

# Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 3, Number 41

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Oct. 14, 2005

Through Oct. 21

- MC Girls Basketball signups for ages 7-18. Applications are available at the Rec Park. And D & J Express Mart. The cost is \$35 per player, a copy of the birth certificate is required. For information, call Michelle Munger at 526-8029 or 342-3551.

Tuesdays in October

- At SweeTreats in Mountain Brook Center, contemporary sounds of Bobby Sullivan will gently rock your soul 7 p.m. until closing.

Fridays in October

- At SweeTreats, classically trained pianist Anna Dolga, a student from Ukraine performs from 7 p.m. until closing.

Oct. 15 & 22

- On Saturdays at ...on the Verandah Restaurant, live music with the Trio Lococo from 8:30 - 12 midnight. Also, live music every other night.

On-going

- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

- Live music at Jack's at Skyline Restaurant every Friday and Saturday nights.

- Live Music at Buck's Coffee Cafe Thursday-Saturday, 8-11 p.m.

- Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4:30-6:30. Sat., complimentary samples 12:30-4.

Oct. 15

- Author Sandra Brown will be signing copies of her new thriller, "Chill Factor" at Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street 1-3 p.m.

Oct. 15-16

- Fall Colors Fine Art Show from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Recreation Park. All original art work in various media. Sunday, 1:30 "Faery Fantasy" performed by the Woopeteers. Free admission.

- Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival presents its Fall Concerts, Saturday, 5 p.m. at PAC and Sunday, 5 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Cashiers. For tickets, call 526-9060.

- Hymn Sing at First Presbyterian, 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. Angie Jenkins at the piano, Stell Huie, songleader. Singing from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal.

- Sapphire Valley Arts & Crafts Show, Sat & Sun 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Live Music, Food & Fun. On Hwy 64 east, 3 miles east of Cashiers at the Sapphire Valley Recreation Track Field. Call 743-7663.

Oct. 17

- Fine Dining, Fine Art, Fine Music at Wolfgang's Bistro at 6 p.m. Featuring Robert Craig Wine Cellars, Libby Matthews, artist and vocal jazz ensemble with Strolling Strings.

Oct. 20-22

- At Acorn's, Canio, Trunk Show featuring custom clothing for all occasions. Hand-hooked rugs, custom bed covers.

Oct. 20

- An Elections Forum for Highlands' mayor and commissioner candidates. 6:30-9 p.m. at the Conference Center.

FRI	SAT	SUN
69-50°F	68-46°F	67-45°F

## Board accused of delaying tactics

By Kim Lewicki

Irate property owners in the proposed ETJ area were at the Civic Center Wednesday night to speak out against ETJ even though the public hearing was cancelled and rescheduled for Nov. 16.

The lack of proper legal notification in The Highlander newspaper made the hearing invalid.

"Notice advertising the public hearing during two successive calendar weeks was not published in the newspaper as requested," said Town Administrator Richard Betz.

The general statute requires that the notice be published two consecutive weeks between 10-28 days prior to the meeting and that first-class mail notices

•See TACTICS page 9

## The Car Spa is officially open



Owners of The Car Spa of Highlands, Al and Renee Bolt during test runs, Tuesday of this week. See story page 2 Photo by Jim Lewicki

## 'River Walk' hurdles nearing end

By Kim Lewicki

It took about two-and-a-half hours for the Planning Board to hammer out its requests, but for the most part, both the developer and the planning board walked out of the special called meeting Tuesday satisfied.

No final recommendation has been formulated for presentation to the Town Board Nov. 2, but Tom Turrentine, developer of the proposed River Walk Subdivision expects a recommendation from the Planning Board when he returns to the regular Oct. 24 meeting.

By that time, the stipulations and requests made by the Planning Board are to be delineated on the subdivision's final plat so they are officially registered with the county.

The Planning Board's stipulations are a maximum of 70 homes; a 50-foot setback from the Cullasaja River with 30 feet of that natural vegetation; a letter

from the Town Board to NCDOT requesting safe entrance onto U.S. 64; a variance on the radius of curves in the subdivision; and a cap on the size of houses allowed on the lots, particularly on the lots along the river.

"We have had some incidents in town where homes have been overbuilt on parcels and it just doesn't look good," said Planning Board Chairman John Cleveland.

Turrentine hasn't closed on the 33-acre plot of land yet, but like many developers who appear before Highlands various boards these days he wanted assurances he can do what he plans prior to his final financial commitment.

At the Oct. 11 special Planning Board meeting, he said he needed to sign commitment papers with Macon Bank and pay a commitment fee by Oct. 15.

In previous meetings he said he was

•See RIVER WALK page 9

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## Commissioners take steps to address animal control issues

By Kim Lewicki

Frustrated citizens appeared before the Macon County Board of Commissioners Oct. 3, begging members to do something - anything - about the nuisance and dangerous dogs roaming freely in Macon County.

"The people are not being served," said one citizen. "The Macon County Humane Society is filled to capacity. You must do something to solve this problem. It is an issue."

One woman from lower Burningtown returned for the second time imploring commissioners to tell her how to deal with her neighbor's dogs that bark "mindlessly until dawn."

Another man who sustained a broken collar bone and two broken ribs when a stray dog ran out at him as he passed by on his motorcycle, appeared before commissioners bandaged and in a sling. "I expected this to happen at some point. Now I'm hurt and I don't know what happened to the dog because he ran off. But it's the county's responsibility to address this issue. Dogs don't vote. Dogs don't pay taxes," he said.

Back in March the county stopped operating an animal control program due to "legal" problems between the Macon County Humane Society and the Friends of Animals, both of which wants the county's contract and to be the county's official animal shelter organization.

With no place to take animals, Sheriff deputies stopped handling nuisance animal calls. "Our hands are tied," said Sheriff Robbie Holland.

While commissioners wait for the Animal Shelters/Uniform Regulation

•See ANIMAL CONTROL page 8



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## A sign of things to come?



Instead of searching endlessly for a parking spot, last weekend, the owners of these mini-coups opted to share a spot in the center of Main Street.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

## Car wash test runs complete - The Car Spa officially opens -

By **Jim Lewicki**

In any other community the opening of a car wash might not be big news. But here in Highlands where drivers are plagued with cars covered with dust, salt or mud, a car wash is worth crowing about.

With test runs now in the works at The Car Spa at Highlands Plaza — a high-velocity car wash — treks down the mountain to either Franklin or Cashiers to wash vehicles are a thing of the past.

No matter the size or make — Hummer or Mini-Coup — The Car Spa can handle it.

No attendants are involved — it's a hands off affair — drivers stay in their cars and let the machine do all the work.

There are two state-of-the-art stalls

with touch-free, auto-sizing vehicle systems, operational in all climates and conditions.

Owner Al Bolt said special attention has been given to delivering a safe and quality wash on every vehicle. "State-of-the-art cleaning is achieved by the continuous sizing of each vehicle's width and length," he said.

The Car Spa uses cleaning solutions that are environmentally friendly and about 70 percent of the water used is recycled and not wasted, he said.

There are four wash packages at The Car Spa ranging in price from \$5-\$8.

Watch for The Car Spa's grand opening sometime next week.

## School's major fundraiser set for Oct 22

The venue for this year's Highlands School Fall Festival is at the Highlands School old gym, not the Rec Park as in years past.

It's on Oct. 22 from 5 p.m.-9 p.m., sponsored by Highlands Pharmacy, Laurel Magazine, Preferred Properties, Wilson Gas Service, Village Kids, Country Club Properties, John Schiffler Real Estate, Macon Bank, Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles, and Harry Norman Realtors.

Seniors are selling raffle tickets with great prize potential.

They are one for \$1 or six for \$5. The raffle is for \$100 Gas from D & J Express, \$100 Groceries from Bryson's Food Store, \$100 Gift

Certificate from Reeves, and \$100 Savings Bond from RBC Centura. The drawing will be held the night of the festival, and you do not have to be present to win.

The booths this year will include the castle bounce, sports booths, balloon dart throw, archery, fishing, duck pond, the animal walk, bingo, a two-story haunted house, the hayride and finally, the return of the dunking booth and car smash, and many other activities.

There will be fun "dinner" food, too — hot dogs, hamburgers, and pizza.

Come on out for some good old-fashion fun.



## • OBITUARIES •

### David Daniel Nicholson

David Daniel Nicholson, 24, of Highlands, died Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at his residence. He was a native of Cobb County, Ga., the son of David and Dawn Nicholson of Highlands.

Dan was very active in sports. He ran cross-country; played baseball, soccer and golf; raced motorcross; and enjoyed rappelling in the North Carolina mountains.

Dan attended Appalachian State University, where he worked as a youth counselor for sports recreation. Dan performed restoration work in Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina after Hurricane Ivan. He attended First Presbyterian Church in Highlands. He cherished the relationships he had with his friends at Lassiter High School in Marietta, Ga., and Appalachian State.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his grandparents, Maureen Sanders of Woodstock, Ga., Sara

and Robert Garbaccio of India Atlantic Beach, Fla.; two sisters, Jennifer Klask and her husband Steve and their daughter, Kylie Klask of Orlando, Fla., and Jessica Griffin and her husband Jay of Charlotte, NC; uncles, Jack Sanders of Woodstock, Ga., and Danny Nicholson and his wife Maxine of Clarksville, Ga.



David Daniel Nicholson

Memorial services were held at 11 a.m. on Friday, October 7, 2005 at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands with Rev. Hunter Coleman and Rev. Don Mullen officiating.

Because Dan was a lover of animals, the family requests contributions in lieu of flowers to the Cashiers-Highlands Area Humane Society, 200 Gable Street, Cashiers, N.C., 28717.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### Ruth Edwards Bateman

Ruth Edwards Bateman, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, died Friday, October 7, 2005.

A native of Macon County, NC, she was born on September 8, 1928, to the late John Wesley and Thelma Franklin Edwards.

Ruth worked for 14 years at the Western Carolina Telephone Company as a switchboard operator and retired from Nantahala Power and Light Company with 30 years of service. She volunteered regularly at the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center and at Macon Middle School.

Ruth attended Prentiss Church of God and will be remembered for her enduring faith and great love.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Hubert Edward Bateman; a son Eddie Bateman and his wife JoAnn; a daughter, Terri Hunter and her husband Walter; three grandsons, Jon Hunter, Luke Bateman, and Matthew Bateman; two great-granddaughters, Kylie Hunter and Kandis Hunter; a sister, Helen Carpenter and her husband Bob; her brother's wife, Ella "Jo" Edwards; Tracy Ray Tallent, who she dearly loved; and several aunts, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Barbara Edwards Tallent, and a brother, John Wesley Edwards, Jr.

The funeral was at 11 a.m. on Monday, October 10, 2005, at Prentiss Church of God. Rev. Don Moffitt and Rev. Steve Reeves officiated. Burial was at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Bill Higdon, George Barrett, Gary Rowland, Brian Rowland, Denny Vanhook, and Bud Green. Honorary pallbearers were retired employees of Nantahala Power and Light Company.

The family suggests that memorials be made to the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center, 226 East Palmer Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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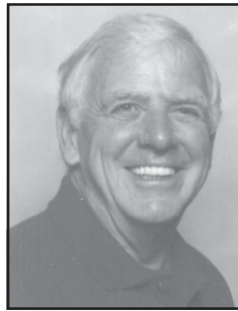
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# • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

## Please pass the crab ovaries

For our readers who have insatiable appetites for Chinese food, I have found a way for you to kick the habit. Go to China for 15 days and eat REAL Chinese food. I have been back a week and I'm still having psychological wheezing spells when I get near a Chinese restaurant. Chinese chefs whip up



Fred Wooldridge

stuff like fried eel, soaked in oil, sweet and sour pig brains they call "pork" and an assortment of other scary stuff, like birdie butts, they grind up and stick inside dumplings where you can't see it. Ever wonder where the fish heads go after the meal? Yep, in tomorrow's dumplings. They also eat a lot of noodles, pronounced

"New Doe," also soaked in oil. In fact, everything is soaked in oil. You might wonder how the Chinese people stay so thin, but I know they are all suffering from terminal diarrhea.

Then there is the ever popular delicacy, "crab ovaries," being eaten by everyone except me and the crabs. There is nothing like a plate of scrambled crab ovaries and several strips of fried eel for breakfast. (Hold it while I stop and wheeze).

One evening we went to a fancy restaurant and I got to sit next to a huge fish tank where an oversized moray eel stared at me throughout the entire meal. Finally, I lifted my plate and showed it to him. "See, I ordered the

chicken."

By day four I was spending all my free time in the restrooms, humming that old Marine favorite, "From the Halls of Montezuma." On day eight, I dumped (excuse the expression) my camera and loaded a full roll of toilet paper in my camera case. I brought TP from the US because the Chinese government only issues six rolls of TP a month for the entire 1.3 billion people and none for tourists. Later on, I found a waiter who would deliver my meals right to my bathroom. The little missus was unaffected by the food and was great at holding my head.

When we got to Beijing, we met

•See WOOLDRIDGE page 10

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# • ANOTHER VIEW •

## Dealing with the 'ill' among us

I've been writing this column as a citizen-advocate, which gives me the privilege of ranging over many topics. But in my vocational life I'm a clinical psychologist, a profession dealing with broken minds and maimed emotions, some severe and others of a milder sort. In any case, even mild upsets can cause plenty of pain, as many sufferers can attest.



Dr. Alex Redmountain

Recent surveys found that about 22 percent of all Americans have experienced a mental illness during any given year. Addictions to drugs and alcohol account for another six percent or so (although I find the first statistic a little high, and the second quite low). These are people who are clinically "diagnosable;" that is, who would have qualified for a psychiatric diagnosis according to the latest medical and insurance manuals.

In a 2003 Human Rights Watch report, it was estimated that in federal and state prisons, the rate of mental illness was three times that of the general population. Many of the prisoners suffered from such serious afflictions as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and severe depression. Even if they are treated in prison (which is rare), when they return to society they will seldom get help from community treatment programs, which have been badly underfunded over the past three decades.

The average law-abiding citizen, it must be said, doesn't do that much better when it comes to mental health services. Forty million uninsured get little or no care, and insurance is skimpy at best. But compared to what felons and ex-convicts experience, they have a bearable situation.

There are few psychiatrists in jails or prisons, hindering if not preventing the thoughtful dispensation of psychotropic (mind-altering) medications, essential for controlling the most severe mental illnesses. To compound the problem, many of these psychiatrists, for a whole host of reasons, are foreign-born and have trouble with the English language, not to mention its pronunciation or the street jargon common among inmates. Psychologists and other mental health professionals are also scarce in the federal and state prison systems due to low pay and difficult working conditions.

Criminals, being who they are, sometimes prey on the "weaker" prisoners—including of course the mentally ill, abusing and raping them, shuttling their already miserable lives to another level of hell. Many of us on the "outside" turn a blind eye toward these depravities, either

because we think they had it coming or are resigned to the inevitability of prison brutality. Or, to put it in the worst light, because our reflexive racism shrugs in silent satisfaction.

Everyone knows or suspects that 90 percent of prison inmates are men and women of color. About three-fourth of these are African-American, the rest Hispanic, Asian, and Native American. A vast proportion come from poverty-stricken backgrounds. So once again (see earlier Katrina column) we run into the ubiquitous double helix of race and poverty, our inheritance from the scourges of slavery, segregation, and discrimination.

George (not his real name) was convicted of armed robbery in Alabama when he was 18 years old. He was sentenced to 15-20 years, to be served in a state prison. He is African-American, dropped out of school at 15, lived legally with his mother but spent most of his time hanging out on the Montgomery streets.

It was obvious to everyone who knew him that there was something wrong with him. He was teased as a "freak" by his home boys, and encouraged by them to commit petty crimes. When a couple of older hooligans decided to rob a liquor store, they induced George to be the lookout. All three were arrested, convicted, and jointly sentenced.

In prison, George was immediately spotted by other inmates as an easy mark. The authorities knew that there was something bizarre about his behavior, but did not intervene. Mental health services didn't exist in this facility.

After three or four years of neglect and severe abuse, George was beaten by other felons and murdered. Retrospectively, an investigative board determined that he was a simple schizophrenic. A further federal investigation in Washington, D.C., instigated as a civil rights complaint, found that prosecutors knew he was mentally ill and concealed that information from the defense and the presiding judge.

George's story is not unique. Enter any prison today and you will find inmates who are obviously mentally ill and in need of treatment. The chances that they are getting any are slim and none.

Fyodor Dostoevsky, the great 19<sup>th</sup> century Russian novelist, who had been jailed repeatedly for his writings, wrote: "The degree to which a society is civilized can be judged by entering its prisons." I wonder how he would judge ours.

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## The race for Town Board

Every week prior to the Nov. 5 election, candidates have agreed to answer questions.

### Question #7

In a recent speech, a candidate said it might be time for Highlands to change its form of government from the hybrid version of the mayor-council it is now to the more delineated town manager-council form. Do you agree? If so, why? If not, why not?



Mayoral Candidate  
Mayor Buck Trott

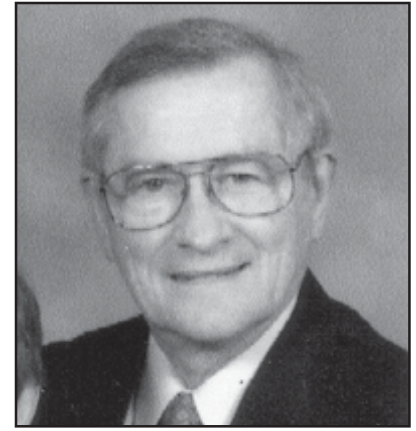
I do not agree that it is time for Highlands to change to a town manager form of government. In my opinion, the Highlands Town Board is not ready to delegate the power to hire and fire town employees to a manager.

The Town Manager profession is a highly detailed and technical speciality requiring extensive education, training, and experience. Certified town managers demand fairly expensive salaries and are extremely mobile.

Towns the size of Highlands which employ town managers are almost constantly looking for replacements. Small town budgets are stretched to provide competitive compensation for satisfactory managers. One only has to do a little research to discover the instability of this function.

I personally find a dedicated and educated person who has family ties to the community and who has been associated with the town's government and understands the budget system to be of greater value than a certified town manager. I don't want our town to become a career stepping stone for town managers.

When I review the town's progress over the past eight years and talk with municipal representatives from across the state, I discover that we are the envy of Western North Carolina from the standpoint of financial solvency and quality of life. I firmly believe in the old concept of "If it isn't broken, don't try to fix it."



Mayoral Candidate  
Don Mullen

I favor the governing system now in use in Highlands. The system of a "hybrid" Mayor-Council town government has evolved in Highlands and works well with good leadership.

Most authorities on this matter recommend that the Manager-Council system (which gives the mayor strictly ceremonial duties along with the job of presiding over the Council meetings) be used only in towns with a population over 25,000.

In our Mayor-Council system of town government, the Mayor is given administrative authority of appointing and dismissing department heads without council approval.

Our current system gives the town manager authority to manage the departments under the supervision of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners.

For a town of our size this system works well.

### Ladies Holiday Banquet at Rec Park Nov. 17

Highlands First Baptist Church is hosting its 9th annual Ladies Holiday Banquet. The event is on Thursday, Nov. 17 at the Highland's Civic Center.

Come at 6 p.m. to tour the beautifully decorated tables and shop the book tables. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. Plan to attend and enjoy a lovely evening of encouragement, elegant dining and inspiration for women.

The best-selling Christian author Elizabeth George will be speaking. Special holiday music will be provided.

RSVP by calling the First Baptist Church office by Nov. 7. The event is free to the ladies in the community. RSVP: 526-4153.

HS Art Club needs a  
"jalopy" for use in the  
Christmas Parade.  
Call 526-0782.



... QUESTIONS continued from page 6



**Commissioner Candidate  
Hank Ross**

After being on the Town Board, I feel that the current hybrid form of government serves the town well. This system provides good communication without giving too much power to any single individual. The department heads keep the commissioners informed at the regular board meetings presenting activities and problems that require attention. In addition, the Town Board uses committees to provide additional information.

I feel that every organization should review its structure to identify improvements from time to time. The Town Board is obliged to identify improvement or problem areas. The knowledge and experience of town employees is an essential part of this review, and I welcome new ideas that can improve the town's operations. Recently, I voted to adopt the new management changes proposed by the Police Department.



**Commissioner Candidate  
Amy Patterson**

This question always seems to come up around election time.

Before you can answer whether Highlands needs to change its government structure you need to first assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the current setup.

You also need to predict the future requirements as Highlands continues to grow and change. Both forms of government have their pros and cons.

A thorough investigation would be necessary to determine if a town manager would truly be beneficial and cost effective for the citizens of Highlands.

**HS Fall Festival  
Raffle Tickets  
on sale from seniors  
or at the school.**

## Cub Scouts sign up for new year



*More than 17 boys registered for Cub Scouts Pack 207 at Highlands School last week with another eight expressing interest. The pack meets Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.*

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## ... QUESTIONS continued from page 7

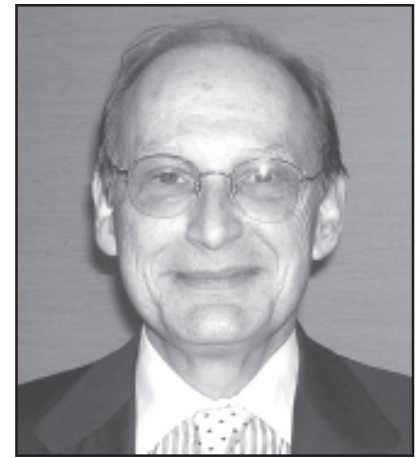
Subject to some sort of public discussion on the subject, I believe I'm for the manager system for two reasons:

1. We already effectively have it with our town "clerk" fulfilling most of the duties that a manager would fulfill, except for hiring and firing employees. And in reality, he does a lot of this indirectly.

2. I think it's more efficient.

The most common argument against the manager form is that we're small and the town commissioners need to be directly responsible to the voters. A manager just puts a barrier between voters and citizens. But again as a practical matter, most problems get referred to the Clerk or Town Engineer, and citizens can still complain to elected Commissioners, even with a manager. I suspect the result will be the same.

In theory, with our present system the Commissioners are responsible for



**Mayoral Candidate  
Zeke Sossomon**

and run everything. That's theory. In practice, they don't. We might as well admit it, and formally adopt the system we really use.

## ... ANIMAL CONTROL continued from page 1

bill to make its way through the General Assembly, an "Animal Control Study Committee" has been appointed to discuss exactly what the county needs in the form of animal control regulations and facilities.

The committee's first organizational meeting is Thursday, Oct. 20 at 4 p.m. in the board room on the fourth floor of the Macon County Courthouse.

On the committee are commissioners Charlie Leatherman and Bob Simpson, Jean Schultz representing Friends of Animals, Skip Howells representing the Macon County Humane

Society, Franklin Mayor Joe Collins, Highlands Mayor Buck Trott, Willard Barrett, veterinarian Dr. Amy Patterson, Sheriff Robert Holland, Chief Deputy Andy Shields, and Macon County Health Director Ken Ring.

Commissioners Leatherman and Simpson have asked each member to bring a list of the top five priorities the committee should consider about animal control concerns.

The forthcoming Animal Shelter regulation bill will outline stipulations for shelters and such agencies. Commissioners hope to know something concrete by January 2006.

## Highlands Fall Color Art Show – Oct. 15 & 16



'First Snow' by Olga Dorenko

Russian painter Olga Dorenko will be exhibiting her work at the Art League of Highlands Fall Colors Fine Art Show, Oct. 15 & 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rec Park. There will be a Children's Table set up each day and a performance by the Woopeteers on Sunday at 1:30 p.m.





## ... RIVER WALK continued from page 1

in jeopardy of losing his \$800,000 escrow money if he didn't get answers from the Planning Board in time.

Negotiations were passionate Tuesday, both from Planning Board members who tried hard to demand fewer houses and larger lots and from Turrentine who said any less than 70 houses would make the deal unacceptable financially. "I'm not going to work for five years and make \$100,000 a year," he said. "It's just not worth it."

Several times during the meeting he reminded members that he was making major concessions to build an environmentally friendly subdivision on half- to three-quarter-acre lots with 88 percent of the land undisturbed instead of building what's currently allowed on the "grandfathered" portion - the old Laurel Terrace subdivision with its quarter-acre lots. "I could just build this as originally planned and cut down all the trees," he said.

Planning Board member Ginger Slaughter, who was referring to the "look and feel" of the subdivision, said it's likely people wouldn't consider a development built that way to be a "quality" subdivision. "You could make more money on a 'quality' development," she said. But Turrentine said the houses will be of the same quality as the cluster homes he plans in other areas of the subdivision.

Much of the built-upon percentages and "permissible" number of lots in the 33-acre subdivision revolve around the "grandfathering" of the 1/4-acre Laurel Terrace lots because the old subdivision will be part of the new proposed River Walk subdivision.

But at Tuesday's meeting, member Griffin Bell suggested that recombining of the acreage in the old subdivision with the new land makes the Laurel Terrace subdivision and its grandfathering status null and void.

"You are recombining the property and once you create a new subdivision that bears very little resemblance to the other, you aren't grandfathered anymore and must comply with the current standards of 1/2-acre lots," he said.

Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein agreed with Bell.

"From a legal point, recombining would constitute a new subdivision and would be subject to the current clustering ordinance which is 1/2-acre lots," he said.

"Our objective is to have fewer

houses on 1/2 lots as are required under our current regulations consistent with our land-use plan which was accepted by the Town Board," said Bell. "

Bell made a motion to request no more than 67 homes. It passed 3-2 but later the board decided to allow 70 homes with the beforementioned stipulations.

Griffin said Turrentine's threats of building out Laurel Terrace didn't scare him. "I have spent most of my adult life in the courtroom and have been threatened many times and I just don't believe him," he said. "At this rate we will be subject to threats from every developer and will be forced to give in."

But member Doug Campbell said he believed Turrentine was ornery enough to build out Laurel Terrace's 1/4-acre lots.

"I have too much money in it to back away," said Turrentine. "I've got to close and move ahead and do something."

Neighbors of the Laurel Terrace subdivision who were in the audience begged the board to go along with Turrentine's new plan on the grounds that it wouldn't effect them as greatly.

The proposed cluster development will include 66 homes between 2,200-2,400 sq. ft. starting at \$695,000. "It will look very much like the current Village Walk subdivision on Chestnut Street," said Turrentine at the Sept. 26 planning board meeting. The home sites will house buildings capped at about 4,500 sq. feet.

Cleveland said the Planning Board was trying to reach a happy medium. "I don't think developers are bad people. I think he's been reasonable. People on every side should be listened to. And I don't want to call his bluff," he said.

Member Clem Patton said though the board negotiated several items with Turrentine, it's important developers know that the Planning Board has a vision and it's going to stand by it and not try to figure out all the loopholes as been happening with River Walk. "From now on we are going to go forward with the new vision and be consistent with the new vision," he said. "What's happened here is an exception not a mode of operation."

Meanwhile, much of Turrentine's plans depend upon the Town Board's decision on Nov. 2. He is requesting acceptance of the subdivision and annexation of the part of the subdivision outside the town limits to hook into town water and sewer.

## ... TACTICS continued from page 1

go out to all potentially affected property owners four weeks prior to the hearing.

Now, Nov. 16 is the earliest date the hearing can be held while meeting General Statute requirements of public notice.

Commissioners voted 4 to 1 to set the meeting for Nov. 16. Commissioner Herb James voted against it.

Even though Mayor Buck Trott told them their comments would not be

entered into the record, people had their say.

Some implied the cancellation and rescheduling was on purpose. "The 200 people who planned to come to this to show opposition will now be 'conveniently' out of town," said Highlands Falls Country Club resident Carol Ray. She suggested the board rule on ETJ along the U.S. 64 corridor at the Nov. 16 meeting but to hold the main

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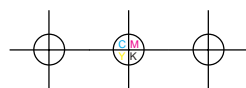
ETJ meeting in the spring when seasonal residents return.

But Mayor Buck Trott said the board was two years late in addressing the ETJ issue and the process was set in motion Aug. 17. He suggested second-home owners who wouldn't be at the meeting write letters which would be entered into the record and considered very seriously.

But some people in the audience said the board's mind was already made

up. "They're not going to be fair," said one attendee. "If they took a vote right now they'd know nobody wants it."

Other issues to be heard at the public hearing include adopting an ordinance imposing a moratorium on commercial development in the proposed ETJ area; and an amendment of the Zoning Ordinance to adopt a new Watershed Overlay District for the ETJ area.





# Fund-raising campaign growing one brick at a time

By Joe Litsch

Approaching the Highlands Playhouse entrance, you can see Marie and George Schmitt...Puppy Chase (Bryant)...Joanna and John Baumrucker...and several other playhouse supporters. They're there 24/7, paving the way to another theatrical season.

They are bricks. Engraved bricks,

which the Playhouse, a non-profit organization, is selling. The 4"x 8" bricks are \$150 and can be engraved with three lines, and the 8" x 8" bricks are \$275 and can hold five lines. The ultimate goal is to replace all the blank bricks on the front walk with engraved ones.

The brick walk is the latest project of George Schmitt, newly elected president of the Highlands Playhouse Board. He's

seen such walks in other places and figures a similar setup would work in Highlands, too. And, already, after just a few months in the works, the brick courtyard in front of the Playhouse entrance has taken on a much more personal appearance.

"I thought it would be a good way for us to make some money for the Playhouse, and it makes the entrance look better," said Schmitt, who is also the Playhouse's resident —though unofficial — maintenance man.

And Schmitt personally oversees the whole project. He inspects every brick before it is placed. The first shipment of bricks were not what he thought they should be so, he returned

them "suggesting" the company could do a better job. Soon, new, more deeply engraved bricks arrived and Schmitt began replacing the old bricks. He also devised a special tool used for removing bricks to be replaced. Now, he can carefully lift out the old bricks — without damaging any of the surrounding ones — and drop the new ones in, fitting them in place so that they appear to have been there when the walk was first built.

The goal is to replace every blank brick with an engraved one — something that will not happen overnight, but that's okay. Schmitt's project was planned to be long-range and lasting and solid.

## Sapphire Valley Arts & Crafts Show

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Schmitt replaces blank bricks with engraved bricks.



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## ... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

our tour guide, Rick Shaw, who spoke perfect English with only a slight Brooklyn accent. Once we got past the "youse guys" clichés, we were fine. Rick lives in China since his spat with the IRS over claiming his six parrots as dependents.

Rick took us to the famous walled Forbidden City, where ancient Emperors used to hide from everyone, except gorgeous women. These Emperors had fourteen, hand picked, hot babe wives who bowed and said, "How may I serve you, oh great master?" American ladies, are you reading this? It gets even better. Not satisfied with just fourteen hottie wives, these extremely horny Emperors also had additional cuties, called concubines, who served at the Emperor's whim. Most of the concubines had specialties and, no, I'm not going there.

With all these hotties running loose around the Forbidden City, one would think there was a lot of "hanky panky" going on. Wrong again, ovary breath. These hot babes were cared for by eunuchs. If they ran short on eunuchs, enter the swordsmen and swoosh, problem solved. These Emperors might have been the smartest people on the planet back in 210 BC.

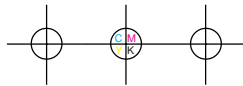
They definitely were not from Mars.

The next day I learned the American most honored by the Chinese people is Richard Nixon. (Go figure) While we long noses (That's what they call us) were trying to put ole "I am not a crook" Nixon in the slammer, the Chinese were building monuments in his honor. Nixon was the guy who went to China and persuaded them to sell their stuff to Walmart. If you look at old pictures of "Tricky Dick" visiting China, you will see he has a roll of toilet paper in his front pocket.

Here are a few facts about China you probably didn't know. New York and San Francisco have China Town. Hong Kong has Caucasian Town where overruns from Walmart and Cosco are sold. While your Mom was telling you to eat all your food because children in China were starving, Chinese mothers were threatening their kids with, "Eat your food or I'll send you to the US where everyone is starving and killing each other."

Finally, I am the only American to receive a special military escort out of the Terra Cotta soldiers' museum for invading a restricted area. Chinese soldiers have no sense of humor. Could I make this up?





## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### Through Oct. 21

• MC Girls Basketball signups for ages 7-18. Applications are available at the Rec Park. And D & J Express Mart. The cost is \$35 per player, a copy of the birth certificate is required. Need a minimum of 8 players to form a team. For more information, call Michelle Munger at 526-8029 or 342-3551.

### Tuesdays in October

• At SweetTreats in Mountain Brook Center, contemporary sounds of Bobby Sullivan will gently rock your soul. Exciting keyboarding and smooth vocals create a great evening of music, 7 p.m. until closing.

### Fridays in October

• At SweetTreats, classically trained pianist Anna Dolga, a student from Ukraine performs 7 p.m. until closing.

### Saturdays in October

• At SweetTreats, Zorki playing acoustic guitar and singing 7 p.m. until closing.

### Oct. 8, 15, 22

• On Saturdays at ...on the Verandah Restaurant, live music with the Trio Lococo from 8:30 - 12 midnight. Also, live music every other night.

### On-going

• At Bascom-Louise Gallery: Tuesdays, Art for pre-schoolers, 9:30-10 a.m.; Tuesdays, Kindergarten-first grade, 3:15-4:15 p.m.; Wednesdays, Home-schooled students, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.; Grades 6-9, Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m.; Grades 2-5, Wednesday, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

• At Paoletti's Raffle Tickets for sale to support the New Orleans Humane Society, Habitat for Humanity and for Thanksgiving dinners for the parishes effected. Raffle tickets are \$50 with seven winners for one of the following: 60 bottles of single vineyard pinot noirs from the Willamette Valley (\$3,000 value); Hand blown glass from Highlands Fine Art & Estate Jewelry (\$2,000 value); Robert A. Tino Giclee (\$1,500 value); John Collette Fine Art (\$3,500 value); Bordeaux Mixed pack (\$1,000 value) from Paoletti's; Gift Certificate for Paoletti's (\$500 value); Handmade Grapevine Moose Head from Crystal & Bark & the Little Flower Shop (\$500 value). The drawing will be November 21.

• GULF COAST SUPPORT GROUP — Anyone displaced by Hurricane Katrina who would like to get together come to a group meeting at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Thursdays at 10:30.

• Cashiers Quilters Guild meets at the United Methodist Church in Cashiers, every Wednesday at 12:30.

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

• Live music at Jack's at Skyline Restaurant every Friday and Saturday nights.

• Music and dancing at Fressers in Helen's Barn the third Thursday of each month, 8-12

• Live Music at Buck's Coffee Cafe Thursday-Saturday, 8-11 p.m.

• Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4:30-6:30. Saturday, complimentary samples 12:30-4.

• HealthTracks, at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, offers special fitness classes Monday through Thursday. HealthTracks at 526-1348 for details.

• Each Thursday — Open House at Chestnut Hill of Highlands, Highlands-Cashiers only senior residential community. Refreshments and tours of the model home and Clubhouse.

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

• Mountainview Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the remodeled basement room of

the Presbyterian Church sanctuary, Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wednesdays and Fridays at noon.

• An exhibit of Highlands landscape photography by Mark Hutchison will be showing at Mill Creek Gallery & Framing in Village Square at Oak and Fifth streets.

### Oct. 14

• Healthy Carolinians of Macon County has scheduled their 3rd annual golf tournament for Friday, at The Ridges in Hayesville. Shotgun Start is 9 a.m. Registration Fee to play in the tournament costs \$75 per player, or \$300 for a team. Registration includes green fee, cart fee, and lunch buffet. Call at 828-349-2425.

### Oct. 15

• Author Sandra Brown will be signing copies of her new thriller, "Chill Factor" at Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street 1-3 p.m.

### Oct. 15-16

• Fall Colors Fine Art Show from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Recreation Park. All original art work in various media. Sunday, 1:30 "Faery Fantasy" performed by the Woopeteers inviting children to participate in the "production." Free admission.

• Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival presents its Fall Concerts, Saturday, 5 p.m. at PAC and Sunday, 5 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Cashiers. The concerts are entitled "Ransom Notes" and feature compositions by Dvorak, Gade, Mozart and Schumann performed by Kate and Will Ransom. The Saturday's concert will be preceded by "The First Families of Music." For tickets, call 526-9060.

• Hymn Sing at First Presbyterian, 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. Angie Jenkins at the piano, Stell Huie, songleader. Singing from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal.

• Sapphire Valley Arts & Crafts Show, Sat & Sun 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Live Music, Food & Fun. On Hwy 64 east, 3 miles east of Cashiers at the Sapphire Valley Recreation Track Field. Call 743-7663.

### Oct. 20-22

• At Acorn's, Canio, Trunk Show featuring custom clothing for all occasions. Hand-hooked rugs, custom bed covers.

### Oct. 20

• An Elections Forum for Highlands' mayor and commissioner candidates. 6:30-9 p.m. at the Conference Center. There will be separate forums for the mayor and commissioner candidates, with the mayor candidates scheduled for 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and the commissioner candidates from 7:45 to 9 p.m.

### Oct. 22

• Author Local author William Rawlings, will autograph his latest suspense thriller, "The Tate Revenge," Saturday, 1 to 3 p.m. at Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street.

• The annual Highlands School Fall Festival this year at Highlands School at 5 p.m.

### Oct. 25-29

• The Instant Theatre presents "The Turn of the Screw" for five performances at 8 p.m. at the ITC's Studio on Main, 310 Oak Square, Highlands, NC. The ITC Box Office opens for advance reservations on October 3. Tickets for adults are \$20, with reservations, and \$25 at the door. Tickets for students ages 13-17 are \$7 with reservations, and \$10 at the door. Early reservations are Strongly Suggested as seating for each performance is limited to 65. Call the ITC Box Office at (828) 342-9197 for reservations.

### Oct. 27-29

• At Acorn's, Trunk Show featuring Francesca Romana Fine Jewelry.

### Oct. 27-30

• Highlands Community Players present "Second Time Around" a comedy at the Performing Arts Center. For tickets call 526-8084. Box Office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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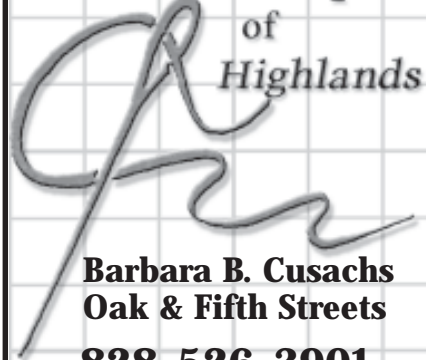


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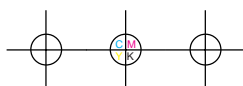
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# • BOOK REVIEW WITH KATIE BRUGGER •

## Constitutional Chaos: What Happens When the Government Breaks its Own Laws, by Andrew P. Napolitano (345.73N)

Once heard that political leanings cut across two axes: liberal-conservative and libertarian-authoritarian.

I consider myself an extreme liberal with libertarian tendencies.

Mr. Napolitano is an extreme libertarian and a conservative.

The libertarian strain is immediately obvious when reading this book and I had the strange experience of agreeing with many of the same things that outrage him, a Fox News judicial

analyst. According to the book jacket copy Mr. Napolitano was "the youngest person in New Jersey history to receive a lifetime judgeship" but for some reason (never stated in the book) he was a judge for only 8 years.

Judge Napolitano's basic thesis is there is such a thing as "natural law" which means that human beings have certain basic rights that are given them by God and no person or government can take these away. "The First Amend-

ment is not a grant of rights to the people, but a restriction on government, preventing it from infringing on the rights the people already have."

In this book the reader will find many examples of ways the government has infringed on those rights, such as knowingly convicting innocent people, obtaining testimony through bribes, and taking property for specious reasons.


Recently I saw an opinion column

in the *Washington Post* ("Zero Tolerance Makes Zero Sense," by Radley Balko) that documented the kind of outrage Napolitano discusses: A couple gave a supervised party at their home for their teen-ager and his friends that included alcohol, after collecting everyone's car keys to ensure they'd spend the night. The house was raided by the police and the parents arrested. The columnist wrote that this case "is troubling for

•See BOOK REIVEW page 13


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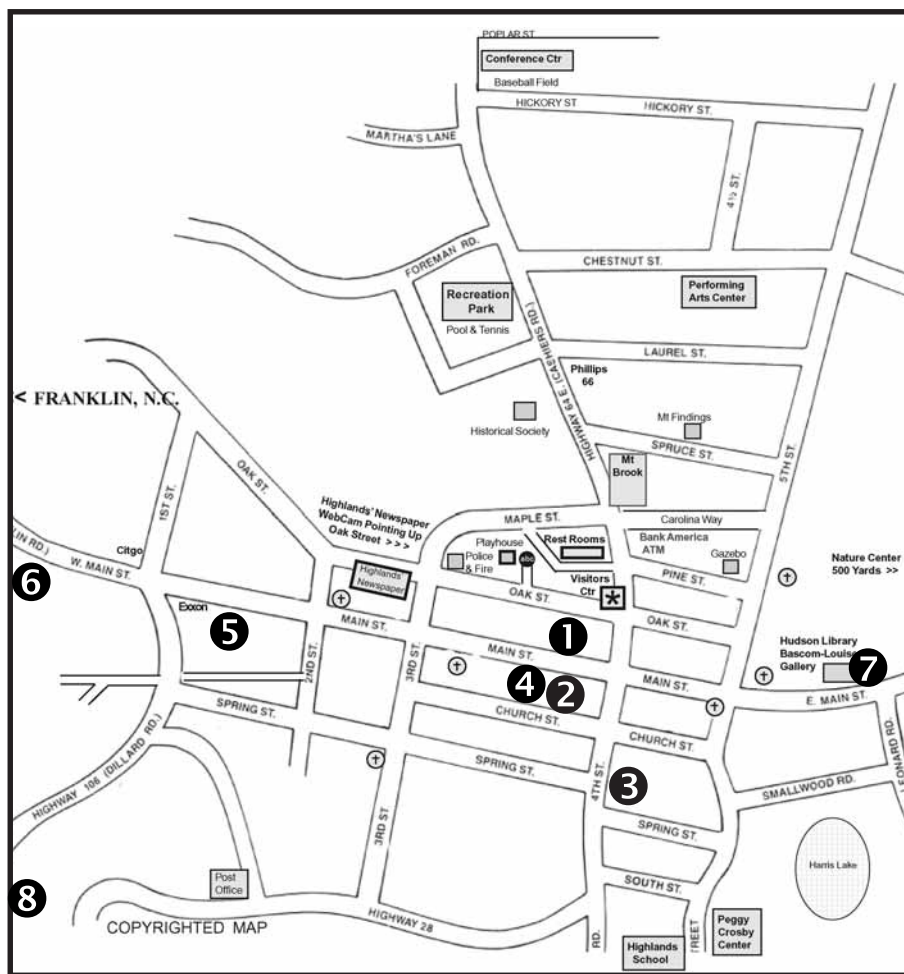


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## ... BOOK REVIEW continued from page 12

another reason: The cops raided that home without a search warrant. This is becoming more and more common in jurisdictions with particularly militant approaches to underage drinking."

Interestingly, Napolitano is such a libertarian he seems to think the right to privacy is among our natural rights: "In his famous dissent in *Olmstead v. United States*, Justice Brandeis called privacy—which he defined as 'the right to be left alone'—'the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men'... An individual's right to be left alone has, for centuries, been a quintessential hallmark of a free society." This is not a typical conservative position, since the "right to privacy" is what underlies *Roe v. Wade*.

About half way through I realized this is also a "conservative bash-the-government" book. Judge Napolitano writes as if there is some horrible monolithic entity called "The Government" that is relentlessly evil and constantly infringing on the natural rights of its citizens.

For example, in discussing a Defense Department memorandum advising President Bush how to avoid a federal law prohibiting the military from torture, he describes this as an example of the "hypocrisy and duplicity of the federal government." This has nothing to do with the federal government; this is hypocrisy and duplicity of the *Bush administration*.

Judge Napolitano concludes, "The one incontrovertible lesson I learned over those hard, disillusioning years [as a judge]: Unless you work for it, sell to it, or receive financial assistance from it, *the government is not your friend*."

Of course someone of this political stripe must not miss any opportunity to bash Bill Clinton and Judge Napolitano gets in quite a few whacks. Janet Reno is his favorite target (Waco, Ruby Ridge, and "Little Elian" Gonzalez). His account of the child abuse cases Reno prosecuted in Miami before becoming U. S. Attorney General is almost as wacky as the claims that the Clintons (or was it just Hillary) killed Vincent Foster.

Tellingly, when Judge Napolitano discusses an action of Reno as Attorney General he *always* ties in President Clinton, but when he discusses outrages of the Bush Attorney Generals, he *never* mentions President Bush.

Judge Napolitano also makes the ridiculous argument that the right to bear arms is really a protection of the individual from the government. He claims that only armed populations can stave off tyranny. Not only is this obviously absurd today with planes and guided missiles and tanks (kind of hard for the average citizen to compete with that), but more powerfully: what

people's movements have succeeded in recent history? The non-violent ones. Civil rights in the U.S., South Africa, Eastern Europe, Lebanon, and the Philippines. Tianenmen Square may not have brought about immediate change, but that lone man facing down a tank is an enduring universal symbol of the power of the people. Even the IRA is giving up its weapons.

Judge Napolitano has plenty of outrage for the restrictions on civil liberties that are a part of the war on terror, particularly the denial of habeas corpus (meaning the right to be brought before a judge and the charges being made against you known.) He is particularly incensed (as everyone should be) with the labeling of American citizens "enemy combatants" and hiding them away with no rights, no attorney, no charges, no trial. He writes, "Welcome to post-September 11<sup>th</sup> America, where the federal government has claimed for itself unlimited power to take any action necessary to achieve its goals in the war on terror, including the blatant destruction of Americans' basic guaranteed liberties."

But somehow this is all Attorney General Ashcroft's doing; Bush is nowhere responsible or to blame in this account: "Attorney General Ashcroft and others in the government basically invented the term 'enemy combatant.' Prior to the war on terror, the term appeared nowhere in U. S. criminal law, international law, or the laws of war. Additionally there is no written definition, nor a statement by the government, of who can be considered an enemy combatant."

Another example: "It is unbelievable that Attorney General Ashcroft purported to give himself the power to *suspend the Constitution*, whose Sixth Amendment guarantees an individual the right to consult with a lawyer in confidence."

Post-Katrina New Orleans is a warning to all of us what this country has become after 25 years of conservative domination of the federal government. The concept of "starving the beast" by cutting taxes is very revealing about what conservatives think about government. Grover Norquist, founder of the anti-tax group Americans for Tax Reform has said he wants to "shrink government down to the size that it can be drowned in a bathtub" and, as a friend of mine said, "New Orleans is that bathtub."

The reason the federal response to Katrina was so slow is that the Right, who are in control, *don't believe there should be a federal response*. They think private organizations, churches, and charities should be in charge.

As Paul Krugman wrote in "Not the New Deal," in the New York Times:

• See BOOK REVIEW page 21



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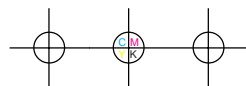
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## Auxiliary scholarship helps local woman realize career dream

For Kelley Bryson, a lot of personal initiative and a little help from friends have her well on her way to realizing some professional dreams.

And in this case, those particular friends are the ladies of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary, who have been providing some important financial assistance in the form of one of their health career scholarships.

Kelley, an employee of the hospital and Highlands resident, recently earned her degree in surgical technology, concluding two years of part-time study at Southwestern Community College and Blue Ridge Community College. In fact, she graduated with honors.

She is already working in the hospital's operating room and will soon sit for her exam to become nationally certified. She has already come a long way since joining the staff at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital five years ago. Initially she worked in a physician's office. Two years later she took a position as a member of the staff in the OR's sterilization unit. It was there that she was able to get her first glimpse into the inner workings of the operating room.

And she soon realized that just setting up instrument tables was not enough for her.

"I got to see a little of what went on in the OR and I realized that I liked it," she says. "So I talked with several people in the hospital administration and they encouraged me to pursue becoming a surgical tech. I started back to school on my own, but I heard about the Auxiliary scholarship and applied for that."

The Auxiliary began offering scholarships to area young people four years ago to help the hospital train and recruit skilled medical personnel of all types.

Anyone wishing to pursue a career in the health care field, including those already in the field who wish to further their education, can apply. However, graduating high school seniors within the general area, or those who have graduated in the past from area high schools, are given primary consideration.

The \$500 per semester scholarships can be applied to tuition, books or other expenses directly related to one's schooling. There are some strings, however.



Jolene Niblack (L), scholarship chairman of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary, congratulates Kelley Bryson for completing her studies to become a surgical technician. Kelley recently graduated with honors and is already working in the hospital's operating room.

The recipient must be accepted into an accredited school offering health care career studies, and students have to submit copies of academic record through the latest grading period. Upon completion of studies, and certification in a specific healthcare area, the applicant must agree to return to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and work full time for at least one year.

If a recipient withdraws due to substandard grades or voluntarily for other reasons, the student agrees to repay funds without interest.

While the amount of the scholarship may not cover all the expenses of tuition and the like, it is nevertheless significant. "It's helped out a lot," says Bryson.

Although she's come a long way already, Kelley doesn't intend to stop now; she wants to continue her schooling and become a registered nurse. She doesn't want to leave the OR environment, however; just expand her role.

She knows the road to becoming an OR nurse will probably be a long one, but she certainly has plenty of footsteps to follow in. Her mother, Kim McCardle is a registered nurse and so are two of her aunts. For that matter, so are several cousins. And her father was a medic in the U.S. Navy.

Anyone wishing to learn more about pursuing health care opportunities through an Auxiliary scholarship can contact Jolene Niblack, scholarship chairman, at 526-5406. The hospital also offers scholarships, established by Mrs. Ann T. Thomas, of Highlands and Gainesville, GA., for students interested in becoming a registered nurse.





# They're called 'Tree' hotels for good reason

By Phyllis Picklesimer

Contributor

**A**beredare National Park in Kenya is the location of two "tree" hotels. One of them is The Ark.

The journey there begins at the Aberedare Country Club and Lodge. The sprawling villa with several picturesque cabins clustered on a hill behind is safari chic with an excellent dining room. The grounds are lovely with bushes of orange, yellow, purple, and coral bougainvillea interspersed with lavender-blossomed jacaranda trees and crimson poinsettia trees. Iridescent turquoise peacocks and their more drab peahens mince about the gardens often screeching or spreading their tails.

There is also a nine-hole golf course rife with hazards not found on most courses. A pack of baboons and several warthogs, whose faces only a mother could love, had taken up residence on the day I was there.

After lunch at the Lodge, we began a game drive through the park in our Land Rover on the way to The Ark. Elephants, Cape buffalo, warthogs, springbuck, and eland, among others, were observed up close and photographed. We also were very fortunate to see three black and white Colobus monkeys and a family of giant forest hogs that are very shy and seldom seen.

The Ark does have a Noah's Ark-like appearance including a prow. Rooms are called cabins and though small contain all the necessities. Game watching is what The Ark is all about and all else merely incidental.

Every effort has been made to assist the game viewer in his quest. There is a very large open deck on the main floor, a glass enclosed viewing room on the second floor, and a blind for photographers on the ground level. All of this overlooks a lake and ground that contains some natural salt licks. I did discover that the staff has been known to seed the salt lick area.

There is a long elevated wooden walkway that passes over some of the vegetation at the entrance to the building. It is here that a bird feeder is filled at 5 p.m. each evening to the delight of the guests. There were several hornbills with their bright red beaks and glistening black bodies. Also we observed from the walkway two suni antelopes, the smallest of this breed at about 15 pounds each.

There is a fence that allows admittance to the entrance area. Once visitors have arrived they are only allowed to walk about inside the building or on the balconies and walkway. This is not a zoo or animal park and all the animals are wild.

Of course, I most definitely wanted to watch and photograph from the open deck. There were several Cape buffalo with their resident tickbirds wandering over the salt plain. Near the lake were several Egyptian geese strutting about then floating serenely on the water. Standing on one leg in the water, were a large gray heron and a stork.

There are always representatives of the antelope family about. They drift on and off stage as they graze and meander on. There were eland,

bushbuck, waterbuck, and reedbuck to name but a few. The staff is very helpful in identifying each one. Elephants came singly to drink from the lake. One even had a contretemps with a Cape buffalo when the buffalo took offense at its nearness. The buffalo charged; the elephant departed quickly.

At over 7,800 feet, The Ark can be cold at night. There is a large stone fireplace whose blazing fire felt good as we waited for the dinner bell. While waiting, we were entertained by some genet cats, who looked much like playing kittens, chasing and wrestling each other just outside the window.

Everyone is always alert to what is going on outside the windows. Each person hopes to see that bird or animal they most want to see. The lake and salt plain are floodlit at night so animal watching can continue as late as one desires, or even all night.

For those who want a little slumber, the rooms are equipped with an alarm system that buzzes the room when a special animal is outside. Around 3 a.m., my buzzer sounded. After dressing and rushing to the observation deck, I discovered three rhino peacefully nuzzling the salt licks. A Kodak moment for sure.

Most people only spend one night at The Ark. I spent two nights and the next day toured the mountains to visit the multiple extremely high and churning waterfalls. But it is the bird and animal viewing for which The Ark is most famous.

I found excitement in not knowing where to look next while trying to sight some elusive prey

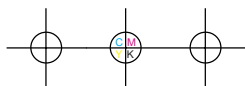


Water Buffalo stop for refreshment at the salt licks.

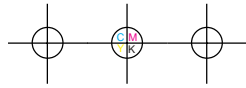
not seen previously. It was an excellent adventure. The Ark sails its territory with extraordinary



Set in the heart of the Aberedare National Park, this unique game lodge overlooks a floodlit waterhole and salt lick, which attracts a host of wildlife.







## - News from King William's Town, South Africa, part 2 -

# Cheetahs, and elephants and warthogs...oh yes!

By Sara Bates

Highlands Rotary Exchange Student

**W**hat are the chances that a student from a small mountain town in North Carolina could play with cheetahs or see wild animals in the game parks of South Africa?

Today, I am happy to share that I have had such adventures, and that I love the opportunities here.

After the most recent Rotary Convention, our group of 12 exchange students from all over the world traveled together on an "Eco-Adventure Tour." This trip included cooking our meals over a fire, scavenger hunts with compass and map, "survivor" team obstacle courses, night hikes, soccer matches, horseback riding, kayaking, canoeing, sleeping in horse stables that had been given bunk beds and great bonding time with the other students. I have never been with a group of students that could bond so quickly!

During our time there, we also went to Addo Elephant Park. Traveling in a safari van, we saw warthogs, ostriches, kudu, lion tracks and elephants! If seeing these wild animals was not enough, we also visited a cheetah farm and sat with two cheetahs, one of which decided to lick my leg. It was about this time that I realized I was really in South Africa.

Spring has officially sprung here in South

Africa. The first day of spring was September 1, and the weather is perfect! It's a bit chilly in the mornings, but then nice and hot in the afternoon. Coming from the cool mountains of North Carolina, the South African sun will come as a great shock as it reaches 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the hottest part of summer. It will be nice to warm up slowly!

Classes at Kingsridge High School are still going well, but some of the school rules are definitely new to this American student! I have already received my first detention. For those of you that know me, you know that I have never served a detention in my life, and I would not exactly try to get into trouble here in South Africa.

A group of us were sitting outside for what I was told was a "free period." When a teacher is not at school, there is no substitute teacher and the students simply go to a teacher known as their "foster teacher" (which I do not have set up yet). I only realized we were in trouble when the group tried to run as a teacher came around the corner. She seemed quite irritated and asked, "What is going on here?" I innocently responded, "We have a free period, and we were just sitting outside." I was quickly "shhhsed" by the rest of the girls, and needless to say, I just served my first, and hopefully last, detention. I promise, though, that the students here are very well behaved. The number



At a cheetah farm, this cheetah showed his affection by licking

of rules at school are laughable, and believe me, we have laughed that in my first month here I have already served detention.

While school is a bit strict for my liking, I have enjoyed trying new sports. On Friday, I went with the school's Number One water polo team to East London for what we thought was a practice in a warm pool. When we arrived, the team was told to jump in and get ready for



Sara was part of a Rotary Exchange group of students who visited Addo Elephant Park

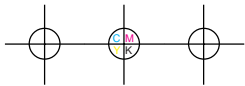


Sara (right) with her host sister Lauren dressed in her school uniform, complete with white blouse "buttoned at the top," said Sara.

Sara Bates is one of two outbound Rotary Exchange students from Highlands. She will be writing about her life in South Africa during the year she is away. Rachel Power is the other exchange student who writes often from Arica, Chile.







affection by licking her leg.

their match! Needless to say, our team was shocked. The opposing team had been training for six weeks, and this was our first time in the water since last season. I was settling in to watch my first water polo match when I



At the beach with her host mom. King Williams Town is on the very tip and edge of South Africa.

received an even bigger shock. The team needed me in the water, too! Because they had not played in such a long time, the girls tired quickly in this strenuous sport and needed more subs. In a few minutes, I was being dunked by girls who knew exactly what to do to the new girl under water. It wasn't long before I climbed out of the pool, scratched and exhausted. I am proud to say, though, that I was able to get the ball for our team once, and drew a foul at another point in the game. Once I am up to speed with the other girls and understand all the rules, I am sure that water

polo will be great fun!

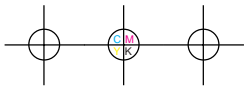
Well, I think that is about all for now. Life is great here, and I am looking forward to the trips and sports training in the future. My host family, church, youth groups, new classmates and friends have all been wonderful! I thank God every morning as I wake up in bed to a warm bowl of porridge (oatmeal) and realize again that I am in South Africa. What an amazing opportunity!

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. I feel God's protection in every new adventure. Cheers! And God bless, Sara.

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Traveling in a safari van through Addo Elephant Park, Sara saw warthogs, ostriches, kudu, lion tracks and of course, elephants.





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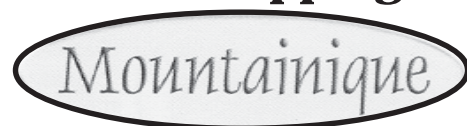
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**• Byers' Carolers**

**• German Nutcrackers**

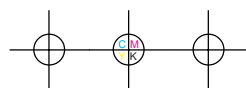
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# Celebrating Fall in Highlands Celebrating Fall in Highl





## • BUSINESS NEWS •

### Cynthia Gomes named VP of Sales & Marketing of OEI



The Old Edwards Hospitality Group is pleased to announce the promotion of Cynthia Gomes to Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Gomes joined Old Edwards Hospitality Group in December 2003 as Director of Sales

and Marketing. Her responsibilities will continue to include group sales and catering, advertising, public relations and overall marketing for the nine companies that make up the OEHG.

Gomes was most recently senior regional director of sales and marketing for Crown American Hotels in Atlanta, GA, where, since 1998, she was responsible for the sales and marketing of 13 properties in the southern region. Previously, Gomes was director of sales for Crown American's Comfort Inn Hotel in Atlanta. From 1992 through 1995, she was the senior sales manager for the Omni Hotel at CNN Center in Atlanta.

Gomes earned a bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, NC, and an associate degree in hotel/resta-  
urant management from Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC. She is a certified hotel administrator (CHA), a certified meeting professional (CMP), and a member of

Meeting Professionals International (MPI), and past president of the Georgia Chapter-MPI.

### Sherry Owens named VP of Finance



The Old Edwards Hospitality Group is pleased to announce the promotion of Sherry Owens to Vice President of Finance. Owens joined Old

Edwards Hospitality Group in February 2004 as accounting manager and assistant to the Controller and was promoted to Director of Financial Services July 2005. Her responsibilities will continue to include financial reporting for all nine of the Old Edwards Hospitality Group companies as well as management of accounts payable/ receivables and payroll. Owens' other responsibilities include overseeing the purchasing and receiving department and the IT/MIS department.

Owens most recently spent five years with Gables Residential Services where she held positions such as an assistant property manager with Gables West Park Village located in Tampa, FL. and as regional/national accounting manager for the relocation department, Gables Corporate Accommodations in both Atlanta, GA. and Boca Raton, Fla.

As a native of Highlands, Owens graduated from Highlands High School and continued her education at

•See BUSINESS NEWS page 21

# HIGHLANDS ANTIQUUE GALLERIES WALK

**1**

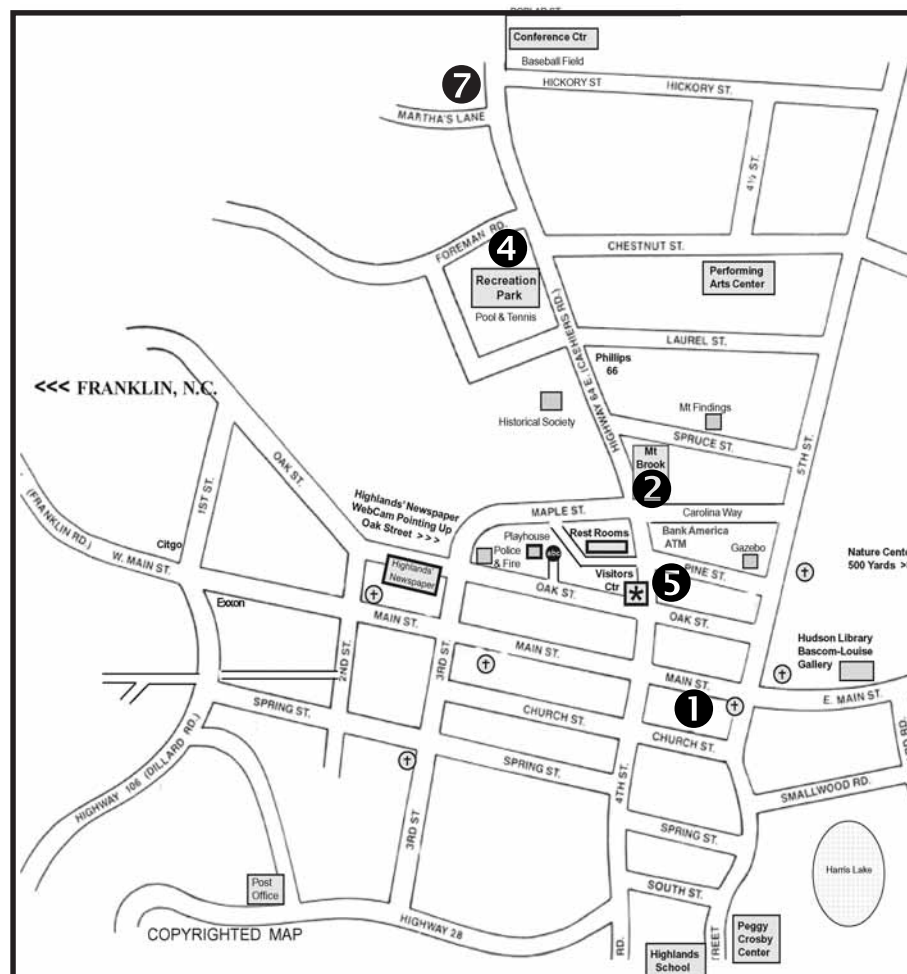
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# • BUSINESS NEWS •

SouthWestern Community College in Sylva, N.C.

## ...on the Verandah Restaurant Welcomes New

### Sous Chef Julie Miller

Julie Miller, a Grande Diploma graduate of the Silwood Cordon Bleu School in South Africa, has joined the staff of ...on the Verandah restaurant in Highlands, NC, as sous chef. Julie joins Andrew Figel, executive chef/co-owner and Sid Jackson, pastry chef in the highly regarded ...on the Verandah kitchen. "Julie is a great addition to our staff. Her creativity is contagious," said Figel.

Originally from Port Elizabeth, South Africa, Ms. Miller came to Highlands as a consultant for the Central House Restaurant at the Old Edwards Inn. She has honed her skills at restaurants, hotels and private yachts around the world. The one-time owner of "Julie's Kitchen" will work closely with Mr. Figel on menu creation, inventory management and kitchen staff development.

On the Verandah, Highlands' most scenic dining overlooking Lake Sequoyah, in Highlands, NC, serves a contemporary American fusion menu with an Asian and Latin American influence. Executive Chef/co-owner Andrew Figel and his sister, GM/co-owner, Marlene Alvarez operate this world-renowned restaurant, successfully es-

tablished in 1981 by their parents Marta and Alan Figel. On the Verandah is open seasonally, from mid-March through New Year's Eve. Reservations for the dinner or Sunday brunch at ...on the Verandah can be made at 828 526 2338 [www.ontheverandah.com](http://www.ontheverandah.com).

## Highlands Goes Thai with ...on the Verandah and Taste of Thai

...on the Verandah and Atlanta's Taste of Thai restaurant are collaborating on Thursday, October 20, 2005 to offer the first of ...on the Verandah's theme dinners that will feature guest chefs from some of Atlanta and Miami's best ethnic restaurants. Future dinners in 2006 will include Vietnamese, Indian, Moroccan and Chinese.

Andrew Figel, OTV's partner-executive chef, and Chuck Sunyapong, Taste of Thai chef, are creating a menu that will include twists on some of TOT's favorite dishes. The five-course dinner will feature beef, lobster and duck and will be paired with white wines from the Verandah's Wine Spectator award-winning cellar. "We want to wow our customers' taste buds while re-introducing them to the sheer pleasure of white wine. The menu that Andrew and Chuck have developed will do just that," said Marlene Alvarez, GM/co-owner of ...on the Verandah.

•See BUSINESS NEWS page 25

## ... BOOK REVIEW continued from page 13

"President Bush subscribes to a political philosophy that opposes government activism—that's why he has tried to downsize and privatize programs wherever he can. So even his policy failures don't bother his strongest supporters: many conservatives view the inept response to Katrina as a vindication of their lack of faith in government, rather than as a reason to reconsider their faith in Mr. Bush."

As far as I can understand it the conservative vision of the American federal government is this: 1. a legislative body and an executive with no regulatory agencies and no departments of education, health, transportation, environmental protection, etc. making rules and getting in businessmen's way of making a profit and 2. the military.

Ironically, as Fareed Zakaria wrote in last week's *Newsweek*: "Whatever his other accomplishments, Bush will go down in history as the most fiscally irresponsible chief executive in American history. Since 2001, government spending has gone up from \$1.86 trillion to \$2.48 trillion, a 33 percent rise in four years! Defense and Homeland Security are not the only culprits.

Domestic spending is actually up 36 percent in the same period...

"Today's Republicans believe in pork, but they don't believe in government. So we have the largest government in history but one that is weak and dysfunctional. Public spending is a cynical game of buying votes or campaign contributions, an utterly corrupt process run by lobbyists and special interests with no concern for the national interest."

Further irony: when people suggested that perhaps some of the bills passed this year by Congress could be revisited to find money for the Gulf coast reconstruction (for instance the infamous road to nowhere in the transportation bill), (former) House Majority Leader Tom DeLay famously said there was no fat left in the budget to cut!

Judge Napolitano's remedy: the government should pass a law stating that the government and all of its employees should obey all laws. I think a better remedy is an aware populace that understands that we the people are the only guarantor of our liberties. Freedom from tyranny requires eternal vigilance.

## ... ON THE VERANDAH

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## Madeleine Davis appears in ITC's production of 'The Turn of the Screw'

Two actors plus one Henry James ghost story add up hauntingly. Are you up for an outstandingly scary story for an adult Halloween?

The Instant Theatre has one for you with its spooky and harrowing tale, *The Turn of the Screw*

Jeffery Hatcher's compact, compelling adaptation of James' classic novel uses only two players to tell its tale.

In the ITC production, "The Man," a well-off bachelor/businessman who is too busy to raise the niece and nephew he has to take care of since his brother's death, is portrayed by New York-based actor Max Vogler. "The Woman," played by Madeleine Davis, is the governess he hires to care for the children at the family estate, which bears the warm and inviting name of Bly. It does not take the new governess long to realize that there are things about Bly and the children that she has not been told. Even on its most

superficial levels, *The Turn of the Screw* is both wonderful and terrifying. The end result is a tale as scary as any of the

better Halloween movies but with as much intellectual substance as an Ingmar Bergman film.

Make your reservations for an eerie evening. *The Turn of the Screw* will run for five performances only, October 25-29 at 8 p.m. at the ITC's Studio on Main, 310 Oak Square, Highlands, NC. Reservations are Strongly Suggested as seating for each performance is limited to 65. Tickets for adults are \$20, with reservations, and \$25 at the door. Tickets for students ages 13-17 are \$7 with reservations, and \$10 at the door. Call the ITC Box Office at (828) 342-9197 for reservations. Complimentary wine and soft drinks are included.

The ITC is very grateful to its corporate sponsors: Nellis Communities, Country Club Properties, and Signature Properties for their assistance in making this production possible.

For more information about the Instant Theatre Company, please visit its web site: [www.InstantTheatre.org](http://www.InstantTheatre.org) or call (828) 526-1687.



Madeleine Davis as "the Governess" in The Instant Theatre Company's up-coming production of *The Turn of the Screw*.

## New officers at the Hospital Auxiliary



Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary has a new slate of officers for the 2005-2006 year. Polly Touzalin will again serve as president (far left). Other officers shown (L-R) are Jolene Niblack, treasurer; Kitty Barber, recording secretary; and Joy O'Toole, corresponding secretary. Vice-president Patty Hutchins was not available for the photo. The group was elected at the Auxiliary's annual luncheon held recently at Chestnut Hill, and officially assumed their duties at the Oct. 3 regular meeting.





# Highlands Community Players announce cast for October play

The comedy "The Second Time Around," first play of the 2005-2006 season for the Highlands Community Players, features several talented newcomers as well as some tried-and-true regulars.

Ralph Stevens returns to the stage in the major role of Sam Jonas, a widower, who finds a compatible widow to share his life. HCP audiences will remember Ralph's stellar performance as the father in "Proof." Shirley Williams, recently seen as Veda (as in Veda and Norval) in "Dearly Departed," plays the part of Laura Curtis, the lady who won Sam's heart.

Jennifer Royce (also of "Dearly Departed" fame for the role of Suzanne) plays Sam's daughter who is shocked by her father's co-habitation plans. Her husband, a pompous psychiatrist, is played by Wayne Coleman, a new year-round resident of Highlands, who has an extensive background in acting and musical theater in the Atlanta area.

HCP regular Stuart Armor (Royce in "Dearly Departed") plays Laura's son, who is married to a wife obsessed with healthful eating. The wife is played by Kathryn Cochran, who has performed in HCP's Christmas programs and staged play readings.


Sam's grandson, is played by John Howard, who is new to theater and HCP. His girlfriend is played by Autumn Walton, a student at Cashiers Charter School, who has performed in several school plays.

"The Second Time Around" opens Thursday, October 27, at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center and continues through November 6. All proceeds from the show will be donated for the relief of Katrina/Rita hurricane victims.

Season subscriptions are now being sold by the Players, offering four plays for the price of three. Call 526-8084 for a subscription or more information.



In rehearsal. Ralph Stevens as widower Sam Jonas and Shirley Williams as widow Laura Curtis plan a life together in the Highlands Community Players comedy, The Second Time Around opening October 27 through Nov. 6. Call 526-8084 for ticket information.

**1**


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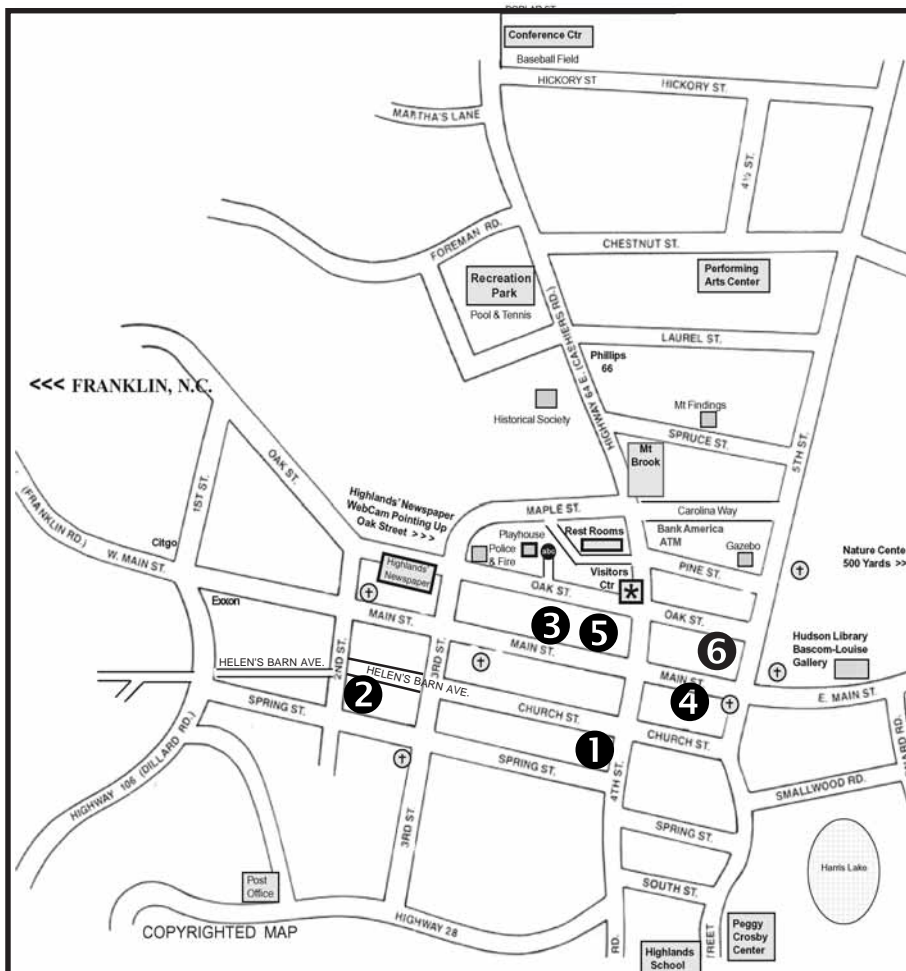
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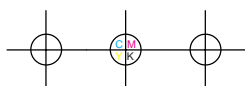
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## SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

### God is a GOOD thing



**Bartley Williams**  
**FBC-Minister to Students**

I returned from the Catalyst Conference 2005 in Atlanta, Ga., this past Friday night with an extra "boost" to help me in my individual walk with Him! I had a chance to meet up with my good friend that I graduated college with (who is now also the Associate Pastor at a church he just planted and started in Atlanta) and had the wonderful experience of getting to worship with him at the conference.

Anyway, it started off with the Catalyst Worship Band playing 'This is your Life' by Switchfoot, which really kicked off the two days with a bang! Plus they played several hits of today's Christian music. Incredible! Several different individuals were the hosts for the event. One being Lanny Donoho, the same host for our BigStuf trip I took this summer with the youth, as one of the emcees for the conference.

There were also several other ones such as Gabe Lyons, Reggie Joiner, and Kristian Stanfill. This conference was designed for reaching leaders in specific ways and bringing them to the point where they take a look at their own life and re-evaluate it for His purpose.

It started with Andy Stanley (Head Pastor of NorthPoint Community Church) talking about the subject: When Opportunity Knocks. In this, he was talking about the potential of where our leadership ability could take us. Great speaker!

After his session, Louie Giglio (Founder of the Passion Movement) spoke about the topic: The question is not are you going to lead, but the question is, are you going to live and how you are going to live?

I had never heard Louie in person, and what an impact he made! His final statement that he left attendees was, nothing can stop God from using me in his plans. Wow, once again!

What a way to kick off the conference with 2 wonderful speakers, and it continued with Donald Miller, John C. Maxwell, Erwin McManus, Bill Hybels, Malcolm Gladwell, and finally Andy closed it with another wonderful message, Gaining and Sustaining Momentum. Could this have been an any better message at the right time!? All in all what an experience this was to be with a group of fellow youth workers in Atlanta and hear speeches that really "blew my mind" (in a good way, of course)!

One thing I learned from this conference and the central topic that all of the speakers were talking about was that whatever we do – no matter whom we choose to do it with, what we do, when it happens, where we do it, why we chose to do that particular event, or how we did it – is...

"IT'S A GOD THING!"

## 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

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Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

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Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

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Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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### 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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Steven E. Kerhoulas, Senior Pastor

www.cbchighlands.com

526-4685

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;  
6 p.m., "The Rock" for highschoolers

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

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

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968

Sundays: Holy Eucharist – 8 a.m.; Sunday School – 9 a.m.; Choir – 9:45 a.m.; Holy Eucharist – 10:30 a.m.;  
Youth Group – 5 p.m.

Mondays: Women's Cursillo Group – 4 & 5:30

Christmas Chorale – 7 p.m.

Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8; Staff Mtg. –  
9:30 a.m.; Flying Solo – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: Supper & Program – 5:30 p.m.; Choir  
Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.; Gulf Coast  
Support – 10:30 a.m.; Women's Cursillo – noon.

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.; Sunday School – 9:30 &  
9:45.

Wednesdays: Childrens Devotions – 9:30 a.m.;

Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.

Thursdays: Bible Study – 10 a.m.

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

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

### HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376

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

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

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871

Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

For more information, call

(706)-745-1842.

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Tien, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

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Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m.

Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

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

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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

Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

### WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon

Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby

Sundays: Fellowship & Worship – 11

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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



**The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Oct. 6-10.**

## Oct. 6

- At 9:55 a.m., a handrail valued at \$200 was reported damaged at The Rib Shack Restaurant on Spring Street.

## Oct. 7

- At 11:50 a.m., Roberto Aguyayo Cabrera, 39, of Highlands, was arrested and held on a \$2,500 bond for financial identity fraud.

- At 10:40 a.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 was cited for driving without a registration.

## Oct. 8

- At 10 a.m., officers responded to an accident in the parking lot of the Civic Center. There were no injuries.

- At 7:24 a.m., a motorist at Oak and Maple was cited for failing to stop at the stop sign.

- At 2 a.m., Martin Ignacio Chavez, 29, of Highlands, was arrested for possession of a weapon, assault on a female and injury to personal property.

- At 8:35 p.m., Samantha Anne Gordon, 32, of Cullowhee, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia on Little Bear Pen Road.

- At 8:35 p.m., David Paul Cannon, 37, of Cullowhee, was arrested for driving without insurance and failure to register a vehicle on Little Bear Pen Road.

- A little past midnight, Jesus Marcos Mendez, 19, of Highlands, was arrested for driving without a license on N.C. 106.

## Oct. 9

- At 8:30 a.m., Robert Earl Milgrim, 76, of Highlands, was arrested for being in possession of counterfeit merchandise and for the manufacturing of counterfeit merchandise at Bags on Main. He was released on a \$5,000 secured bond.

- At 9 a.m., Ralph Stevens, 67, of Highlands, was arrested for being in possession of counterfeit merchandise at Jolie's. He was released on a \$5,000 secured bond.

## Oct. 10

- At 6:20 a.m., a motorist at Mirror Lake Road was cited for exceeding a safe speed.

- At 4 p.m., officers responded to a

two-vehicle accident on North 4th Street. There were no injuries.

**The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Oct. 6-12.**

## Oct 6

- The dept. responded to a call of a wreck on N.C. 28. It was unfounded.

## Oct. 7

- The dept. responded to a call of fire in the Cowee Ridge area. It was a controlled burn.

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fire Dept. The call was cancelled en route.

## Oct. 11

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Hicks Road where someone had fallen.

## • HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

### SPORTS PAGE



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## ... BUISNESS NEWS

continued from pg. 21

Tommi & Tu Kanjanampa, who started Taste of Thai 14 years ago, have been multi-year winners of the prestigious "Best of Atlanta" award. Tommi has a degree in Fine Arts & Photography which has influenced their food style and presentation and her photographs of Thailand adorn the walls of their restaurant which is located at 6775 Jimmy Carter Boulevard in Atlanta, 770 662 8575

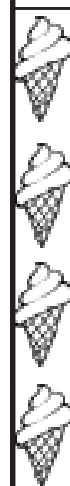
On the Verandah, Highlands' most scenic dining overlooking Lake Sequoyah, in Highlands, NC, serves a contemporary American fusion menu with an Asian and Latin American influence. Executive Chef/co-owner Andrew Figel and his sister, GM/co-owner, Marlene Alvarez operate this world-renowned restaurant that was successfully established in 1981 by their parents Marta and Alan Figel. On the Verandah is open seasonally, from mid-March through New Year's Eve. Reservations for the dinner or Sunday brunch at ...on the Verandah can be made at 828 526 2338 or on the web at [www.ontheverandah.com](http://www.ontheverandah.com).

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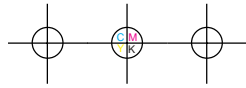
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# 'Let the Good Times Roll' at the Playhouse two weekends

By Joe Litsch

When Highlands Theater Artistic director, Robert Ray rolls into town on October 14 to open his fifth show in what has been an unprecedented season of musical and dramatic hits, he does so with a full arsenal of talented singers and musicians.

"Let the Good Times Roll" premiered at Libby's Cabaret last spring and became an immediate "crowd pleaser."

"I don't know exactly why this show hit such a nerve - we basically were just doing some great music from the 50s, 60s and 70s like hits made famous by Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Simon and Garfunkel, Carole King and even the Carpenters. But on opening night when the entire audience started singing along with Ray Charles' "Hit the Road Jack" - I knew we were singing what the crowd wanted hear," says Ray.

Along with Ray, the show will star Courteney Collins who was one of this summer's "Jerry's Girls", Thomas Barnett whom Ray calls the best male vocalist he has heard in years and Valerie Payton who has been a

regular on the Atlanta Cabaret circuit for years.

Valarie who currently stars in the Atlanta production of the long-running Off-Broadway hit, "Menopause: the Musical" has been able to arrange a few days off from that show to allow "Let the Good Times Roll" to proceed with its original cast.

Ray who is thrilled to have the "whole gang" back together again - even piano/vocalist Damon Goff, says "of the many casts I have worked with since 1972, this one seemed to be the right mix - we all just seemed to complement and support each other's talents."

Broadway veterans, Collins and Ray who each have recorded three CDs in the past few years, promise to close the show with a little "surprise" from "The Phantom of the Opera."

Thomas Barnett will be celebrating the release of his first CD during "Let the Good Times Roll" which plays at The Highlands Playhouse October 14, 15, 16, 21, 21 and 23.

Tickets are available now at the Highlands Playhouse Box Office.



Along with Robert Ray, the show will star Courteney Collins who was one of this summer's, "Jerry's Girls", Thomas Barnett whom Ray calls the best male vocalist he has heard in years and Valerie Payton who has been a regular on the Atlanta Cabaret circuit for years.

## Author Sandra Brown To Sign at Cyrano's

This Saturday, Oct. 15, from 1-3 p.m. Sandra Brown will autograph copies of her new novel, *Chill Factor*, currently number one on the *Times* list, at Cyrano's Bookshop.

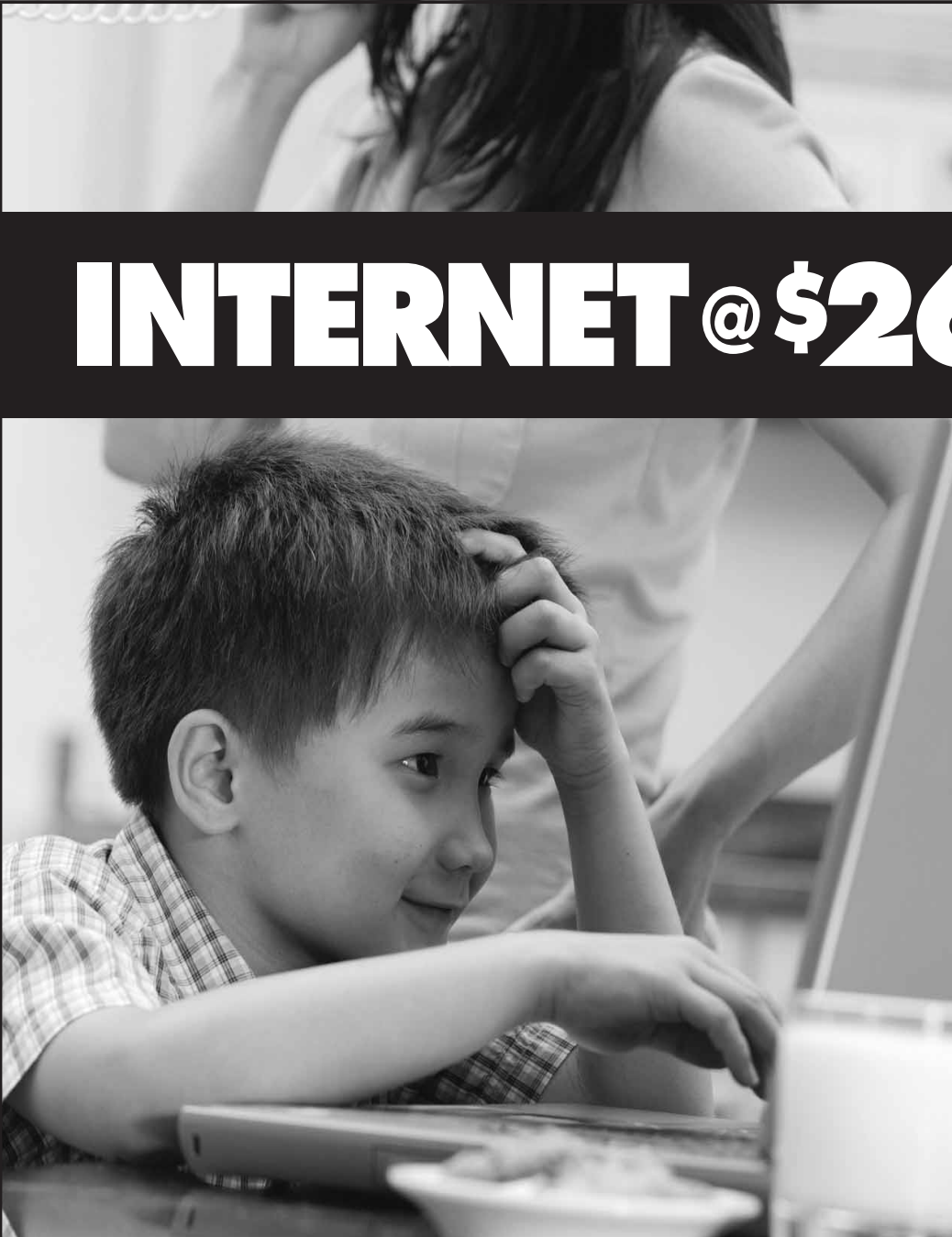
Sandra began her writing career in 1981 and since then has published 65 novels. She now has 70 million copies of her books in print worldwide, translated into thirty-three languages.


She and her husband Michael Brown, who owns a video production company and produced the award-winning documentary film *Dust to Dust*, divide their time between their primary home in Arlington, Texas, and their getaways in Hilton Head, S.C., and Highlands.

Sandra's novel *Chill Factor* is set in Cleary, N.C., a town remarkably similar to Highlands. It opens with a vicious winter storm swirling in the small mountain community where Lilly Martin has returned to tie up the loose ends of her turbulent eight-year marriage to police chief Dutch Burton. Dutch is reluctant to let her go, but Lilly is determined to move on and desperate to put a tragic memory behind her.

Lilly packs up her belongings and drives through blinding snow, down the mountain road now slick with ice. When a figure emerges suddenly from the woods on foot, she spins out, striking him, and totaling her car. She rushes to help the injured man, whom she recognizes as Ben Tierney, a handsome outdoorsman she'd met the previous

•See Cyrano's page 27





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... CYRANO'S from  
page 26



**Sandra Brown**

summer.

When Lilly and Tierney return to her cabin to ride out the worsening storm, she can't help felling uneasy. During the past two years five women have been reported missing, the only clues being a blue ribbon left near the spot where they were last sighted. Nicknamed "Blue," this serial killer has remained at large. In time Lilly begins to fear that the greatest danger at hand may not be the blizzard, but the man now sharing her cabin.

Her fear may be justified. The FBI, having joined the hunt for "Blue," has found clues that point directly to Tierney. When Dutch defies the snowstorm to reach Lilly and Tierney ahead of the federal authorities, it's not clear if his goal is to rescue Lilly or if he's motivated by darker impulses. The problem becomes whether Tierney is the real threat to, or her only hope for, survival. And as time runs out, her life will depend on her making a difficult choice between logic and instinct.

Hailed by *USA Today* as a "master storyteller, crafting tales that keep readers on the edge of their seats," Sandra Brown has again written a fast-paced page-turner filled with tension and surprise. *Chill Factor* delivers her signature spine-tingling suspense coupled with a really tough and hard edge that makes her readable and popular to both men and women.

While Sandra describes her life as

pretty ordinary—having led a happy childhood, been married to the same man for 37 years, and raised two children—she has found writing to be what she was supposed to be doing all along. Emerging from the extraordinary world of her creative imagination, she claims

it's often "very hard to come back to the real world after I've lived in another one all day."

Her advice about how to get published is to "sit down first and finish a manuscript before you start trying to find an agent or publisher and before you start

casting the movie you hope will be made from your book." And yet after 65 novels of her own creation, she admits, "It'd like to say it gets easier. Unfortunately that never happens—at least with me." Sandra is disarmingly modest as well as a generous-hearted charmer.

# The Suites at Chestnut Hill



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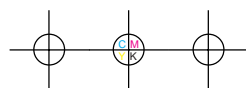
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**CLINIC DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITY CARE CLINIC**, that provides free health services to medically underserved in Highlands-Cashiers area. Qualifications: strong management background and minimum of five years experience working in health or non-profit public assistance organization.

Thirty-hour week position with benefits. Salary commensurate with background and skills. Mail resume to Community Care Clinic, PO Box 43, Highlands, NC 28741.

**EXPERIENCED RN** to assist non-interventional cardiologist with office patients, echo and stress tests in new clinic. Email resume to pbarrett@ngheartcenter.com or fax 770-538-7872 and indicate "Highlands."

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**SON** needed for new cardiology clinic. Check in / Check out, claims, billing and insurance follow up experience required, office management skills a plus. Email resume to pbarrett@ngheartcenter.com or fax 770-538-7872 and indicate "Highlands."

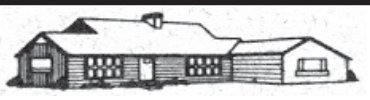
**PART-TIME EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NEEDED FOR A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IN HIGHLANDS.** Duties include recording minutes, bookkeeping, maintaining member data base and class registrations,

staffing office 10-2 (May-Aug). Quickbooks, Excel, and Word knowledge necessary. On site training available immediately. Send resume to CLE, P.O. Box 2046, Highlands, NC 28741


**REGISTERED DIETITIAN AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL.** Must have N.C. license. CDE preferred, but not required. Manage nutritional services for 24-acute care and 84 long-term care beds, and Dietary Department. Full benefits available after 60

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days for this full-time position. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

**HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM TECHNOLOGIST AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER.** Two-year degree preferred for this full-time position. Must have experience in network operation and end-user troubleshooting skills. Excellent benefit package available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

**EARN WHILE YOU LEARN! ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A NEW CAREER?**

Become a Certified Nursing Assistant for Fidelity Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. C.N.A. classes at Southwestern Community College in Cashiers start November 1. Students will be paid while in class Mondays through Fridays for 6 hours a day. Upon graduation, receive \$2 more per hour. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. If interested in joining a dynamic health care team, call Judy Miller, 828-526-1315 or Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

**HOUSEKEEPER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL.** Full-time, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Fridays through Tuesdays. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

**REGISTERED DIETITIAN AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL.** Must have N.C. license. DCE preferred, but not required. Manage nutritional services for 24-acute care and 84 long-term care beds, and Dietary Department. Full benefits available after 60 days for this full-time position. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

**COOK** – at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. One year experience in institutional or volume cooking necessary. Must have knowledge of proper sanitation practices. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

**DIETARY AIDE** – Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Duties include working patient tray line and cafeteria line, stock kitchen, washing dishes. Full time position, 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., flexible days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar at 828-526-1301.

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## GOLD N' CLIPPER

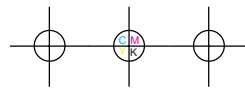


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# MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY

450 North 4th Street  
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## PICTURE PERFECT



This elegant home close to town is located in the park like Shelby Place Development. Four bedrooms, three full baths and two half baths, great open floor plan for entertaining, charming screened deck overlooking the mountain view, beautiful crown molding, fireplace in the living room, exercise room, workshop, wine cellar, wood floors, tiled bathrooms and wiring for a generator, this lovely home has it all. Designed by Architect Paul Schmitt and constructed by Schmitt Building Contractors. Offered at \$978,000. MLS#55576 Visual Tour #355248

## MANY POSSIBILITIES

Close to town on Flat Mountain Road, situated on 4.67 wooded acres, this furnished 3 bedroom, 2 bath home has lots of possibilities. Built in 1990, this two-story cottage with large bedrooms has an open floor plan complete with fireplace in the living room. A back deck overlooking your beautiful property, separate garage/storage unit and small stream are extra amenities of this wonderful home. Offered at \$439,000. MLS#56175 Visual Tour #385662

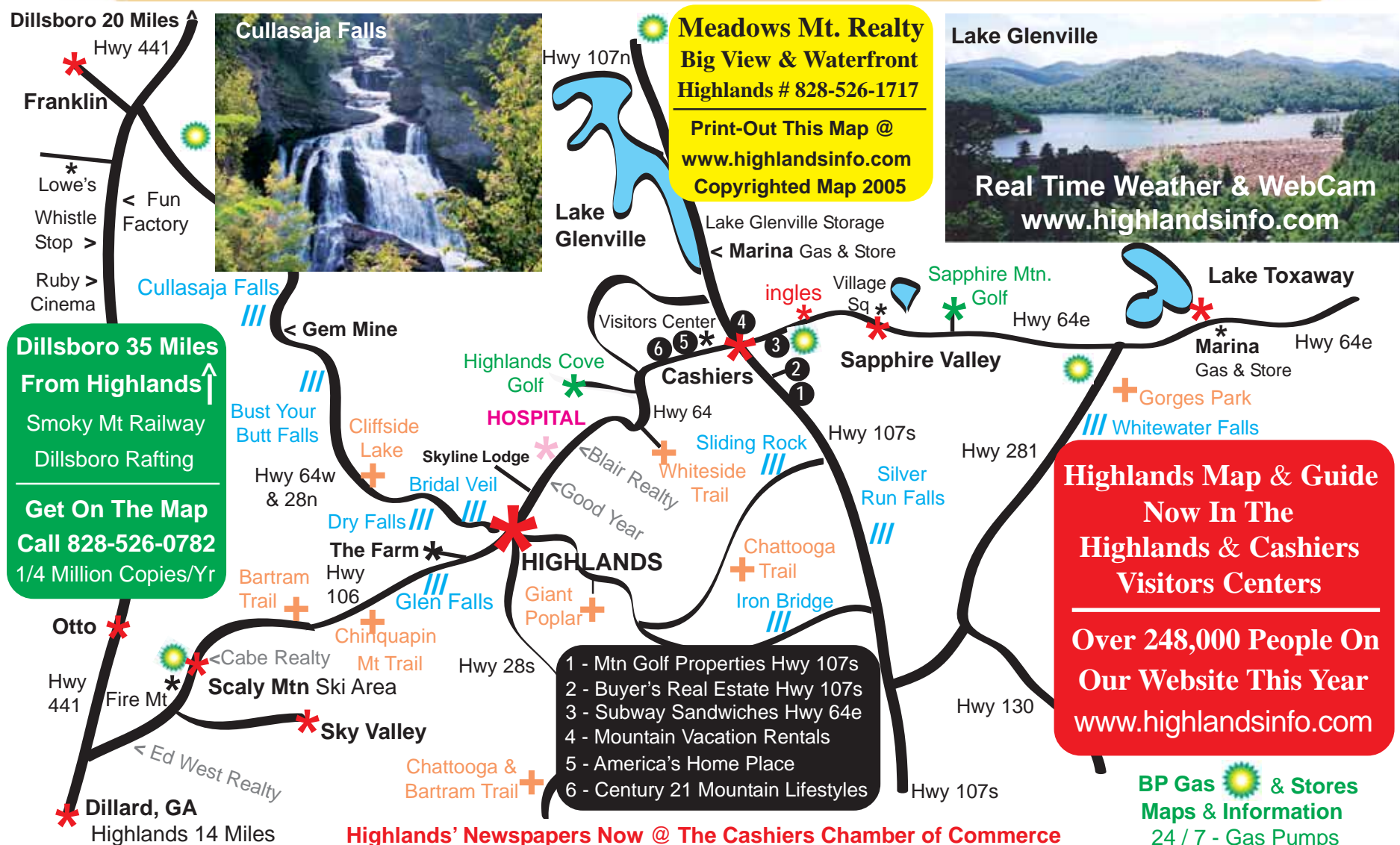


are special features of this home located in a great neighborhood. \$395,000 MLS# 53445 Visual Tour #148547

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This charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath home sits on a beautiful large gently rolling lawn with a beautiful winter mountain view. Cedar siding, 2 car garage, master suite with large tub and high ceilings

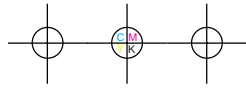
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Horse Cove, 4 bed, 2 bath, overlooks its own private pond. Recent renovations, in excellent condition. Offered at \$900,000.



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Highlands Point, 4 bed, 8 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, 2 car garage. Newly built designer home MLS# 55198 Offered at \$3,500,000.



GREENBRIAR ESTATES, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 2 story home, covered porch entrance. Lot size .93+/- acres MLS# 56086 Offered at \$349,000.



Cole Mountain Circle, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, w/wood floors. Single story home on .75+/- acres. MLS# 53744 Offered at \$255,000.



CULLASAJA CLUB, 5 beds, 5 baths, 2 1/2 baths, Built 2005, 2 fireplaces, 2 car garage, designer home. MLS #54777 Offered at \$1,950,000.



In Town Home - Cherokee Drive, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1 story w/ wood floors and 1 car garage. MLS# 52988 Offered at \$285,000.



Sagee Mountain, Split Rail Rd, view home. 4 bed, 5 bath, 2 car garage. Located on 5.1+/- acres. Ranch style. MLS# 53648 Offered at \$1,800,000.



Shortoff Rd., On 4.27+/- acres, plenty of privacy. 2 bedrooms & 3 full baths. Fireplaces plus barn. MLS# 53897 Offered at \$1,795,000.



HIGHLANDS COVE - .78+/- acres. Between Highlands & Cashiers. 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths. Fireplaces, & carport. MLS# 54529 \$1,795,000.



Sylva Vista Estates, Hoot Owl Hollow Rd. 2 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, view home w/ covered deck & fireplaces. MLS# 54919 \$1,500,000.



CULLASAJA CLUB, Lost Trail, 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, 2 car garage. Country Club Living. MLS# 54778 Offered at \$1,495,000.



Billy Cabin Rd., 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces & a carport. Wood floors & a nice deck. Close to town. MLS# 53457 Offered at \$1,495,000.



SAGEE MOUNTAIN on Bowery Rd. 1.22+/- acres, 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces & 2 car garage. MLS# 55581 Offered at \$1,485,000.



SAGEE MOUNTAIN, traditional style home. 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, large deck & a 2 car garage. MLS# 54918 Offered at \$1,429,000.



Owl Gap Rd., Ranch style home on 4.37+/- acres. 2 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Fireplaces & a 2 car garage. MLS# 55575 Offered at \$1,395,000.



HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB, Ranch style home, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, fireplace, 2 car garage & patio. .37+/- acre. MLS# 55792 \$1,350,000.



HIGHLANDS FALLS COUNTRY CLUB 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, large covered deck, fireplace plus a 2 car garage. MLS# 53247. \$1,200,000.



CULLASAJA CLUB, 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 2 stone fireplaces, carport. A beautiful must see home. MLS# 56050 Offered at \$1,150,000.



KING MOUNTAIN CLUB, gated community on Atlanta side of Highlands. 3 bed, 3 bath, club pool & tennis. MLS# 56113 Offered at \$995,000.



Trillium place condo 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, screened in porch & central heat/air. MLS #56765 \$382,000.



Lucky's Way in Cashiers - Mantle Ridge Home, 3 bedrms, 3 1/2 baths, fireplaces, carport, 2+/- acres. MLS # 55642 Offered at \$875,000.



View Point Rd. Home, 4 bedrooms, 5 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, wood floors, & 2 car garage. Lot 1.44+/- acres. MLS# 52201 Offered at \$975,000.



SCALY MOUNTAIN, enjoy the view from the covered deck, 4 bed, 5 bath, 2 car garage, on 4+/- acres. MLS# 54679 Offered at \$975,000.



SAGEE MOUNTAIN, 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, fireplaces, carport, in town, on 1.46+/- acres. A must see. MLS# 56375 Offered at \$895,000.

