

Highlands' Newspaper

Highlands School newspaper – INSIDE

FREE

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On-going

- Yoga classes are at the Scaly Mountain Community Center Mondays at 5:45 and at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, Jane Woodruff Clinic, on Wednesdays at 5:15. Cost is \$12 per class or 10 classes for \$100. Pilates on Tues. and Thurs. at 5:15 p.m. \$10. Exercise to combat osteoporosis Mondays and Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. with Stacy Greene at HealthTracks.

- "Heart of the High Country" on Channel 14 Northland Cable Television, "Celebrating Life in the Mountains Today," airs daily at 8 a.m., 12 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 10 p.m., and 12 a.m.

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese at the Falls on Main, Wine Flights Fri. & Sat., 4:30-6:30. Open Mon.-Thurs. 10-5; Fri. & Sat. 10-6:30.

- The ITC's Evenings of Little Entertainments Friday at 8 p.m., through May. For reservations, call 342-9197. Reserved tickets are \$15, at the door \$20.

April 29

- Live music – "Cooking with Quanta" at 8 p.m. at Buck's Coffee Cafe.

- "A Night in Monte Carlo" at Highlands Country Club. Tickets are \$50. Tickets at the Bird Barn at Falls on Main.

April 30

- Live music – "Bo-Jam" at 8 p.m. at Buck's Coffee Cafe.

- The opening for the "Young Artists Exhibit" at the Bascom-Louise Gallery on Sat. from 5-7 p.m.

- Audubon Work Day on Highlands Greenway Trail. Meet at the Rec Center North Picnic Shelter, 9 a.m.

- Randy Shepherd with Crossfire Ministries joins The Fellowship of Christian Athletes Saturday, at 7 p.m. at the school gym.

May 1

- An old-fashioned Hymn Sing at the First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. The 1938 Cokesbury Humnal will be used.

May 2

- The regular meeting of the Highlands/Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary is Monday at 10 a.m. in the board room.

May 5-8

- HCP's "The Diary of Anne Frank" at PAC. The Box office at PAC is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays. Call 526-4904 for tickets. \$15 each, \$8 for children.

May 3

- T-Ball at Zachary Fields on Buck Creek Road. Yankees vs. Braves. 4 p.m.

May 5

- T-Ball at Zachary Fields on Buck Creek Road. Phillies vs. Yankees at 4 p.m.

- Democratic fundraiser with a Mexican flair at the Main Street Inn. Tickets \$25. Call 526-2590 for reservations.

Volume 3, Number 17

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, April 29, 2005

'Nonconforming' ordinance: Quite a conundrum

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

Like a prize fighter, beaten but not down for the count, the clash over nonconforming ordinances has given a jab to the Planning Board and has left them feeling a little dizzy.

"I don't understand why this is an issue," said Board Member Griffin Bell. "It seems pretty clear to me."

At the March 16 Town Board meeting, commissioners learned their interpretation of the amended version of Section

110 of the zoning ordinance differed from that of Town Administrator Richard Betz and the Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein.

At that meeting, commissioners learned that a building in the Church Street setback on Kelsey-Hutchinson property had been taken down to the foundation and was being rebuilt by Old Edwards Inn and Spa.

When commissioners voiced their

concern, Gantenbein told them he had warned them back in 2002 that if the ordinance was amended, the town would lose its chance to "get rid of" nonconforming buildings in the setback.

Commissioner Amy Patterson led the siege against the amended ordinance saying it was a matter of interpretation. Other commissioners agreed stating if a building is destroyed it shouldn't be rebuilt in the setback. "The ordinance is referring to

▪See NONCONFORMING page 24

County responds to town's concerns

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

At least some of the town's questions about county funding and ownership of the Highlands Rec Park have been addressed.

At the April 20 Town Board meeting, commissioners OK'd a letter to the county outlining seven areas of concern about the county's proposed Rec Park plan — the land and water conservation fund, other capital facilities, capital equipment, employees and benefits, operating expenses, recreation programs, and amount of funding.

"Many of the concerns expressed by the Town Board appear reasonable," said Macon County Commission Chair, Allan Bryson. "We want to give them the money but not take control of the property. It will remain with the town."

Bryson said at the upcoming May 2 county commissioners meeting he will recommend Macon County assume the costs of operating a combined recreation program with the Town of Highlands with the following understanding:

- Macon County will fund the operation of the combined recreation programs up to \$500,000 per year.

- The town will retain ownership and responsibility for recreation park operations.

- The Town recreation committee expanded to allow for representation from Macon County. The county representation will be the District I commissioner.

- Removal of the Performing Arts Center from the recreation budget.

▪See COUNTY page 24

Relay for Life officially begins



Dana Hamilton, with the WNC American Cancer Society, crowns this year's Relay for Life chairman Mayor Buck Trott and co-chair Pat Griffin. The Relay is set for Aug. 26-27. The monetary goal will be set at subsequent meetings.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Builder goes to bat for multi-family plans

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

A lack of R-3 zoning parcels in town has developers asking the tough questions.

One in particular, Bill Nellis, is lobbying to have ordinances relaxed for reasonable use of existing land. He addressed the Planning Board at its April 25 meeting.

The Land Use Planning Committee, comprised of the Planning Board, has focused on initiating more multi-family

housing in and around the central business district. However, they maintain it should be on a limited site-specific basis.

"For example replacing a trailer park would be fine because you're benefiting the community," said Griffin Bell.

Nellis cited the Carolina Court trailer park, which currently contains 26 trailers. He has purchased the property and plans to develop "Chestnut Walk" – a multi-family development similar to his Village

▪See MULTIFAMILY page 24

▪See SCHOOL BOARD page x

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FRI	SAT	SUN
		
70-49 °F	69-47 °F	64-40 °F

• LETTER TO THE EDITOR •

Appalled at Retail Merchants Association

Dear Editor

I was appalled to find that the Retail Merchants Association is lobbying hard to defeat a bill that would help to control the production of methamphetamine. The bill sponsored by Senator Snow and Senator Dalton and supported by the Attorney General's Office would seek to have Claritin D and Sudafed sold only by pharmacies behind the counter and in small amounts. It would require a photo I.D. and a signature. Gelcaps and liquid will not be affected at this time as legislators do not feel it can be cooked up to produce the deadly drug methamphetamine. The N.C. bill has been modeled after the Oklahoma legislation which has cut production by 80 percent. As recent articles have pointed out these labs have been appearing everywhere and many fires have occurred sometimes killing small children and rendering that area unfit for human habitation.

I am grateful to Sheriff Holland for bringing prisoners arrested on drug charges to our school to tell how their lives have been destroyed by its use. Thanks also to our two local pharmacists who said they would be happy to comply with these new regulations in order to save lives of our young people! It was also good to know that unlike many of the large retailers. Target has stated that they would be glad to comply with the proposed legislation.

Senator John Snow, co-sponsor of the bill has been invited to the Cinco de Mayo dinner at Main St. Inn to discuss this bill on May 5 at 6 p.m., (\$25). Call 526-2590 for reservations. (This is sponsored by the local Democratic Precinct) Please come and be informed and give our legislators enthusiastic support in this worthwhile endeavor.

Edna Foster
 Highlands

'Responsible selling' topic at ABC Board seminar this week

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

The Highlands ABC Board held a Responsible Alcohol Seller Program (RASP) Monday and many local businesses were in attendance.

The program taught how to detect underage and intoxicated patrons and the laws of alcohol sales.

"We're not hear to scare you, we're hear to make you all aware," said ABC Board representative Marnina Queen.

The class stressed that it is unlawful for both business owners and employees to sell alcohol to intoxicated individuals or to allow individuals to become intoxicated. Furthermore, if an inebriated person is involved in an accident, whoever sold that person alcohol is liable for an unlimited amount by the parties involved in the accident.

For example, in a situation where a

permittee's employee is alleged to have sold alcohol to an underage person and there is no prior history of violations, the usual fine is \$800 with no active suspension of the permits. These penalties may be increased when there is evidence of misconduct by the permittee himself, multiple violations or other unusual circumstances.

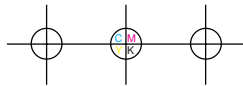
"I really learned how much we are legally responsible for another person's actions," said Ian Holloway, an employee at Buck's Coffee Café.

The ABC Commission Legal Division processes and prosecutes cases involving permittees charged with violations of the ABC laws. Agencies submitting these violations include Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE), Local ABC Officers, ABC Audit Division, sheriff and police departments.



Volunteer Denise Potts of D&J Express Mart wears simulator goggles to experience how it feels to be intoxicated above the legal limit.

Photo by Ian Holloway



• OBITUARY •

Highlands' Newspaper - Friday, April 29, 2005 - Page 3

Mamie Jo Stutts Gillaspie

Mamie Jo Stutts Gillaspie, 94, died April 19, 2005. She was a social worker in the early days in the field of geriatrics. Born in Thomasville, Ala., she graduated from Judson College, Tulane University School of Social Work, and worked for the Red Cross in New Orleans during the Depression.

Married to William A. Gillaspie, Jr., for 40 years, she raised a daughter and son; Nancy Elaine Gillaspie Luxemburger and William A. Gillaspie III.

After raising her children, she returned to her profession and became Director of Salhaven, a pioneering retirement village and nursing home in Jupiter, Fla. She was a delegate to the Second White House Conference on Aging during the Eisenhower era where she helped establish standards for licensing of nursing homes.

She retired to Highlands, renovated a log house and indulged her love of reading cookbooks and cooking. She was a talented cook and hostess and delighted her friends and family with wonderful meals. Her later years were spent in Atlanta at Campbell – Stone Apartments.

She is survived by her son and daughter both of Atlanta, three grandsons, their wives and six great-grandchildren: Peter and Murie and their children Nathan and Louise of Lausanne, Switzerland; Timothy and Ann and their children Holden and Camille; and Hans and Lynn and their children, Theo and Lucas of Atlanta.

A private memorial service is planned. Contributions may be sent to Campbell-Stone Apartments, 2911 Pharr Ct. South Atlanta, Ga., 30305.

• BIRTHS •

Adisyn Kara Westendorf

Scott and Danae Westendorf announce the birth of their daughter, Adisyn Kara on April 5, 2005. She weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. and was 19 3/4 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Joe and Karen Potts and David and Anita Chastain all of Highlands. Paternal grandparents are Dan and Dena Westendorf of Dallas, Ore. Maternal great-grandparents are Bob and Sammie Houston and Vivian Chastain of Highlands. Paternal great-grandparents are Fred and Donna Westendorf of Redmond, Oregon.



Adisyn Kara Westendorf

Caleb James Keener

Michael and Stephanie Keener of Basel, Switzerland, announce the birth of a son, Caleb James Keener. He was born on April 13, 2005, weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz., and 19 1/4 inches long.

He was welcomed home by his big brother, Christian. Paternal grandparents, Jamie and Mary Keener of Highlands, were also in Switzerland to welcome baby Caleb home.

MC Schools budget 'bare bones'

By Kim Lewicki

Over the last several months, Macon County School principals have been formulating their "wish list" budgets for 2005-2006. They were recently told to scrap them.

"They told me 'if we could get this or that, it would be great' but I told them to forget it," said Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell.

Months ago, Shotwell promised county commissioners the school budget wouldn't increase more than 10 percent. Mandatory annual increases relating to employees – increases out of the school system's control – have already put the 2005-2006 budget at more than nine percent over last year.

Priority increases involve medical insurance, hospitalization per employee, salaries — including a new mentor pay for new teachers of \$100 per month.

"Unexperienced teachers [the least paid] are paid for with the local budget. Now we have to pay for mentors for the new teachers, too," said Shotwell.

Funds transferred to charter schools on a per pupil basis have increased as have transportation costs, oil and gas, the school system's legal fees and more.

"For the past three years the state has been patching the budget with one-time fixes and it's all been to set us up for what they're doing to us right now," he said.

Shotwell will present the budget to the county commissioners May 2.

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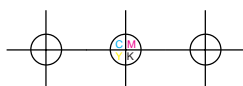
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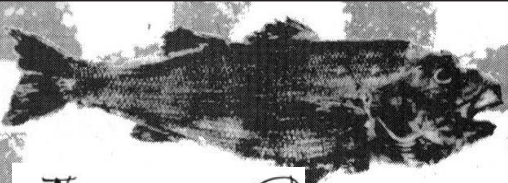
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Coming home...to Highlands

I knew it was time because at 7 a.m. I broke into a light sweat just getting the paper from the driveway. Yesterday I inadvertently leaned on a friend's car and burned my arm. I knew it was time when I picked up a quarter from the sidewalk and scorched an image of George Washington onto my thumb.

I knew it was time to come home.

If you had forgotten, I am a winter wimp. A person who is terrified of Old Man Winter and runs away to warmer places when he arrives. I do this because it is better than having my nose stopped up for six months. I hate breathing through my mouth for that long.

The little missus and I love Highlands. We have been this way since 1968 when we first set foot in Horse Cove. Our love affair with her continues to grow. Highlands has changed much since then and so have we. I know I sometimes make fun of her and even ridicule her when I think she has done stupid things, but make no mistake about it, I love Highlands.

Before retirement, Highlands was my escape mechanism, a place to run to when I needed to get back in touch with reality and realize that everyone in the world was not a criminal. A place where I could unwind and unload my stress by enjoying the slower pace, the cool climate, and friendly people.

One memorable period was in 1980. I had placed a large circle on my calendar, marking the first day of my annual visit to Highlands. It had been an extra tough year with a demanding boss. Our station wagon was packed and as the days counted down, my anticipation to get to Highlands grew.

How was I to know President Carter would make a surprise visit to Miami Beach and ruin my plans? He was in a fight to keep his job and Ronald Reagan was out to take it from him. On the night I would have been on the road, I stood facing a small army of angry Cuban demonstrators in front of the Fontainebleau Hotel.

Bags packed, my wife and kids



Fred Wooldridge

sat in the living room of our home and waited. I had been promised I could leave when Air Force One was “wheels up” later that evening.

The angry mob made its move and pressed for the front doors of the hotel. A legion of police officers held their shields and batons high in a

threatening manner. We called for smoke and K 9 units, who were stationed just inside the hotel front doors. It was iffy for just a moment but eventually we pushed back the mob who thought they were being gassed and bitten by angry German Shepherds. Neither was the case.

By the time I got home, I was so pumped up, I could have driven to Alaska without sleep. I ripped off my uniform and jumped into the car. We drove all night and arrived at our tiny cabin on Clear Creek Road by mid morning. I have never enjoyed standing on our deck and smelling the forest more than I did that morning. It was as if I had left hell and was now standing in heaven.

Even with Highlands' runaway growth and high inflation, she is still a very wonderful, tony place to live; a small town with loads of charm and laid-back atmosphere. I know lots of folks are disgusted with what is going on here, but Highlands will always be 4,000 feet above sea level, with cool rainy days and chilly summer nights. The moon and stars will always be just as brilliant and the katydids will not cease to rub their legs together. Over-developing the area cannot steal those things away. Highlands will always be my getaway place.

So hide the women and children, 'cause here we come. Packing is complete and the car has been checked.... twice. We roll in the morning and no president can prevent it because, praise God, I am retired.

And if I close my eyes real tight (not while I'm driving, of course) and let my imagination roam, I can already smell the chlorophyll and aroma of the hemlocks. I can taste the wild mint leaves and see the impatiens growing on the back porch. Oh Highlands, here we come.



Chamber looking for new home

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

It looks like this is the last year the Chamber of Commerce will reside in Town Hall. With a growing staff and administration, both offices are beginning to feeling cramped.

"We're exploring every avenue," said Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce Bill Bassham.

Bassham said the Chamber has been looking for a place for some time now, but with rent prices drastically increasing over the last two years, it looks like it's going to be a challenge.

Right now the Chamber pays \$100 a month (\$1,200 a year) in rent, but that figure could be as high as \$48,000 a year when they move.

Bassham said if that's the case, the Chamber won't be able to afford some of the accouterments it has in the past.

"We just won't have that fluff in the budget, and some things we won't be able to fund," Bassham said. "It concerns me that if we quit doing the things we've done in the past people will be upset."

The town holds the lease on the upstairs room of Town Hall which is currently housed by the Chamber.

"We desperately need the space for our employees and administration," said Town Administrator Richard Betz.

Town Hall isn't the only one who is in dire need of space, but the Chamber is also feeling a bit cramped in rather tight quarters.

Bonnie Earman's "office" is basically the front desk, so there is no privacy for her if she wants to have a private meeting.

"We're practically sitting on top of each other here," Bassham added.

The Chamber is looking at rental sites downtown and possibly "on the hill," but Bassham said he fears they will be more of a hindrance than a help there because of the Chamber's parking requirements.

The ideal location would be a place with plenty of space, parking and high-quality visibility in the town. Bassham also said a couple of people have come forward who want to build an entirely new site.

"As soon as we can find a place, we need to move," he said. "We're probably looking at sometime in late

fall or early winter."

The town's lease with the chamber technically expires the end of June 2007. But the lease can be terminated on July 1 of any year if the Town gives the Chamber 60 days notice which is May 1.

At the April 20 Town Board meeting, commissioners agreed to give the Chamber a six-month lease beginning July 1 and ending December 31, 2005.

"It's unfair to make them start looking for a new place at the beginning of the season," said Mayor Buck Trott.

Bassham agreed the Chamber needed to "stay put during the season," because it would be confusing to merchants and to visitors of the town if the Chamber and Visitor's Center was in the middle of a move.

Commissioner Herb James also said the chamber can get out of the six-month lease anytime.

At its annual retreat, Chamber officials discussed the probability of finding another place and even possibly constructing public restrooms, which have been a bone of contention for quite some time.

Bassham urges anyone who has something available to contact the Chamber at 526-5841.

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April 29-May 5

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Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:10

xx: STATE OF THE UNION rated PG-13

Weekdays: (4), 7, 9
Sat & Sun: (2), (4), 7, 9

THE INTERPRETER rated PG-13

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Sat & Sun: (2), (4:20), 7, 9:20

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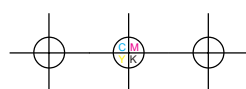
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New director at Chestnut Hill

William Frazier Jackson, LNHA, CHE, has been named the new executive director of Chestnut Hill of Highlands.

In this role, Jackson will oversee the development of and direct the daily operations of all phases of the full-service, continuing care senior living community, focusing initially on getting Chestnut Hill's new soon-to-be-completed 26-bed Assisted Living Center on line and fully operational.

"Being executive director allows me the opportunity to take a lead role in Chestnut Hill's future," said Jackson. "There is the potential here for tremendous growth. Residents love this place—they want to see their community succeed—achieving that realization will be my first priority."

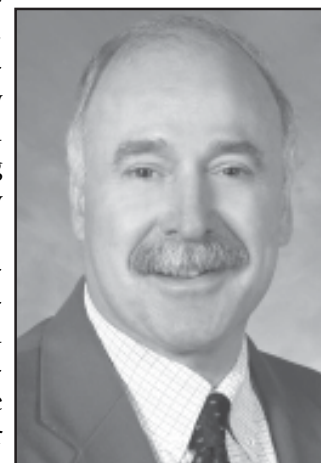
Jackson says building "community" is uppermost in his mind. "Establishing our community within the greater Cashiers-Highlands area will bring an added dimension to the qual-

ity and variety of life our residents enjoy, and to the mountain resort culture as a whole," he said. "Through community outreach, Chestnut Hill can act as a host site where naturalists, physicians, photographers, and other specialists in varied fields of interest can share their knowledge and experience."

Jackson brings to Chestnut Hill an impressive and varied background in continuing care facility management and hospital/healthcare administration.

Prior to this appointment, he was associate executive director of Still Hopes Episcopal Retirement Community in West Columbia, SC,

and deputy director of health services for the South Carolina Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice. In addition, Jackson has extensive management and development experience in full-service retirement communities, as well as with healthcare-related organizations.



William Frazier Jackson

Production of 'Anne Frank' coming up

Mr. Dussel, played by Stuart Armor, arrives at the annex, assisted by Miep, portrayed by Erin Brown, Highlands' Newspaper staff writer. Both are in the The Highlands Community Players production of "The Diary of Anne Frank" playing May 5 through 7 and 14, 15 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center.

Opening night is Thursday, May 5. The audience on that night is invited to an after-play reception catered by Don Leon's Deli. The HCP box office will be open Monday, May 2 through Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., except Sundays, May 8 and 15, when the box office will open at 1 p.m.

The box office is located at the

Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands. Season subscribers can reserve their tickets on April 28 and 29. Reservations can be made anytime by calling 828-526-8084.

Off-hour calls left on the answering machine will be returned as soon as possible to confirm the reservations. Tickets are \$15 each, \$8 for students and \$12 for groups of 15 or more.

No group sales will be

taken for opening night. The show runs May 5 - 7 and 14 and 15. Show times are 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday with a 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinee.



Mr. Dussel, played by Stuart Armor, with Miep, portrayed by Erin Brown, on the set of "The Diary of Anne Frank."

Exciting line-up at Instant Theatre



The Instant Theatre's Summer Classes are now accepting applications for future actors and magicians. Magician Shaun Moss will teach a one week Magic Class from June 6-10 for junior and senior high school students.

The cost will be \$150 per student which includes all supplies. For more information on the lineup of summer classes, call the Instant Theatre Company at (828) 526-1687 or e-mail at info@InstantTheatre.org.

Don't forget ITC's "Little Evenings of Entertainment," Friday nights at studio on Main Street. Call call the ITC Box Office at 342-9197.

New Season of 'Heart of the High Country' to begin May 2

Heart of the High Country, a weekly TV show about Highlands and the surrounding area, will begin its second season on May 2 on Northland Cable Television's Channel 14.

In its first season show became an instant hit with Northland viewers. Long-time Highlands residents Arthur Hancock and Katie Brugger are the producers of the show: they film, edit, and do everything required to put the show on the air.

"We felt that a local TV show was something Highlands needed," Katie said. "Our show features programming that changes weekly: interviews with interesting people, special event coverage, music, and more. Last year's coverage included the Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, the Fourth of July fireworks, open house at the Fire Department, Halloween, and the Christmas Parade. We're looking forward to another great year."

Brugger and Hancock began their video production company Time Capsule Video nine years ago. Their *North Carolina Mountain* videos have sold many thousands of copies. "We're interested in people," Arthur said, "and we believe every person has a story to

tell. When we got our first video camera 10 years ago we immediately went out and started interviewing people."

Northland Cable was so impressed with the quality of *Heart of the High Country* that they asked Hancock and Brugger to take full control of Channel 14's programming. In the hours when *Heart of the High Country* is not playing the channel shows beautiful scenes from Time Capsule's *North Carolina Mountain Video* series accompanied by classical music, with community announcements at the top and bottom of the hour.

"We're working hard to make sure our second season is even better than our first," Katie commented. "We're particularly excited because we're getting interviews with old-timers! We also have some interesting new regular segments."

Heart of the High Country airs six times a day—8 am, noon, 5 pm, 7 pm, 10 pm, and midnight—seven days a week.

"We're always looking for new ideas so if anyone is interested in participating or has a suggestion for an interview please call us at 526-2954," Katie said.

The Diary of Anne Frank



For Tickets
Call
526-8084

by Goodrich and Hackett
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Directed by Jim Gordon

May 5-8, 14, 15

Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m.
Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m.

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Highlands School 6th Grade Awards



Sixth Grade All A Honor Roll: From left: Amy Fogle, Clayton Lassiter, Marlee McCall, Samuel Wheeler, Sarah Power.



Sixth Grade AB Honor Roll: From left: Elizabeth Gordon, Bevan Schiffl, Miranda Herding, Christopher Nye, Michael Shearl.



Sixth Grade Perfect Attendance: Front row from left: Jose Feria, Cody Houser, Sarah Power, Katie Nix. Back row from left: Marlee McCall, Elizabeth Gordon, Amy Fogle, Clay Lassiter.



Middle School Accelerated Reader Awards:

From left:
Jessica Roulston and
Elizabeth Gordon.



MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Volume 2, Number 7

Highlands School News

Friday, April 29, 2005



Photo by Tyler Shook

Seniors Angela Aspinwall and Timothy Vos beam with joy after being crowned 2005 Prom Queen and King at the Junior-Senior Prom "Come Away With Me". See page 4 for more prom pics.

Coming Up...

FRIDAY, APRIL 29—4:00p Baseball @ Hiawassee Dam (away)

SATURDAY, APRIL 30—7:00p Crossfire Ministries Rally (old school gym)

MONDAY, MAY 2—5:00p Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Murphy; Regional Tournament—Course TBA

TUESDAY, MAY 3—4:00p Baseball @ Andrews (away)

THURSDAY, MAY 5—3:30p PTO Board Meeting @ Peggy Crosby Center; 6:30p Senior Parent Meeting in Cafeteria

FRIDAY, MAY 6—4:30p Baseball vs. Cherokee; Interact; 6th Grade Field Trip to Atlanta

SATURDAY, MAY 7—Sady Hawkins Dance

MONDAY, MAY 9—5:00p Baseball @ Rabun Gap (away); 6:30p Mrs. McClellan's Kindergarten Night

TUESDAY, MAY 10—4:30p Baseball @ Rosman; 7:00p PTO General Meeting; EOG Testing for Grades 3-8

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11—EOG Testing for Grades 3-8

THURSDAY, MAY 12—6:30p High School Band Concert; EOG Tests for Grades 3-8

FRIDAY, MAY 13—High School May Day and Yearbook Assembly

Monday, May 16—6:00p Athletic Banquet

Chemistry class visits paper mill



Highlands School General Chemistry class took a field trip to Sylva on April 21 to visit Jackson Paper Mill and learn how paper is recycled. Chris Mouchet, Alex Osteen, Catlin Huitt and Brooke Fowler listen as their factory guide explains how cardboard is recycled.

Photo by Erin Munger

Seniors smile after receiving caps, gowns



The graduating class of 2005 gladly recieved their caps and gowns on Monday, April 18. Left to right: Hannah Hendricks, Brooke Fowler, Catlin Huitt, Jessi Ziebarth, Jenna Greene and Erin Munger strike a pose. The Graduation Ceremony will be held on June 4 at Highlands Civic Center.

Photo by Beverly VanHook

Brought to you by HHS FCA



WHO: ALL AGES

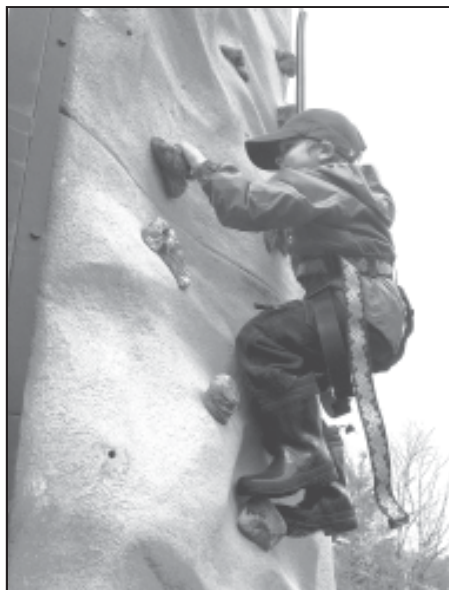
WHAT: EVANGELICAL RALLY

WHEN: APRIL 30, 7 PM

WHERE: HIGHLANDS SCHOOL AUDITORIUM (OLD GYM)

WHY: FOR AN EVENING OF FUN, FAMILY & FELLOWSHIP

Come watch HHS point guard Alec Schmitt play a 1-on-1 game with Randy Shepherd!

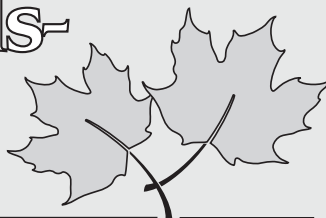


Climbing high for Earth Day

The Highlands and Cashiers communities celebrated Earth Day, Saturday, April 23 at The Village Green in Cashiers. The weather didn't cooperate, but youngsters gave the rock wall a work out. Health-related merchants from Highlands and Cashiers as well as ecologically conscious organizations were there displaying their wares.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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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.

For Appointments, Call (828) 743-7947

- Movie Review - Ring Two

By Stephanie McCall
11th Grade

Fear comes full circle in the horror sequel *The Ring Two* directed by Hideo Nakata (*Last Scene*, *Dark Water*). Rachel Keller played by Naomi Watts (*The Ring*, *I Love Huckabees*) and her son Aidan played by David Dorfman have relocated to the quaint mountain town of Astoria, Oregon, where Rachel has found a new job at the local Astoria Gazette working alongside reporter David Rourke (Simon Baker).

The discovery of a local teenage murder while scanning the electronic Astoria Police files brings Rachel to uncover the truth behind it. Before long, Rachel has linked the homicide to the mysterious video tape. When Rachel is close to uncovering the secret, she finds and then destroys the killer videotape. Bad move.

Soon afterward, Aidan is hospitalized; unconscious, extremely cold, and bruised. Rachel suspects this is the act of the bitter ghost Samara Morgan, but the local physician, Dr Emma Temple played by Elizabeth Perkins, suspects otherwise.

Having been blamed for child abuse and looking guilty, Rachel returns to Seattle to dig deeper into the past of the ghostly Samara who apparently is trying to become alive again by using Aidan as her host. Will Rachel be able to save Aidan from Samara?

The Ring Two is appropriately rated PG-13 for violence and terror, disturbing images, thematic elements and some language. If you liked *The Ring* and expect to see much more about the story, you may be disappointed as well. But if you only want to see a different version of part one, you may enjoy this sequel.

- Music Review - Beck's Back

By Stephanie McCall
11th Grade

Perhaps the most witty artist working in music, Beck Hansen is a comedian (*Mellow Gold*), MC (*Odelay*), folk singer (*Mutations*), sex symbol (*Midnite Vultures*), and broken-hearted song writer (*Sea Change*). So when announced that Beck was back with his first album in three years, *Guero*, there was no telling what he'd come up with.

After the heart-on-sleeve sulking of *Sea Change*, his 2002 "breakup album," Beck's career has taken another turn. *Guero* is a funky-fresh album of party jams and rockin' beats. This is not new territory for Beck; he's rocked many dance floors with hits like "Where It's At" and "Mixed Bizness."

Guero was produced by the onetime Dust Brothers (the dynamic duo that produced *Odelay*) who lend the disc a familiar groove, especially on the electric robot song "Hell Yes," the bass-heavy "Black Tambourine," and "E-Pro." But mellower tracks like "Earthquake Weather," "Farewell Ride," and "Go It Alone" recall *Sea Change's* unique somberness.

Though it may never be possible to describe the "Beck sound," *Guero* may be the album that comes closest to expressing what Beck is about.

Beck fans will love re-teaming with The Dust Brothers. *Guero* isn't *Odelay* part two, but it reintroduces us to Beck Hansen...the "Loser" that made good music and gave us a "Devil's Haircut." It's a Latin-tinged tribute to his humble beginnings in East L.A.

MOUNTAIN TRAIL

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Managing Editor- Stephanie McCall,

Sports Editors- Matt Keener, Allen Shearl

Assistant Editors- Catlin Huitt,

Faculty Sponsor- Beverly VanHook-Schrey.

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Magician returns to perform for students

Magic author David Ginn from Atlanta, Ga., came to Highlands School on April 21 to present a magic show for students in grades K-8. He presented "Secrets of Ancient Egypt" in which he performed magic tricks using mummies and a sphinx. Ginn inspires students to read for fun as well as reading in other areas of education such as science and history. He is in his second year performing at Highlands School.

"We look forward to having him back next year!" commented Fifth Grade teacher Joy Archer.

poof!

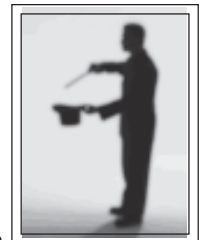


Photo by Carol Bowen

Local artist Julyan Davis visits high school art classes

By McKenzie Thompson
12th Grade

Local impressionist artist Julyan Davis made a visit to Highlands School Art III and IV classes on April 14. The class observed as Davis made a slideshow presentation of different pieces and different art movements he has explored. He then explained his life-long adventure as an artist.

Davis was born in England in 1965. From a very young age he desired to become an artist and spent his time attending high school in Hong Kong where he developed and mastered various skills. Upon his completion of high school, he began applying to art schools. Davis eventually enrolled at Byam Shaw School of Art in London where he learned abstract techniques.

America became home to Davis in 1989. Upon arriving he purchased a book about Alabama and soon decided to move and paint there. While in Alabama he met his wife, Madeleine.

Ironically, he found that Alabamians wanted paintings of his home, the English countryside. Having been influenced by 18th century

impressionist John Constable and enjoying working in an oil medium, Davis practiced impressionist work during his time in this part of the South.

Davis produces approximately 150 paintings per year. He often works on 10-12 at a time when using impressionist style. It takes him 7-8 hours to complete each one. According to Davis, his paintings often suggest a mood instead of an actual depiction.

Highlands became home to Davis and his wife in 1996. Here he is able to paint and sell landscapes of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Occasionally he will alter his style and create a realist oil painting. These paintings require much more time, between 60-70 hours.

He enjoys exploring different mediums and styles, but mainly remains in impressionist oils. "In the art world, they want you to paint in one way with one look," said Davis as he explained why it is unwise to make too many changes in your style as an artist.

Currently, Davis spends his time traveling across America painting and



Impressionist artist Julyan Davis presents a slideshow to a high school art class.

Photo by McKenzie Thompson

selling his works. Although he is occasionally unsuccessful in distributing his art, he believes that his rejections encourage him to persevere as an artist.

He spends a lot of time on the coast of Maine and hopes to someday

show his artwork in New York City. He and his wife have recently opened Icon Fine Art above The Old Rangoon in Highlands. Madeleine is also involved with the Highlands Community Players.



Seniors Angela Aspinwall, Tim Vos crowned 2005 Prom royalty

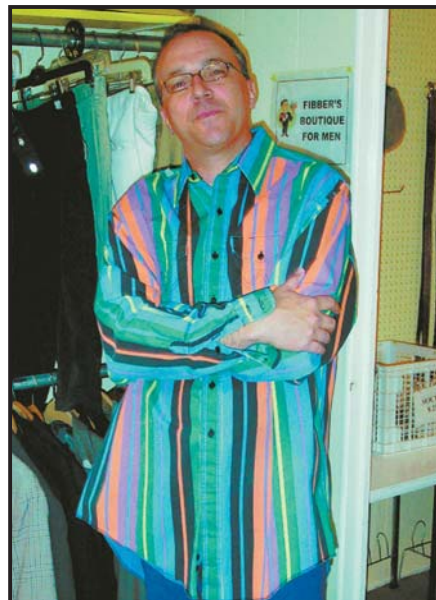
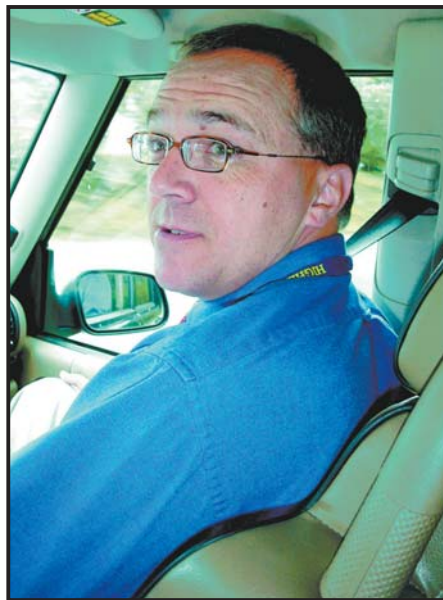
Students celebrated prom night with dinner at The Log Cabin Steak House and danced the evening away at Highlands Falls Country Club. Seniors Tim Vos and Angela Aspinwall were crowned Prom King and Queen. Vos said, "With Sid the Surf, playing the music and dancing were awesome."

Left: Angela Aspinwall and Tim Vos embrace after being crowned Junior-Senior Prom King and Queen.

Below: Tiffany Austin rocks out on a blow-up guitar on Prom night.



Photo by Sid the Surf



Photos by McKenzie Thompson

Assistant principal kidnapped Principal orders dress-down

Mark Thomas, assistant principal at Highlands School, was kidnapped on Friday, April 8, by four seniors at the request of Principal Monica Bomengen. After reading *Matt Man Makeover: Wild to Styled* in the April edition of the *Mountain Trial*, Bomengen asked various students to give Thomas a "make under." Bomengen felt that Thomas was always dressed-up and need to cut his wardrobe some slack.

So, four Highlands School seniors went on a mission. Matthew Keener,



Photo by Eddie Ingram

Matthew Keener and Alex Osteen help the native Bolivians lay brick to build a house.

What happens on Spring Break...

By Catlin Huitt
12th Grade

Spring Break was loads of fun for many of Highlands School students this year. Kids traveled far and wide and did tons of exciting things. Alec Schmitt, sophomore, spent two weeks in Europe while Kayla McCall, Kelsey Schmitt (seniors) and Toni Schmitt (sophomore) went on a cruise to Cozumel, Mexico and the Grand Cayman Islands. Other students traveled to places such as

Bolivia, New York, Myrtle Beach and Florida.

A group of seven extraordinary Highlands School students traveled with the Highlands United Methodist Church to Bolivia on a mission trip. These students spent eleven days building an adobe church, adding on to the Methodist church parsonage, helping with children at girls' and boys' homes, visiting the local jail, building a house in the campo, and offering

help at the hospital and dental clinic.

Oftentimes the youth and their leaders tried different projects every day. Alex Osteen and Matthew Keener (seniors) found themselves enjoying work at the adobe church while Hannah Hendricks and Catlin Huitt (seniors) preferred laying bricks at the parsonage. Other Highlands students such as Rebecca Dotson, Maggie Dearth (juniors) and Josh Hendricks (freshman) enjoyed playing with and teaching the children songs, English, games and much more.

All of the students came back with a positive outlook towards their trip to Bolivia. Matt Keener shared his feeling about Bolivia saying, "The great thing about Bolivia was that most people that we worked with did not have much but gave us what little they did have. So in turn, we tried to return the favor but could not give as much love as they gave us."

I went on the trip also, and I believe Bolivia was a growing experience for many of us. I would say we grew in every aspect: mentally, spiritually and a little physically. We all became closer to each other and those we were helping. It's awesome to know that you may have impacted other

people's life while they in turn were impacting yours.

Highlands School's two foreign exchange students had exciting trips too and got to see more of the United States. Lucio Trazzi, from Brazil, took a trip with his host family, the Parrish es to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Trazzi spent five days soaking up the sun in the afternoon and spent his nights driving on the Strip.

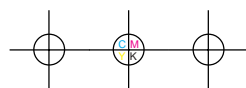
Antoine Coupe, from France, took a wonderful tour of New England. Antoine and his host family, the Craigs toured Washington D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. He stated, "New York was the most exciting part. I'd never seen a city as big as New York. It was awesome. We had a lot of free time so we saw some famous people. It was amazing." Coupe also spent a few days in Miami, Florida, where he lay on the beach and played in the ocean.

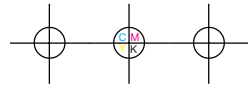
Kayla, Kelsey, and Toni spent their spring break tanning on the cruise ship, swimming, snorkeling in Cozumel, shopping in Grand Cayman, dancing at a disco, singing karaoke and eating a lot of great food. Kayla McCall commented a little about her trip to Cozumel, Mexico, and the Grand Cayman Islands. She stated "My favorite part of the cruise was seeing the beautiful water and how clear it was, snorkeling and getting a tan."

Spring Break is a time to relax, have fun and see new sites, all while being away from studies. These cool cats and other Highlands School Students obviously had "Fun in the Sun" during Spring Break.



Mckenzie Thompson, Katheryn Coppage and Andrew Kerhoulas escorted Thomas to the local thrift store Fiber Maggie's. They looked for a pair of slacks, a tee-shirt, suspenders and a jacket. They spent almost an hour searching for the right set of clothes. After vigorous searching, the team found the special clothes that fit just right for Mr. Thomas's personality and he left pleased with his new appearance and style. Thomas said, "My new style makes me feel more comfortable and stylish." Folks back at Highlands School were surprised but welcomed the new and improved look of Mr. Thomas, and Ms. Bomengen was very pleased with the student's work.





Rec Leagues play hard ball

Erin Munger
12th Grade

Basketball is life. Or at least this is how Highlands elementary and middle school students feel during Macon County Rec League basketball season.

From October to March, Highlands Rec Park is filled with boys and girls' Rec League teams getting ready for their basketball seasons.

The girls' basketball teams began practicing in late October. This year they were given the team name *Suns*. The Biddy League Suns, age group 7-9, were sponsored by D&J Express Mart and coached by Misty McMann and Jesse Munger.

The Junior League Suns, ages 10-12, were sponsored by Randy's Welding and coached by Jesse and Michelle Munger.

The Biddy League girls' team were the regular season champions as well as tournament champions. The Junior League team ended the season fourth in the tournament.

This year, Highlands had three boys' Rec League teams. There were one Biddy and two Junior League teams.

The Biddy team, *Heat*, was sponsored

by *The Laurel Magazine* and coached by Frank Rodriguez and Jesse Munger. The Biddy league team did a great job this season as they learned to play while following the rules of basketball.

The two Junior League teams were the *Tar Heels* and *Sting*.

The Tar Heels were coached by Jesse Munger and Josh Nylund and sponsored by J&J Lawn Service. The Tar Heels did a well this season learning and playing as a team.

Sting, sponsored by Carolina Homes, was coached by Eric Schmitt and David Sims. Heat excelled at playing together despite having a first year young team.

Each team is ready to come back next year and try even harder to give it there all.

If you would like for your child to be in a Macon County Basketball league, contact the Highlands Rec League representative Michelle Munger during early October, at home (828) 526-8029 or at work (828) 526-0173.



Boys Junior league Tar Heels —Front row (L to R) Austin Reese, J.J. Rodriguez, Joey Owens, and Samuel Wheeler, Back row (L to R) Coach Josh Nylund, Justin Rodriguez, Justin Watson, Michael Shearl, Will Hedden, Cody Houser and Coach Jesse Munger.

Clockwise from top right:

Boys Biddy League Heat—

Front row (L to R) Corey Baldwin, Taylor Schmitt, Matthew Rodriguez, Jacob Watson, Will Araujo, Austin Baty. Back row (L to R) Coach Frank Rodriguez, Kyle McMann, Tyler Owens, Clay Tucci-Casseli, Dax Lloyd, Tyler Munger and Coach Jesse Munger.

Boys Junior league Sting—

Front row (L to R) Clayton Dunn, Jose Fera, Cody St. Germain, Tim Fogle. Back row (L to R) Coach David Sims, Logan Schmitt, Cai Roman, Clayton Lassiter, Parker Sims and Coach Eric Schmitt.

Junior League Sun-

Front row (L to R) Sayne Fera, Tyler Ternes, Kristin Hedden. Middle row (L to R) Emily Munger, Danielle Shomper, Kim Machuca, Jenny Coram. Back row (L to R) Coach Jesse Munger, Maricia Owens, Courtney Rogers, Sarah Power, Bobbi Jo Talley, Coach Michelle Munger and Marlee McCall.

Biddy League Sun-

Front row (L to R) Tat Schmitt, Kayla McMann, Gemma Davis, April Moss. Back row (L to R) Coach Jesse Munger, Lisle Bruns, Autumn Chastain, Allye Winton, Rebecca Johnson, Emily Shuler,





Highlanders celebrate first win in two years

By: Matt Keener 12th Grade

The Tamassee Salem Eagles traveled to Highlands for their second time this season. In the first match up between the Highlanders and the Eagles, Tamassee won, 3-1, so the Highlanders were ready for them this time. With a combination of great offense and an even better defense, Highlands was able to snag a victory.

The offense was supplied by Captain Tyler Wavra who hit two homeruns in the third and fifth innings. Highlands had help on the defensive side with pitcher Ryan Bears striking out 13 batters. Bears only had to pitch nine times in the last inning and caught the last two batters looking at strike 3.

Bears was excited to talk about the game, saying, "We finally got our stuff together and everyone played their game. Oh, man, it was great!"

"At first I was nervous because my pitches weren't doing what I wanted, but once I got settled, everything clicked. I was happy that we got our first win in two years and it was a big boost for the team's morale. Hopefully we will continue our winning streak."

The Highlanders ended the game with a 7-1 win and have a season record of 2-8.

The Fighting Highlanders were all smiles as they gathered on the mound to celebrate their first varsity win in

two years. Also overjoyed with the win was Coach Brett Lamb.

Lamb said, "After a lot of hard work from the coaches and players it was very gratifying. The team played very well. The players should get all the credit; they were the ones doing all the work. I thought that Ryan Bears pitched a great game. He got ahead in the count a lot during the game, which allowed him to get his 13 strikeouts. There was a lot of great hitting and base running which allowed us to play aggressive."

Highlanders are looking to turn their two wins into a streak but will have to play even better when they face their rivals, the Blue Ridge Bobcats on Saturday, May 5. Currently the Highlanders have two wins.

The next glorious victory won by Highlands came Thursday April 14 against the Rabun Gap Nacoochee Eagles.

The Highlanders who were still celebrating their first win in two years were looking for another. The expectations were high and the Highlanders were extremely pumped up going out on the field.

Even though the sun was glaring in their eyes, the Highlanders continued their winning streak with excellent batting strategies and strong defensive field plays, stealing an 11-



Photo by Stephanie McCall

Senior Jeremy Keener dives back to first base when Tamassee Salem's pitcher throws a fast ball to try and tag him out on his risky lead off. Keener slid just beneath the first baseman's glove for a great safe play.

4 win from the Rabun Gap Eagles who previously had beaten the Highlanders 10-3.

The Highlanders, however, were not so lucky in the next game against the Swain County Maroon Devils on Tuesday April 19. The Maroon Devils had previously beaten the Highlanders 18-0 in the beginning of the year, but Highlands was looking for a competitive rematch.

The Highlanders started out with a strong lead 3-2 for the first three innings. It was then that the Maroon

Devils stepped up their game and hit two homeruns snatching the lead.

From there on out it was a constant battle for the top, but the Highlanders just couldn't match the repeated homeruns and base hits from the Devils.

It was a strongly played game but sadly the Highlanders lost 12-5.



Lady Highlanders fight for win against Franklin Panthers

By Stephanie McCall
11th Grade

An endless struggle describes the soccer game played April 21. The Lady Highlanders faced the Franklin Panthers in their second game this year. Previously the Panthers beat Highlands 4-0 in monsoon weather, so the Highlanders were eager to come back and defend their name.

The game started strong with Highlands playing excellent defense and offense, repeatedly making attacks on the Panther goal. The Panthers tried their best to slip one past goalie Stacy Wright, with a few close calls, but no goals. The Highlanders were definitely on top of their game. At half-time the score was still 0-0, and the Highlanders

were super-psyched that they had held such a tough team at bay.

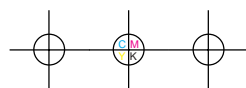
After half time, though, the Lady Panthers stepped up their game. It didn't take long for them to increase their attacks on goal. The Highlanders defense battled hard keeping the Panthers from scoring...for a little while. Soon the determination of the Panthers took over and it was hard to keep them away.

The game ended with a 3-0 Panther win. The Highlanders put up a hard fight and showed off some good skills. Junior Callie Rawlins said, "We improved 110% from the last time we played them, and even though we lost, I know we'll be able to beat them next time."



Photo by Stephanie McCall

Senior Captain Amy Crook steals the ball from a Lady Panther offender and drives it back to a fellow teammate in center field for a chance to score.



Artattack

After school art class for students in grades 4 - 8

Wednesday 3:15-4:15

This is a class designed for students in grades 4 through 8 who want to "do art." The students will work in mixed media including: painting, printmaking, graphics, cartooning, clay, 3-D design, fabric and textile. There will be an emphasis on the purpose of art in society, a focus on some of the different forms art takes, and how the visual art affect us. Each student's individual creativity and style will be encouraged. Bus transportation from Highlands School to the Bascom-Louise Gallery will be provided for this class.

High School Art Workshops

Tuesdays 4:30-5:30

This is a class designed for high school students who are interested in discovering, exploring, experimenting and stretching their creative abilities. The emphasis of this class will be personal growth. Whether you "can't draw a straight line" or are working on portfolio submissions for college, this class is designed to stimulate your personal creativity and ability to communicate artistically through the visual arts. Students will be introduced to a medium, given a subject matter, and then be encouraged to work through the process of self-expression.

It's Masterful!

Art classes for home-schooled students.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays from 1 - 3

This class will be held during the school day. Its purpose is to enhance the academic educational process through art, working closely with the foundational principles of home school education. The use of the Bascom-Louise Gallery's art educational facility and library will help to enhance the student's artistic experience. The heart of the curriculum will be centered on the influence of "The Masters." This class is open to students from first grade through high school. Class size and age grouping will be determined by need. Each class will have a short lesson on a specific artist followed by a creative project. Instruction and experimentation with different mediums will be the core of this class. Each student will be encouraged to work independently at his or her age and experience level. There will also be a take-home portfolio that the students will work on, independent of the actual class time.

Artventure

Art for Children in Kindergarten and First Grade

Tuesdays 3:15 - 4:15

This class is for kindergarten and first graders, and is designed to inspire joy, confidence and pride in the art that is produced. The child will have the fun of learning about paint, paper, scissors, glue, crayons, pastels, papier-mâché, fabric, and clay. They will be taught that these products can be manipulated to produce a desired two- or three-dimensional effect. Not only will their work be inspired by their personal experiences, observation, or imagination, this class will also include an awareness of environment and the influence of other cultures that are around them. Bus transportation from Highlands School to the Bascom-Louise Gallery will be provided for this class.

Little Stars

Art for Preschool children - Starting Sept. 28

Tuesdays 10:30-11:30

The Bascom-Louise Gallery is excited to be offering a new art program for preschool children. This is a wonderful opportunity to broaden the children's experience by a hands-on, age appropriate introduction to the visual arts. The children will be acquainted with the Gallery's permanent and temporary exhibits. This will be a chance to experience personal observation and expression and to learn how artists communicate thoughts and feelings through art. They will then make their own inspired special art. The children will have the chance to work with mixed media, learning the artistic process of using paints, pastels, fabrics, and clay.

Parent and child

Wednesdays 11-12

This is a delightful time for pre-school children, age 2 to kindergarten, and parents to "play" together. Parent and child will enjoy the creation process of a start-to-finish project, which will delight the eyes and heart. The child will also begin to learn how to use the "tools of art," safely and with respect. This is a fun mixed media class that will bring out the child in everyone.

Each class is \$5 • Call the Gallery at 526-4949 to register
Scholarships available



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The Amani Education Project in Maweni Village in Kenya

As their annual international service project, students at Pfeiffer University, in Misenheimer, N.C. near Charlotte, are raising \$2,000 to buy land and build a community center for the Maweni Village in Kenya. The community center will have a nursery school, two kindergarten classes and a community library. Children will receive nutritious meals and HIV/AIDS screening will also be provided. Just \$1.50 sends an adult to school for one month and 50 cents sends a child to school for one month.

Please send your tax-deductible monetary gift to:

Pfeiffer University/Ms. Junita Kruse

Amani Education Project

P.O. Box 960

Misenheimer, N.C. 28109-0960

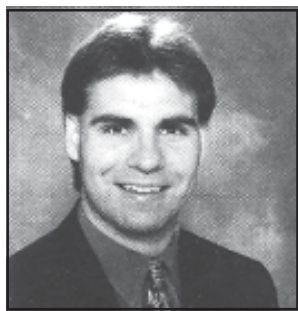
Rachel Lewicki, a 2004 Highlands School graduate, is a student at Pfeiffer University. The Amani Project is through her Current Events Service Learning Course.

Pfeiffer University - "Preparing servant leaders for lifelong learning."



• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Special 'B-ball' speaker at Youth Sunday



Randy Shepherd
Crossfire Ministries

Randy Shepherd of Crossfire Ministries will be speaking for Youth Sunday at First Baptist Church Highlands on May 1.

Randy along with Jamie Johnson founded Crossfire Ministries in 1993. Crossfire is a sports evangelistic ministry and it shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ through basketball camp, school assemblies, university & college basketball, FCA huddle groups, as well as in churches.

Randy says that as a young boy he had a desire to become a high school, college, and pro-basketball player. At the age of nine, he made the greatest decision of his life when he asked Jesus to come into his heart as Lord and Savior. However, he goes on to say that in high school and his first two years of college, his priorities got out of order. Basketball became number one and he made some wrong choices in his life. He says, the Lord used an injury his junior year while on a basketball scholarship at UNC-Asheville to get his attention. Come on Sunday, May 1, to hear the rest of his story.

Since that time, Randy has spoken about his relationship with Jesus Christ in Africa, Jerusalem, Romania, Cuba, as well as prisons, camps, churches, and schools in America. Some people he has worked with in the field of basketball are Michael Jordan, Grant Hill and Tim Duncan.

"I watched Randy's career and respect his hard work toward the fundamentals of the game," said Michael Jordan. "I also appreciate the positive influence he has on young people and their lives by his example in daily living."

Buzz Peterson, former head basketball coach of the University of Tennessee agreed.

"Randy and I have been friends since junior high and I admire what God has and is doing in Crossfire. I endorse its basketball camp athletically and spiritually as it reaches many young people with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Adrian Rodgers of "Love Worth Finding," says Crossfire Ministries with Randy and Jamie are doing an incredible job in reaching people for Jesus Christ, locally, nationally and worldwide. "I thank God for Randy and Jamie and Crossfire," he said.

In addition to speaking for the 10:45 a.m. worship on Sunday, May 1, Randy will share in the Youth Sunday School class at 9:30 a.m. At that time, he will give a demonstration of basketball skills as well as sharing Jesus.

Randy will join The Fellowship of Christian Athletes of Highlands School, Saturday, April 30 at 7 p.m. at the Highlands School gym. For more info, call 526-4153.

• PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11

Sunday night services every second and fourth Sunday at 7

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, Georgia

The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling, Pastor

Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 9 a.m. - choir

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy

Communion each service

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Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

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743-9370

The Rev. Thomas Allen

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Community Bible Church in Highlands.

Monday Bible Study: 6 p.m. Parish House

Tuesday Noon Bible Study: noon Parish House

Pot Luck Dinner: Last Sunday of the Month.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Wilson, (828) 743-3379

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service – 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Steven E. Kerhoulas, Pastor, 526-4685

3645 U.S. 64 east

Sundays: School – 9:30 a.m.; Worship – 10:45; Youth "The

Rock" meeting.

Tuesdays: Women's Bible Study – 9:45

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968

Sundays: Choir – 9 a.m.; Adult Sunday School

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.

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.

Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

Sun.: Worship – 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School –

9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.;

Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175

Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m. ;School – 9:30 & 9:45.

Wednesdays: Children's Devotions – 9:30 a.m.;

Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.

Thursdays: Bible Study – 10 a.m.

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

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376

Sun: School –9:30 & 9:45 a.m.; Worship –8:30 & 11

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871

Friday: 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 – 9 a.m.

Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m.

Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

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

Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769

Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon

Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby

Sundays: Fellowship & Worship – 11

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11



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Litter pick-up pays off



The Interact Club picked up 7 bags of trash in connection with "The Litter Perfect Program, administered through the Peggy Crosby Center. The program is designed to help clean up litter in Highlands, while providing funding to youth groups. From left to right: Christy Kelly (director of the Peggy Crosby Center), Jason Aspinwall, Alex Osteen, McKenzie Thompson, Andrew Kerhoulas and Alec Schmitt.

Women's practice to open at hospital

Another internal medicine physician, this one specializing largely in women's health, will soon join the Highlands medical community

Dr. Debra A. Wagner, who has more than 20 years experience in specializing in women's health, will join Wagner Medical Associates, the medical practice opened here last fall by her husband Dr. Mark Wagner, beginning May 2. Initially she plans to practice part-time.

Wagner Medical Associates is located in Suite 300 of the Jane Woodruff Medical Building on the hospital campus.

While both Wagners specialize in internal medicine and adult primary care, nearly all of Dr. Debra Wagner's professional career has been devoted to women's health; first as a counselor, then as a clinic manager at women's health centers in Florida, and later as an internal medicine physician with three different women's centers in the Northeast - two of which she co-founded.

"I am looking forward to resuming my medical practice now that our family is settled here in Highlands," she said recently. "In addition to the traditional treatment of acute and chronic medical issues, I hope to utilize my experience in weight loss and healthy living programs, as well as my interest and knowledge of alternative natural and herbal therapies."

Dr. Wagner is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and is a Diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners.

She received her degree in medicine from the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, Fla., in 1985 and undertook her internship at Brown University's Rhode Island Hospital in Providence. She completed a one-year residency in pathology there as well, before entering going on to Brown's internal medicine residency program.

In addition to practicing medicine, Dr. Wagner has been a clinical instructor at Brown University Medical School, a physician advisor to Aetna Health Plans, a medical consultant to the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, and a guest lecturer at both Brown University and Rhode Island University. She has also authored numerous articles and given presentations on a wide variety of topics concerning women's health.

She is a member of the American College of Physicians and the American Medical Women's Association.

Prior to entering medical school, Dr. Wagner was a middle school teacher briefly, and she says her experience in sharing information as an educator has served her well as physician.

"Communicating and educating is an integral part of my philosophy of how I practice medicine," she said, "I believe in a team approach that involves the patient in making in care decisions."

Appointments can be made by calling Wagner Medical Associates at 787-2430 during regular office hours.



• HIGHLANDS UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

- Each Thursday - Open House at Chestnut Hill of Highlands, Highlands-Cashiers only senior residential community. Complimentary refreshments and tours of the model home and Clubhouse. The new Assisted Living Center is under construction and expected to open in early summer. For more information, call toll-free 888-473-5093.

- Yoga classes are offered at the Scaly Mountain Community Center Mondays at 5:45 and at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, 1st floor of the Jane Woodruff Clinic, on Wednesdays at 5:15. Cost is \$12 per class or 10 classes for \$100. Certified instructor is Carole Ann Mackey.

- "Heart of the High Country" on Channel 14 Northland Cable Television, "Celebrating life in the mountains today," airs daily at 8 a.m., 12 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 10 p.m., and 12 a.m.

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese at the Falls on Main, Wine Flights each Friday and Saturday 4:30 until 6:30. Open Monday through Thursday 10-5; Friday and Saturday 10-6:30.

- The Instant Theatre Company's Evenings of Little Entertainments each Friday at 8 p.m., throughout May - longer if the audiences wish show to continue. The regular show includes improvisational comedy, light-hearted, original snapshot scenes, uniqueness monologues, the exciting trio of Dr. Heckler & Mr. Jive, and a Special Guest musician each week. For reservations call the ITC Box Office at 342-9197. Reserved tickets are \$15. Tickets at the door \$20. Seating is limited and reservations are strongly suggested. Complimentary wine and soft drinks are served.

- Pilates classes at the new Women's Center at the Hospital. The classes are Tuesday and Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. for \$10, or \$8 if you purchase a package of 10. Instructor: Sandie Trevathan

- 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 29

- Teens from Highlands and Cashiers will participate in the 2005 World Vision 30 Hour Famine to get a real taste of hunger while helping the poor and hungry around the world. They hope to raise \$3,000. They will go without food for 30 hours. Meet at Community Bible Church 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info, call Ryan & Jenni Sprague at 526-4685 or Andrea Chalker at 526-2968 ext. 206.

- "A Night in Monte Carlo" sponsored by the Literacy Council of Highlands at Highlands Country Club. Tickets are \$50 in advance or at 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. Call 526-2623.

- "A Taste of New Orleans" Dinner, Art, Jazz. Dinner 7 p.m., music 8:30 p.m., at the Highlands Conference Center. Paintings & Giclee prints. Cash Bar. Wine and Beer. Reservations required call 828-349-0502.

April 30

- The Fellowship of Christian Athletes of Highlands School has also invited Randy Shepherd of Crossfire Ministries to share with them and the youth of the community at a special Youth Event on Saturday, at 7 p.m. at the Highlands School gym.

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 1

- An old-fashioned Hymn Sing at the First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. Stell Huie will be the song leader with Angie Jenkins at the piano. The 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal will be used.

May 2

- The regular meeting of the Highlands/Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary will be on Monday, May 2 at 10 a.m. in the board room.

- HealthTracks, the wellness and healthy lifestyle program at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, is offering a special class on Mondays and Thursday, beginning May 2, to help reduce the risk of osteoporosis by building strength and helping to increase bone density. The medically structured class, which is taught by Stacey Greene, LPTA and member of the hospital's Rehabilitation Services Department, will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$8 per session.

May 3

- T-Ball at Zachary Fields on Buck Creek Road. Yankees vs. Braves. 4 p.m.

May 3-5

- Last Month for Competency Test for Seniors only.

May 5

- T-Ball at Zachary Fields on Buck Creek Road. Phillies vs. Yankees at 4 p.m.
- Democratic fundraiser with a Mexican flair on Cinco de Mayo at the Main Street Inn. Senator John Snow is expected to speak. Tickets are \$25. Call 526-2590 for reservations.

May 5-8

- Highlands Community Players "The Diary of Anne Frank" at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. Ticket reservations for this production begin on April 28 for season subscribers and April 30 for the general public. The Box office at the Performing Arts Center is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays. You can also make reservations by calling the Players box office telephone at 828-526-4904. Tickets are \$15 each, \$8 for children or \$12 for groups of 15 or more.

May 7

- The Sixth Annual Mountain Lakes 5-K Run in Highlands at 9 a.m. in front of the Rec Park. Interested participants can sign up at the Town Hall or the Civic Center. Proceeds from the race will go to support athletic scholarships and fitness-related programs in Highlands. For more information, contact Richard Betz at 526-5266.

- 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.

- Rabies Clinic at Highlands Conference Center. \$5 per animal, 1-2:30 p.m. and at Scaly Mtn. Post Office, 2-4 p.m. Both with Dr. Amy Patterson.

May 8

- Vengan A Cenar! La Noche de Familia at the Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m. It's free. Call 526-9938, ext. 290.

May 8-13

- Women's Appalachian Adventure at The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center. Program, rafting, field trips, 5 nights lodging & meals - \$491. Call 877-426-8056. Program #8613. Commuters: \$185 includes program, rafting, field trips and 8 meals.

May 10

- T-Ball at Zachary Fields on Buck Creek Road. Braves vs. Phillies at 4 p.m.

- 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 info, contact Edwin Poole, 526-2775.

May 12-15

- Old Edwards Inn and Spa presents a Women's Wellness Weekend. The inclusive rate for the weekend package is \$995 and includes all meals and a \$150 credit for services at The Spa. For more information or to make reservations, please call: 526-8008.



Hiker Highland

Monday, May 2 10 a.m. till noon

Start your week with a fly-fishing clinic for women only. Learn fly casting basics, or improve your cast. \$15 per lady, equipment provided.

Tuesday, May 3 10 a.m. till 2:30

Hike Scaly Mountain with Robert Keller. Get your heart rate up on this 3-mile, moderate hike. See the beautiful views of the Appalachians, and Piedmont to the south. No charge, bring a bag lunch and water.

Wednesday, May 4 9 a.m. till ?

Join Dave Lindsay and Mountain Down of Highlands for a rappelling clinic for women only. Have fun while you learn the exciting basics of rappelling. \$40 per lady, transportation and equipment provided. Bring a bag lunch.

Thursday, May 5 10 a.m. till 3:30

Hike into Panthertown Valley with Taylor Earman. This 4.6-mile, moderate to strenuous hike takes you to Schoolhouse Falls and Granny Burrell Falls. No charge, bring a bag lunch and water.

Thursday Evening, May 5 5 p.m. till ?

Join the Hiker for an evening of fun and fashion. See all the latest spring fashions for ladies and preview our new ladies travel apparel line. Refreshments will be served, and a special gift given to all the mothers.

Please wear comfortable shoes and clothing for all the outdoor adventures.

To attend all or any of the outdoor adventures, call 526-5298, or drop by the Highland Hiker for your reservations. All the activities are for women 18 years old or older.

May 12

- Wine Dinner featuring Caymus Wines at ...on the Verandah restaurant, Thursday, 6:30 pm. Call 828-526-2338 for more information.

- T-Ball at Zachary Fields on Buck Creek Road. Yankees vs. Braves at 4 p.m.

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.

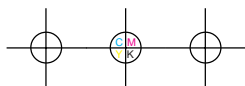
May 23

- Highlands School Awards Assembly grades 8-12 in the new gym at 10 a.m.

- Annual Spring Cleanup The Town has designated the weeks of 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.

May 24

- Noted Scottish heritage historian, lecturer and entertainer Flora MacDonald Gammon to perform at Chestnut Hill. Come enjoy an evening of entertainment and education. It's free, but reservations are required. Call toll-free 888-473-5093. Complimentary refreshments provided.



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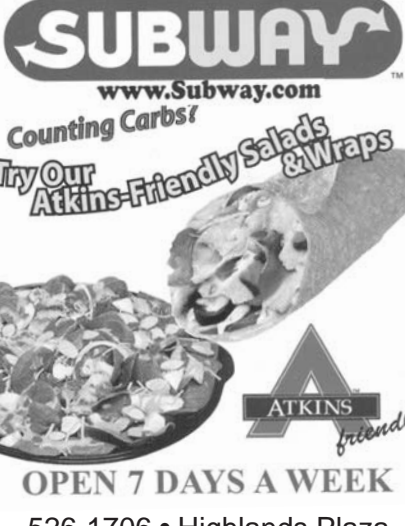
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POLICE & FIRE

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of April 20-27. The only names printed are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

April 20

- At 7:25 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 28 and Sassy Lane was cited for speeding 55 mph in a 35 zone.

April 21

- At 10 a.m., hidden in the valve compartment of a propane tank behind the Wright Square apartments, a Wilson Oil & Gas employee found a folded piece of paper with the word "thanks" written on it. Inside the paper was a bag of crystal-like material. He delivered the bag to police who are investigating the incident.

April 22

- At noon, officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Brushy Face Road. All was secure.

April 23

- At 2:20 p.m., officers assisted a stranded motorist on N.C. 106.

April 25

- At 10 a.m., officers directed traffic on South 4th Street.
- At 7:30 p.m., officers responded to an accident on N.C. 28 and South Drive. There were no injuries.

April 27

- At 1:20 a.m., officers responded to an accident on Mirror Lake Road. There were no injuries.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue log entries for April 20-27.

April 20

- The dept. responded to a controlled burn that got out of control on Upper Clear Creek Road.

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashier Fire Dept. It was cancelled en route.

April 23

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers but the call was cancelled en route.

April 24

- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on VZ-Top. The damper was closed.

April 25

- The dept. responded to a report of smoke at a residence on Netsi Place. It was a controlled burn.

- The dept. provided mutual aid to the Satolah Fire Dept. while they fought a structure fire.

- The dept. responded to a vehicle roll-over on N.C. 28. There were no injuries.

April 26

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a business on Carolina Way. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Wellness Weekend May 12-15 at Old Edwards

To provide guests with a more focused spa experience, Old Edwards Inn and Spa presents a Women's Wellness Weekend, May 12-15.

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Wellness cuisine will be featured

throughout the weekend. Guests will participate in group yoga/stretch classes each morning and then attend sessions on Age Defying Secrets, Stress Management and Facial Rejuvenation during the day on Friday and Saturday.

Saturday night at The Farm, the weekend's keynote speaker, Dr. Bafitis will present "Wellness Medicine Meets Plastic Surgery, Fighting the Clock and the Hormones of Youth." Dr. Bafitis is board-

certified in plastic and general surgery. He holds a master's degree in public health, with an emphasis on anti-aging medicine. He is the founder and current president of Regenesi Now, Inc. based in Wellington, Fla.

The inclusive rate for the weekend package is \$995 and includes all meals and a \$150 credit for services at The Spa. For more information or to make reservations, please call: 526-8008.

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Proctors needed for end-of-grade testing

Macon County Schools are recruiting volunteer proctors for the End-Of-Grade testing at all elementary schools and Macon Middle School, Tuesday-Thursday, May 10-12th, from 8 am until 12 noon. Please contact Jennifer Jones at 524-4414 x 324 or jennifer.jones@mcsk-12.org for more information or to volunteer.

College nurse scholarships available

The Judy Moore Memorial Scholarship Endowment Committee is accepting scholarship applications for this year. The Scholarship Program for Nurses was established in 1997 to honor Judy Moore, RN who was killed in 1996. A resident of Macon County, Judy was an inspiration to both nurses and patients in her role as a Community Health Nurse III and as an OB-GYN Nurse Practitioner. Two (2) scholarships for up to \$1,000 each, will be made available for the 2005 year.

The application deadline is May 6, for both undergraduate and graduate scholarships. Applicants must have completed their first semester in the Nursing Program and meet other eligibility requirements.

For more information about this scholarship, contact Anne Hyder at the Macon County Public Health Center 349-2424.

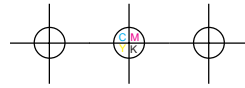
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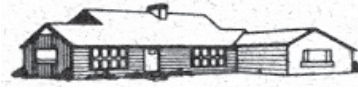
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... NONCONFORMING continued from page 1

alterations and repairs," she said.

Gantenbein said he read the ordinance as allowing the rebuild in the setback on the original foundation "whether by an act of God or simply if the owner wants to remodel."

Gantenbein said a property owner can rebuild from the footings up as long as 100 percent of the building has not

been destroyed.

It is especially pertinent to historic homes due to the fact that if the structure were destroyed it could not be reconstructed.

Planning Board members concurred with Gantenbein citing the work they have done on the Land Use Plan as justification for preserving homes and the

... MULTI-FAMILY continued from page 1

Walk.

Nellis used Chestnut Walk as an example of his three proposed changes to the multi-family ordinances – setbacks, density ratios and impervious surfaces.

"Higher density residential is the core of a community and helps to stabilize and

encourage the retail, dining and entertainment factors," said Nellis. "The town benefits from the increase in taxable land values. I have observed first-hand how residents of all ages at Village Walk enjoy walking to Main Street."

Nellis said multi-family

... COUNTY continued from page 1

- That the remaining details be worked out by the joint recreation commissioners.

"This proposal will be made to the Highlands Town Board in lieu of any further support payments for water and sewer construction except in conjunction with county projects," said Bryson.

He also said he will suggest honoring

a prior commitment to Highlands of an \$80,000 county match for the Holt Knob water project recently completed by the town.

Bryson said the only "operation" change the county wants is for the Director of the Rec Park to take over scheduling at Zachary Fields on Buck Creek Road. "Everything else will remain as is," he said.

overall character of Highlands.

"There's been a lot of gnashing of teeth over this nonconforming ordinance," said Gantenbein.

The amended ordinance on nonconforming buildings and premises reads, "...alterations, repairs, or rebuilds. Nonconforming buildings may be altered or repaired, but such buildings shall not be enlarged or expanded...Nonconforming buildings that are destroyed or condemned may not be rebuilt or repaired..."

developments will be as good for Highlands as for other municipalities across the country.

But Bell disagreed. "If you change all the zoning, it's not going to be site-specific anymore. And if you make it friendly for all parcels, then you're going to have an onslaught of multi-family," said Bell.

John Cleaveland, board member, said why should a property owner loose "something they bought because of a fire or because you want to remodel. It's like punishing someone for wanting to improve their property," he said.

The Planning Board re-evaluated the amendment and decided to send it back to the Town Board for further consideration. "Until someone can show why this is wrong, I think we should leave it be," said Bell.

"Everybody coming in is going to want it and do you know why? Because you can make more money with multi-family than you can single-family," he said.

Multi-family development will be taken into consideration in the final draft of the land use plan to be recommended to the Town Board sometime in May.

At the April 20 Town Board meeting, Town Attorney Bill Coward said John Poole, State Administrator for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund said if the town received funding from the county it might put ownership of the Rec Park property in jeopardy.

But commissioners reminded him that the town has received funding from

the county for Rec Park operations for years.

Bryson said he looked into the PARTF stipulations and believes if it's the town's money, the town should be able to spend it the way it wants.

That's what Commissioner Amy Patterson thinks, too. "If it runs through our books, it's our expense. It doesn't matter where the money comes from."

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