

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 3, Number 20

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, May 20, 2005

May 19

- InterChurch Pot Luck Supper at Our Lady of the Mountains Church at 6 p.m. Call Pat Griffin at 526-2418.

- The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series for 2005 on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Nature Center. Dr. Ray Semlitsch will present "Beyond the Edge: Extending the Boundary of Wetland Management." Admission is free.

May 20

- Live Music at Buck's Coffee Cafe 8-11 p.m. Angela Faye-Martin, acoustic guitar.
- Highlands School Academic Banquet at the Conference Center. 6 p.m.
- Live music at The Pizza Place, 6-10 p.m. Vocal Instrumentalist Genevieve Schiele.

May 21

- Live Music at Buck's Coffee Cafe 8-11 p.m. Arthur & Katie.
- Live Music at the Pizza Place from 6-10 p.m. featuring old fashioned mountain music with Wildcat William.
- 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. Call Mary JoAskew, 526-1750.

May 22

- Live music at the Pizza Place from 1p.m. until? featuring old-fashioned mountain music with Wildcat William.

May 23

- A film, "The Future of Food," by Deborah Koons Garcia, Monday, at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Learn how big corporations and GMOs are changing the chemistry of the planet and YOU! Wake up to the reality of what the government is serving for dinner. RSVP at 526-8880. Free, but donations will be accepted.

- Highlands School Awards Assembly grades 8-12 in the new gym at 10 a.m.
- Spring Town Cleanup begins. Call the Town Office at 526-2118 for pick-up.

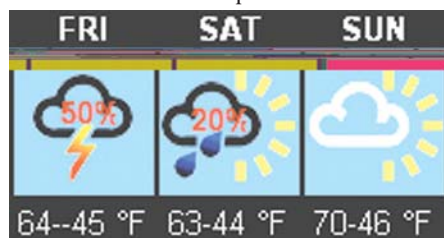
May 24

- The Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau are sponsoring a presentation on Japanese Knotweed Eradication Programs Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Nature Center.

- Scottish historian, lecturer and entertainer Flora MacDonald Gammon to perform at Chestnut Hil. Call 888-473-5093.

May 26

- The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series for 2005, Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Nature Center. Dr. James Porter will give a talk on "Butterfly Biodiversity: Conservation Challenges from the New World Heartland and the Old World Tropics." It's free.



Rezoning request still on hold

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

Still no answer on rezoning the corner lot at U.S. 64 east and Hickory Street.

At the public hearing preceding the May 18 Town Board meeting,

commissioners heard for the first time from several adjoining property owners who are against the potential multi-family project.

"We feel this will negatively impact the value of our property," said Steve

▪See REZONING page 2

New life – a sure sign of spring



Miss Kitty and her little man Flash in their pasture on Webbmont Road. Flash was born about three weeks ago. Photo by Kim Lewicki

WWTP expansion underway

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

The much talked about expansion of the Highlands wastewater treatment plant has officially begun.

"They started mobilizing their equipment yesterday," said Town Engineer Lamar Nix. Operator in Responsible Charge, (ORC), Mike Houston said ex-

cavation for the enlargement will begin heavily by Friday.

Total cost for the expansion including legal/administrative/engineering fees and contingency funds is \$5,148,710. The contract for expansion is \$4,710,200 and runs for 325 days. Engineers expect to complete the job by March 21, 2006.

▪See WWTP page 11

Chief Cook retiring after 31 yrs.

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

His dream of becoming a police officer started at 12-years-old, when his neighbor, Franklin Chief of Police C.D. Baird let him ride around in the police car, even be his eyes and ears in the community.

Law enforcement has been his reality for 31 years, but now Chief Jerry Cook, 55, is ready to retire.

"I'd like to thank the people of Highlands and its Town Boards for allowing me to serve as chief of police

▪See COOK page 12



Police Chief Jerry Cook

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School board OKs expanded course options for students

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

As a proponent of technology, Macon County Schools is embracing the 21st century.

"We are meeting the needs of our students by offering more course opportunities," said Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell "Living in the 21st century, we now provide a 21st century educational opportunities."

During the April 26 school board meeting, the board finalized a "Correspondence and On-Line Course Credit" policy to accommodate students overseas or those at home due to sickness or disabilities.

"The acceptance of this policy represents the board's encouragement of expanded curriculum development," said Tammy Tisdale, director of accountability for the school system.

Shotwell took months to investigate on-line "schools" and likes two in particular but there are several available.

"This will give students an opportunity to recover lost credit due to failures, sickness, or other family situations," said Shotwell. "There are some students who study abroad and would like to keep up on their math, science, social studies, or English during their semester or year away from school.

He prefers two sites in particular. "The Web Academy in Cumberland County offers a lot of courses for students," he said. "The other site is the Learn NC website that is under the di-

▪See COURSES page 8



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May 16-21 'Emergency Services' week

Warren Cabe, director of Macon County Emergency Services has declared May 16-21 EMS Week.

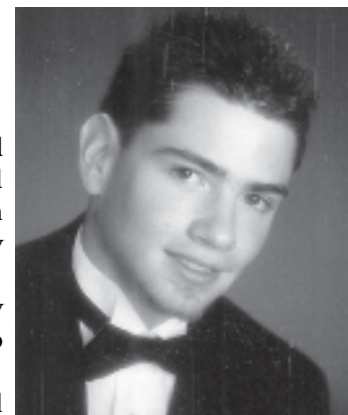
Take some time this week to shake the hand of a member of the county's emergency medical services department and thank members for a "job well done."

Local recipient of scholarship

Christopher L. Metrick, son of Lenny and Andrea Metrick, of Highlands, has been awarded a \$22,000, two-year scholarship from the North Carolina Association of Rescue and Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

He plans to attend Southwestern Community College and major in Emergency Services and to earn his Paramedic licensures.

Chris currently attends Franklin High School and is a Junior Fireman with Highlands Fire & Rescue Department.



Christopher L. Metrick

• OBITUARIES •

Ray Newton Vanhook

Ray Newton Vanhook, age 76, of the Clark's Chapel Community, Franklin, NC died Friday, May 13, 2005 at his home after a courageous battle with cancer. He died in peace, surrounded by his loving family.

A native of Macon County, Ray was a son of the late Charlie Bunn and Addie Angel Vanhook. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his brothers, Clarence Randolph, Lewis Franklin, Charlie Zeb, and Thomas Fredrick Vanhook, and a sister, Mary Louise Dowdle.

Ray retired from Burlington Industries in 1992 after 35 years of employment. He also worked for E. S. Purdom and Van Raalt. He loved farming and was a gifted wood-worker.

He was a lifelong and devoted member of Clark's Chapel United Methodist Church, where he served as a member of the choir, Sunday School superintendent, Sunday School teacher, treasurer, and the chairman of the administrative board. He was also an active member of the Clark's Chapel Community Association.

Ray is survived by his wife of 58 years, Emma Louise Guffey Vanhook; daughter, Nancy of Franklin, NC; son, Tommy and his wife Deborah of Mars Hill, NC; son, Michael and his wife Evelyn of Franklin, NC; daughter, Sharon Morrissey and her husband Tim of Asheville, NC; daughter Beverly Anderson and her husband Ted of Highlands, NC; and his grandchildren, Daniel, Courtney, Brandon, Dalona, Duane, Maggie, and Tony; two great-grandchildren, Damon and Dawson; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 16, 2005 at Clark's Chapel United Methodist Church with Pastor Al Beck officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Daniel Wagoner, Tony Allen, Duane Vanhook, Brandon Vanhook, Dennis Johnson, and Ronnie Vanhook. Honorary pallbearers were the older adult Sunday school class.

Memorials may be made in Ray Vanhook's memory to Angel Home Health and Hospice, 170 Church Street, Franklin, NC 28734, the Clark's Chapel Cemetery Fund, c/o Mrs. Jean Sutton, 1822 Clark's Chapel Road, Franklin, NC 28734, or to the American Cancer Society, 120 Executive Park, Building 1, Asheville, N.C., 28801.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

... REZONING continued from page 1

Ham. "Please consider the investment of the current owners before you rezone."

Beth Ham presented the board with a petition against the rezoning with 60 signatures. "A potential of 18 families will be going into a place where there is woods now," she said. "I realize people have the right to sell their property and do with it what they want, but you're considering a high-density multi-family project in a R2 neighborhood."

Signers of the petition requested the plot either remain zoned as it is or rezone the entire thing R2.

Ham said with R2 zoning, eight houses could be built on the four-plus acre plot instead of 18 living spaces – four

in four buildings, one single family home, including the current house.

The plot is currently zoned R2 and B4. The potential buyer wants the entire plot rezoned R3.

Neighbor Rick Siegel said he would rather see a high-end multi-family project on the corner than what could be built on the B4 portion of the property.

Commissioners want to hear the planning board's verbiage concerning the particulars of the 40-ft. buffer area along U.S. 64 east before they vote on rezoning.

The planning board meets Monday, May 23 at 5:30 p.m.

The sale of the property is contingent upon the developer's rezoning request.

• OBITUARIES •

Highlands' Newspaper - Friday, May 20, 2005 - Page 3

Margaret Sarah Gilbert Hall

Margaret Sarah Gilbert Hall, age 93, of Highlands, N.C. died Friday May 13, 2005 at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center in Highlands.

Born in Atlanta, Ga., she was the daughter of the late Elbert Roscoe and Bessie Isabel Hall Gilbert. She was the first Realtor, along with her husband, in Highlands. She was a founding member of the Highlands-Cashiers Garden Club and the Highlands Women's Club, and was a genealogist. She was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, where she served on the Vestry, was Past President of the ECW, and was head of the Western Deanery.

She is survived by a daughter, Meta Isabel Hall Chambers and her husband Overton of Highlands, N.C.; a son John



Margaret Sarah Gilbert Hall

Tucker Hall and his wife Judith "Judy" of Bristol, Tenn.; 12 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Tudor Norton Hall; a daughter, Sarah Margaret Hall Paxton; and a son, Tudor Gilbert Hall.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 16, 2005 at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation with Rev. Brian Sullivan and Rev. Alan Hetsel officiating. Burial was in Highlands Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, 250 Hospital Drive, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

• See story on Margaret Hall pg 9.

Mary Alice Hoxie Duncan

Mary Alice Hoxie Duncan was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 21, 1920. She died Sunday, May 15, 2005 at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center in Highlands, NC. She was the daughter of Frederick Stickney and Elsie Mae Hoxie. She graduated from Tulsa Central High School in 1937. She taught two years at a country school in Kansas. She attended Chanute, Kansas Junior College. She also attended Oklahoma State University where she was a member of the Orange and Black Quill, the freshman honor society. She finished her degree work at the University of Colorado in Boulder. She graduated there with a degree in Romance Languages in 1942. She was a member of Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society in education. She married North Carolinian Horace G. Duncan at St. Martin's Chapel in St. John's Cathedral in Denver on December 17, 1942.



Mary Alice Hoxie Duncan

She was a teacher in the Denver Public School system for 12 years where she taught parent education and pre-school, which was a model and forerunner of the Head Start program. In 1958, she conducted this program on KRMA television in Denver for which she was also its director and producer. It was the first parent education and pre-school program

on educational TV.

In Denver, she was a member of St. John's Episcopal Cathedral where she was a founding member of St. Monica's Guild for young married women. She was also a choir mother for the youth choir. She was a member of the Alliance Francaise and the French Club Savigne.

She moved with her family to Gaithersburg, Maryland in 1971 where she taught for 14 years in the Montgomery County Public School system. She was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension and a teacher in the Sunday School. She also served on the board of directors of the Gaithersburg Public Library.

In Highlands, NC, where she resided since 1988, she was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

She is survived by her husband, Horace G. Duncan; her daughter Meredith Duncan Bowen and son-in-law Randy Bowen of Fairfax, Va.; and a son, David Duncan of Aurora, of Colorado; Her son, Fred, and her sister, Jimmie Jeanne Hoxie Wenige, preceded her in death.

She had eight grandchildren, Kris Martinell, her husband Bill, and Scott

• See OBITUARIES page 9

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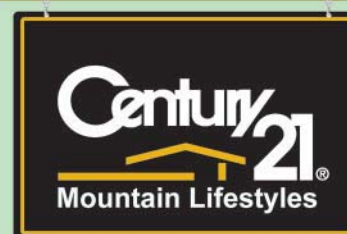


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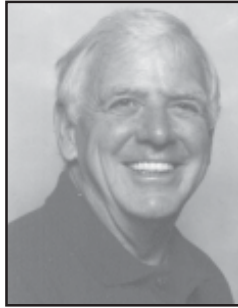
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

The Art of Successful Negotiation

I stared at her with great determination and she glared back. No one blinked. I had decided this was not going to be another of those "Mexican standoffs" where I lose because nothing happens. I am going to win this, one way or another. I mean, who does she think she is, anyway?

Finally, I spoke. "OK, let's talk trash. No more pussy footin' around. You either do what I tell you or there will be.....trouble. Take off your clothes, now." (I can't believe I said that to her.) Then I saw her blink. "Ah ha," I thought to myself, "she blinked and I have the upper hand. I am winning and she is toast." Then with a coldness I have rarely seen in her, she



Fred Wooldridge

folded her arms and said, "No, you can't make me."

I dropped my head in disappointment, bringing the stare contest to an end. I would have to use more drastic tactics. I hate using force, but sometimes it's the only way. "If you are not standing there naked by the time I count to five, I will personally remove your

clothes. I am bigger and stronger than you." I hate to use such harsh tactics, but I am the man of the house and I will have my way. After all, getting a four-year-old into a bathtub should not be this hard.

But since I am no longer a man of violence, I decided to take a different approach and negotiate. "If you take your bath, I will give you ice

cream.....or not." Her hands moved to her hips. She shifted her weight to one leg and rolled her eyes back. I took that as a good sign. "So whadayasay, little scallywagger, you want ice cream, or not?" Defiantly, she said, "No, I'm not allowed to eat ice cream right before bedtime."

This cannot be happening. I am a great negotiator and she is four-years-old. I have decades of life experiences under my belt and she has none. Where do I go from here? Then, as though the devil himself were instructing her, she said, "I'm going to tell mommy you said 'let's talk trash.' You're not allowed to say that to me. I'm only four-years-old. You're going to be in trouble with mommy when she gets home."

I stared at her with astonishment. I am now on the defense. If this keeps up, I'll be in the bathtub and she'll be eating ice cream. In desperation, I pleaded, "I'll make you a deal. If you don't tell mommy I said 'let's talk trash,' I won't tell her you ate ice cream before bedtime, but you have to take

your bath." She pondered the offer, looking over at the bathtub several times. "OK, but I want the ice cream before my bath, in case mommy comes home early." "It's a deal, but you must promise me you'll take your bath." "I promise." Finally, success.

After we finished our bowls of ice cream, I escorted her to the bathroom. "I don't want to take my bath now. I have a stomachache." "You get in the tub, I'll get the Tums." "No, Poppy, I'm not allowed to take Tums. I'm going to tell mommy you offered me Tums and gave me ice cream."

Just then I heard the front door open and in walked by daughter. Relief poured over me. "She didn't get her bath yet? What have you two been doing?" Honey, go take your bath, right now. "OK, mommy." Obediently, she headed for the bathroom, peeling off clothes along the way.

Moments later I passed the bathroom and looked in to see my granddaughter sitting in the tub. She smiled at me and whispered, "Poppy, I like talking trash with you."

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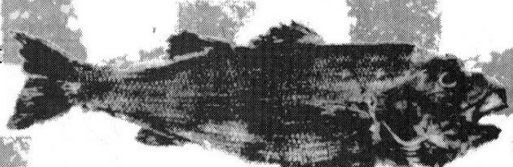
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• MOVIE PIX •

Enemy at the Gates

The 2001 historical action drama, based on the book of the same title by William Craig, directed by Jean Jacques Annaud (Two Brothers, Seven Years in Tibet), starring Jude Law, Ed Harris, Bob Hoskins, Joseph Fiennes, Ron Pearlman and Rachel Weisz. Very powerful and dramatic music by James Horner.



Stuart Armor
Movie Stop Video

Harris, of course, is brilliant as always, Bob Hoskins plays Nikita Khrushchev, just as playful and lighthearted as you would assume jolly old Uncle Nicky would be. Strangely absent is anyone portraying Chuikov, the commanding Soviet General.

The film is rated R, because the death and

destruction involved in the siege is graphically shown, but it is by no means just a battle gore film. It is a very compelling drama, well acted, dark in story and dark in filming, not for the kiddies, and not for the squeamish, but a must see for those interested in true military drama. A few others like it are The Good War, Saving Private Ryan, Patton, Alamo, and Escape from Sobodor.

The Storyline: It is 1942, during the siege of Stalingrad, the scene of one of the most deadly and brutal assaults in the history of war. The Nazis correctly see the capture of the city as a major strategic and symbolic objective, the Soviets correctly see defense of the city, named obviously after Joseph Stalin, as vital in their fight against the invasion. When both armies are brought to a stand still, the battle becomes one of attrition that neither side can afford. This sets the stage for the remarkable story of Vassili Zaitsev (ably played by Jude Law, seen in Alfie, Closer), an unremarkable man who became one of the premier sniper fighters in that deadly arena. Part as propaganda and part as news, political commissar Danilov (by Joseph Fiennes) builds up the story of the country boy turned hero in order to inspire the largely civilian defenders of the city. Real life drama continues as Vassili Zaitsev draws the attention of the German military, and also a female Soviet soldier (Rachel Weisz is both beautiful and believable in this role). A German sniper specialist, Major Konig (played by Ed Harris, who does his usual brilliant job, like in Apollo 13, Hours, and Pollock) is brought to Stalingrad to draw out and kill Zaitsev. A truly absorbing story unfolds as these characters interact and play out their roles in the battle and in history.

A reasonably accurate portrayal of the Stalingrad siege, cleaned up a bit for the movie going public, and the story of the three Russian principals is apparently very accurate. Law as Zaitsev is strong in his role, comes across as an ordinary guy in extraordinary circumstances,

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May 19-26

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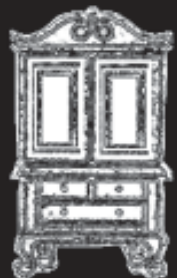
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Students get 'on the job' experience

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

Several Highlands High School students played hooky from school Tuesday to try their hand at "real" jobs, as part of a job shadowing program for high school juniors.

The idea behind the program is to give some real life experience in fields that students are considering as career choices. Juniors participate as a part of their planning for post secondary education.

"It is not uncommon for students to decide not to pursue a career after shadowing, which is very valuable in itself" said Patricia Catchings, Highlands School guidance counselor. The job shadowing handbook states: "The student will be exposed to the specific nature of a particular career area. There is no better way to learn about an occupation than to experience it firsthand. As a result, important decisions can be made about future career goals and plans.

Matt Chenoweth worked with Keven Gabbard, golf pro at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club, trying his hand at running a golf course.

"He's going to follow me through the day," Gabbard said. "He'll watch me give golf lessons, clean the carts and help club members load and unload their bags onto the carts."

Chenoweth was asked to pick from a list of possibilities and he said working at Wildcat Cliffs was the choice which reflected his interests the most. "I'm anxious to see what I'm going to be learning out here." He said he plays golf occasionally.

Nicole Barnes helped out with the Highlands United Methodist Church preschoolers.

"I'm having so much fun," Barnes said. "They are so cute."

One of the assistants, Doris Picklesimer said that she taught Barnes in Head Start and it really brought back memories for her.

Barnes wants to major in Early Childhood Education at Western and said this is really helping her out.

"I get to see first hand what it's like to work with young children," she said. "It's great to be able to interact with them."

April Hicks shadowed her current boss, Bill Aaron, owner of Southern Hands.

Hicks said even though she doesn't particularly want to own a small business, it has been an excellent learning experience for her.

"April is very personable and she works very well with people," Aaron said. "She takes time to learn the products and gives a lot of background



Cynthia Strain, of Mill Creek Gallery, teaches matting and framing to 11th-grader Callie Rawlins.
 Photo by Erin Brown

information on them to the customers. She would be very successful in a career with people."

Aaron said Hicks watches and listens to what he and his wife, Nancy, have to say and that she has been a joy to work with.

Callie Rawlins got some hands-on experience with local photographer Cynthia Strain.

"We met at the biological station this morning and shot pictures of the wildflowers," Rawlins said. "I got to use a manual camera and that's something I haven't done before."

Strain said she explained exposure control and taught Rawlins how to set shutter speed and aperture settings.

"This is a great way to get some experience because you don't really know a lot about photography until you actually try it," Rawlins said.

Strain also showed Rawlins how to frame, mat and hang the perfect photograph.

"It's made me kind of sad that I didn't go into teaching," Strain said.

The shadowing experience took place during the school day, and the students were counted as present. Transportation to and from the shadowing sight was the responsibility of the student or parents.

Brian McClellan and Rick Segal, as part of their Highlands Rotary Club Vocational program, contacted the individuals and businesses who agreed to participate in the job shadowing program.



Highlands School Athletic Banquet

It's that time of year when students, administrators, volunteers, coaches and teachers are honored for a "job well done." On May 16, Highlands Rotary catered a barbecue banquet at the Rec Park for student athletes and coaches.



Above, the Girls Varsity Volleyball team made it to the second round in All Conference. Coach Rick Rawlins got Conference Coach of the Year. All Conference Team Captain, Angela Aspinwal; All Conference Leader in Assists, Callie Rawlins; and Smoky Mountain Conference Volley Ball Player of the Year and Highlands MVP of the Year, Kayla McCall. School awards included Sportsmanship Award to Maggie Dearth, Coaches Award to Becca Wyatt, Highlander Award to Ramsey Ashburn and Honorable Mention All Conference Most Improved Player, Anna Trine.



Among the hundreds of guests at Monday night's Athletic Barbecue was Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell.

Below: Girls Varsity Soccer played a good year. Awarded for Most Assists, Callie Rawlins; Most Goals, Angela Aspinwall; Best Defense, Claire Frederick; Sportsmanship, Iyali Ruiz; Highlander Award, Kathryn Coppage; Coaches Award, McKenzie Thompson and Claire Frederick; and Highlands MVP, Amy Crook.



Men's Soccer, made it to the second round playoffs of the Big Smoky Mountain Conference and ranked fifth in the state. MVP Lucio Trazzi; Sportsmanship Award, Mat Keener; Coaches Award, Andrew Kerhoulas; All Conference Players, Ryan Perkins; David Parrish, Alec Schmitt, Matt Keener, Lucio Trazzi and Andrew Kerhoulas; Honorable Mention, Allen Shearl; Highlander Award Tyler Wavra; and Most Improved Player, Jake Heffington. It was the team's third year undefeated in their conference. They made 83 goals with only three scored against them. Lucio Trazzi made 43 goals.

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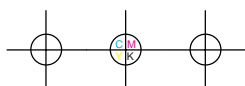
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School volunteers honored at breakfast



Volunteers at Highlands School were honored with an appreciation breakfast Monday, May 16 in the school cafeteria. The breakfast was sponsored by the PTO, faculty, staff and students of Highlands School. Volunteers were thanked for their commitment, encouragement, involvement, and investment in the school.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

... COURSES continued from page 1

rection of the Department of Public Instruction."

On-line courses use e-books so the purchasing of course materials isn't necessary. This is particularly helpful for exchange students residing in other countries, where it can be hard to find books in the English language.

Highlands School Principal Monica Bomengen said she has used e-books in coursework while advancing her degrees and found them a comfortable fit.

"We recognize that our students are capable of working seamlessly within a digital environment," said Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell.

There are several stipulations for students interested in taking on-line courses:

Students receiving credit for correspondence or on-line courses must be enrolled in the school accepting the credit; the on-line course must be approved in advance by the principal; a current member of the high school faculty must supervise the student in the on-line coursework; credit granted for on-line work can't result in the student receiving additional credit he or she would have received in the available course of study at the "home" school; only coursework completed in the chosen course of study offered at the school the student attends will be considered in computing grade-point average or any honor where other students following the same course of study have not chosen to enroll in and complete on-line courses; and a transcript must be pro-

vided from the on-line school to get credit.

Students residing in Highlands and attending Highlands School can also take on-line classes through Southwestern Community College as part of Macon County's dual enrollment program. Those courses as well as SCC courses taught through ITV and at the Highlands School campus are ways a small school can expand course opportunities for its students.

The website for the Web Academy in Cumberland County is <http://www.ccswebacademy.net>.

The website for Learn NC is <http://www.learnnc.org>. LEARN NC is a program of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Education which "finds the most innovative and successful practices in K-12 education and makes them available to the teachers and students of North Carolina — and the world."

Another site is the United Star Distance Learning Consortium (USDLC), Inc. at <http://www.usdlc.org>. USDLC partners with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Illinois State Board of Education, and Western Illinois University. Instructional providers include Education Service Center, Region 20 in San Antonio, Center for the Application of Information Technologies (CAIT) at Western Illinois University, LEARN NC, and Michigan Virtual High School.



Editor's Note:

This story ran in the July 30, 2004 issue of Highlands' Newspaper. We run it again as a tribute to Margaret Hall.

Remembering when she wielded her 'divine' rod

By Nancy Welch
Contributor

Margaret Hall sits in her chair, a faux mink fur throw across her fragile shoulders. Her wide blue eyes sparkle as she tells takes of your younger years. The 92-year-old still has the regal bearing she inherited from her family.

A silver tea service sparkles on the sideboard in the dining room of her small apartment. Her collection of tea pots dot the room.

On a nearby chair are two tools of her traded – forked sticks – her divining rods – her water seekers.

Since she was a young girl, Hall has helped the people of Highlands find water on their land, carefully using the rods to pinpoint the exact spot to drill a well, bringing life-saving water to the surface.

One forked stick, made of stripped peach, bears the marks of the many wells she located for homes and businesses in the Highlands area. Some locations and dates are noted in red ink, some in black and some appear to be recorded in pencil.

"Knight Mtn."; "Buck Creek, 8-1-72"; "Brummel, 6-1-90"; "Barnes, '80."

I've been doing it for as long as I can remember, back into the 50s," Hall said. "Water has always been very important to this area. Many years ago when my husband was on the town council, they called in a dowser from Bermuda to find a well for the city. He was here a very short time, but he found a place to drill a well under the old, old post office. I went to watch him and then to read about it.

Hall said, with her husband Tudor Hall's encouragement, began her career as a dowser, or water seeker.

"I had watched the man who came here and I began to learn how to find water. I think it came from the German side of our family, perhaps from my grandparents."

She said she never cut a divining rod. "I was very young and I was not allowed to have a knife," she said.

Her husband was in real estate (first of a long line of realtors here. Her family now has the Chambers Agency in Highlands.)

"My husband encouraged my ability to find water," she said.

Hall married at 16 and had the first of her four children at 18.

"I think any of them could do it (find water), I especially think Isabel (her daughter) could do it if she would just try," Hall said.

Isabel Chambers disagrees. "I am told it is passed from father to daughter, to son, to daughter," she said, laughing. "I don't fit the lineage."

"I must say, I felt very important," Hall said. "I felt very necessary to this community."

While Hall doesn't remember exactly what she charged for her water seeking services, Chambers remembers her mother made sure each check (usually for \$50) for the work was made out to the local Episcopal Church.

"She always gave to charity. She never took a penny for herself," Chambers said.

At Christmas, well drillers and property owners who had benefited from her talents sent gifts.

"Do you remember, Isabel, the year I received a bag of pecans?" Hall asked.

"Mom, every year you received gifts from the many people you had helped," Chambers said, laughing.

"Oh, yes," said Hall. "There was the time that lovely lady sent me all that face cream."

Hall said she slowed down in the early 90s. "I wouldn't go unless one of the family went with me," she said.

Hall said one of the problems, once modern technology took over, was the well diggers wouldn't follow her directions.

"If I gave them a point to drill, it had to be right there, pointing straight down," she said. "If they drilled to the right or left or at an angle, they would miss it (the water)."

Hall loves to point a picture of rich history in Highlands and while she may forget details of her dowsing years, she cherishes her memories of families and friends.

"You know," she said her blue eyes twinkling. "I wanted to be a dancer, but I ended up being a dowser."

... OBITUARIES continued from page 3

Catey, all of Dell, Mt.; Heather Duncan Raboin, of Lake Elmo, Minn.; Katchen and Jessica Duncan, both of Key West, Fla.; Evan, Lindsay, and Alexandra Bowen, all of Fairfax, Va.; and four great-grandchildren, Shelby, Skylar and Justin Martinell, all of Dell, Mt.; a; and Olivia Elizabeth Duraine of Lake Elmo, Minn.

Funeral services will be conducted at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, NC at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 20, 2005 with Rev. Brian Sullivan and Rev. Alan Hetzel officiating.

Interment will be at Highlands Memorial Park in Highlands, NC. The family will receive friends from 10-11 a.m., one hour prior to the service, at the Church.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Mary Alice Duncan Rotary Foundation Scholarship Fund, PO Box 1741, Highlands, NC 28741, or The Church of the Incarnation, PO Box 729, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



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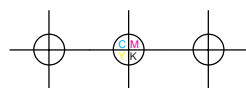
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Fighting with the French Resistance

A 'Jedburgh's' tale retold

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

When Highlander Deborah Berlin was shopping in Jolies last fall, she heard owners Ralph and Jackie Stephens talking about their upcoming trip to France. She asked them to visit Sarlat and to take a picture of a monument erected on the spot where her father and his American and French captains parachuted into the country during WWII to help the French Resistance.

Berlin had not seen the monument since its dedication some years before and wanted to share her father's story with them.

In the town of Sarlat, Stephens had some trouble locating the monument, but finally received some assistance in a pub from a local Frenchman.

"It was a beautiful monument," Ralph said. "These men were the fore-runners of special ops."

The following is the story of Deborah's father, Sergeant Jack Berlin's an ordinary man made extraordinary by the times in which he lived.

A Hero for a Father

In 1943, most had their eyes cast across the Atlantic to the battlefields of Europe, and in New York City it was no different. With gasoline unavailable, cars were placed on blocks, fine cuts of meat were scarce, Spam was the delicacy of the day. Many weddings were "usher less" because all the men were overseas fighting. Big band music swelled over the radio waves and from the USO canteens. Citizens were kept informed of the war via newspapers and newsreels which were played at the beginning of movies. Most felt a tremendous amount of patriotism for their country and many, by 1943, were knowledgeable of the slaughter of millions of European Jews at the hands of a madman.

With a Russian Jewish background, Jack Berlin enlisted in the Army after hearing of the Holocaust and its unfathomable concentration camps. This was the catalyst that took him from the gritty streets of New York to the lavender covered fields of France.

Although he had not grown up with any particular religion, he was repulsed by the racial genocide and couldn't quite grasp how any one person could target an entire race of people. So he did the only thing he could, he enlisted in 1943.

Initially Berlin tried to enlist in the Marines at the age of 17, but couldn't

because he wore glasses, so volunteered for the Army the following year. Berlin was immediately singled out by military recruiters as "extra intelligent" and was recommended for a brand new branch of the Army called the Office of Strategic Services or OSS. The OSS, established in 1942 specifically for WWII, was initiated by General William Donovan.

During the war Donovan founded and then led the OSS, which is the predecessor of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Special Forces Division. Donovan earned the Medal of Honor for service in World War I, where he earned the nickname "Wild Bill." Donovan is the only American to have received the nation's four highest awards, The Medal of Honor, The Distinguished Service Cross, The Distinguished Service Medal and The National Security Medal.

The OSS was split into several different sections of training. Berlin became a member of the "Jedburghs." With his cunning intelligence for radios, Berlin became a Jedburgh radio operator. He was placed with two other men, Captain McDonald Austin and Lieutenant Raymond Lecompte, who was a Frenchman. Each man was trained in strategic areas and teamed up based on the skill of each man.

Many teams were multi-national, including British, French, Belgian and American and most knew how to speak several languages. Each team had a different code name for anonymity from the enemy; Berlin's team was Team Ammonia.

Berlin was also trained as a para-trooper in England and trained to handle the direst circumstances in any situation.

Hiding with the French Resistance

After two aborted attempts, June 7 and 8, on the night of June 10, 1944, Team Ammonia dropped into the fields of France to stop Hitler's 2nd SS Panzer Divisions from moving farther north.

By the third attempt, the men were anxious to get on the ground and forced the pilot to drop them. Following signals



Jacob "Jack" Berlin

on the ground sent by a member of the Resistance, the men were finally successful. However, the pilot was very nervous this third time around and dropped the soldiers at a low altitude making the jump very hazardous. Captain Austin, the leader of the group, landed in a tree and had to disentangle himself.

Once on the ground, local French men and women came to their aid. A teacher from La Boétie junior high school repaired Berlin's radio, which was damaged in the landing.

After the drop, Team Ammonia was immediately taken to their hiding place, a secret compartment behind a wall in the Laquieze family farmhouse. The space was cramped -- wide enough for one human body. Berlin, Austin and Lecompte stood side-by-side during the day and led raids against the Germans at night.

For several weeks, the commando team organized sabotage operations along the Paris-Toulouse railway to slow down the Nazis' advance toward Normandy, taught members of the Resistance how to use explosives, and transmitted information to London. They then moved on to another French town, Lot-e-Garonne, for sabotage operations on the Bordeaux-Toulouse railway. Berlin carried a valet with his radio equipment inside. If he faced a checkpoint, he dismantled the equipment and left it in a safe place where he could return to it later. Holding his breath and expecting the worst he passed many checkpoints successfully this way.

Most of the French people who worked with the soldiers were from the tiny village of Sainte Nathalène in the Black Périgorde area, which is famous for its truffles.

After one long night of fighting, the farmer made omelets with truffles for the soldiers. Since there wasn't a stove, he cooked the omelets in the fireplace. The soldiers ate ravenously, but Jacob picked out the black pieces of the omelet, thinking they were soot. Captain Austin told

him to eat the black bits but he refused. Finally Captain Austin said, "It's an order, eat them now!" Berlin hesitantly ate one and enjoyed it.

This story is still told in Sarlat today and on one of his visits to the area, Berlin was given a huge truffle, worth about \$900, by the farmer's son, Roger, who hid him.

What Lead to the Resistance?

Long before American involvement, the French struggled under German control. The country was divided both physically and emotionally during the war.

At the end of May in 1940, Winston Churchill ordered the implementation of Operation Dynamo, a plan to evacuate troops and equipment from the French port of Dunkirk, which had been drawn up by General John Gort, the Commander in Chief of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF).

Between May 27 and June 4, 1940, a total of 693 ships brought 338,226 people back to Britain. Of these 140,000 were members of the French Army. All heavy equipment was abandoned and left in France. Much depleted, the French Army tried to hold the line along the Somme and the Aisne.

Clearly outnumbered, the troops were forced to withdraw to the Loire. Paul Reynaud and his government left the French capital and moved to Tours.

On June 14, the Germans occupied Paris. Reynaud now realized that the German offensive could not be halted and suggested that the government move



The star on the map above is the village of Sarlat.



to the territories it owned in North Africa. This was opposed by his vice-premier, Henri-Philippe Petain, and the supreme commander of the armed forces, General Maxime Weygand. They insisted that the government remain in France and seek an armistice. Outvoted, Reynaud resigned and President Albert Lebrun, appointed Petain as France's new premier. He immediately began negotiations with Adolf Hitler and on June 22 signed an armistice with Germany.

The terms of the agreement divided France into occupied and unoccupied zones, with a rigid demarcation line between the two.

The Germans directly controlled three-fifths of the country, an area that included northern and western France and the entire Atlantic coast. The remaining section of the country was administered by the French government at Vichy under Marshal Henri-Philippe Petain.

Other provisions of the armistice included the surrender of all Jews living in France to the Germans. The French Army was disbanded except for a force of 100,000 men to maintain domestic order. The 1.5 million French soldiers captured by the Germans remained prisoners of war. The French government also agreed to stop members of its armed forces from leaving the country and instructed its citizens not to fight against the Germans. Finally, France had to pay the occupation costs of the German troops.

France after German occupation

In occupied France, the Gestapo began hunting down members of the Communist and Socialist Parties. Most went into hiding, and the obvious place to go was into the forests of the unoccupied zones. Escaped soldiers from the French Army also fled to these forests. These men and women gradually formed themselves into units based on political beliefs and geographical area. Eventually these people joined together to form the Maquis. As the organization grew in strength, it began to organize attacks on German forces. They also helped to get Allied airman, whose aircraft had been shot down in France, back to Britain. The brave men and women who fought and sometimes paid with their lives represented the resistance against German rule.

In late March of 1944, the German Army began a campaign of repression throughout France, which included a policy of reprisals against civilians living in towns and villages close to the scene of attacks carried out by members of the French Resistance.

Then on June 5, 1944 General Dwight D. Eisenhower asked the BBC to



The monument reads: On the night of June 10, 1944 they parachuted; Americans, McDonald Austin and Jacob "Jack" Berlin and a Frenchman, Raymond Lecompte, envoys of London and brought their technical aid to the Resistance in Sarladaise, France.

send out coded messages to the Resistance asking them to carry out acts of rebellion during the D-day landings in order to help Allied forces establish a beachhead on the Normandy coast. This included attacks on the occupied garrisons in the towns of Tulle and Gueret. In revenge for the French attack on the German garrison, 120 men were hanged in Tulle on June 9 and later that day another 67 were murdered in Argenton.

These armed Resistance groups slowed down the attempt by the 2nd SS Panzer Division to get to the Normandy beaches. It was decided by the Germans that a revenge attack was necessary and would frighten the French people into submission. On June 10 a group of SS soldiers led by Major Otto Dickmann, entered Oradour-sur-Glane, a village in the Haute-Vienne region of France. He ordered the execution of more than 600 men, women and children before setting fire to the village.

Berlin saw the fires coming from that village, but was unaware as to the annihilation that was taking place.

Despite these atrocities the French

Resistance continued to take up arms against the German Army. After the war, General Dwight D. Eisenhower wrote: "Throughout France the Resistance had been of inestimable value in the campaign. Without their great assistance the liberation of France would have consumed a much longer time and meant greater losses to ourselves."

In Memoriam

For all of their efforts during the war, a memorial was built to honor the three men who risked their lives to support the French. The monument was designed by Alain Carrier who was a French teenager during the war. The townspeople are responsible for the memorial, which was built over a natural spring just outside the town of Sarlat. Captain Austin was from the Savannah, Ga. and Hilton Head, S.C. area and there is another memorial in his honor at the Air Force Heritage Museum in Pooler, Ga.

Berlin made several trips to the area after the war, and the monument was dedicated in November of 2001. Berlin was in attendance and was the only surviving member of the three. The entire town came out for the dedication to honor him. Deborah Berlin, Jacob's daughter, who was at the dedication said what amazed her most was the fact that even small children knew the story and were fascinated with her father.

"They said, 'Look, it's the American,' and they touched his coat sleeve," said Deborah.

She said it was amazing how WWII was so prevalent in their minds and how

that differed in the states.

France is peppered with memorials and monuments to Allied soldiers because there was no resistance with result until the OSS came.

"They saw a lot of tragedy, but they were able to help so many," Deborah said.

Jack Berlin died last year on May 29 at the age of 80. He was named an Honorary Citizen of Sarlat, France and 43 years after the war ended he received one of France's highest honors, the Croix de Guerre. The honor was originally awarded just after the war though France had been unable to present it to him until 1988. His military decorations include: The Army Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater Ribbon, the WWII Victory Ribbon, the European/African/Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Stars and Arrowhead, the Asiatic/Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Stars and the Parachutist's Badge. His battles and campaigns included Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, the China Defensive and the China Offensive.

When the Combatants Ancient (the Ancient Combatants) a rather large veteran's group in France heard of Jack's passing, they laid a wreath for him at a memorial. There was a service for him and afterwards a celebration for his life, which lives on through his daughter, Deborah, who continues to tell his story.

"There are so many stories I haven't told you," she said. "Most are just plain, old amazing."

... WWTP continued from page 1

"We're going to be state-of-the-art when all this is done," Houston said. "I think it's a great thing that the town has done for Highlands."

As of now the WWTP pumps 500,000 gallons of water a day, after the expansion that number with triple to 1.5 million gallons of water a day.

"The plant can run at an 80 percent capacity, and with the projected flow of new customers, the town wanted to be proactive and go ahead with the expansion now," Nix said. "There are times now when we exceed 80 percent."

Nix said the overwhelming majority of customers are residents the town is trying to hook up to the sewer.

Right now the plant includes a secondary treatment, but after the expansion a tertiary treatment will be added which purifies the treated water even more than before. The water moves through huge stainless steel discs covered with a sheepskin-like cloth in order to ensure even more filtration. Another pro-

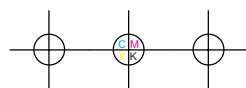
cess to be added is a bed of ultraviolet bulbs which will kill any leftover bacteria in the water. So the plant is essentially putting the minimal amount of pollutants back into the receiving streams, like the Cullasaja River.

Houston said the plant will essentially be chemical free, because with the expansion chlorine and sulfur dioxide will be eliminated.

"This is the primary capital improvement project for which the Town has been preparing for several years," said Town Administrator Richard Betz. "Funding is from accumulated capital reserved and inter-fund transfers."

Nix said at the public meeting about three years ago everyone present was in favor of expansion because they realized how environmentally important it was to the area.

Nix doesn't anticipate any problems after the expansion because the sequential batch reactors at the plant are flexible and allow for variable circumstances.



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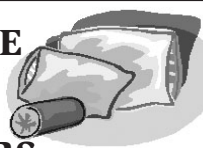
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Area Rotary clubs win at conference

At each weekly Rotary meeting, members receive a bulletin listing the program, upcoming events and more. At the The 2005 Centennial District 7670 Conference in Gatlinburg, Tenn., May 13-15, both Highlands clubs won for “Best Bulletin.” Above, Curtis Mathews, Dixie Barton, Becky and Joe Simmons, accept the award for “Best Small Club Bulletin.” Below, David Jellison, Barbara Lawrence, Selwyn Chalker and LaDonna Keener, accept the award for “Best Large Club Bulletin.”



... COOK continued from page 1

of this community,” said Cook. “It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity. It’s been a rewarding career full of friends and people I’ve met over the years.”

Not counting his days at Franklin High School as a Safety Patrol Officer, Cook’s law enforcement career started as a Macon County Sheriff Deputy. After about 10 years, he headed for Highlands where he’s been for 21 years.

He started as police officer under Highlands Police Chief John Fay, moved up to investigator then interim chief and finally took over as acting chief in 1984.

He says crime in general has decreased in Highlands during his tenure but he said it’s not because of him, just smarter policing all the way around.

“Thanks to the Sheriff’s Department, we have more patrolling outside Highlands and we’re smarter about patrolling in Highlands,” said Cook. “We listen to people when they tell us what’s going on in the community. In a small community like Highlands, we try to do community-style policing where you work with the community.”

He said the biggest change in law enforcement over the years is the technical and training aspects. “But all that is good,” he said. “It was a long time coming. A lot has been mandated by the state. Now officers must graduate from Basic Law Enforcement Training.” But Cook says the future will see fewer people entering the law enforcement field.

“There’s not enough money and there’s a lot of danger,” said Cook. “Plus the alienation you face with the general

public is hard.” Not too many people want police officers around, he said.

“When we enter law enforcement, many of us dream of changing the world. And we do, but it has to change through us as we become better citizens,” said Cook. “By being better human beings, we change the world we’re in.”

Cook said retirement is definitely going to change his life, but he said it’s time. “The time is right to move on and enjoy life while I still have my health. I’m going to do a lot of fishing and traveling.” Though he’s been planning to retire for some time, the recent death of his sister finalized his decision.

His last day at work is May 28, but after being in law enforcement for 31 ½ years, he admits it will be hard to put it away.

“Part of me will always be a law enforcement officer,” he said. “You can’t just stop after a lifetime commitment. I’ll always want to jump in there and help, and I will, rather than see someone hurt.”

Cook is in the National Police Hall of Fame in Miami, Fla., for being wounded in armed combat, shot in the line of duty when he was a deputy sheriff in 1981. He was shot in his left side with a 12-gauge shot gun and survived. “I still have 180 shot in me.”

“I always knew police work was difficult, but I didn’t know how hard it was until I tried to keep up with Chief Cook,” said Mayor Buck Trott. “He has done a great job.”

Cook said several retirees in town have saved him a spot on Loafer’s Bench.



• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Pentecost, the birthday of the church



Rev. William M Evans, Priest
Our Lady of the Mountain
Catholic Church

Lyrics in books, and even advertising copy are examples of human expression and illustrate how deeply rooted the idea of Spirit is in our religious and secular understanding.

Spirit is a contemporary metaphor for wisdom, enlightenment, personal power and our experience of the transcendent. In our increasingly virtual world, so far removed from natural rhythms, many of us hunger for just such a powerful spirit in our lives.

In the Bible, wind and fire are familiar images of God's spirited presence in the Hebrew Scriptures are found also in Luke's description of Pentecost in the Book of Acts.

The ancient scriptural images of the Holy Spirit are remarkably close to current secular ideas about Spirit.

Following the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples in Acts are transformed from fearful to fearless preachers of the Good News. Paul's letter notes that with God's Spirit, they show "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control" in their relationships with others.

In John's gospel, Jesus promises a Holy Spirit who will enable believers to know and speak the truth. Each example is of an alive, active and almost touchable Spirit, not a bit like some of our ideas about the Spirit being in the sky or off preparing a place for us to go after death.

The Holy Spirit, given the feast of Pentecost, is at work in our lives right now – not in some future time after death. At your baptism, you were possessed by this Holy Spirit. At your Confirmation you yourself accepted the work of the Holy Spirit in your own personal life. This Spirit has transformed all of us who are baptized and changed us for all of the rest of eternity.

It is this Holy Spirit that has made us into the Holy People of God. It is this Holy Spirit which has changed us from our animal nature into a Sacred being forever in complete and intimate union with God our Creator.

This Holy Spirit advises us and teaches us how to achieve peace and justice in our world now. It is the Holy Spirit which enables us to love really imperfect human beings like ourselves now. The Spirit gives us the power to shun self-destructive behavior and attitudes. The Spirit enlightens us to the presence of God in our friends, in nature, in the wonder of our bodies and in the wonder of what we can feel and do now. The Spirit enables us to pray and to seek out the transcendent now.

■ See **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** page 16

• 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.

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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.

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

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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

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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

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Choir – 6 p.m.

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

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Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

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

Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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

Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon

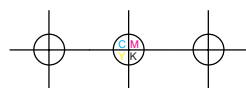
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby

Sundays: Fellowship & Worship – 11

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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



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• HIGHLANDS UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

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

- Registration has begun for summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered this year beginning June 7. Each camp runs Tuesdays through Fridays. Dates, times, ages, and costs vary by camp. For more information, call 526-2623 or visit the Nature Center website at www.wcu.edu/hbs/NatureCenter.htm.

- 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 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.

- The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series for 2005 continues on Thursday, at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Nature Center. Dr. Ray Semlitsch will give a talk entitled "Beyond the Edge: Extending the Boundary of Wetland Management." Admission is free.

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

- Live Music at the Pizza Place from 6-10 p.m. featuring old fashioned mountain music with Willcat William.

- 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 Askev, 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

Friday at Instant Theatre

Singer/songwriter Annalyse McCoy will be the Instant Theatre Company's special guest for their Friday May 20 performance of "Evenings of Little Entertainments." Highlands weekly "late night talk show" has attracted a large following by featuring some of the best talent in the region performing all styles of music, improv and scripted scenes.

McCoy recently released her debut album *Movin' On* for New Colony Records. With a voice often compared to a young Bonnie Raitt and the looks of Natalie Portman, the Kentucky native has performed all over the Southeast as a singer and as a musical theatre actress. Local audiences may remember her from the 2003 Highlands Playhouse season, where she played "Dorothy" in *The Wizard of Oz* and "Ginger" in *The 1940s Radio Hour*.

McCoy will perform two original songs as well as a musical theatre piece by the composer of *Parade*, Jason Robert Brown, in her appearance with Instant. Copies of *Movin' On* will be available for purchase at the show.

Next week McCoy returns to Kentucky to begin rehearsals at Jenny Wiley Summer Theatre where she'll star as "Belle" in *Beauty & the Beast* and "Shelby" in *Steel Magnolias* through August. Having recently shot a music video for the track "Read My Lips," she'll continue to promote her album in between rehearsals and performances.

To see McCoy in her return to Highlands, call (828) 342-9197 for reservations. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door and that will get you complimentary wine/Soda, snacks and entertainment that will find you returning week after week.

"Evenings of Little Entertainments" is every Friday at 8pm. The Instant Theatre Company is located at 310 Main Street, across the street from The Methodist Church and above Shiraz Rugs and Sports Page Restaurant.



Annalyse McCoy



McCoy as "Dorothy."

(\$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 2:30 p.m.

May 22

- Live music at the Pizza Place from 1p.m. until? featuring old-fashioned mountain music with Wildcat William.

May 23

- A film, "The Future of Food," by Deborah Koons Garcia, Monday, at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Learn how big corporations and GMOs are changing the chemistry of the planet and YOU! Wake up to the reality of what the government is serving for dinner. RSVP at 526-8880. Free, but donations will be accepted.

- 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

- The Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau offer an opportunity for the community to learn more about Japanese Knotweed Eradication Programs on Tuesday evening, at 7 p.m. at the Nature Center. Dr. Kenneth McCaskill, NC Extension Cooperative Extension representative, will provide a short seminar with open discussion concerning this invasive plant.

- 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 Zahner Conservation Lecture Series for 2005 continues on Thursday, May 26, at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Nature Center. Dr. James Porter will give a talk entitled "Butterfly Biodiversity: Conservation Challenges from the New World Heartland and the Old World Tropics." Admission is free.

- 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

- The Mountain Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale this year at the Highlands Ball Park at U.S. 64 east and Hickory Street. All proceeds benefit the Highlands School Scholarship program of the club. Offering mountain-friendly plants such as hostas, shrubs, trees, perennials, seed packs and new this year - books on plants, stained glass garden stakes, whimsical scarecrows and beautiful container gardens.

• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

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POLICE & FIRE

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of May 12-18. The only names printed are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

May 12

- At 1 p.m., officers responded to an vehicle accident on Thistle Dr. There were no injuries.
- At 5:18 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Pierce Dr. All was secure.
- At 11:50 p.m., officers responded a noise complaint at a residence on N.C. 106 stemming from 15- and 16-year-olds quarreling with parents.

May 13

- At 5:10 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Highland Hiker. All was secure.

May 14

- At 9 p.m., officers responded to a 9-1-1 hang-up from a residence on Azalea Drive. There was no problem.

May 15

- At 11:40 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge. All was secure.

May 16

- At 9 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Rosenthal's on Main Street. All was secure.
- At 11:30 a.m., officers provided an escort for a funeral to Memorial Park.
- At 12:10 p.m., officers responded to an animal complaint at a residence on Mirror Lake Road.

May 17

- At 12:35 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Big Bearpen Road. All was secure.
- A little past midnight, officers on patrol found an open door at Highlands School. All was secure.
- A little past midnight a motorist was cited for driving without a headlight.
- At 2 p.m., a resident reported her clothes stolen from the Washing Well.
- At 3:45 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence Ravenel Ridge. All was secure.
- At 4:20 p.m., a cell phone was reported stolen from the Rec Park.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 13

The Spirit has made us Sacred human beings. That is why the commandment "Thou shall not kill" is for us an absolute commandment. We are absolutely forbidden to kill that which God has made Sacred - a human life. There is only one instance in which we may take a human life and that is in self-defense.

We do not have to wait until some future time after death to benefit from the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is truly

alive and well within the Body of Christ and each member of the Body of Christ.

It is the gift of the Holy Spirit that makes us Sacred. That's why the feast of Pentecost is aptly called the birthday of the church. For in this feast, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit which enables all of the baptized, and even those not baptized but have the potential to be baptized, to act fully in the will of God and do the work of God upon this earth.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for May 11-18.

May 11

- The dept. responded to a brush fire on Bowery Road.

May 12

- The dept. responded to a brush fire on Kline Road.

May 13

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. It was cancelled en route.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS. The victim was transported to the hospital.

May 14

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. It was cancelled en route.

May 15

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS. There was no transport.

May 16

- The dept. responded to two-vehicle accident on U.S. 64 east. There were no injuries.



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LPN - PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Performs various patient care activities and technical skills necessary in caring for patients under the direction and supervision of the physician. Position is full-time, Monday-Friday, benefit eligible after 60 days. Pre-employment

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CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT CLASSES THROUGH FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL.

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

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RECEPTIONIST/SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR/CASHIER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. This job-share position is part time, 24-hours per week, fluctuating days, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT – Highlands Plaza. Call 864-630-0808.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS and DEBTORS of EMMA LOU BARROW

Any persons, firms, or corporations having claims against Emma Lou Barrow, Deceased, are notified to exhibit them to Jane Barrow Tracy, Executor of the Deceased's Estate, at the address of the Estate's undersigned attorney, on or before August 15, 2005, or be barred from their recovery thereafter. Debtors of the Deceased are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Executor at the same address.

DATED: May 3, 2005

John R. Mayer
Attorney at Law, PLLC
Attorney of Estate
511 Smallwood Avenue
Post Office Box 750
Highlands, N.C. 28741
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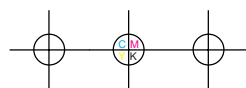
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Mountain Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale in new location this year

The Mountain Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale this year at the Highlands Ball Park at U.S. 64 east and Hickory Street, May 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday, May 29, 1-4 p.m.)

All proceeds benefit the Highlands School Scholarship program of the club. Offering mountain-friendly plants such as hostas, shrubs, trees, perennials, seed packs and new this year – books on plants, stained glass garden stakes, whimsical scarecrows and beautiful container gardens.

Jeannie Chambers and Beth Crisp show a few of the stained glass garden stakes for sale this year.



Highlands School students create artwork to epitomize Festival theme

On Friday, May 20, members of the HIFF committee and notable Highlands personalities will judge original works of art created by more than 20 junior and senior high school students from the school.

Working with art instructor Sally Taylor, the HIFF committee challenged the students to create an original work of art inspired by the Festival theme: *Bringing film to a higher elevation*. From the works presented, three prizes will be awarded.

The first prize of \$500 will be awarded to the student whose work is selected to be the central design theme for this year's Festival. This artwork will be featured on the poster, and the cover of the Festival program. Two runners-ups will also be selected and each will receive a \$250 cash prize.

Horst and Margaret Winkler generously provided the funding for prize money through their Presenting Sponsorship. Other sponsors for this year's Festival include Presenting Sponsor Old Edwards Inn and Spa, and corporate sponsors Macon Bank, The Highlander newspaper and The Cashiers Chronicle.

The second annual Highlands International Film Festival is set for Tuesday, August 23 through Saturday, August 27 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands. For additional information on, please visit www.highlandsfilmfestival.com or call Sue Gail directly at 954-463-5300.

Arts Alliance calendar available

Recently the Arts Alliance of Highlands published its spring and summer calendar of arts events taking place in Highlands from May through August.

It covers the full range of art events including exhibits, lectures, concerts, classic film screenings, workshops etc.

Pick one up at Peggy Crosby Center, the Bascom Louise Gallery, the Summit One Gallery, the Visitors Center, and the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center

The next edition of the calendar will cover the fall and winter months, September through December. To be included, submit your calendar to the Arts Alliance of Highlands by June 25.

For more information call 828-526-9938, extension 400.

Calling all dulcimer players

A casual group of dulcimer players meets Sunday afternoons at The Lake Toxaway Community Center two Sunday afternoons at month from 3-4:30 p.m. beginning May 29. Stephen Seifert's book "Join the Jam" is used. The book and accompanying CDs cost \$26 plus postage and can be ordered on line (<http://www.stephenseifert.com>).

If you are interested in learning more about this new group, and for directions to the Lake Toxaway Community Center, call Mary Sherwood at 966-9628 or e-mail us at sherwood@citcom.net.

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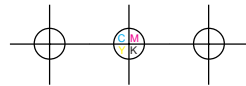


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Highlands Playhouse presents artistic director and first show, too

Like many Southern singers and musicians, Robert Ray began his musical career in a small church, singing in the choir and playing whatever was in the Broadman Hymnal for Sunday School classes, and later church services.

Although Palmetto, Ga., was only 25 miles south of Atlanta, it lived life in its own world at its own pace. Atlanta was somewhere "up there" (pointing north). And New York City...well, you saw that in movies and maybe on one of the four TV stations available. It was another century, but it was little more than four decades ago.

Ray, now based in Atlanta, has traveled many miles and venues since then and for the summer has now settled in as Artistic Director for the Highlands Playhouse. During the coming three months, he will, at various times, direct, sing and play piano depending on the production onstage. The lineup includes "Too Marvelous for Words: The music of Harold Arlen, Hoagy Carmichael and Henry Mancini with Lyrics by Johnny Mercer;" "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat;" "Jerry's Girls;" and "Driving Miss Daisy."

Ray and Joseph Litsch conceived and wrote "Too Marvelous for Words," which debuted in Atlanta, 2002, and later was accepted for the 2003 Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC. The show also played for two nights at the Playhouse last October. Ray also directed "Jerry's Girls" for



Robert Ray, Highlands Playhouse artistic director with cast of "Too Marvelous for Words," which runs June 24-July 10 at the playhouse. Above performing "In the Cool, Cool, Cool, of the Evening." Call 526-2695 for tickets.

the Atlanta Lyric Opera Theatre earlier this year for a very successful three-night run.

"You know, getting to this point in my career is a lot like getting to Highlands," Ray said with a laugh. "A lot of turns, some ups, some downs, but never losing sight of my goals. Some real

high points...and some low ones, too."

He has — among other things — written, directed and performed in numerous cabaret shows; performed for Britain's Prince Charles during his American visit; musically directed three versions of "Heartstrings," an AIDS benefit which toured 26 major U.S. cities and raised millions for AIDS research and prevention; wrote, directed and starred in his own cabaret musical, "Trailer Park U.S.A."; written and directed two musical revues at Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto (2003 and 2004); and produced and recorded three CDs — not necessarily in that order.

What are his highs from a list of highs? "I have three," Ray said without hesitation. "The Heartstrings shows. Because they raised so much money and I got to work with such people as Sandy Duncan, Tommy Tune, Marlo Thomas, Christopher Reeve. The 75th anniversary Fox show because I love playing on that stage. And, being in a Broadway show."

But Ray says there is no desire to return to any of those. "I am doing exactly what I would like to be doing — directing. Getting to direct four shows at a place like the Highlands Playhouse is a great opportunity and I am happy to be here. I've always loved directing...finding new talent and helping other people with their careers. I have not forgotten what it was like to be just starting out — in Palmetto.

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