

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

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On-going

- Swimming lessons at Highlands Rec Park Monday and Wednesday for ages 3 and up. \$10 per child per week. Call 526-3556 to register.

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese at the Falls on Main, complimentary tastings Sat. from 1-4 p.m. Wine flights Friday & Saturday from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

- "Evenings of Entertainment" Friday nights at Instant Theatre Company in Oak Square on Main Street. Tickets are \$15 with reservations and \$20 at the door. Show starts promptly at 8 p.m. Call for reservations. 342-9197.

- Pilates classes at the Jane Woodruff Bldg. at the Hospital, Tuesday and Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. All classes \$10, or \$8 if you purchase a package of 10.

- 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 9

- Job Fair sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Conference Center. Call 526-5941 for more info.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-7 mile hike (with car shuttle) along the Chattooga River from Burrell's Ford to Cherry Hill campground on Hwy. 26, passing King's Creek falls along the way. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations.

April 10

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2.5 mile hike along a pristine creek in Blue Valley to an old amethyst mine reportedly operated by Tiffany's long ago. Meet at Highlands Bank of America at 1:30 p.m. Call leader Jim Whitehurst at 526-8124, for reservations or more information.

April 11

- Adult softball organization meeting 6 p.m. at the Rec. Park.

Volume 3, Number 14

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, April 8, 2005

County funding to come in 'roundabout' way

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

The Town of Highlands finally got the long-awaited word from the county about infrastructure funding – but it's not the answer board members wanted.

At the April 4 Macon County Commissioners meeting in Franklin, commissioners suggested taking over funding and operations for recreation in

District I — Highlands and Scaly – including Highlands Rec Park.

In doing so, Highlands could then shift money it budgets for the Rec Park to fund infrastructure instead.

"We should provide an equal level of recreational services county-wide," said County Manager Sam Greenwood. "For years, Franklin recreational facilities have been a priority, but the pro-

posal between the Town of Highlands and the county could fulfill an equivalent distribution of recreation in the county."

Greenwood said relieving the town of the burden of funding Rec Park operations – not relieving the town of Rec Park ownership – would free up \$300,000 a year, which could be used

▪See REC PARK page 13

Spring is all about baseball



Photo by Noel Atherton

Varsity Highlanders are playing hard this season. Pictured is Highlands School junior David "Buddy Boy" Parrish at a recent game against Cherokee. Upcoming home games at the Buck Creek field: April 8, 4:30 p.m., against Rosman; April 12, 4:30 p.m., against Blue Ridge; and April 14 at 5 p.m. against Rabun Gap.

Town seeks more zoning control

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

Wednesday night, a developer came to the Town Board for step three in re-zoning a 4.72-acre tract bordered by Hickory, U.S. 64 east and Chestnut streets. Instead of proceeding to step four – the scheduling of a public hearing — commissioners opted to amend the zoning ordinance to allow conditional zoning.

Conditional zoning will give the Town Board more control over development prior to the zoning board's final step of issuing a Special Use Permit.

The Planning Board was split 4-2 on their recommendation to the Town Board to rezone the land to R-3, but that recommendation was ignored. Commissioners want more control of

▪See CONTROL page 10

Annexation & ETJ probable

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

Annexation and ETJ were hot topics at Monday's Land Use Planning Committee meeting and one Highlands Falls resident was there to make his opinion known.

Jim Whitehurst said he wasn't there to represent Highlands Falls, but said the club was not a threat to the town and consequently should be left alone.

"We don't need any service that Highlands can provide us," Whitehurst said. "There is only one reason why Highlands would want to annex Highlands Falls...greed. You want to get into our pockets and extract tax money from us. I would urge you to

▪See ANNEXATION page 7

Sexual businesses in county's sites

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

Macon County is following the Town of Franklin's lead to prohibit sexually oriented businesses within its limits.

At the April 4 meeting, Commissioner Bob Simpson asked the county to adopt such an ordinance.

"We should partner with the Town of Franklin in its ordinance to restrict sexually oriented businesses because it

▪See SEXUAL page 14



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• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Greens to get house

Dear Editor,

The recent conflict that arose between Macon County Habitat for Humanity and Carlos and Christal Green with respect to the Habitat House being constructed in Highlands has been resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the parties.

Habitat will move forward with the completion of a simple, decent home, with its design, materials and workmanship as directed by Habitat.

As the Greens will no longer be required to work on the home, they have agreed to complete an additional 150 hours of volunteer labor to a charity of their choosing.

When the home is completed, the Greens will have the opportunity to purchase it on the same terms as is customary – for a total cost that Habitat has incurred in its construction, including the value of materials, land or services donated to Habitat, but without profit or interest to Habitat.

The parties each acknowledge their responsibility for actions that led to the disagreement, and have agreed to overcome conflict. The Greens wish to express their appreciation to the Habitat Board for its willingness to reconsider the matter and encourage community members in their continued support for this valued ministry.

Fred Jones

Attorney for Macon County Habitat for Humanity

Jack Mayer

Attorney for Carlos and Christal Green

Town busy enough

Dear Editor,

I'm sorry Chamber of Commerce, but I don't agree that the town of Highlands needs additional promotion. As it is now, during the tourist season, the streets are crowded and parking is almost unheard of. If tourism increases, the town will have to provide additional housing and parking for the visitors. In order to do that, precious trees will have to be cut down, ground would have to be plowed, and pavement put down. All this affects the water table, promotes erosion, and puts more sediment in our streams and lakes. All these actions have an impact on the tax paying residents who have to bear the cost of the increased infrastructure and pay for the cost of cleaning up the effects of the added infrastructure.

Most of us settled in Highlands to escape the rat-race of traffic and the population of the megalopolis.

Secondly, some of these visitors will visit our town with an eye on opening some sort of businesses establishment. Don't get me wrong I know that commerce is good for a community, but within reason. It's a known fact that the majority of new business fail within the first two years. So within a few short years we would have considerably more vacant business establishments in Highlands. So then we are stuck with a bunch of vacant stores.

Additional visitors add stress to our already stressed out Public Safety departments and Public Works department. I think that word-of-mouth promotion works just fine for this community. Growth is good and stagnation is bad. I don't see Highlands as a stagnant community. Growth must be strictly monitored and strictly controlled.

Phillip Carlton

Highlands

Supervision needed

Dear Editor,

Please remind parents that it is a privilege to be able to visit the Rec Park. The Rec Park staff will not be responsible for children. Children 10 years old and under must be accompanied by someone 16 years old or older.

The Rec Park Staff
Highlands

● OBITUARY ●

Thomas Lester Carver

Thomas Lester Carver, age 71, of Seneca, SC died Saturday, April 2, 2005 at the Oconee Memorial Hospital.

A native of Macon County, NC he was a son of the late Albert L. and Icie McCall Carver. He worked for Jantzen and was a member of Heady Mountain Church. He loved to play and sing gospel music.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Rena Mae Talley Carver; a daughter, Charlotte Carver Todd and her husband, Richard of Westminster, SC; a son, Louis Carver and his wife, Jean, of Seneca, SC; sisters, Edna Nix Hunt and her husband, Tom of Franklin, NC and Evelyn Webb and her husband John of Clayton, GA; and a brother, Hershel Carver and his wife Revylon, of Franklin, NC. He was preceded in death by an infant brother.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6, 2005 at Clear Creek Baptist Church in Highlands, NC. The Rev. Delbert McCall, the Rev. Walter Wilson, and the Rev. Everette Wilson officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were James McCall, Morris Nix, Kenneth Carver, Relton Talley, Marshall Rice, Wymer Bryson and Marvin Chambers.

The family received friends from 7 until 9 p.m. Tuesday evening at Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands, NC.

Online sympathy messages may be sent by visiting www.bryantfuneralhomes.com. Bryant Funeral Home, Highlands, NC was in charge of arrangements.

Rev. Eldon C. Owens

The Rev. Eldon C. Owens, age 87, of 45 Walnut Creek Road, Franklin, NC died Saturday, April 2, 2005 at Park Ridge Hospital in Fletcher, NC.

He was a native of Rabun County, GA, a son of the late Evan and Dora Brown Owens, but lived in Macon County for most of his life. He was a retired pastor and carpenter and was a member of Flats Baptist Church. He was married to Clara Nix for 59 years and was pastor at Baptist Churches in Macon and Jackson Counties in North Carolina, Rabun and Habersham Counties in Georgia for 52 years. He was a Veteran of World War II.

Surviving in addition to his wife, is one daughter, Wanda Reed and her husband Ray of Seneca, S.C.; two sons, Dean Owens and his wife Annette of St. Simons Island, GA, and Laland Owens and his wife Cheryl of Cleveland, GA; two sisters, Louise Vandiver of Tiger, GA and Edna Bryson of Clarksville, GA; and five grandchildren.




He was preceded in death by three sisters, Mae Talley, Lizzie Dryman, and Bessie Bryson; and a brother, Luther Owens.

Funeral Services were held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2005 at Macedonia Baptist Church with the Rev. John Rogers, Dr. Jimmy Boggs, and the Rev. Robert Dryman officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Darren Reed, Josh Owens, Trent Vinson, Horace Owens, Robert Dryman and Loyd McCall.

An online memorial video is available by visiting www.MeM.com. Online sympathy messages may be sent by visiting www.bryantfuneralhomes.com.

Bryant Funeral Home, Franklin, NC is in charge of the arrangements.

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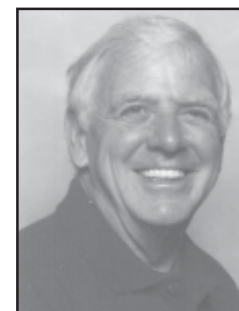
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

My trip to South America

Try not to fall asleep

First, let me say I did not find my stolen hubcaps in Santiago, Chili, but I did find 32,313 Jose's living there. I just didn't have the time to interrogate them all, especially since I don't speak Spanish.



Fred Wooldridge

called “who can puke the furthest.” Since I was the projectile vomiting champion back in school, I knew I would have the advantage. My problem was I couldn't get sick. Unfortunately, the little missus and I are good sailors and, no matter how hard I tried, I just couldn't get in the contest.

Travel Tip #1. Take Uruguay off your “must see” list. We went there looking for cheap leather and penguins. Instead, someone dropped a board from a balcony and hit the little missus on the head. Well, I might be exaggerating a little. It was more like a small stick, dropped by a prankster kid. But that's what we deserve for walking the back streets. Travel Tip #2. If you disobey Travel Tip #1, then don't walk the back streets in Uruguay.

No matter where we are, we always take the back streets. Because the little missus always knows a shortcut, we wind up walking scary streets. I sarcastically ask, “I didn't know you knew your way around Uruguay?” Her response...sarcastic silence.

After walking several blocks, I noticed a cop tailing us. Later, a shop owner told us we were being followed for our protection so we don't get mugged or get hit with a stick from a balcony.

Later that afternoon, I spotted the perfect boat to take us to Cape Horn. She was an icebreaker rightfully named the Antarctic. An old, rugged looking freighter, rusty, but you could tell she had survived many trips around the horn. Because the crew smelled a little (well, maybe a lot) and no one spoke English, we decided on a cruise ship instead.

She was a beauty, but also old and rusty. This would be her last voyage around Cape Horn and then she would be sold to the Schlock Cruise Line who would take schlock cruises around who knows where....maybe schollockdom. It was kind of fun being on a ship taking her last voyage in such treacherous waters.

Three days out of Uruguay, we were really having fun and the ship was rocking and rolling, literally. Facing gale force winds of over 50 mph and seas at 30-feet, the game played by most of the passengers was

Here is how the day went for most passengers. Eat breakfast, throw up, lay down, eat lunch, throw up, lay down, eat dinner.... well, you got the picture. People pay money for this. On the second day, I felt so sorry for our dinner partners, I gave them a tip on how to save one step of the process. Just take the tray of food and throw it over the rail, then lay down.

It was on the morning of the fourth day at sea when we got a tragic message over the load speakers. I was just unbuckling myself from my bed when this wimpy little pathetic voice says. “Due to hurricane force winds and 60-foot seas, we will avoid Cape Horn and hide out in Beagle Channel.” I didn't want to go to Beagle Channel. That's where Charlie Darwin went ape. Later I found out the wimpy voice was the Captain's. “What a weenie you are,” I wrote, filing a formal complaint. Then I found out we were the only ones on board who still wanted to go. We were devastated.

By the time our boat got to a godforsaken place called Ushuaia, Argentina we were very good at holding our plates and glasses on the dinner table while eating at the same time. This required the use of both elbows and my chin. Ushuaia is called the end of the world because ice is everywhere, except in my drink. No one puts ice in drinks in South America.

The rest of the trip was so-so until we got back to Santiago. While walking a back street, (ha) we were approached by a guy who spoke no English, but wanted to sell us something. Before I could find out more, the little missus shooed him away. “He said hubcaps, he was selling hubcaps,” I shrieked. “No, he was selling street maps.” “Hubcaps, street maps, I'll bet his name was Jose.”

• MOVIE PIX •

The Good War

The 2004 military drama, starring Roy Scheider, Luca Zingaretti, Vincent Riotta and Sue Cremin. Written and directed by Giorgio Serifini, music composed by Carlo Siliotto. Filmed in southern Italy and Bulgaria. Based on a true story. Rated R, primarily for language.



Stuart Armor
Movie Stop Video

The Storyline: On September 8th, 1943, the Italian government declares an armistice with the Allies but does not inform the Italian army. Germany turns on her former Italian allies and kills or captures thousands of Italian soldiers, most of whom know little or nothing about the impending end of the war, least of all the 50,000 Italian POW's held in interment camps in America.

This story unfolds in one of these camps, near Hereford, Texas, which is not very near anything at all. Captain Luigi Manin (ably played by Luca Zingaretti, well known in Italian cinema, but unknown to American audiences) is a prisoner of war, is an Italian officer in 1946, 6 months after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. While for many in the world, things are slowly returning to some kind of normalcy, but for those in Hereford, they are about to get stranger than ever, in part because few people, including the Americans, have any clear idea of what happened during the war, and the Italians don't even know what has happened after (remember the days before everyone had a cell phone, mobile Internet access, or a radio that might broadcast current news? No, of course not). Colonel Gartner (Roy Scheider, of All That Jazz, Jaws, and more) is a camp commander, injured in the war, and nearly as unhappy with

his place in the camp as the internees. As a condition of their release, the prisoners are asked to sign an oath renouncing the fascist policies of the Axis Powers, that most of these men, cut off from any news from anywhere for nearly 3 years, know nothing about. Manin makes several briefly successful escape attempts and during one such trip, the camp is closed. When he is returned, no one's at home but the eager to leave Col. Gartner. But this camp has been forgotten, and they wait for transport that never comes. After having struggled through the war and the camps, they find they have a few more struggles left to go.

This is only indirectly a war film, no battle scenes, not much in the way of direct action, it is primarily a drama, and a very powerful one. Scheider, a very capable actor, and Zingaretti, an expressive performer, play well opposite each other, realistically, and in ways that build tension, understanding and tragedy, as we get small pieces of history from these two men. Parts of the story are narrated by Sue Cremin, playing the role of Betty Clark as observer, historian and love interest, and her dry, matter of fact style adds to the poignancy. It's a well done film, without a large budget, no special effects, no flashy action, just a compelling story with talented actors, and like the real life events that inspired it, tells it's tale without all the answers, a film well worth seeing.

A few films similar in theme are Escape From Sobodor, Thin Red Line, A Soldier's Story, Life is Beautiful, and for something more light hearted, Mediterano.

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9:20

FEVER PITCH rated PG-13

Weekdays: (4:15), 7:10, 9:15
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:15), 7:10,
9:15

SIN CITY rated R

Weekdays: 7, 9:20
Sat & Sun: 7, 9:20

BE COOL rated PG-13

Weekdays: 9:15
Sat & Sun: 9:15

MISS CONGENIALITY 2
rated PG-13

Weekdays: (4:10), 7:15
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:10), 7:15

GUESS WHO rated PG-13

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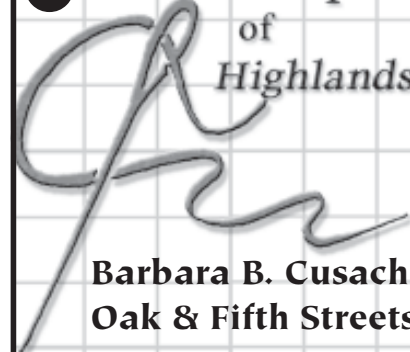
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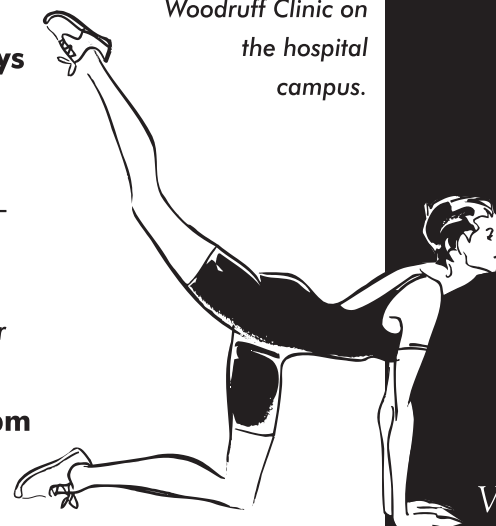
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Groups gather to discuss strategies against 'knotweed'

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

Factions have rallied to battle the Japanese Knotweed.

At a forum held at the Rec Park Wednesday, March 30, Dr. Kenneth McCaskill, county extension director of Macon and Clay counties, explained ways to get rid of the pesky weed.

"A combination of methods is necessary for controlling knotweed," Dr. McCaskill said. "Unfortunately there are no biological controls because knotweed has no biological enemies or predators. Cattle, goats and sheep graze on it, but there is no farmland on the plateau."

Japanese Knotweed was introduced as an ornamental plant in the 1800s and is on the list of invasive species of environmentally harmful plants.

The persistent weed crowds out native plants, eliminates wildlife habitat by spreading stout rhizomes and creating intricate root systems, and quickly colonizes, especially along streams and rivers. It is often transported to new sites as a contaminant in fill dirt.

McCaskill suggested several types of management recommendations including mechanical control, herbicidal control and biological control.

Methods of mechanical control

include grubbing, tarping and mowing. Grubbing can be effective for small initial populations or environmentally sensitive areas where herbicides cannot be used.

The advantages are obtaining immediate results, it's good for clearing small areas, it's inexpensive, and can be done at any time during the season. Juvenile plants can be hand-pulled depending on root development. Any portions of the root system not removed will potentially resprout. All plant parts should be bagged and disposed in a trash dumpster to prevent re-establishment.

The disadvantages are expensive labor costs, the ground is subject to erosion, the weed regenerates from small root tendrils, and the application must be repeated.

McCaskill said tarping is appropriate for small initial populations, environmentally sensitive areas, or in areas where herbicides can't be used because of sensitive vegetation. This method involves clearing out existing vegetation, tillage and placement of a barrier which excludes light. Black plastic, tarps, cardboard or discarded carpet can be used. The barrier must cover the entire area for significant time to eliminate re-growth. Areas may need to be trampled occasionally.

■ See KNOTWEED page 9

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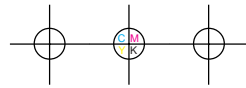
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... ANNEXATION continued from 1

think about this before you become a party to a movement to annex Highlands Falls just so you can enrich the town of Highlands."

Whitehurst said he read what the board studying the topic and is concerned about its enthusiasm toward ETJ and annexation.

Whitehurst's argument was simple: Highlands Falls is not a zoning threat to Highlands because its covenants, dedicated to nothing but its residents, prevent any major zoning menace to the town.

"We have more rigid zoning rules and zoning enforcement than does the town of Highlands," he said. "We have rigid enforcement of erosion control and a residential tree ordinance, something Highlands doesn't have.

"We will have no agriculture there, no industry there; we will have no commercial activity there," he said. "On the other hand, we have an excellent infrastructure. We have each paid a pro-rata share of the water system, the sewer system, the streets and the landscape."

Whitehurst continued his discourse saying no felony had ever been committed inside the 555 acres of Highlands Falls, only three misdemeanors and therefore, not even police protection was needed.

"We don't have a security problem," Whitehurst said. "We don't need the police because there is no crime - it's an intrusion. We're a pristine little community of retirees," he said.

But Committee Chairman John Cleaveland said the country clubs, including Highlands Falls, exist because of the town of Highlands not the other way around.

Prior to Monday's afternoon meeting, the committee took a field trip down every major artery in town and also to other potential areas of interest for ETJ.

The two big corridors of concentration are N.C.106 [Dillard Road] and U.S. 64 east [Cashiers Road]. The Franklin Road (U.S. 64 west) is protected by the National Forest Service and is not a major concern, said committee members. Horse Cove and Walhalla Road were also minor areas of concern and will be revisited another time.

"We also looked at Hicks Road, especially where our watershed was going to be impacted," Cleaveland

said.

Committee members Griffin Bell and Clem Patton said the plateau should set a long-term goal of one local government for residents on the Highlands' plateau. "The Highlands plateau needs to be under one government as opposed to several," Bell said.

By extending the town limits to the county line and the National Forest Service boundaries and implementing ETJ immediately, the town board would have control of the entire plateau.

"The county has only one person elected from this area, and we don't believe the plateau residents have a significant impact on the county commission," Patton said.

He said the committee will recommend ETJ and voluntary

■See ANNEXATION page 12

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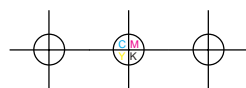


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Topline Grading took the old post office building down last Thursday.
 Photo by Erin Brown

Town Board considers ordinance prohibiting dilapidated buildings

By Erin Brown
 highlandserin@aol.com

Until recently, the town's hands were tied with regard to dilapidated buildings

Three structures around town precipitated a policing ordinance drafted by Highlands Town Attorney Bill Coward, which will finally give the town the authority to do something about buildings dubbed "eye sores."

At the April 6 Town Board meeting, commissioners received a draft of the ordinance for consideration.

"It gives the town the authority to identify abandoned buildings to be demolished or repaired," said Coward in a phone interview.

The draft gleaned from General Statute GS 160A-441 states that "dwellings unfit for human habitation are dangerous to the health and safety of residents and a public necessity exists for the repair, closing or demolition of such dwellings." When this occurs "power is conferred upon the city or county to exercise its police powers to repair, close or demolish said buildings."

The old post office building on the corner of Pine and Fifth streets — one of the three buildings that instigated the need for such an ordinance — came down March 30. Two remain: a burned down house between Crane's Barn and Oak Lane and a house with a fallen tree through the roof on North 5th Street.

The ordinance will carry a mis-

demeanor violation if dishonored because it is a criminal ordinance enforced by the police.

"The proposed ordinance makes the property more of a public nuisance," said Gantenbein.

Before any action is taken, the property would be subject to a full review by the Zoning Board of Adjustment, which would make a recommendation to the Town Board.

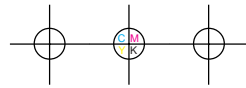
Neither the town nor the county has any ordinances on the books at this time. The only enforceable ordinance allows the health department to judge the structure a public health hazard.

"Basically it has to be a breeding ground for insects, rats or snakes," Gantenbein said.

Regarding the condemnation of buildings, the statute states "any city may provide for the repair, closing or demolition of any abandoned structure, which the city council finds to be a health or safety hazard as a result of the attraction of insects or rodents, conditions creating a fire hazard, dangerous conditions constituting a threat to children or frequent use by vagrants as living quarters in the absence of sanitary facilities."

Gantenbein said once the ordinance is adopted there will be no grandfathering on condemned pieces of property.

"If it's for the public good, it doesn't matter, there is no grandfathering," Gantenbein said.



... KNOTWEED continued from page 6

ally as shoots will push up the cover.

Advantages to tarping are the ground cover is maintained, areas can generally be left until plants are eradicated, and the method is very useful in small areas. The disadvantages include high labor and material costs, bare ground is subject to erosion after removal, barriers must be maintained regularly, and may cause damage down slope from concentrated runoff.

The last mechanical control is mowing. Cutting plant shoots by mowing is ineffective, unless combined with persistent herbicide treatments. The advantages to mowing are immediate visible results and reduced labor costs. The disadvantages are it must be repeated several times a year and leaves which are a fire hazard.

Herbicidal control can be done in several ways. Cut-stem treatment

can be used in areas where plants are established within or around non-target plants or where vines have grown into the canopy. This treatment remains effective at low temperatures as long as the ground is not frozen. The foliar spray method is most effective to control large populations. Stem injection is a new method being used experimentally in some programs. Chemical concentrates are injected directly into individual stems. It is very labor intensive and requires an experimental use permit.

The advantages to herbicidal use is it gives quick results, it is the least costly method, involves low labor costs, can be done with existing spray equipment, and it leaves croppings on the ground for erosion control.

Mayor Trott expressed great concern for introducing chemicals and pesticides into the soil.

"You don't know what those chemicals are going to do 20 years from now," he said. "It will kill the worms and bugs in the ground and we need those." Officials also worry about stream and drinking water contamination from pesticide residue.

Dr. McCaskill said herbicides must be applied by NCDA licensed

individuals or be directly supervised by a properly licensed individual.

The Town Board hasn't decided who will apply the pesticides or when an eradication program will begin. The Land Stewards, who sponsored the forum, will present a proposal to the town board soon.

Highlands' Newspaper - Friday, April 8, 2005 - Page 9

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Up goes the beetle



Members of the Jackson-Macon Conservation Association raised the beetle on their "hemlock tree" to \$39,000 - the amount of money raised since beginning their fund-raising campaign last summer. Thanks to many generous donors, this money is being used to support the predator beetle rearing and release program through Clemson University and the U.S. Forest Service. Thousands of beetles are being released in the area now to control the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The goal is \$50,000 this spring. Call 526-9938 ext. 320 to help save the hemlocks. Pictured are David Bates, executive director of JMCA, Cynthia Strain, chair, and Debby Lassiter, office manager.

Highland Hiker

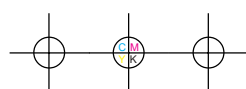
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POLICE & FIRE

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of April 1-6. The only names printed are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

April 1

- Officers responded four times to false alarms at a Dog Mountain residence.

- At 6:46 p.m., officers responded to an accident in the parking lot of Fireside Restaurant. There were no injuries.

- At 8:15 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at Bascom-Louise Gallery. All was secure.

April 2

- A little past midnight, officers responded to a call of a suspicious vehicle parked on Hickory Hill Road.

- At 10:43 p.m., officers responded to an accident in the Mountain Fresh parking lot where a pedestrian was hit by a car. The victim was taken to the hospital and sustained minor injuries.

April 3

- At 4:55 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at OEI. All was secure.

- At 9:30 a.m., officers on patrol found an open door at Dutchman's Designs. All was secure.

- At 12:55 p.m., a motorist at Main and Second streets was cited for speeding 37 mph in a 20 zone.

- At 3:15 p.m., officers responded to a call of an electrical line down on N.C. 106.

April 5

- At 7 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 west and Webbmont was cited for speeding 50 mph in a 35 zone.

- At 8 a.m., officers responded to an accident at U.S. 64 and Cullasaja Drive. There were no injuries.

- At 10 a.m., a worker on a site on Sagee Woods Drive reported tools missing.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the week of April 1-3

April 1

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Dog Mtn. Rd. It was false.

April 2

- The dept. responded to an accident in the Mountain Fresh parking lot. The victim was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call to a residence on Carl Chastain Lane. The victim was transported to the hospital.

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

April 3

- The dept. responded to a call of a tree on a power line on N.C. 106.

... CONTROL continued from 1

the property up front, no matter what the zone.

Even though Developer Chuck Simmerson had agreed to all the planning board's requests — to relocate the proposed single-family house farther away from the historic home on the property, create a sidewalk along U.S. 64, maintain the natural highway buffer and prohibit a U.S. 64 entrance — commissioners wanted to guarantee

the recommendations.

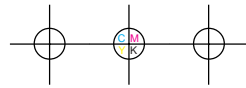
"A condo board could come along and mow down that natural buffer," Commissioner Hank Ross said. "I want to make sure that doesn't happen."

There was some discrepancy as to whether the board was allowed to make recommendations to Simmerson without first changing the zoning ordinances. Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein said it was illegal to

suggest conditions for approving the plat.

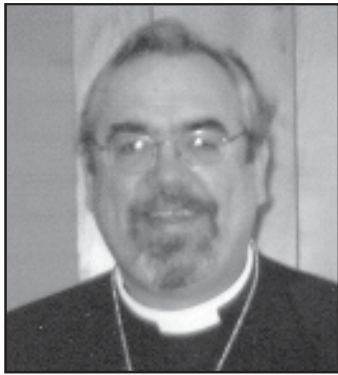
"That's contractual zoning and it's illegal," Gantenbein said. "Unless you go in and make fundamental changes to the ordinance."

The Town Board unanimously agreed for Gantenbein to draft the language for re-writing the residential zoning ordinance to allow for conditional zoning and fast-tracking the ordinance through the planning board.



• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

A Holy Happening



Holy Family Lutheran Church – ELCA
Rev. Delmer Chilton

About 20 years ago I was pastor of a medium size, mill village Lutheran Church in Piedmont North Carolina. One of the “shut-in” members of the congregation was the former church secretary who was suffering from crippling arthritis and was also somewhat despondent about her health. One day I came by to bring her Home Communion. As I was getting out of the car, I realized I had left my “Occasional Services” book at the church. Jean lived next door to another parishioner who was active in the choir, so I took a chance and called on her to see if she had a copy of the Lutheran Book of Worship in the house. She didn’t, but she had the old “red book,” and I could borrow that.

I went to Jean’s house and found her to be bed-ridden. In the past, Jean had acknowledged my presence with a nod, listened intently while I read scripture and went through the Brief Ritual for home communion, but she had never spoken.

I looked around her bedroom and the only place to set up the communion was on a tray balanced on the arms of her bedside commode. I read the previous Sunday’s Gospel Lesson and gave her a two-minute synopsis of the sermon and shared some of the church news with her, and then I launched into the Communion Ritual from the Red Book, a ritual complete with “Thee” and “Thou” and “Holy Ghost” and my favorite phrase “from whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.”

As I read the prayers out loud, I suddenly realized that Jean was praying the prayers out loud along with me, indeed, she was rushing ahead of me, with the strange combination of a little smile on her lips and tears streaming down her face. As I looked at her and lifted the bread and blessed the cup, there in that sickroom, I had the strongest sense of the presence of the Risen Christ I have ever felt, before or since.

It took me a while to figure out what happened for Jean. Her days as active worshipper pre-dated the Lutheran Book of Worship; the liturgy from the “red book” was the only communion liturgy she had ever known. When she heard those familiar words, a flood of memories, of both blessing and regret, over-whelmed her as she found herself able to once again participate fully in the celebration of the Supper. It was a Holy Happening.

A week or so after that first Easter morning, Jesus met a few of his followers on the road to Emmaus. (Luke 24:13-34) They did not recognize him. They talked and

■ See SPIRITUALLY page 14

• PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU •

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

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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.

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Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service – 7 p.m.

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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.

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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

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Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.

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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,

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Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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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.

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Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

For more information, call

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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

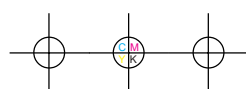
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby

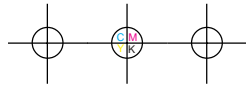
Sundays: Fellowship & Worship – 11

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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





... ANNEXATION continued from 7

annexation to the Town Board without delay.

"We're gaining ETJ to ensure power over the next year-and-a-half while we prepare to annex," said Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein.

Patton said the committee will immediately identify those areas for annexation. "It would certainly be toward the north."

Members suggested evoking targeted ETJ areas, asking for voluntary

annexation and eventually forcing annexation of larger proposed areas which would create a common area of governance for the Highlands plateau.

"One water system, one sewer system, one governing body that does the whole plateau under one set of regulations and standards, all administered locally," said Patton.

He said the town has to make a commitment to those people who volunteer to be a part of Highlands. He

said both parties have to be willing to work together toward a goal of securing the plateau as one entity.

To ensure the environmental and aesthetic integrity of the plateau, the committee outlined several objectives: a single local government for the plateau, effective and efficient delivery of services, protecting the drinking water/watershed supply and minimizing high-impact development.

The committee plans to define the boundaries. Proposed ETJ limits would be extended one-mile in all directions

including National Forest Service lands but excluding Horse Cove, Blue Valley and Whiteside Cove. The committee then wants to have a working meeting with the Town Board to discuss ETJ and annexation and study a number of different scenarios for both.

Land in Jackson County is still under consideration for inclusion with the receipt of GIS maps supplied by GIS technician, Matt Schuler.

The next LUP meeting is scheduled for April 18.

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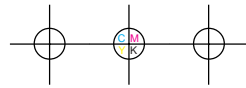
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• HIGHLANDS UPCOMING EVENTS •

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 9

- Job Fair sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Conference Center. Call 526-5941 for more info.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-7 mile hike (with car shuttle) along the Chattooga River from Burrell's Ford to Cherry Hill campground on Hwy. 26, passing King's Creek falls along the way. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank, in back, at 10 a.m. Drive 45 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations.

April 10

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2.5 mile hike along a pristine creek in Blue Valley to an old amethyst mine reportedly operated by Tiffany's long ago. Meet at Highlands Bank of America at 1:30 p.m. Bring a drink, snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Call leader Jim Whitehurst at 526-8124, for reservations or more information.

April 11

- Adult softball organization meeting 6 p.m. at the Rec. Park.

April 14

- The Mountain Milers kick-off the training season with informational meeting at Jackson County's Recreation Center in Cullowhee on Thursday at 6 p.m. Our first training run of 3 miles will be on Saturday, May 15 at 7 a.m. beginning in the Recreation Center parking lot. For more information please contact the Jackson County Program Director, Amy Palmer at 293-0011.

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. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. 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. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. 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. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. 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 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 p.m. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader, Carl Blozan, 742-1765, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

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. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Call leader, Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations or more information.

... FUNDING from page 1

to fund infrastructure expansion. "They can distribute those funds elsewhere in the town," he said.

It costs about \$540,000 to run the Rec Park, but for years, the county has reimbursed the town \$150,000 to \$200,000 a year.

Meanwhile, the time clock has run out on a 13-year agreement between the town and county, where the county reimbursed the town \$300,000 a year for infrastructure expenses. With infrastructure expansion an on-going issue, the Town Board was looking for another long-term funding commitment from the county. This shifting of funding has been offered as a solution instead of an additional allotment from the county.

Though Town commissioners say the arrangement might work, they want to make sure Highlands gets its "fair share" from the county. They say 45 percent of the county's \$55 million in tax revenue comes from Highlands.

"The proposal may not be a bad thing," said Commissioner Alan Marsh. "But we're not sure we're getting enough money to offset the tax money going down the mountain."



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Right now the proposal is just verbal. Both Macon County Commissioners and Town Board members say they need to see something in writing.

"We need to clarify this before moving forward," said MC Commissioner Charlie Leatherman. "The issue of the District I Recreation Commission based in Highlands needs to be well-defined."

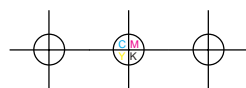
Chairman of the MC Commissioners, Allan Bryson said the Highlands Town Board would make up the majority of a five-member commission.

"I suggest three people from the Town Board, the county commissioner from District I and one at-large county commissioner," he said. "The town would have authority over how the money is spent."

Greenwood said Land and Water Conservation Fund and Parks and Recreation Trust Fund stipulations, which dictate much of what can be done at the Rec Park, could still be met if the county took over operations.

"It would be a contract between the county and the town with the District I Rec Park commission

• See FUNDING page 14

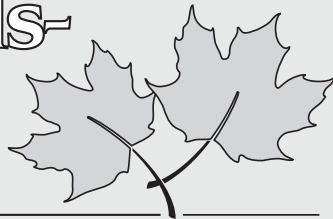


... SPIRITUALLY continued from 11

prayed and then they shared a simple meal and something Holy Happened. When Jesus blessed the bread, they suddenly knew who he was. "When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him . . ." (vs.30-31a).

When we modern Christians gather together in Jesus' name, and talk and pray and show one another kindness and hospitality, and share our bread with one another, be it communion wafers or a peanut-butter and jelly sandwich; there is the Risen Christ with us, sharing in our meal and our love for one another.

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... FUNDING continued from page 13

running it independently," he said. "The county would simply reimburse the overall operating expenses."

With a Macon County Recreation Master Plan in the works, there's a possibility of expanded facilities and pro-

grams at the Highlands site even if the county holds the purse strings.

"Since the town wouldn't be relinquishing ownership, a contract is all that is needed between the town and county authorizing the county to physi-

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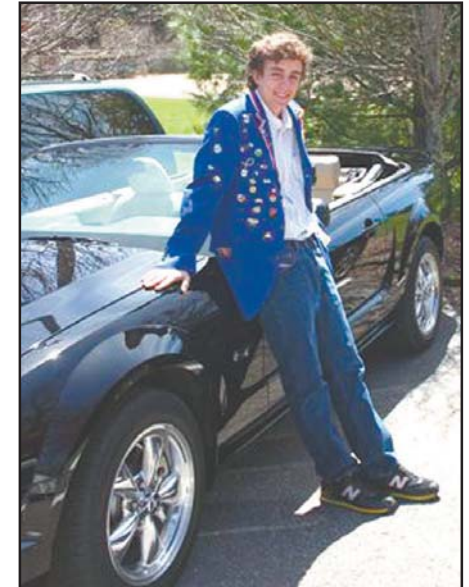
Many local projects are helped by this yearly tournament, such as the Peggy Crosby Center, the student foreign exchange program, needs of Highlands School teachers, the local library, and the literacy council.

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Application forms for sponsorship and player combinations are available from the D & J Express Mart.

For further information, call Jeff Weller, this year's gold chairman at 526-3923.

— Barbara Lawrence



Rotary Exchange Student Antoine Coupe with the 2005 Mustang GT, one of the prizes at this years' Rotary Club of Highlands Golf Tournament.

... SEXUAL continued from page 1

won't do any good unless the county does the same thing," said Simpson. "Otherwise they can set up right outside the town limits."

According to General Statute 160A 181.1, titled "Regulation of sexually oriented businesses," the General Assembly finds and determines that sexually oriented businesses can and do cause adverse secondary impacts on neighboring properties.

"Numerous studies that are relevant to North Carolina have found increases in crime rates and decreases in neighboring property values as a result of the location of sexually oriented businesses in inappropriate locations or from the operation of such businesses in an inappropriate manner."

If an ordinance against sexually oriented businesses is adopted, commissioners said it's likely establishments considered "sexually oriented" already in business would be grandfathered.

A city or county may regulate sexually oriented businesses through zoning regulations, licensing requirements, or other appropriate local ordinances. The city or county may require a fee for the initial license and any annual renewal, reads the statute.

Commissioners asked the County Attorney to draft an ordinance and present it at next month's meeting. If commissioners accept the draft, a public hearing will be set. Based on the outcome of the meeting, a final ordinance could be adopted.

cally expand the facility," he said.

The Town Board is waiting for an itemized proposal from the county stipulating, among other things, a time-line.

"We may want to get out of the agreement down the line and the county may want to, too," said Commissioner Marsh.

Mayor Buck Trott was hoping for a concrete answer to infrastructure funding from the county to alleviate the immediate problem of accepting the amended \$4,945,710 bid by April 20.

"We can't accept the bid without knowing where the money is coming from," he said.

At the April 6 Town Board meet-

ing, members agreed to accept the bid and let the finance committee decide how to fund it.

"We could borrow money, increase taxes or increase fees," said Town Administrator Richard Betz.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Amy Patterson said the board should continue to ask the county for infrastructure funds. "Infrastructure and recreation are two separate issues," she said. "They need to decide if they are going to invest in the future of the county by helping municipalities put in infrastructure."

Mayor Buck Trott said the county will ignore the request, but Patterson said the Town Board should just keep asking.

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DATED: March 16, 2005

John R. Mayer
Attorney at Law, PLLC
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(828) 526-3734 FAX
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 Hwy 441
Franklin Highlands 18 Miles
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Cullasaja Falls

Lake Glenville
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Lake Toxaway
 Hwy 64e
 Brevard Highlands 38 Miles

Sapphire Valley
 Hwy 281
 < McKee Properties >
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 High Hampton Inn & Golf Resort
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 Whitewater Falls

Cashiers
 Hwy 64
 < Blair Realty >
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 < Good Year >
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