

Volume 3, Number 24

Friday, June 17, 2005

On-going

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

• Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop. Wine Flights Thurs & Fri from 4:30- 6:30. Special guest: artist Helena Meek, Fri & Sat., painting, displaying new works. Complimentary wine samples Saturday from 12:30-4.

• The Scaly Mountain Women's Club presents its Saturday Pancake Breakfasts the 4th Sat. of the month from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children.

June 16-18 • Zorki at Buck's, 8-11 p.m.

Christopher Walling Fine Jewelry Trunk Show at Acorns on Main Street., 10 am
6 pm, drop-in or by appointment.

June 17

• Hurrican Creek at Buck's, 8-11 p.m.

• Police Chief Jerry Cook's retirement party from 5-7 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center.

June 18

Katie & Arthur at Buck's, 8-11 p.m.
Family Night Hike at the Nature Center. Bring a flashlight and learn about adaptations of nocturnal animals through a variety of games and activities. Ages 7 to adult.
\$2 per person, Call 526-2623 to register.

• Book signing at Cyrano's Book Shop by naturalist and writer George Ellison from 1-3 p.m.

• International Friendship Center's EL MERCADO rummage sale at HUMC on Main Street, 9-5. Come early for the best buys. June 20

June 20

• At Wolfgang's on Main, Evening of Fine Art, Fine Wine & Fine Dining, featuring Mount Veeder Winery Franciscan Estates and Artist Kevin Saunders. Call 526-3807.

• Lake Sequoyah Improvement Association and Mirror Lake Improvement Association - joint meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Rec Park to discuss Water Remediation and Preservation Project. If questions, call 526-0248. June 21

• Business after hours at Chestnut Hill Clubhouse, 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance at \$15 at the door. Call 526-5841.

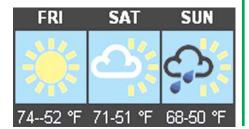
• Audubon field trip trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Bring a lunch. Meet at Town Hall Parking at 7:30 a.m. to car pool.

June 23

• Zahner Lecture series, Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Nature Center. It's free.

• Live entertainment at SweeTreats, Don Long, 7-10 p.m.

• "Too Marvelous for Words" at Highlands Playhouse. Call 526-2695 for tickets.



Ball field face lift comes out of 2005-06 budget work session

By Kim Lewicki highlandseditor@aol.com

Sometime over the coming fiscal year, some major changes will take place at the town's ball field on Hickory Street.

Stronger silt fences needed

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

The eleven inches of rain that fell last Saturday and Sunday did more than dampen a few spirits – it accentuated the need for a stronger soil and sedimentation ordinance – namely stronger silt fences.

"It's impossible to quantify, but I'd guess several tons of silt was carried away from job sites over the weekend," said Town Planner Larry Gantenbein.

Lots of silt fences blew out this past weekend because they just couldn't stand up to the volume of rain and silt.

Gantenbein said the land use plan-•See SILT FENCES page 8

County backs 'affordable' housing plan

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

County commissioners want to partner with private developers and lending institutions to build low-tomoderate income housing.

At the June 6 Macon County Commissioners meeting, County Manger Sam Greenwood presented a plan to push economic development in the county while helping citizens afford housing.

"Much of Macon County's economic prosperity is from home building and the private ownership of homes," Greenwood said. "We can work with housing and lending industries, and state •See AFFORDABLE HOUSING page 9 Over the years, the field has become an eyesore with standing water in the diamond long after rain stops and dilapidated fencing lining the perimeter. •See BALL FIELD page 8

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Old times not forgotten



Mules pulling a plow is a sight seldom seen since the industrial revolution but Dale "Granny" Miller of Scaly Mountain respects the value of a good mule. See story on page 11. Photo by Judy Huskey

Developer gets setback variance

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

Curtis Sears got something few get from the Zoning Board of Adjustment – a "yes" to a variance request.

Sears wants to tear down an existing house, which sits across the street from ...on the Verandah Restaurant on U.S. 64 west, and build a new home.

The problem is, under current setback and watershed requirements, building anything useable on the lot is impossible and the existing building is considered non-conforming.

But since the structure is grandfathered, and because the owner

can't make reasonable use of the property because of the current setbacks, the zoning board granted a variance.

"The board granted a setback variance and authorized that construction of a new building not to exceed the footprint square footage of the existing building," said Gantenbein.

The lot under scrutiny is .08-acres and Sears can't make reasonable use of the property without building in the setback.

"Part of the test for reasonable use is not just any reasonable use, it's reasonable use in light of what the parcel is •See VARIANCE page 21

Page 2 - Highlands' Newspaper -Friday, June 17, 2005 Artwork coming in for B-L auction

The Bascom Louise Gallery Art and Wine Auction is Sept. 30-Oct. 1 and will feature artwork of artists across the spectrum.

The youngest artist is Highlands School 11thgrader Maggie Rogers.

Maggie's art teacher, local artist, Sally Taylor, recognized Maggie's innate talent and sugqested that she submit her "Butterfly Wings" creation for the Art Auction.

Cynthia Strain, owner of Mill Creek Gallery and Fram-Maggie's vibrant watercolor. ing, is donating the framing for

Artist Maggie Rogers donates watercolor of butterflies.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Author uninformed about GMOs

Dear Editor,

As a former 22-year resident of Highlands, I was in town yesterday and picked up the current issue of your paper, which I read with interest.

A letter in the June 3 issue of Highlands' Newspaper from Jodie Zoellner concerning a previous article entitled "The Real Story Behind America's Food Revealed," in which she derided the information given by Allan Streiff, Manager of Matlock Creek Farm, on the dangers of genetically-modified organisms. She further stated that since Matlock Creek Farm is not a registered organic farm, it fails to meet the guidelines to be one. She is correct that it is not a registered organic farm; she is grossly incorrect that it fails to meet the guidelines to be one. In fact, it not only meets those guidelines, it exceeds them by far as an "Authentic Farm." The government has watered down organic requirements, so that a product can be labeled "organic" even if non-organic agents were used in its production.

To genetically modify an organism is not to cross-pollinate or graft. It is to introduce an alien agent into the organism, such as salmon into a tomato to make it red before it is ripe, and other similar, if not more graphic means. When the pollen from genetically-modified crops invades non-GMO crops, it not only modifies the non-GMO crop into one that is genetically modified, but also subjects the farm owner to strict penalties if seed is saved from his/her crops. That is a protection Monsanto and other multinational giants have been given on a silver platter by our government. The ultimate objective is that all seed will be patented and "owned" by Monsanto et al, and no one will be able to save and use their own seed without paying strict fines or royalties to Monsanto et al. And out the window goes the small farmer who is growing heirloom tomatoes or other non-GMO crops, especially those organically or authentically grown.

Big seed companies have not made long-term studies on the effects of genetic modification, nor has the federal government. So how does Ms. Zoellner know that when she consumes a GMO product, she is safe?

> **Emily Dale** Franklin, North Carolina

Repairing area lakes paramount

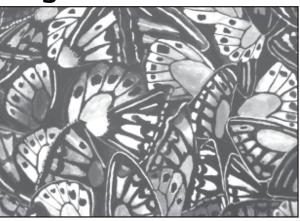
Dear Editor,

Seven years ago, I joined the Lake Sequoyah Improvement Association (LSIA) where I now serve as its President. Like most Highlands residents, the continued degradation of our area lakes is a matter of deep concern to me. Lake Sequoyah, in addition to serving as our primary source of drinking water, is one of the natural beauties that attracts so many visitors to Highlands each year. That is why it is so important that we, as a community, increase our efforts to restore and protect this vital part of our resource base.

The build-up of silt and sedimentation in Lake Sequoyah, and the smaller lakes that feed into it, began more than a decade ago. Over time, the situation has grown more acute and, as a result, this build-up is now a direct threat to our Town's water supply. For the past several years, Highlands officials have taken short-term stop-gap measures to alleviate this problem, including periodic shutdowns of at least one of the water pumps. The Town has also had to remove turbidity in and around the pump on an all-too-frequent basis.

Working closely with Highlands residents, the Town Board developed a plan known as the Highlands Water Remediation and Preservation Project. This Project is a plan to restore our lakes and protect them well into the Town's future. This comprehensive initiative involves the removal of the silt and sedimentation which has caused a significant decline in the water quality in the lakes. In addition, the plan calls for preventative measures to stop further run-off from jeopardizing our water supply.

Speaking on behalf of the members of LSIA, and in conjunction with many other community organizations engaged in this effort, I am hopeful that the Town can fully implement its plan. Without the kind of broad permanent solution envisioned in the Highlands Water Remediation and Preservation Project, the situation will only grow worse. The Town simply cannot continue to rely on temporary stop-gap measures to alleviate the situation in the lakes. If nothing more than these are done, the problems will only become much more



• **OBITUARY** •

McHenry Hamilton Jr

McHenry Hamilton Jr., Colonel, USAF, Retired, died in Miami, Fla., June 2, 2005. Born in Bunkie, La., April 7, 1912, he graduated from Louisiana College to pursue a Master's degree at LSU before choosing to become an Army Air Force cadet.

Shot down and wounded in a bombing raid over Vienna, Austria, during World War II, he was imprisoned in Germany until General Patton and his army liberated the camp. He was returned to Miami Biltmore for rehabilitation and reunion with his wife, Pat, and three-month-old son. He retired after being stationed in Lima, Peru and other airbases in the United States.

The Hamiltons then lived in Coral Gables, Fla., Highlands, N.C., and Tallahassee, Fla. A lover of sports, he held golf championships in many of the clubs to which he belonged. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and Scabbard and Blade.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia; their sons, McHenry III, John Charles (Lindann), James Patrick, Wiley William; granddaughter, Alexis, brother-in-law, Dr. W. Mitchell Sames (Marion); nephews, Dr. James Bradford (Dayle) and Henry Bradford. A memorial service was held at the Stanfill Funeral Home on Saturday, June 11 at 11 a.m. Memorials may be sent to Disabled American Veterans Charitable Services Trust, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Springs, Ky., 41076.

James Norman Reese

James Norman Reese, age 74, of Western Rhodes Drive, Highlands died Sunday, June 12, 2005 at his residence. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late Norman and Ellen Savanah Norton Reese. He worked for the Eastern Airlines as an aircraft maintenance airworthiness and also worked at Lockheed Aircraft and Servair and was a building contractor. He was a Veteran of the Air Force serving during the Korean War where he received the Korean Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Korean War Service Medal.

He was survived by two sisters, Melinda Wilson and her husband, Woodrow of Highlands, NC and Lyla Baty and her husband Michael of Miami, FL. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Harold and Gordon Reese. No services are planned. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

• CLARIFICATIONS

The scholarship information distributed by Highlands School that appeared in the June 10 issue of Highlands' Newspaper contained some misleading information about renewable scholarships and their amounts.

If students choose to apply for their renewable scholarships next year, pre-

In the June 10 issue of Highlands' Newspaper, the Rotary Exchange student's name was wrong in the cutline accompanying his photo. We apologize for the error and are happy to set the record straight. senters suggest students check with the respective organizations to learn renewable criteria and the renewable amount they are eligible for next year.

In many cases, the amount of renewable scholarships will not be the same as the amount issued to graduates for their freshman year at college.

• •



Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell and Highlands School Principal Monica Bomengen present Rotary Exchange student Antoine Coupé from France his diploma. Assistant Principal Mark Thomas called the graduates to be recognized.

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Dr. Heffington is a bum

Only kidding! Only kidding! I don't even know the guy nor do I know any members of the Hospital board. I just thought I should write something because I don't want to be the only person in Highlands and Cashiers who has not done so. Having said that, I will ask you to reread this first paragraph again, especially

please. into town, let me explain that Dr. H. and the Highlands/Cashier Hospital Board are having a tiff. Or should that be

Fred Wooldridge

good doctor found it necessary to resign his position as Chief of Staff at the hospital, sending folks into a tizzy. Even worse, the hospital board the "only kidding" part. Do accepted the resignation and the fur is not show up at my front now flying. door with tar and feathers.

In case you just rolled

Cashier/Highlands

Hospital Board? Anyway,

From everything I have read about Doctor Heffington since this all started, he is very much loved in Highlands and Cashiers. The hospital board? Well, they seem to be the villains at this point, but I don't think this has all played out yet. I say "Stand by, more is on the way."

the tiff seems to be over the future

have gotten really bad because the

direction of the hospital. Things must

I would like to keep away from specific issues, mostly for my own

personal safety, so let me just say that the cone heads on the hospital board are in charge of the administration of the hospital, which would include future planning. They are the guys in charge right now. The worse thing a person can ever do is forget who his boss is.

Having said that, let me give you my own personal experiences about resignations. Toward the latter part of my career as a policemen, I was a cone head for a medium-sized police department. From time to time, angry officers would march into my office to complain about the new policies of the police chief. I would listen patiently and then say "I can see this is an issue See WOOLDRIGE page 12



• MOVIE PIX •

Amos and Andrew

he 1993, wry comedy with a very little bit of a message, starring Samuel Jackson, Nicholas Cage, and Dabney Coleman. Directed by Max Frye, and really funny music by Richard Gibbs.

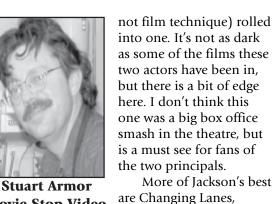
The Storyline: Andrew Stirling, successful, erudite, urbane (and urban) playwright has

bought a new home in an exclusive New England resort town, and is in the process of moving in. What he does not know is he is about to be welcomed by the world's least competent SWAT team.

You see, Mr. Stirling (Jackson does his usual excellent job here) is (gasp!) black, and any black man in this town with an armload of stereo equipment is, well you just KNOW what he must be up to. With the eager assistance of some nosey neighbors, Chief of Police Tolliver (Coleman is so great at being obnoxious, I'm pretty sure I don't want him living next door to me) has the town's newest resident surrounded by a crowd of armed and armored officers about as bright as Barney Fife. Once they eventually figure out they have just about blown up Stirling in his own house, they need to work up some creative damage control in a hurry.

Enter Amos Odell, a habitual petty crook; about as competent a criminal as this local police force is at law enforcement (this is Cage in his more crazed mode, and he is at top form). Tolliver's plan is to pin the blame on the hapless Odell, and you can take a guess as to how well his plan will work. And your guess, if it was going to be "absolute failure", would be correct. It is the work of the moment to add local and national media and a crowd of activists, and the situation gets out of control fast. There is a surprise ending, but it's not that much of a surprise, but the predictability of the story is not a reason to skip this film.

Yes, you probably can figure out the story, but it's a neat and fun story, and Cage is at his manic best. It's a mostly dry comedy, not really a message in there, more of a satire. A buddy film, a role reversal story, and a Black/White movie (I mean genre,



Movie Stop Video

Jackie Brown, and Pulp Fiction. More of Cage can be seen in Vampire's Kiss, Guarding Tess, Honeymoon in Vegas, and my all time favorite, Raising Arizona.

Caveman's Valentine,

Ruby Cinemas Franklin, NC Adult — \$6, Child — \$4

Matinee (Before 5 p.m.) Adult — \$5, Child — \$4 June 15-21

BATMAN BEGINS rated PG-13 Weekdays: (4:30), 7, 9:30 Sat & Sun: (2), (4:30), 7, 9:30

MR. & MRS. SMITH rated PG-13 Weekdays: (4:20), 7, 9:20 Sat & Sun: (2), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20

MADAGASCAR

rated PG Weekdays: (4:05), 7:05, 9:05 Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:05), 7:05, 9:05

THE LONGEST YARD

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FREE KIDS' MOVIES

Our summer kid's movie program is at 10 a.m. each Thursday through the summer. •The program is FREE for children of all ages and their parents.

· Seating availability is on a first come first serve basis.

 For more information including a list of our upcoming FREE kid's movies, visit our website: www.rubycinemas.com

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Christ Anglican Church

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. LETTERS continued from page 2

serious and more costly to address in the future.

Currently, the Town is engaged in finding the funding required to implement its plan. Part of that effort involves working on the federal level to get available dollars that can help with meeting the tremendous costs involved. In this regard, Mayor Trott has made several trips to Washington to visit our elected representatives in Congress and to impress upon them the importance of restoring and protecting our lakes. Their support of our Town's initiative is crucial. That is why I would encourage the community to reach out to our congressional delegation so that they know about this challenge facing our Town and realize how important it is to us that it be addressed. I truly believe that if we come together as residents and partner with our leaders on the local, state, and federal levels that we can successfully tackle the situation impacting the Highlands area lakes and water supply.

> Shirley Merchant Johnson President, Lake Sequoyah Improvement Association

What is "wrong" with GMOs? Lots!

Dear Editor,

In response to Jodie Zoellner's letter in the June 3 edition of Highlands' Newspaper:

To adequately respond to her concerns would require many more words than I'm permitted here. I feel compelled, however, to address a few of her points, particularly because I believe so many people share Ms. Zoellner's perception of the issue.

What is "wrong" with GMOs? I'll begin with one of the more frightening, greed-induced aspects – the patenting of a once-natural, God-given resource: seeds, including so-called "terminator seeds," introduced by the Monsanto corporation and now being widely distributed to (imposed upon) farmers in developing countries. Plants from these seeds are effectively sterile, requiring farmers to buy new seed for every planting and drastically impacting these countries' livelihood and independence. And that's only the tip of the iceberg.

Arguments in favor of genetically engineered food are dangerously simple: "produce pest-resistant (or faster-maturing, or vitamin-enriched, etc.) crops to feed the world's hungry." Unfortunately it's not so simple. At the root of all life is genetic diversity, nature's only insurance policy against earth's ever-changing environments. In natural genetic programming, seeds within each species have differing latency periods, some remaining underground during times of adverse environmental conditions, to germinate in later years and thus ensure the survival of the species.

Human beings can genetically engineer seeds for a specific trait that nature didn't put there, but we are incapable, ever, of engineering a seed that will have the long-term resilience of natural seeds. Farmers who choose their best seeds to improve next year's crop are working *within* nature's selection process; but tampering with individual genes is a different game entirely, wreaking havoc with what you might call "God's system of checks and balances."

There are so many more issues at stake here: The splicing of insecticide into the genes of food crops, so that the toxin is now contained in every cell of every plant, causes massive exposure of insects to it, resulting in the extermination of all targeted insects *except* for the super-resistant mutants. These increasingly hardy insects will subsequently become the predominant strain, and growers will of course require ever more potent pesticides. Add to this the fact that the pollen shed by these GMOs contaminates nearby crops, gradually overtaking and eliminating all the original, natural seed.

And an array of political/ethical questions arise; among them: What will the future look like when a handful of agribusinesses control the world's ever-narrowing seed banks?

How can we morally justify the chemical dependencies being created for farmers in developing countries when multinational corporations draft deals with their governments that literally force growers to use these engineered seeds?

I am not a biologist, and my knowledge of the subject is admittedly sketchy; in my points here I have borrowed heavily from Barbara Kingsolver's book of essays entitled *Small Wonder* – which I would heartily put on a recommended reading list for everyone. I also wish that anyone with doubts about the importance of this issue would view the film, *The Future of Food*, which Erin

... LETTERS continued from page 6

Brown discussed. It is a non-hype, superbly researched and well-documented treatise on the global implications of this dangerous trend.

One more thing: No one who sees the film would ever have the slightest inclination to "cuss a farmer." Farmers are at the top of the list of victims in this deadly power play.

Martha MacMillan Highlands

Be informed when it comes to GMOs

Dear Editor,

First of all, I would like to celebrate your paper that it is including all facets of news and giving people a choice. You are reporting 'news' and giving people a choice and the ability to do their own research as to how they think and feel about different issues.

Presently as a health consultant and facilitator of two health associations, I would like to share some research information and websites that the readers can find answers for themselves in regards to the GMO (genetic modified organism) controversy that is a global concern. 'Being informed' is a responsibility of every human being. This gives each person the ability to make decisions about their own health. After all, we are what we eat.

In Jodie Zoellner's letter, in the June 3 issue of Highlands' Newspaper, she stated that as an educator it is important to make sure the information she gives students is important. I agree and I most certainly believe that an educator must also research and get accurate facts when sharing to students.

It is apparent that Ms. Zoellner did not research her facts. In her letter she stated that Mr. Streiff was the owner of Matlock Creek Farm; of which he is not. Suzann Mosling is the owner. Mr. Streiff is the farm manager.

Mr. Streiff's statements as to 'school lunch programs being affected by GMOs, can be researched and backed by many organizations, books, and internet websites. Readers will find as they research that: children face the greatest risk from the potential dangers and effects from GMO foods. Why? Because children are:

- young with fast-developing bodies.
- more susceptible to allergies.
- more susceptible to problems with milk.
- more susceptible to nutritional problems.
- more in danger from antibiotic resistant diseases.

Research is increasing rapidly and its data is being shared by many parent organizations and websites such as: http://www.seedsofdeception.com/GMFree/Campaigns/GM-FreeSchools/index.cfm. Here you will find a film on the effects of GMOs that parents and children may want to watch together. Books, articles, and other links will also be found here. A special article: 'Spilling the Beans' can be found at: http://www.seedsofdeception.com/DocumentFiles/39.doc

Readers can also visit: http://www.organicconsumers.org/sos.htm; to find a great deal of information as to many different campaigns collecting data regarding concerns about the nutrition in schools today.

Furthermore The Center For Food Safety states: 'The genetic engineering of plants and animals is looming as one of the greatest and most intractable environmental challenges of the 21st Century. Already, this novel technology has invaded our grocery stores and our kitchen pantries by fundamentally altering some of our most important staple food crops.

A number of studies over the past decade have revealed that genetically engineered foods can pose serious risks to humans, domesticated animals, wildlife and the environment. Human health effects can include higher risks of toxicity, allergens, antibiotic resistance, immune-suppression and cancer. As for environmental impacts, the use of genetic engineering in agriculture will lead to uncontrolled biological pollution, threatening numerous microbial, plant and animal species with extinction, and the potential contamination of all nongenetically engineered life forms with novel and possibly hazardous genetic material.' http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/geneticall2.cfm

According to Acres USA, North America's largest and oldest publisher of sustainable agriculture books, and information teaching farmers how to grow healthy food, states: Seed is arriving on organic farms already contaminated with traces of genetically modified DNA. In a <u>1999</u> study conducted by the American Corn Growers Association, 45 percent of the non-GM corn varieties tested

See LETTERS page 19

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Evenings at



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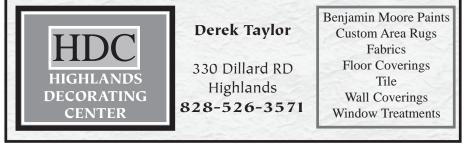
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Patrons get special performance



Photo by Kim Lewicki

On June 10, "Partners of PAC" were treated to free entertainment and a reception at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center ("PAC") dubbed "Memories of the Future." "Partners" are those who have made financial donations in response to the annual solicitation from PAC. The June 10 presentation featured four of the core groups that utilize PAC to present live performances in Highlands – The Highlands Community Players, the Highlands Male Chorus, Will Ransom of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival and dancers from the Dance Center of Western Carolina.

est."

... SILT FENCES continued from page 1

ning committee suggested using wirebacked silt fences in its environmental recommendations to the Town Board in the updated land use plan, but the soil and sedimentation ordinance would have to be amended to require them.

"Even if we could accelerate the ordinance amendment, it won't be on the books until next season," he said.

Standard plastic silt fences sitting two-and-a-half feet high and anchored into the ground have proved to be no match for the steady rains pounding steep slopes and terrain of late. "They are high enough, just not strong enough to withstand the torrents of water-laden silt moving down slope," said Gantenbein.

"Coming out of a five-year drought, this rain seems abnormal, but I'm told what was extraordinary over the last few years is what's ordinary for Highlands," said Gantenbein. "We are in a rain for-

... BALL FIELD continued from page 1

"People consider Highlands the money place in Western North Carolina and the ball field just doesn't represent Highlands," said John Shearl, volunteer Little League coach and parent. "We've had some teams come up and refuse to play on it. They look at the field and say 'This is Highlands? Why are kids playing on this?'"

During a budget work session at the June 15 Town Board meeting, commissioners adjusted the 2005-2006 budget to include \$139,000 to fix the drainage problem at the field and to install new fencing.

"This is the Cadillac version of a fix," said Commissioner Hank Ross, who drew up the ball field improvement plan.

Silt fences are designed to temporarily keep sediment from leaving a job site while it's under construction. Any open dirt must be stabilized within seven days with silt fences and upon completion of the project, areas of open dirt must be permanently stabilized preferably with vegetation.

Gantenbein said if the terrain is too steep or not adaptable to vegetation, alternate means can be used for permanent stabilization. "For instance, matting is used as a means to 'artificially stabilize' stream banks."

Until wire-backed silt-fences are required, Gantenbein urges developers to keep their silt fences cleaned out so if a "rain episode" occurs, the fences can hold the silt. He said if they are full when the rain begins, they will most certainly blow out before it's over.

"But it will fix the problem once and for all. The lack of drainage has reached the crisis state and it's up to the town to fix it."

The county has budgeted \$500,000 for the Town of Highlands Recreation Department which is allocated to Rec Park operations, so the additional \$139,000 for the ball field will come out of the town's general fund. "We have substantial capital reserves, and a healthy general fund," said Town Administrator Richard Betz.

With school and county soccer and baseball teams scrambling for play time at the Buck Creek fields, baseball and softball game overflow ends up at the •See BALL FIELD page 9

Old post office site to be developed

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

It looks like the old post office building lot, on the corner of Pine and Fifth Streets, has finally been purchased and an attractive building could be built in its place.

At the June 8 Zoning Board meeting, board members learned the proposed building will be designed to look like a professional office building, but will actually contain climate-controlled storage inside to be accessed from the interior. Two apartments will be above the storage areas, one of which will house a live-in custodian.

"The people who have purchased it have already approached me about a project that will be coming into the appearance commission later this month," Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein said. But, Gantenbein took the plans to the zoning board for clarification.

"This use falls through the cracks in our zoning ordinance," he said. "Selfserve, conventional type storage is only permitted in B-3, this lot is in B-2 and the use isn't self-serve storage." He said there this particular use isn't listed in the ordinance.

Gantenbein asked the Zoning Board if the Planning Board could take this issue under advisement and make a recommendation as to whether the project was permissible in that location.

Gantenbein said by the town's ordinance, when the zoning board has questions on whether a particular use is consistent with the town's zoning and land use plan, it can refer the issue to the planning board for recommendations.

"In some aspects it takes you guys off the hook because you won't have to decide if this is an appropriate use over there in B-2, it will be the planning board who makes the recommendation and vou can follow it," Gantenbein said.

The lot is vacant now that the former dilapidated building on the property was torn down a couple of months ago.

... AFFORDABLE HOUSIING from page 1

and federal agencies to promote jobs and fund the building of houses that low- tomoderate income people can afford."

As part of the county's Community Economic Development Program, the county wants to act as an Umbrella Housing Authority to back the development of standard-type housing as well as the lead agency in procuring state and federal funding.

"There are problems with housing in Macon County, said Greenwood. "Home ownership is beyond the reach of many people. Plus it's getting harder and harder for low income and senior citizens to repair and rehabilitate their homes."

Commissioners said they want to continue to support current programs like Macon Program for Progress, which is in peril due to a lack of funding, they

... BALL FIELD continued from page 8 have indicated they would donate money

asked.

up short after work begins.

was called due to standing water.

town ball field which isn't always playable.

Once the infrastructure of the ball field is intact, Shearl said the community would like to see renovations made to the bleachers, and restrooms and a concession stand installed.

Commissioners said they can't commit to bleachers, restrooms and a concession this budget year but agree it should be part of the overall plan. "Right now you can't play, but you can watch," said Commissioner Amy Patterson.

Shearl said people in the community

said, and The World Changers which uses volunteers to renovate low income housing all over the county.

"We can put current standard and rehab programs under a county umbrella to develop them into much more intensive and job producing programs," said Greenwood.

Commissioners said local and private investors and developers could provide money perhaps with a local match for tax credits. "Perhaps we can develop partnerships with lending institutions who might be interested in supporting low and moderate income housing," said Commissioner Jim Davis.

Monday's meeting, At commissioners agreed on the skeleton of what they want to accomplish and will now move toward the development of a concrete plan.

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Surrounded by about 100 friends, family, and ex-students Irene Picklesimer James celebrated her 100th birthday, at a covered dish luncheon, Sunday, June 12 at the Highlands United Methodist Church. While sitting pretty in her new pink straw birthday hat, the group sang her 'Happy Birthday.' Photo by Jim Lewicki

Irene James turns 100

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

t Sunday's birthday celebration at Highlands United Methodist Church, a special person was honored.

Spry for her 100 years, Irene Picklesimer James has seen Highlands change from a part-time town that lived for "the season" when rich folk came up to the mountains for some R&R to what it is today; a thriving year-round town.

Long before Highlands became a town, though, families were living and dying in nearby communities – communities now considered Highlands and that's where it all started for Irene.

There was Shortoff, Clear Creek, Turtle Pond, Goldmine, Flats, Horse Cove and Whiteside Cove – all selfsufficient communities with churches and one-room school houses. With working farms and extensive vegetable gardens, folks only went into "town" for dry goods, work off the farm or socializing.

On Sunday, one of Irene's many grandchildren, Billy Crowe, in town with his family from Kansas, spoke fondly of Irene, her unending patience, her lifelong commitment to teach and listen, her easy smile and sense of humor.

Irene followed her mother Cora Rogers Picklesimer into teaching and like her mother started her career teaching in one-room schoolhouses.

Cora taught at the Clear Creek oneroom schoolhouse and met her husband Edward McCall Picklesimer there. He was one of her older students. Back then, committeemen administered the district schools in the county and even though committeeman Mack Wilson told them not to, Cora and Edward fell in love and married.

Irene's schooling began in the Clear Creek school at the age of six, after her mother had retired and Lizer Cant and Trudie Rice were her teachers. She went through the fourth grade there until her father sent Irene and her older sister Almetta Picklesimer Brooks to the Highlands School behind Town Hall near the Highlands Playhouse.

"We had to walk five miles up the mountain to Highlands and back each day," said Irene. "It was hard. We would leave the house when it was still dark carrying a lantern that we hung on a tree near the old Harbison House when it got light. Then we'd pick it up on the way back home."

She and Almetta made that trek every day fifth through seventh grade until they decided to live in Cashiers with their mother's sister, Mary Rogers Zachary so they wouldn't have to walk so far to •See JAMES page 11

Highlands Historical Society Home Tour – June 25–

The Highlands Historical Society invites you to tour four of Highlands historical homes situated in the North Historic District, June 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The first house on the tour is the Gottwals House, presently known as Hanover House Antiques, on the west side of Fourth Street and U.S. 64 east – built between 1892 and 1896 by John Zeigler Gottwals.

The Downing-Werder House at 425 Hickory Street was built between 1889-1890 by Henry D. Downing and later owned by Frank and Verna Cook, owners of Highlands Inn from 1938-1969.

The house at 608 Hickory Street was built in 1886 by Frank J. Sheldon. After being sold twice, it then was sold in 1939 to William Roy Potts and then to Randolph and Margaret Schaffner, who owned it until 2004. It is currently owned by Terry and Karin Potts. Terry is the greatnephew of William Roy Potts.

The last house on the tour is the two-and-a-half story weatherboard house at 55 4¹/₂ Street. Built shortly after 1910 for Irvin Ellis Rice, a butcher and proprietor of a meat market on Main Street where Wit's End and Buck's Coffee Café exist today.

In 1938 it was sold to John and Ellie Potts, when it was better known as Fairview Inn.

It is now known as 4 ¹/₂ Street Inn owned and operated by Rick and Helene Siegel.

As the last house on the tour, light refreshments will be served.

You may ride the shuttle back to the Conference Center or walk back while you enjoy some of the other historical homes on the same route – though from a distance.



The Hanover House



The Downing-Werder House



The Potts House



The 4 1/2 Street Inn

Tickets are \$45 per person. Students are free. They are available at the Highlands Conference Center the day of the tour or in advance at D&J Express Mart, the Chambers Agency and Cyrano's Book Shop. Call 787-1050 for more information.

• SCALY MOUNTAIN NEWS •

Cycles of life honored in Scaly

Judy Huskey Contributor

Once the vital rite of summer planting included a rhythmic promenade by man and a trusted beast. But it's a sight seldom seen since the industrial revolution put mules like Junior out to pasture.

However for Dale "Granny" Miller, and a handful of others who respect the value of a good mule, the process is continued as a respected part of their heritage.

And if more explanation is needed, Miller's is simple.

"It's just better this way, things grow better," he insists.

While Miller is content to till and cultivate his corn fields with powerful tractors, the actual planting of the corn still falls to him and Junior. The process is a grueling sweaty job. Fortunately for Junior, it's one of only a few times he's asked to earn his keep.

For the other 360 or so days a year he and the other Miller mules graze contentedly in a pasture or stay warm and dry in a spacious barn.



Dale "Granny" Miller and his mule Junior Photo by Judy Huskey

In the early days, mountain settlers' mules were invaluable tools in surviving in an often harsh environment. Other than a house, they were usually a family's most prized possession.

They are much smarter and stronger than a horse and their reputation for being stubborn is misplaced Miller maintains.

"Sometimes they stop because they know it's not safe to go ahead, they see things we don't," he explains.

As with most contemporary mountain families, farming for the dinner table is a thing of the past. Most, like Miller, work outside the home which leaves precious little time of other things.

Rather than walking rows in fields, mules are more likely to show up at meets and contests where their owners hope for bragging rights.

"I'd like to do that, but it's just not possible."

But what is possible on a particularly beautiful afternoon is to return to your roots – even for just a little while.

... JAMES continued from page 10

school. Irene spent the eighth-grade in Cashiers – high school and her first year of college was spent at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tenn.

With a year of college behind her, she was eligible to teach in the one-room school houses back in Macon County. Her first job was at Goldmine schoolhouse – the current Goldmine Baptist Church; then on to Clear Creek to follow in her mother's footsteps; then at the Bald Mountain schoolhouse over the line in Georgia where she lived with her husband Lawton James; then to the two-room schoolhouse in Scaly where her pay increased from \$80 per month to \$100 per month.

Lawton died in 1948, when Irene was just 39. She took her family of five children back to Clear Creek to live with her parents and by now had a degree from Western Carolina University. With that she began teaching at the Highlands School on the hill behind Town Hall and in the classrooms across the street above the shops where she taught grades four, five and six all together.

When the new Highlands School opened up at its present site in 1952, Irene taught the fourth grade. "Finally I had a room of my own teaching just one grade. It was heaven on earth," she said.

After one year, Principal Summer asked her to teach the second grade. "He said the students weren't coming into the third and fourth grade prepared and he said I could fix that," she said.

Scores of adults, grandparents themselves today, had Irene as a teacher and some were there Sunday to celebrate Irene's 100th birthday.

Dabs Potts, 51, who was only six years old in the second grade says "Ms. James" was a good teacher. "I remember she taught us a lot of math," he said. "She sure had her hands full with all of us, though."



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you are really upset about. One of the wonderful things about living in America is that you don't have to work here. This is a voluntary job that you signed up for. We would love for you to stay on but if you find you can't live with the chief's policies, then I suggest you resign." I would get blank stares from the officers and then they would march out of my office in a huff.

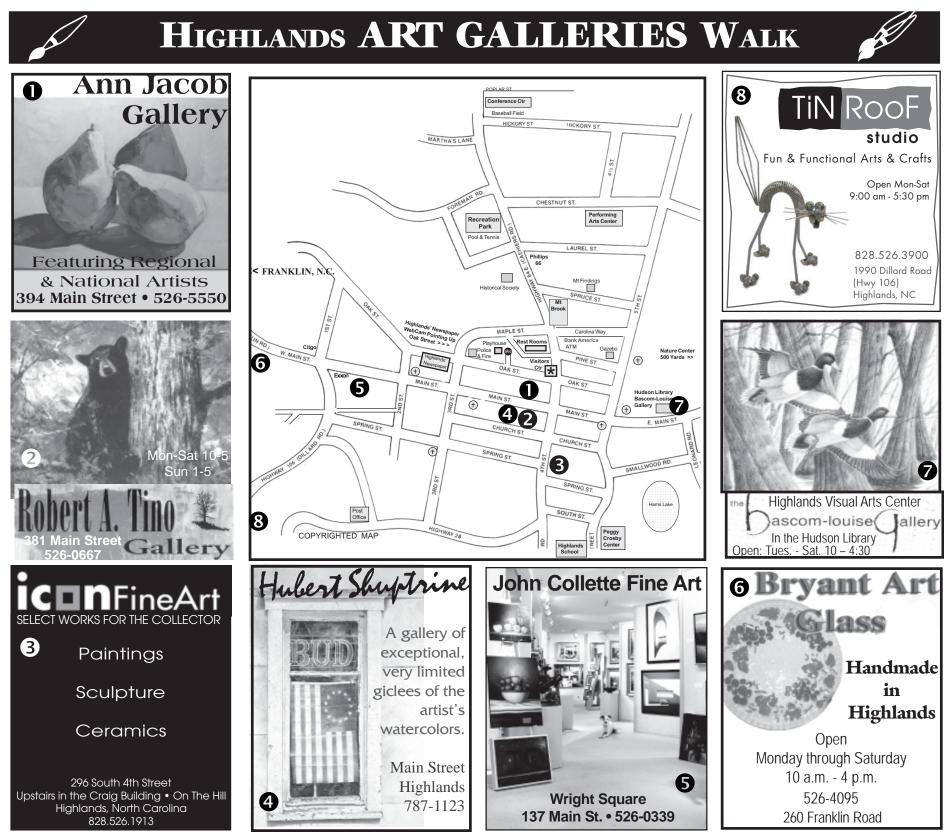
But that's the police department, not a hospital. Several errors have been made in this dispute. First, the only thing that a resignation will get you is a position on the outside looking in. Once you're gone, you're out. Resigning is noble for one day and then you are an ex-employee. That's not good, so I don't think Dr. H. should have resigned but found ways to take his cause to the public and ask them to support him and put pressure on the board.

The second mistake was made by the board. They should not have accepted the resignation. I know this is hard because, after all, who is running this hospital, the doctors or the board of directors? But it was not a wise move because now they have two towns at their throats. If the wealthy people of Highlands and Cashiers start pulling their sizable donations, the hospital budget could suffer. There are no winners here. Everyone loses, most importantly, the patients.

It's time for everyone to kiss and make up. The first move must come from the board. Bite the bullet and call Dr. H. to tell him you have reconsidered and will not accept his resignation. No concessions need to be made. Dr. H. should demand nothing right now, then pull his resignation and return to the hospital to fight his cause from within. If I had resigned every time I found a police policy despicable, I would have lasted less than a year.

Highlands and Cashiers need Dr. Heffington back and we need a hospital board who will respond to what the people of our two towns want. Our wealthy donors need to band together and put pressure on the board and Dr. Heffington to deal with the issues in a professional manner.

That's my two cents worth and I'm stickin' to it.



Highlands ancestors come alive

The Sixth Annual "Walk in the Park" will take place on July 15, 16 and 17 at the Highlands Memorial Park, with rain dates the following weekend. Shuttles will run from the Conference Center each of the three days. Friday and Saturday performances will begin at 6 p.m., with the last shuttle leaving the Conference Center at 7:30 p.m. The Sunday performance will begin at 4 p.m., with the last shuttle leaving the Conference Center at 5:30 p.m. Performances last slightly over an hour.

The "Walk in the Park," originated by Isabel Chambers, is sponsored annually by the Highlands Historical Society as both a fundraising and educational project. Proceeds are used to help restore and preserve the two buildings comprising the Highlands Historic Village on U.S. 64/Fourth Street: the former Hudson Library Building, built in 1915, and the Wright-Prince House, built in 1877. The Grand Opening of the Historic Village is planned for July 8, 9 and 10.

The actors pictured above will acquaint the audience with people from Highlands' past:

Dr. Alexander Anderson, inventor of Puffed Wheat and Puffed Rice who built and landscaped one of the most beautiful homes in Highlands;

Ella Hudson, the first adult buried in the Highlands Memorial Park, for whom the Hudson Library was named;

Margaretta Ravenel, a philanthropist who, with her husband Prioleau Ravenel, built the first summer home in Highlands;

Joe Webb, builder of numerous rustic log homes in Highlands, many of which are still standing almost 100 years later:

Auditions set for **HCP's next show**

Auditions for Highlands Community Players "Dearly Departed" will be held Sunday, June 26 at 3 p.m. downstairs at PAC, 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands.

The script is available for reading, but not for checkout, at the Hudson Library.

A hilarious, backwoods Southern comedy has a cast of 15 characters plus several singers. Eight women and seven men of varying ages.

For an alternate audition time call director Virginia Talbot, 526-4904.

Margaret Randall "Ted" Wilcox, civic worker and one of the founders of the Highlands Community Theatre, now known as The Highlands Playhouse;

George Masa, a Japanese immigrant whose photographs and mapping of the area surrounding Highlands helped convince Congress to establish the Great Smoky Mountains National Park;

Helen Wright Wilson, founder of Helen's Barn which provided dancing for Highlanders and visitors for many years; and

Herman Wilson, a colorful local resident who served as a one-man welcoming committee to Highlands' visitors and summer residents.

Tickets to the "Walk in the Park" are available at the Conference Center on the day of performance or in advance at Cyrano's Bookstore, D & J Express Mart and The Old Rangoon. Tickets are priced at \$15 for adults;; students admitted free.



"Cast for Walk in the Park. (L to R) Back row: Derek Taylor, Stell Huie, Brian McClellan. Front row: Becky Schilling, Elaine Whitehurst, Glenda Bell, Diane Rosazza. Not pictured: Collin Wilcox and Thomas Craig."



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Refreshments and Tours





Ask About Phase II **Pre-Construction Opportunities**

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- News from Chambéry, France, Part 9 -

Around Europe in 10 days flat!

By Megan Lewicki

Highlands Rotary Exchange Student

recently took a bus trip with 49 other Rotary exchange students around Europe. Exchange students around the world traditionally take a trip with their host club near the end of the school year so they get to know their country or continent even better.

In 10 days, we visited Austria, Germany, Italy, Monaco, the south of France, and Spain. All I have to say is...WOW...and it's going to take me two stories to tell you about it!

Day 1: After all of us – 50 exchange students and four chaperones – met in Lyon and took a small tour of Lyon's architectural gems. We then headed by bus for Chamonix, a popular resort town in eastern France close to the Italian and Switzerland borders. Many use it as a starting point to climb the nearby Mount Blanc. We took a hike up a smaller mountain to take a dozen pictures of the snowcapped mountains that surrounded us.

Day 2: After spending the night in Chamonix, we took a cute little red train to *la mer de glace* (or the sea of ice), a huge



Megan inside the la mer de glace.



In Chamonix, at the base of Mount Blanc.



The postcard-perfect town of Salzburg, Austria – hometown of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Photos by Megan Lewicki

glacier surrounded by beautiful mountains. As soon as I stepped off the train, I felt like I was walking on the label of an Evian bottle. We took a cable car down to the glacier and then walked through a tunnel that took us inside the glacier.

Everyone began to lick the ice – too excited to think about how many other people have done the same thing. After taking many many, many pictures we were rushed back onto the cable car to catch the train back to town, where we explored beautiful Chamonix once more before saying goodbye and hopping back on the bus to head for Austria.

Day 3: After spending the night in Austria we drove to the Dachau concentration camp in Germany.

The camp was established in 1933 and recognized to be the first concentration camp of WWII. We toured the grounds, viewing the appalling conditions in which more than 160,000 prisoners were kept. Since Dachau was the first camp, it was also the center of experiment.

Different punishments and torture tactics were invented and carried out here. Reports were then written up and sent to the different camps describing which strategies "worked best." Dachau was also a medical research center for the SS to conduct heinous scientific experiments on the bodies of more than 3,500 prisoners. I can't begin to explain how heartwrenching it was when it came time to walk through the gas chambers and actually see the crematoriums that burned hundreds of bodies a day. We left the camp teary eyed and took a quiet ride back to Austria.

We drove for a couple of hours to Salzburg, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's hometown. I have to say that Salzburg is the prettiest town I've ever seen; cobbled streets, colorful buildings, and gorgeous architecture were found everywhere composing a breathtaking setting. It was impossible to take a bad picture; there were postcard-worthy scenes all over the place. I was very sad when it came to time leave...but we have so little time and so many more places to see!

More next week!

*Fun Fact # 9: When the teacher calls out the roll in the beginning of class, instead of the students yelling out "ici!" (here!), they yell out "la!" (there!)



The crematorium at Dachau Concentration Camp.

Editor's Note: This is last in a multi-part series on the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, its origins and the Special Operations Adventure Race.

Two races – an adventure and a sprint race – are set in Highlands for June 25, 2005. A silent and live auction are set for June 23, 5:30 p.m. at the Conference Center. All proceeds from both affairs go toward SOWF goals. Raffle tickets are also on sale around town for Oriental rugs from Shirza Rugs and leather jackets from Jolie's of Highlands.

It's passion that drives Special Ops soldiers

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

There is no doubt the life of a soldier can be very dangerous even though in today's military, hand-to-hand combat has be replaced by the use of high-tech weaponry.

But in the aftermath of 9-11, American soldiers were confronted with a faceless enemy. This enemy required a return to the older ways of fighting, thus putting them in immediate danger.

Master Sergeant Andrew Martin said as he watched the Twin Towers falling down his phone and others across the country rang in unison. On the other end of the phone line was the U.S. military calling the best in the country to fight a war against a foreign enemy, one that had brought them to their knees.

Martin was in the initial invasion in October 2001 and was a part of two combat jumps into Southern Afghanistan. His mission involved capturing and killing members of Al-Qaida and he led many strikes, which ultimately led "in great part to the destruction of the Taliban."

Martin knew very early on that he wanted a career in the military. Born and raised in San Diego, he joined a threeyear Army Reserves program and after he completed that joined the Air Force.

"I was intrigued," he said. "It's pretty challenging to get in."

After starting the eight-week program 10 out of 74 men remained and Martin was part of the elite Special Operations branch of the Air Force.

In January of 2002, Martin was paired with a four-man sniper team and was sent on a mission in the Kabul area in eastern Afghanistan. Although he did not know it at the time this would be the mission of his career.

"There were a lot of covert missions utilizing air power to target and gather information," Martin said. "Several operations did that and were triggers for Operation Anaconda." Martin was in constant contact with command and control networks around the world and his specific team was tasked to take out a group of Taliban insurgents.

Martin said the team of four was dropped in and walked for three days in knee-deep snow before coming to the site. With 100 pounds of gear on his back, Martin kept in close contact with air support operations and camped out with the three other men.

"Situations like this only present themselves once in a career," Martin said of the mission.

Martin and his group waited until dusk to attack the insurgents.

"Until that point I had never killed anyone before and I thought to myself, we're going to kill people tonight," Martin said.

Following is an excerpt from the non-fiction novel "Not a Good Day to Die" by Sean Naylor. This section of the book describes in detail Martin's mission to "occupy the Shahikot Valley.

"....Shortly after midnight, Goody and the other four men of Mako 31 left the hollow they had used as a hide site and crept toward the enemy observation post. Goody moved ahead of the others, scouting a site where they could drop their rucks about 500 meters from the

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enemy position. The explosive ordnance disposal expert assigned to Mako 31 and Andy, the team's Air Force combat controller, remained with the rucks to minimize the chances of the enemy overhearing them as they arranged AC-130 and P-3 coverage of their assault of the tent position. Trying hard to keep to the long shadows cast by a full moon, the three SEAL Team 6 snipers advanced toward a small ridge line on the other side of which sat the tent. They could hear the low drone of the AC-130 overhead.

Once they reached the ridgeline, their plan was to wait until H-1 (i.e., 5:30 a.m., an hour before H-Hour) and then assault the tent, coordinating their attack with the AC-130. Not long after they had found cover behind some rocks on the reverse slope of the ridge from the tent, an enemy fighter appeared on the ridgeline like a ghostly apparition in the moonlight. He looked around, then turned and retraced his steps without noticing the nearby SEALs. Goody and his men settled down to wait. But at 4 a.m. the same fighter appeared, again walking up from the tent (which the SEALs could not see from their vantage point) and gazing west. Perhaps he was looking for the approaching TF Hammer convoy, word of which was undoubtedly circulating on the enemies' radios and cell phones by now, or perhaps he was merely seeking some privacy to relieve himself. Either way it was a fateful decision. Glancing up, the enemy fighter caught site of the SEALs before they had time to duck behind the rocks. For the SEALs, it was now or never. Goody gave the order to attack. The commandos charged over the ridgeline and down toward the tent 20 meters away. From inside the tent an Al Qaida fighter fired off an entire magazine in the general direction of the Americans, who could see the Kalashnikov's muzzle flash between the tent flaps. The SEALs dropped to their knees to return fire. A SEAL fired a single round into the tent from his M4 before the rifle jammed. Goody fired next, but he, too, only got off a single round before his rifle *jammed, The two SEALs worked frantically* in the frigid night air to clear their weapons as the third

sniper kept the enemy at bay.... The SEALs leveled their rifles and emptied their magazines into the tent, then pulled back. Goody decided to let the AC-130 take care of any enemies left alive.

Andy, the combat controller, had already alerted Grim 31, the AC-130H Spectre orbiting overhead. The aircraft reported seeing two bodies just outside the tent and a third, wounded, enemy fighter trying to crawl to safety. Grim 31 also spotted the two remaining enemy fighters, who had apparently escaped the firefight outside the tent unharmed and were now trying to outflank the SEALs. From a range of 75 meters—almost point blank for a machine gun—one of the Al Qaida survivors fired a long burst of 7.62mm bullets from a PK machine gun at the SEALs who hadn't noticed their maneuver. The rounds missed. It was to be the last opportunity the two Islamist fighters would have to kill in the name of Allah..."

• • •

"You're at a much greater risk for injury than normal when you work for so long," Martin said. "We had been awake with adrenaline pumping through our veins for almost five days, so we looked a little crazy.

"There is no doubt we saved a lot of American lives that day," Martin said.

Martin got five confirmed kills and two probable and also received the Silver Star.

"I didn't kill a lot of people, but it was definitely more up close and personal.

Martin has contributed to several dangerous missions in Panama, Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

"I really feel my story is meager compared to what so many other guys did," Martin said.

This is one account of a special operations soldier and how he put his life of the line for his country.

"I did it for my wife and my little girl," Martin said.

• • •

Note: Special Operations just had four airmen who gave the ultimate sacrifice defending freedom. An aircraft engaged in flying operations for **OPERATION Iraqi Freedom went down** last week. The airmen were from Hurlburt Field. Three airmen were from the 23 Special Tactics Squadron, one was from the 6 Special Operations Squadron. All except one was married. One left behind three children, one left behind one child. Please support to the best of their abilities these families and the rest of the 500 Special Operations children who have lost mothers and fathers while upholding freedom.

- Lt. Col. David Horwitz

Store owners awarded Alaskan cruise

RadioShack Franchise owners, Chuck Willhide and Thea Stacey recently returned from an all expenses paid Alaskan Cruise on the Ms Oosterda, courtesy of RadioShack.

StarPony Electronics, a RadioShack Dealer, was presented with RadioShack's Bronze sales award for 2004 and the "Explore Alaska" Cruise in 2005. The Bronze sales award is presented to a RadioShack Dealer store based on its volume of purchases of RadioShack products. R.O.

Thea Stacey & Chuck Willhide



• Business News •

Vivace opens ... on the hill

Vivace, ...on the hill on Fourth Street is now open for business, is owned by Linda Hall and Linda Shearon, features upscale women's accessories. It's open Mon-Sat 10-5. For more information, call 526-1880.



Tin Roof Studio art gallery opens



The Tin Roof Studio, at 1990 Dillard Road across from Summer House Gallery, is owned by Janet Wilson and is "A Gallery of Fine Arts & Crafts." It's open 10-6 Monday through Saturday and from 1-4 on Sundays.

Cool Cats Hot Dogs

Cool Cats Hot Dogs joins the ranks of new businesses opening up ... on the hill, S. Fourth Street. Called a unique boutique, it features accessories, jewelry, and home decor items plus luxury items for pets. Call owners Loma and **Charles Alexander** at 526-9990.



Highlands is growing! See www.highlandsinfo.com



Highlands' Newspaper -Friday, June 17, 2005 - Page 17

Instant Theater promises exciting line-up for summer

Stressed? Work-related, divorce, worldly difficulties or any other life problems? There is a prescription for a night of relief. It's called *Little Entertainments with The Instant Theatre Company* - a weekly show featuring improv comedy, guest musicians, original short plays, the radio show and The Back Porch Band every Friday night at 8pm, beginning June 24.

This summer The ITC will add Occasional Saturday Specials for the whole family to the performance schedule. Since this past February at The ITCs Studio on Main, *Little Entertainments* has drawn a large following every week in Highlands and will continue on into the summer until August 6.

On the schedule are such diverse performers as country singer Annalyse McCoy (July 1), Brian Starr and his Guitar (July 9 & 15), The Wooten Performance Company (July 23 and 30) and and as well as two performances of Songwriters in the Round (July 16 and August 6). Rachel Townes, former music director for 15 years at Highlands Playhouse, returns to Highlands on July 2 with a group of musical theatre performers for a "Cabaret Evening." Actors SaraJune and Jeff Treadwell will perform the dark comedy *Claws* in July and Highlands' own John Williams returns with his trumpet on July 22 for Little Entertainments.

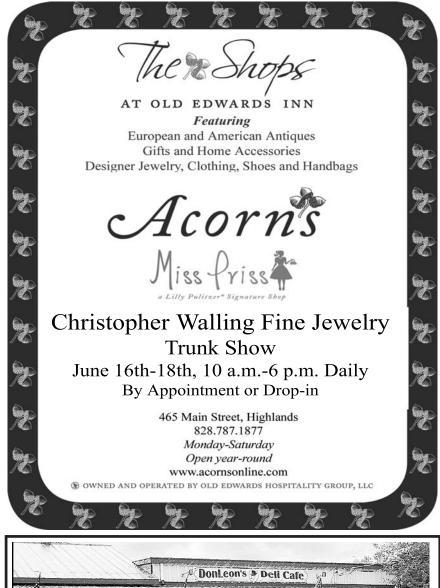
For a full schedule and much more information, please visit www.InstantTheatre.org or call (828) 526-1687. To reserve tickets, call The Instant Box Office at (828) 342-9197. Tickets for Friday's performances are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Saturdays are \$10 children 17 & under, \$20 adults in advance, \$25 adults at the door.

The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main is located at 310 Main Street, across the street from The Methodist Church and above Sports Page Restaurant and Shiraz Rugs.

HIGHLANDS ANTIQUE GALLERIES WALK



Page 18 - Highlands' Newspaper -Friday, June 17, 2005





Now Open 11 am – 4 pm

Crunchy Fresh Salads Hearty Home Made Soups Luscious Gourmet Sandwiches Famous Appalachian Fries Cajun Specialties.

Fast Food is not Good And Good Food is not Fast

526-1600 **30 Dillard Road • Highlands** (corner of Main Street and Dillard Road)

Book Signing at Cyrano's Book Shop

New book chronicles Western North Carolina's vibrant history

MOUNTAIN

PASSAGES

NORTH CARD

George Ellison

AT SMOKY MO

of a new book, Mountain Passages, at Cyrano's Bookshop from 1-3 p.m. Saturday afternoon, June 18.

George Ellison's Mountain Passages: Natural and Cultural History of Western North Carolina and the Great Smoky Mountains brings to life the rich past of Western North Carolina. It is an intriguing collection of intertwined essays resulting from his thirty-year fascination with the re-

gion, its breathtaking landscape, and its captivating array of colorful people.

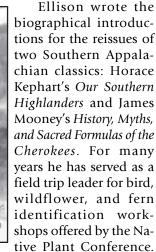
Gathered into three broad sections -Natural History, Cherokees and Mountaineers - Mountain Passages provides a wealth of historic detail and offers a window onto the rich cultural heritage of this stunning and oft-misunderstood part of the

country. Through a diverse cast of characters including early explorers and European plant hunters, a Cherokee shaman, weather sharps, a hermit, a moonshiner, several writers of note, ornithologists and naturalists, this book speaks to readers in a distinctly Appalachian tone and imparts an understanding of mountain life and lore. Western North Carolina is one of regions, and Mountain Passages reveals its rich history with keen insight.

From his home, surrounded on three sides by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and from a studio

Acclaimed naturalist and writer he shares with his watercolorist wife, George Ellison will autograph copies Elizabeth, in Bryson City, Ellison writes and lectures about the natural and human history of Western North Carolina. His "Nature Journal" column, illustrated by Elizabeth, appears every other week in the Asheville Citizen-Times. His "Botanical Excursions" column is published quarterly in Chinquapin. And his weekly "Back Then" column in the Smoky Mountain News reflects on fascinating aspects of local and

regional history.



Since 1990 he has conducted a number of Elderhostel programs at various institutions, including The Mountain in Highlands, about either Cherokee or white mountaineer history and culture.

Ellison's publisher, the History Press, brings a new way of thinking to history publishing: producing regional history titles by excellent historians and striving to make these books available America's most precious, awe-inspiring to a wide audience. By publishing highquality history and heritage titles with a strong regional base, The History Press plays a vital part in the revival of interest in local and regional history that is currently underway.

MC Soccer Club Signups

To register to play in the county soccer club, register in Highlands at the Highlands Rec Park: June 23, 5-7 p.m.

June 24, 5-7 p.m. June 25, 10 a.m.-12 noon July 14, 5-8 p.m. July 15, 5-8 p.m. July 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All first-time players must bring a copy of their birth certificate to register. The fee is \$45 per player with a \$5

sibling discount.

For more information, call Christy Weller at 526-9931 or 524-1928.

To reserve a spot for Summer Soccer Camp, July 18-22, go to www.challengersports.com. To register in Franklin: July 14, 5:30-7 p.m. July 16, 9 a.m.-noon July 18 9 a.m.-noon and July 18 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the soccer fields.

Seventh Annual Garden Tour

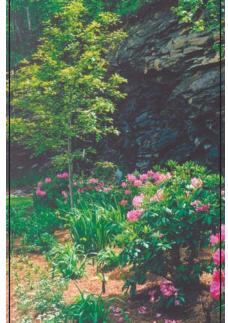
Spring this year has unfolded slowly on the Highlands Plateau. Plentiful rainfall and lengthening daylight hours are stimulating the garden perennials and woodland flowers alike.

Bloom time should peak around July 15, the date of the Bascom-Louise Gallery Garden tour. Mark your calendar and make up a party for this favorite Highlands event. Reservations for the tour are being taken now at the Gallery in the Hudson Library.

Cost of the ticket is \$55 and includes a tour of the gardens, transportation and lunch catered by Fresser's Eatery.

The four and half gardens are remarkable in their variety. One is a cool in-town retreat under stately trees; another is high, high, high on Ravel with an amazing view of Whiteside Mountain; another on the outskirts of town actually contains four distinct gardens including one in the English style.

An over-the-top Patrons' Party will be held the night before the tour on July 14 catered by Wolfgang's on Main and staff. The setting is in a oneof-a-kind terraced garden, crisscrossed by streams and punctuated by waterfalls culminating in a large pond beside a grassy meadow. Flowering plants are everywhere. Tickets for the Patrons' Party are \$130 and are limited to 200. Call the gallery at 526-4949 for tickets for a morning tour of the gardens or an afternoon tour, and



Lush colorful gardens full of texture and light will delight tourgoers.

to make reservations for the Patrons' Party.

Proceeds from ticket sales to these events go into the operating fund of the Bascom-Louise Gallery/ Fine Art Center. The tour is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of the following businesses: Platinum Sponsors: Meadows Mountain Realty, Barry and Paula Jones of the Summer House. Gold Sponsors: Bryant Art Glass, Bird Bar, Macon Bank and Chattooga Gardens.

... LETTERS continued from page 7

positive for GM marker genes. Currently, there are GM versions of the following crops on the market: canola, corn (including sweet corn and popcorn), cotton, flax, papaya, radicchio, soybeans, squash, sugar beets and tomatoes. GM planting stock for bananas, potatoes and strawberries is also available. Within the next year or two, there will be commercially available GM varieties of alfalfa, wheat, rice, turf grasses and many other vegetables. http://www.acresusa.com/toolbox/articles.htm.

Long term results have not been gathered; and how will this affect the children, parents, and even grandparents? Mr. Streiff 's statements are backed by many others around the world.

There are counties that have gone to the polls to vote against genetic modifying since November, 2004. (http://www.saynotogmos.org/ud2004/unov04.html#liability.) Many countries outside the U.S. have banned and/or are resisting US GMO foods such as Mexico (According to Dr Ezcurra, global corn improvement relies on the range of corn varieties that exist in Mexico. However, GM contamination could eventually reduce the diversity of corn varieties. http:// news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4008205.stm)

For those who want to understand the full spectrum of the GMO issues, perhaps they will look at some of the shared websites and information. Then each person, parent, grandparent, teacher, doctor, nurse, veterinarian, etc. can make an informed decision as to how they feel about Genetic Modified Organisms.

Once again, I congratulate this paper on reporting the 'news.'

Nancy Hicks Authentic Health Assoc. and Holistic Health For Animals Assoc. • See LETTERS page 25

Special Operations Warrior Foundation

"A Night to Honor Our Fallen Heroes" Silent and Live Auction

> Thursday, June 23, 2005 5:30 p.m.

Highlands Conference Center \$15 per person • Tickets at the door Buffet donated by Wolfgang's on Main

5:30-7 p.m.

Wine Tasting by Highlands Wine & Cheese
Localled Brewed Ales by Heinzelmannchen Brewery in Sylva
Entertainment by Curtis Blackwell & the Blue Grass Boys
Fabulous Auction items donated by Merchants

Proceeds provide college scholarships to the children of Fallen Special Operation Warriors

HP's 'Too Marvelous' opens June 23



"Too Marvelous for Words," starring Marsha Dupree, Shawn Megorden and Robert Ray, opens Thursday, June 23, at the Highlands Playhouse and continues through July 10. Here, the singing trio belts out "In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening," one of more than 30 songs written by Johnny Mercer, with music by Henry Mancini, Hoagy Carmichael, Harold Arlen and others. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Call 526-2695 for tickets. The community is also invited to "Pay What You Can" at the pre-opening show, Wednesday, June 22. Rosewood Market is catering Thursday's opening night which is a "black tie optional" affair. Page 20 - Highlands' Newspaper -Friday, June 17, 2005 • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Honor both your 'fathers'

By The Rev. Thomas Allen

Christ Anglican Church

After days and days of rain, the sun finally appeared and dried all the puddles in my yard and the thick coats of my two golden retrievers. Rain is a good thing, I know. And we often forget the times we prayed for just one nice rainfall! But when it pours down in sheets for what seems like 40 days and 40 nights, we often complain and feel sorry for ourselves. Oh, the endless cycle of things!

Now that my grass is sufficiently high enough to wade in, I decided to go ahead and buy a lawn mower. I headed to the store and had a difficult time selecting a choice among all the lawnmowers they make nowadays. I found myself thinking *now what would Dad choose? Should I look for a particular name brand?* My Dad immediately came to mind because I respect his advice. Though we don't always agree, I can count on him to tell me the truth. I can count on him to love me unconditionally. What a blessing.

Our Father in Heaven wants the same relationship with us. He loves us unconditionally, but he also loves us enough to speak the truth to our hearts. He loves us enough to discipline us and call us back to Him when we stray. He loves us even though we don't deserve it. He also commands us to honor our fathers and mothers. I know some will immediately cry out, "But you don't know my father! He doesn't deserve respect!"

And it can be a difficult command if our relationships aren't what we'd like them to be. But I've seen amazing things take place among estranged fathers and their children when this commandment is taken seriously. Ultimately, we are honoring our heavenly Father when we honor our earthly father, despite the hardships. It is easy to be happy and content when the sun is shining and things are going our way. It is when the rain and the clouds come that our patience is truly tried. St. Paul reminds us to "rejoice in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."

This Father's Day, take time to thank your father for raising you and loving you. Take time to pray for him if you do not have a relationship with him. And seek the Father of the universe, who loved you so much he sent his Son to die for you.

Happy Father's Day!

Rummage Sale at HUMC

The International Friendship Center's EL MERCADO rummage sale is Saturday, June 18 at Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street from 9-5. Come early for the best buys. There will be Mexican food as well as coffee and soft drinks. All proceeds benefit the International Friendship Center.



• 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. Erbelding, 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.

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.; Praver – 6:15 p.m. Choir – 7:30 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



... VARIANCE continued from page 1

worth and how it is zoned," said Gantenbein.

The parcel is zoned single-family but Gantenbein said Sears can't use the property for that because he would only be able to build a 220 square-foot building right in the middle of the property.

"In my opinion this is a prime example of where a variance is appropriate," Gantenbein said.

The board agreed. "Since I've been on the board I don't think I've ever voted to issue a variance and this is the only time I've ever seen where it's quite feasible to do so," said board member Jimmy Tate.

Chairman Allan James said the board is "just allowing him to put back what was already there." Sears plans on building a 419 sq. ft. bungalow and to

move the structure backwards to reduce sue, said Gantenbein. the roadway setback violation as much as possible.

Originally, Sears wanted to rebuilt the structure to include two-stories on on top of the other, but according to current ordinances, a variance for a two-story building is prohibited because the second story directly above the first floor, would constitutes an addition and further aggravates the non-compliance is-

FIRE REPORT

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

June 9

• The dept. was called to the Buck Creek Recycling Center to clean up a

June 10

. The dept. responded to a possible structure fire at a home on Moon Light Lane. It was a controlled burn.

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Laurelwood Ridge Drive where a person had fallen. There was

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Country Club Drive. There was no

June 12

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Fireside Restaurant. There was no

• The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers and stood by while that dept. worked a structure fire.

• The dept. responded to an alarm at Highlands Country Club. It was

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

June 14

• The dept. responded to a possible structure fire on Crowe Drive. A smoldering couch was removed from

• The dept. responded to an alarm on N. 4th Street. It was set off by work-

• The dept. responded to a tractor-trailer roll over on N.C. 28. There were no injuries, but traffic was

 Two dive team members went to Tuckaseegee to help with a search and rescue in the river.

Gantenbein said the only way Sears could put a second-story on the structure is if that part of the bungalow juts off the center of the house toward the back of the lot out of the setback.

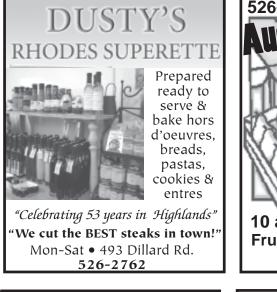
In the last three years, the Zoning Board has granted one variance and denied five. The Town Board has granted four subdivision variances and denied one.

SPECIALTY FOODS •

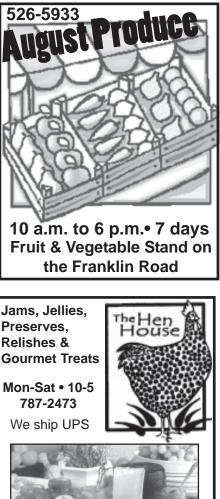


Let Holly Do The Cooking Carry Away - Wed-Sat 12-6 Catering by Special Order

The Lower Level of the Peggy Crosby Center on S. 5th Street.







Corner of 5th and Main

UPCOMING EVENTS

On-going

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

• Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop. Wine Flights Thursday and Friday afternoon from 4:30 until 6:30. Special Guest: Artist Helena Meek will be in the Shop Friday and Saturday, painting, displaying new works, and discussing her art. Complimentary wine samples Saturday from 12:30 until 4.

• 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, at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, 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 on Wednesdays, al 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, at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, offers a Pilates class on Mondays 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, at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, is offering a special toning class on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. Classes are led by Jeanette Fisher, exercise intern and the cost is \$6 per session for HealthTracks nonmembers. 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

• Films at PAC every other Tuesday at 7 p.m. Next one June 21. Donations accepted. • 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 on 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

• The Scaly Mountain Women's Club presents its Saturday Pancake Breakfasts the fourth Saturday of the month from May through October at the Scaly Ski Lodge on NC Highway 106. Guests will get a full breakfast of orange juice, coffee, pancakes, patty sausage and plenty of warm syrup and butter from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children.

• 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, Mon. at 8 p.m.; Tues. at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wed. and Fri. at noon.

Through June 25

• Acting and Improv for children ages 10 to 13 instructed by Instant Theatre Artistic Director, Adam Heffernan. \$175 per session. Scholarships available. Call (828) 526-1687. June 13 through July 29

 Highlands Rec Park Summer Camp for children ages 5-10. Monday-Friday 9-5 p.m. May attend by the week or for all six weeks. Call 526-3556 for reservations and pricing.

June 16-18

• Christopher Walling Fine Jewelry Trunk Show at Acorns on Main Street. 10am ~ 6pm, By Drop-ins and by appointment. June 17

• The Town of Highlands invites the community to Police Chief Jerry Cook's retirement party from 5-7 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center.

June 17-18

• Colorist Painting workshop with Julie Hanson, at B-L Gallery. This two-day workshop is for all levels. Oil is the primary medium, but acrylic and pastel artists are welcome. Call the gallery at 828.526.4949.

• The HCP perform vignettes from "Parallel Lives" at the Highlands Inn on Friday, and Saturday. It's a dinner theater. Call 526-9380 for reservations.

• Christ Church two-day forum on prayer and meditation, gender issues facing the church and culture, and various other topics pertinent to Christian living in the 21st century. Call Reverend Thomas Allen: 743.9370 or email: Tallen@wnclink.com.

June 18

• Family Night Hike at the Highlands Nature Center. Bring a flashlight and walk through the woods to learn about adaptations of nocturnal animals through a variety of games and activities. Ages 7 to adult. Cost is \$2 per person, pre-registration is required. To register, please call 526-2623.

• Book signing at Cyrano's Book Shop by naturalist and writer George Ellison who will autograph copies of his new book, Mountain Passages, from 1-3 p.m.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6.5 mile hike from Earl's Ford to Sandy Ford along the Chattooga River Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298,

• UPCOMING EVENTS

• International Friendship Center's EL MERCADO rummage sale on at Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street, 9-5. Come early for the best buys. There will be Mexican food, coffee and soft drinks. All proceeds benefit the IFC.

• Special sports physical clinics for school athletic programs are being held at the Macon County Public Health Center. The clinic is open to 7th-12th grade students who plan to participate in school athletics anytime during the 2005-2006 school year. Clinics are Saturday morning. Appointments are required. Call 349-2081. Cost is \$10; proceeds will go to the Schools' Athletic Fund.

• Zonta Club of Franklin presents an evening of wine and chocolate, live and silent auction and a band, 7 p.m. at Whistle Stop Mall. Tickets are \$25. All proceeds go to charity. Call Linda McCall at 787-1708.

June 19

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike on the Long Branch trail to the Appalachian Trail. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Drive 30 miles round trip. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

June 20

 Lake Sequoyah Improvement Association and Mirror Lake Improvement Association - joint meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Rec Park. Discussion of the Water Remediation and Preservation Project. If questions, call 526-0248.

• Highlands Middle School Boys basketball players will start practicing for the upcoming season. Players will practice on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays until August 10. New students entering 7th and 8th grades next year should contact the school to play. June 21

• Business after hours at Chestnut Hill Clubhouse, 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance at \$15 at the door. Call 526-5841.

• An Audubon field trip trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway to identify summer resident birds. Bring a lunch. Meet at Highlands Town Hall Parking lot at 7:30 a.m. to car pool. Contact Edwin Poole, 526-2775.

June 21-24

• "Mountain Explorers" day camp at the Highlands Nature Center. 10 am - 4 pm daily. Learn how to observe nature and develop teamwork while hiking in the Nantahala National Forest. Ages 10-15. \$50 per child, pre-registration required. Call 526-2623.

June 22

• High Mountain Square Dancers, at the Macon County Community Bldg.HOYLE GROSS, caller.

June 23

• The Zahner continues on Thursdayat 7:00 p.m. at the Highlands Nature Center. Dr. Peter White presents entitled "A Natural History of Robert Frost, Part II." It's free.

• Live entertainment at SweeTreats, Don Long, 7-10 p.m.

June 23-26

• Designing a Woodland Setting. Church of the Good Shepherd, Cashiers. To register, please contact Clemson University at 864-656-2200 and ask for Kay James or register directly http://clemson.edu/ at Landscape.html. The course website is www.ccald.org. Contact Mary Palmer 828-743-0307.

June 23-July 10

• Highlands Playhouse presents "Too Marvelous For Words," 8 p.m. Tues.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sunday matinees. Call 526-2695 for tickets. Pay What You Can June 22 show, only. June 24

Instant Theater's Little Entertainments w/ special guests Thea & The Green Man. Fridays at 8 pm \$20 in advance \$25 at the door at Instant Theater on Main Street. (828) 342-9197

June 24 & 25

• Amy Jo Gladstone Shoes Trunk Show at Acorns on Main Street. 10am ~ 6pm Daily • Art from Russia: Paintings Trunk Show

at Acorns at Main Street. 10am ~ 6pm Daily June 25

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile hike up Shortoff Mountain with an ascent of 800 feet, a descent of 1,000. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or at the Yellow Mtn. trailhead (Cole Gap) at 9:45. Drive 10 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Call leader Mo Wheeler, 526-9561, for reservations

 Highlands Historical Society's Annual Tour of four Historic Homes in the Northern Historic District of Highlands, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$45. Available at D&J Express Mart, Cyrano's Book Shop and The Chambers Real Estate.

• Mirror Lake Improvement Assoc. willhave a work day/litter pickup, 9 a.m. at Thorn Park.

June 26

A perfect Sunday afternoon at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library begins at 5 p.m. with a reading by Georgianna Orsini from "An Imperfect Lover," her book of poems and watercolors recently published by Cavan Kerry Press with the support of The National Endowment for the Arts. For more info, call 743-0215.

• Auditions for Highlands Community Players "Dearly Departed" will be held Sunday, 3 p.m. downstairs at PAC, 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands. The script is available for reading, but not for checkout, at the Hudson Library. For an alternate audition time call director Virginia Talbot, 526-4904. A hilarious, backwoods Southern comedy has a cast of 15 characters plus several singers. Eight women and seven men of varying ages.

June 26-30

• Vacation Bible School at HUMC. Join them at the Circle G Ranch where God is at the center and the love never ends. Supper is served at 5 p.m. VBS begins at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome! VBS is for preschool through middle school students. Dr. John Baumrucker teach biblical archaeology using slides and artifacts for high school students and adults. Call to register at 526-3376

June 27- August 17 (10 weeks).

The Full Certificate course 9-12am M&W Church of the Good Shepherd, Cashiers. To register, please contact Clemson University at 864-656-2200 and ask for Kay James or register directly http://clemson.edu/ Landscape.html. The course website is www.ccald.org. Contact Mary Palmer 828-743-0307.

June 27-July 9

• Acting and Theatre Games for children ages 6 to 9. Instructed by professional actors Sara-June and Jeff Treadwell. \$175 per session. Call the ITC at (828) 526-1687.

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WARRIOR FOUNDATION



June 23 • 5:30 p.m. **Conference** Center

To benefit the children of **Special Operation Warriors** Killed in Action

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• Highlands Service Directory •



CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIEDS PRICES \$5 for first 20 words, \$2 for each 10-word increment. Email: highlandseditor@aol.com OR Call: 526-0782 Send check to Highlands' Newspaper, P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C. 28741 OR stop by our office at 265 **Oak Street**

HELP WANTED

HILLTOP GRILL - Part-time. Apply corner of 4th and Spring. Call 526-5916. IT SYSTEMS AND TECH SUPPORT - Needed in Highlands for the Old Edwards Hospitality Group. Ability to support end-users on a variety of applications, hardware, networks and communications platforms. Duties will include on-going support and installation of software, troubleshooting hardware and software issues, working w/system vendors to resolve issues. Knowledge of interfaces, telecommunication protocols, preferable. Strong project management and interpersonal skills a must. Great benefits. Some weekends. Salary range based on experience. Send resume to: P.O. Box 1499. Highlands. N.C. 28741. email to hr@oldedwardsinn.com EOE/ Drug free workplace.

UNIT COORDINATOR AT HIGH-LANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL -Three 12-hour shifts; Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; 7:30 am to 8:00 pm. Requires good people skills, computer skills, understanding of medical terminology, organizational skills, and ability to multi-task. Good opportunity to work with motivated, professional healthcare givers. Excellent benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301

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

MEDICAL RECORDS CLERK AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Part time; 8am - 4:30 pm; Monday,

Wednesday, and Saturday. Medical Records Department procedures experience helpful, but will train. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT THROUGH FIDELIA CLASSES ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGH-LANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Classes run from July 11 through September 19. Work three 12-hour shifts at the Living Center while attending school. Bonus of \$200 and salary raise upon graduation. Call for information and to enroll, Judy Miller, 828-526-1317

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

LPNS AND RNS - FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGH-LANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL: Now hiring for PRN positions. If you want to join a team whose focus is on excellent elder care with a low staffing ratio, above average wages, and shift differentials, call. Pre-employment substance screening. Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301

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.

HOUSEKEEPER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND THE FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full time, Sundays through Thursdays, weekend and shift differentials. Excellent benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

REAL ESTATE - RENTALS

VACATION HOME FOR RENT -Long range mountain view, spectacular sunsets, private road, large deck, sleeps 6. MBR-King, BR-Queen, Den-Queen Sleeper Sofa, fireplace. \$1,200/week, Call Charles or Lorna at 526-3233.

RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT Highlands Plaza. Call 864-630-0808. VACATION RENTAL - Daily, Weekly, Monthly. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, fully carpeted, furnished, Equipped Kitchen, Info: www.cullasajaarts.org or 828-349-0502

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

REAL ESTATE - SALES

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, 11/2 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

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

1 ACRE VIEW LOT. Unbelievable view over National Forest, located top of mountain, 2 miles from downtown Highlands off Hwy 64. \$550,000.Call 404-323-9444. 6/17

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

TWO WHITEWATER KAYAKS -\$150 each. Call Dennis at 828-787-1392

CUSTOM CABINETS FOR SALE. Cherry finish, glass and raised paneled doors plus tops. Also, 5-ft high white vanity with cultured marble top. \$2,000 for all. 828-524-9830 after 7 p.m.

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

SERVICES

DRUM LESSONS! Improve ability in timekeeping, music reading, soling,

whter it's for school, church or just yourself. Call (828) 384-8693. 7/1

AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE -Call Dick Friess. Cell: (772) 359-0412 • 24-hr. (706) 746-3657. North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida.

HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE Atlanta Airport Shuttle. Drive - Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 828-526-8078. 6/29

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSIS-TANT CLASSES THROUGH FIDELIA **ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGH-**LANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Classes run from July 11 through September 19. Work three 12-hour shifts at the Living Center while attending school. Bonus of \$200 and salary raise upon graduation. Call for information and to enroll, Judy Miller ,828-526-1317.

MUSICIANS WANTED - Call Charissa at The Pizza Place: 526-5660.

HOT PRODUCT! - Powerful antiaging cream. World-wide business. Free Marketing Website. Full Details: www.unlimitedwealthalliance.com/rep/ rsc. Earn recurring commissions & bonuses. Hurry. 6/17

... LETTERS continued from page 19 Ode to Da Road

Come on Alice. You should not fret, I have not taken sides, At least, not as yet.

To the uppity people Who long for smooth rides, I will also tell you I have not taken sides.

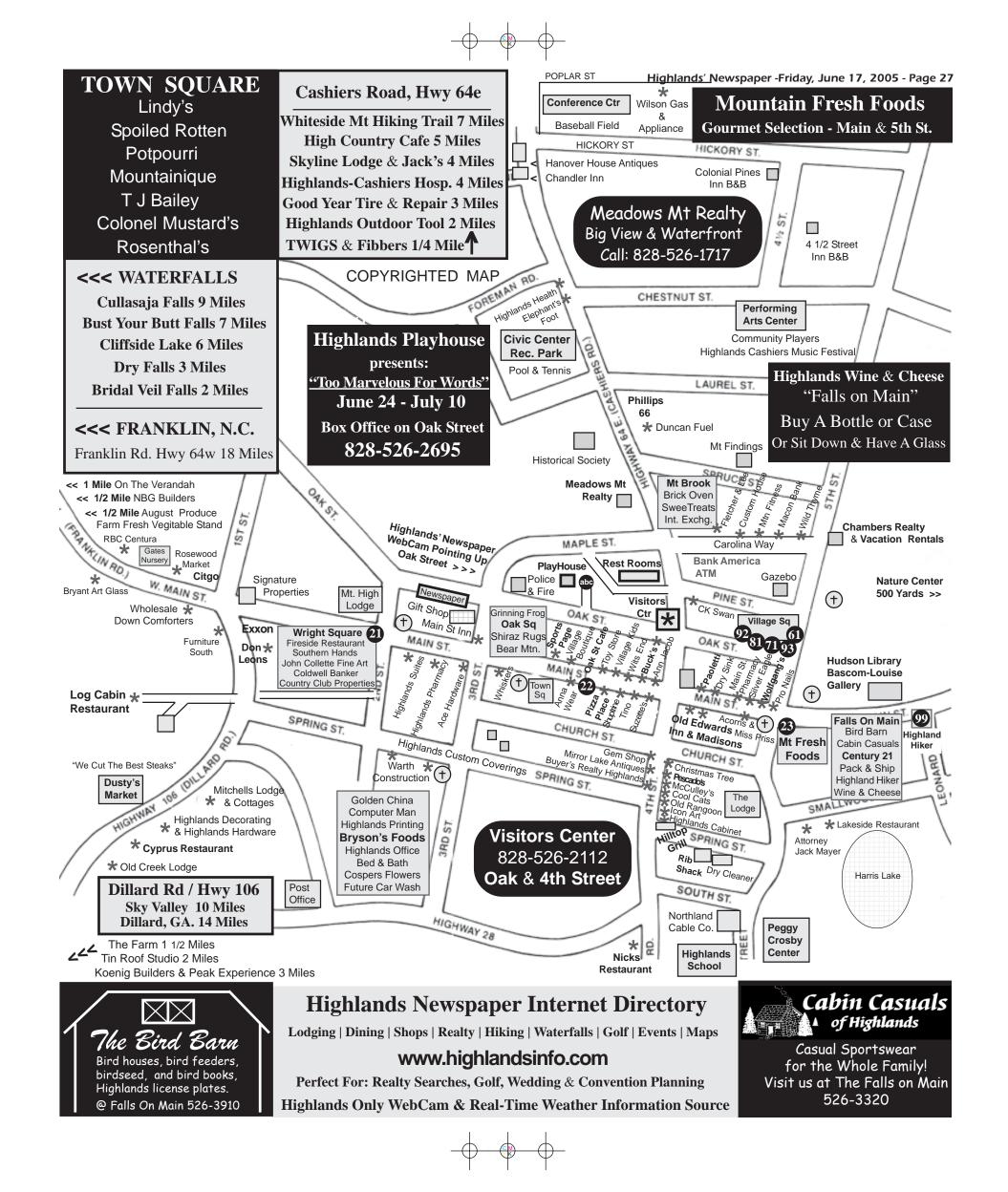
We thought it was over And oh what relief, We are sick of hearing, The griping and the grief.

I join with most Highlanders, I think it's a scam, And as Rhett Butler once said, "Frankly Dear, I Don't Give A Damn."

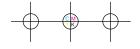
Fred (Shakespeare) Wooldridge







21 22 23



CLUB PROPERTIES COUNTRY PROVIDING QUALITY SERVICE FROM THREE LOCATIONS Wright Square • Main Street • Mountain Fresh

Wright Square (828) 526-2520 **Main Street** (828) 526-5010 **Mountain Fresh** (828) 787-2002



Stoney Creek Lane. Great well built year around or week-end getaway. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, gas fireplace, ample porches and decks, garage with workshop and storage, nice yard with small stream. Offered at \$495,000.



Rolling Acres Subdivision. Completely furnished and ready to go with this 3 bedroom, 2 bath contemporary home located on a private lot with a possible mountain view. Security system, updated baths, additional 3-season bonus room. Offered at \$575,000

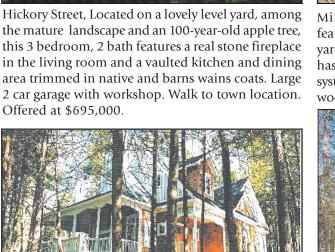


Bring your horses to this farm located inside the town limits. There are 4.27+/- acres with a three bedroom, two bath home, and a stable, and fenced pasture. One of the acres is located behind the existing house and would be a great spot for a new home. Enjoy the mountain view off the partially covered deck while watching your horse play in the pasture. Offered at \$1,200,000.

www.ccphighlandsnc.com



the mature landscape and an 100-year-old apple tree, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath features a real stone fireplace in the living room and a vaulted kitchen and dining area trimmed in native and barns wains coats. Large 2 car garage with workshop. Walk to town location. Offered at \$695,000.





Located on a lovely lot in Foxfire, this great southern living plan is down to punch list finished. Cathedral ceiling in the living room, large custom kitchen, huge covered porch, fireplace and a great yard, Artisan woodwork should not be missed. Offered at \$780.000



Prestigious Bowery Road. This lovely home sits on its own lovely pond with a flat manicured lot that has plenty of parking. Quality construction features stone accents to give that "cottage appearance" in this true mountain home. Four bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, spacious lofty rooms, 3 car garage. Offered at \$1,650,000. Shown by appointment



Mirror Lake area, classic Mirror Lake cottage features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, garage, and lovely yard. This jewel of a cabin is ready to enjoy as is. It has been lovingly maintained with a new heating system and recent re-roof. Bright rooms with lovely wood floors, Offered at \$399,500.



Tucked away in charming Highland Hills, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath is ready for occupancy after an extensive remodel. Includes new front and back porches, wood floors, stone fireplace, 1 car garage and laundry room, Offered at \$499,000.



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. Master suite with ample closets, 2 bedrooms upstairs, 2 car garage and basement. Offered at \$1,100,000.