

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 3, Number 26

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, July 1, 2005

On-going

• "Too Marvelous for Words" at Highlands Playhouse through July 10. Call 526-2695 for ticket information.

• Live music a Buck's Coffee Cafe every night through Monday, 8-11 p.m.

• Piano Bar seven nights a week at ...on the Verandah, accompanied by jazz guitar Tuesdays and Thursdays all at 7 p.m.

• Little Entertainments. Fridays at 8 p.m. \$20 in advance \$25 at the door at Instant Theater on Main Street. \$20 adults in advance, \$25 adults at the door Call (828) 342-9197.

• This week at Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop favorites for July 4. Free samples Saturday from 12:30-4 p.m. Wine Flights Thurs-Sat. from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Open Sunday 1-5 p.m., but 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on July 4th.

June 27-July 9

• Acting and Theatre Games for children ages 6 to 9. Instructed by professional actors Sara-June and Jeff Treadwell at ITC. \$175 per session. Call the ITC at 526-1687.

June 27-July 8

• Children in grades 1-7 theater classes at the Highlands Playhouse Summer Youth Classics. Taught by Julie Gulasy, the classes will take students through "all it takes" to get a show from script to stage. Call the Highlands Playhouse at 526-2695.

July 2

• Car Wash at First Citizen's Bank to benefit school volleyball team, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

• Cafeteria-style country breakfast at Methodist Church on Main Street to benefit Bolivia mission, 8-11 a.m.

• Clearwater Country performs at 7:30 p.m. at Highlands School gymnasium. Supper before concert, 6-7 p.m. \$5 per person.

• Book signing at Cyrano's Book Shop. 1-3 p.m. Author Thomas Rain will sign copies of "Zoro's Field."

July 2

• At SweetTreats in Mountain Brook Center, Carol Criminger, vocalist and Jerry Lambert, pianist, entertain you with Light Jazz and Favorite Standards from 7-10 p.m.

July 4

• The Highlands Rec Park closed for fireworks. Re-opens July 5. Festivities begin at 11 a.m. at the Conference Center for Rotary BBQ, games on the ballfield begin at noon. Fireworks at 9 p.m.

July 6

• David Derondo speaks on Europe and the War on Terrorism as part of CLE's Wednesday Night Lecture Series, 7:30 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. It's FREE.

July 7

• Live entertainment at SweetTreats, Bobby Sullivan.

• Vega String Quartet plays Mozart at Wolfgang's on Main at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by Highlands Chamber Music and Wolfgang's.

FRI	SAT	SUN
80-61 °F	79-60 °F	74-60 °F

Chamber selects Phelps House

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

Lease negotiations are still in the works, but after months of searching, the Chamber of Commerce may have found a new home.

At the June 28 board meeting, the executive committee for relocation

announced its unanimous selection of the Phelps House, between the Main Street Inn and the Baptist Church, as the Chamber's next home.

The Chamber board of directors voted 7 to 1 (with one abstention) to accept the executive committee's recom-

•See CHAMBER page 11

Planning Board says 'no' to R-2

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

For the second time, the planning board stuck by its original decision to rezone the 4.72 acre tract bordered by Hickory, U.S. 64 east and Chestnut streets to R-3 not R2.

Several members were confused as to why the Town Board had asked the board to reexamine the parcel a second time.

"I don't understand why this is coming back to us again," said Board Member Doug Campbell.

After nixing the R-3 rezoning request, the Town Board asked the Planning Board to consider rezoning the parcel R-2.

•See PLANNING BOARD page 9

Board's decision thwarts purchase

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

Lately, land sales under contract around Highlands are hinging on nail-biting decisions determined by its various boards.

Likewise, Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein said it is also "very common" for municipalities of rapid growth to have petitions for rezoning of certain pieces of property pending decisions of board members.

"I know that some land sales contracts have been written based on hopeful action by the Town Board," said Gantenbein.

With the Baby Boomer generation nearing retirement, a gradual transformation of Highlands has begun from a seasonal resort community to a retirement resort community with more "year

•See DECISION page 11

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Highlands 4th of July festivities



Fourth of July in Highlands begins with the Highlands Rotary Club barbecue at the Conference Center at 11 a.m., moves on to the ballfield next door for old-fashioned games and a sky-diving exhibition at noon and culminates with a fireworks display, courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce, at the Rec Park – but visible from all over town – at 9 p.m. or when dark. Pictured are Rotarians Christy Kelly and Alan Marsh.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Questions arise at budget meeting

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

Amending the proposed Town of Highlands budget for fiscal year 2005-2006 is usually a cut and dry process. The previous year's budget was amended to

satisfy auditing requirements and the new budget of \$16.8 million was accepted.

Town Administrator and Treasurer Richard Betz said as is customary, the fig-

•See BUDGET page 12

Open House

**July 1 from 4-6 p.m. • 114 Cherokee Drive
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Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 ■ (828) 526-0782

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Copy Editor/Proofreader Tom Merchant

Circulation/Tech. Support – Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at www.highlandsinfo.com

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Printed by the Asheville Citizen-Times, Asheville, N.C.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Please, develop carefully

Dear Editor,

It is a special developer who bothers to put up silt fences, who protects our trees and wildlife, who reminds his workers to drive slowly on private roads and not to litter. It is a thoughtful builder who keeps Highlands the lovely rain forest it has always been and does not try to recreate it to look more like "home" — Florida, Atlanta, Alabama, etc.

The other day I walked down Fifth Street to its dead end. That has always been the beginning of the historic Kelsey Trail that at one time led all the way to Whiteside Mountain. After years of development, most of the old trail has been obliterated. Much of it is on private-no trespassing-property. What little bit of the trail that was left has now been brought to its knees in a couple of days by our town. The trail parallels a lovely creek and is beside many clear springs. Well, at least it USED to be lovely. Now there are 30 fewer trees, silt filled creeks and springs and crushed native flora. I cannot imagine what the birds did for homes once the trees were felled. What hiker would want to slog through the mud that took the place of plants? The trees were enormous, at least four of them were. In my lifetime there will never be a forest like the one that once stood there.

In fact there is not much of the old Highlands left. There is a short Greenway Trail which is beautiful once you leave the rec center parking lot; and the Rhododendron Trail is lovely — at least until the Woolly Adelgid takes the Hemlocks. Satulah Mountain is a mess, Brushy Face Mountain is a mess. There are development plans for every other green space in town.

Every time the town grants a developer the rights to build a road it has to be a big, wide road. All manner of shade and the cool weather sheltered by trees becomes a smaller and smaller space. The ditches dug beside the roads quickly become clogged with silt and trash. One of our major roads, Spring Street, has become a trash receptacle across from the Regions Bank. The little waterway behind our old post office is filled with Styrofoam and litter.

Hopefully Highlands will not be the place workers dump their trash before heading home. Hopefully we can still drink clean water a year from now. Hopefully, we can maintain the cool weather that attracts our flat land visitors. Much can be accomplished with caring people in leadership positions. Development can be done keeping in mind the need to conserve what brought us to Highlands in the first place. Let's be careful.

**Glenda Bell
Highlands**

Separation of Church and State still safe

Dear Editor,

The separation of church and state is widely misunderstood, as exhibited in the emotional and rash article written by Dr. Redmountain in the June 24th issue of this paper. While the personal beliefs of our founding fathers may be disputed, their intentions for our nation were clear. They left a country that dictated what they must believe, how they must believe and in what ways they could demonstrate their faith. The purpose of separating the church and the state was to keep our government from forcing particular beliefs on people and to prevent persecution based on differing religious views, not to prevent people from openly sharing their faith with others.

Dr. Redmountain's article not only showed a misunderstanding of the purpose of separation of church and state, it also demonstrated an extreme incomprehension of Christianity. People are afraid of things they don't understand, and maybe it was that fear which caused Dr. Redmountain to verbally bash evangelicals. Let me describe what Christians are like and what they are not like. Christians are not like a heroin addict, running around, backing unsuspecting victims into a corner as we jab them with a needle and "infect" them with Christianity-as described by Dr. Redmountain.

Instead, imagine a homeless person wandering through the alleys, driven by hunger, searching for something to satisfy the ache within. He knows that there is something more, something that can satisfy. One day, he takes a new way and, after following it a little while, he finds a banquet table filled with bread! Not moldy crumbs, as he had become accustomed to, but fresh, overwhelmingly abundant loaves of beautiful life-sustaining bread. He eats to his fill and then remembers all the other hungry people back in the alleys. He runs with joy at the idea of sharing the treasure he has found. Sides aching, lungs heaving, joy written on his face he excitedly exclaims the good news to all within hearing. Some scoff at him, some ignore him, but some choose to believe this amazing news and run with abandon toward that source of satisfaction. You see, the man never thought

■ See LETTER page 8



● OBITUARY ●

Ellen Esther Shields Breckinridge

Ellen Esther Shields Breckinridge, 91, of Highlands, died on June 22, 2005, at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Born on September 5, 1913 in Colorado Springs, Colo., she lived in New Orleans, La., with her late husband, Preston Marshall Breckinridge, after their marriage in 1938. She moved to Highlands after his death in 1971.

Ellen was a member of the Junior League of New Orleans. In Highlands she served on the Vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation and was head of the altar guild. She was a past treasurer of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary and served on the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Board from 1979 to 1983. For many years she was treasurer of Mountain Findings.

Ellen was an avid needle pointer and stitched kneelers and chair seats for Incarnation, the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Cashiers and the Highlands United Methodist Church. She was a member of the Sapphire Valley Chapter of the American Needlepoint Guild and a founding member of the S&B Group.

She is survived by her children, Barbara Breckinridge Cusachs of Highlands, and R. John Marshall Breckinridge and wife, Madelon, of Wintergreen, VA, six grandchildren; Charlotte C. Bujoreanu, Preston E. Cusachs, Kendall C. Andrews, Katherine B. Graham, Elizabeth B. Haines, and Bonny B. DiNovo; nine great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Jean Shields, and niece, Leila Shields Chapman, both of Highlands. Honorary pallbearers are Preston E. Cusachs, Robert G. Andrews, Maricel Bujoreanu, Ford F. Graham, David K. Haines, and Anthony A. DiNovo.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Memorial gifts may be made to the church at, P.O. Box 729, Highlands, N.C. 28741 or to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, 190 Hospital Dr., Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online sympathy messages may be sent by visiting www.bryantfuneralhomes.com.

● MILESTONES ●



Carlton Hayes Sykes

Carlton Hayes Sykes, son of Jeffrey and Hannah Sykes of Reidsville, N.C. was born April 6, 2005 at 2:50 a.m. Hayes, who weighed 7 pounds and 12 ounces and measured 22 inches, was delivered at Annie Penn Hospital in Reidsville.

The baby's grandparents are Susan and Baker Crane of Highlands; and Mickie Sykes of Winston-Salem; and Edward Sykes of High Point. He is the first great-grandchild of Edna Whitmire and Eloise Crane, both of Highlands.

The baby is named after his late great-grandfathers, Carlton William Crane and Edward Hayes Sykes, Sr.

Hannah Sykes

Hannah Sykes received her Master's degree in English from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro on May 13, 2005. She is the daughter of Baker and Susan Crane and the granddaughter of Edna Whitmire and the late Henry Whitmire and Eloise Crane and the late Carlton Crane. Hannah is a Highlands School alumni, class of 1997 and recieved her Bachelor's in English from Western Carolina University in 2001.



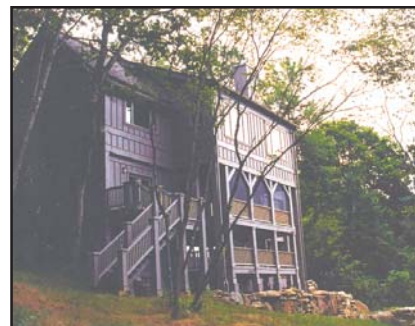
COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES



This remarkable new home will allow owners and guests ample space to enjoy the view of Whiteside and a mountain stream. Scheduled for completion summer 2005. The attention to detail is obvious from the entrance to the lower level living area. Complete with glass elevator, 2 kitchens, oversize 2-car garage, wood, Travertine & tile coloring, 3 fireplaces and more. All in Highlands Point. Offered at \$3.5 million. Lots also available from \$239,000.



Bears Den. Rustic lodge with Whiteside Mountain view. 8.68 acres surrounded by National Forest with seclusion that includes a tennis court, pool, sauna, streams and trails. This 7 bedroom, 7 bath offers a spacious great room with stone fireplace, commercial kitchen, wet bar, large dining area and more. A rare offering at \$1.5 million.



Lovely home sitting on 1.9 acres and features a super mountain view and rushing stream with several cascades of beautiful waterfalls. The home was a floor up renovation designed by Norman Askins and carefully crafted by Trophy Properties builders. The dwelling features a two-story living room, light and airy, that opens onto a large screened porch with a lovely mountain view. Custom kitchen, 2 fireplaces, great spaces. Four bedroom, 4 1/2 baths. Offered at \$1,600,000.



In a lovely secluded area close to Glen Falls is this ready-to-move into 3-bedroom, 2-bath with cypress floors, tongue-in-groove cypress ceilings in the living areas, vintage beams, stone-faced fireplace, wrap-around deck, verde butterfly granite countertops, Baldwin hardware, Hunter fans, locust posts with rhodo rails and a full basement on a beautiful open lot with winter Blue Valley view. Offered at \$599,000.



A fabulous combination of formal and rustic elegance, this home offers soaring glass in the family room with antique beams, fireplace and wood floors. A formal dining room, living room and office, compliment the kitchen with winter view of Shortoff Mountain. Master suite with ample closets, two bedrooms upstairs, 2-car garage and basement. Offered at \$1,100,000.

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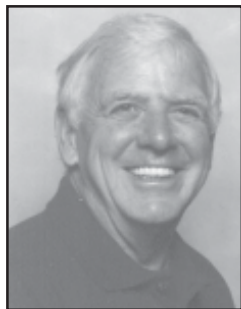


• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

I am not making this up...well, maybe a little

Let's suppose you are a normal thinking (ha) Highlander who decides to visit the state of Florida. Here are a few tips to help you come back alive. Warning: Do not go there in the summer without special heat proof shoes and a gallon of SPF3000 sun screen.

The first thing you will notice after arriving in the



Fred Wooldridge

Sunshine State is that everyone is driving at least 20 mph over the speed limit. Be aware that if you don't want to participate in this activity, you are at great risk. Floridians consider any person driving the speed limit to be a menace on the road. Also note that most Florida drivers who do not have a criminal record, about 60 percent, have a

permit to carry a concealed weapon, usually an AK47 semiautomatic rifle with a laser scope. The other 40 percent, the felons, are also carrying guns, but they don't need those pesty permits.

Floridians dislike people who drive the speed limit and since you probably will be the only person on the road who is not armed, I suggest bullet proof glass for your car before entering the state. The alternative is to participate in Florida's famous SOD program. SOD stands for "Speed or Die."

Let's say you are a SOD participant and decide to drive 75 mph on a posted 55 mph highway. You are tooling along in the left lane, thinking

that because of your excessive speed, no one will want to pass. Suddenly, without warning, there is a SOD participant who wants to drive 90mph and you are in his way. You can be pulled over by a Trooper and given a ticket for not yielding. Stay out of the left lane if you don't want a ticket for not yielding to speeders doing 90. Is Florida a great state or what?

Also new on the books this year is a fun new law giving special rights to citizens who do not want to flee from criminals anymore. In the past, citizens had to weenie out and run when being attacked by the bad guys. Criminals who are in your home and just want to leave with a few of your belongings are

▪See WOOLDRIDGE page 8

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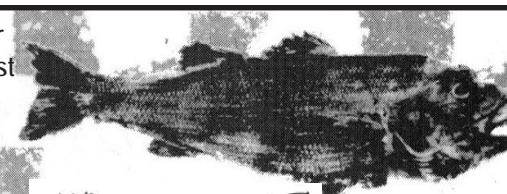
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Sapphire Red Hat Society enjoys "Too Marvelous for Words" Sunday, June 26. Submitted photo

Playhouse opens season with a bang

By Kim Lewicki

If the Highlands Playhouse production "Too Marvelous for Words" is any indication of what's in store this 67th season at the Playhouse, then theater-goers are in for a real treat.

The performers and musicians are top notch—polished, poised and professional. The show, a musical revue of songwriter Johnny Mercer's best pieces, is fast-paced, upbeat and engaging.

Almost every tune is familiar, even if you're not of the WWII era. Performers have been making Mercer's songs their own for some time now, so even if you weren't around for legendary "radio hours" you'll feel right at home listening to the show whatever your age.

Visually, the show sparkles. The minimalist set with musicians dressed in black and on stage with the performers; the tinsel backdrop that changes colors to match the costumes of singers Marsha Dupree and Shawn Megorden, keep the eye dazzled.

The show is reminiscent of a high-class night club complete with piano singer Damon Goff and band that includes a drummer, bass player, sax, and trumpet player.

The entire cast displays an ease that comes with years of work and experience, an ease so evident that before the evening is through, Highlands Playhouse Artistic Director and member of the "Too Marvelous for Words" cast Robert Ray has the audience singing along with the cast.

There's not one weak spot in the show – not the set, the costumes, the figures of the cast members, the voices, the script.

Word about the caliber of the show has evidently gotten around. On Tuesday night it was almost a sell-out.

"Too Marvelous for Words" runs through July 10 at the Playhouse. Show times are Tuesday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and

Sunday at 2 p.m. Call 526-2695 for tickets. You truly won't want to miss this one.

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Franklin, NC

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Matinee (Before 5 p.m.)

Adult — \$5, Child — \$4

June 28-July 7

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rated G

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Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:10), 7:05, 9:10

BATMAN BEGINS

rated PG-13

Weekdays: (4:30), 7, 9:30

Sat & Sun: (2), (4:30), 7, 9:30

CINDERELLA MAN

rated PG-13

Weekdays: (4:20), 7

Sat & Sun: (4:20), 7

MR. & MRS. SMITH

rated PG-13

Weekdays: 9:30

Sat & Sun: (2), 9:30

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● BOOK REVIEW WITH KATIE BRUGGER ●

Everything Bad is Good for You: How Today's Popular Culture is Actually Making us Smarter, by Steven Johnson, 306J

I like ideas that challenge the conventional wisdom, so I was immediately intrigued when I heard of this new book. I am (obviously) a book lover and have a bad opinion of both television (strange since I produce a television show!) and video games, and have long been convinced that both were bad influences on our culture. Could I be wrong?

Mr. Johnson begins with an entertaining exercise of imagining how people would talk about books if video games had come first: "Reading books chronically understimulates the senses. Unlike the longstanding tradition of gameplaying—which engages the child in a vivid, three-dimensional world filled with moving images and musical soundscapes, navigated and controlled with complex muscular movements—books are simply a barren string of words on the page. Only a small portion of the brain devoted to processing written language is activated during reading, while games engage the full range of the sensory and motor cortices..."

The first half of the book is a vigorous championing of video games, television, films, and the internet. (When I got to the sections on film and the internet I thought, "who says these are bad for you?" Maybe the title of this book was cute—it sure made it easy for me to remember it—but not quite accurate.) He establishes quite convincingly that there are positive effects from these popular pursuits.

For example, he makes the case that the benefit of video games is in the stimulation of cognitive processing: "...Far more than books or movies or music, [video] games force you to make *decisions*. Novels may activate our imagination, and music may conjure up powerful emotions, but games force you to decide, to choose, to prioritize. All the intellectual benefits of gaming derive from this fundamental virtue, because learning how to think is ultimately about learning to make the right decisions: weighing evidence, analyzing situations, consulting your long-term goals, and then deciding. No other pop cultural form directly engages the brain's decision-making apparatus in the same way."

Mr. Johnson identifies two other positive attributes of gaming: probing and telescoping. Probing means you learn the rules as you go; they aren't laid out in advance as in other games. Telescoping means learning the skill of "focusing on immediate problems while still maintaining a long-distance

view...Telescoping is about constructing the proper hierarchy of tasks in the correct sequence. It's about perceiving relationships and determining priorities." I was just talking to a young man in his late twenties and he told me that "telescoping" is the life lesson he is just now painfully learning.

The perception is that all video games are violent; Mr. Johnson says those are just the ones that get media attention: "the two genres that have dominated the [best-seller] charts are both forms of complex simulation: either sports sims, or GOD games like *SimCity* or *Age of Empires*. The most popular game of all time is the domestic saga *The Sims*."

To grasp his point about television, you only have to think of a TV program from the seventies, say *Green Acres*, and compare that to a modern show like *The Sopranos*. Every episode of *Green Acres* had one simple plot that was resolved by the end of the show, while *The Sopranos* has multiple complex interwoven plotlines that stretch across seasons. If someone from the seventies arrived today through time-travel, she would be completely confused watching most modern TV shows.

The complexity requires the television viewer to think. "Part of that cognitive work comes from following multiple threads, keeping often densely interwoven plotlines distinct in your head as you watch. But another involves the viewer's 'filling in': making sense of information that has been either deliberately withheld or deliberately left obscure."

Mr. Johnson even includes reality shows (particularly ones like *The Apprentice* or *Survivor*, but not *Fear Factor*) in the "good for you" category because they are all about social interaction and relationships. "The pleasure in these shows comes not from watching other human beings humiliated on national television; it comes from depositing other human beings in a complex, high-stakes environment where no established strategies exist, and watching them find their bearings... 'Playing' a reality show requires you to both adapt to an ever-changing rulebook and scheme your way through a minefield of personal relationships. To succeed in a show like *The Apprentice* or *Survivor*, you need social intelligence, not just a mastery of trivia [as in the older TV game shows].

This stimulates a part of our intelligence that has long been

■ See REVIEW page 10

• ALL ABOUT WINE •

Need more movies about wine

I admit it: I need to see it again. I'd read about it and heard people talking about it, and I really wanted to see it. A movie about wine. It's about time. Despite the huge change in cultural awareness regarding wine appreciation, there's not much out there to document it. You'll find a few books here and there, but only a shelf or two compared with the cases devoted to food and cooking. And almost no documentaries: where's the History Channel's "Wine Week?" When I went to Netflix and typed in "wine," the top entry was "Days of Wine and Roses."

So, when "Sideways" came out, I was excited. Well before the Academy nominations were announced, I decided it was time to see this movie for myself. After a full Saturday of work, I drove to Atlanta and saw the midnight show. Even at that time of night, the Megacomplex was bustling, but a handful of other moviegoers and I had the cubicle to ourselves. I got some popcorn and a Coke (the next best thing to wine, I guess) and settled in.

Hardly a day goes by when a customer doesn't mention the film: "What did you think," they ask expectantly. Being the honest person that I am, I don't want to lie. And I don't do it well. So here's the truth.

I didn't like the movie. The characters were tedious, the plot uneven. As a former English major and teacher, I know full-well that a work of literature is not deemed bad simply because the characters are losers. Some of the most depressing works I've ever read or seen are the ones that I commend the most. I'm not a prude or a Pollyanna when it comes to my taste in art. I like "Reservoir Dogs," for crying out loud.

But I thought "Sideways" would never end. I enjoyed the scenery of Central California vineyards. I appreciated the philosophizing about wine and the role that wine plays in culture. I laughed at a few of the scenes which really were pretty funny. I enjoyed the popcorn and Coke. But the movie, frankly, (can I say this in a newspaper?) sucked. I don't enjoy seeing something that I value as much as fine wine relegated to losers. There are enough stigmas associated with wine already: brown paper sacks and



Bert Mobley
Highlands Wine & Cheese

bums on park benches. The only difference is that these guys had a car. Those of us who love wine know that wine deserves a better movie than "Sideways."

My response, as much as anything, is a result of my expectations. I wanted to see a great movie about wine, and the build-up I'd heard had been

incredible. It couldn't live up to the hype. In fairness, not much does. And maybe I was just too tired that evening to give it a fair shot. Maybe if I see it again, I'll come away with a different impression.

But despite my reaction to the movie, "Sideways" leaves me with hope. On one hand, people are talking about wine. They're drinking Pinot Noir, too. My main hope, however, comes from the fact that a successful, popular wine movie has been made, and more will surely follow. I hope I like the next one better.

On a totally different note. It's summer time in Highlands, a perfect place and time for wine. We talk a lot about summer porch wines—a good Sauvignon Blanc or a crisp Pinot Grigio. On a warm afternoon looking across ranges towards the horizon, these wines are perfect. But another wine that most people don't even think about deserves a try. Even if it is pink.

A good dry rose'. Many of the best come from Tavel, an area in the South of France which makes only rose'. Other good examples come from other areas around Avignon in Provence. Over the last few years, however, many other producers around the world are experimenting with the pink stuff, and it's a far cry from your grandmother's white zin. Some may have a touch of the sweetness you'd normally associate with a wine of that color, but most don't. Lots of flavor and freshness: another perfect porch wine.

But summer time in Highlands is great for winelovers in another way too. We have the warm afternoons, but by evening, it's cool, calling for a red of some weight and substance—a big cab or a syrah. The best of everything: whites or rose's in the afternoon and a big red in the evening.

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... LETTER continued from page 2

he was better than all the other beggars, he just new where the bread was.

This is the heart of a Christian who evangelizes. We stand and offer, with an open hand, the joy and life we have found, out of a desire to share the abundance. This is the freedom we have. Anyone has the right and freedom to listen, ignore, refuse or accept the offer. And as for keeping our politics and faith separated, it is impossible to fully understand the life and death of Jesus Christ and the sacrifice He made for us and not have your entire life changed and permeated by His love. If the majority of the people in a country knowingly elect a president of strong religious conviction it is ludicrous to think that his convictions would stop at his oval office door. As long as people are not forced to believe and practice a certain religion under penalty of persecution, no law has been broken. Religious freedom does not exclude Christianity. The truth is that I have just as much right to offer to you the abundant forgiveness, love and life of Jesus Christ as you have to reject it.

**Darlene Melcher
Highlands, NC**

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

now at great risk. Citizens are allowed to defend their castle, whether it be home, car or skate board and can actually shoot it out with crooks, all with the blessings of Governor Jeb Bush, who is Billy the Kid, reincarnated.

Floridians are elated with this new law because they no longer have to drag dead criminals from their front yards back into the house and put kitchen knives in their hands before calling the police. It's a lot less messy and they don't have to get the rugs cleaned.

I mention this because, as a visitor, you could accidentally be shot. Let's say a Floridian cuts you off, racing you out of your parking spot at the super market. Since this happens about 7,000 times a day per parking lot, pay attention here. You decide to walk over to the driver and tell him how rude he was in cutting you off. The driver thinks you are invading his castle (the car) and decides he is at risk. POW, you go home in a box and the Floridian

continues his shopping but only after keying your car.

If you're going to be in Florida for any length of time, you may want to join in the excitement and get your own concealed weapon permit. Here's how. When you show up at the court house, you must demonstrate you are breathing. Sad as this may seem, several years ago Florida stopped issuing gun permits and voting cards to dead people. Once you have proven you are alive, say the following words. "I drive I-95 regularly." POW, You're signed up.

No need for any special gun training or stupid stuff like that. They will make you promise to read a booklet on the law which says you no longer have to drag criminals into your house after shooting them.

Well, that's it for visiting Florida. I will soon report on secret IQ tests given to North Carolina's Department of Transportation supervisors. Stay tuned because this is really, really scary.

... PLANNING BOARD continued from page 1

Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein briefed the board on the legal issues of recommending the downgrade of the property stating that if the Town Board decided to downzone the property to R-2 a lawsuit was likely because of the diminished value of the property.

Win or lose the town will have to pay the price – probably in the six figures – for legal council and if the lawsuit is lost the town will pay the difference in value of the property plus the accrued interest, said Gantenbein.

"The plaintiff has the burden of proving the town acted arbitrary and capricious and that's a high standard, however there are a lot of facts in this case that would allow them to get by on summary judgment ... and if a case like this goes in front of a jury you'd better get out your checkbooks," he said.

Clem Patton said the planning board's consideration shouldn't be influenced by the potential legal ramifications of such a decision to the town.

"We are a board that the town commissioners in their wisdom decided should be basically citizens rather than lawyers and that our obligation is first of all to come up with a vision of how the town ought to be in the long term and consistent with what the people in the town want," Patton said. "As I understand what the people in the town want it's pretty consistent with what we've done in our updated land use plan. As I understand that plan and the vision for the corridors is that they ought to be in keeping with the community like it is, not highly commercial corridors that lead into the town."

Patton said his feeling on the matter was he would rather have it R-2 than anything else.

Chairman John Cleaveland shot back saying, "If you owned it you probably wouldn't want it to be that. It's easy to say that when it's not your dollar you're talking about."

Patton maintained the residential look to the corridors leading into town should remain and were unswerving with the town's vision of the updated plan.

"I disagree because you're talking about that one piece of property, what about the rest of them," Cleaveland said.

Board Member Griffin Bell said the Town Board had various people to give them advice so they could make educated decisions and a lawyer to give them legal advice.

"What I see is an opinion by you," he said looking at Gantenbein. "You feel it's an obligation to tell us, but it has the effect of inhibiting the votes for some of the people on this board, and it's not up to us to worry about whether it's legal or not. It's up to us to give a recommendation to the Town Board,

and they can get advice from somebody else as to what the law is," Bell said. "I don't think any of the board members should make any of their decisions based on who's going to win or lose. There is no way anybody knows that at this point."

Gantenbein said the only reason he explained the legality of the situation to the board was because he had been asked about it a number of times and "assumed you wanted to know what the Town Board had the legal authority to do."

The Town Board asked the planning board to look within the context of the land use plan at rezoning this entire property back to R-2 in order to make it more consistent with the neighborhood.

Rick Siegel, owner of 4 1/2 Street Inn, was present at the meeting and spoke to the board as a neighbor of the property. "It was B-4 when she bought it, and I think it would be unjust for the town to downgrade the property and take money away from her. I don't want see that go commercial. I would like to see it stay residential, and the plan that Mr. Simmerson did present preserved the green space along that road."

Siegel said he saw the issue as having only two choices, because he didn't think the town should take that property and "make it a lesser value."

"If the town chooses to do that, I think there will be a fight," Siegel said.

Patton disagreed saying there was a third alternative in downzoning the property to R-2.

"The town is willing to downgrade it to R-2 and that is a third alternative," Patton said. "It's their decision, and they fight the battles."

Gantenbein said Commissioners Hank Ross and Dennis DeWolf wanted to know if the Werder property was one of the parcels the land use planning committee had in mind for multi-family use.

"What we talked about as far as multi-family was permitting it in B-3, it wasn't to perpetuate a lot more multi-family within the town or even make multi-family closer to town, it was to consider making multi-family possible and one of the permitted uses for what was already B-3."

Bell said when the board was initially asked to vote on the decision to recommend rezoning on this property most saw multi-family housing as the lesser of two evils because of the apprehension that someone would build stores along the highway.

Bell reiterated the point that the land use planning committee wanted green corridors leading into and out of town.

"After the town board made its decision, the developer playing
•See PLANNING BOARD page 27



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... REVIEW continued from page 6

overlooked by our culture, what is called our "emotional intelligence": our ability to read the emotional cues broadcast by another's facial expressions and body language. "Part of that learning comes from the sheer number of characters involved in a show like *The Apprentice* or *Survivor*. Just as *The Sopranos* challenges the mind to follow multiple threads, the reality shows demand that we track multiple *relationships*. This activates a component of our emotional IQ, sometimes called our social intelligence: our ability to monitor and recall many distinct vectors of interaction in the population around us, to remember that Peter hates Paul, but Paul likes Peter, and both of them get along with Mary." The ability of our brains to map these social relationships is vitally important to our survival in our highly social human world.

Mr. Johnson discusses the increased complexity of films, caused in part by the increase in the number of major characters in the average film.

Another way films have become more complex is in what he calls the "mind-bender" genre: "a film designed specifically to disorient you, to mess with your head." As examples he gives *Pulp Fiction*, *L.A. Confidential*, *Memento*, and *The Matrix*, among others. Some have very complex plotlines, some "invent new temporal schemes that invert traditional relationships of cause and effect."

In the second half of the book he moves on to his central argument: the increasing complexity of modern media is making us smarter. "IQs have been rising in most developed countries at an extraordinary clip over the past century: an average of 3 points per decade. A number of studies have suggested that the rate of increase is itself accelerating: average scores in the Netherlands, for instance, increased 8 points between 1972 and 1982."

He argues that it's not diet—effects of improvement in nutrition leveled off soon after WWII, and not education—most studies show students are doing worse in school. Instead he argues that it is the new forms of media and technology that have arisen over the last hundred years that are causing this rise in IQ. He asks the reader to imagine what a child's amusements were 100 years ago: playing with simple toys, reading, playing improvised games like stickball. But today a child watches complex TV shows and films (kids' films like *Finding Nemo* are complex enough to hold adult's attention), masters computers and the internet, explores the virtual worlds of video/computer games. The standard joke is that the parents have to ask their 10-year-old to set the VCR clock! Our environment is incredibly more complex than that of anyone alive 100 years ago and this has increased our IQ.

Interestingly, those at the very top of the IQ scale are not getting smarter; it's those in the middle who are progressing.

Mr. Johnson logically states: "Think about it this way: if our brain really desired to atrophy in front of mindless entertainment, then the story of the last thirty years of video games—from *Pong* to *The Sims*—would be a story of games that grew increasingly simple over time... The games are growing more challenging because there's an economic incentive to make them more challenging—and that economic incentive exists because our brains *like* to be challenged."

A wise suggestion by Mr. Johnson is that parents use the criteria of "cognitive challenge" rather than just content to decide if something is good for a child (or self!).

As I got toward the end I felt like this really wasn't enough material for a

• See REVIEW page 13

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**... DECISION continued from page 1**

round" residents. With that has come increased development.

Case in point are the Werder property, surrounded by U.S. 64 east, Hickory and Chestnut Streets, and the old post office property on the corner of Pine and Fifth Streets.

In this week's "critical" meeting, the planning board voted a self-serve storage building had no place in the B-2 business district barely an hour after the appearance commission split their decision to recommend changes to the building's appearance on the old post office site.

At the last zoning board meeting, Gantenbein suggested they refer the legitimacy of storage facilities in the B-2 district, because it is not expressly permitted within that ordinance.

"It doesn't fit with the rest of the character of downtown. It's too industrial," said Commission Member Ginger Slaughter regarding what some members called a "monolithic" structure.

Needless to say their worries were moot when the planning board, which has three members of the appearance commission on it, voted an "industrial need," like storage units should stay far-

ther out of town in the B-3 district.

"It's the relationship of the project to adjoining areas of the town, and it's essentially making that site a dead area," Slaughter said. "It doesn't relate to what's near it."

The board voted unanimously citing their recent land use plan as the reason to maintain the mountain character of the town.

Technically, the project for the old post office building site at the corner of Pine and Fifth Streets could go ahead to the zoning board, but it is highly unlikely they would disagree with the planning board considering that one part of the four prong special use permit test is the building's complementary use to the neighborhood, said Gantenbein.

With the planning board's decision to adhere to the ordinance and not permit storage facilities in the B-2 zone, the project is obsolete and the property is no longer under contract.

However, a group of local residents and organizations, led by King Young, is working on plans to purchase the property and develop a greenspace for the town.

... CHAMBER continued from page 1

mendation and directed it to proceed with lease negotiations with the owner of the property, Anne Tate.

After months of searching, the choice of 20 sites was narrowed down to two - the historic Phelps House and the old Masterworks suite in Wright Square.

Committee members cited several pros to the Phelps House location - quaintness of the historic home, a unanimous recommendation from the Chamber and Visitor Center staff, a dog-walking area, a lawn with picnic table options, and abundant storage in a two-car garage under the building.

The seven board members who voted "yes" were: Stan Cochran, Nancy Plate, Jim Mullen, Michelle Hubbell, Rick Siegel, Debbie Putney, and Sara Sloan. Bill Aaron voted "no" and Allan Schultz abstained. President of the



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Chamber Board, Wick Ashburn only votes to break a tie.

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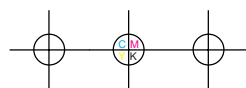
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Patron's party for B-L Gallery annual garden tour July 14

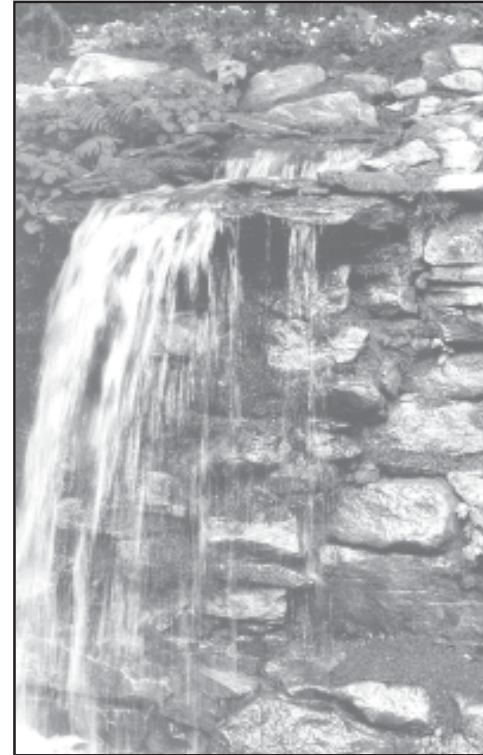
The party this year on July 14 at Gerald and Jo Ann Lawhorn's estate on Many Road will have it all: abundant flowers, historic connections, streams and cascades, a trout-filled lake, as well as delicious food and exciting wines.

Lawhorn Cabin was built by Joe Webb in his "heyday" in the 1930s for Margaret Young. It is one of about 30 log houses built by Webb which gives a unique flavor to the Highlands plateau. The Lawhorns have made the property their own by adding exciting water features to the grounds – rock-lined streams, small falls, stepping stones and meandering paths. On a mid-level terrace there is an outdoor fireplace to enjoy on cool evenings. The feature of the evening will be the lavish buffet dinner

to be catered by Wolfgang's on Main and staff. It will be served under a festive tent in the meadow by the lake.

If you would like a ticket to this exciting Highlands event, call 526-4949 or stop by the Bascom-Louise Gallery in the Hudson Library on Main Street.

Tickets for the Patron's Party are \$130. Tickets to the garden tour the next day including lunch are \$55. Proceeds from ticket sales for these events will benefit the operating fund for the Bascom-Louise Gallery, currently in the



Hudson Library. The tour is made possible in part by Platinum sponsors: Meadows Mountain Realty, Barry and Paula Jones of the Summer House and gold sponsors: Bryant Art Glass, Bird Barn, Macon Bank, and Chatooga Gardens.

... BUDGET continued from page 1

ures used in the amended budget reflect actual revenues and expenditures.

At the Wednesday morning budget meeting and special session, the board unanimously approved the amended budget and moved on to the 2005-2006 budget review.

Commissioner Hank Ross said he had not had time to review the amended budget and wondered how he could become more involved in the process of developing the new budget.

Mayor Buck Trott pointed out that each board member was provided with copies of the budget on May 18 and had six weeks to review it. However, he suggested a training session or orientation be implemented next year early in the process.

Commissioner Herb James said he felt not enough work sessions had been held this year.

But the June 15 Town Board meeting was reserved almost entirely as a work session where commissioners and administrators went through the whole budget, deciding to add the ball park

renovations of \$140,000, additional funds for the police separation allowance and the increased funds for Town Hall renovations.

"I presented the budget on May 18 two weeks earlier than required," Betz said. "Salaries were presented in closed session on June 1, and deferred until the next meeting."

Commissioner Alan Marsh initially abstained from the vote to approve the 2005-2006 budget, but when it was explained to him that an abstention was counted as a 'yes,' he changed his vote to 'no' saying he was confused. When asked to explain his reasoning he wouldn't say.

Marsh did make a comment about wanting to put the Harris Lake sewer in the capital improvement plan, and Betz told him it was already in the budget as presented on May 18.

Marsh also said he didn't know he could attend the finance committee meetings and Betz said it was an open meeting and anyone could attend.

Commissioners James, Patterson, Ross and DeWolf voted in favor of the budget.



Author Crowe to sign book at Cyrano's

Four long years Thomas Rain Crowe lived alone deep in the woods of the North Carolina mountains, surviving without the modern conveniences of electricity, plumbing, transportation, or money. *Zoro's Field: My Life in the Appalachian Woods* is the story of Crowe's experiment in self-sufficiency. Published on the 150th anniversary of Thoreau's Walden, it is a tribute to those adventurous souls who follow through on their dreams to live a more simple, self-reliant life in the wilderness, paced to the cycles of the sun, the moon, and the seasons and filled with the wisdom that cannot be gleaned from attending to tele-



Thomas Rain Crowe

vision, a cell phone, or a watch.

On Saturday, July 2, the public is invited to meet this extraordinary poet, editor, publisher, recording artist, and author of twelve books of original and translated works at Cyrano's Bookshop, where he will autograph copies of *Zoro's Field* from 1- 3 p.m.

Crowe's mentor during his life in the wild was an old mountaineer named Zoro Guice, who showed him the mountain ways and taught him that "If a man goes out in the woods and just sits down in one place for long enough, all of nature and everything he needs to know will eventually pass before him like a parade."

Summer Colors Fine Art Show

Kathryn Eskew of Woodstock, Ga. demonstrates her abstract approach to painting. She along with about 40 artists will have a booth at the Art League of Highlands Art Summer Colors Fine Art Show, July 16 and 17 at the Rec Park in Highlands, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days. All art is original and many artists will be demonstrating their working methods and meeting visitors at the Summer Colors Show. Come by and bring the children to the "Craft Table" supervised by Ruth Farnald. Also for kids, the Sparkle Magic Show is at 1 p.m. on Saturday in the gym where the art show is held. For info contact



Kathryn Eskew

Marty Ruppert at 828-883-2560; deerheart@citcom.net

... REVIEW continued from page 10

book, this could have been a long magazine article. Then I read the section called "notes on further reading" and there I found the rest of the book. It hadn't been written, just suggested. Johnson kept talking about lack of content not being a problem in TV shows and video games because their virtue was in their cognitive challenge, but the feeling was that this book had been dumbed down to make it sell better. His notes betrayed a much deeper—and better—book could have been written.

Another problem I had was that I'm not sure that he established causality between media and IQ. Perhaps there is another factor causing the rise in IQ and the smarter population is demanding more complexity in their entertainment. Mr.

Johnson didn't spend enough time exploring other possible causes of the IQ rise.

Then again, many people look at the younger generation and find it hard to believe that the average person is getting smarter: look at the Sunday, June 26 *Doonesbury* cartoon as an example. One of his college-age characters asks his friend: "For our entire lives, Baby Boomers have been the players to watch—the generation that makes things happen! But our generation—who are we? Who's done anything that really matters?" His friend is watching a TV news show which flashes an alert about Paris Hilton, and he assures him, "We'll always have Paris, man." Maybe content does matter.

Visit this authentic log home in Highland Hills, Sunday, July 3 from 1-5 p.m.!



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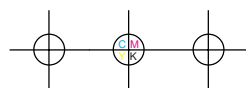


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Providing charity care is part of hospital's mission

With the cost of treating serious illness often approaching staggering proportions, where do you turn if you have limited means, no health insurance, and are in need of major surgery?

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is one place to turn for help, as dozens of area residents are finding out.

"Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has always been committed to providing medical care to people who really need it, regardless of their economic situation," explained Administrator Jim Graham.

In fact, during the last six months alone, the hospital has helped qualifying individuals obtain the care they needed on 77 different occasions, providing more than \$103,000 in free services. That does not include other types of uncompensated care, such as free care rendered to emergency patients where there was no opportunity to apply for assistance in advance.

"As a not-for-profit health care provider, we are required to provide a certain amount of 'charity care,' but the hospital's own philosophy, as expressed in its vision statement, is to provide necessary medical care to everyone in our communities, regardless of their ability to pay," said Walt Nussbaum, chairman of the hospital's Board of Directors. "It's one of the main reasons we are here."

Receiving assistance with medical bills isn't a willy-nilly proposition, however. The hospital has strict guidelines for who qualifies, and a lot of paperwork is required from the applicant.

"There's a whole series of guidelines that a patient has to meet in order to qualify and much of that is determined by the federal government," explains Mike Daiken, chief financial officer. "For one thing, Medicare and Medicaid want to be sure we aren't discounting care to some patients more than we discount it to people covered by those programs. And the IRS also wants to be sure charity goes to those who deserve it. As with almost everything we do, there are a lot of people looking over our shoulder."

In order to qualify to receive charity care, a patient must show he or she meets certain standards for assets and income. Business Manager Joy Martin says those standards are based around federal poverty guidelines. In addition

to filling out an application the patient must furnish the latest federal tax return, proof of salary if employed, property tax evaluation records listing any assets, bank statements and a letter showing they are not eligible to receive Medicaid.

"We realize this is asking a lot. We try to help people all we can, but it's certainly a lot of paperwork. Nevertheless, that's what we must have in order to comply," she said.

If the patient qualifies, there is a sliding fee scale based on the federal guidelines for income and size of family. In some cases the patient is responsible for a percentage of the bill; in others they might not have to pay anything.

Graham said that unlike county-owned hospitals, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital doesn't receive any government funding to pay for the charity care it provides.

"The cost of that care comes out of the hospital's own pocket, so to speak. Thankfully, we have a very active Foundation and a very generous community," he added.

For non-emergent situations, charity care must be approved in advance. However, much of the uncompensated care rendered by the hospital ends up not being pre-approved. That's because it involved an emergency. By law, the hospital is required to treat all patients who have an emergent condition. And sometimes that illness or condition is serious enough to require hospitalization or even emergency surgery. For those without health insurance coverage and with limited resources that often means the hospital ends up simply writing off those charges. The hospital wrote off nearly \$525,000 in bad debt during its last fiscal last year, and this year's number is expected to be similar.

"When someone comes in with an emergency our first concern is to care for them," said Martin. "Only then do we discuss how they are going to handle their bill. If they can't, we work with them to either arrange a payment plan or handle it as charity care. If they can afford to pay their bill, we do everything possible to collect."

Martin said the number of patients who need some type of assistance in handling their medical costs is rising. In large part, that is tied to the growing number of uninsured people across the state, and throughout the country.



Health Insurance Crisis Facts

From the NC Rural Economic Development Center

- One in five North Carolinians under the age of 64 (1.4 million) does not have health insurance coverage. That's 22 percent.

- Nationwide, the number of uninsured Americans under age 65 has grown to more than 43 million, an increase of more than 10 percent since 2000. (Some estimates put that figure much higher, as high as 75 million).

- According to a 2004 study, North Carolina ranks 8th nationally in the number of uninsured people under age 65.

- Only 35 percent of businesses with 50 or less employees provide health insurance coverage, down from 41 percent just a year ago.

- Small business owners in North Carolina have ranked health insurance as the biggest problem facing them nine of the last 10 years.

- The hardest hit counties are all rural. In 34 rural North Carolina counties, 20 percent or more of the non-elderly population is uninsured.

According to the Macon County Healthy Carolinians Coalition

- An estimated 19 percent of Macon residents (all ages) don't have health insurance.

- The growing number of uninsured is one of the top five health concerns facing the Macon County.

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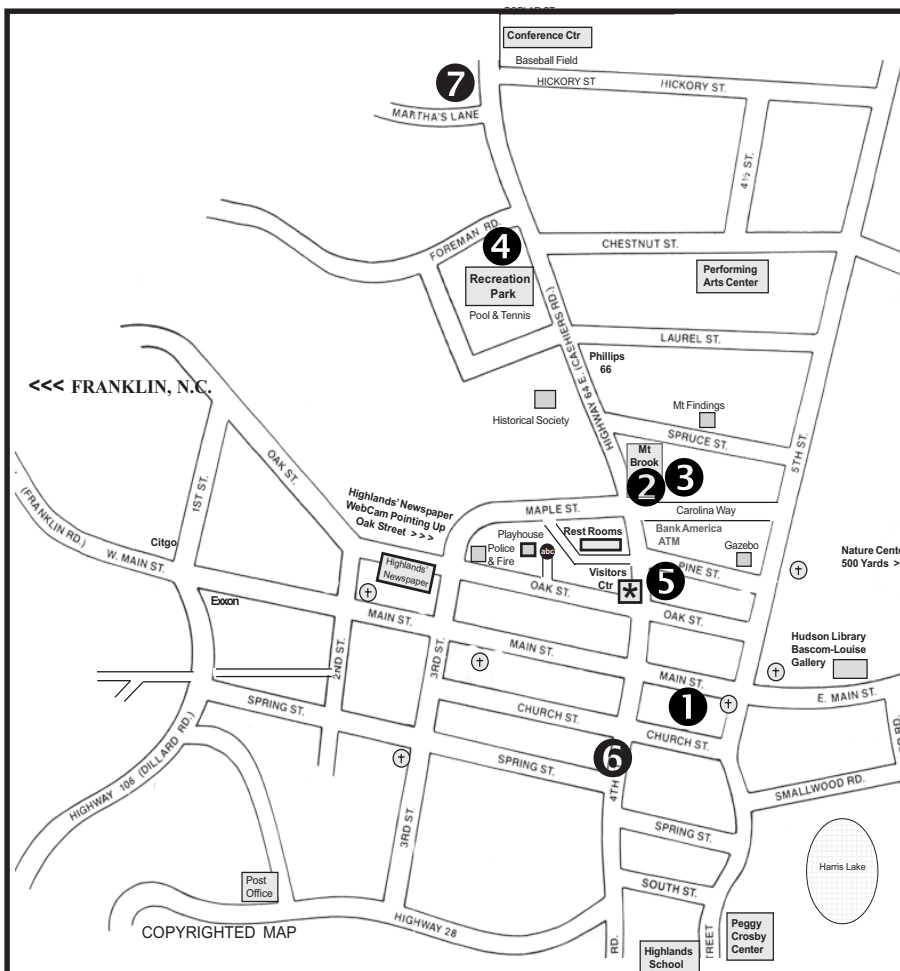


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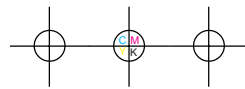
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THE MANY FACES OF BRIAN STARR

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

Sitting on a bench in downtown Highlands, Brian Starr looks like an alternative teenager with his Boy Scout button-up shirt covering his small, boyish frame and his red bandanna tied tightly over his wavy dark brown hair. But when he opens his mouth to speak, it becomes apparent there is much more to him than meets the eye.

Starr, who has been performing in the Highlands area for about two years, is heading for Fayetteville, Ark., and hopes to plan an "intentional community" where people are drawn to each other because of their theoretical beliefs, not their economic status. His dream is to build his own home and attract people who feel the same way he does about life.

Starr said last winter he was depressed and went to visit a friend in Fayetteville. He said he "popped out of it and really got into the lifestyle there."

A self-professed half city boy, half mountain boy, Starr said he likes being in the small town atmosphere because the city makes him feel unfocused and he "doesn't know where to put his energy."

He is deceptively philosophical because what is seen on the outside does not reflect the inner depth inside. "I just want to make people happy," he said.

Starr said he got up on stage last Friday with ITC and though he had never acted before in his life said "everyone came up to me after and said 'you've got this spice.'"

Spice is something Starr has always possessed even though he was tormented as an adolescent for his unconventional behavior. Growing up in suburban Illinois, Starr was dyeing his hair orange and wearing anything and everything he could, including his mother's dressing gowns, to get noticed. He was ridiculed and called a "fag," but he said he understood he was challenging those around him and they "weren't comfortable with that and they were afraid of me." He said there were many times he came close to getting beaten up by other boys, but it never happened.

"I was so full of energy, and I just didn't know where to put it," he said. "I would ask myself what's

going to get the most attention then I would do it."

Music was another outlet for Starr that allowed him to unleash his creative beast and at the young age of 11 his father bought him an acoustic Stella guitar for \$5 at a garage sale.



Brian Starr

Photo by Nicky Mack

His parents signed him up for lessons, but Starr rebelled against the structure and taught himself. Listening to his mother's Neil Diamond and Barry Manilow recordings, Starr understands now where he gets his performance edge.

His first band was Internal Death which was directly related to his intense desire not to listen to popular music. "I first liked hair metal; Poison, Cinderella, Motley Crue, Bon Jovi," he said seriously. "But when Dr. Feelgood came out and everyone who had hated Motley Crue before started liking them I got really upset."

Starr turned to Death Metal, which was the only way he could listen to music other people didn't like. "I just didn't like mass culture," he said. Starr said a lot of the music was not what people thought it was and that appealed to him. "Most of the music was ecologically minded and was saying very positive things about protecting the environment and you can see that I still use that in my songs now, like "Brush your teeth" and "Bottle of glue."

After Internal Death, Starr was in several more bands including Nuclear Assault, Black Reign, Bushroot and Crayons, with music ranging from Death Metal, alternative punk to kids' songs about celery.

"I felt a huge streak to stand out, now I've developed into what I want to make my life extraordinary," Starr said. "I didn't want to be normal at any price."

Starr graduated from high school and attended Colombia College in Chicago where he received a degree in sound engineering so he could record his own albums.

"My parents have always been very supportive even though they are both pretty conservative," he said.

After college Starr said he began to feel everything in the universe was interconnected and he became fixated on living a different kind of life. It was around this same time he came across a book in the Chicago public library that changed his entire methodology on living.

"Seth Speaks' changed my life," Starr said. "I had a lot of ideas about the fact that life is energy and the basic karma that whatever you are is what you attract to yourself. Like attracts like, and that has helped me to know there were other people out there in the world who were different from the norm."

Starr said he realized for the first time that he was the only person who could make himself happy and that he had the power to create his own life.

So, he took his solo act on the road for three months and lived where ever his music took him. He traveled from city to city and played every open mic night he could find.

Some nights he slept on the sidewalk or in parking lots, others he stayed with the people he met, but his life was his own and he took great satisfaction in knowing that. "I was working hard, and I was really happy," he said.

Starr said he was "drug-free" until he was 17 years old and when the alcohol became excessive he felt like he was drowning and drinking was getting in the way of his creativity.

He discovered Ravi Shankar, a classical Indian sitar player, whose music took him on a spiritual journey – that is now a part of his show. "That music changed my life," he said. "There is something in me that resonates with Indian culture."

Starr said he didn't want to unbalance his natural waves and that his biggest fear was being average. "I'm also afraid of not using my potential as a human being to create," he said.

That three-month tour has now become four years and is essentially what led him to Highlands.

Starr's father, dubbed by him "Papa Starr," came to Highlands one summer and invited him along. He met Buck French, the owner of Buck's Coffee Café, who invited him to play. At his performance he met Janet Wilson, who asked him to perform at Highlands annual Art Walk and Children's Art Walk.

His first show at Buck's led to another and by chance many Highlands school students were there to see his quirky rendition of Britney Spears and fell in love with him.

"What I've come to realize here is that I'm not playing for the tourists or the people who have money, I'm playing for people who live here who are seeking something different and are seeking something more out of life," he said.

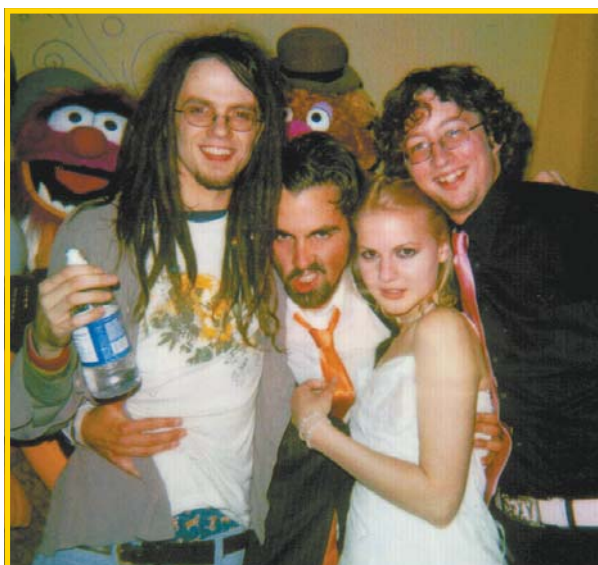
Starr said he gets a couple bucks out of it and has a really good experience as well. "I don't need a lot of money, just enough to eat and get to where I'm going," Starr said.

Starr, 28, is a performer extraordinaire who will be showcasing his talent at Buck's Coffee Café July 8 and the Instant Theatre Company July 9 and 15.

Starr's birthday, which is July 7, will be celebrated at Buck's with homemade ice cream in traditional birthday party style. His band, The Counterparts, will accompany him that night at Buck's and he will also be releasing a finished EP with four new songs from Brian Starr and The Counterparts for \$5.

"They are all within themselves fabulous, beautiful, talented people and I loved each one of them before I knew any of them," he said genuinely.

■See STARR page 27



Brian Starr and The Counterparts will perform at Buck's Coffee Cafe on July 8 at 8 p.m.



Blue Angels – An American emblem & tradition

By Nancy Welch
Contributor

When the flag passes by on the Fourth of July, Evadene Merritt will place her hand over her heart and smile proudly, even if tears are running down her cheeks. The Highlands realtor has reason to be proud. All three of her sons have served in the U. S. Navy. One now serves with the Navy's famous Blue Angels and another once served with the prestigious group who present death-defying air shows throughout the United States.

"My son, Dwaine (Scruggs), who is 39, is currently serving as the chief mechanic for the Blue Angels," the Navy mom says, proudly. "He entered as an enlisted man and then went to Chief Warrant Officer's School and is a junior j.g."

In 2001, her son, Walter Scruggs, was also associated with the Blue Angels, and her third son, Brian, served in the Navy for four years. All three were in the Navy during the Gulf War.

Merritt said she attends as many Blue Angel shows as she can and when she does, she is treated like a VIP.

"They put me in the same hotel as the Blue Angels and then, when it is time to go to the air field, they send me in the caravan with them. The police stop all traffic as we go through town. Then when we arrive, I am escorted to the VIP section, where I am usually seated in the front row."

She explained the families are seated there so the crews know exactly where to find them after the aerial exhibition.

"It's all very exciting," she said, smiling broadly. "They make me feel like I really am something special."

But she is convinced her sons are the special ones.

"They always wanted to be in the Navy," she said. "They had a favorite uncle who was in the Navy, and from a very young age, the all said they would someday enlist."

Life with the Blue Angels is challenging both for the crews and their families, Merritt explained.

"They have one day a week at home," she said. "They spend their summers based in Pensacola and their winters training and learning new routines in El Centro, California. It's not an easy life for a family."

She said her son, Dwain, is not married.

"Becoming a member of the Blue Angels is not easy," she said. Dwain had been named top chief mechanic for the east coast when his commander suggested he applied to be a part of the group.

"He had a number of interviews then they cut the group down and sent them down to be with the Blue Angels to see what kind of team members they would be," she said. "It was a long and tedious process."

The Blue Angel teams all serve together and for only two or three years, she said. They practice constantly and give two shows each weekend during their "season."

"I try to go to as many as I can," she said. "I just have to. The first day, I'm nervous. I just sit there and pray everything will be OK. The second day, I'm more relaxed and can enjoy the show."

She said she still looks on with pride and awe as she watches her son do his job.

"There he sits with his headphones on, talking to the commander who flies the lead plane. He's

telling him the weather and wind speed and all. I look and think, 'When did my son become so responsible,'" she said. She laughs, thinking of her little boys, now grown.

As a Blue Angel mom, Merritt has had the opportunity to obtain a few VIP tickets for her friends here.

"John Darden (a seasonal Highlands resident) lives in California in the winter," Merritt said. "He let me know he was going to fly down to El Centro to see the Blue Angels, so I got him VIP tickets and told him how to get in touch with my son."

She said Darden was given the VIP treatment and was invited to ride in the caravan, as well as being seated in the VIP section.

"He and his friends had taken a taxi to the hotel and had told the taxi driver to meet them at the air field after the show," she said. "They met my son and had photos made, forgetting about the taxi. He said they ended up hitchhiking back to town! He said that was quite a step down."

Her sons' association with the U. S. military has intensified Merritt's patriotism.

"On the Fourth of July, I'll cry when I see the flag and hear the music," she said. "I can't help it. I fly the flag at home every day and am so proud to be an American. My main thought this Fourth of July will be the boys and girls — and they are very young — in



Lt. j.g. Dwain M. Scruggs

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Vivace
Highlands, NC

A black and white photograph of a retail store's exterior. The store features a large, striped awning over the entrance. Above the awning, there is a sign that reads "Vintage". To the right of the entrance, there is a small sign that reads "Vintage". The store has large windows displaying various items. The building is made of light-colored material, possibly stucco or concrete. There is a small, dark, arched entrance to the left of the main entrance. The overall appearance is that of a vintage or antique store.

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Hat Society

High Steppin'!

A black high-heeled shoe, likely a stiletto, is shown in profile, angled upwards. The shoe is black with a black heel. The text "High Steppin'!" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, slanted upwards to follow the curve of the shoe's heel.

The Old Rangoon
ARTS OF ASIA

BACK of the BEAR



VILLAGE KIDS

Christmas in July

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

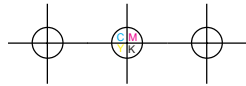
THE CHRISTMAS TREE

SALE

on selected items

www.ChristmasinHighlands.com

A diagram showing three vertical lines representing qubits. The middle qubit is highlighted with a circle and labeled with the letters C, M, Y, and K in different colors.



Predator beetles (*Sasajiscymnus* tsugae) are now available for private land releases in an attempt to control infestations of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The initial costs are extreme but beetle releases may be the only practical long term solution for large acreage properties. Call 526-1777 for additional information.

All About Trees!!

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Control

Bob Weber – Consulting Arborist
Weber Tree Company, Inc.
POB 118 Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-1777 • upatree@earthlink.net


Chemical treatments with Imidacloprid are still necessary for the special hemlocks around your home and forest. Call 526-1777 for treatment cost estimates. Also, learn how you or your property manager can be trained to treat your own trees with the same chemicals and products used by professional companies.



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2



Mon-Sat 10-5
Sun 1-5

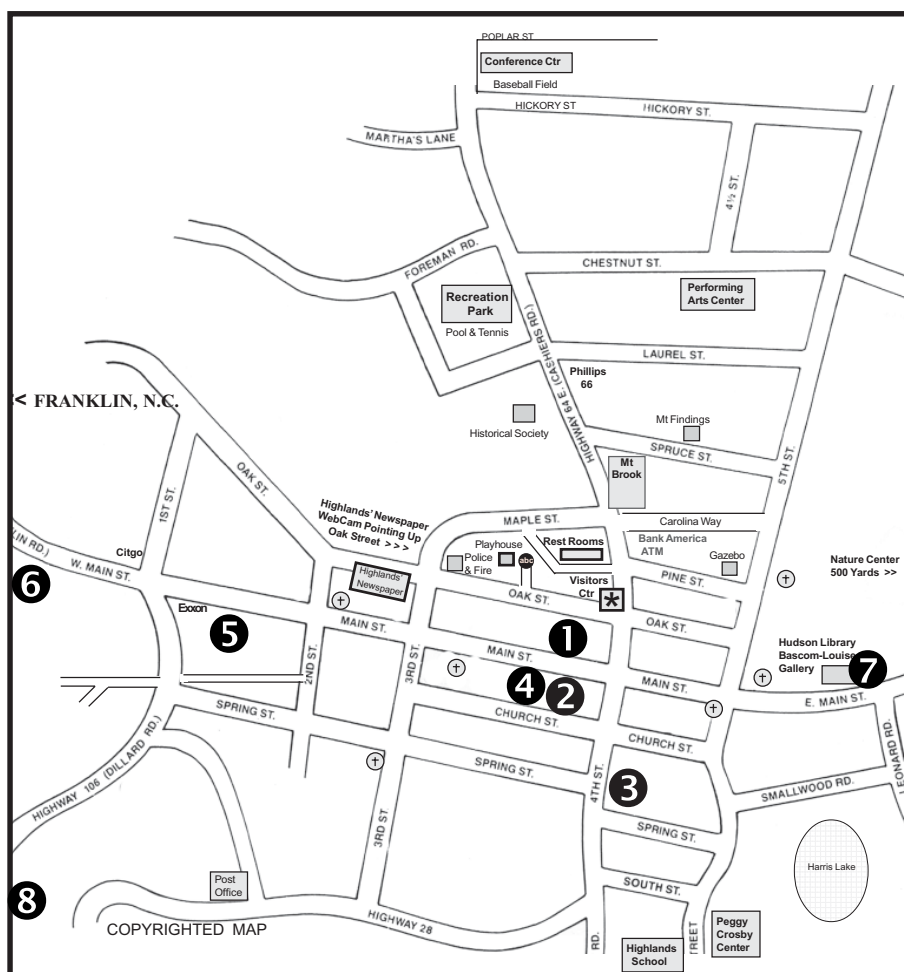
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3

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7



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• ARMCHAIR TRAVELER WITH PHYLLIS PICKLESIMER •

Victoria Falls: one of the seven natural wonders of the world

As my plane circles to land, flying low over the scrub trees and bushes, I see in the distance the great plumes of mist rising from "the smoke that thunders" so named by Nguni tribesmen—Victoria Falls.

After waiting in line for a visa, payable only in dollars or South African rand, I was greeted by my driver for my drive to the hotel.

On the road from the airport we meet only one or two cars. While driving through Victoria Falls Town, I discover why. I asked the driver why there was a mile long line of empty cars stretching down the roadway from the closed and equally empty gas station. "There is no gas," he explained. "They are lined up so that when there is gas they can get some." Such was my introduction to the shortages and hardships of present day Zimbabwe life.

I arrive at my hotel that grand dame of British colonial sahib culture—The Victoria Falls Hotel. Built in Edwardian-style in 1904 to house the ever-increasing number of tourists drawn by David Livingstone's descriptions; it remains today a bastion of civility and calm seemingly unaffected by problems outside its doors. Its location above one of the Zambezi gorges gives guests an excellent view of the falls' rising spray. Its colorful, fragrant gardens and sweeping green lawns are also a peaceful oasis retreat.

I have chosen to visit in May and the Zambezi River is near flood stage. My guide arrives bearing large umbrellas and rain ponchos for my morning excursion to the Zimbabwe side of the falls.

Victoria Falls is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. I stand in awe overlooking its racing and churning journey as thousands of gallons of water roar past as its mists rain down all around you. It is certainly easy to accept this claim. This is nature unleashed.

The Zimbabwe side of the falls is best viewed from Victoria Falls National Park with its paved paths leading to the best viewing areas. The statue of David Livingstone, the father of Victoria Falls tourism, is also located here. It is not difficult to understand his raptured descriptions of the falls as I stop at each overlook for it seems each offers more and more spectacular views.

It is, of course, impossible to stay dry no matter what kind of rain gear

you wear. Since the water is so high, the ever present "rain" and mist create some difficulties for cameras and photographers.

After lunch, I plan a visit to the Zambia side of the falls. Again my guide arrives with the much-needed umbrella and poncho.

The bridge between Zimbabwe and Zambia is crowded with Zambians crossing into Zimbabwe to buy food. Food is scarce in Zimbabwe, but the Zambian government is subsidizing the Zambians food purchases. This has raised prices beyond the local people's ability to buy even the minimal resources available according to my guide.

Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park is again the best place for viewing the Zambia side of the falls. It too has paved pathways and marked overlooks. It doesn't seem possible, but this side of the falls seems even fiercer than the Zimbabwe side. It is possible to get closer to the falls here and a monsoon continually falls around you. For me, the Zambia Falls may be the most interesting and beautiful, if raging torrents can be considered such. At times, the falling "rain" and mist from the falls almost obscures the view. One man has addressed the "wet" problem by wearing his bathing suit and rubber flip-flops.

I return to my open jeep dripping, but exhilarated to find a family of monkeys camped on top. With some angry screeches, they depart and I head back to the bridge.

My guide stops and suggests I walk to overlook from the center of the bridge. It does allow another perspective. The massive falls pour untold amounts of water into the narrow gorges of the Zambezi River producing powerful currents. Unbelievably, it is possible to go white water rafting a bit below this point. Also at the mid-point of the bridge some Australians are preparing for what I consider the most trusting belief in man-made materials possible, bungee jumping from almost 350 feet above the river below.

If bungee jumping is not your thing, there are elephant rides, flights over the falls, Zambezi River cruises, safaris, and the afore mentioned white water rafting available.

While standing on the Zimbabwe—Zambia Bridge, I am approached, as is true everywhere, by a young boy who will recite the US



The massive Victoria Falls pour untold amounts of water into the narrow gorges of the Zambezi River producing powerful currents.

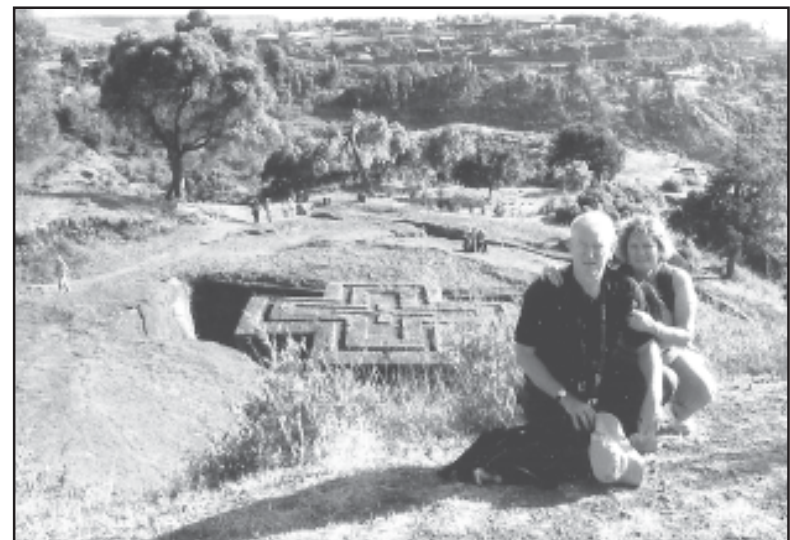
Presidents for a dollar. Since this implies some industry rather than the usual "Give me money," I agree. He leaves out Grover Cleveland, but money still changes hands.

Beside the beauty and power of magnificent Victoria Falls, there is grinding poverty, but the people I have met, like the young boy, are friendly and full of questions when they learn you are from "America." There is also a helplessness of

knowing there is nothing one can do to ease the plight of those whose government is their problem.

My journey here was very enjoyable with a one-of-a-kind sight to behold. The time spent at the Victoria Falls Hotel was also a respite and journey back to less worldly times before the intrusion of conscience. Would I return? I would, but don't look for me at the bungee jump.

– Correction –



In the May 13 edition of Highlands' Newspaper, author of Armchair Traveler, Phyllis Picklesimer, was wrongly identified as Doris Picklesimer, in the article written by Phyllis entitled, "Ancient Christianity revealed in Lalibela, Ethiopia." We regret our error and are happy to set the record straight.



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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Miss Priss to carry new designer line for fall season

Kinsley Mull, manager of Charlotte area Miss Priss locations (Stonecrest and Lake Norman-Birkdale) announced today that the stores will expand their product line to include a handful of additional top designers. Just in time for the fall season, Miss Priss will offer TIBI, J. McLaughlin, Tailor New York, Cynthia Steffe, RUTH and Lacoste. Other offerings will include the designs of Future Paradise, Nell Couture, American Retro as well as White & Warren.

"Our focus for fall will be more appropriate for work and everyday activities that will appeal to a broader audience," Mull explained. "We will still have all of the classic Lilly Pulitzer® pieces and a wide selection of those pieces that shoppers associate with Lilly, like the printed dresses, capris, and polo shirts. Additionally we'll continue to carry a wide assortment of fun jewelry, accessories and shoes."

PAC annual 'no-go' event

This year the P.A.C. is offering a No-Go Baby Shower featuring the main organizations who use its facilities.

Representing the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival is Dr William Ransom, the Festival's Artistic Director, clad in bow tie and baton.

Walter Kalaf represents the Center for Life Enrichment; Jody Reed is the "babe" from the Highlands Community Players; Richard Joel, represents the wonderful music presented by the Bel Canto Series, which he represents; E.J. Tarbox urges everyone to attend the stimulating lectures presented at the P.A.C. by the H.I.A.R.P.T.; and Kitty Moore represents the great movies to come in August from the Highlands International Film Festival.

This clever invitation is the main fundraiser for our Performing Arts Center. The monies raised by it help to

pay for the staffing and the operation of the Center.

It is in this building that the community can showcase all of its talents, both local and traveling. It is here where we can all participate in keeping the best of the Highlands' performing arts alive.

This year's corporate sponsors are The Old Edwards Inn and Spa and Signature Properties of Highlands and Rick Demetriou's Private Consulting Group.

The Theme of the Baby Shower is "Help us Grow." In the four years since the P.A.C. was born, there have been over 400 events held in the building and over 18,000 people attending these events!

Please support this event with your financial contribution, and support the P.A.C. with your attendance at some of the many events held there.

'Rotarian of the Year' named



Carol Mathews of Highlands MountainTop Rotary was named Rotarian of the Year at the June 24 meeting. With her are past president Kitty Byers and president-elect Dixie Barton.

POLICE & FIRE

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of June 22-29.

June 22

- At 7:50 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 51 mph in a 35 zone and for driving without a license.
- At 2:30 p.m., a contractor at a job site was issued a burning violation citation.

June 23

- At 9 a.m., officers responded to an alarm activation. All was secure.
- At 10 a.m., officers aided a stranded motorist.
- At 3 p.m., officers helped a lost child on Main Street.

June 25

- At 9:40 a.m., a resident logged a noise complaint against Cyprus Restaurant.
- At 10 a.m., a resident reported a breaking and entering of his car while parked on Main Street. About \$500 worth of tools were taken from the car via a busted out window.
- At 8:30 a.m., officers assisted with the SOAR race.
- At 10 a.m., officers assisted with the Historical Society home tour.
- At 10:30 p.m., a resident reported larceny of a motor vehicle.

June 27

- At 1:45 a.m., officers investigated a call of a suspicious person in the vicinity of Mirror Lake and Hicks roads. It was unfounded.
- At 2:05 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at RBC Centura Bank. All was secure.
- At 2:10 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Wachovia Bank. All was secure.
- At 1:15 p.m., officers responded to a vehicle accident. There were no injuries.
- At 3:20 p.m., officers responded to a call of a dog locked in a vacant house. It was unfounded.

June 28

- At 7:13 a.m., a motorist at N. 4th Street was issued a warning citation for driving without an inspection sticker.

June 29

- At 7:10 p.m., officers responded to a call of a husband and wife quarreling in the parking lot of Helen's Barn.
- At 10:05 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at Acorn's on Main Street. All was secure.
- At 2:33 a.m., James Steele, of Mirror Lake Road, was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon during

a domestic dispute.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for June 23-29.

June 24

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Overlook Cliff Drive where a woman had fallen. She was transported to the hospital.

June 25

- The dept. assisted with the all-

day SOAR race.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at the Rec Park where two participants in the SOAR race were dehydrated.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at Cowee Gap Lane. It was false.

June 27

- The dept. responded to a call of a woman who had fallen on the trail at Glen Falls. She was transported to the hospital.

HIGHLANDS EATERIES

SPORTS PAGE



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- The dept. responded to a structure fire caused by lightning on Flat Mountain Road. There was minimal damage.

- The dept. responded to a structure fire caused by lightning on Eastover Drive. An outbuilding caught on fire.

- The dept. assisted Cashiers Fire Dept. with a structure fire on N.C. 107.

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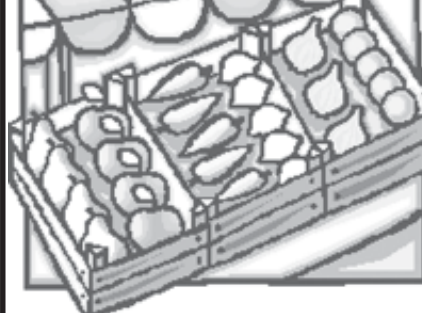


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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

• Little Entertainments. Fridays at 8 p.m. \$20 in advance \$25 at the door at Instant Theater on Main Street. Occasional Saturday Specials at 8 p.m. \$10 children 17 & under. Call (828) 342-9197.

• This Week at Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop. Join us as we pour some of our favorites for the Fourth of July. Complimentary samples Saturday from 12:30-4 p.m.. Wine Flights Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 4:30-6:30 p.m.. Open Sunday 1-5 p.m. and from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on July 4th.

• HealthTracks, at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, offers a special class on Mondays and Thursday 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, is held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at HealthTracks on the lower level of the Jane Woodruff Medical Building at the rear of the hospital campus. Cost is \$8 per session. Call HealthTracks at 526-1348.

• HealthTracks is currently offering offers two yoga classes per week, both taught by certified instructor Carole Mackey. "Gentle Yoga" is held each Tuesday at 5:15 p.m. "Hatha Yoga" is offered Wednesday at 5:15 p.m. The classes are held in the fitness studio on the first level of the new Jane Woodruff Clinic. Cost of the class is \$12 per session or 10 sessions for \$100. Call HealthTracks at 526-1348

• HealthTracks offers a Pilates class on Monday and Wednesday at 4 p.m. Classes are taught by certified instructor Sandie Trevethan and are held in the fitness studio on the first level of the new Jane Woodruff Clinic. Cost is \$10 per session or \$80 for 10 sessions. Call HealthTracks at 526-1348

• HealthTracks is offering a special toning class on Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m. Classes are led by Jeanette Fisher, exercise intern and the cost is \$6 per session for HealthTracks non-members. The classes are held at HealthTracks on the lower level of the Jane Woodruff Medical Building at the rear of the hospital campus. Call HealthTracks at 526-1348

• Adult Drawing 101 with Kathy Evans at B-L Gallery Tuesdays from 10-12 through July. Take one class or take them all! This beginning level class will provide instruction on various techniques along with aspects of design and composition. Call the gallery at 526-4949

• Independent Study Art Class with Kathy Evans at B-L Gallery Tuesdays from 1-3 through July. This adult class offers independent study in a medium of your choice at the Intermediate and Advanced level. Call the gallery at 526-4949

• Open Studio with a live model at B-L Gallery on Tuesdays from 5:30 - 8:30 pm. Cost is \$10 per evening. Please call the gallery by Monday evening if you will be stopping by Tuesday night, so that we may coordinate with our models. Call the gallery at 526-4949

• At Mill Creek Gallery in Village Square - art exhibited and for sale, classes, too. Call 787-2021 for more information.

• Improv Classes for high school and college students Mondays at 6 pm at Instant Theatre's Studio on Main, 310 Main

Street. 526-1687. FREE.

• 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.

• 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 at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wednesdays and Fridays at noon.

June 30

• The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series for 2005 continues on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Nature Center. Jackie Greenfield will give a talk entitled "From Collection to Commerce: Wild-harvesting

**CLE free lecture
Wed., July 6, 7:30
at Civic Center**



Dr. David Dorondo

Dr. David Dorondo, Professor of Modern German and European Military History at Western Carolina University will present "Europe and the War on Terrorism" as part of the Center for Life Enrichment Free Lecture Series on July 6th at 7:30.

Faced with the catastrophic events of September 2001, the United States and the western democracies have since conducted a global war on terrorism.

While dominated by the U.S. presence in both Afghanistan and Iraq, the worldwide effort to thwart international terrorism also includes a substantive and sometimes significant degree of European participation.

This talk will focus on the European contribution in both its political and military components and examine policy issues effecting this U.S.-European cooperation.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

of Native and Naturalized Plants of the Southern Appalachians. Can it be Done Sustainably and Ethically?" It's free.

- Live entertainment at SweetTreats, HoTt Acts – DJ, 7-10 p.m.

July 2

- Country Breakfast at Highlands United Methodist Church to benefit the mission to Bolivia., 8 -11 a.m..

- Fireworks and world-class music at the annual Symphony Under the Stars on the slopes of Fairfield Lake in Sapphire Valley featuring the Greenville Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Edvard Tchivzhel. Gates open at 5 p.m. and

the music begins at 7:30 p.m. General Admission tickets are \$30. Call 743-2525.

- Clearwater Country performs at 7:30 p.m. at Highlands School gymnasium. Poor Man's Supper before concert from 6-7 p.m. \$5 per person.

- Book signing at Cyrano's Book Shop. 1-3 p.m. Author Thomas Rain will sign copies of "Zoro's Field."

- Instant Theater at 8 p.m. features Rachel Townes and the Town Players performing Broadway songs. \$20 in advance \$25 at the door at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call (828) 342-9197.

July 2-3

- Mountain Makings Craft Fair at Cashiers Community Center 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Music and food, too.

- At SweetTreats in Mountain Brook Center, Carol Criminger, vocalist and Jerry Lambert, pianist, entertain you with Light Jazz and Favorite Standards from 7-10 p.m.

July 4

- Fireworks at 9 p.m. BBQ at 11:30 at Conference Center. Fourth of July Games and fun at the ballpark at noon.

July 5-8

- "Junior Ecologists" day camp at the Highlands Nature Center. 10 am – 4 pm daily. Learn what field biologists do while conducting real science such as measuring trees and mapping stream salamander communities. Ages 11-15. \$50 per child, pre-registration required. Call 526-2623.

July 6

- David Derondo will speak on Europe and the War on Terrorism as part of CLE's Wednesday Night Lecture Series, 7:30 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. It's FREE.

July 7

- Live entertainment at SweetTreats, Bobby Sullivan.

- Mozart at Wolfgang's on Main at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Highlands Chamber Music and Wolfgang's.

July 8

- Instant Theater at 8 p.m. features the many faces of Brian Starr. \$20 in advance \$25 at the door at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call (828) 342-9197.

July 8-9

- Weaver Carol Cassidy at the Old Rangoon, at 10 a.m.

- Grand Opening of Highlands Historic Village. Ribbon cutting at 7 p.m. Friday; 7:15 p.m. recognition of special guest; 7:30-8 p.m., Remarks by Ran Shaffner. On Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Museum/Archive Opening (native family artifacts of early Highlands. Viewing of the Prince House). 4 p.m., Walk in the Park preview with Rebecca Schilling portraying Ms. Ella Hudson; music and refreshments 7-9 p.m. featuring Johnny Webb & The JW Band with Donnie Calloway as caller and the Carolina Christian Cloggers.

July 9

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, with an 800 foot elevation gain, on the Rock Mountain loop trail. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9 a.m. Call leader Eva Hansen, 743-1611, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- Grand opening of the Museum/Archives Bldg. at the Highlands Historical Vil-

lage.

- Learn flower arranging for all occasions at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Saturday from 10 a.m.-12:30p.m. Famous floral designers Linda Roecklein, Coordinator of the Flower Guild for the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and Sue Morriss, also of the Guild, will conduct the demonstration. Cost is \$40 and includes a box lunch. For reservations call 526-2968.

July 10

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5 mile stroll through the Highlands Biological gardens through woods and wetlands where many plants are labeled. Meet at Macon Plaza (Bi-Lo) in Franklin at 2 p.m. or call leader to arrange an alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands or Cashiers. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820

July 11

- "Fine Art, Fine Wine, Fine Dining" at Wolfgang's on Main. Tour Down Under – Australian wines, art by Elizabeth Ellison. 6 p.m. Call 526-3807 for reservations.

July 11-15

- Gar's Kids Camp at Carpe Diem Farms, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- working with horses, nature hikes and more. \$650 per child. Call 526-2854 for more information.

July 11-23

- Acting and Scene Study for teenagers ages 14 to 18. The Instructor will be Max Vogler, a professional actor from New York and frequent guest star on NBC's Law & Order. \$175 per session. Scholarships available. Call the Instant Theatre Company at 526-1687.

July 13-14

- Chef from Carpe River Trading Company at the Hen House on Main Street demonstrating the use of some of his cooking items from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

July 14 & 15

- The 7th Annual Highlands Garden Tour to benefit the Bascom-Louise Gallery. For tickets visit the gallery in the Hudson Library or call 526-4949. Platinum sponsors: Meadows Mountain Realty, Barry & Paula Jones of the Summer House. Gold sponsors: Macon Bank, The Bird Barn, Chattooga Gardens and Bryant Art Glass. Patron Party is July 14. Garden Tour is July 15.

July 15-17

- A "Walk in the Park" where actors portray people from Highlands' past.

July 16

- Steve Turpin who creates face jugs and other pottery will be turning pots outside the Bird Barn from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike to two waterfalls, Spoon Auger and King Falls, with the option of hiking an additional 3-miles to Hidden Falls. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9 a.m. Call leader Doug Dean in Greenville, 864-718-9265, for information.

July 16-17

- The "Summer Colors Fine Art Show" at the Highlands Rec Park, will feature Shaun Moss's Sparkle Magic Show at 1 p.m. The Children's Craft Table is well supervised and will be available both Saturday and Sunday from 10-4. There will be crafts and

also a chair to paint and decorate which will then be donated to the Arts Alliance of Highlands for their autumn fundraising.

July 18

- "Fine Art, Fine Wine, Fine Dining" at Wolfgang's on Main. Wines by Monticello Veyards. Artist Scott Upton. 6 p.m. Call 526-3807 for reservations.

July 20

- Folkmoot performing at PAC at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Call 526-9047. Performers demonstrate cultural heritage through colorful, authentic and original reproduction costumes, lively dances and beautiful music. Call 526-4904 for more information.

July 20-22

- Watercolors, In the Audubon Tradition with John Ruthven at B-L Gallery. Register as soon as possible. Call the gallery at 828.526.4949

July 21

- Mozart at Wolfgang's on Main at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Highlands Chamber Music and Wolfgang's.

- InterChurch Pot Luck Supper at Highlands United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. Call 526-2418.

July 22-23

- Second Annual Mountain Wildlife & Wilderness Days at Sapphire Valley. A day of lectures, slide presentations, hikes, children's programs and live animal exhibits. For information, call 743-7663.

- Ritchie Watts of Good Earth Pottery will be at Bird Barn signing his pottery from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

July 23

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, with car shuttle, from the Fish Hatchery to Burrell's Ford along the Chattooga River. Drive 40 miles round trip. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Call leader Mo Wheeler, 526-9561, for information.

- There will also be a Bolivian Fun Day featuring a baseball tournament, craft sale, bake sale, a yard sale, breakfast and lunch, and many more activities, which will educate people about the mission and the plight of the people in Bolivia.

July 24

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the Pickens Nose Trail with views into Georgia from the top. Drive 45 miles round trip. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin across from Burger King at 2 p.m. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for more information.

July 25

- "Fine Art, Fine Wine, Fine Dining" at Wolfgang's on Main. Wines by St. Francis Winery & Vineyards. Art by John Mac Kah. 6 p.m. Call 526-3807 for reservations.

July 25-29

- Gar's Kids Camp at Carpe Diem Farms, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- working with horses, nature hikes and more. \$650 per child. Call 526-2854 for more information.

July 30

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3.5 mile moderate hike to Split Rock on the Chattooga River. Drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Mo Wheeler, 526-9561, for information.

Weaver coming to Old Rangoon July 8-9



Carol Cassidy is coming to The Old Rangoon on South Fourth Street, on the hill, July 8-9.

Internationally known weaver, Cassidy will be in Highlands for her annual weaving exhibit and demonstration.

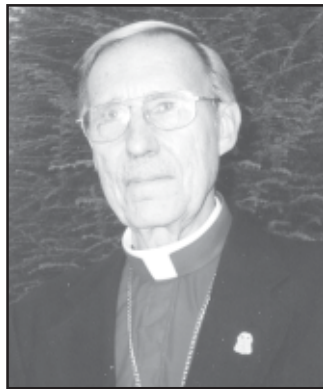
Carol Cassidy is a well-known American weaver who has spent more than a decade in Vientiane, Laos helping that country revive its weaving industry.

A new and exciting addition to Carol's trip this year will be Master Weaver Aout from Lao Textiles in Vientiane, Laos. He will be demonstrating the art of silk weaving on an authentic Laotian loom. The weaving demonstration will start at 10 a.m. on Friday & Saturday.

On Friday morning, July 8 from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Carol will discuss the Laotian Weaving Techniques. This session will be held at the Bascom-Louise Gallery in the Library at the end of Main Street. Carol Cassidy's exhibit and demonstration is being co-sponsored by the Old Edwards Inn & Spa.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

In God is our trust



Rev. Dr. John Erbeling
Chapel of the Sky Valley

It is that weekend set aside to celebrate the birth of our nation, the Fourth of July. As I was choosing the hymns for this Sunday's service and, of course, picked our national anthem, I realized that it is probably the most heard of our patriotic songs. Every sporting event starts with it, and in many cases the crowd singing it gets lost beyond "O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light," and then it becomes mumbling in unison. Applause and cheers usually blot out the final "and the home of the brave."

I found myself becoming critical of the loss of respect for such a beautiful song until I started reading the second verse and realized that I could not repeat most of it beyond the first line:

"O thus be it ever, when free men shall stand

Between their loved homes and the war's desolation."

It startled me into the realization that even though Francis Scott Key penned these words in another time for another war, they are as true today as they were then. As I read on, it struck me that the words of this second verse said it all:

"Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-rescued land

Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation."

How much has happened in our country since! The "war to end all wars" did not. We still have this day men and women (and at my age I can be excused for saying boys and girls) standing between their loved homes and a war's desolation.

"Then conquer we must, when our cause, it is just

And this be our motto, 'in God is our trust.'"

And then it was in clear focus for me, all said in those five words, *In God is our trust*. Every religious leader throughout history has said it. Of what then can we be afraid? Fly your flag proudly. Happy Fourth of July!

• 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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

743-9370
The Rev. Thomas Allen
"Traditional Episcopal Worship"
Worship and communion: Sundays at 4 p.m. at the
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.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST CHURCH

526-2930 ■ Corner of Spring & Third Streets
Come hear the healing message of the Christ
Sunday at 11 a.m.
Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Study Room Open Saturday, 1-3 p.m.

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, Senior Pastor
www.cbchighlands.com
526-4685

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
6 p.m., "The Rock" for highschoolers
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study
Wed: 5:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting; 6:15 p.m. Supper;
7 p.m. Teaching

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



Racers compete in grueling adventure

Two races -- Sprint and Adventure -- drew seasoned and novice athletes to the plateau's rigorous terrain for the third year. One race was five hours the other 12, both tested participants' mental and physical endurance. All proceeds for the June 25 race benefited the Special Operations Warrior Foundation.

ELITE RACE

Single Male U-40
1st: Kevin Tumlin
Single Male OV-40
1st: Gerry Farris
All Male Team U-40
1st: Team Someone
Sponsored Us
All Male Team O-V40
1st: Team Odin
Coed Team U-40
1st: Teambros.org

SPRINT RACE:

Single Male OV-40
1st: Dave Horwitz
All Male Team U-40
1st: Team Get Lost
All Male Team OV-40
1st: Team Fabulous
Stink Badgers II
All Female Team U-40
1st: Team Living Life
Co-ed Team U-40
1st: Team Random
Path



Photos by Jim Lewicki

Families turned out to support members in the annual SOAR event this past weekend. The Hamilton family fished Lake Sequoyah while waiting for their team member to paddle by. Below, Geoff Schaeffer with Team Internet, over the finish line first at 11:19:03 but not declared the winner, hugs his son. Right, Kevin Tumlin, a seasoned adventure racer but in Highlands for his first SOAR event, was declared the Elite Race winner as he crossed the line at 11:08:37.



...PLANNING BOARD continued from page 9

hardball comes back and says 'well, if you don't let me have my multi-family I'm going to do just what you'll fear,' Bell said. "And the world's going to come to an end."

At that first meeting Pat Taylor foretold the future said with the property zoned the way it is now major development could go on without any repercussion.

In a 5-2 decision the majority of the planning board decided to stick by their initial recommendation to rezone the property R-3. Bell and Patton voted against the decision.

The property is currently split zoned B-4 and R-2.

B-4 came about in the 90s as a "buffer zone" between the B-3 business districts and the residential areas. Allowed are small, low-impact, light com-

mercial uses such as professional offices and gift shops.

Since the property is just below five acres, nine single family homes could be built on the property, which would mean nine driveways and an 18-foot road would be plowed for the subdivision.

With the property as R-3 multi-family, the property would essentially look the same as it is now, with a 40-foot green vegetative buffer, sidewalks, no entrance off U.S 64 east and the historic home, which currently resides on the property, would remain.

Gantenbein said the state law dictates if 20 percent of the owners of the property object to the rezoning, it takes a supermajority vote -- four out of five commissioners -- by the Town Board to rezone -- in this case, downzone the

property.

"Here there's only one owner, there's not multiple owners because there's just one parcel," Gantenbein said.

Gantenbein said the property was originally zoned B-3, but back in the late 80s with the last land use plan update a citizen survey was conducted and 40 percent of the town citizens responded, which Gantenbein said was a high amount, out of that 40, 86 percent felt they didn't want anymore B-3 property in the corridors leading to town.

"With that update the town at that time rezoned the property to B-4," Gantenbein said.

The Town Board has the legal authority to rezone it to R-2

The Werder property, as it is com-

monly called by city officials and the press, also instigated a buffer ordinance for the town and its property. Gantenbein drafted a general ordinance stating the 40-foot setback should be made a vegetative green buffer, what he found out later was that experts in the field said the 40-foot was unnecessary. A 20-foot buffer around multi-family was decided upon and the planning board is recommending to the Town Board that the appearance commission will have the discretion to make the buffers larger on an as needed basis.

"Everybody says you can't just have a cookie cutter ordinance for every lot," Gantenbein said.

The Town Board will decide whether to rezone or downzone the property at the July 6 meeting.

...STARR continued from page 16

Members of the band include Tommy Tingles on drums and lab coat; Nicky Mack, who plays accordion, assists with backup vocals and tap dances and Foxy McLovepump, who plays bass, mandolin and organ.

"The style doesn't change, but they add their own dimension and spice and it's a tasty meal," Starr said earnestly.

Starr said his next project is his

book, a journal, in fact, he scanned and burned to CD which will be for sale at Buck's July 8 for \$5. It includes original drawings, lyrics, writings, poetry and photographs among other things. Starr said the book is not suitable for children over 16 years of age because of its adult language and content, but he does hope to publish one for children in the future.

Starr will also be acting on stage

with ITC's Improv troupe on July 15 and performing at SweetTreats on July 16.

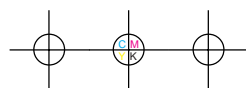
Starr's music is a wide variety of eclectic tastes from old jazz, blues, classical Indian music, 50s rock and roll, folk, finger picking and kids' music.

"I'm passionate about music -- I don't take anything lightly," he said.

Since he was 11 years old he has been "Brian Starr and his guitar" and

his music has not only been an adventure for him but for everyone who hears his quirky cabaret.

"I'm not going to let people's expectations dictate who I am," Starr said as he climbed the stairs in Buck's to get another glass of water. On the way someone recognizes him, he stops turns around and says, "You see, even a trip to the water cooler is an adventure."



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HILLTOP GRILL – Part-time. Apply corner of 4th and Spring. Call 526-5916.

RNS. FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Two positions open; one day shift and one night shift. Three 12-hour shifts per week. Excellent benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

DIETARY AIDES - HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Duties include working patient tray line and cafeteria line, stock kitchen, wash dishes. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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CNAS - FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Now hiring for all shifts. If you want to join a team whose focus is on excellent elder care with a low staffing ratio, above average wages, excellent benefits, and shift differentials, call. We are also accepting applications for PRN CNAs. Pre-employment substance screening. Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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STORE FOR RENT – on 4th Street. Call 864-630-0808.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2001 Mercedes M Class. 32,00 miles, one owner. Call 526-2840 7/8

REAL ESTATE - SALES

HIGHLANDS HOUSE FOR SALE – 3 bedrooms, 2-bath, stacked stone fireplace. Garag. Ridgeview. \$349,000. Broker/owner. Call 526-9455.

HOUSE FOR SALE – IN HIGHLANDS, YET PRIVATE. 0.6 acre borders creek, walk to Main St. 4-bed, 2-bath. \$450,000. (828) 226-6123. 7/22

VIEW LOTS – 1.8 miles from downtown Highlands. Located on Eastern Continental Divide. Outstanding views, city water, septic approval, borders Highlands Country Club. \$420,000-\$480,000. Call 526-9393.

HOUSE FOR SALE – 275 Foreman Road. In-town on .87 acre-wooded lot. 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, study, large workshop/studio, stone fireplace, oak floors, hemlock paneling. Quality construction, mature landscaping, exterior stonework. Asking \$425,000 (828) 342-2624. Broker/Owner 7/1

HOUSE FOR SALE – Lake Glenville/Cashiers. 2-bed, one-bath on 1/2 acre. Views, carports, studio. \$135,000. 828-743-0723. 7/15

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

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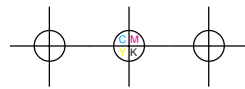
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Highlands



HANOVER HOUSE

A photograph of the Hilltop Grill restaurant. The building is a single-story structure with a brick upper section and a white lower section with green trim. A green SUV is parked in the foreground. A person is standing near the entrance on the left. The text "HILLTOP GRILL" is overlaid in large, bold, black letters on the right side of the image.

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COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

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Wright Square • Main Street • Mountain Fresh

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Wright Square
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CULLASAJA CLUB LOT 217. This large home features five bedrooms, five baths, and two half baths. Top quality construction on private cul-de-sac location. Guest level features a full level with kitchenette. Multiple fireplaces and a large covered porch overlooking the headwaters of the Cullasaja River. Pick your colors and finishes. Offered at \$1,950,000.



Great year-round home on Chelsey Lane off of Flat Mountain Road in a peaceful area not far from town, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths on a great .93 +/- acre lot with a stream, additional playhouse/workshop. Owner Motivated ! Offered at \$349,000.



HIGHLANDS COVE WITH SPECTACULAR VIEW and great country club living. 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, massive cathedral great room with stone fireplace, formal dining room and breakfast nook, family room, 2 car carport. Wonderful custom kitchen. One of the best buys available! Offered at 1,795,000.



King Mtn. Club home sits on a usable lot with spectacular view. Renovated to the highest standards and professionally decorated. 3-bed, 3-baths massive stone fireplace. 2-car garage. Offered at \$995,000.



Brand New Mountain Home in Highlands Hills Subdivision. Wooded lot, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Stone fireplace in living area. Covered porch on three sides for peaceful mountain living. Hardwood floors and cathedral ceiling. Ready to move in. Priced at \$495,000. MLS #56097



Shortoff Mtn Road. One of a kind real log cabin. This year round home was constructed from 3 log cabins (circa 1800s) from remote Kentucky. Creativity to the max and is the epitome of mountain charm. Three-bed, 2-bath, loft, fireplace, garage. 1.69 acres with a great view of Shortoff Mountain. Offered at \$1,650,000.



IN TOWN 3 BEDROOM CONDO. Highly desirable Highlands Manor Court. Beautifully furnished, vaulted ceilings, large private deck. This is very special. Offered at \$399,000.

FIRST FLOOR ONE LEVEL- at Highlands Manor Court. This unit is in a perfect location providing total privacy on screened porch and living areas. Bright, open and beautifully furnished throughout. Bring your toothbrush and move in. Walk everywhere as located right in town but nestled in the woods. Offered at 329,000.

HIGHLANDS MANOR COURT - 2 bedroom first floor condo in mint condition and fully furnished. Great location with total privacy/ Sit on your newly painted screened porch and watch the birds feed against the backdrop of laurel and rhododendron. Offered at 329,000.



CULLASAJA CLUB Brand new home with excellent location close to clubhouse. 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, cathedral ceilings stone facing fireplaces and great mountain view. Offered at \$1,495,000.



Totally renovated and furnished, warm 4 bed, 4 1/2 bath charmer. Artistic special faux finishes throughout include hand stained unique kitchen cabinets, floors and bar with faux stone painting in the Kohler baths. The great room boasts barked beams and two massive wood-burning stone fireplaces and stunning slate wet bar. This maintenance free home is for the discriminating buyer looking for mountain flavor enhanced with European flair. Brand new connected 2 car porte-cache soon to be complete. Offered at \$1,150,000.



Cullasaja Club. On one of the largest lots in the club. This lovely contemporary ranch has spacious, bright rooms; stone fireplace; split bedroom plan; master suite with huge dressing area, separate tub and shower, master closets. All rooms have a spectacular view. Two-car garage. Offered at \$2,200,000.



CULLASAJA CLUB Great entry level home in Cullasaja, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, Fully renovated and in great condition. Excellent location with small waterfall and ridgeline view, Offered at \$740,000.