

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 3, Number 18

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, May 6, 2005

ON-GOING EVENTS

- Each Thursday - Open House at Chestnut Hill of Highlands, Highlands-Cashiers only senior residential community. For more information, call 888-473-5093.

- Yoga classes at the Scaly Mountain Community Center Mondays at 5:45 and at the Jane Woodruff Bldg at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital on Wednesdays at 5:15.

- "Heart of the High Country" on Channel 14 Northland Cable TV, 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 Thurs - Sat 4:30-6:30 p.m. Open Mon-Sat, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

- ITC's Evenings of Little Entertainments each Friday at 8 p.m. For reservations call 342-9197. Reserved tickets \$15. At the door \$20.

- Pilates classes at the Women's Center at the Hospital Tuesday and Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. \$10, or \$8 for a package of 10.

May 5-8

- HCP presents "The Diary of Anne Frank" at PAC. Call 526-4904. Tickets are \$15 each, \$8 for children.

May 7

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike to Chinguapin Mountain, descending to dramatic Glen Falls. Call David Sapin, 369-2628.

- Annual spring clean-up at Hudson Library Saturday at 10 a.m. Bring a rake, clippers, leaf blower to spread pine straw, mulch and cleaning up after winter.

- The Sixth Annual Mountain Lakes 5-K Run in Highlands at 9 a.m. in front of the Rec Park. Call Richard Betz at 526-5266.

- Audubon Birdwalk, Rich Gap Road for spring migrants. Meet at the Town Hall at 7:30 a.m. to carpool. Call Edwin Poole, 526-2775.

- Rabies Clinic at Highlands Conference Center. \$5 per animal, 1-2:30 p.m. and at Scaly Mtn. Post Office, 2-4 p.m.

May 9

- Highlands School Baseball, 5 p.m. vs. Rabun Gap in Highlands at Zachary Fields.

May 10

- T-Ball at Zachary Fields. Braves vs. Phillies at 4 p.m.




- Highlands School PTO meeting at Highlands School - 6 p.m.

- Audubon Program, Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers at Civic Center. Potluck supper 6 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. Call 526-2775.

May 12

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

- T-Ball at Zachary Fields. Yankees vs. Braves at 4 p.m.

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
60--42 °F	69-44 °F	70-46 °F

Town still has questions about county's Rec Park funding

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

At the May 2 Macon County Commissioners meeting, the board

voted unanimously to fund the combined recreation programs on the Highlands plateau to the tune of \$500,000. ■ See REC PARK page 18

Chalker recognized as 'outstanding teacher'



Photo by Erin Brown

RBC Centura's Regional Manager Rusty Edwards presents Great Beginnings Teacher Jane Chalker with a \$500 check for classroom cash. The money is part of a scholarship for teachers from RBC Centura and the Atlantic Coast Conference as a way to recognize leadership in the community and the classroom. Chalker was chosen out of 1,774 nominees of which there were 20 winners. Chalker stands with her student Chance Gilbert who wrote in commending her teaching capabilities. Chalker said her class has decided to send the money to their friend in Haiti, Leneus Joseph, founder and director of a community school in Cange, to help him build a school.

Sheriff commends department's work

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

Sheriff Robbie Holland went to the county commissioners meeting requesting backing for grant applications, and publicly recognized his department for a "job well done."

"You hold the purse strings to my department and I want you to be aware of what we have been doing and will continue to do," he told the board at the

May 2 meeting. "And, I want you to know how proud I am of my officers."

He said even though they are overworked, underpaid and absolutely stretched thin, they always do everything he asks of them. "Even though they don't always want to do things the way I've asked them to do them," he said.

He's applying for two grants — one through the Governor's Crime Commis-

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Drug committee targeting all of Highlands

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

The newly formed Drug Task Force Committee — now called the Ad Hoc Drug Abuse Committee — focused its second meeting, April 28, on targeting parents and establishing a mission statement.

Initially the group set a goal of establishing a drug-free student population, but with prodding from the group's founder, local doctor Patti Wheeler, the focus has expanded.

■ See DRUG COMMITTEE page 6

Non-conforming ordinance still plagues board

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

Back in 2002, the Town Board amended Section 110 of the zoning ordinance concerning non-conforming buildings.

Now they are questioning their decision.


At the May 4 Town Board meeting, talk swirled around the interpretation of the word "destroyed" in the amended ordinance.

For most members of the Town Board "destroyed" means razed to the foundation. To others it means "the foundation is gone."


And there lies the conundrum.

The amended ordinance on nonconforming buildings and premises reads, "...alterations, repairs, or rebuilds. Non-

■ See NON-CONFORMING page 3



The Diary of Anne Frank
by Goodrich and Hackett
Newly adapted by Wendy Kesselman
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Copy Editor/Proofreader Tom Merchant
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Printed by the Asheville Citizen-Times, Asheville, N.C.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Nutritional choices at school paramount

Dear Editor,

My daughters brought a survey home from school yesterday regarding the nutrition of the food at school. I was impressed that Macon County School District was concerned about this and hopefully this is a sign that things will change. But there's a darker reality that belies the ability to bring nutrition into our schools. Money.

Plain and simple, healthier food costs more and tax dollars do not foot the bill for salaries and supplies needed to provide school meals. Will our children be willing to give up the French fries and canned soda for fresh fruits and vegetables, juice, and whole grain breads? I sure hope so, because the unhealthy foods are stealing the future well-being of our children.

Statistics show that having type II diabetes for 25 years increases the risk in fatal heart attack 12-fold! Type II diabetes is almost a totally preventable disease because its main cause is obesity. As a matter of fact, this disease doesn't exist in third world countries, where the abundance of unhealthy, processed foods that contain too much sugar and trans-fats is negligible. Trans-fats increase the risk of diabetes by 30%; one extra can of soda a day increases a child's risk for obesity by 60%! I feel it's vital to get the soda machines out of the schools. It's part of the cause of the new epidemic of type II diabetes (adult-onset) we are now seeing in our children. Soda consumption in the U.S. has increased by 500% since the 1950s.

We must save our children from an early death and start making changes now. But it takes a village. As a community, we must all embrace the desire to bring healthy choices into our schools and say no to having the unhealthy ones there.

And if there are not enough tax dollars to foot the bill, we can start to raise the money ourselves. Let's start a recycling program, have car washes, grow a community or school organic garden, let the home-ec class make fruit smoothies to serve at lunch....whatever! If we do it in the name of saving our children, it's worth it.

Our community is loaded with all sorts of resources. Let's bring some of those together in a crusade toward healthy living. I'm ready.

Debra A Wagner, MD
Highlands

Highlands dentist and staff first-rate

Dear Editor,

I am writing to let your readers know what a great experience I had recently with dentist Dr. Dyer and his staff in Highlands.

His staff was very professional and accommodating. His hygienist Tiffany was wonderful with my 7-year-old son.

Dr. Dyer was pleasant and willing to listen. My family and I are looking forward to many years of association with this office. I would highly recommend him to anyone. This is well worth the trip to Highlands.

Julie Stanley
Glenville

Monte Carlo a fun night out on the town



Proceeds from the Literacy Council's annual fundraiser – Monte Carlo Night – haven't been completely tallied yet, but Director Breta Stroud said about one-third of the organization's budget came in Friday, April 29. Horace Duncan deals the cards for Myers Kurtz.

Photo by Erin Brown

• OBITUARY •

Joe Milford Roulston

Joe Milford Roulston, age 68, of Scaly Mountain, N.C., died Sunday May 1, 2005 at a local hospital.

A native of Tarrant County, Texas, he was the son of the late William Roulston and Mildred Jones Daugherty. He retired from the Esco Elevator company after 31 years of service, a veteran of the US Navy, and a member of Cartoogechaye Church of God.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Charlotte Dryman Roulston; three daughters, Twila Nelson and her husband Glen of Arlington, TX, Lila Haugrud and her husband Steve of Winchester, VA, and Cynthia Miller of Scaly Mountain, N.C.; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3, 2005 graveside at Woodlawn Cemetery with Rev. Roy Barnwell officiating.

The family received friends from 12 until 2 p.m. at Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands.

Pallbearers were Dean Dryman, Mike Penland, Bill England, Norman Dryman, Ellis Head, and Richard McCall.

An online memorial video is available by visiting www.MeM.com. Online sympathy messages may be sent by visiting www.bryantfuneralhomes.com.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

... NON-CONFORMING continued from page 1

conforming buildings may be altered or repaired, but such buildings shall not be enlarged or expanded...Nonconforming buildings that are destroyed or condemned may not be rebuilt or repaired..."

"I think we have to re-write the ordinance and define the word destroyed," said Commissioner Herb James.

Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein said most insurance adjusters will tell you that your house isn't destroyed if the foundation is intact.

Chairman of the Planning Board John Cleaveland was in the audience to explain the Planning Board's recent decision to leave the amended ordinance as it stands.

"There are nonconforming buildings all over Highlands," he said. "If someone buys a nonconforming house and it

burns down, if they can't build back due to setback violations, then you're taking a lot of property value away from them. I think it's unfair to enforce something they can't do anything about."

Cleaveland said he agreed with commissioners that in such cases homes should not be expanded. "Only build back what was," he said.

Commissioner James was concerned about allowing people to build back in the town's right-of-way.

Commissioner DeWolf suggested amending the ordinance again to protect the town's right-of-way, but to allow for setback violations for previous nonconforming situations.

With so many questions, the board decided to take the matter under advisement until the May 20 Town Board meeting.

Teachers try 'change of pace'

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

Usually it's the students who change classes, but a few weeks ago two teachers at Highlands School did a trial switch which has lead to changes for the 2005-2006 school year.

"It was a new idea for me, but we both wanted to switch," said High School Teacher Michelle Lane.

She and Middle School Teacher Cathy McIntyre-Ross discussed the idea and proposed changing "schools" with Highlands School Principal Monica Bomengen.

"She was thrilled with the idea and very encouraging and enthusiastic," said

McIntyre-Ross. "She said if you need to make some changes to do that - then do it."

With permission from the principal, the two veteran teachers went about preparing each other for a month of brand new classes. McIntyre-Ross went to the high school and Lane went to the middle school.

"It was hard and a lot of work to prepare," said McIntyre-Ross. "We just wanted to make sure that everything ran smoothly on the other side."

McIntyre-Ross initially taught five years of high school when she began teaching and was already accustomed to

•See TEACHERS page 11

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... SHERIFF continued from page 1

sion to continue funding his Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit; the other from NC Highway Safety to buy safety equipment for check point road blocks.

The Governor's Crime Commissioner grant is for \$79,905 with a required county match of \$19,976.29. The other is for \$9,595 with no match from the county to purchase flashlights, a generator, safety vests, extension cords, a three-way warning system and other items.

"We frequently receive complaints about dangerous drivers and illegal activity in neighborhoods," said Holland. "With the use of checkpoints, officers are seen in particular areas and have made numerous drug arrests."

The Narcotics Unit, a unit Holland initiated when he took office, has made numerous arrests on drug-related charges. Grant funding will ensure the work continues over the next year, as well.

Over the past nine months, the unit has made arrests resulting in 161 felony drug charges; 127 misdemeanor drug charges and opened 127 new cases.

More than 100 additional charges have been filed due to information discovered during drug investigations including 40 breaking and entering cases solved during drug investigations.

Three methamphetamine labs have been busted by the unit and Macon County Sheriff's officers were involved in the investigation and dismantling of six other labs.

During the past nine months, the Narcotics Unit was also involved in four murder investigations and supervised the eradication of marijuana in seven Western North Carolina counties.

"The Narcotics Unit is credited with an arrest in Macon County that led to additional arrests and the largest seizure of marijuana in a nearby county's history," said Holland.

Holland and his officers have worked hard establishing a relationship with the county's communities through four drug forums and numerous presentations at schools, civic clubs and other organizations.

"We want to continue to educate citizens about the dangers of drugs, what to do if they suspect drug activity in their community and whom to contact," he said. "We do this to educate the community about methamphetamine and to raise awareness."

Holland has often said knowing and being trusted by the community is the best deterrent to crime.

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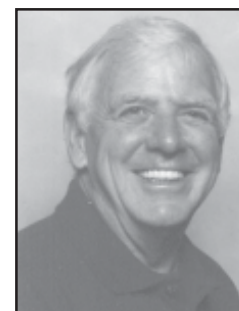
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Dead Again



Fred Wooldridge

Terri Schiavo, the pretty young lady who, for 16 years, had the misfortune of being forced to pose as a vegetable with a stupid fixed “Duh” look on her face before the entire planet, has finally died.....or maybe she died 16 years ago and they just cremated her recently?

Here's a question the television media never asked. “Do you think Terri would have approved of having her dignity destroyed by us displaying her before the whole world in such a fashion?” While I am really big on First Amendment rights allowing it to happen, I am also big on when does media morality kick in. Media morality, is that an oxymoron?

Anyway, along with Terri's death, all the hoopla about her existence died also. The Schiavo extravaganza not only collapsed because she died, but Pope John Paul II died right after, sending the media frenzy in his direction. The Catholic media coverage was endless. I got maxed out and had to go into my own conclave.

If any good came from these overly publicized events, it was bringing to light the fact that we are all going to die someday, maybe tomorrow, possibly not for years, but we will all get to meet the grim reaper. This is something we Americans don't like to think about, mostly because Americans live a comfortable life compared to much of the world. Death is something we don't want on our plate.

Because I have seen so much death in my lifetime, I have become rather blasé about the event. For me, it will be the final life adventure. I will get more excited about it when my time draws near. I guess it has a lot to do with what your religious beliefs are.

I used to work with a guy (let's just call him Mr. X) who proclaimed himself an atheist, but went to church several times a year. When I asked him about that, he said, “I really don't believe in God, but just in case the preacher is right, I go for protection.” Hmmm, something for you atheists out there to think about.

Then there is this reincarnation thing that keeps popping up in my

head. Lots of folks think the Catholic Church used to believe in reincarnation. Not true. The Sheiks' doctrine preaches reincarnation and so they eat nothing that has or had a mother, especially a cow because it might be their reincarnated brother, or worse, Adolph Hitler.

Have you read the book “Many Lives, Many Masters”? Spooky stuff!

I once had a vivid dream I had died, was standing before God and had to answer for my life. God said to me, “Considering the level of intelligence I gave you, (ha) coupled with all the temptations I slammed you with, I guess you didn't do too terribly bad. I'm giving you a passing grade this time, maybe a C. But in your next life, you will have few temptations and great intelligence. Your challenge will be great and anything short of an A+ will be unacceptable.” Whoa, I cannot escape that dream. It seemed so real.

Most religions teach there is a consciousness after death. You supposedly are aware you are dead and your soul is consciously aware you are someplace else other than alive and, depending on your beliefs you will get to meet with your maker.

But suppose it is not like that. Suppose death is more like you are relieved of the burdens of life, like breathing, paving Bowery Road or grumbling about OEL, and are just unconscious, but at peace. Would that mean that Mr. X is right and we non atheists are wrong? But what if God wants life after death to be that way and not the way we think? I guess in the end, it really doesn't matter. It is what it is.

I am glad for the coverage on Terri Schiavo and Pope John Paul II. People should think more about their own death. We are supposedly the only species on the planet who knows we will die someday. Is that a gift?

Mind you, I am drawing no conclusions here. My faith is intact. I just wanted to give you some things to think about while you're deciding whether you want to be a carrot on life support.

By the way, Mr. X is now dead and I am betting he didn't die an atheist.



HS 7th & 8th grade Awards



Seventh Grade AB Honor Roll: Front row, from left: Olen Schiffli, Will Mathiowdis, Hannah Krumholt, Haley Rice, Adilene Jiminez. Back row, from left: Lacey Tucker and Beverly Nix

Right: Seventh Grade All A Honor Roll: From left: Amanda Bruce and Jamie Bolt



Below: Eighth Grade All A Honor Roll: From left: Marisol Ruiz, Matthew McClellan, Will Edwards, Andrew Billingsley, Jessica Roulston
Not pictured: Casey Jenkins



Eighth Grade AB Honor Roll: From left: Lucy Ruiz, Spencer Nadler, Danielle Reese, Mikey Lica.

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Nonprofits line up for funding

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

Well, it's that time of year, time to work up a preliminary 2005-2006 budget.

Requests for non-profit allocations are in and decisions are being made.

Six nonprofit organizations have requested a total of \$106,333 in funding from the Town. As in 2004-2005, commissioners allocated \$50,000 for nonprofits the 2005-2006 budget year.

This year, The Hudson Library requested \$15,000. Last year they requested \$21,000 and got \$10,000.

The Peggy Crosby Center requested \$20,000. Last year \$32,500 was requested and \$15,000 was received.

The Historical Society requested \$22,000. Last year \$20,000 was requested, and \$15,000 was awarded.

The Highlands Child Care Development Center requested \$5,733. Last year \$30,000 was requested and \$10,000 received.

The Instant Theatre Company has asked for \$3,600 this year and didn't request any money last year.

The Bascom-Louise Gallery has requested \$40,000. It didn't request anything last year, either. The gallery which has not asked for funds in the past two years has asked this year in anticipation of their new facility to be built on the Crane property.

The town's budget has to be finalized June 30, but Town Administrator Richard Betz said he plans to present the first draft of the budget towards the end of May. In the end, commissioners decide how the \$50,000 is allocated.

... DRUG COMMITTEE continued from page 1

"A lot of the people I see with problems are not in school," she said. "They're in their early 20s and 30s and it leaves a hole in their own children's care. I think including the school may be a strategy, but it can't be the whole scope because those young adults are the ones who seem to be dying."

Ryan Sprague of Community Bible Church agreed with Wheeler saying school-age children aren't providing the drugs at school and with a little tweaking the committee could focus on the population of Highlands at large.

"That age group [K-12] is an indirect target of what we're trying to accomplish because we're not going to eliminate drugs by keeping them out of the hands of a 16-year-old," he said.

Wheeler said the goal for her is to help improve relationships between the police department and the community.

"Part of that community awareness is to encourage people to interface with the police department to provide information, but we also need to encourage people so when the police are given this type of information there are results," said Wheeler.

Police Chief Jerry Cook said getting the information on drug abusers is very difficult in the Highlands area.

"It's almost like pulling teeth," he said. "But the education starts with trust and we need to be trusted in the community."

Wheeler concurred saying that trusting the police was a big part of the puzzle to solving the local drug problem.

In a subsequent interview, Sheriff

Robbie Holland agreed. "Keeping good communication with people in your community is essential and the ad hoc group could be part of that. I attribute my success as Sheriff when it comes to making the number of drug cases to being in touch with the community and asking and getting community input," he said.

But Highlands School Principal Monica Bomengen said she didn't see the purpose of the group as telling the chief how to enforce the law.

Wheeler said she wasn't suggesting the department stop everybody, but to come up with something so the community knows the police are doing everything they can to stop the drugs.

"This seems more like an education-directed group and that's only a part of my perspective of what this group needs to be able to do," said Wheeler.

Sprague said getting to the root of the problem was a good place to start and to focus on the "positive aspects" of eliminating drugs as a substitute for prohibitive measures.

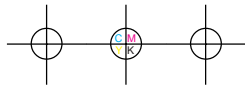
"People know that drugs kill, they know it's a reality, but there's something in their heads that makes them say 'I want this, I need this,'" said Sprague.

Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland said priority number one for the group needs to be prevention.

"Prevention should start with our youth who are the future of our county," he said.

Highlands School Principal Monica Bomengen said she had con-

■ See DRUG COMMITTEE page 7



... DRUG COMMITTEE continued from page 6

ducted a survey for sixth through tenth graders which revealed some startling findings.

"Tony Corbin [the Macon County Schools' resource officer] and I looked at the responses, and we felt the comparison of the percentage of middle-schoolers versus the percentage of ninth and tenth graders were so similar — even though the kids were surveyed totally separate and didn't have a chance to talk to each other — we thought that meant it was reasonably accurate."

According to the study of 116 students, just over one-third of them responded positively when asked if they had seen or heard of students bringing drugs to school this year; almost 10 percent of students surveyed say they know of students who sell drugs on campus.

The Sheriff Department's surprise drug dogs visited the Highlands School campus twice last year, but the department hasn't been asked this year. "All the administration has to do is call me and I set it up with the Sheriff's Department," said Police Chief Jerry Cook.

According to the survey, 30 percent of students responded positively when asked if they knew of someone who sells drugs off campus to students. Students were asked to name where drugs were sold (or rumored to be sold), and 10 percent of them identified the recreation park.

"Clearly they know something's going on," Bomengen said.

Earlier in the year a coach told Bomengen of a "beer blast" that was allegedly taking place at the home of a junior whose parents were going out of town one weekend.

"What was interesting and disheartening was that when we contacted the parents they were in complete and total denial," she said. "First of all you don't go on vacation and leave your teenage kids unsupervised. In my book, I think that's idiotic," she said.

Bomengen said there's a frame of mind of many parents who don't want to hold their children responsible, even when they're caught red-handed.

Calling children actors for auditions

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.

They are looking for children who have finished the first grade but not yet entered eighth grade. Candidates should have "some" experience singing in church or a school group. Singing

"There is a mentality among a lot of the parents in Highlands of 'no accountability,' there's always an excuse," she said. "There's a real culture of a lack of accountability."

Bomengen said many parents' relationships with her start out as adversarial, "but a lot of those parents, once I get them in the office they say, 'I don't know what to do.'"

Sprague, Wheeler and Bomengen referred to several parent programs to help parents cope with troubling teens — Parent-to-Parent, which is already completely funded and Been There Parent, sponsored through local churches. Bomengen said she thought the PTO should get "pretty radical" on some of the programs that are being offered to parents.

She went on to say that some parents are "just clueless" when it comes to disciplining their children.

"A lot of it isn't just them [the parents] being clueless it's them being lazy," Wheeler said.

Committee member Rick Rawlins said, "It's a lot easier to say 'yes' to your kid than it is to say 'no.'"

Bomengen said she and Assistant Principal Mark Thomas stress to students the proper way to act and respect not only their school, but their town as well.

"We say to them, 'that's not the way we do things at this school,'" she said. "If you're going to be a part of this school you need to learn to do things the Highlands way."

In addition to focusing on relationships between the school and the police department, the group plans to target the town at large.

"We need the community's help," Chief Cook. "We've got to have people telling us what's going on out there in their part of the community."

Sheriff Holland said community input is paramount.

"Members of the community know their neighbors better than we do and by being available to the public allow us to receive what could become crucial information."

"Happy Birthday" or "Jesus Loves Me" is fine.

Rehearsals begin June 27-July 1 and July 5-9 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cast members must also be on call for rehearsals on July 11-13.

The show opens Wednesday, July 13 and runs through July 31. There are no shows on Mondays.

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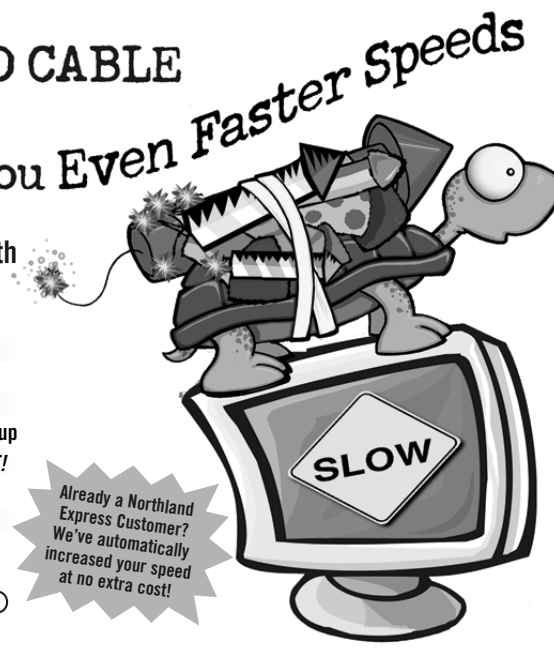
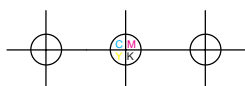
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Hospital gets go-ahead for MRI

Nearly two years of hard work by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and local leaders finally paid off last week, as state officials tentatively approved the hospital's bid to get a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner.

The NC Department of Health and Human Service's Division of Facility Services won't formally issue the Certificate of Need (CON) for 30 days, during which time any affected person or party can appeal the decision. Since the hospital was the only applicant, officials here say that is unlikely.

"This is an important day in the history of health care for everyone served by the hospital," said Walt Nussbaum, chairman of the hospital's board of trustees. "This technology is becoming an integral part of modern standards for medical care in today's world, and this decision will mean area residents will no longer have to leave the area in order to have an MRI."

This was the hospital's second attempt to obtain a Certificate of Need for an MRI. Efforts two years ago to win state approval of the single MRI slated for Macon County failed when the state eventually awarded the CON to Angel Medical Center in Franklin. The hospital initially fought that decision, but later dropped its appeal after state health planners determined there was a special need for an additional MRI in the county, one specifically located on the Highlands plateau.

"To say we are very pleased would be a understatement," said hospital Administrator Jim Graham. "This has been a long battle, and we appreciate the support we have had from everyone in our communities and at the county level. Our residents deserve quick, convenient access to an MRI, and now that is going to become a reality."

In petitioning the council to add a second MRI, the hospital argued that MRI services have become the accepted standard of care in medicine today; that there is substantial need for those services in the Highlands-Cashiers area; and that mobile MRI services are not feasible here.

Even though its petition for the additional MRI was approved, the hospital still had to apply for a certificate of need.

"We have been very optimistic that our application would eventually be approved. We felt our application met the state's standards and we had the support of local and county officials, as well as other area hospitals, including Angel Medical Center," said Graham.

In its decision issued last Tuesday, the state's CON section said the hospital's application was conditionally approved, pending any appeals process. Those conditions require the hospital to comply with all representations made in its application, install only that equipment proposed in its application, and to formally acknowledge its acceptance and willingness to comply.

"These are standard conditions for any CON of this type, and meeting them will not be a problem," Graham said.

The hospital proposes to purchase a 1.5 Tesla MRI unit that will provide an optimal range of capabilities and that is cost effective. That unit is more powerful than other options, and hospital official say it offers a wider range of procedures and provides consistently better images in a shorter time. That unit will be installed in a new outpatient diagnostic center on the first level of the Jane Woodruff Clinic. Under the timetable set by the state, the new MRI should be operational by the end of this year.

Now the hospital needs donors willing to help fund the purchase of the equipment and necessary installation.

"As with all other new equipment and services, the hospital needs help from the community in the form of contributions," said Jack Calloway, president of the hospital's Foundation. "The state has done it's part, now it's up to us to raise \$2.5 million to purchase a state-of-the art MRI unit that will serve our communities for many years to come."

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Local stage actor making it big on the 'silver screen'

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

Many see Adam Heffernan as the comedic host of the Instant Theater Company's 'Little Evenings of Entertainment,' but this fall Heffernan will take to a bigger stage in his role of Deputy Smiley in the feature film 'The Work and the Glory 2.'

Heffernan said he wasn't nervous about his initial audition, but veteran actors like Heffernan rarely get nervous. When they called him back for his second audition, he met director Sterling Van Wagenen, the director of the film, and was very impressed.

"He was wonderful," said Heffernan. "It was the first time we met and he immediately connected with me as an actor. He made me feel very comfortable."

Heffernan's Atlanta agency The People Store connected him with their representative Brenda Pauley, who in

turn recommended him for the audition. Heffernan learned of the agency through a fellow local actor Adrian Roberts.

"They auditioned us at a hotel in mid-town Atlanta," he said. "It was a chance to act – so it was a lot of fun."

A week later Heffernan received a callback and he had the part.

"It's just two small scenes," he said. "In one, I arrest Joseph Smith and in the other I interrogate him, and I'm not too nice about it."

The films are written by Matt Whitaker and based on a series of books by author Gerald N. Lund. The second installment of films, due in October, were announced by Producer and President of Vineyard Productions Scott Swofford, who is best known for the Academy-Award nominated documentary, 'Amazon.' The two films, produced back-to-back for a total of 55 days in Vonore, Tennessee are helmed by Sterling Van Wagenen, who won the



Adam Heffernan, right, stands with John Henry Scott on the set of the pioneer epic *The Work and the Glory 2* which is scheduled to be released in October.

Academy Award for producing the film 'A Trip to Bountiful' and co-founded the Sundance Film Institute and Festival with Robert Redford. The first part of the series is under limited release and is in movie theaters now. Returning stars to the series are Sam Hennings of *The Aviator*, Brenda Strong of *Desperate Housewives* and *Seinfeld*, Jonathan Scarfe of *Judas*, and Eric Johnson of *Smallville*.

Heffernan has filmed one scene and returns next week to film the second.

"The treatment on the set is great," he said. "You get a hotel room, per diem pay and all the food is catered."

Heffernan said he can make a quarter of his annual income on a film set in just two weeks.

"With commercials it's even better," he said. Heffernan has also landed a nation-wide commercial for 1-800-FLOWERS which will air later this year.

Heffernan will travel to New Orleans this week for a callback in a movie with Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew McConaughey called 'Failure to Launch.'

"I have to drive to New Orleans and be back in time for Instant's show on Friday night," he said.

Heffernan will prove a very busy actor when he changes roles once again this fall. On a whim he decided to

audition for the Graduate Studies Program in Performance at the University of Tennessee.

In the past, people have told him if Woody Allen and River Phoenix had a love child, he would be the product of that union. Emulating those two great actors Heffernan landed his next leading role as, student.

"I called and asked on a Tuesday if I could come audition, and they told me I had until Friday," he said chuckling. "By Monday I was in."

Heffernan prepared two pieces, a classical one from the third part of Shakespeare's 'King Henry VI' and a contemporary piece by Regina Taylor.

Heffernan was selected as one of eight students, four men and four women, from over 800 applicants. He will receive his Master's degree in Performance Studies, thus making him even more remarkable.

"After the audition, the head of the graduate studies in performance said, 'you are a very, very, very, very good actor,'" Heffernan said modestly.

He said the best thing about the program is a chance to be part of the Clarence Brown Equity Theater. The equity theater is a member of LORT, league of residents theater, which employs mainly union actors.

"I am in awe," he said. "It was the one time I was actually nervous."



Adam Heffernan has been in soap operas, films, commercials and can be seen on stage weekly at Instant Theatre Company's "Little Evenings of Entertainment" each Friday night.

Non-traditional high school to open Fall 2006

By Kim Lewicki

highlandseditor@aol.com

If being proactive keeps institutions alive, then Macon County Schools will be kicking for a while.

At the April 26 school board meeting, administrators unveiled what they've been talking about for some months now – an Early College High School to be housed on the SCC Macon campus in Franklin.

"There is a segment of the student population not buying into school," said Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell. "Many of them are very bright and we're hoping this will be beneficial to them."

An academic-career curriculum in public safety and health-related fields is planned for the school but administrators haven't ruled out other fields like food service and hospitality at this point.

Students would enter in the ninth grade and graduate in four to five years with a high school diploma and an Associate's degree or two years of college transfer credits.

Paula Ledford, spokesperson, said the small schools concept of "3 Rs" will be in play.

Rigor – high standards for all students, college-bound curriculum, and an elimination of tracking; Relevance – curriculum integration, application and performance, work-based learning and internships, with the personal needs of students met; and Relationships – teacher/advisor, non-traditional scheduling, small class sizes and a clear system of student support.

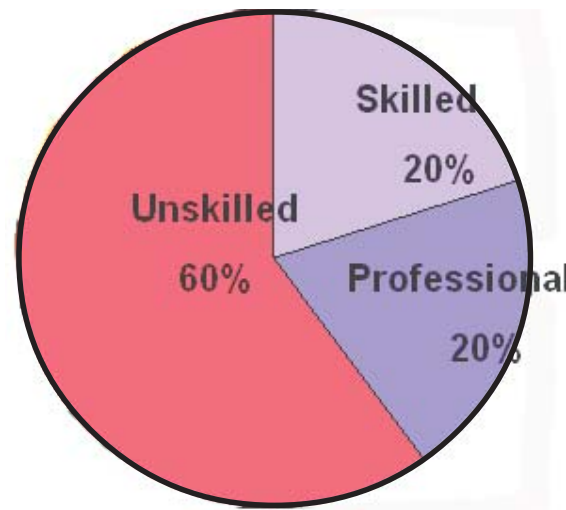
"We'll be looking for teachers and administrators who can think outside the box," said Shotwell. "Teachers who can integrate subjects and work well together."

Teachers will collaborate among high school and college level instructors; be creative innovative thinkers who are willing to integrate community-based learning experiences into the curriculum. They should be able to build and maintain rapport with students and have a desire to see and use research-based learning/teaching techniques.

"There will be four teachers, a principal and a counselor who will work in unison," said Shotwell. He said the state will fund the principal position and is willing to waive the seven teachers in a school requirement which typically justifies hiring a principal.

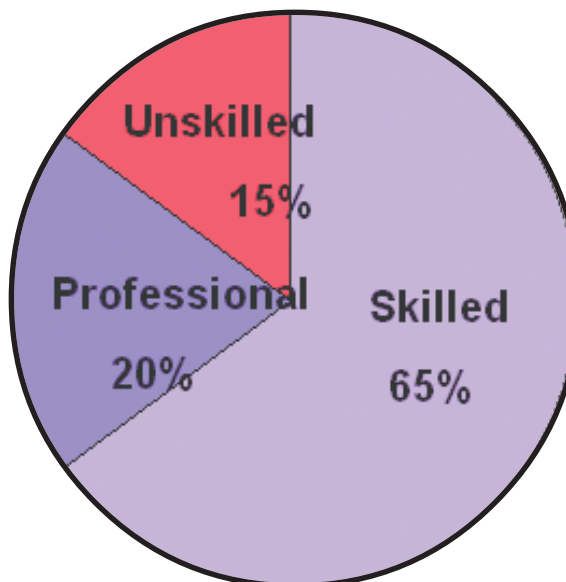
Board member Donnie Edwards voiced concern about a lack of extracurricular activities and athletics at the proposed school.

But Shotwell and Ledford said studies show that the students who might thrive in the Early College High



1950

In 1950, 60 percent of the populace was unskilled, 20 percent were considered skilled and 20 percent were considered professionals.



1997

In 1997, 15 percent were unskilled; 65 percent considered skilled and 20 percent considered professionals.

School environment don't typically join groups, clubs or participate in athletics.

Shotwell said days would be structured differently for students also so traditional after-school athletic practice and game times probably wouldn't work for them.

"Studies show this hidden group doesn't care about those things and they are different than other students in that respect," he said. "They are somewhat anti-establishment and disengaged with traditional school activities."

N.C. Education Pipeline reports that the toughest students gravitate toward this kind of school and actually thrive "getting and keeping a 3.0 GPA," said Shotwell.

The school will target highly motivated students who are seeking college classes tuition-free, who like the atmosphere of small classes and a close-knit learning community; who are intrigued by project-based learning and field experiences within the community; who don't like or fit in with restrictions and the atmosphere of a traditional high school and will meet the guidelines and expectations of college students.

Administrators envision 25 students per grade level, never exceeding 400 students in the school at one time.

An increase of graduation rates and a decrease in drop-out rates is expected. Also, since students will be working at high school and college at the same time, attaining a college degree will be more accessible and affordable.

The National Summit on 21st Century Skills for 21st Century Jobs reports that times have changed. "Students need to focus on skills to get jobs these days," said Shotwell.

In 1950, 60 percent of the populace was unskilled, 20 percent were considered skilled and 20 percent were considered professionals.

In 1997, 15 percent were unskilled; 65 percent considered skilled and 20 percent considered professionals.

The school will be open and free to all rising high school students in Macon County and transportation will be provided for students who want to attend from Highlands or Nantahala with a morning and evening shuttle.

The school board OK'd an application for a one-year planning and implementation grant. Administrators hope to open the school the fall semester of 2006.

... TEACHERS continued from page 1

teaching that age group, but Lane – a 12-year veteran high school teacher — needed to "get a taste" for middle school.

"She wanted to try this age group," McIntyre-Ross said. "And Ms. Bomengen suggested we try for a longer period of time than just a couple of weeks."

Both thought the beginning of the third nine weeks was an excellent time to make the switch because things were slowing down and that time period would allow enough time for the teachers to prepare their students for final exams and wrap up their end-of-year activities.

McIntyre-Ross and Lane shared lesson plans and put their "own spins" on the sections they would cover. McIntyre-Ross taught William Shakespeare's "Romeo

and Juliet" and a modernist short story section to Lane's high school students and Lane taught Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" and a drama section which also covered "Driving Miss Daisy" to McIntyre-Ross' middle school students.

"We talked about the things we would normally cover and it evolved from there," Lane said.

McIntyre-Ross will teach her eighth grade students two years in a row, both this year and next, when she sees them again in ninth grade.

"I'll be getting them again," she said. "It will be like a reunion."

McIntyre-Ross said she won't miss doing the same thing she's done for the past 10 years, but she will miss

teaching her holocaust unit.

Lane, too, was ready for a change.

"I really enjoyed teaching high school, but I felt like I needed something different," she said. "Big responsibilities" like the prom – which she has supervised for the past seven years – won't be missed. "I know I will have extracurricular duties in the middle school, but they will be different," she said. "I think it will be a positive change."

Bomengen has asked Lane to teach AP English Language and Composition, a high school drama class and seventh- and eighth-grade language arts next year.

McIntyre-Ross will teach the ninth- and eleventh-grade English classes and will be in charge of the yearbook. Ms. Lane will also assist her with the production of the year book.

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Katie Brugger with "Heart of the High Country" films a beetle release on Whiteside Mountain.

Beetle release sites expanding

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is on the run these days. The entomology department at Clemson University is rearing the predator *Sassajiscymnus* (Sst) beetles at a record pace and putting them in trees all around Highlands. An average of 10,000 of the hungry ladybird beetles are being released weekly in areas of heavy HWA infestation in the Chattooga watershed.

Generally, the sites so far include forest service land at Whiteside Mountain, Dry Falls, Glen Falls, Blue Valley, Flat Mountain Rd., Buck Creek Rd., Whiteside Cove, Hwy. 107 South, Bridal Veil Falls, and Horse Cove. The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, Chattooga Conservancy and the forest service have been key partners in site selection and releases.

Releases will continue into the first

part of June when the beetles and adelgids go in aestivation, an insect-type of hibernation. Hugh Conway, director of the lab, expects the lab to produce 200,000 beetles this spring.

Watch an upcoming feature story on the beetle project with footage of releases done on Whiteside Mtn. and Dry Falls on Heart of the High Country Channel 14.

Mark your calendar for the June 4th Beetle Ball. The Highlands Conference Center will be transformed into a magical forest filled with beetles. Come for an evening of music, dancing, food, games, and silent auctions to raise money to save our Hemlocks! For Beetle Ball tickets or for information on HWA call JMCA at 526-9938 ext. 320.

• BUSINESS NEWS •



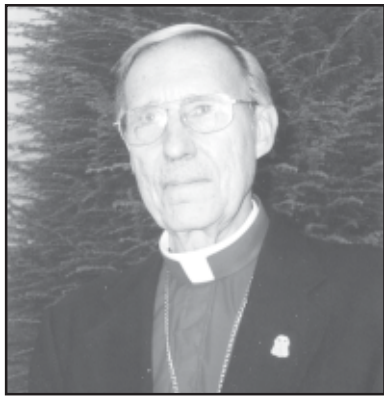
SweetTreats Ice Cream and Coffee House officially opens.

April 30 marked the Grand Opening of SweetTreats now an expanded version of the ice cream parlor. Gus and Jan Lard, Michelle Hubbel, the Carlton family and Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Bill Bassham were on hand for the ribbon cutting last week.



• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Out of the shadows



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

"These things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves." (John 17:13) "Who's joy? My joy."

When it comes down to the real nitty-gritty of our lives – who we really are and what we really ought to be doing – too often this is the biggest whopper of them all: "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven!"

"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth," Jesus prays to the Father. "As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself that they also may be consecrated in truth," he continues.

Jesus is praying to the Father for us here. Jesus is talking about us who pray "Thy will be done on earth" with our fingers crossed, so to speak. "How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?" the Psalmist asked.

We do have good intentions. We intend to re-examine our values and our priorities, and our whole way of life. But the vain words creep in: "I'm awfully busy right now...I have so many things on my mind I just haven't time to follow through on my good intentions," or the commitment I made to the group.

But Jesus knows what we're up to. And so, again and again, he makes the point that receiving his teachings is not enough: we've got to apply them; act on them; translate them into real, live action.

Jesus prays that we may be consecrated in truth. And the Gospel truth is that we are loved by a gracious God who wants to give us life. But he has given us freedom to choose. We can choose to allow the joy of Christ to light up our lives, or we can choose otherwise. We can follow Jesus, or we can go our own way. He or she who "obeys me" is the one who loves me, Jesus said. The consequence of the obedience, the joy of freely choosing to say "Yes! to Christ is love. In our obedience to Christ, in doing God's will, we are learning how to love.

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light," wrote the Apostle Paul. "Look carefully then how you walk," he continued, "not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time." He told that to the church at Ephesus 2000 years ago, but he could stand here today and say the same thing to each of us.

And we would cry out, "Lord, I intend to awaken" (true or false?). "Lord, I intend to arise from my dreary

▪ See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 16

• PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU •

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

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

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, Georgia

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

Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 9 a.m. - choir

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

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

Communion each service

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Community Bible Church in Highlands.

Monday Bible Study: 6 p.m. Parish House

Tuesday Noon Bible Study: noon Parish House

Pot Luck Dinner: Last Sunday of the Month.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Wilson, (828) 743-3379

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

Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service – 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)

Steven E. Kerhoulas, Senior Pastor

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3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;

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

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

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

7 p.m. Teaching

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968

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

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

Children's Chapel – 10:30 a.m.;

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

Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8

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

p.m.; Supper & Program – 6 p.m.

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.

Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

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

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

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

Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

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

Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.

Thursdays: Bible Study – 10 a.m.

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

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376

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

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

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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

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Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

For more information, call

(706)-745-1842.

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Rev. William M Evans, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

Wednesdays & Fridays: Mass – 9 a.m.

Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m.

Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

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

Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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

Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon

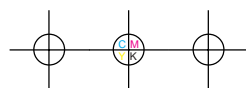
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby

Sundays: Fellowship & Worship – 11

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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



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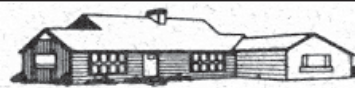


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• HIGHLANDS UPCOMING EVENTS •

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 information, 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. Complimentary wine and soft drinks are served.

• 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 5

• Hike into Panthertown Valley with Taylor Earman. 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This 4.6-mile, moderate to strenuous hike takes you to Schoolhouse Falls and Granny Burrell Falls. No charge, bring a bag lunch and water. Call 526-5298, or drop by the Highland Hiker for your reservations. All the activities are for women 18 years old or older.

• Join the Highland Hiker for an evening of fun and fashion. See all the latest spring fashions for ladies and preview the new ladies travel apparel line. Refreshments will be served, and a special gift given to all the mothers.

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

• Democratic fundraiser with a Mexican flair on Cinco de Mayo at the Main Street Inn. Senator John Snow is expected to speak. Tickets are \$25. Call 526-2590 for reservations.

May 5-8

• Highlands Community Players "The Diary of Anne Frank" at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. The Box office at the Performing Arts Center is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays. You can also make reservations by calling the Players box office telephone at 828-526-4904. Tickets are \$15 each, \$8 for children or \$12 for groups of 15 or more.

May 7

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike to Chiquapin Mountain for a pretty view, descending to dramatic Glen Falls. Several stream crossings are involved. Meet at Macon Plaza in Franklin at 9 a.m. or at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:45 a.m. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader David Sapin, 369-2628, for reservations or

more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• The Hudson Library Trustees welcomes all interested persons to come to the library on Saturday at 10 a.m. to help with our first annual yard spring clean-up. You are welcome to bring a rake, clippers, leaf blower or any other garden-yard tools. We will be spreading pine straw, mulch and cleaning up after winter. All help will be appreciated

• The Barker's Creek Grist Mill in Dillard will be open to the public to grind your corn or ours Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. Contact Woody Malot at 706-746-6921 for more information.

• The Sixth Annual Mountain Lakes 5-K Run in Highlands at 9 a.m. in front of the Rec Park. Interested participants can sign up at the Town Hall or the Civic Center. Proceeds from the race will go to support athletic scholarships and fitness-related programs in Highlands. For more information, contact Richard Betz at 526-5266.

• Audubon Birdwalk, Rich Gap Road for spring migrants. Meet at the Highlands Town Hall Parking lot at 7:30 a.m. to car pool. Contact Edwin Poole, 526-2775.

• Rabies Clinic at Highlands Conference Center. \$5 per animal, 1-2:30 p.m. and at Scaly Mtn. Post Office, 2-4 p.m. Both with Dr. Amy Patterson.

May 8

• Vengan A Cenar! La Noche de Familia at the Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m. It's free. Call 526-9938, ext. 290.

May 8-13

• Women's Appalachian Adventure at The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center. Program, rafting, field trips, 5 nights lodging & meals - \$491. Call 877-426-8056. Program #8613. Commuters: \$185 includes program, rafting, field trips and 8 meals.

May 9

• Highlands Baseball on May 9, 5 p.m. vs. Rabun Gap is at HIGHLANDS at Zachary Fields.

May 10

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

• Highlands School PTO meeting at Highlands School - 6 p.m.

• Audubon Program, Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers, Scott Dean of Western North Carolina, Naturally. Potluck supper at 6 p.m., program 7:30 p.m., Highlands Civic Center. Contact Edwin Poole, 526-2775.

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 14

• 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 information, call Bonnie at 526-2112.

May 14-June 16

• The Bascom-Louise Collection will be in the gallery in the Hudson Library beginning May 14 through June 16.

May 16

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

May 19

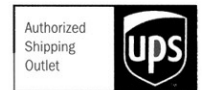
• InterChurch Pot Luck Supper at Our Lady of the



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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.

May 21

• 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.

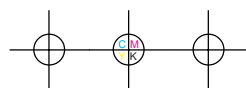
• Birdathon, a day of counting birds to raise funds for Audubon programs. For information contact Mary Jo Askew, 526-1750. Threeteams are seeking your support.

• 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

May 23

• 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.



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POLICE & FIRE

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of April 27-May 4. The only names printed are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

April 27

- At 1:20 a.m., officers responded to an accident. No one was hurt nor was the vehicle damaged.

- At 8:05 a.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles. There were no injuries.

April 28

- At 5:40 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles. There were no injuries.

April 29

- At 4:25 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles. There were no injuries.

May 3

- At 3:30 a.m., officers on patrol found an open door at Dutchman's Design.

May 4

- At 9:30 a.m., officers responded to a call of trucks blocking Oak Street.

- at 10:45 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 106 and Helen's Barn Ave. was cited for driving without a license.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue log entries for April 28-May 4.

April 28

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashier Fire Dept. It was cancelled en route.

April 30

- The dept. responded to a motorcycle accident on N.C. 106. The victim was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call to a residence on Buttermilk Lane. The victim was transported to the hospital.

May 3

- The dept. responded to a call about a “smell of smoke” at a residence at VZ-Top. Nothing was found.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 13

existence and rejoice in your gift of new life (true or false?). “Lord, I really want it to happen!” (True or false?).

If your family life needs mending, you won't find any healing for whatever is tearing it apart – UNLESS YOU REALLY WANT IT TO HAPPEN.

If a stale, broken marriage of convenience which is really a cohabitation (or other relationship) needs mending, you won't find healing

for whatever is causing the estrangement, the joy is gone, the fire is dead – UNLESS YOU REALLY WANT IT TO HAPPEN.

If your spirit is filled with resentment and bitterness and unforgiveness, you won't find healing for whatever is dragging you down in this way – UNLESS YOU REALLY WANT IT TO HAPPEN. Stop worshipping at the altar of the past. Oh, I wish it was like it used to be. That's not the way we used to do it. I liked it

the way it was. It never will be so get used to it. Life moves on.

There won't be any lifting up of your spirit, any liberation of mind and heart and soul, any authentic joy in your life – UNLESS YOU REALLY WANT IT TO HAPPEN.

Jesus prayed to the Father that we be consecrated in his truth, dedicated to his will, open to his new life of love. Do we know what we have to do in response?

Do we really want to live in the spirit of God's truth? Do we really want it to happen? Or do we feel the need to find another god who will tell us fibs?

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead. Awake, O sleeper, and arise out of your shadowy existence and rejoice in Christ's gift of new life. Awake o sleeper, and rejoice in your learning how to love!



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

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LEGALS

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
 (828) 526-3731
 (828) 526-3734 fax
 jack@jackmayerlaw.com
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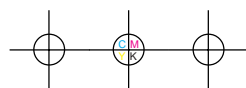
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'Show & Tell' for pre-schoolers at library



Last week, students of the Episcopal Church pre-school visited the Hudson Library with teacher Andrea Chalker for story-time and "show & tell" with Mayor Buck Trott.



Mom Tamara Bronaugh brought a ball python snake named "All Ball" for the "Show & Tell" part of the afternoon. Some children were scared, but most were just curious.

Photos by Erin Brown

... REC PARK continued from page 1

"At least this clears up the issue of the county providing equivalent services county-wide," said Macon County Manager Sam Greenwood.

But the Town of Highlands still has a lot of questions.

"I don't want them to think that just because we accept this I'm going to shut up about requesting funding for water and sewer projects in town," said Commissioner Amy Patterson. "The part saying 'in lieu of any further support payments except with county projects,' shouldn't be attached to the rec park funding. It's an independent issue," she said.

The county's proposal says:

- Macon County will fund the operation of the combined recreation programs up to \$500,000 per year.
- The town will retain ownership and responsibility for recreation park

operations.

- Removal of the Performing Arts Center from the recreation budget.
 - The proposal will be made to the Highlands Town Board in lieu of any further support payments for water and sewer construction except in conjunction with county projects.
 - Also, an \$80,000 county match will be made for the Holt Knob water project which was recently completed by the town.
 - The town recreation committee will expand to include representation from Macon County and the county representative will be the District I commissioner.
 - Any remaining details will be worked out by the joint recreation commissioners.
- At the May 4 Town Board meeting, commissioners agreed to the proposal

Mountain Lakes 5-K set for Sat.

Runners and fitness walkers alike are invited to participate in the Mountain Lakes 5-K Race, scheduled for Saturday, May 7, at 9 a.m.

The event is the annual fund-raiser for the Highlands Roadrunners Club, and organizers are expecting good attendance for the race, now in its sixth year.

"We already have a lot of out-of-town runners signed up, but would also like to have good local participation," said Race Director Richard Betz.

"Our goal as a running club is to encourage life-long fitness, and running or walking is the key to it for a lot of us," Betz said. "Whether it's keeping your weight off, maintaining good muscle tone, even having more energy; you name it—beginning and staying with a program of running or fitness walking can definitely help.

The 5-K (3.1-mile) course is a loop that begins on US 64 in front of the Highlands Civic Center, circles around Lake Ravenel and Harris Lake, and finishes on Laurel Street beside First Citizens Bank. Traffic control will be provided throughout the course by Police and volunteers. Betz said that fitness walkers are encouraged to participate, and that the course is relatively easy. However, since part of the route is on an unpaved gravel road, strollers are not recommended.

The entry fee for the race is \$15 before race day, and entry forms are available at the Town Hall, the Civic Center, and the Visitors Center, or on line at www.main.nc.us/hrc. Each participant will receive a quality T-shirt, and trophies will be awarded to the overall male and

female winners, male and female masters winners (over 40), and to the male and female first, second, and third place finishers in five-year age groups. Powerade will be provided by Coca-Cola company, fruit will be provided by August Produce, and bagels will be provided by Sysco; there will also be other door prizes and goodies for participants.

Pre-registered runners can pick up their numbers and race packets at the Civic Center on the morning of the race beginning at 7:30 a.m. Race-day registration will also take place that morning at the Civic Center. Race-day registration will be \$17 per person.

Gold level sponsors this year are Country Club Properties, Wilson Gas Service, Koenig Homebuilders, and the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. Silver sponsors are Lupoli Construction, Highlands Decorating Center, Matthews Electric, Highlands Whole Life Supply, Meadows Mountain Realty, Nantahala Tire & Car Care, and First Citizens Bank.

As in past years, proceeds will go toward fitness-related programs in the local community. The club awards a number of scholarships each year to Highlands School graduates who carry on some type of fitness activities while continuing their education. The club has also used the proceeds from past races to help purchase fitness equipment for Highlands School, HealthTracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and the Highlands Recreation Park. The Highlands Roadrunners Club is a non-profit organization, and entry fees and contributions are tax-deductible.

contingent upon clarification of certain issues:

- That Rec Park funding and water/sewer funding be addressed in separate documents. "They should be separate agreements all together," said Commissioner Herb James
 - That the term "up to \$500,000" be defined. "Someone has to dictate what the 'up to' is," said Commissioner Patterson.
 - That a disbursement schedule be set and inflationary measures be built into the allotment. "The \$500,000 doesn't take into account rising costs or inflation," said Patterson. "Ten years from now everything is going to cost more – salaries, insurance, fuel."
- Commissioner James said nine months went by during the 2004-2005 fiscal year before the town saw funding promised by the county and he doesn't

want that to happen again.

- That the current District I Recreation Committee by-laws be repealed and a new document recorded so subsequent boards don't confuse the old District I Recreation Committee with the new one.

Town Administrator Richard Betz said the county was waiting for a "green light" from Highlands before drawing up an interagency agreement.

Citizen John Cleaveland reminded the Town Board that the county wasn't really giving the town any more than they've given before. "It's the same amount of dollars they've given in the past, while what the county has extracted from Highlands has tripled.

For years the county has reimbursed the town \$300,000 for water and sewer expenditures and about \$200,000 for Rec Park funding.



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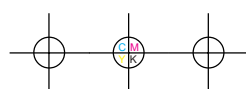
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Volunteers bring historical village to life

By Erin Brown

highlandserin@aol.com

The culmination of a three-year vision to create a Highlands Historical Village is drawing near and volunteers, many of whom are retired, are ready for the job to be finished.

"I've been here on average 45-hours a week," said Jim Whitehurst, Highlands Historical Society board member and volunteer. "It's become more than a full-time job."

The Prince House and the original Hudson Library, both located on the property, compose the village.

Teams of volunteers have been working for the past two years restoring the two buildings. They had their work cut out for them in the beginning with significant water damage, a leaking roof and an acoustical tiled ceiling. They dove in, repairing the lifeless structure to what it once was - a building which holds the past. With brand new paneled ceilings, sheet rock, moldings and a fresh coat of paint the original construction has returned.

"We're trying to recreate the original look of the library upstairs," said Whitehurst. "Most middle-aged and older residents will remember it."

Dennis DeWolf, local architect, board member and volunteer, said the original flooring will be washed but not sanded so as not to lose its historic character.

"We will have to touch it up in several places that

were repaired," he said.

While the Prince House is not yet near completion, the library is expected to be finished by July 8 for a grand opening weekend celebration of historical speakers and families native to Highlands.

The library will house archives indigenous to the area and will also act as an assembly area for talks on historical Highlands.

Many remember the day the library was moved through town - to make room for the Episcopal Church's addition.

DeWolf said an abandoned car in the Mountain Fresh parking lot had to be moved and not by the standard operating procedure.

"A group of volunteers actually picked up the car and moved it," he said with a chuckle.

A portion of the roof also had to be removed and then reattached to the building in order for the roof to traverse a stoplight on its journey to its present location.

The HHS received a \$275,000 mortgage when the Prince House was purchased and according to officials the amount remaining at this time is \$180,000. The society is trying to pay that mortgage off in addition to the expense of moving and renovating the old library building.

"The Town Board has been a generous contributor to this project," Whitehurst said.

Over the past several years the HHS has received



Luther Turner, Carolyn Patton and Jim Whitehurst stay busy in the Archive Building at Highlands Historical Village.

generous support from the Town council, the Highlands Rotary Club, both Mountain Garden and Laurel Garden Club, and Mountain Findings. Applications have been made to several foundations for 2005-2006 budgets, but no awards of funds have yet been made.

Officials say most of the money comes from donations from individuals, plus the educational fund-raisers including Walk in the Park," Tour of Historic Homes, the Christmas Show-house.

▪ **Museum/Archive Building opens July 9**

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