

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 3, Number 19

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, May 13, 2005

On-going

- Each Thursday - Open House at Chestnut Hill of Highlands.

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

- The Instant Theatre Company's Evenings of Little Entertainments each Friday at 8 p.m. Reservations suggested. Call the Box Office at 342-9197.

May 12

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

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

May 13

- HS Soccer 2nd Round playoffs, 6 p.m. at Buck Creek. \$5 gate fee.

- Live music at Buck's Coffee Cafe, 8-11 p.m. Mr. Billy - acoustical and instrumental.

- Live music at the Pizza Place - Bo Jam, 6-10 p.m.

- Highlands Wine & Cheese at Falls on Main - Join Deborah Gray of Australian Domain Importers for a special flight of great Aussie wines. Wine Flights each Thurs. - Sat. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Open Mon-Sat. 10-6:30.

May 14

- Live music at Buck's Coffee Cafe, 8-11 p.m. Gary Wydell & Curtis Blackwell, old-fashioned country and bluegrass.

- Jonathan Williams signs copies of his latest book, *Jubilant Thicket: New & Selected Poems* 1-3 p.m. at Cyrano's Bookshop

- Live Music at the Pizza Place - Bo Jam, 6-10 p.m.

- Cullasaja Gorge Road Clean-Up at 9-noon. Gather at the Cliffside Lake Picnic Shelter for safety vests, gloves and bags.

- Car wash at First Citizens Bank from 9 a.m. -2 p.m. to raise funds for Highlands School Asst. Principal's trip to Cange, Haiti.

May 15

- A benefit concert for Roger and Abi Lowther in the Sanctuary of Community Bible Church at 2 p.m.

May 16

- Highlands School Athletic Cookout at the Rec Park. at 6 p.m. This event is for athletes and their parents.




- Highlands PTO is sponsoring a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at Highlands School Monday from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. in the Highlands School cafeteria.

May 17

- Highlands CofC Board of Directors meeting 5:30 p.m. at the Conference Center.

May 19

- InterChurch Pot Luck Supper at Our Lady of the Mountains Church at 6 p.m.

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
72-52 °F	70-51 °F	64-47 °F

Rise in sales tax proceeds proves business is booming in Highlands

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

It's traditionally difficult to get merchants and business people to admit when business is good. But if num-

bers tell the story, business is more than just good in Highlands.

At the last several Town Board meetings, Town Administrator Richard

▪See SALES TAX page 3

County budgets & fund balances questioned

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

Come budget time, folks who rarely attend public meetings tend to take a stand.

At the May 2 Macon County Commissioners meeting, several people spoke during the public session segment to voice concern about the county's proposed 2005-2006 budget.

Many said they wanted more time to review the \$34 million proposed budget; other's said decreasing county and school budget fund balances would put more money in citizens' pockets.

Evelyn Southard, interim finance director for Macon County said a recent report claiming the county has a fund balance of \$22 million is absolutely wrong. "We have a 38 percent fund balance of unappropriated money," she said. "It represents an unreserved portion of general expenditures but it is money we don't actually have." It represents tax money that hasn't come in yet, so it can't be obligated to any particular line item, she said.

Don Swanson, a member of the audience, said the county could save a bundle by eliminating the school system's fund balance. "The League of Municipalities says school systems aren't required to have a fund balance. "You could knock the tax rate down a cent if you appropriated some of the school system's \$1.3 million fund balance." That figure is a combination of the designated and undesignated fund balance.

But Superintendent of Macon
▪See FUND BALANCES page 7

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They've come home to Highlands



Photo by Cynthia Strain

The hummingbirds are out and about now - back from their winter digs in South America. Many times you hear them before you see them - that tell-tale hum. Photographer Cynthia Strain snapped a shot of this immature ruby-throated male.

MC Schools hit coveted AYP mark

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

Of the 115 Local Education Agencies, (LEAs) in North Carolina, only 18 of them hit the Annual Yearly Progress target - Macon County Schools was one of them.

At the April 26 Macon County

School Board meeting, Tammy Tisdale, director of accountability with the school system, said members of the Education Oversight Committee in Raleigh were presented with the end-of-course and end-of-grade test scores for 2003-2004 as a "success" indicator

▪See MC SCHOOLS page 8

Work nearly over for committee

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

For almost a year, the Planning Board's land use planning committee has been working to update the town's land use plan. All that work has at long last paid off.

The first draft of the proposed Land Use Plan is ready to be presented to the Town Board. The committee will take

part in a joint working session with commissioners June 1 at the recreation park. After that meeting a community meeting will be scheduled so citizens will have a chance to be heard.

"This will eventually become their document," said Facilitator Geoffrey Willet. "There should be some opportunity for the public to have their say."

▪See COMMITTEE page 18

She used a plastic pole and wax worms



Two-year-old Chloe Baty pulled an 11-pound, 21-inch long, large mouth bass from Harris Lake recently using her plastic Princess fishing pole. Her bait? Wax worms! Dad, Jimmy Baty, was proud – Chloe, amazed, surprised and just a little freaked out.

The Diary of Anne Frank
by Goodrich and Hackett
Newly adapted by Wendy Kesselman
Directed by Jim Gordon
May 14, 15
Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m.
Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m.
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by Goodrich and Hackett
Newly adapted by Wendy Kesselman
Directed by Jim Gordon
May 14, 15
Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m.
Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m.

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• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Radical religious right imposing

Dear Editor,

For everyone who thought that there has not been a full-scale war launched against liberals, look at the news.

On Sunday morning, Christian Coalition founder Rev. Pat Robertson told TV viewers nation-wide that the threat posed by liberal federal judges is "probably more serious than a few bearded terrorists who fly into buildings."

At East Waynesville Baptist Church, if you didn't vote for Bush, you had to "repent your sin." Then they figured why deal with the liberal sinners at all and kicked out its Democratic members.

This isn't a "culture" war, or some sort of political game. These actions simply foreshadow what is to come: the radical religious-right trying to impose a theocracy upon this nation.

Welcome to the "Blue Scare."

Don Twardowski
Franklin

You know the story – now see the play

Dear Editor,

It's not too late for Highlanders and their visitors to experience some unforgettable theatre: the Highlands Community Players' production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, scheduled Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30.

Of course everyone knows the ending of the story, so some may have decided it's not worth their time to attend. They are wrong. The entire production company does a truly remarkable job of bringing to life the story of two families and one individual attempting to avoid sure death at the hand of the Nazis.

Although we are accustomed to an evening of laughs when the Community Players put on a show, this production provides the opportunity for more in-depth character development and honest-to-goodness acting. Teenager Kayla Bott convinces the audience she IS Anne Frank, and the soliloquy rendered by David Spivey at the end of the show is one of life's rare moments. Thank you, Community Players, for having sufficient faith in the Highlands audience to provide us this production.

And thanks to the four couples who sponsored the production: Gerry and Margaret Pennington, Gerry Sue and Norman Arnold, Pauline and Louis Perlis, Helene and Rick Siegel. You did a wonderful service to Highlands.

Elaine Whitehurst
Highlands

Community makes event a success

Dear Editor,

The Literacy Council of Highlands would like to express its thanks to the entire community of Highlands for helping to make its Monte Carlo Night fundraiser a huge success! A fun-filled evening was had by all and thanks to the never-ending support of this community and its residents they were able to raise a significant amount of funds that will help to keep the programs they offer to the community strong and effective.

A BIG thanks to Rotary for their constant support of Literacy over the years and without its help Monte Carlo Night would not be possible. And to Highlands Country Club for hosting the event. Thanks to all others who helped at the registration and chip tables.

Thanks, especially, to all the merchants who donated items to our silent and live auctions and the restaurants who donated a beautiful array of food. Their support was vital to the success of this event!

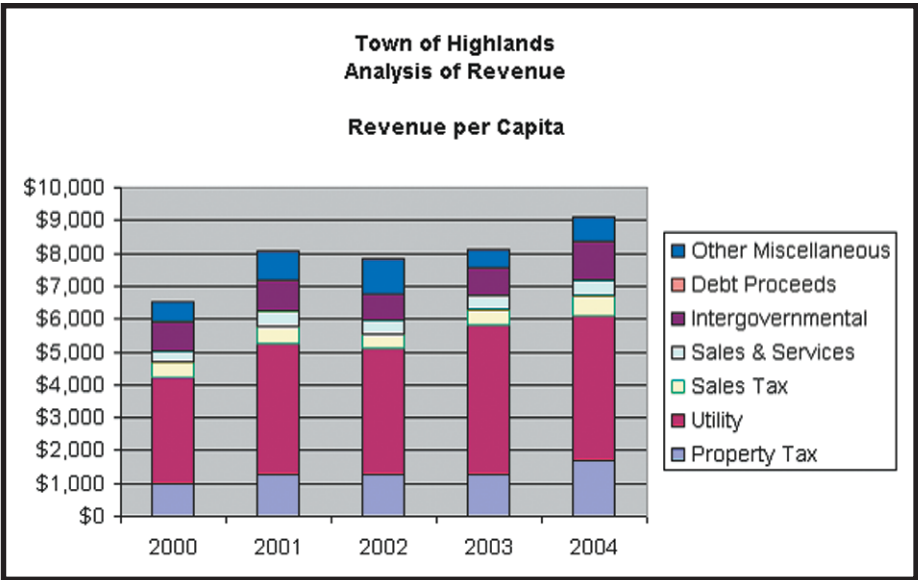
Thanks to Cashiers' Printing and Bryson's Food Store. Thanks to The Highlander, the Laurel, and the Highlands' Newspaper and to all table sponsors all of whom helped to defray the cost of the event.

Thanks to Peggy Stumpf and Mary Heffington who continue to volunteer their time to Literacy. Thanks

It is with the community's support that the Literacy Council is able to provide the services they offer to residents of our area at no charge!

Breta Stroud
Director of Highlands Literacy Council

... SALES TAX continued from page 1



Since 2002, the per capita sales and property tax revenue has been steadily climbing in Highlands.

Betz has reported sales tax revenue is up – way up in fact. As of last Wednesday, sales tax revenue clocked in at \$583,000.

"We budgeted \$500,000 for fiscal year 2004-2005," said Betz. "We have two months to go and we're already past that." The town receives its allotment from the county every month.

The State Department of Revenue levies a seven percent sales tax for Macon County and disbursement is based on the property tax collected. The Department of Revenue collects the tax and distributes it to the county which distributes it to the municipalities.

"Macon County gets 87.65 percent of the seven percent sales tax collected," said Evelyn Southhard Macon County's interim finance director. "The Town of Franklin gets 5.94 percent and the Town of Highlands gets 6.41 percent."

The sales tax for every non-food item in Macon County is 7 percent. The sales tax on general grocery items and baked goods is 2.5 percent.

Bill Bassham, director of Highlands Chamber of Commerce, said the accommodations people in town claim they aren't seeing a rise in "sales."

"It's not coming in on the accommodations side and that tells me that people are coming for the day and

spending, but not staying overnight," he said. "We're seeing a lot of time-share people coming up from the Cashiers-Sapphire and Toxaway area."

In fact, at the recent Chamber of Commerce retreat attendees learned developments in the Cashiers-Sapphire-Toxaway area are selling Highlands as an amenity to their projects. Bassham thought sales tax revenue was going to be down for 2004-2005 because of weather this past year. "Some months you would have thought would be great, like July, but the weather wasn't good. It rained almost every weekend, if I remember correctly. Then we got hit in the fall with hurricanes."

He said even without a scientific study "day-trippers" are clearly affecting business.

"Some of the area antique stores say some of their best customers are from the Greenville-Spartanburg area," said Bassham. "One good thing is except for parking needs, day-trippers don't stress the town's infrastructure."

What officials do know is several restaurants and businesses which traditionally close for a time after New Year's opened back up earlier than in years past.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Property Tax	\$990	1,273	1,258	1,290	1,687
Utility	3,250	3,980	3,838	4,540	4,435
Sales Tax	461	531	457	438	591
Sales & Services	320	437	409	463	456
Intergovernmental	888	940	819	836	1,165
Debt Proceeds	0	0	0	0	0
Other Misc.	633	901	1,075	568	776
Total	\$6,542	8,062	7,856	8,135	9,110

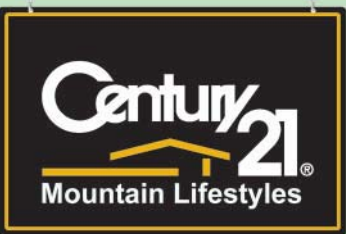
Town of Highlands revenue per capita since 2000.

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Saturday May 14 2005

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Reading Highlands' Newspaper

Here, I will lecture you on how to read this newspaper. I know, who am I to tell you how to read? But I'm not talking about just words here; I'm talking about how to read a newspaper and see what's really between the lines. Using my plan, you will find, hidden away, a multitude of tacky information and you know I am the czar of tacky information.



Fred Wooldridge

realize it had to be written. I prefer the word 'prophylactic' or something more suitable. It did get everyone's attention and by reading between the lines you can readily see that someone is about to get well, you know.

Moving on, you know that at least a dozen times a year Selwyn Chalker, El

Hefe at the Civic Center, has to pose for the paper holding a check he is either giving or receiving by the person standing next to him. All of this is fake. The picture of Selwyn was taken back in 1992 and through the use of new technologies we just insert the suitable person for the occasion. Selwyn never even has to get out of bed on cold mornings to make appearances and that suits him just fine.

Here's an easy read between the lines question. What does recreation and sewer water have in common? Everything, according to county commissioners who are willing to fork over \$500,000 for the Civic Center if we will forget about sewer money. Can you actually believe they said they were being stingy because the issue did not benefit Macon County taxpayers? Hello, last time I checked, Highlands were still county taxpayers. Maybe we shouldn't be.

You can see by reading between the lines that county commissioners consider Macon County residents as everyone except Highlands. That's the land where all the rich people live and they really don't want to give them "our" tax money.

What Highlands needs is an employee tax on folks who don't live in Highlands but come here everyday to make a living, use our sewer system, streets and other facilities, then drive back down the mountain without spending a cent. A small tax should be levied from their earnings to pay for upgrading the sewer system and other projects. That should get the county commissioners to read between the lines.

And don't you just love commissioner Amy Paterson, who reads between the lines real good. She is like a ninety pound Yorkie who will not turn loose of your pant leg.

Here is how it works. A couple weeks ago this paper featured a picture of our Mayor, Buck Trott (aka Trout). He's the one wearing the clean T shirt and beaming from ear to ear. On his head is a stupid, red dunce hat which clashes with his purple shirt, placed there by Dana Hamilton, the WNC American Cancer Society chairperson. Also in the picture was Pat Griffin, the funniest lady in Highlands. Unwrap the fish heads from your old paper and take a look, only this time, really look at it.

Are you now convinced that Buck will do anything to get his picture in the paper? Check out those rosy cheeks, that big smile and the hat. You can tell he just loves the hat....and his job. While Dana appears to be cheerful, she is, in fact, embarrassed to be seen by the whole town placing a stupid looking hat on the town mayor. Now take a look at Pat. Just as the picture was taken, she is telling a bystander, "I do not know this man."

I am not sure what they are holding, but it could be an extra large order of fried chicken with mashed potatoes. I did notice that neither Pat or Buck missed too many meals this past winter. Now that's what I mean about reading between the lines.

Later, Buck must have taken the hat, dyed it blue and given it to Highlands High School prom king, Tim Vos, also sporting rosy cheeks and a big smile. Buck told Tim that if he wore the hat all the time, he may just be the next mayor of Highlands, which includes being Santa Claus.

Appalling as it may seem, the headlines of that same paper read, "Nonconforming ordinance: Quite a conundrum." While I do not approve of such language for our newspaper, I

• MOVIE PIX •

Dancing at Lughnasa

The 1998 drama, starring Meryl Streep, Michael Gambon (Harry Potter, Life Aquatic), Catherine McCormack (Weight of Water), Darrell Johnston, Rhys Ifans (Danny Deckchair, Vanity Fair) and more. Directed by Pat O'Connor (Sweet November), adapted from the play by Brian Friel. Really wonderful music by Bill Whelan (Riverdance).



Stuart Armor
Movie Stop Video

drama, not overly sentimental, funny but not hilarious. The film is narrated by Gerard McSorey, speaking the part of the now grown and distant Michael, and it adds a neat quality to the story.

More good Irish drama can be found in Secret of Roan Inish, Magdalene Sisters, Butcher Boy, Circle of Friends and Commitments.

The Storyline: It's 1936, and in the rural town of Lughnasa (pronounced loo-na-sa, if you're interested), things don't change much, and they don't change quickly. Until now, and not just for the town, but also for the Mundy family. The five unmarried Mundy sisters and one young boy have led a fairly stable, if nearly impoverished life in rural Ireland for awhile now, under the somewhat benevolent despotism of elder sister Kit (Streep does her customarily fantastic job here), but in Europe, a war is about to break out, industrialization comes even to sleepy little Lughnasa, and schoolteacher Kit might lose her job as the parish population declines. This might sound like a little bit of a downer, but this quiet and touching story has a light tone, plenty of life and laughter, and really great acting by all involved. The return of the one Mundy brother complicates things, all the more so that the brother in question has been ministering to the pagans for 25 years and has turned into a bit of a pagan himself. Also arriving on the scene is the father of young Michael, come for a visit before going off to Spain to join the fight against Franco.

A Chick Flick more than anything else, but a well written and superbly acted story, with great cinematography. The tone and pace of the film are quite Irish (there are no specific words for Yes or No in Gaelic, and centuries of Irish and Scottish stories have been influenced by that, as well as centuries of Irish and Scottish speakers. Without Yes or No, they are a people that just don't know how to end a sentence.) The story is an autobiographical tale of Friel's early life, and it really is a good

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

MONSTER-IN-LAW
rated PG-13
Weekdays: (4:10), 7:10, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:10

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
rated R
Weekdays: (4), 7
Sat & Sun: (4), 7

THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY rated PG-13
Last show on Wed., May 18
Weekdays: (4:15), 7:15, 9:15
Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:15), 7:15, 9:15

STAR WARS: EPISODE III - REVENGE OF THE SITH rated PG-13
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Sat & Sun: (1), (4), 7, 10

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Highlands School teachers work in computer lab at Highlands School.

Library of Congress now a resource for teachers at HS

By Erin Brown
 highlandserin@aol.com

Doors opened wide and a whole new world of teaching resources became available to 15 Highlands School teachers through the Library of Congress and Western Carolina University's program "Adventures of the American Mind."

A joint project with WCU and the LOC, the classes are part of a workshop of the American memory project.

The purpose of the seminar is to acquaint teachers with the resources available from the LOC and how to incorporate the LOC's American Memory database in their classes. The teachers learned how to use the technology and digital archives in their classrooms and will mentor other teachers to instruct them on what they learned in the classes.

"I have learned how to use the Library of Congress as a resource in my classroom for tracing our country's history," said Fourth Grade Teacher Tracy Hedden. "The digital records are amazing, and they really allow us, teachers and students, to make a connection to our country's past."

Media Coordinator Carol Bowen initiated the workshop as a follow up to a focus group of media coordinators that she attended on Feb. 4 at Mars Hill College. It was there that she learned of the AAM project of the LOC and the resources available to students and teachers. The workshop includes 15 contact hours of class.

"It is really rather interesting because the whole thing was co-sponsored several years ago by Rep. Charles Taylor from the Western Carolina district to familiarize teachers with the resources, particularly the primary resources and images, many of which

have been digitized, of the Library of Congress," said Bowen.

The fascinating part about this entire project is the core of the partners are colleges and universities in Western North Carolina.

They explored the website and used the resources to create lesson plans relevant to each teacher's particular area or grade level. Particular attention was given to the section of the LOC that houses photographs from many historical and current events that have been digitized and can be downloaded. Each participant was given a Kodak digital camera to use to collect photographs to create their own digital essays and stories that can be used in classrooms.

"I will implement what I learned by using the digital camera to help 'tell stories' of my students and their families past," said Hedden. "I will also be able to use the camera as a tool to inspire creative writing."

In addition, the school was given a Kodak Easy Share Printer Dock Plus.

Bowen is now serving on the AAM School Librarians Advisory Committee. She will be attending a meeting in Asheville on Wednesday to discuss with other school librarians suggestions on content for future workshops.

The instructors were Dr. Beth Coulter, director and Chris Akers, digital preservation educator.

There are 15 participants including teachers and teacher assistants. They are Carol Bowen, Gail Garland, Carla Harris, Stephanie Smathers, Karen Hasbrouck, Donna Sizemore, Joy Archer, Judy Mouchet, Betty Baker, Anne Porter, Denise West, Michelle Lane,

■See **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS** page 9

Hospital health screening offers valuable service



For the fifth year in a row, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has offered citizens a chance at some free health care at its annual health screening. Held this year at the Jane Woodruff building at the hospital, people moved through eight stations to get weighed, their blood pressure taken, blood drawn for PSA, cholesterol and sugar, hearing tested, skin care information, bone density tests, food and nutritional information and even a three-minute chair massage. The tests save recipients about \$400. Screenings also take place in Cashiers, Scaly and Dillard, Ga.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

... FUND BALANCES continued from page 1

County Schools Dr. Rodney Shotwell said Macon County is no different than other school systems in the state. "I would dare say that all 115 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) have fund balances in their local budgets. It is there for emergencies that may occur during the year," he said. "Our undesignated fund balance is \$500,000 which is a little over one percent of our total budget."

He said it's true that school systems aren't required to have fund balances, but it represents good management to have something in reserve for unforeseen events.

"If you ask most people, they will tell you they try to have some savings for those unexpected bills that may come in during the month with their personal finances," said Shotwell.

He also said there are school districts smaller than Macon County with a couple of million in their undesignated fund balance.

"Macon County Schools has maintained a \$500,000 undesignated fund balance for many years," he said. "School systems can't raise revenue when a problem arises, and that is the main reason they have an undesignated

fund balance."

The Local Government Commission (LGC) which is regulated by the NC Treasurer's Office mandates counties and municipalities maintain a minimum eight percent fund balance. Highlands Town Administrator Richard Betz said that's been the town's practice for a long time.

"The (LGC) recommends eight percent as the bare minimum," said Betz. "In my opinion, it would be very unwise to allow fund balances to fall beneath this level. Our average fund balance last year - in the general, water, sewer, and electric funds - was 53 percent. We will be using much of that for the WWTP expansion this year, but fund balances will still remain considerably above the eight percent."

Macon County Manager Sam Greenwood said some years ago the board of commissioners approved a policy ensuring a fund balance of no less than 25 percent of the county budget.

Officials say the fact is healthy fund balances are good to have in case of emergencies.

"Thanks to the county's fund bal-

■ See FUND BALANCES page 18

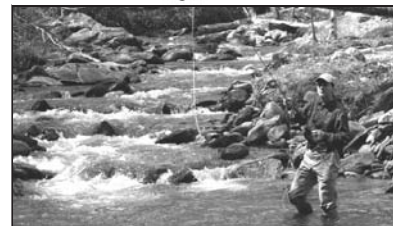
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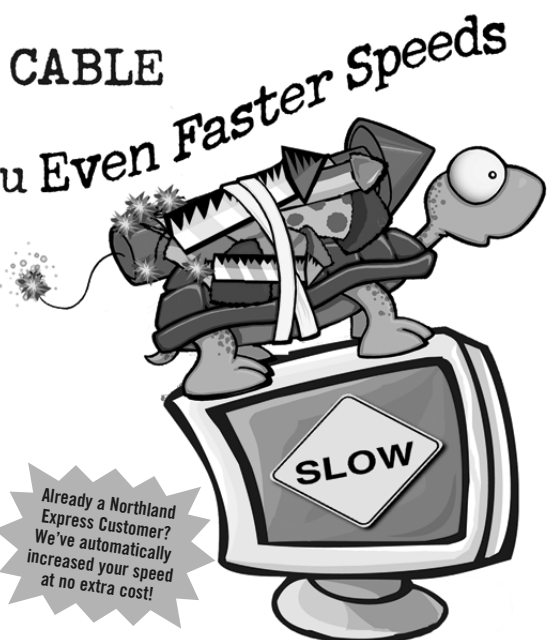
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Celebrating mothers with Muffin's for Mom



Photo by Jim Lewicki

Students in Mrs. McClellan's Kindergarten class invited their mothers to class for a "Mother's Day" breakfast Friday, May 6. The children painted poems on pillowcases for their mothers. Pictured are Emily and Danielle Mathis with their mother, Janice.

... MC SCHOOLS continued from page 1

of the "No Child Left Behind" legislation.

"Not only was Macon County one of the 18 who made the list, we're one of only two in the far west of the state who made it," said Tisdale. "Neighboring counties of Jackson and Swain didn't get it."

Educators across the country say the "No Child Left Behind Legislation" requires a teamwork approach to be successful. Administrators, teachers, parents and students must commit to reaching the goals that have been set, said Tisdale. "Despite this unfunded mandate, we proved we can do it and we did it," she said.

Macon County administrators say by achieving Annual Yearly Progress all children in the system have been given equal opportunity to reach their greatest potential. "Macon County stands out as one of the best counties in the

state for ensuring that "no child is left behind," said Tisdale.

"We are very proud of what we accomplished and what we continue to do to meet the needs of children," said Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell.

Recently, a school system in Oregon announced it would no longer follow the "No Child Left Behind" mandate.

"The biggest resentment about the legislation is that the federal government is creating a "one size fits all" model for every school and school district with no additional funding attached to the legislation," said Shotwell. "There is not an educator alive who does not agree with the intent of the law. We never want to leave any children behind, but in order to achieve that goal we need support from the federal government just like we receive from other funding sources."

Hospital looks for help for MRI

Now that state health officials have tentatively approved a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner for Highlands, hospital officials are hoping donors will step forward to help fund the \$2.5 project.

During the application process for the certificate of need (CON) required for the MRI, the hospital maintained it had the funding needed for the project, and officials say that's true. But that would mean dipping into the money in the hospital's endowment fund. "That is something we really don't want to do because it defeats the whole purpose of

the endowment," said hospital administrator Jim Graham.

During its \$22 million Challenge Campaign four years ago, the hospital's Foundation set aside \$12 million to create an endowment. Foundation President Jack Calloway says that endowment was designed to generate income that will help cover any losses from operations, and to fund new services and replace equipment when the need arises.

"It was not designed to fund projects of this magnitude. The endowment simply doesn't generate enough income

▪ See MRI page 12



Local author to sign latest book at Cyrano's

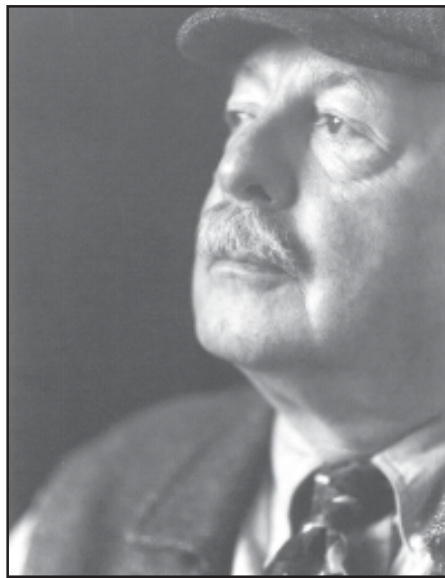
Jonathan Williams will sign copies of his latest book, *Jubilant Thicket: New & Selected Poems* (from Copper Canyon Press) on Saturday, May 14, from 1-3 p.m. at Cyrano's Bookshop. A publisher and photographer as well as a poet, Mr. Williams was born in Asheville in 1929 and is a long-time resident of Scaly Mountain. He attended Princeton and Black Mountain College and counts as his colleagues many of the great cultural figures of the 20th century.

He has run the Jargon Society, a writer's press, for more than 50 years: If you've heard of him for no other reason, Jonathan Williams was the impresario behind that runaway bestseller "White Trash Cooking" by Ernest Matthew Mickler. For that alone his place in the pop-cultural pantheon would be assured.

Mr. Williams's own work is approachable, funny, pointed, and often bawdy. Many of his poems are set here in the Southern Appalachians which, as his book makes clear, he much prefers to the city — as he prefers baseball to literary conferences. And though he's a world-class poet, he's the first one to prick his own pretensions, as this "meta-four" (each line has four words) called "Gary Carden Reports From the Coffeehouse in Sylva" shows:

whatzit you readin' carden
jonathan williams izat the
funny feller you must
be thinking of winters
hell yes down to
20 degrees this morning

The poet's muses range from Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams to Mahler, William Bartram, Stan Musial . . . and more familiar folk and places. In "Three Sayings From Highlands, North Carolina" he offers the wisdom of Doris Talley, Housewife & Gardener: "but pretty though as/ roses is/ you can put up with/ the thorns" and Sam



Jonathan Williams

Creswell, My Auto Mechanic: "your points is blue/ and your timing's/ a week off."

In "Five Trail-Shelters From the Big Pigeon to the Little Tennessee" the reader accompanies Mr. Williams as he hikes to Siler's Bald and Tri-Corner Knob: "here the shelter's/ in a stand of/ red spruce and balsam fir/ for dinner: lamb's-quarters,/ cress from the streams/ on Mt. Guyot,/ wood sorrel, and/ cold argentine beef, chased with/ tangerine kool-aid."

In another poem the speaker asks:

"what do you do
anything for?
You do it
For what the mediaevals would call
Something like
The *Glory of God*
doing it for money,
that doesn't do it;
doing it for vanity,
that doesn't do it;
. . . whether it is a stone next to a

stone
or a word next to a word,
it is the *glory*—
the simple craft of it . . ."

Like the folk art he collects (and exhibited last spring at the Bascom-Louise Gallery), Jonathan Williams is a craftsman and true Highlands original, appreciated by those who will take the time and look.

... LIBRARY OF CONGRESS cont. from page 6

Jane Chalker, Melanie Miller, and Tracy Hedden.

Several NC colleges and universities are partners in the AAM project.


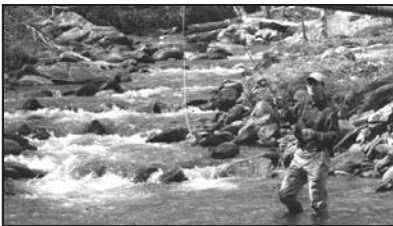
The last LOC class was in 2002 and several teachers received laptop computers which enhanced their archival studies.

To learn more about the project,

visit these websites: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/about/index.html> and <http://www.mountainx.com/news/1999/1013notepad.php>

Also, if anyone wants to go to the LOC website and explore the American Memory Project, this is the website <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/>.

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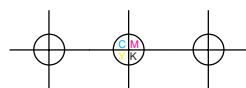
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• BOOK REVIEW WITH KATIE BRUGGER •

Gilead, by Marilynne Robinson, (F Robinson)

Gilead is the book you'll wish your father (or mother) wrote to you.

This lovely moving novel is a long letter written by a father who knows he is dying to his son. The man started his family late: he is 76 and his son is just seven. I'm not giving anything away here—you find this out in the first few pages. The father is a minister—and the son and grandson of ministers—and he pours out his heart and soul in this love letter he intends to be read by his son many years in the future. This book is written by a woman, I'm not sure why she chose to speak in a man's voice but it seems very authentic.

The book mixes reminiscences of the father's life, his insights about life,

and honest accounts of his current struggles (primarily fear for his wife and child's future).

Many, many places in the book he describes the preciousness and beauty of existence, of all of life, as only someone who is dying can see it. Someone I know was diagnosed with cancer and his description of the experience was that life went from black-and-white to color. We overlook so much of life, we take so much for granted, because we are too busy getting through the days.

I just watched the movie "Peggy Sue Got Married," in which a woman travels back 25 years in time to the year she was 18 (1960). Her first reaction was to treasure the experience of all the things she took for granted when she was really

18: her parents, her sister, her grandmother's voice on the phone, her room, cars with tailfins. In fact she scared her family with the intensity of the love she expressed.

The father in *Gilead* writes, "I'm trying to make the best of our situation. That is, I'm trying to tell you things I might never have thought to tell you, if I had brought you up myself in the usual companionable way. When things are taking their ordinary course, it is hard to remember what matters. There are so many things you would never think to tell anyone. And I believe they may be the things that mean most to you, and that even your own child would have to know in order to know you well at all."

This passage brings tears to my eye

every time I read it. I think this is what causes us so much pain in life—we cannot communicate with each other and so we remain strangers even to our closest loved ones. Thomas Wolfe wrote about this perhaps better than anyone, in *Look Homeward Angel*:

...a stone, a leaf, an unfound door; of a stone, a leaf, a door. And of all the forgotten faces.

Naked and alone we came into exile. In her dark womb we did not know our mother's face; from the prison of her flesh have we come into the unspeakable and incommunicable prison of this earth. Which of us has known his brother? Which of us has looked into his father's heart? Which of us has not remained forever prison-pent? Which of us is not forever a stranger and alone?

O waste of loss, in the hot mazes, lost, among bright stars on this most weary unbright cinder, lost! Remembering speechlessly we seek the great forgotten language, the lost lane-end into heaven, a stone, a leaf, an unfound door. Where? When?

O lost, and by the wind grieved, ghost, come back again.

I was not surprised when I heard that *Gilead* had won the Pulitzer Prize because there is so much wisdom in this comparatively slim volume. For example, these two lines: "Misfortune is not only misfortune..." "Good fortune is not only good fortune..." These were quite far apart in the text but both caught my eye because I think there is great power in knowing this.

There is also a sweetness to the writing that touched me again and again. Take this passage for example: "There is a reality in blessing, which I take baptism to be, primarily. It doesn't enhance sacredness, but it acknowledges it, and there is a power in that. I have felt it pass through me, so to speak. The sensation is of really knowing a creature; I mean really feeling its mysterious life and your own mysterious life at the same time. I don't wish to be urging the ministry on you but there are some advantages to it you might not know to take account of if I did not point them out. Not that you have to be a minister to confer blessing. You are simply much more likely to find yourself in that position." (He uses "it" and "creature"

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■ See BOOK REVIEW page 17



Ancient Christianity revealed in Lalibela, Ethiopia

Doris Picklesimer

Contributor

A number of years ago while visiting in England, my mother-in-law, a Methodist minister's daughter, went into a shop selling religious antiques. She thought perhaps to purchase something pertaining to Methodist history in England to present to Winthrop College, her alma mater. "I'm sorry," she was told. "We don't deal in those recent religions."

While recently touring the rock churches of Lalibela, Ethiopia, it was certainly brought home to me that their Christianity had ancient roots. If these churches were better known they would surely classify as "Wonders of the World."

The Christian church in Ethiopia traces its origins to King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba and their son, Menelik, who was the first king of Ethiopia. Menelik is also credited with bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Ethiopia that the Ethiopians say today rests in a church in Axum.

In this legend, one of the Queen of Sheba maids also gave birth to a son by King Solomon resulting in the beginning of the Zagwe dynasty. This dynasty came to power in the eleventh century. Lalibela was one of the last kings of the Zagwe dynasty ruling around 1200 A.D. It was Lalibela who gathered the craftsmen needed to complete his vision of these rock churches. He has also given his name to today's town.

Lalibela is located in northern Ethiopia in the Lasta Mountains. When I visited, the fields in the valleys were lushly green with onions and potatoes. The rugged, as well as rolling, surrounding mountains were also verdant with trees and bushes accented with views of golden soil. It is a sleepy town of about 9,000 people who work in the fields, amble its rocky roads, or pray in its rock churches. It got electricity fairly recently and still has no bank. Yet it has become a religious center of pilgrimage for those people to whom it is an important and vital site. It is not a place where religious ceremonies are ruled by a need to impress the few tourists who make their way here, but by impassioned

belief.

Visiting Lalibela today is not as difficult as it was just a few years ago. There are now regular flights to its modern airport located 20 miles from town. Once you leave the only paved road from the airport as you approach the town, getting around even in four-wheel drive vehicles is still a very bumpy proposition.

There are three separate areas of

high.

It is difficult to fully describe these churches since all are unique and different. There are faded and bright frescoes of the saints, religious carvings, ornately carved blind windows, carpets on the floor, and usually an ornate curtain covering the Holy of Holies, with its tradition of only being entered by the priest. Each church has its own priest as

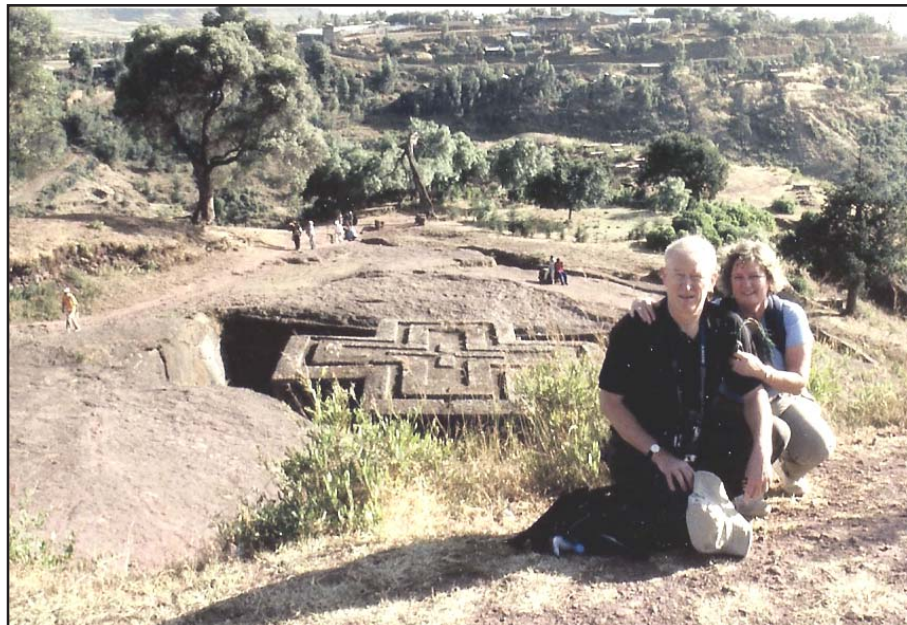
arms, or the more familiar to us, Latin cross. However, the basic crosses have been totally embellished into many elaborate designs incorporating such things as birds, circles, human figures, indentations, engraving, and cutouts. All represent Biblical symbolism. The priests at all ceremonies carry these crosses atop poles.

All the churches are unparalleled, but my favorite is Bet Georges, The Church of St. George, the patron saint of Ethiopia. A bit apart from the other churches, it is set in a deep excavation. It is 45 feet tall. Easily recognized by its shape, a Greek cross with equal arms with three inscribed Greek crosses, one inside the other, on its roof. It is the most famous and most photographed of the rock churches.

Legend says that St. George in full battle armor approached Lalibela and reproached him for not building a church dedicated to St. George. Lalibela said he would build the most beautiful church for him. It is said that St. George not only supervised the building of the church, but also enthusiastically approved it. It is reached by a steep downward trench between the surrounding walls and the church itself. The interior walls have horizontal bands of moldings that correspond to like bands on the exterior walls. Inside there are also pilasters and arches. It is lovely in its simplicity.

To visit Lalibela, especially while a service is being held, is to feel that you have been transported to a much earlier time and peaceful place. The white-shrouded pilgrims and the holy men and nuns who reside in what were tombs carved into the walls surrounding and hiding these marvels of building expertise all give an other-worldly aura to the already mystical atmosphere.

Most Ethiopians live in close harmony with their faith undistracted by the externals of the outside world. Their religion is alive, part of their everyday life; a life lived at a very basic level, but one of acceptance and peace. The amazing rock churches of Lalibela are an earthly representation of that faith.



Travel writer Doris Picklesimer with her husband in front of a rock church in Lalibela, Ethiopia.

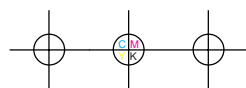
churches, in which approximately 24 churches are the most important. Two sites are divided by the Jordan River and one group is outside the town. These rock churches are not visible as one approaches the village. They are unique in that they have not just had their interiors carved from the rock, but the entire church has been freed completely from the surrounding rock creating large courtyards and walkways connecting them around the churches. There are also underground tunnels connecting all the rock churches. The churches are decorated with pilasters, columns, religious carvings, arches, decorative windows, and in some cases have been carved to appear as if built from large building blocks.

These rock churches are also very big. The largest is Bet Medhane Alem (Church of the Redeemer of the World) at approximately 100 feet by 70 feet and some are over 30 feet

well as its own specific metal cross. In the altar in each sanctuary, is the *tabot*, a slab of wood or stone that is a copy of the Tablets of the Law of the Ark of the Covenant. It will also have a painting or engraving of the church's patron saint. When there is a religious ceremony or procession, the priest will carry the *tabot*, covered by a decorated cloth, on his head.

These churches are such an unbelievable spectacle that there are many legends as to how they were actually constructed including with the help of angels or the Knights Templar. Even with the heavy rains of the rainy season, the churches are constructed with drainage systems that seem built with unprecedented skill for that time and are protected from the worst of the deluges.

Each church as well as having its own saint also has its own specifically designed cross. They are of two basic types, the Greek cross, or Cross of St. John, with its equal



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Race director Richard Betz, clocks in the first runner over the finish line at this year's 5K race. Sixty-three runners registered, and 60 finished – 44 men and 16 women. It was a beautiful day, and the overall winner set a new course record! The Masters winner was Reid Vannoy.

Saturday's 5K Race results

1. Bill Baldwin	32	30-34	16:25	31. Barney Vermillion	56	55-59	26:37
2. Coates Kennerly	32	30-34	17:12	32. Tommy Chisholm	64	60-64	26:46
3. Calvin Smith	15	15-19	18:21	33. Lori Bristle	39	35-39	27:13
4. Gordon Murray	38	35-39	19:03	34. Jim Askew	69	65-69	27:22
5. Reid Vannoy	47	45-49	19:18	35. Dennis DeWolf	30	30-34	27:34
6. Dale Parfitt	56	55-59	19:18	36. Jenny Tomkinson	16	15-19	27:53
7. Gary Ball	36	35-39	19:37	37. Garth Barrows	65	65-69	28:22
8. Jeff Tomkinson	17	15-19	20:30	38. Vicki Heller	53	50-54	28:41
9. Kase McKim	16	15-19	21:15	39. Charles Juengling	63	60-64	28:41
10. Jackie Witherspoon	36	35-39	21:32	40. Banny Lesesne	58	55-59	28:42
11. Steve Hott	44	40-44	22:02	41. Hank Ross	50	50-54	29:01
12. Dietrich Fabricius	54	50-54	22:13	42. Marc Worth	46	45-49	29:18
13. T. J. Bristle	28	25-29	22:14	43. Richard DeCourcy	66	65-69	29:31
14. Enrique Puertos	41	40-44	22:21	44. Joey Vannoy	12	14 & Under	30:40
15. Bill Riecke	71	70 & Over	22:35	45. Faviola Olvera	23	20-24	30:59
16. Ed Green	56	55-59	23:09	46. Karen Hawk	51	50-54	31:01
17. Jordan Abrams	22	20-24	23:18	47. Don Paulk	73	70 & Over	32:26
18. Skip Taylor	52	50-54	23:48	48. Dan Fields	70	70 & Over	32:36
19. Fred Motz	66	65-69	24:02	49. John Green	39	35-39	32:46
20. Randy Henning	49	45-49	24:12	50. Jack Pietri	67	65-59	33:01
21. Matthew Worth	15	15-19	24:32	51. Michelle Hott	39	35-39	33:23
22. Patty Campbell	50	50-54	24:59	52. Wayne Boston	60	60-64	34:10
23. Tim Murray	66	65-69	25:13	53. Molly McKim	28	25-29	34:56
24. John Bryant	60	60-64	25:13	54. Millie McKim	21	20-24	35:15
25. Art Heller	58	55-59	25:19	55. Luther Turner	75	70 & Over	35:36
26. Bartley Williams	26	25-29	26:09	56. Jenn Creswell	34	30-34	36:13
27. Christine Flaschne	46	45-49	26:15	57. Wayne Urban	62	60-64	36:37
28. Glenda Bell	63	60-64	26:19	58. Allison Worth	17	15-19	44:31
29. DeWayne Morris	74	70 & Over	26:29	59. Jo Morris	70	70 & Over	53:10
30. Richard Tankersley	69	65-69	26:36	60. Helen Tankersley	58	55-59	53:11

... MRI continued from page 8

at this point to repay the debt that would be incurred if the hospital had to borrow the money required to purchase and install an MRI unit," said Calloway. "We could use principal from the endowment, but that would significantly reduce the earning potential of the endowment in the years to come. We would be robbing Peter to pay Paul, as the saying goes."

In establishing the endowment, members of the hospital's Foundation Board of Trustees called its establishment "absolutely vital" to help ensure the hospital's financial future.

Calloway said the hospital relies on the generosity of donors who understand the importance of having state-of-the-art medical equipment.



• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Cupcakes and Root Beer

By Julie A. Manhan

There once was a little boy who wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with cupcakes, several cans of root beer and started on his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he saw an elderly woman. She was sitting on a park bench watching the pigeons. The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed the lady looked hungry so he offered her a cupcake. She gratefully accepted and smiled at him.

Her smile was so wonderful that he wanted to see it again, so he offered a root beer as well. Once again she smiled at him. The boy was delighted!

They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling without saying a word.

As it began to grow dark, the boy realized how tired he was and wanted to go home. He got up to leave but before he had gone no more than a few steps, he turned around and ran back to the old woman, giving her a big hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever.

When the boy arrived home his Mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked, "What has made you so happy today?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." Before his mother could respond he added, "You know what? She's got the most beautiful smile in the whole world!"

Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face. He asked, "Mother, what has made you so happy today?" She replied, "I ate cupcakes in the park with God." And before her son could reply, she added, "You know, he is much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring; all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Take no one for granted and embrace all equally with joy!

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Wayah Insurance becomes partner

Wayah Insurance Group is not a franchise partner of Keystone Insurers Group, one of the nation's largest independent agency operations. This union, which involves no change in ownership or personnel, permits Wayah to expand its opportunities and to provide the region's residents and business owners more choices.

• PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

Sunday night services every second and fourth Sunday at 7

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, Georgia

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

Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

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

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Tuesday Noon Bible Study: noon Parish House

Pot Luck Dinner: Last Sunday of the Month.

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Pastor Everett Wilson, (828) 743-3379

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

Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service – 7 p.m.

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6 p.m., "The Rock" for highschoolers

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study

Wed: 5:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting; 6:15 p.m. Supper;

7 p.m. Teaching

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968

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

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

Children's Chapel – 10:30 a.m.;

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

Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8

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

p.m.; Supper & Program – 6 p.m.

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.

Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

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

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

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

Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

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

Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.

Thursdays: Bible Study – 10 a.m.

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

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376

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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

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Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130

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

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

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(706)-745-1842.

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Rev. William M Evans, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

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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

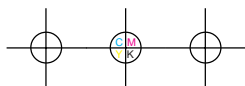
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby

Sundays: Fellowship & Worship – 11

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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



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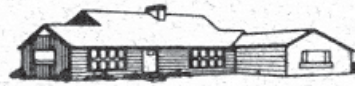
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• HIGHLANDS UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

May 12

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

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

- League of Women Voters of MC are hosting a program on evaluating the health of area streams and rivers at noon at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church of Franklin. Call 524-5192 for info.

May 13

- Live music at Buck's Coffee Cafe, 8-11 p.m. Mr. Billy - acoustical and instrumental blues.

- Live music at the Pizza Place - Bo Jam, 6-10 p.m.

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese on Falls on Main, Join Deborah Gray of Australian Domain Importers for a special flight of great Aussie wines.

May 14

- Elementary teachers at Highlands School will be doing a car wash on Saturday at First Citizens Bank from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Benefits from the car wash will go to help send Mr. Thomas, our Assistant Principal, to our sister school in Cange, Haiti.

- Live music at Buck's Coffee Cafe, 8-11 p.m. Gary Wydell & Curtis Blackwell - old-fashioned country and bluegrass.

- Spaghetti Dinner Benefit for Jackie Smith at Iotla School, Saturday, 4-8 p.m.. Adults \$5, under six, \$3. Come for fun, music, bake sale, and a raffle all for a good cause.

- Jonathan Williams will sign copies of his latest book, *Jubilant Thicket: New & Selected Poems* (from Copper Canyon Press) from 1 to 3 p.m. at Cyrano's Bookshop

- Live Music at the Pizza Place - Bo Jam, 6-10 p.m.

- The Highlands Chamber of Commerce and the USFS are sponsoring the semi-annual Cullasaja Gorge

Road Clean-Up beginning at 9 a.m. Participants are to gather at the Cliffside Lake Picnic Shelter where safety vests, gloves and bags will be provided. Everyone receives a T-shirt and a picnic lunch. For more, call 526-2112.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike along the Art Loeb and Graveyard Ridge trails, with 360 degree views from the ridge. This area is accessed from the Balsam parking lot on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (across from Burger King) at 9 a.m. Reservations are required. Call leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265.

May 14-June 16

- The Bascom-Louise Collection will be in the gallery in the Hudson Library.

May 15

- Live Music at the Pizza Place - Bo Jam, 6-10 p.m.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 2-mile hike on the Jack Mountain loop trail at Lake Chatuge in Georgia. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (across from Burger King) at 2 p.m. Reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820.

- Community Bible Church will be hosting a Benefit Concert, in our Sanctuary at 2 p.m., for Roger and Abi Lowther. Roger is an accomplished organist with a degree from Julliard and his wife Abi is a concert pianist. They are going to Japan with Mission to the World, and have been traveling all over the US to raise support for their upcoming mission. A love offering to aid in their support will be accepted.

May 16

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

- Highlands School Athletic Cookout at the Rec Park, at 6 p.m. This event is for athletes and their parents.

- In appreciation of all the hard work of the volunteers. The Highlands School PTO will be having a breakfast on Monday from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. in the Highlands School cafeteria. Any person who has volunteered their time this school year is invited to attend.

May 17

- Highlands Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting is 5:30 p.m. at the Conference Center. Chamber Board meetings are the third Tuesday of each month.

May 19

- InterChurch Pot Luck Supper at Our Lady of the Mountains Church at 6 p.m. For more info, call Pat Griffin at 526-2418.

May 20

- Highlands School Academic Banquet at the Conference Center. 6 p.m.

- Vocal Instrumentalist Genevieve Schiele at The Pizza Place, 6-10 p.m. Ranges from classical to contemporary

May 21

- Mirror Lake Improvement Association litter pick-up, 9 a.m. from Thorn Park.

- Auditions for The Highlands Playhouse production "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" are set for May 21 from 3-5 p.m. at the playhouse.

- Birdathon, a day of counting birds to raise funds for Audubon programs. For information contact Mary Jo Askew, 526-1750. Threeteams are seeking your support.

- The 28th Annual Bartram Day commemorates William Bartram's journey through the Cherokee town of Nikwasi, present day Franklin, 230 years ago will be celebrated at Tartan Hall in the First Presbyterian Church of Franklin. Speakers and hikes are planned. Call Dan Pittillo at 828-293-9661.

- Georgia ForestWatch is sponsoring a native plant sale and wine tasting at the Tiger Mountain Vineyards, Tiger, Ga., 4:30-7 p.m. The public is invited to attend this annual benefit (\$20 per person minimum voluntary

contribution), which serves as the organization's key fundraiser for the year. contact James Leitess at 706/635-8733 or at info@gafw.org.

May 21 & May 22

- The Bel Canto Children's Choir and Youth Chorus of Franklin's spring show, "Moments of Magic - An Evening of Theater Music," is loaded with music and dance to delight both children and adults. Two performances are scheduled for both at the Rearden Theater - located on the campus of the Rabun Gap Nachoochee School. Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:20 p.m.

May 23

- Chamber of Commerce sponsors Customer Service Seminar and Concierge 01. Call 526-2112.

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

- Annual Spring Town Cleanup the week of May 23 Residents may arrange for the collection of white goods, such as old washing machines or refrigerators, during that week by calling the Town Office at 526-2118 during business hours, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

May 24

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

- Audubon Birdwalk, Franklin Greenway for migrants and lowland birds. Meet at the Highlands Town Hall Parking lot at 7:30 a.m. to car pool. Contact Edwin Poole, 526-2775.

May 26

- The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will kick off its 2005 season on Thursday at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Library. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and the speaker is Roger Lowe, professional guide, tyer and owner of Lowe's Fly Shop in Waynesville. Roger will discuss "Nymphing Strategies in Mountain Streams." A raffle will follow the presentation. New members are welcome! Call Giff Hampton at 743-2078 with any questions.

May 27-30

- Memorial Weekend at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Centers will be a time for honoring and remembrance, celebrating and peacemaking with inspiring programs and activities. Special youth program Saturday morning. To register call 828 526-5838, ext 203 or e-mail us at info@mountaincenters.org.

May 28

- Live Music at the Pizza Place - Bo Jam, 6-10 p.m.

May 29

- Live Music at the Pizza Place - Bo Jam, 6-10 p.m.

May 30

- Live Music at the Pizza Place - Bo Jam, 6-10 p.m.

June 3

- Highlands School Scholarship Assembly for Seniors in the old gym at the school at 10 a.m.

- June 3-4, 12th Annual Audubon North Carolina meeting in Asheville. For information check the web at www.ncaudubon.org.

June 4

- Highlands School Graduation at Rec Park at 7 p.m.
- Get Ready for the "Beetle Ball," at the Highlands Conference Center. It will be a great party with live music, food, games, silent auctions and fun galore—all for a good cause—to save the hemlocks. Sponsors of the event include Cyprus, Highlands Wine & Cheese, The Summer House, and Signature Properties. For Beetle Ball tickets call JMCA at 526-9938 ext. 320.

June 6-10

- Magician Shaun Moss will teach a one week Magic Class for junior and senior high school students. The cost is \$150 per student which includes all supplies. Scholarships available. Call (828) 526-1687.



• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

SPORTS PAGE



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POLICE REPORT

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of May 5-11. The only names printed are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

May 5

- At 2:45 p.m., officers responded to an accident in the Peggy Crosby Center parking lot. There were no injuries.

- At 9:04 a.m., a mother called police about a juvenile leaving home without permission.

- 10:28 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at Highland Hiker. All was secure.

May 6

- At 1:24 a.m., officers on patrol found an open door at Highlands School. All was secure..

- At 7:55 a.m., a motorist at Webbmont and U.S. 64 west was cited for driving without a license.

- At 3 p.m., a resident of VZ-Top returned for the season to find several items gone from his home. Two ladies claiming to be a cleaning crew were the last seen on the premises during the off-season. Police are investigating.

May 7

- At 9:30 p.m., a motorist was cited for driving with an open container of an alcoholic beverage at N.C. 28 and Satulah.

- At 11:30 p.m., Michael Brandon Case, 20, of Dunwoody, Ga., was arrested for DWI at N.C. 28 and Satulah.

May 8

- At 2:30 p.m., officers assisted a motorist whose car got stuck in a ditch on N.C. 28..

May 9

- At 4:15 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Highland Hiker activated by a flying squirrel caught in the building.

- At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road. All was secure..

- At 1:40 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road. All was secure.

May 10

- At 7:30 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 41 mph in a 25 zone at N. 4th and Laurel streets.

... BOOK REVIEW continued from page 10

because he began this discussion by telling how he baptized cats as a boy.) I have never heard anyone speak of the pleasures of being a minister in quite this way before and it is beautiful.

The book also refers (a little too obliquely—I needed a little more background) to the abolitionist struggles in Kansas in the decades prior to the Civil War. People on both sides of the slavery dispute moved to Kansas

before it became a state either to prevent or force slavery in Kansas, and the resulting clash was extremely violent. Among the people who had come to Kansas to prevent slavery was the man's grandfather, and the book raised the question: what is the ethics of that kind of struggle? If you are a religious person, is it wrong to use violence in a cause that is just? There is never a resolution of this question; rather a broadening of

compassion to understand that someone who is deeply religious can still be driven to violence.

Gilead also poignantly brought the struggle for racial equality forward 100 years (the book was set in the mid-1950s) quietly making the point of how long the struggle has had to go on in this country.

I would recommend this book to everyone and I am grateful to the friend who suggested it to me.



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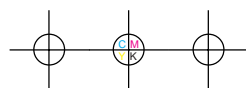
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Opening night a success for HCP



Cast members clockwise: David Spivey, Millie McKim, Stuart Armor, Ian Holloway, Josh Gordon, Jason Moore, Carlos Green, Kayla Bott, Callie Rawlins, Leon Hananel and Erin Brown mingled with the audience at the opening night party of "The Diary of Anne Frank." Don Leon's catered the affair. Not pictured are: Jean Morris and Director and Jim Gordon. See story on page 20.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

... COMMITTEE continued from page 1

Willet said the plan may need a little more reshaping which could take some time.

"You've created a very ambitious piece of work," Willett said. "You should be proud of your final product."

Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein said he would like to have a zoning map with all of Highlands' zoning districts and the final land use plan printed on the back to hand out to the public.

Willet said he would discourage a formal hearing with Town Board members and private citizens because it limits the amount of feedback received.

"We want input and that type of environment just doesn't encourage people to talk and share their ideas," he said.

The final vision statement for the committee states: We envision an attractive mountain community, whose future is guided by the beauty of the

plateau's environment, the uniqueness of Highlands' village character, and the richness of the area's culture and history.

The plan includes bold ideas such as ETJ, annexation, an expanded subdivision ordinance, a residential tree ordinance and a suggested one-acre minimum lot size.

Overbuilding on lots has been a problem the committee wants to see corrected, and they maintain even developers are taking into account the need for a minimum lot size.

"You have to think about the price because then you more than double it," said Chairman John Cleaveland. "The more restrictive, the more expensive and the people who've lived here all their lives are priced off the mountain."

The committee stipulated that the plan, which is updated every five years, be revisited annually.

... FUND BALANCES continued from page 7

ance, when Ivan hit, we were able to pay all costs up front," said Southard. "It's a good thing, too, because as of right now we've only received one check from FEMA."

The Macon County budget for 2005-2006 will be submitted to the board of commissioners at its continu-

ation meeting, May 23 at 6 p.m. After submission, a copy will be available for public inspection at the receptionist desk at the Macon County Courthouse Annex Building in Franklin. Copies are also available on file at the Hudson Library, the Macon County Public Library and the Nantahala Library.

Differentiated instruction to be used in classes next year

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

To prepare for changes at school next year, several teachers and Highlands School Principal Monica Bomengen attended a two-day conference in Atlanta last week on differentiated instruction.

Differentiated instruction is a method of teaching where all students are taught together in the same class regardless of learning level.

"We want to stop using 'pull-out' instruction as a first resort and instead make it a last resort," said Bomengen. "The research on best practices in teaching is clear that students learn best when they are integrated into the regular classroom with their peers, whether they are academically ahead of or behind the majority of the class."

Bomengen said the purpose of the conference was to demonstrate to teachers K-12 what differentiated instruction looks like in a classroom.

Sixth Grade Teacher Janet Osteen said, "We always have a multitude of levels in our classrooms and adapt to the groups each year, as necessary. As educators, we are always looking for ways to improve our teaching and our ability to reach students."

Middle School Social Studies Teacher Steve Massey said he thinks it will be tough for him at first, but one of the good things about trying a new teaching technique is learning new things from the students.

"There's an axiom familiarity breeds contempt and I think you can apply that to using the same old methods," said Massey.

Osteen said the speaker modeled techniques as the seminar sessions were presented and described the different ways students learn: verbal/linguistic, visual/spatial, logical/mathematical, musical/rhythmic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, bodily/kinesthetic, naturalist/physical world, and existential.

Osteen said she particularly appreciated the emphasis put on the responsibility of teachers to think outside the box.

"To reach all learners, we, as teachers, needed to reach outside of our comfort zone, to teach in ways that wouldn't be our norm," Osteen said. "So, I know I'll be making plans to include differentiated lessons like educational songs, drawing or making graphs and charts, small group projects and hands-on projects which include movement."

Another point that was covered in

the seminar was Bloom's Taxonomy of Learning. Bloom developed six different levels of questioning, each more advanced than the one before. According to Osteen, studies show that many teachers never advance beyond the first or second level of questioning.

"To really get a student's brain whirling, you have to get them thinking beyond just recall of facts," Osteen said. "I plan to post Bloom's Taxonomy on my wall and make a serious effort to push up into the higher levels."

Differentiated instruction has also been written into the school's improvement plan which is to be implemented next year.

"I have used differentiated instruction for years," said Bomengen. "However, most teachers do not use it anywhere to its fullest extent. I believe that if they can SEE it done, then they are much more likely to use it."

This staff development seminar was a way to directly support teachers' efforts to begin working toward this goal.

Regarding differentiated instruction the school improvement plan states it will "establish a program of differentiated instruction that supports all students, whether academically and intellectually gifted, in the mainstream, learning the English language, and/or identified with exceptional needs, primarily within the regular education classroom."

Teachers are excited about commencing the new process and seeing how the students respond to the technique.

"I'm actually tinkering with an entire new seating arrangement based on what I saw and heard," said Massey. "I'm hoping to get the kids more involved next year."

"I also believe that any staff development that is important enough for my teachers, I should attend with them," said Bomengen. "I will be teaching AP Language and Composition next year, so I will be 'practicing what I preach.' I wanted to go to the seminar to refresh my skills and to show my teachers how much I value their professional learning."

Teachers who attended, Monica Bomengen, high school English; Carla Harris, third grade; Denise West, fourth grade; Sara Mayer, sixth-grade language arts and social studies; Janet Osteen, sixth-grade math and science; Steve Massey, middle school social studies; Elizabeth Woods, middle school math.

The trip was partially funded by a grant from the H.E.L.P. Committee.



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The Community Players

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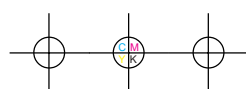
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HCP's 'Anne Frank' is a must see

By Kim Lewicki

Just because you know the story of Anne Frank and her family, doesn't mean you shouldn't go see the Highlands Community Players rendition of the famous modern classic this weekend.

Yes, it's a sad story, and yes, it's been told a many times. But as Director Jim Gordon tells the audience prior to the show, it's a story that needs to be told a million times, so we always remember how evil and cruel members of the human race can be to each other.

Happily, Anne's wish to be famous – either a writer or actress – came true. Her diary lived on to tell her story, endearing her to the world forever.

Kayla Bott, is exceptional as 13-year-old Anne in HCP's version of this story. She perfectly depicts the idiosyncrasies of an adolescent girl living in her own world and the cramped surroundings of the annex.

She is supported by a great cast of HCP players — David Spivey who plays Mr. Frank, Anne's doting father; Millie McKim who portrays Mrs. Frank, Anne's patient, loving mother and Callie Rawlins who plays Margo, Anne's older sister. Rawlins conveys the wisdom of an older sister who acts as the go-between for Anne and her mother, the recipient of Anne's adolescent lashing.

The mercurial Van Daan family is portrayed by Leon Hananel as Mr. Van Daan, Jean Morris, as Mrs.

Van Daan and Ian Holloway as their son, 16-year-old Peter — Anne's love interest. Holloway portrays awkward Peter perfectly, who like any teenage boy takes his time warming up to Anne's advances but eventually succumbs.

Stuart Armor does well as Mr. Dussel, the cranky, dentist who must endure Anne's pubescent behavior in particularly close quarters. Both Carlos Green who plays Mr. Kraler, the factory owner, and Erin Brown who portrays his assistant, Miep do a great job as purveyors of supplies and news of the outside world.

The Highlands Community Players don't usually do dramatic pieces, but they've proven they can do it all and do it well. What's fun is watching people we know in the community and noticing, more often than not, that the roles they play so well are simply renditions of themselves.

Support Highlands community theatre. Go see "The Diary of Anne Frank" this weekend.

Tickets are \$15 each, \$8 for students and \$12 for groups of 15 or more. The show runs May 14 and 15. Show times are 8 p.m. on Saturday with a 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinee.

Reservations can be made anytime by calling 828-526-8084. The HCP box office is open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. everyday except Sundays when it opens at 1 p.m. The box office is located at the Martin-Lipscomb Perform-



Anne Frank (Kayla Bott) and Peter Van Daan (Ian Holloway) get acquainted during "The Diary of Anne Frank" presented by the Highlands Community Players, Saturday, May 14 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 15 at 2:30 p.m. For tickets call 526-8084.

ing Arts Center at 507 Chestnut Street.

Support for "The Diary of Anne Frank" is made possible, in part, by Margaret and Jerry Pennington, Gerry Sue and Norman Arnold, Pauline and Louis Perlis and Helene and Rick Siegel.

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