to Community Bible Church. EOE.

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER: We currently have an opening for an LPN or RN: 3pm to 11pm and an opening for an RN 7pm to 7am. If you are looking to join a team whose focus is on excellent elder care with a low staffing ratio, above average wages, excellent benefits, and shift differentials, call. We are also accepting applications for PRN CNAs. Pre-employment substance screening. Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

CNA II - HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL, Acute Care/Emergency Room. Must have current CNA II certificate for NC. Computer

skills, people skills. this position will allow you to make the most use of your CNA II skills! Full time position. Excellent benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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SECRETARY - HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL FOUNDATION. Typing, dictation/transcription, data entry. Monday through Friday and some Saturdays. Must have excellent organizational skills. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER: We currently have openings for CNAs: 7am to 7pm, 7pm to 7am, 1pm to 3pm, and 1pm to 11pm. If you are looking to join a team whose focus is on excellent elder care with a low staffing ratio, above average wages, excellent benefits, and shift differentials, call. We are also accepting applications for PRN CNAs. Pre-employment substance screening. Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

DIETARY AIDES AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Two full-time positions are open. Duties include working patient tray line and cafeteria line, stock kitchen, wash dishes. Excellent benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

ELECTRICIAN/MAINTENANCE MECHANIC - HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. General maintenance with an emphasis on electrical repairs. Work Monday-Friday, one Saturday per month, 8 hours per day. Excellent benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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REAL ESTATE - SALES

HOUSE FOR SALE — Highlands Country Club. On Golf Course. Walk to facilities. 3-4 bedrooms, 3 baths. generator. Call 404-376-2906.

HOME FOR SALE NEARLY NEW 3 bed, 2 bath— King Mountain Club, Atlanta side of Highlands. Immaculate. Large lot borders USFS — Creek on back of property. View of Scaly Mtn. 2-car garage, wood-burning fireplace, gas furnace - stove, large kitchen, wood floors, all on one level. Year-round caretaker, pool, tennis court, stocked trout pond. Asking \$399,000. Easy to see Call Sandy at (TLC Assoc.) 828-526-5632. 4/29

ITEMS FOR SALE

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LUMBER FOR SALE — Wormy Hickory. 750 feet at \$20 per foot. Call Larry at 828-369-6183.

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

JO LAURA CHAPMAN

Any persons, firms, or corporations having claims against Jo Laura Chapman, Deceased, are notified to exhibit them to J. Wiley Hicks, Personal Representative of the Deceased's Estate, at the address of the Estate's undersigned attorney, on or before June 29, 2005, or be barred from their recovery thereafter. Debtors of the Deceased are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Executor at the same address.

DATED: March 16, 2005

John R. Mayer
Attorney at Law, PLLC
511 Smallwood Avenue
Post Office Box 750
Highlands, N.C. 28741
(828) 526-3731
(828) 526-3734 FAX
jack@jackmayerlaw.com

Annual Spring Cleanup set for two weeks in April and May

The Town has designated the weeks of April 25 and May 23 as Spring Cleanup Week this year. Residents may arrange for the collection of white goods, such as old washing machines or refrigerators, during that week by calling the Town Office at 526-2118 during business hours, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Old Edwards Inn and Spa joins National Trust Historic Hotels of America

The Old Edwards Inn and Spa has joined National Trust Historic Hotels of America, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The resort is one of more than 2,100 hotels and resorts throughout the country recognized for preserving and maintaining historical integrity, architecture and ambiance.

"We are so pleased to be associated with HHA," said General Manager and CEO, Mario Gomes. "The historical integrity of this property is so valuable to the community and to this area. We are pleased that our protection of it has been recognized in this official way." The Old Edwards Inn and Spa re-opened in July 2004 as a luxury destination spa resort after more than \$40M and two years of renovation, restoration, and expansion.

The trend of cultural travel in America continues to grow, said Thierry Roch, Executive Director of Historic Hotels of America. "By inviting Old Edwards Inn and Spa into our collection of distinguished properties, we are

continuing to encourage historic preservation while at the same time showcasing this hotel's rich history. Our goal is to bring these historically special hotels and their authentic experiences to the attention of the traveling public."

Established in 1989 with 32 charter members, National Trust Historic Hotels of America is a diverse collection of properties ranging from large luxury hotels in major cities to small-town inns, country retreats and polished resorts throughout the country.

AAA ranks OEI 4-star

In the nine months since OEI opened its doors, it has been designated a four-star facility by AAA.

"Only four percent of hotels inspected get four stars," said CEO Mario Gomes. "Getting that rating usually takes years."

Only 120 hotels in the U.S. are rated four-star by the American Automobile Association.

... OEI continued from page 1

ting into the driveway of the street, nor is there room for parking spaces.

At the March 16 Town Board meeting, the re-building of the structure on the old foundation caused commissioners to question an ordinance they amended a year ago allowing buildings in the setback to be rebuilt on the same foundation. Though OEI was "legally" allowed to rebuild the structure under the amended ordinance, they stopped to rethink the entire scenario. "They don't want any more negativity to surround what they are doing," said Mayor Buck Trott.

Now, OEI wants the 50-ft. strip rezoned B1 from B3 along Church Street which will allow for a sidewalk and four or five parking places.

If rezoned, it will match the B1 zoning currently along Fourth Street and directly behind the Christmas Tree Shop. The rezoning would start where B1 leaves off just inside Church Street.

If rezoned, OEI wants to bring the building on the bluff down to the street. "We want to put everything on street level and the back wall of the new building will act as a retaining wall,"

said OEI's CEO Mario Gomes.

"Re-zoning of the strip solves three problems," said Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein. "It cleans up the streetscape, solves the setback problem and creates more parking."

Commissioner Amy Patterson voted against the rezoning request. "B1 was a zone we allowed to retro-fit a problem that already existed - businesses that couldn't provide parking. I don't think we should allow it if parking can be provided."

The new scenario provides for four or five additional parking spaces on Church Street, but they won't be technically appropriated to the property.

Commissioner Herb James said he liked the plan better than previous plans. "It looks better than having that big, high bank," he said.

Commissioner Hank Ross said that he had no problem with the plan, as long as the B-1 zone ended just east of the new building.

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf voted against rezoning until he sees how the Church Street plan plays in the master plan for the entire property.

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6 - Mountain Vacation Rentals
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Cliffside Lake 6 Miles
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<<< FRANKLIN, N.C.

Franklin Rd. Hwy 64w 18 Miles
The Fun Factory
Whistlestop Antique Mall

Cashiers Road, Hwy 64e ↑

Whiteside Mt Hiking Trail 7 Miles
High Country Cafe 5 Miles
Highlands-Cashiers Hospital 4 Miles
Good Year Tire & Repair 3 Miles
Highlands Outdoor Tool 2 Miles
TWIGS 1/4 Mile ↑

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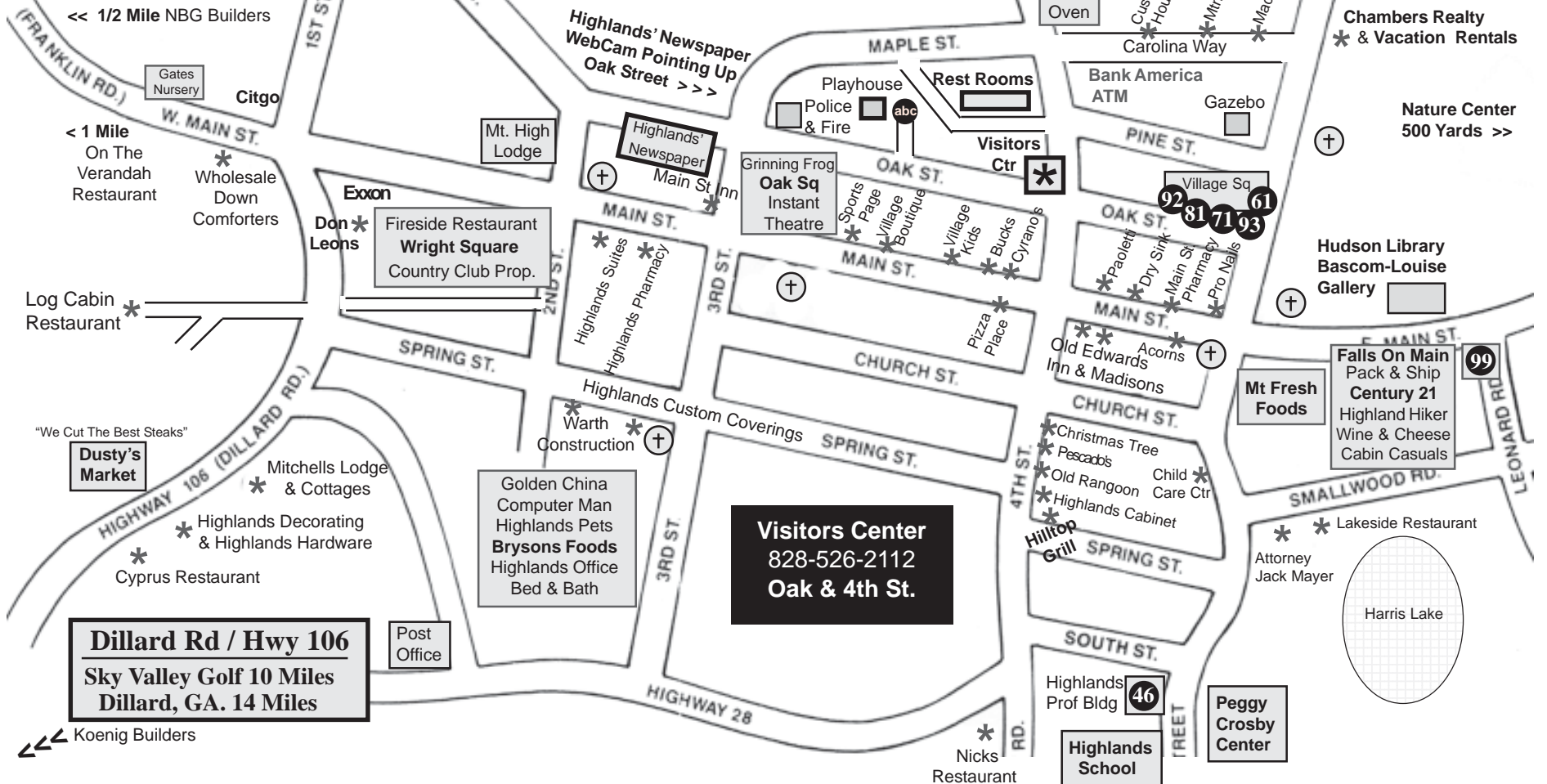
Highlands Playhouse

presents:
"Too Marvelous For Words"
June 24 - July 10
Box Office on Oak Street
828-526-2695

Mountain Fresh Foods
Gourmet Selection - Main & 5th St.

The Instant Theatre
Oak Sq, - Fri. - 8pm
Resv: 828-342-9197

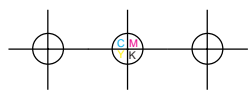
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"Falls on Main"
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Or Sit Down & Have A Glass



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Casual Sportswear
for the Whole Family!
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526-3320



Here's to Prom Night - April 16th!



The 2005 Junior-Senior Prom is at Highlands Falls Country Club, Saturday, April 16. Here's to the Class of 2005 – Angela Aspinwall, Kristi Billingsley, Holly Conard, Kathryn Coppage, Amy Crook, Michelle Dendy, Brooke Fowler, Jenna Greene, Hannah Hendricks, Christopher Houston, Catlin Huitt, Jeremy Keener, Matthew Keener, Andrew Kerhoulas, Russell Marling, Ian Marsden, Kayla McCall, Christopher Mouchet, Erin Munger, Stephanie Murray, Alex Osteen, Matthew Rice, Ali Roman, Iyali Ruiz, Brittany Sackman, Kelsey Schmitt, Travis Schultz, Allen Shearl, Janice Talley, McKenzie Thompson, Remington Veteto, Timothy Vos, Allison Waller, Robert Wilson, and Jessica Ziebarth.

Brick Oven
526-4121

Movie Stop
526-3283

**Jolie's
Zaldaña's**
526-3963 Main St.

The Bird Barn
526-3910

ANNAWEAR
Main Street
256-4660

Ristorante Paoletti
Mon-Sat 5:30-until
526-4906

Highlands Office Supply
Mon-Fri
526-3379 9-4

Highlands Inn
Main Street
526-9380

The Computer Man
Mon-Fri
526-1796 9-5

Bed & Bath Designs
Highlands Plaza
526-5222

High Country Photo
Mon-Fri 8-4:30
526-5280 Sat 10-3

**Mike Wilson
Wedding Photography**
526-5208

Blue Valley Builders
Custom Homes
526-1982

**Bryson's
Food Store**

Sports Page
Mon-Sat
526-3555 11-3

Farmer's Market
106 & Main Street
526-4382 6:30-11
Sun-Sat

Xtreme Threads
Mon-Sat 10-5 ■ Sun 12-5
526-4777

D & J Express Mart
526-2443
Sun-Sat 6-11

Lindy's
526-9637
Mon-Sat 10-5 Sun 12-5

**John Schiffli
Real Estate**
526-5750

Pizza Place
Sun-Thurs 11-9
Fri-Sat 11-10
526-5660

Village Kids
Main Street
526-5799

**The Little
Flower Shoppe**
526-3650

Buck's Coffee Cafe
Mon-Thurs 7:30-6
Fri-Sat 7:30-11
Sun 7:30-8

**Wayah Insurance
Group**
526-3713 ■ Call Now!

Mountainique
Mountainique Little Shop
Ladies apparel, accessories
526-5800

SweetTreats
Ice Cream & Coffee House
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T.J. Bailey
Men's Fashions
Town Square

TLC Associates
Real Estate & Property Management
526-5015

Colonel Mustard's
7 days 10-6
526-2687

