

# Highlands' Newspaper

**FREE**

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## On-going

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

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

- "Evenings of Entertainment" Friday nights at Instant Theatre Company in Oak Square on Main Street. Tickets are \$15 with reservations and \$20 at the door. Doors open at 7:45 p.m. Show starts promptly at 8 p.m. Call for reservations: 342-9197.

- Pilates classes are moving to the new Women's Center at the hospital effective Tuesday, March 22. The classes are Tuesday and Thursdays at 5:15 pm. All classes will be \$10, or \$8 if you purchase a package of 10.

## March 17

- InterChurch Pot Luck Supper at Community Bible Church at 6 p.m. For more info, call Pat Griffin at 526-2418.

- Chili Dinner at 5 p.m., PTO at 6 p.m., followed by Book Fair at Highlands School.

## March 19

- A car show fundraiser for Macon County Senior Games Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm at the Whistle Stop Mall. It's free.

## March 21

- MC School Board meeting 6 p.m. at Highlands School.

- Shroud of Turin presentation. Monday at 7 p.m. at Highlands United Methodist Church, with Carlton Joyce.

- Mirror Lake Improvement Assoc. regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Civic Center.

## March 22

- Financial Planning Workshop – at Fireside Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. Learn about the financial planning process. Presented by financial planner John D. Boshart. Call 800-320-8264 for reservations. Breakfast will be provided.

- The Power of Travel Packaging presented by the Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Conference Center. Cost is \$35 with lunch. Call 526-5841 for reservations.

## March 24

- At OEI – March Wine Dinner Thursday, March 24, featuring Domaine Serene Vineyards & Winery, Northern Willamette Valley, Oregon. Cost per person is \$125. Please call 526-8008.

**Volume 3, Number 11**

**Locally Owned & Operated**

**Friday, March 18, 2005**

## Board irate over nonconforming ordinance

**By Kim Lewicki**

Thought to be put to rest the summer of 2002, Section 110 of the zoning ordinance which deals with nonconforming buildings has raised its ugly head again.

At the March 16 Town Board meeting, commissioners learned that they interpret the amended version of Section 110 differently than the Zoning

Administrator and the Town Administrator.

"Back in 2002, I told you to make sure that there weren't any nonconforming buildings in the setback you wanted to get rid of, because once the ordinance was amended you wouldn't be able to," said Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein.

But Commissioner Amy Patterson

said it's a matter of interpretation. She and other commissioners said if a building is destroyed it shouldn't be rebuilt in the setback. "The ordinance is referring to alterations and repairs," she said.

The issue came up when Bronce Pesterfield, engineer for Old Edwards Inn, brought plans to the board con-

▪ See **IRATE** page 9

## Bridge closed until early April



Photo by Jim Lewicki

**If you live in the Mirror Lake area, it's taking longer to get from there to anywhere, lately. NC DOT is replacing the bridge's steel beams and planking. The detour is Hicks, to Flat Mtn. to U.S. 64.**

## Understanding ETJ & annexation

### Part TWO – Annexation

**Editor's Note:** This is a three-part series on extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), annexation and water/sewer districts as explained by facilitator Geoffrey Willet at the March 7 and 14 Land Use Planning committee meetings. Part One in the March 7 edition of Highlands' Newspaper dealt with ETJ.

**By Kim Lewicki**

Annexation. Just the word can make people shudder. But like anything there are pluses and minuses.

The pluses – annexed areas get access to town infrastructure and services.

The minuses – annexed areas are subject to municipal taxes and zoning and land use ordinances.

With less than 5,000 residents, Highlands falls under "annexation rules for small towns," which means there is a lot more flexibility. For one

thing, small towns don't have to have infrastructure in place prior to annexation.

There are two kinds of annexation – voluntary and forced.

Voluntary annexation is the easier of the two because residents offer their property to the town, usually to take advantage of water and sewer infrastructure. The process can be completed in 90-100 days.

Voluntary annexation can only ex-

▪ See **ANNEXATION** page 17

## Rezoning could lead to multi-family development

**By Kim Lewicki**

More multi-family housing in on the drawing board for Highlands — this time on a 4.72-acre tract bordered by Hickory, U.S. 64 east and Chestnut streets – if the property is rezoned to R3.

In the first step in the process, the Town Board OK'd a request for rezoning on the grounds that for years the planning board has talked about the need for more multi-family housing and more homes within walking distance to town.

The tract of land is currently split-zoned. Part of it is B4 and part of it is R2. Zoning it R3 makes it eligible for multi-family housing which allows for a density of four buildings per acre. The plan is to keep the original house intact and build four buildings each with four units around it. Town Planner Larry Gantenbein said about ½-acre will have to be left undeveloped.

Zeke Sossomon, representing the owners, said the property along U.S. 64 is too steep to develop and will be left "green." But commissioners said they'd like to have a sidewalk along U.S. 64. Town Administrator Richard Betz said it's not the town's policy to

▪ See **MULTI-FAMILY** page 5



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### – CORRECTION –

In the March 11 story, "Students get big-time reality check from prisoners," we reported the county has no rehab programs for addicts. Rehab help and counseling for addicts is available but it's limited. We apologize for the error and are happy to set the record straight.

## • FORUM •

### Habitat needs to do the right thing

**M**acon County Habitat for Humanity's slogan "Building houses in partnership with God's people in need" should be worn as a heavy mantle about the shoulders of the 12-member board.

Every decision the board makes should be made with that slogan in mind – a constant reminder of why the organization exists in the first place.

About five weeks ago, the Green family who thought they were to be the recipients of the Habitat for Humanity home on Paul Walden Way, learned they were not going to receive the house after all. This, after logging months and hundreds of hours of required "sweat equity" work at the site — starting with clearing of the lot.

The reason is unclear, to the family, their pastor and to Highlands' Newspaper. For more than a month, we have been working behind the scenes trying to get both sides of the story only to be told by Highlands' Habitat representatives "The matter is closed. The decision has been made. We've taken the house from them."

It seems almost from day one – a year ago May 2004 – communication has been lacking between the recipients, their liaison and the Habitat board.

The Greens say paperwork was not forthcoming, decisions made were unexplained and guidelines were not laid out for all to see and understand.

When asked for specifics from Habitat, what's now become a standard answer is given, "We've just had lots of problems with this family."

Highlands' Newspaper has heard the Green side of the story outlining every detail, every conversation, every frustration, every miscommunication along the way. Any objective, fair- and open-minded person can immediately see a breakdown in communication, perhaps even a personality conflict existed between the family and their liaison.

Misunderstanding has clearly plagued Habitat's fourth job in Highlands from the beginning and it appears the board chose to hear and believe only the liaison. That is until four weeks ago when the family was allowed to address the board – to tell their side of the story for the first time in an effort to get the house back. Highlands' Newspaper attempted to be admitted to the meeting, but was stopped at the door.

Unfortunately, reasons given for actions taken by the family as they've tried to muck their way through this year-long project didn't help their cause.

The only recourse the family has is with the board. Turns out Habitat for Humanity chapters are completely autonomous. Boards answer to no one except their own. They are not bound by "sunshine" laws. Their actions and the decisions they make are absolute and their reasons locked down tight.

It would seem that an organization that relies totally on contributions from the Highlands, Franklin and Nantahala communities would be a little more forthcoming in every regard.

The relationship between Habitat for Humanity recipients and the local board and the liaison it picks for each family should be akin to that of a teacher and student.

As mentors to families who are clearly in need, clearly traveling a road never traveled before, Habitat should always take the high road, always go the extra mile to explain, teach and listen. Responsibilities and expectations of both sides should be clearly outlined from the start. Every step each side takes should be documented without exception.

And as mentors, Habitat board members should be briefed, schooled in and prepared to deal with frustration, questions and confusion as part of its ongoing teacher-student relationship with the recipient.

Highlands' Newspaper believes that the Macon County Habitat for

■ See FORUM page 16



# Drug offenders clogging system

By Kim Lewicki

It's pretty depressing when you get right down to it. Drug use in Macon County drives crime and clogs the courts.

That was the basic message at the third "Let's Talk About It" drug abuse forum held Saturday night in Franklin.

Getting out and "talking about it" is part of Sheriff Robbie Holland's plan to eradicate drug crimes in Macon County.

"I need your help," he said over and over again. "I don't need to know your name or your phone number, just your information. If you know something's going on down the block, call me."

At the first "Let's Talk About It" drug abuse forum held at Macon County Middle School about a year ago, Holland promised to get the "court" side of the story out to the people.

The long road to indictment was explained to the 75 attendees by one of the eight assistant district attorneys for the 30<sup>th</sup> District assigned to Macon County, Courtney Escaravage, Superior Court Judge James U. Downs, Supervisor of Probation and Parole Debra Debruhl, Mental Health Counselor Mike Neidig, social worker Wesley Price and Sheriff Robbie Holland.

Judge Downs said everything about drugs drives crime in Macon County.

"The participant's use of drugs, the fussing over getting the drugs, the fighting over the proceeds from the sale of drugs, every kind of spin-off of drug-use drives crime," he said. "If I had a magic wand to eradicate drugs right now, I don't think there is anything else that would have the effect that drugs have now on the courts."

Finally, new laws are addressing the impact drugs, particularly methamphetamine has on citizens, said Downs. Across the board offenses associated with meth have been reclassified with stricter sentencing.

"Until the laws change, judges' hands are virtually tied," he said. "It's not judges turning criminals loose. Legislature determines sentencing. And if you ask me, it's been way too low," he said. "I've always said, when the legislature considered sentencing, they must have invited the people in prison over to help them decide."

Though the new sentencing laws are only little steps – Class I upped to a Class G and so on – "it's huge for us," said Assistant District Attorney Escaravage. "Now when you're caught with certain aspects of the manufacturing process you will go to jail. If an officer is injured in a search or through dismantling a meth lab, 24 months is

▪See OFFENDERS page 6

## • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

### Shame on Macon chapter of Habitat

Dear Editor,

How do you explain to a 2 1/2-year-old, precious little girl that the house and playmates she was so excited about may not be hers because adults can't communicate?

Habitat for Humanity is a great organization and doesn't deserve the adverse publicity this situation has created. If Carlos and Christal, Cella and Griffin lose their house, every board member should resign. There is not one problem in this situation that can't be resolved.

This family only asked for reasonable changes and promised choices to a house they will be making payments on for a long period. No, Habitat houses are not free!

The Greens have encountered additional living expenses and legal fees because of the delay in completion and premature actions of this local board. They were promised Thanksgiving dinner in their new home. This is the middle of March. They have 450 hours of the required 500 completed.

Habitat for Humanity, Macon County chapter, you should be ashamed!

William and Ruby Shaheen  
Scaly Mountain

▪See LETTERS page 9



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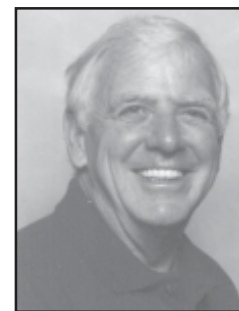




## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

### Highlands pawn shop – a class all its own

Whenever a person walks into a pawn shop to hock an expensive necklace and says, “It was my mother’s. I’ll be back next week to retrieve it,” you can bet he is a thief and the necklace is stolen. That cliché is used by thieves more than any other



**Fred Wooldridge**

excuse. The next best excuse is, “I found it, tried to turn it in to the police, but they were too busy to be bothered.” I know a lot about pawn shops. I used to run one. They have a bad reputation because they deserve to have a bad reputation. In the real world, pawn shops are places where thieves can dump their swag (stolen property) with no questions asked.

Like any business, there are the good and bad. Smart thieves know the difference and would never deliberately go into a legitimately run pawn shop.

The police also know the ones dealing in hot items. In most large cities, detective divisions have “pawn shop details” where detectives are assigned to do nothing but keep an eye on unsavory operators. In most states, the police can search a store without a warrant. It is a cat and mouse game. Pawn shop owners buy stolen property and try to hide it or dump it before the police find out. Cops stake out stores, waiting for known thieves to enter. Pawn shop cops get into a lot of foot chases. It’s unsavory and sometimes ugly, like most police work.

Legitimately run pawn shops usually work with the police. Not all thieves are smart and when one does enter a legitimate store, the video recorder is running and the police are notified. If pawn shop owners can buy the stolen property cheap enough, they will, and then turn it over to the police, hoping that the true owners will refund the shop owner for his expenses. We had a special fund that also helped pawn shop owners recover losses.

But even honest stores have a poor reputation, mostly because of the business they are in. They deal with people down on their luck. Honest people who enter a pawn shop to hock their belongings are usually desperate. In reality, people do hock their valuables so they can feed the kids.

When I left police work, 96 percent of all items hocked at a pawn shop were never retrieved.

Crime was so out of control on Miami Beach in the early eighties, detectives from my division opened a pawn shop and check-cashing store right in the heart of sleaze town. It was

so deep undercover that only the pawn shop detectives knew who we were. After obtaining the proper licenses, four of the slimiest looking detectives I could find were assigned to run it, working 12-hour days, seven days a week. (Divorce rate for police is 75 percent) We called it the “OSURU Pawn Shop.” OSURU stood for Obtaining Swag Undercover Recovery Unit. During the three months we were open, our detectives earned the respect of the thieves. Relationships were formed and we bonded with the scum of our city.

I have lost track of the figures, but I know that more than 200 arrest warrants were issued and the stolen property recovered was over six figures. Amazingly, we actually made money with our check-cashing end of the business.

But that’s the real world. Highlands is not the real world. Don’t forget this is the place where Dorothy and Toto landed after the tornado. Highlands is the land of make-believe. Not much from the real world applies to Highlands, except for money.

If Highlands is to have a pawn shop, I am confident it will be run well and our police department will see that it is legitimate. I am sure that the owners are honest, well intentioned people, looking to run it properly. The question I have is why? Who will be their customers? Maybe a few migrants, down on their luck or a kid selling his stereo to buy dope. Surely the summer and country club people will have no need for a pawn shop.

Being an owner of a pawn shop is like being the owner of a tattoo parlor, nothing wrong with it, but not held in high esteem.

If I had the bucks and were so inclined to work for a living again, I would open a multi-screen movie theater. Now that we’re getting a car wash, shouldn’t that be next?

## • MOVIE PIX •

### Day After Tomorrow

The 2004, SCI FI action adventure disaster film, starring Dennis Quade, Jake Gyllenhaal and Selma Ward, as well as a cast, real and computer generated, of thousands. Directed by Roland Emmerich (Independence Day, Godzilla, Universal Soldier and Patriot) and screenplay by Jeffery Nachmanoff. Cliff hanging music by Harold Kloser. Rated PG 13 for scenes of destruction that are supposed to be disturbing.

The Storyline: Earnest paleoclimatologist Jack Hall (Quade, also seen in Big Easy, Flight of Phoenix) determines that really bad things are going to happen to the weather, and does his earnest best to convince unimpressed public officials that attention must be paid, but he is dismissed as a scientific Chicken Little.

But he and his colleagues around the world start to see some disturbing developments that make them think that it's time to stop talking about the weather and start doing something about it. Meanwhile, estranged ex-wife and semi-estranged son (Selma Ward, seen in Runaway Bride and Dirty Dancing, Havana Nights, et al, and Jake Gyllenhaal, seen in Donnie Darko and Bubble Boy) make an appearance, and a trip to The Big Apple is arranged, even though a glance at the box art on the video will tell you that this will be a decision that they will, in retrospect, regard as ill timed.

Very cool scenes of tornadoes in LA, blizzards in New Deli, and grapefruit-sized hail in Tokyo follow, and soon Jack is in a race to rescue his boy, stranded in



Stuart Armor

New York, in the company of his new found friends that include Rich Kid Learning To Be More Sensitive, Gruff But Kindly Homeless Dude, Scruffy And Cute Dog, Geek Kids About To Become Heroic, and Laconic Librarians.

Add some Siberian wolf packs roaming Manhattan, and some really stunning, if slightly goofy, special effects,

and you got yourself a fairly neat story.

OK, we're not exactly talking Citizen Kane, but the visual effects are very neat. It's apparently all right to destroy New York again, and they do a good job of it.

There is not a whole lot of plot points to give away here, this is an almost entirely action and image film, and for that it's pretty good. We are supposed to get the Global Warming message, but don't look for a lot of science in the story (most people aren't very interested in a lot of science in a movie anyway, only a few techno-geeks like me).

There are a few cliff hanging scenes as Quade and his loyal companions race across the tundra that once was Pennsylvania, some light romance, a few comic bits, and a bit of irony (teeming masses yearning to be free of frost bite illegally crossing the Rio Grande is only one example).

All in all, a film worth seeing for some action and adventure, if not for its high art and drama.

A few more mass destruction films that are fun to see, if world wide destruction is your choice du jour, are Waterworld, Deep Impact, Postman, and Planet of the Apes.

### ... MULTI-FAMILY continued from page 1

require a sidewalk in a residential zone.

"So if we agree to rezone it, we lose the opportunity to have a sidewalk built," said Commissioner Hank Ross.

Betz said the project will require a Special Use Permit and a sidewalk could be part of the permit requirement.

Gantenbein said there is a tentative sidewalk schedule for that section of town.

At the March 16 Town Board meeting, commissioners voted 4 to 1

to send the rezoning request to the planning board.

Commissioner Amy Patterson voted against the rezoning request. "The board knows my position on more density," she said.

The planning board has 30 days to report back to the Town Board. Following its recommendation, a public hearing will be scheduled. Depending on the outcome of the hearing, the Town Board will then decide whether to rezone the property.

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## ... OFFENDERS continued from page 3

automatically added to the sentence," she said.

Production is the big problem. In some states, large quantities of certain ingredients to make meth can't be sold.

One attendee said that the Dollar General store in Franklin can only sell three packages of Sudafed at a time. "The cashier told me the company enforces that policy," she said.

But in North Carolina, such stipulations are voluntary. "I urge you to encourage your local retail stores to do this," said Sheriff Holland.

The question on everyone's mind was "Why it takes so long to close down a suspected meth lab?"

"This is not NYPD Blue," said Sheriff Holland. "Just because you tell me that Joe Blow has a meth lab I can't knock down his door and beat him up side his head. I have to have probable cause to go in. If I have that and quite a bit of evidence, I can get a warrant. If I get a warrant you can take it to the bank. At that point we've got what we need."

Escaravage said the length of time it takes to indict is not due to the lack of work on the part of Macon County law officials.

"It takes a lot of evidence to make a case," she said. "In Macon County it's extra hard because meth labs can be in cars and trailers that can be moved easily across state and county lines."

Then the trying of cases has its own set of rules. "We appear before the district court, then present it to the grand jury for indictment, then we get on the administrative calendar of the Superior Court where the case is handled unless it's a misdemeanor and in that case it's district court business," said Escaravage.

The Superior Court meets six times a year not every month like district court. "And at any one time there are 100 defendants on the Superior Court calendar."

She said verifying evidence takes a lot of time, too. "There is an incredible back-log at the SBI lab. They test evidence from all over the state. I'm seeing some cases now that are a year old. But we have to wait before we indict the case. And right now there's just not enough manpower and resources," said Escaravage.

Judge Downs said Structure Sentencing has been instated to put integrity back in the sentencing process. "During the previous 'fair sentencing' era in the 70s through the 90s, someone could be sentenced to 30, 40, 50

years and be out in a few years. This was primarily due to overcrowding in the jails."

He said with realistic sentencing, real time is served.

Probation is another way of addressing overcrowding. "When sentencing is suspended for a period of time, criminals are put on probation where they are routinely drug-tested and counseled. It's a form of rehabilitation," said Supervisor of Probation and Parole Debra Debruhl. Currently there are 350 offenders on probation.

Debruhl said the use of drugs in Macon County presents a whole new set of challenges to her department. "Our probation officers put their lives on the line every day supervising offenders." Of the 1,300 meth tests her officers give offenders each year, 200 come back positive and 54 of those are chronic users. "We refer them to various programs for treatment," she said.

There is only a six percent recovery rate for meth addicts, said mental health counselor Mike Neidig. "Addicts basically go back and forth," he said.

There are three stages to treatment. The first stage is the acute stage, when the offender comes in high and everyone has to wait for the drug to wear off. The next stage is the early stage of abstinence, followed by long-term abstinence.

"During this stage we see symptoms that mimic mental illness - depression, bi-polar tendencies, psychotic episodes," he said. "Through therapy and behavior modification, addicts learn what their triggers are, what triggers them to use. But the main thing is they must totally and completely change their lifestyle including finding new friends and hangouts."

Addiction is a life-long illness typically punctuated by periods of using, said Neidig. "It's a life-long struggle. The bravest people I know are the ones attempting to recover."

So what's the answer?

Never start using, said Sheriff Holland. That's the idea behind his Reality Check 101 program. Addict prisoners visit Macon County middle and high schools to tell their story. "Students see first-hand the damages of drug and alcohol abuse," said Holland.

Everyone agreed, getting to children when they are in middle school is key. "If they're using in high school, you've lost them," said social worker Wesley Price.

## Families turn out for Christian rock



Community Bible Church sponsored a Christian rock concert Saturday night at the Rec Park. Scores of youth and their families turned out to hear Falling Up, Hawk Nelson, and Seventh Day Slumber.  
Photo by Kim Lewicki

## Highlands ready for disasters

By Jean Jordan

Macon County Health Dept.

David Rohrer is ready to spring into action on short notice if a disaster occurs and many are left temporarily homeless. The manager of the Red Cross-sponsored shelter located in the Peggy Crosby Center in Highlands recently discussed the history and operations of the shelter.

The impetus for establishing this service came from the 1993 blizzard and Hurricane Opal in 1995. Luckily, since its 1996 inception, there has not been a need to utilize the facility. The Highlands Rotary Club is the local sponsor for the shelter. The initial idea for a shelter and the driving force for accomplishing this goal came from Dr. Mary Wheeler, a member of the local Rotary club. She enlisted the aid of club and non-club members and piloted the project to its conclusion. Several local residents have received the official Red Cross training in shelter operation. The shelter was equipped with a \$5,000 matching grant from the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. Presently 60 cots, 120 blankets and several shelter kits are available and stored in the facility. Rohrer has a telephone tree in place to alert the volunteer staff when the need is established for opening the shelter. Need is constituted by an officially

declared disaster, in addition to a request by either of two people: Macon County Emergency Manager Warren Cabe, or Highlands Mayor Buck Trott. Then Red Cross approval will still be needed for reimbursement.

Housed in the former Highlands/Cashiers Hospital facility, the Peggy Crosby Center is conveniently located near the center of town. In addition, an on-site commercial kitchen is already in place. While some shelters need to rely on dried Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's), here a private catering business is a permanent tenant in the building. The kitchen equipment is ready to run on one of the two auxiliary emergency generators. Moreover, Rohrer has an agreement with the local grocery stores for provisions to support the shelter as needed. This expense would be reimbursed by the Red Cross along with other expenses incurred in a disaster.

The former nursing residence adjacent to the center is equipped to kennel a limited number of animals. Arranging for the care of pets is often a difficult aspect for displaced persons during a disaster, since pets are prohibited in any shelter.

While Highlands escaped extensive damage during the recent fall storms, it's reassuring to know that Rohrer and his team are prepared should an emergency arise.

## SPORTS PAGE



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## • A DAY IN THE LIFE... •

### The floozie factor lives

The 2-year old is a beauty and the child of one of my daughter's long time friends. I love the opportunity for conversational enhances with mother and daughter and recently had that opportunity.

I was wearing a red cardigan-set and had boldly applied bright red lipstick before leaving the house that morning. When I arrived at their home, the 2-year-old surveyed me carefully, giving me the once over with her large hazel eyes. Her blond curls were accented by a pink bow.

"What color is your lipstick?" she asked.

"What color do you think it is?" I countered.

"Red," she replied, eyeing me carefully.

"What color is my lipstick?" she asked, puckering her pink cupid lips.

"Well, I'd say it's pink," I answered.

"What do you look like if you wear too much lipstick?" her mother said.

"A floozy," she said, in just above a whisper.

"Do I look like a floozy," I asked, stupidly.

She stepped closer, took a hard look at my face and answered, "Yes."

If there's one thing a southern lady never wants to believe she looks like, it's a floozy. It's no wonder the 2-year-old had already been taught this.

For generations southern women have trained their daughters early. Never too much makeup, never too much jewelry, never a skirt too tight. (Today's southern mothers are appalled at their teen's styles, I assure you.)

This is not to say there aren't

plenty of southern women who look like floozies. A big-haired lady with bright makeup may look like a floozy, but, believe me, in her soul she believes she is every inch a southern lady.

In Macon, Ga., where I grew up, young ladies attended Jackie Phillips School of Charm. Classes were held on Saturday morning in the gymnasium of the YWCA.

Mrs. Phillips, a former fashion model, always wore a large, dramatic hat, gloves and high-heeled shoes. Her makeup was

impeccable and she enunciated — and tried to teach us to do the same.

We learned to walk with our heads held high and to move like models. Okay, it was a weak, if not impossible, effort on some of our parts.

We earned a gold star on our charts for each night we slept without a pillow, as doing so would cause a double chin, according to Mrs. Phillips. (So that's what happened.)

Less is more. Better too little than too much. Simple pearls are best and suit every occasion. Put on your jewelry, then always remove one piece before you leave the house.

In fifth and sixth grades, we were not allowed makeup of any kind.

"At your age, if you wore makeup, you would look like floozies," Mrs. Phillips told her students.

Our mothers sat quietly to the side along the wall of the gym. They were going to have southern ladies, no matter what.

I guess now that my mother is 86, I shouldn't tell her she raised a floozy after all.



Nancy Welch

## 45 WNC sites on National Geographic Society Map

Gov. Mike Easley announced today that 45 sites in Western North Carolina are featured in a major tourism map that the National Geographic Society and the Appalachian Regional Commission are producing collaboratively.

"The maps recognize and promote Appalachia as a national treasure," Easley said. "They send the clear message that Western North Carolina is open for business and continues to be a great place to visit. This initiative helps bolster travel and tourism industries in our mountains as they continue to recover from last year's storms."

North Carolina map locations range from tourist attractions such as the Biltmore Estate and Grandfather Mountain to events, parks, waterfalls, craft schools and historic sites. The N.C. Department of Commerce helped identify and recommend potential sites from the state. In all, 356 sites are listed across the 13-state Appalachian region.

Beginning with a website in mid March and followed by a print version available the first of April, the North Carolina sites will be part of a campaign promoting Appalachia. The printed map will be inserted in the April issue of National Geographic Traveler magazine and delivered to more than 900,000 subscribers nationwide. Maps will also be offered to area schools and libraries.

Sites selected in North Carolina include the following:

- Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Southern Highroads Trail
- Andy Griffith Playhouse and Surry Arts Council in Mt. Airy
- Balsam Mountain Inn in Balsam
- Carl Sandburg Home in Flat Rock
- Chimney Rock Park in Rutherford County
- Cheroke Valley Skyway in Graham County
- Cradle of Forestry in America Forest Discovery Center in Pisgah National Forest
- Crossnore Weavers in Crossnore
- Deep Creek Waterfalls in Swain County
- Flat Rock Playhouse, State The-

atre of North Carolina

- Fontana Dam in Graham County
- Grandfather Mountain in Linville
- Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Great Smoky Mountains Railroad in Dillsboro
- Hanging Rock State Park in Danbury
- Henderson County Curb Market in Hendersonville
- Highlands Area Waterfalls (Bridal Veil, Glenn Falls, Dry Falls, Cullasaja Falls)
- Highlands Inn in Highlands
- Historic Downtown Hendersonville
- Historic Orchard at Altapass in Little Switzerland
- John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown
- Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest in Robbinsville
- Mast General Store in Valle Crucis
- MerleFest in Wilkesboro
- Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair in Burnsville
- Mt. Mitchell State Park in Yancey County
- Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee
- Nantahala River in Swain County
- Old Salem in Winston-Salem
- Penland School of Crafts in Penland
- Riverwood Pewter Shop in Dillsboro
- Southern Highland Craft Guild Folk Art Center in Asheville
- The Biltmore Estate in Asheville
- The Hiddenite Center in Hiddenite
- The Jarrett House in Dillsboro
- The N.C. Arboretum in Asheville
- Thomas Wolfe Boyhood Home in Asheville
- Todd General Store in Todd
- Transylvania Land of Waterfalls in Transylvania County
- Western N.C. Farmers Market in Asheville
- Woodfield Inn in Flat Rock
- Yadkin Valley Wine Region in Elkin



## Lamb to coach girls' b-ball

Brett Lamb has accepted the head girls' basketball coaching position at Highlands School.

Lamb graduated from Highlands School in 1987, where he was a standout athlete. After playing basketball for Lees-McRae College and graduating in 1990, Lamb attended Western Carolina University, where he majored in physical education and graduated in 1994. During his stints at Lees-McRae and WCU, Lamb served as a student assistant coach, student manager, and graduate assistant coach.

Lamb began teaching at Cullasaja Elementary School in 1997 and coaching for Highlands School, trans-

ferring later the Highlands to teach physical education. He has five years experience coaching junior varsity and varsity boys' basketball and serving as head coach of the baseball team.



**Brett Lamb**

Principal Monica Bomengen offered the girls basketball job to Lamb following the resignation of head coach Bill Lanford. "Coach Lamb has the sports knowledge, the dedication, and the temperament to be an outstanding head basketball coach. I am pleased that he

accepted our offer to take on the girls' varsity team. I look forward to an outstanding season next year for our girls' basketball program."

## Highlands girls' soccer wins at Hiawassee

In their second game of the season, the Highlands girl's varsity soccer team evened their record by defeating Towns County High School 6-1 in a well played match by the Highlanders.

Led by captains Amy Crook and Angela Aspinwall, the Highlanders jumped out front 3-0 in the first twenty minutes. Catherine Coppage scored on a good shot off of an assist by Callie Rawlins, followed by Angela Aspinwall scoring unassisted on a shot high into the net from 20 yards out. Sara Bates also scored on a good hustling play to give the Highlanders a 3-0 lead. Towns County, however, did not quit and picked up their level of play to penetrate the defense and score to make the score 3-1 at the half.

The Highlanders came out strong in the second half and quickly scored with Sara Bates scoring her second goal of the game off another assist by Callie Rawlins. Iyali Ruiz was next to score her first goal with an assist from Amy Crook, and Angela followed with her second goal of the night,

assisted by Jenna Greene, to make the score 6-1.

The Highlands defense was outstanding for most of the game, led by Claire Frederick, Kelley Baer, Lucy Herz, Stacy Wright, and goalie Allison Winn. McKenzie Thompson, Sallie Wheeler, and Martha Damian also played well for the Highland's defense.

The Highlanders were able to control the midfield with excellent play by Callie Rawlins, Amy Crook, and Angela Aspinwall. The midfield and forwards Sara Bates, Catherine Coppage, Jenna Greene, and Iyali Ruiz also communicated well and worked well as a team to score their six goals.

The Highlanders begin conference play at Cherokee on March 17, and they play their first home game at the Buck Creek soccer field against Rabun County on March 24. Rabun County, whose team is undefeated after six games, defeated Highlands in their first game of the season 2-1.

## ... IRATE continued from page 1

cerning a sidewalk on the south side of Church Street. Configuration of the sidewalk depends on an embankment and a building on the Kelsey-Hutchinson tract which is in the setback. Based on the amended ordinance, OEI was allowed to take the building down to the original footers and foundation and rebuild it on the exact footprint to the exact size.

OEI, Gantenbein and Betz, all interpreted the ordinance as allowing the rebuild in the setback because the entire building wasn't removed.

But just about everyone on the board saw the building as "destroyed" even though the original footers and foundation remains. "Whether a building is destroyed by fire or a crane, it's gone," said Commissioner Patterson.

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

Gantenbein said the ordinance was amended at the suggestion of Commissioner Dennis DeWolf who said the old ordinance which referred to a 50 percent rule, made it hard for people to renovate their homes. "About 75 percent of the buildings in Highlands are

nonconforming in some way or another," he said.

Highlands Inn has always been cited as an example. Prior to the ordinance change, if it burned down, it couldn't be rebuilt because much of it is in the setback or town right-of-way. Under the 2002 version of the ordinance, it could be rebuilt if the foundation was intact.

Commissioner Hank Ross suggested the ordinance be amended again to differentiate between destruction by man - as in dismantling to the footers - and destruction by fire or nature.

But Commissioner James said regardless of how a building comes down, once it's down, it must be rebuilt to conform in all regards.

The OEI building on the embankment on Church Street will be erected as planned. But commissioners put a 90-day moratorium on rebuilds of nonconforming buildings until the planning board can amend the ordinance again, leaving no room for interpretation.

OEI is constructing a sidewalk along the south side of Church street from Fourth to the end of the property where it meets the Highlands Community Child Development Center.

For a year, the street will be closed to pedestrian traffic during working hours while OEI constructs the final part of the spa at the old Highland Hiker building site.

## ... LETTERS continued from page 3

### Hollands to be commended

Dear Editor,

Last week, Macon County Sheriff Robbie Holland and his wife Marci, who is a social worker for the Macon County Schools, along with two resource officers, presented a program at Highlands School called "Reality Check 101." Students in grades 6-12 saw a PowerPoint presentation by Sheriff Holland on substance abuse as it relates directly to Macon County. They also listened to two inmates talk about the consequences of substance abuse and addiction.

This program was powerful and eye-opening. I cannot express how educational it was for our students to hear first-hand the dangers of drug addiction. Sheriff Holland's humanity and compassion for his inmates was plain for all the students to see. He expressed his frustration at being unable to get immediate rehabilitation assistance for those who request it. At the end of each presentation, he encouraged the students not to hesitate to call 911 for help if they are ever stranded in a situation where drugs and alcohol are present and they cannot (or are afraid) to reach their parents for a ride home.

Macon County is so fortunate to have two young adult professionals with the commitment and dedication of Robbie and Marci Holland. My admiration for them is exceeded only by my appreciation for what they do for my students.

**Monica Bomengen, Principal  
Highlands School**

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### Holy Week Service Schedule

- **Palm Sunday, March 20**  
Worship at 11 a.m.  
Service includes the children processing with palms
- **Monday, March 21**  
The Shroud of Turin Presentation at 7 p.m.  
When Jesus was lowered from the cross and taken to a burial cave, his body was wrapped in a cloth. A burial shroud kept in Turin, Italy may be that cloth. It may also have been the Last Supper tablecloth. Lecture presented by Carlton Joyce, a member of an investigative, spectroscopic analytical team
- **Maundy Thursday, March 24**  
Seder Meal and the Celebration of the Last Supper at 6 p.m.  
Space is limited and reservations are requested.
- **Good Friday, March 25**  
Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m.  
A service of darkness and passion.
- **Easter Sunday, March 27**  
Worship Celebration of the Resurrection of Christ at 8:30 & 11 a.m.  
The Chancel Choir will lead a service of scripture and music.  
Breakfast and Children's Egg Hunt at 9:45 a.m.

A nursery will be provided for all services. All are welcome!

# Invisible in plain sight

By Kim Lewicki

Josie Ellis has a story to tell – and it's not a fairy tale.

It's as real as can be – a story about a hidden segment of the Highlands-Cashiers population most people would rather not acknowledge.

But Josie and six co-workers with the North Carolina Farm Workers Association are on fire. They are shouting the story of social injustice from the mountaintops in five counties in Western North Carolina.

She spoke to the Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club on Friday, March 11.

As health-care workers who tend to the lowest of the low, they see first-hand the effects of United States' "blind eye" philosophy toward migrant workers.

Her tales of child labor law violations, inadequate housing and sickness will forever change the way you look at the tomatoes and strawberries in area grocery stores, or Christmas trees or even the tobacco rolled up in your cigarette.

She said North Carolina is an agri-business state represented by a Herculean lobby in Congress. The 145,000 migrant workers in North Carolina, who each produce a minimum of \$12,000 annual profit to agri-business companies, make an average of \$7,000 a year. And because of the lobby, labor, housing and health violations go unchecked, said Josie.

As undocumented workers and illegal aliens, the migrants have no rights or access to the scores of health and welfare programs available to the country's poor.

Before they formed the N.C. Farm Workers Association, a 5013C, Josie and her co-workers did what they could through the Jackson County Health Dept. When they blew the whistle on living conditions at area farms, pressure was applied to the department. "We were told to keep quiet," she said. But when the depart-

ment was acknowledged as an Advocacy Agency for Patients, the opposition backed off.

That's when Dr. Mark Heffington and I formed the N.C. Farm Workers' Association," she said. "It is completely self-sufficient." Grants and donations fund the association's work.



Photo by Carol Matthews  
Josie Ellis

Though she says the entire topic is politically dicey, Josie spends her time tending to the sick and telling their story. Thanks to funding from local agencies, including Rotary clubs in Highlands and Cashiers, the N.C. Farm Workers Association now has a full-scale medical clinic on wheels.

Health workers drive to the fields where whole families

exist as modern-day slaves, said Josie. Without transportation or extra money, the health of migrant workers goes unchecked, she said. The life expectancy of migrant workers in North Carolina is 47-years-old. In 2005, agri-business was ranked the most dangerous occupation, mining recently took second place.

Because families aren't eligible for subsidized childcare and since full-time childcare costs about \$800 a month, children stay in the fields with their parents, exposed to heat, pesticides, a lack of sanitation, and no stimulation for their psychological development, said Josie.

Due to substandard living conditions including overcrowding, the lack of heat, running water and sanitation, Josie sees untreated chronic illness, parasitic diseases and an extremely high incidence of cancer.

"I've seen 10- and 12-year-old boys and girls who have never seen a doctor; pre-school children, too little to carry heavy loads, push crates loaded with tomatoes along the rows; toddlers sitting amongst squalor and open pesticide cans," she said.

The migrant worker story is an old one. Indigenous people from the Mexican interior, displaced by NAFTA-

■ See INVISIBLE page 12





# Smoky Mountain Boy Scout 'Klondike Derby'

By Katie Brugger  
Contributor

Boy Scout troops from Highlands, Franklin, and Otto gathered last weekend at the Dunning Tract, on U.S. Forest Service property between Highlands and Franklin.

Hosted by Highlands Troop 207, the highlight of the three-day camp was a Klondike Derby.

Jack Creighton, the Scoutmaster of Troop 207, organized the event.

The weather almost cooperated to create a real Klondike atmosphere for the race – the previous day a cold wind blew flurries of snow – but luckily the morning of the race dawned sunny and warm.

The Derby is a challenge course with the theme of an Arctic dogsled race. Each team had a "sled" guided by the patrol leader and pulled by the rest of the patrol (the "dogs").

A circular track through field and woods led past eleven challenges, including tying knots, using a compass, erecting a tent blindfolded while being coached by an unblindfolded member of your team, and, my favorite, the "ice-fishing" (trying to catch mousetraps with a fishing rod).

At each stop the teams gained points based not only on performance but also on team spirit and sportsmanship.

"The goal is to make the games equal for everybody. You're competing against a standard instead of each other. This allows the Scouts to include boys of all physical abilities," said Creighton.

Also present were some older Scouts who set up a camp demonstrating the experiences of Boy Scouts a hundred years ago.

Tall tepees dwarfed the modern sleek tents in the boys' camps and old-time food was cooked over open campfires.

All the scouts got a turn at a tent-peg carving bench to get a feel for what life was like before everything came packaged in a box.



A circular track through field and woods led past eleven challenges, including tying knots, using a compass, erecting a tent blindfolded while being coached by an unblindfolded member of your team

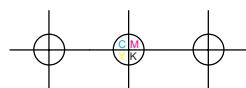


The Derby is a challenge course with the theme of an Arctic dogsled race. Each team had a "sled" guided by the patrol leader and pulled by the rest of the patrol (the "dogs").

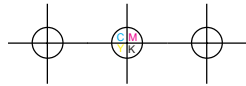


The "witches' broom" was a difficult challenge set up in the older Scouts' camp. This was one of the first games devised by the founder of the Boy Scouts. The scout has to balance on the pole, using a thin stick for balance, while also using that balancing stick to grab scarves draped over each end of the pole. When he touches the ground his turn is over.

Photos by Katie Brugger and Arthur Hancock with Time Capsule Videos







## • HIGHLANDS UPCOMING EVENTS •

### On-going

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

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

- "Evenings of Entertainment" Friday nights at Instant Theatre Company in Oak Square on Main Street. Tickets are \$15 with reservations and \$20 at the door. Doors open at 7:45 p.m. Show starts promptly at 8 p.m. No entry after show begins. Call for reservations. 342-9197.

- Pilates classes are moving to the new Women's Center at the Hospital effective Tuesday, March 22. The classes are Tuesday and Thursdays at 5:15 pm. All classes at the Women's Center will be \$10, or \$8 if you purchase a package of 10. Instructor: Sandie Trevathan

- Al-Anon Group meets at noon on Thursdays in the Community Room at First Presbyterian Church.

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

### March 17

- InterChurch Pot Luck Supper at Community Bible Church at 6 p.m. For more info, call Pat Griffin at 526-2418. Wear GREEN!

- Chili Dinner at 5 p.m., PTO at 6 p.m., followed by Book Fair at Highlands School.

### March 19

- A car show fundraiser for Macon County Senior Games Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm at the Whistle Stop Mall parking lot on the Georgia Road (U.S. 441 South), Franklin. Registration fee for cars to be displayed is \$10 per vehicle and will be accepted from 10 am to 1 pm the day of the show. Trophies will be awarded to the top

## Auditions set for 'Diary of Anne Frank'

Auditions for the third play of the Highlands Community Players 10th anniversary season will take place Sunday, March 20, at 3 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

The play is "The Diary of Anne Frank" and will be directed by Jim Gordon.

The play's 13 characters include: Anne Frank, a 13-year-old girl; Anne's older sister Margot; Mr. and Mrs. Frank; Peter 16; Peter's



mother and father; Mr. Kraler, owner of the house; a woman, his secretary; Mr. Dussel, a dentist, and three German men. Actor's ages are approximate.

Performance dates for "The Diary of Anne Frank" are May 5 - 8 and 14, 15.

A copy of the script can be read (but not checked out) at the Hudson Library in Highlands. For more information call director Jim Gordon, 743-2654.

20 cars and a Best of Show trophy also will be presented. It's free.

### March 21

- MC School Board meeting 6 p.m. at Highlands School.

- Shroud of Turin presentation. When Jesus was lowered from the cross and taken to a burial cave, his body was wrapped in cloth. A burial shroud kept in Turin, Italy may be that cloth. It may also have been the Last Supper tablecloth. Attend the lecture, and you be the judge. Monday at 7 p.m. Highlands United Methodist Church, presented by Carlton Joyce.

- Mirror Lake Improvement Assoc. regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Civic Center.

### March 22

- Financial Planning Workshop - at Fireside Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. Learn about the financial planning process, trusts, asset allocation, investing, in Highlands real estate in your IRA, increasing your IRA yield, your investment policy statement. Presented by financial planner John D. Boshart. Call 800-320-8264 for reservations. Breakfast will be provided.

- The Power of Travel Packaging

presented by the Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Conference Center. Cost is \$35 which includes lunch. Call 526-5841 for reservations.

### March 24

- At OEI - March Wine Dinner Thursday, March 24, featuring Domaine Serene Vineyards & Winery, Northern Willamette Valley Oregon. Dinners feature a 6 p.m. reception followed by 6:30 p.m. Dinner at The Farm. Cost per person for the Dinner is \$125. Please call 828-526-8008.

### March 25

- Awards assembly at Highlands School K-3 at 8:30 a.m., and 4th-5th at 9 a.m.

### March 26

- Satolah Volunteer Fire Dept. Annual Spring Benefit, 5 p.m. BBQ pork or fried chicken plates. Music by Curtis Blackwell and the Dixie Bluegrass Band and Foxfire.

- Saturday at 10:30 am. Family Easter Celebration for the entire community. Huge Easter Egg Hunt with special prizes. Watch an Easter video and enjoy lunch. Bring your family and friends. Held at Community

Bible Church.

- Easter Egg Hunt at Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

- Mirror Lake Litter Pick-up at 9 a.m. Meet at Thorn Park.

### March 28

- Macon County School Board meeting held at Highlands School library at 6 p.m. Commissioners are hoping for a good turnout from the community.

### April 2

- The annual Senior Games spring flea market is Saturday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the County Community Building gym, 1288 Georgia Road, Franklin. Sale booths rent for \$20 each. Refreshments will be available for sale. For more information call Senior Games Coordinator Teresa Holbrooks at (828) 349-2090.

### April 5-7

- NC Competency Test for highschoolers at Highlands School.

### April 9

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

### April 11

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

### April 15-17

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

### April 19-20

- High School Comprehensive Test for 10th Grade.

### April 23

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

### May 3-5

- Last Month for Competency Test for Seniors only.

## ... INVISIBLE continued from page 10

backed multi-national factories and their workers seek a future in America.

With lax pollution and safety standards and a cheap labor pool in Mexico, corporations in America and elsewhere closed up shop and opened up on land previously occupied by indigenous people. Since the locals are uneducated and can't speak Spanish they are pushed out. There are 150 dialects among the indigenous people of Mexico.

"It's great for the corporations, not great for the people," said Josie. "Before the factories came in and

displaced them, they were a self-sustaining people. So they turn to America for work."

Men who accept payment to get them across the border — coyotes — set them up with a foreman who pays off their "transportation" bill when they get here. "But then they owe the foreman \$2,000 a person," said Josie. "It's debt bondage and it takes three years to pay him off."

As undocumented workers, they are invisible. They have no recourse, no one to turn to, she said. They live in fear," she said. "The great coyote

threat is 'We know where you come from, we know your family.'"

It's an ugly cycle Josie wants to see broken. "Don't feed the system that feeds the coyotes," she said. "If the demand didn't exist, they wouldn't come."

But since they're here, she advocates President Clinton's Ag Jobs bill.

"Clinton's bill says, 'if working in the U.S. as an undocumented worker for five years, then you can apply for citizenship,'" she said. "This allows workers to become legal which entitles them to protection and programs. They represent a segment

of our population that sustains our economy," she said. "They work hard, they deserve some legal protection and they deserve to make more than \$7,000 a year."

President Bush advocates another migrant worker bill. "They can apply for a five-year temporary residency permit," said Josie. "But then they have to return to Mexico."

Josie says the U.S. is a country of immigrants. "Mexicans represent the newest wave. "They risk everything to get here." She said about 3,000 Mexicans die each year trying to cross the border.

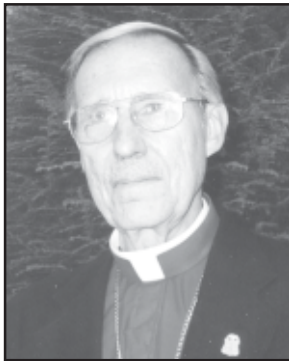






## • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

### Surprised by Easter



**The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding**  
Chapel of Sky Valley

**W**ith Palm Sunday upon us and Easter a short way off, we are at the end of a period of time in the Christian calendar called Lent.

In my years of ministry, Lent has always been a season of penitence, giving up, and preparation. But it has also been a season of contrasts. We prepare for the celebration of Easter but have to go through the joy of Palm Sunday, only to mourn over Good Friday, contrasts of drama in all its forms, the highs and the lows of emotion.

This is the easy part. Just follow the Bible verses, and we get it right, year after year as if following a script. At times it is done more out of habit than devotion, and that's really too bad.

But there is a hard part, a thinking part. As a child growing up, after Santa Claus was no longer the bearer of gifts at Christmas and Mom hid them in the closet, there came a challenge: Don't go in the closet, or go in the closet and shake the gift-wrapped boxes and try to guess what was in them. My problem was, as much as I tried, if I knew what it was before opening the box, I could not act surprised.

Easter is probably one of the last hold-outs of the holidays during the year to yield to crass commercialism. Oh, yes, Wal-Mart has devoted at least one aisle to bunnies, marshmallow chicks, and chocolate eggs, but that's about where it ends. We probably will not hear about the number of hams sold like we do turkeys at Thanksgiving, so even Madison Avenue has left the surprise of Easter to be ours to discover. No pilgrims sitting around a table with the Indians, no Santa coming out of the chimney with the gifts, no little child in diapers with a banner around him with the new year written on it. All are happy endings, but Easter's happy ending is left to us.

Each year as I go through Lent and approach Easter, I am sure it will be just like last year. The child who could not act surprised is now asked to be an adult clergy who is supposed to be surprised by the event of Easter day. But something magical happens between Good Friday's black night and Easter's brilliant dawn. I am surprised, surprised

▪See SPIRITUALLY page 15

## • 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

743-3319 or 460-7260

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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.

### Clear Creek Baptist Church

Pastor Everett Wilson, (828) 743-3379

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

Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service – 7 p.m.

### Community Bible Church

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Steven E. Kerhoulas, Pastor, 526-4685

3645 U.S. 64 east

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

Rock" meeting.

Tuesdays: Women's Bible Study – 9:45

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

### Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968

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

classes – 9:15 a.m.; Holy Eucharist – 10:30 a.m.;

Children's Chapel – 10:30 a.m.;

Mondays: Women's Cursillo Group (Library) – 4

Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8

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

p.m.; Supper & Program – 6 p.m.

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.

Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14

### First Baptist Church

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

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

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

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

Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

### First Presbyterian Church

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

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

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

Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.

Thursdays: Bible Study – 10 a.m.

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

### Highlands Assembly of God

Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

### Highlands 7th-Day Adventist Church

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

### Highlands United Methodist Church

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376

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

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

### Holy Family Lutheran Church – ELCA

Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Wednesdays: Lenten Services at noon followed by a meal.

Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

### Macedonia Baptist Church

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

Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130

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

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

### Mountain Synagogue

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

Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

For more information, call

(706)-745-1842.

### Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

Rev. William M Evans, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

Wednesdays & Fridays: Mass – 9 a.m.

Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m.

Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

### Scaly Mountain Baptist Church

Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

### Scaly Mountain Church of God

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

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

Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

### Shortoff Baptist Church

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

### Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

### Westside Baptist Church

Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon

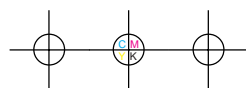
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby

Sundays: Fellowship & Worship – 11

### Whiteside Presbyterian Church

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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



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## Class learns from a pro



Photo by Anne Tate

Local caterer Holly Roberts who owns "Let Holly do the Cooking" graciously gave her time and talent to the Foods Class at Highlands School, Friday, March 4. Holly prepared a light lunch for the students and gave them recipes, many useful cooking tips as well as tips on owning their own business. Front from left: Tiffany Austin, Holly, Kim Higgs, Nicole Barnes. Back from left Lauren Dalton, Kristy Billingsley, Jackie Reed, Kerri Raby, Stephanie Dalton.

## • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of March 9-15. The only names printed are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

### March 9

- At 11 a.m., officers responded to an accident on Little Bear Pen Road. There were no injuries.

### March 10

- At 8:55 a.m., officers responded to a call of suspicious vehicles on Stoney Creek Road. It was unfounded.

### March 11

- At 3:30 p.m., officers were called to a local motel to assist a probation officer with drug testing of individuals.

- At 4:15 p.m., officers cited a person for simple possession of Sch. IV item.

- At 5 p.m., William John Carpenter, 22, of Dillard, Ga., was arrested at Mountain High Lodge as a fugitive wanted by the Rabun County Sheriff's Dept. He was held without bond in the Macon County jail awaiting extradition.

### March 12

- At 8:30 p.m., officers on patrol found an open door at the U.S. 64 Stop and Shop. All was secure.

### March 14

- At a little past midnight, officers responded to an accident. There were no injuries.

### March 15

- At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at Regions Bank. All was secure.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the week of March 9-15

### March 9

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a business on Spring Street. It was false.

- The dept. responded to a call of a possible LP gas leak at a residence on Smallwood Ave., but it was unfounded.

### March 11

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at OEI. The victim was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical on Main Street.

### March 14

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call to a residence on Dendy Orchard Road. The victim was DOA.

- The dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Dept. But it was cancelled en route.





## • BUSINESS NEWS •

### Cleveland named manager of Shops at OEI

The Old Edwards Hospitality Group is pleased to announce that Anita Cleveland has been named Manager for the Shops at Old Edwards Inn, which currently includes Miss Priss, a signature Lilly Pulitzer store and Acorns, a distinctive home furnishings and antique store.

Cleveland is a graduate of Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C. and was most recently manager of Miss Priss. Prior to that, she was assistant manager at Acorns. Her responsibilities will include overseeing all aspects of operations for both stores, staff management, merchandising and occasional buying. Cleveland will also work closely with managers at two other Miss Priss locations in Charlotte and Lake Norman to schedule special appearances and events like trunk shows.

A resident of Highlands since early 2004, Cleveland was very involved in Student Affairs during her college career and also spent a semester abroad in Alcalá de Henares, Spain. She has been with the Old Edwards Hospitality Group since early 2004.

The Shops at Old Edwards Inn, Acorns and Miss Priss, are open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The telephone number is 787-1877 or toll free 800-787-1877. The store is located at 465 Main Street in Highlands.

### Waugaman new executive sous chef of OEI

Nate Waugaman has been named Executive Sous Chef of the Old Edwards Inn and Spa.

In his role as executive sous chef, Waugaman supports all aspects of the Old Edwards Inn and Spa's food service, restaurants and catering operations at The Farm.

Working with Director of Food and Beverage Claude Powers, Waugaman leads a classically trained culinary team focused on creating menus dedicated to the freshest local and regional ingredients and the very best flavors.

Waugaman relocated to Highlands in June 2003 to consult with Cyprus Restaurant. He was responsible for managing daily operations, creating daily specials and the selection and procurement of the wine program. Prior to that, Waugaman was executive chef at Sambuca Jazz Café in Atlanta and was also sous chef and then executive sous chef for a location by the same name in Denver, Colorado.

Waugaman is a graduate of Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island. He holds certification from the National Restaurant Association in the states of Florida and Colorado in food handler management and safe service. He has been with the Old Edwards Inn and Spa prior to the resort's opening in only 2004.

### ... SPIRITUALLY continued from page 13

that after 2,000 years we can still thrill at a new beginning, not an end. The symbol of the egg at Easter speaks volumes. It symbolizes a new beginning, a tomb made of a shell that will break and give us the start of a new life, and each time we see it, it seems

a greater surprise.

A cross, a tomb, a stone rolled away and yes, the greatest God-given surprise ever.

Let's never lose the ability to be surprised. It is one of the experiences that makes life worth living.

### Financial Seminar

**Tuesday, March 22,  
8:30 am. at the Fireside  
Restaurant**



with  
John D. Boshart  
Certified  
Financial Planner

Learn about the financial planning process, trusts, asset allocation, investing in Highlands real estate in your IRA, increasing your IRA yield, your investment policy statement.

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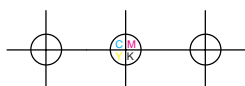
## Highland Hiker

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601 Main St.  
Highlands

**Highland Hiker**  
at the Crossroads  
Cashiers

**Highland Hiker Shoes**  
The Falls on Main  
Highlands



## Litter pick-up big success



Photo by Kim Lewicki

To beautify Highlands and to earn money, members of The Girls' Clubhouse picked up trash for two hours Thursday, May 10. About 15 bags of litter were collected. From left are Elizabeth Gordon, Amy Fogel, Stephanie Puchacz, Courtney Rogers and Paige Baty.

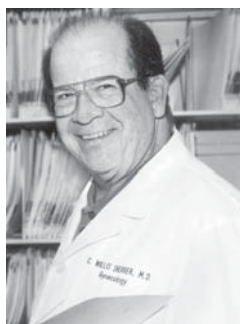
## Highlands-Cashiers GYNECOLOGY

### Willis Sherrer, MD WELCOMES NEW AND RETURNING PATIENTS

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**A** Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Dr. Sherrer is the former head of GYN services at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta.

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### HELP WANTED

#### NORTHLAND CABLE COMPANY –

We are needing a Customer Service Representative, this is a full time position. They would need computer experience, telephone skills, cash drawer experience and able to travel between other Northland offices. People skills are a must! EEO.

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

CHATOOGA GARDENS GARDEN CENTER – Positions available: greenhouse manager, sales persons, cashier, delivery driver. Call 828-743-1062.

PT SECURITY GUARD POSITION – Sat. & Sun. 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Call 828-526-4161.

R.N., FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full time, three nights per week. Excellent Benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

UNIT COORDINATOR, FIDELIA

ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. High school graduate or equivalent. Must have medical office assistant or unit clerk experience. Typing skills with experience in WordPerfect or MS Word required. Excellent Benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

HOUSEKEEPER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND THE FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Friday through Tuesday, 7am - 3:30 pm. Learn procedures for all areas of Environmental Services. Excellent Benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

L.P.N., FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Part time, two nights per week, 7 p.m. - 7 a.m. Must have N.C. license. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

CNAS, FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full time, night shifts available, 7:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m. Excellent Benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

### BY OWNER

CAR FOR SALE – 1996 Chevy Blazer LT. One-owner car, 34,000 miles, all leather interior. Very good condition. \$7,000. 828-526-4874.

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.) 828-526-9766. 3/18

FISHERWOOD STOVE – (Firebox: 24" by 20" x 16") \$250 (2) Vanguard Propane Heaters. Call 864-360-7739. - 2/25

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

### ... FORUM continued from page 2

Humanity board of directors should re-examine their decision to take the nearly completed home away from the Green family.

We have it on good authority, that if the Habitat Board demanded that the Greens stay away from the house until it is finished and keys put in their hands, they would do so. Seems like a reasonable, face-

saving way of handling a very messy situation.

Given the calibre of its board members, we are certain the Macon County chapter of Habitat for Humanity will go to whatever lengths it must to make this right in the minds of the Highlands community.

– Kim Lewicki





## ... ANNEXATION continued from page 1

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

tend three miles outside the town limits. However, it doesn't have to be contiguous -- boundaries don't have to touch. But a satellite area can't be more than 10 percent of the size of the town annexing it.

In voluntary annexation, Willet said town's don't have to offer the same level of service to every parcel it annexes. "The fuzziness is how much you have to provide. There are no court cases on this, what you are looking for is fairness. But people only want to

come into a town to get services."

Forced annexation is much more complicated, said Willet.

"You have to provide a cost benefit analysis, qualify the area and satisfy three tests -- a use test, a subdivision test and a contiguous test," he said.

At least one-eighth of the boundary of the area under consideration for annexation must be adjacent to the town's boundary -- contiguous to it; 60 percent of the lots in the area under consideration must be less than three

acres; and, 60 percent of the lots in the area must be developrd. Vacant land doesn't count in the percentage.

All three tests must be met for forced annexation to take place.

Furthermore, a town must be ready to be consistent in its application of ordinances and codes.

"You can't split the track on forced annexation," said Willet. Whereas with voluntary annexation a town can negotiate services, in forced annexation, there is no negotiation. "If it's the

town's stance that property close to the sewer line must connect then 'thou shall connect,'" said Willet. The town has to be ready to be consistent in how it applies its policies, he said.

The forced annexation track can take anywhere from 16 months to two years, "and sometimes longer," said Willet.

• In part three of "ETJ and Annexation" Willet explains water/sewer districts and authorities.

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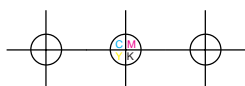
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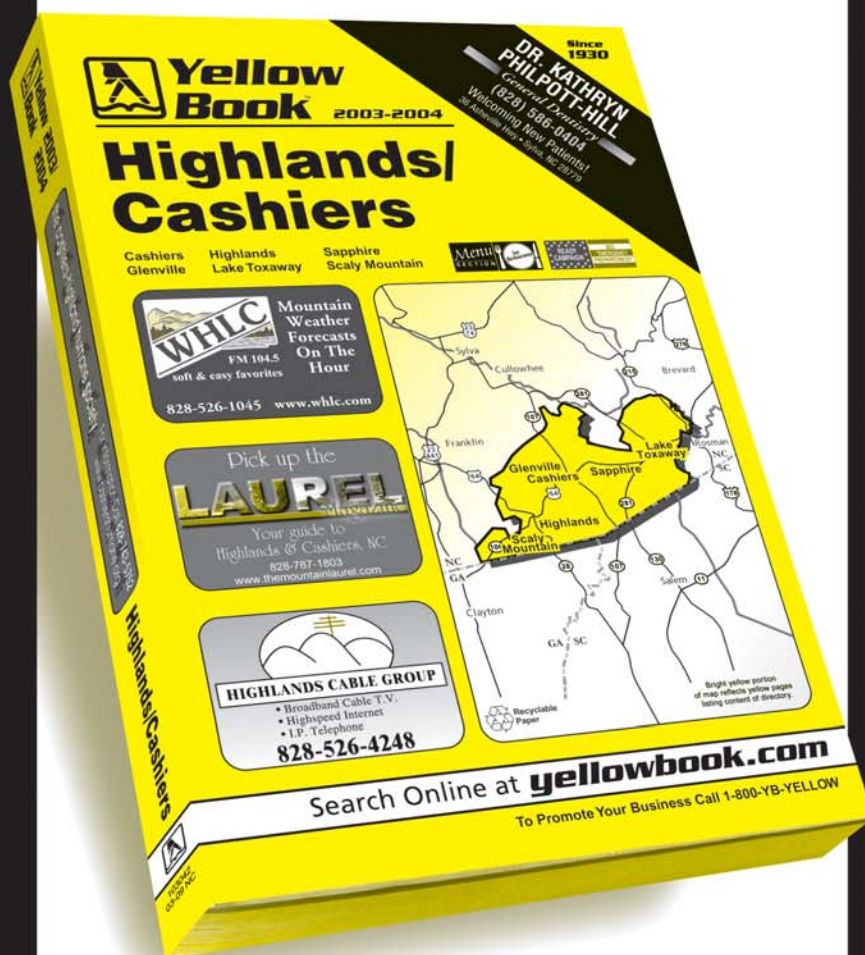
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**Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce,**  
202 Highway and Rt. 64 West, Cashiers

**Highlands Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center,**  
located above town hall, Oak St. and 4th St., Highlands



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Anyone who has driven by the Highlands Historic Village lately is likely to have seen workers or their vehicles in the parking lot. Restoration of the historic Old Hudson Library is nearing completion.

## Facelift in the works at Highlands Historical Village

The Highlands Historic Village has been the scene of much activity during the last several weeks, with carpenters, electricians, plumbers, heating and air workers, and volunteers all working to restore the Old Hudson Library.

The Library, built in 1915, was moved from Main Street adjacent to the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in 2001.

The structure, originally a wooden one-story building, was placed on top of a concrete lower floor. The board of directors of the Historical Society knew immediately that this area with concrete walls and floor would be ideal for a humidity and temperature controlled archives area.

Architect Dennis DeWolf has prepared plans and supervised most of the restoration work, including the removal of acoustical ceiling tiles that had discolored when the roof leaked.

The ceiling now consists of V-grooved boards. The building was given a new roof, with materials provided by Reeves Hardware and

labor courtesy of Thomas Craig Builder.

A fresh coat of white paint was applied to the exterior of the building, and some of the partitions that had been added to the library in recent years were removed.

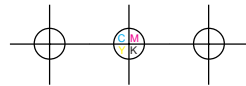
Fresh sheetrock now covers the hodge-podge of wall covers that had accumulated through the years.

Historical Society president, Wiley Sloan, expresses the gratitude of the entire board of directors for the generosity of Highlanders which has made possible the improvements to the library building.

The Society hopes that by mid-summer the upper floor will display exhibits of historical artifacts, and the lower floor will be equipped as archives, with special containers for precious historical documents and microfilm readers for historical and genealogical research.

Anyone wishing to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Highlands Historical Society may do so by mailing their check to P. O. Box 670, Highlands, N.C., 28741. – **Elaine Whitehurst**





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A photograph of a single-story building with a green awning over the entrance. A silver car is parked in front of the building. The building has a sign that says "Exterior" and another sign that says "Interior". There are some bushes in front of the building.

A photograph of a blue classic car, possibly a Volkswagen Beetle, parked in a garage. The car's hood is open, and it is positioned in front of a red hydraulic lift. The garage has a concrete floor and various tools and equipment visible in the background.

