

Volume 3, Number 37

**Locally Owned & Operated** 

Friday, Sept. 16, 2005

#### On-going

- 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.
- Piano Bar at ...on the Verandah seven nights a week accompanied by jazz guitar Tuesdays and Thursdays all at 7 p.m.
- Tuesdays and Thursdays all at 7 p.m.
   Live music at Wolfgang's Restaurant & Wine Bistro, Mon., Wed., Thurs., 6-10 p.m.
- Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4:30-6:30. Sa, complimentary samples 12:30-4.
  - Sept. 15
- Music & dancing at Fressers in Helen's Barn, 8-12 p.m..
- The Literacy Council is having a Free Tutor Training Session on Thurs., at 2 p.m. at the Peggy Crosby Center. Call Breta at 526-9938 ext 240 to sign up.
- 9938 ext 240 to sign up.

   PTO meeting at Highlands School and first day of the Book Fair. Dinner at 5:30 p.m., general meeting at 6 p.m. in the Highlands School cafeteria.
- InterChurch Pot Luck Supper at First Baptist Church at 6 p.m. Call 526-2418.

#### Sept. 15-18

• Master Potter, Sid Luck, will be at the Bascom-Louise Gallery to conduct a workshop and pottery sales. Call the gallery at 526-4949 to register.

#### Sept. 15-22

• Fall Book Fair at Highlands School. Shop before or after school!

#### Sept. 16

• "Country Music, Highlands Style" will be on tap at PAC Friday at 7 p.m. Two bands, including "Bluegrass Alliance" will perform. Tickets are \$10 and may be reserved by calling the PAC at 526-9047.

#### Sept. 17

- •The Bolivian Mission's annual auction of Bolivian art at the Highlands Playhouse on Saturday at 6 p.m. with catered food and live and silent auctions. Call 526-3605 or reservations. Cost is \$50 per person.
- ervations. Cost is \$50 per person.

   At Instant Theater Studio on Main Street. GEORGE REEVES & LEE LADENSACK with James Poe. Reserve early. Complimentary wine and soft drinks served. \$15 for adults, \$7 for children. Call 828-342-9197.

#### Sept. 19

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association will hold its regular meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center.

#### Sept. 20

• Audubon field trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway for fall migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Highlands Town Hall. For information, call Edwin Pool, 526-2775.

#### Sept. 22-24

• Plein Air Painting with Sue Stewart will be a wonderful three-day excursion into the fine and ancient art of oil painting in the open air. Call the gallery at 526-4949 to register.

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76-56 °F	75-55 °F	74-54 °F

# Officials re-think room tax fees

#### By Kim Lewicki

Highlands and Franklin chamber of commerce officials will be glad to know the county is going to immediately reimburse them some of the occupancy tax proceeds withheld since January 2005.

The Franklin Chamber will get about \$12,000 and the Highlands Chamber a

proportionally equal amount based on room tax collections.

But proprietors of Macon County lodging businesses – hotels, motels, tourist homes, tourist camps, people who rent private residences and cottages to transients, including real estate brokers who •See ROOM TAX page 11

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# **Animal control issues looming**

#### **By Kim Lewicki**

While the county waits for a bill to regulate private and public animal shelters to make its way through the General Assembly, people are getting bitten and residents are being terrorized by dogs considered a nuisance or a threat.

Just last week, two people were bitten by a dog in Highlands. "We called the Sheriff's Department but their hands are tied," said Mayor Buck Trott.

Last year, county commissioners made all Sheriff deputies animal control officers, but with no place to take animals, there's really nothing the Sheriff's department can do.

As of March 7, 2005, the county stopped operating an animal control program and no action can be taken until that restriction is lifted by board action.

"Our hands are tied," said Sheriff Robbie Holland.

The county stopped "doing business" with the Macon County Humane Society when infighting broke out be• See ANIMAL page 3

# State budget cuts plague school system

#### By Kim Lewicki

Macon County Schools is feeling Raleigh's latest set of discretionary cuts and once again is seeking help from county commissioners.

"I'm embarrassed to have to come to you about this," said Superintendent of Macon County Schools Dr. Rodney Shotwell, "but when the state has \$85 million in discretionary cuts and \$45 million of that is taken from education, there's nothing I can do."

He said he tried not to come to the •See BUDGET page 5

# Highlands team full of passion and grit



Taylor Parrish struggles with a Franklin opponent at the Sept. 8 game in Franklin. The score was 7-3, Franklin. See Highlands School Sports stories, page 12.

Photo by Megan Lewicki

# County OKs Sheriff Dept. raises

#### By Kim Lewicki

About a dozen sheriff deputies turned out to support their sheriff at the Sept. 12 Macon County Commissioners meeting.

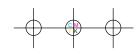
"We're proud of the work we do and it's an honor to protect and support the community," said Deputy Chris Hoover. "And we're here to publicly support our sheriff while he gives his report."

Through a Powerpoint presentation, Sheriff Robbie Holland outlined the various tasks his department accomplished January 1 through June 30 of 2005. "Our guys are working hard. They are overworked, underpaid, but dedicated to doing their job."

This was a prelude to a formal request made later in the meeting to shift sheriff department funds and to request county funds to increase salaries in the sheriff's department.

County commissioners voted unanimously to fund the request – with \$101,000 coming from the county's contingency fund for the 2005-2006 budget year. The remaining \$18,000 needed for the salary increase including FICA, retirement and 401-K, comes from a building

•See RAISES page 18



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# • Letters to the Editor •

# Dept. of Homeland Security dropped ball

Dear Editor

Washington's response to the Katrina tragedy has been one of gross incompetence and indifference. People had been left to die in the streets of a major American city without any assistance for days.

Images of suffering that resemble the conditions in Third World countries were broadcast daily with virtually no response from the government. The website for the Department of Homeland Security says, "In the event of a terrorist attack, natural disaster or other large-scale emergency, the Department of Homeland Security will assume primary responsibility on March 1st for ensuring that emergency response professionals are prepared for any situation. This will entail providing a coordinated, comprehensive federal response to any large-scale crisis and mounting a swift and effective recovery effort. The new Department will also prioritize the important issue of citizen preparedness. Educating America's families on how best to prepare their homes for a disaster and tips for citizens on how to respond in a crisis will be given special attention at DHS."

Were the emergency response professionals prepared? Was there a swift recovery effort? Did the agency see to it that the citizens were prepared? The answer to all of these questions is no.

Why didn't the state and federal governments evacuate the people, providing transportation and shelter before Katrina struck, instead of telling them to leave – knowing so many did not have the means to leave on their own?

Politicians are always talking about personal responsibility and accountability. It's time to hold them accountable for the poor response to this disaster, and the deaths of hundreds maybe thousands of Americans that couldn't fend for themselves because they are poor, frail, sick, young, or just found themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Why has President Bush not been giving regular updates to the nation on progress being made in the aftermath of "the worst national disaster in the history of the United States"?

Ultimately the president must share responsibility for the way this was mishandled. He was after all the one who created the DHS.

Don Twardowski Franklin

# School thanks 'Bel Canto'

Dear Editor,

The 2005 Bel Canto was a marvelous performance that raised over \$13,000 for the benefit of the Highlands School music program. We were honored and gratified to be selected as co-beneficiaries of this year's event. Special thanks are due to Richard Joel, chair of the Bel Canto board of directors, for his diligent work to raise the quality of music education at the school. On behalf of our new music teacher, Kristina Kirchner, and all of the students of Highlands School, we thank Richard and the Bel Canto board for investing in the education of our children.

Monica Bomengen Principal

# Scholarship fund gets big boost

Dear Editor.

The Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund Committee recently concluded an amazing campaign to raise almost \$40,000 in the Golf Classic at the Cullasaja Club. Vice Principal Mr. Thomas and I are humbled by the participants' generosity and thank all of them for helping our students finance higher education opportunities. Special thanks to Kitty Byers and Helen Simmons, co-chairs of the event, as well as Tim Godwin and David Cull, president and general manager, respectively, of the Cullasaja Club. On behalf of the children of Highlands School, we offer you our gratitude for your wonderful investment in our students' futures.

Monica Bomengen

onica Bomengen Principal

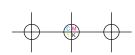
# President Bush does care

Dear Editor,

I would appreciate the opportunity to respond to Dr. Alex Redmountain's screed on our President, George W. Bush in the Sept. 2 edition of Highlands' Newspaper. To do so, I will have to move in the chopped-up fashion in which his positions were presented. And, by the way, as President, he deserves the loyalty, if not the respect, of all citizens. President Clinton retained my loyalty even after the discovery of the blue dress.

Where to start? On a personal note, as a practicing Roman Catholic, I strongly resent my religion being smeared as some wild-eyed, radical right

• See LETTERS page 7



# Area youth taking tennis seriously

Shown are: Paul Eager, Hunter Mitchell, Ashley Mitchell, Cody and Mayablue Stauffer-Macdow and Alec Thornton, in a rain delay at Cedar Creek Racquet Club. Photo by



BIRTH •

### **Josiah Mitchell Clark**

Stacey Meyer Clark, of Highlands, is happy to announce the arrival of Josiah Mitchell Clark on September 2, 2005. The baby weighed 8 pounds at birth.

Josiah's father is Stephen Glen Clark. Josiah's sister is three-year-old Lydia Sage Clark, and brother is 21-month-old Wyatt Alexander Clark. Maternal grandparents are Lydia Sargent Macauley of Highlands and Hal and Gail Meyer of Pensacola, Fla. Paternal grandparents are Herman and Sara Clark of Highlands and Orlando, Fla., and Betty and Jim Whisman of Orlando, Fla.

# Rotary friends

On Saturday, Sept. 10, about 17 inbound **Rotary Exchange** Students from districts 7680 and 7670 met at Pisgah View Farm for an overnight orientation meeting. Pictured from Highlands and Franklin are Allen Chen from Taiwan (Highlands Rotary), Anna Louise Ossart from France (Franklin Rotary) and Franka Dadic from Croatia (MountainTop Rotary).



Photo by Kim Lewicki

# ... ANIMAL continued from page 1

tween them and Friends of Animals each of which wants the county's contract and to be the county's official animal shelter organization.

To that end, at the Sept. 12 Macon County Commissioners meeting a committee was appointed to do a complete analysis of animal control issues facing Macon County.

"We have to decide how to alleviate this problem in the county," said Chairman of the Board Allan Bryson.

Members will include representatives from Highlands and Franklin, including Dr. Amy Patterson, a member from the county's health department, two county commissioners, a representative from each animal advocacy organization and others.

County Manager Sam Greenwood said the county can't afford to enter into any agreements with any party on ani-

mal control issues until the actions of Senate HB 685 are determined as to standards for animal shelters.

But Commissioner Charlie Leatherman suggested a temporary arrangement with the Macon County Humane Society - the only animal control agency with a place to house animals.

"We had a working relationship with the Humane Society once and we need to give the Sheriff's Department some temporary relief," he said.

The idea will be considered by the committee which commissioners hope to hear back from by the Monday, October 3 Macon County Commissioners meeting.

Commissioners don't expect to hear the final word on the "Animal Shelters/ Uniform Regulation" bill until January of 2006.

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# LAUGHING AT LIFE

# Realtors rebel: 'Mad at Fred' club grows

re you sitting down? No, well sit down. You're probably not going to believe this but I swear I speak the truth. A small number of Highlands' Realtors have their shorts in a wad over my article on spoofing their occupation, some have "suggested" perhaps our tiny newspaper doesn't



**Fred Wooldridge** 

need advertising from real estate companies and others are leaving hateful, anonymous messages on my home phone.

Things have not been this scary since I left the police department. If they come to my front door, they should bring lots and lots of help. Are Realtors really that insecure?

The life of a satire writer is sometimes a grim one. If it wasn't for my huge salary, I would quit. You would think writing fiction would be easy, but it's not. A writer first picks a target for his satire, gathers a few facts and then commences to trash and exaggerate those facts beyond belief. Hopefully, it's funny. It's the "beyond belief" part I love the best.

I know if I exaggerate the article enough, no one will believe it. Every week, for the past two and half years, I have made fun of something or somebody to the delight of many, many Highlanders. There are few occupations or politicians I have not nailed and it's usually taken good heartedly. That's the good part. The bad

part is that some folks don't have much of a sense of humor and they elect to join the "Mad at Fred" club. That's sad.

Poor Buck Trott, our mayor, is a man who would never join my club. He gets pounded by me about six times a year, but ole Buck is a good natured guy and takes it on the chin and smiles. We are still good friends because he knows, as do our readers, there is not a word of truth about my comments and accusations. It is what I do. Laughing it off is what he does. It's all in fun. Buck is also a wise man who knows there is no such thing as bad publicity. Buck says, "Make fun of me if you want, but spell my name right." If he ever asked me to stop, I would.

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 5

# CHLANDS

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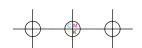
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### ... BUDGET continued from page 1

county for help as promised when he first presented the budget for 2005-2006, but mandated obligations dictated otherwise.

At the Sept. 12 Macon County Commissioners meeting, Shotwell asked for two things.

First to shift \$220,000 from the public schools building capital fund to the technology fund to purchase equipment and then for an additional \$400,000 from the county for 2005-2006 school budget needs.

The public schools building capital fund is funded by corporate taxes collected in North Carolina. Counties can use the funds to plan, construct, reconstruct, enlarge, improve, repair, and renovate buildings, and to purchase land or equipment for a local school technology plan.

The second request was for monies needed to finalize the 2005-2006 school budget.

"We have the best school system in North Carolina with the best posting of accountability in North Carolina but we have a dysfunctional funding system in Raleigh," said Shotwell.

Though the number of students in Macon County School has steadily increased since 1990, the money coming the county's way from Raleigh has steadily decreased.

"We have 1,000 more kids in the system in 2005 than we had in 1990,"

said Shotwell. "We need 100 more kids to get one state-funded teacher from Raleigh." Instead the Raleigh demands cuts, he said.

Meanwhile, for 2005-2006 employee insurance has increased by \$27,000; retirement matches have gone up 5.8 to 6.8 percent equaling \$17,000; there's \$85,000 in mandatory salary increases, the rise in heating fuel and gasoline, bonus leave costs for unfunded mandates, as well as telephone system increases.

Commissioners didn't give Shotwell an answer but took the \$400,000 request under advisement.

However, Commissioner Jim Davis had a request of Shotwell.

"I've told you I will support the schools, and if you get this extra money, I want to get a legislative delegation together to represent the citizens of Macon County in Raleigh," he said.

"Regardless of which political party is responsible, it's time to stand up against the state taking our money. When millions is taken away from schools, something is very wrong.

"More unfunded mandates means we are getting screwed by Raleigh and I'm sick of it. We are told to just tax the citizens extra and it's not right," he said.

Shotwell said not only would he join the legislative delegation, he would ask his entire board to join forces with the county in Raleigh.

# ... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

When one writes like I do, it occasionally offends someone. Even though I try to make my articles as ridiculous and outrageous as possible, invariably someone will identify with what I said and be offended. Oh, well. The week before, that offended person was congratulating me on a column I did spoofing someone else. But now that it is their turn, they are ready to join the club. Go figure.

Remember when I wrote about a building contractor named Dilbert? I took the name from a newspaper comic strip which is about as outrageous as I could think of. I made fun of his ineptness as a contractor. The article was so ludicrous I knew no one would take me serious. Well, guess what? There is a building contractor who fit that article so closely, he was offended and thought I was targeting him. The family rallied around and they bought and distributed Fred Dolls, which came with six pins. Ouch!

I know tons of folks enjoy what I write because I am told so by many of

my readers. Highlands could use some humor so I do the best I can.

Last week I wrote about the 400+ Realtors working in the Highlands/ Cashiers area. Amazingly, it was a Realtor who begged me to do something outrageous on the occupation. She will remain anonymous as she is petite and can't defend herself well.

I started my research which included contacting other Highlands' Realtors who are good friends of mine, just to get some facts. Not only were they willing to help, but encouraged me to write the piece.

It is unfortunate that some are angry with the paper. I am sad they don't appreciate the nature of the vehicle but not sorry for the spoof because no harm was ever intended.

So standby, grumpy Realtors of Highlands, you have not yet seen the tenacity of my editor. She will not let this get her down. Is there a Realtor out there who liked the article?

# Country music at PAC Fri. at 7 p.m.

On Friday night, Sept. 16, PAC presents "Country Music, Highlands Style," at 7 p.m. Admission to the performance is \$10 for a two-band concert – one bluegrass, one country music.

The bluegrass band is "Bluegrass Alliance" and country band is "Clearwater Country." Reserve a seat by calling the Performing Arts Center at 526-9047.

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#### **SKY HIGH**

rated PG

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rated PG-13

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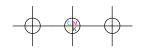


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# The race for Town Board

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

#### **Question #3**

The concept of Conditional Use Districts was developed in response to persistent requests from planners and other local officials who wanted a legal way to hold developers to promises made when they applied for rezoning, such as the promises made regarding use of the property on the corner of Hickory and U.S. 64 east if rezoned to multifamily.

A "Conditional Use District" system makes contract zoning legally enforceable by the Town. The new districts track exactly the existing "general use" districts, except they are denominated "Conditional Use Districts." For example, the Town could create a "R-3 Multi-Family Conditional Use District."

Do you think the establishment of Conditional Use Districts to "custom fit" requests is a good way to control yet enable growth?



**Mayoral Candidate Mayor Buck Trott** 

I truly believe that Conditional Use Zoning Districts (CUD) are a step forward toward allowing municipalities to assure growth will be as proposed by the developer whenever rezoning is requested. In other words the developer must build exactly what he presented at the initial hearing before the Town Board.

Currently a developer can request rezoning for a certain project and once rezoning is approved a change of mind can lead to construction entirely different. Simply put, CUD makes contract zoning legally enforceable by The Town. There is considerable work to getting CUD in place and functioning. Our Zoning Ordinance text must be amended to provide a new set of districts consistent with State Statutes. Dimensional requirements such as lot size, setbacks, watershed built upon limits, building heights, etc. cannot be any different than those in counterpart conventional districts. No CUD can be created except by application of all owners of land within the proposed district. The CUD status once approved "runs with the land" and cannot be voided by simply transferring title to someone else.

Let me assure the citizens of Highlands that CUD will be closely studied before attempting to apply this procedure. Your Town staff will seek advice and guidance from UNC Institute of Government and municipalities that have experienced success with this type of zoning.

Also public hearings and notification will be held to allow citizens' feedback on the matter. In my opinion CUD will truly help in our efforts to manage growth.



**Mayoral Candidate Zeke Sossomon** 

Conditional Use Zoning can be very helpful to Highlands because it will permit a variety of otherwise unobtainable goals in land development.

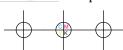
With the ordinance now in place, development follows straight line approaches: build a single building on a single lot. Conditional use zoning allows custom-tailored development that is for instance, allowing clustering of houses to conserve trees and vegetation and reduce pavement for parking or driveways; nature trails, buffer zones, green areas and many other things can be "bargained for" in the development plan.

The bad news is that to fully utilize conditional use zoning, the zoning board and the town board must have a well developed idea of what is truly desirable for the town and must be vigilant in ensuring that the plan as approval is implemented. This really applies to all zoning issues, but will be more important with conditional use.
• See QUESTIONS page 7

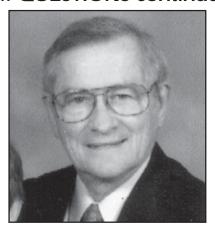
# 'Relay for Life' overshoots target

Each year Highlands and Cashiers overshoots the goal for Relay for Life donations.

This year the 2005 Mountain Top Relay For Life raised \$215,030. This represents an increase of more than \$23,000 from the 2004 event. The total amount raised the past five years equals \$908,000, which means next year, the event will surpass the million dollar



# ... QUESTIONS continued from page 6



Mayoral Candidate Don Mullen

An old medical school professor of surgery of mine once told me, "Don, rules are made for people who can't think for themselves!" While he was talking about surgical procedures, it frequently applies elsewhere.

There are certain rules that indeed do need to be bent. Zoning regulations sometimes fall into that category. The "Conditional Use District" system is a convenient way to change land use of a certain property for a specific purpose. If the property approved by the Town is not used, the property reverts to the former zoning regulation.

The Conditional Use District system gives the Town Board better control of growth for the good of the community. It also allows developers to properly maximize the use of their property.

This is what we want in Highlands and I favor this system as we seek to continue to honor our heritage. The Town needs to work closely with the Zoning Board and careful inspection with "surgical precision" by the zoning administrator is necessary on approved projects. This may take extra staff to accomplish efficiently and, as mayor, I would see that adequate and competent staff would be available.

# ... LETTERS continued from page 2

organization. If that was not the good doctor's intention, his apology is accepted. Regarding Iraq, valid links have been established between Al-Qaeda and Hussein's regime. Enriched uranium (moved to the U. S. for safe-keeping) and artillery shells containing Sarin gas have been discovered. I doubt the millions liberated from Saddam's rape rooms and torture chambers consider the war "wholly unnecessary and illicit." Establishing democracy in the Middle East will deliver untold dividends for worldwide peace for our grandchildren.

President Bush was the first president to establish federal guidelines for stem cell research. Former presidents choose to ignore the issue out of fear of the political consequences.

The individual states, not a "national commission" are granted by our constitution with authority over the death penalty and the vast majority of prisoners. Regarding prison abuse, there have been things done about it. They are called trials with the guilty receiving prison time.

Our national debt is the direct result of a just war. However, the debt is ameliorated by our roaring economy. If nothing is done to save Social Security, our children and grandchildren will be the ultimate victims of this Ponzi scheme. If the good doctor cares about that fact, I welcome his positive, constructive

Commissioner Candidate Amy Patterson

Conditional Use Districts are an attempt to insure that developers are sensitive to and respect the wishes of a community as it relates to the specifics of their development. Intangible things like aesthetic considerations are not conducive to the hard and fast rules of a general zoning ordinance. A developer's interests and the community's interests are not the same. But there may be ways to make them compatible or at least comfortably coexist. Conditional Use Districts are a legal way of holding a developer to his promises. It will make developers do more preplanning so they know they can deliver what they promise. There must be followup and enforcement from the town for Conditional Use Districts to be successful and effective.

A problem with Conditional Use Districts is that it makes every property in the district subject to negotiations between the developer and the town. And negotiations means concessions may be made. When you start making concessions there is a real possibility of losing consistency and the overall vision for the town. What may be a good fit for a particular property may not be consistent with the best interests of the community. Sometimes we lose sight of the health of the forest when we concentrate on the individual tree. I have not reached a final conclusion as to whether I think Conditional Use Districts would be good for Highlands.

rist Anglison

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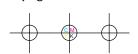
# **BUILDERS & ARCHITECTS**







•See LETTERS page 9



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Want a vacation rental in the mountains?

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# .. QUESTIONS continued from page 7



Commissioner Candidate Hank Ross

There have been three or four zoning cases during my term on the Town Board for which I wished Highlands had the conditional use zoning tool. I am in favor of the conditional use option for zoning and zoning districts because it is an excellent tool to help fit a proposed development to a specific property.

The surrounding neighborhood or property conditions could indicate that additional or different requirements are necessary. Sometimes the best development does not exactly fit the zoning ordinance or other town requirements. The town could change or add restrictions such as a reduced density, a greater setback, or preservation of an environmentally sensitive area.

Unfortunately, sometimes promises are made to communities by developers that are not kept. Although usually well intentioned, unforeseen site conditions or other factors can change the economics of a project after town approval.

Conditional use zoning can hold the developers to promises made when they applied for rezoning and construction permits.



Commissioner Candidate Eric Pierson

Up front, "Conditional Use Districts" sounds good, but when you get down to it, it's nothing more than spot zoning.

In turn, that leads to three members of the sitting Town Board (a voting majority) saying "I like you and your project — today".

These types of fallible decisions could affect the town for years to come without any overview from the Zoning Board (which is quasi-judicial), the Planning Board or the public.

We already have a zoning ordinance that can be amended to reflect changes if the need arises. Let's put it to use for the greater good of the town and not start making conditional changes without further thought and careful planning.

### **Final HIARPT lecture**

Professor Don Cupitt, Life Fellow and former Dean of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, England, will conclude the HIARPT Public Lecture Summer Series on Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. His lecture, held at the PAC, is entitled "A New Method of Religious Enquiry." A seminar-discussion of his lecture is 10 a.m., Sept. 27, in the lower hall of PAC on Chestnut Street.

# ... LETTERS continued from page 9

# Reverent humor appreciated

Dear Editor,

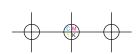
I like Wooldridge. His columns are the first items I turn to when I begin looking through Highlands' Newspaper every week. They are what my friends and I discuss afterwards because they are funny, with a tongue-in-cheek irreverent humor that marked the humor of Mark Twain, and, currently, Dave Barry and Carl Hiassan.

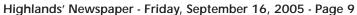
To take offence at what he says in his columns displays a lack of a sense of humor in my humble opinion. Heck! I was a lawyer for over 45 years. If I took offense at every lawyer-joke I have heard and read, I would be a bitter man who hated everyone by now (since I don't know anyone who has failed to feed me some put-down-lawyer joke).

Fred is a breath of fresh mountain air for the community.....including the Realtors. Pat Allen was wrong to condemn Wooldridge in her letter in the Sept. 9 issue of the paper. I wonder what kind of letter, Allen would have written had she been a member of Congress at the time Twain said, "Suppose you were an idiot... And suppose you were a member of Congress... But I repeat myself."

Keep those columns coming, Kim. They certainly help make Highlands' Newspaper an entertaining read.

H. Jack Miller Highlands





# ... LETTERS continued from page 7

suggestions to save a sinking ship.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union went the last haven for American socialists and anticapitalistic, ultra left-wing whacked-out fringe of the environmental movement. Perhaps we should exhibit some prudence and wait for the "global warming task force" until real scientists have established that global warming is actually occurring.

I have talked with many medical doctors and health care professionals about this country's adoption of socialized medicine. Almost universally, they proclaim that it would be a disaster. Hillary Clinton's attempt to establish such a plan in her husband's first term was loudly rejected. Given the direction of the country, however, some form of socialization is almost inevitable.

Our military is the best equipped in the world. When improvements are deemed necessary to safeguard our soldiers from new enemy tactics, their needs are met expeditiously.

The good doctor's last point is the oldest in the Democratic playbook class warfare. No wonder he finds it "tiresomely repetitious." The fact is that 20 percent of wage earners pay 80 percent of our taxes. Welfare reform has proved a benefit in actually helping lift folks from the vicious cycle of government dependence. President Clinton even took credit for it after vetoing it! Go figure.

Yes, George Bush cares for this country and all of its citizens. That is why they mandated that he serve as our President for eight years.

Jack Cota Highlands & Atlanta

# Fred is refreshing

Dear Editor,

I have enjoyed the writing of Fred Wooldridge and do want to continue to read them in your paper. His writings are refreshing. Surely those with a sense of humor appreciate the type of satire he brings to your readers.

Your paper in general has added a great deal to the town of Highlands. I'm sure there are many others who agree with me and want you to continue with the format as it is and has been.

> Mary S. Cleckley Highlands

# Tongue-in-cheek needed

Dear Editor,

In response to "In defense of Realtors" letter in the Sept. 9 issue I must say that as a reader of Highlands' Newspaper, I find a nice balance between the greed of Realtors on the one hand, and the tongue-in-cheek

satire as carefully presented by Fred Wooldridge.

While the advertisements of the Realtors display a certain form of power in that the real estate market in Highlands provides the fulfillment of justified greed, there is the welcome satirical wisdom provided by Fred's thoughtful ruminations.

However, these two diverse parties remind one that, as Albert Einstein said on May 23, 1953 "The attempt to combine wisdom and power has only rarely been successful and then only for a short while."

Einstein went on to say "The majority of the stupid is invincible and guaranteed for all time. The terror of their tyranny, however, is alleviated by their lack of consistency." Let us not be too critical of those who have the ability to bring some welcome satire into our world. Remember "In order to form an immaculate member of a flock of sheep one must, above all, be a sheep." (Again, Einstein had a certain insight into the world of his fellow man).

While many worthwhile efforts would not have been undertaken if it were not for greed, satire does provide a certain balancing factor in our over extended world.

> E. T. (Ed) Dibble Lakemont, Ga.

# Fred worth reading

Dear Editor,

Fred Wooldridge's satire columns are a laugh a week.

**Don Sweet** Highlands

#### Protect satire

Dear Editor,

It is with deep concern that I here write in support of my favorite part of your journal.

The art and style of satire is, in my opinion, in great danger of extinction. Simple "tongue-in-cheek" simply does not aspire to the high degree of irony and wit that is, again my opinion, the heart and soul of satire.

Let us all, readers, writers and supporters (aka advertisement clients) alike, cultivate, appreciate and compassionate the inspired wit of Fred Wooldridge. The species of satirist faces extinction. Whether or not I agree, approve or adhere to the form, content and expression of a particular piece seems quite the pedestrian issue when the legacy of Aristophanes is at issue.

An interested pedestrian who abhors the banal....

> J. M. Booth Highlands

•See LETTERS page 8

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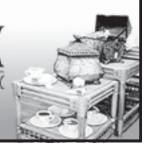
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# Highlands Antique Show to benefit Playhouse and school

Now that all the pieces are in place, the Highlands School and the Highlands Playhouse are happy to announce the First Annual Highlands Antique Show, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, at the New Highlands School Gym.

The three-day event, will feature a wide variety of antiques and collectibles ranging from rare books, to vintage linens to fine English furniture to rustic primitives.

Such a show has been discussed for

some time in Highlands, but finding a large enough space was a problem. The new Highlands School gym, completed just this summer solved the space. Then, the Highlands School and Highlands Playhouse joined forces to create a plan beneficial for both. Profits will be split 50-50 between school and the non-profit playhouse.

Tickets are \$10 – \$1 off with the below ad. Call the Playhouse at 526-2695

# Highlands Antique Show - 2005



Antique Rustic Cabin Furnishings, 18th & 19th Century Furniture, Art Glass, Fine Linens, Estate Jewelry, Oil Paintings, Lamps, Sterling Silver, Rare Books, Maps, Prints, Porcelains, Ceramics, Scientific Barometers, Asian Art & Furniture.

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Friday, Sept. 30 – 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
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# HCCDC get check from Mountain Findings

Trisha Roellke, Mountain Findings volunteer, presents a check for \$3.000 to John Bauknight, Gayle Cummings, and Frances Oakley of **Highlands Community** Child Development Center. HCCDC has a scholarship fund for needy families and children atrisk in the community. Donations to the scholarship fund are tax deductible and are segregated from the center's operating funds. HCCDC offers the only full-year, five days a week, 10-hours per day child care program in Highlands.



# • Another View •

# A 'flaming liberal' I'm not

eople who have been reading this column regularly undoubtedly believe that I'm a flaming liberal, an admirer of Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Party, not to mention various rabid demagogues on the far left. None of these allegations is true. Although I've usually voted Democratic, my sympathies align more closely with left-leaning

Libertarians— if such a party actually existed, which it doesn't.

So on the national scene, the people I admire are people like Barack Obama, John McCain, General Wesley Clark, and Joe Biden, mostly because of their personal histories and a certain level-headedness. None of them are ideologues, either of the far right or left.

All of this is preface to what follows: the current fledgling campaign on the left to withdraw our troops from Iraq now, immediately! I despise this war. I hate what it's doing to our country, to our servicemen and their families, to the Iraqi people. I hate how it's alienating the rest of the world from the United States. I strongly believe the Bush administration has made an incredible mess of it, after deceiving the world as to the reasons for going in. At the very least, there should have been an acknowledgement of the "mistake," and an apology of some kind. But waiting for Bush to apologize is like waiting for Bill Clinton to take responsibility for his sexual exploits.



Dr. Alex Redmountain

All of that said, I think it would be unforgivable to abandon the Iraqis to this chaotic mayhem we've created. We may eventually have to leave Iraq with our tail between our legs, a reprise of what happened in Vietnam. But we have a moral imperative to exhaust all alternatives first.

I must confess that when we first attacked Iraq, I was in favor of the

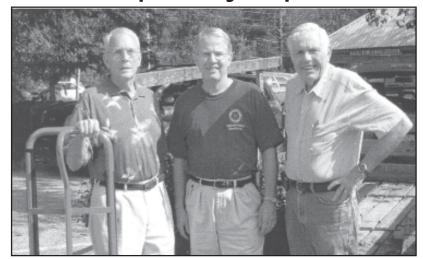
war. I believed the President, the Vice-President, and Secretary of State Powell when they claimed Iraq had WMD, including chemical and biological agents, and a developing nuclear program. I knew enough about Saddam to think it possible that he might turn over such weapons to terrorists bent on attacking the U.S. I was never confused about any supposed connection between the 9/11 hijackers and Iraq, but in some sense it didn't matter. Both evil situations had to be addressed simultaneously, I thought.

As it happened, everything I believed, and many Americans believed, turned out not to be true. There was convincing evidence that the invasion of Iraq had been planned before 9/11, not because of WMD, but out of some neo-con geopolitical strategy to establish a "democratic" state in the Middle East, protect Israel, and punish Saddam for violating U.N. sanctions. Iraq posed no threat to the

• See ANOTHER VIEW page 15



# MountainTop Rotary helps Chamber



The Chamber of Commerce has moved to its new location on the hill next to Main Street Inn across from Reeves Hardware. This past weekend, MountainTop Rotary members, (from left) Dan Adcock, Jim Mullen and Curtis Mathews helped by carting barrels of flowers donated by the Mountain Garden Club to the new location.

### ... ROOM TAX continued from page 1

rent private residences and cottages to transients on behalf of the owners — will have to submit to an audit of transactions for the past three years.

Plus, the 15 percent administrative fee the county has been taking from the three percent occupancy tax proceeds since January 2005 will stay "at least until an audit is complete," said County Manager Sam Greenwood.

Commissioners will also solicit the General Assembly to upgrade the county's occupancy tax provision from Session Law to General Statute.

At the Sept. 12 Macon County Commissioners meeting, board members agreed both chambers were left high and dry by the county's decision to increase its administrative rate to process the three percent occupancy tax proceeds levied on rooms, homes and cottages in the county — from five percent to 15 percent.

The higher percentage was in both the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 budgets but it slipped past some of the commissioners.

"I really feel we blind-sided the chambers," said Chairman of the Macon County Board Allan Bryson. "We need to do something."

Chambers fund projects that generate tourism money with the occupancy tax proceeds.

Greenwood said it wasn't until January 2005 during a transition between the county's finance officers that he realized the 15 percent hadn't been taken for 2004.

"I then directed Ms. Southard [new finance officer] to recover the withholding in the last five months of fiscal 2004-2005," said Greenwood.

Suddenly, because of the retroactivity and the new 15 percent administrative fee in play, the chambers were getting back far less than expected.

"We later learned the respective chambers hadn't been notified by the Finance Department of the initial budget passage when the administrative rate was moved back to 15 percent," said Greenwood

In 1999, commissioners decreased the occupancy tax proceeds administrative rate from 15 percent to five percent. As of July 1, 2004 the rate returned to 15 percent.

In 2004, following what County Manager Sam Greenwood called "a wake-up call" that not all lodging proprietors were correctly reporting and remitting occupancy tax proceeds, a compliance check was completed through a consultant operating on a finder's fee basis.

The wake-up call came when the Hampton Inn in Franklin voluntarily made a large catchup payment of occupancy tax based on its own internal audit procedures.

Though happy to receive the voluntary payment, the action made the county realize it had no idea what was going on concerning occupancy tax, said Greenwood. "Nor did we have any mechanisms in place to demand payment."

The consultant determined the honor system wasn't working. Collections weren't occurring in a fair or equitable manner. The majority of the room rental businesses were complying, but a sizeable minority were not paying properly or not paying at all.

To re-establish a base line, the consultant suggested a three-year compliance audit. He also said the entire system needed a redesign from the remittance forms to registration and that enforcement options were vague and difficult to use.

County Attorney Rick Moorefield said since the ability to collect Macon County occupancy tax is based on Ses-

•See ROOM TAX page 18

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# **Highlands School Sports**

# Win or lose, JV and varsity volleyball worth watching

**By Claire Young** 

JV Coach

The JV and Varsity Volleyball teams had two of their most exciting home matches of the season last week against Walhalla (Sept. 1) and Rosman (Sept. 6).

The Varsity team lost the first game of the match against Walhalla (20-25), but rebounded to win the next 3 games in a row to clinch the win (25-19, 27-25, 25-23). Seniors Ramsey Ashburn and Callie Rawlins were 100 percent from the serving line, with Ramsey

Highlanders fighting their way through it all

So far the Fighting Highlanders have only won one game, but that doesn't mean the

team isn't trying.

At the Thursday, Sept. 8 away match against Franklin, the final score was Franklin 7-Highlands 3.

Alec Schmitt scored two goals and had one assist. Buddy Parrish scored one goal; Nick Kerhoulaus and Greg Porter each had one assist.

The half-time score was 4-2. "We scored first at the start of the second half to make it 3-4, but Franklin scored three unanswered goals to put the game away," said Coach David Parrish.



Photo by Megan Lewicki Hayesville.

At the Friday, Sept. 9 away match at Madison High, the final score was Madison High 6- Highlands 4.

> Greg Porter, Alec Schimtt, Matt Chenoweth and Buddy Parrish each scored a goal.

At half-time the score was Madison 5-Highlands 2. "We out played them in the second half (2-1) and played much better defense with Nick Kerhoulas leading the way," said Coach Parrish. "I am still very optimistic about our chances this year."

The team's first conference game was Wed., Sept. 14 at Havesville.

serving an impressive 29 times including 2 aces. Callie had 2 blocks and 18 assists, which helped lead the team to a total of 40 kills. Seniors Anna Trine and Maggie Dearth had 11 kills each, and Juniors Toni Schmitt and Allison Winn had 6 and 5 digs, respectively. Junior Rebecca Wyatt also played a great, well-rounded game with 10 successful serves, 4 digs, 10 kills, and 3 assists.

The JV also brought home a win against Walhalla with their strong serving, including 100 percent performances from Danny Puchacz, Marisol Ruiz, Vicky Smith, and Allison Winn, plus 5 aces from Angela Sanchez. The entire team played well defensively with 5 or more digs from the servers above, as well as Katie Bryson and Amanda Parmelee. Katie and Danny also had 2 successful blocks each.

The Varsity's closest, most-exciting game this season was against Rosman last Thursday. The team started out strong with commanding wins in the first two games (25-19, 25-8), but then lost the third (19-25). The 4<sup>th</sup> game was the closest with the Lady Highlanders making an impressive comeback, but ultimately losing (24-26), and the final game left the team with only 12 points to Rosman's 15. It was truly a team effort with strong serving, defensive, and attacking across the board. Senior Maggie Dearth played her best game of the season with 20 of 20 serves including 6 aces, 15 kills, and 3 blocks.

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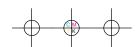
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

On-going

- Cashiers Quilters Guild meets at the United Methodist Church in Cashiers, every Wednesday at 12:30.
- · 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.
- Piano Bar at ...on the Verandah seven nights a week accompanied by jazz guitar Tuesdays and Thursdays all at 7 p.m.
- Live music at Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro, Mon., Wed., Thurs., 6-10
- Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4:30-6:30. Saturday, complimentary samples
- HealthTracks, at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, offers special fitness classes Monday through Thursday. HealthTracks at 526-1348 for details.
- · Open Studio with a live model has returned to the Gallery on Tuesdays from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per evening. Please call the gallery by Monday evening if you will be stopping by on Tuesday night, so they can coordinate with our models.
- Various art classes held for children and adults at the Bascom-Louise Gallery throughout the week. Call 526-4949
- 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.

Sept. 15

- The Literacy Council is having a Free Tutor Training Session on Thurs., Sept. 15 at 2 p.m. at the Peggy Crosby Center. Call Breta at 526-9938 ext 240 to sign up. Complete training and curriculum provided.
- PTO meeting at Highlands School and first day of the Book Fair. Dinner at 5:30 p.m., general meeting at 6 p.m. in the Highlands School cafeteria.
- InterChurch Pot Luck Supper at First Baptist Church at 6 p.m. Call Pat Griffin at 526-2418.
- · Jim Casada, nationally known fly fishing author and fly fisherman extraordinaire, will speak to the Plateau Fly Fishing Club on Thursday. The meeting is at the Albert-Carlton Library in Cashiers at 7 p.m.

Sept. 15-18

Master Potter, Sid Luck, will be at the Bascom-Louise Gallery to conduct a workshop and pottery sales. Call the gallery at 526-4949 to register.

Sept. 15-22

- Book Fair at Highlands School. Parents and children may shop in the Media Center when they come to the school for the PTO meeting on Sept. 15, or they may shop before or after school during the Book Fair week. Sept. 16
- "Country Music, Highlands Style" will be on tap at PAC Friday at 7 p.m. Two bands, including "Bluegrass Alliance" will perform. Tickets are \$10 and may be reserved by calling the PAC at 526-9047.

- •The Bolivian Mission's annual auction of Bolivian art and the work of local artists at the Highlands Playhouse on Saturday at 6 p.m. with catered food and live and silent auctions. Call 526-3605 or reservations. Cost is \$50 per person.
- At Instant Theater Studio on Main Street. GEORGE REEVES & LEE LADENSACK with James Poe — Playing a collection of original music. Reserve early. Complimentary wine and soft drinks served with all performances. \$15 for adults, \$7 for children. Call 828-342-9197
- Art Alliance benefit at Carpe Diem Farms, 5:30-8 p.m. **Sept. 19**

 Mirror Lake Improvement Association will hold its regular meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Sept. 20

 Audubon field trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway for fall migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Highlands Town Hall. For information, call Edwin Poole, 526-2775.

Sept. 22-24

• Plein Air Painting with Sue Stewart will be a wonderful three-day excursion into the fine and ancient art of oil painting in the open air. The class is filling up so get your registration in right away. Call the gallery at 526-4949 to register.

Sept. 24

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association will have a litter pickup Saturday at 9 a.m. at Thorn Park.

Sept. 26 (rain date Oct. 3)

Toys for Tots Golf Tournament at Mill Creek Country Club in Franklin, 9 a.m. \$75 entry fee (\$65 with \$10 unwrapped toy), Sponsored by Marine Corps League of Smoky Mountains, Det. \$973. Call 828-524-4653.

Sept. 30-Oct. 1

- Fine Art Center/Bascom Louise Gallery Art& Wine Auction. For tickets, call 526-4949. Sept. 30-Oct. 2
- Highlands Antique Show in the new Highlands School gym. Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. -7 p.m. Sun., noon to 5 p.m. Admission \$10. Admission proceeds benefit the Playhouse and the School. Call 526-2695.

Oct. 1

- Yard Sale Satulah Club at First Citizens Bank, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Featuring baked goods, dried flower and much more.
  - Oct. 8
- Princeton University's Capella singing group, the Princeton Nassoons, will perform at PAC from 7:30-9 p.m. For tickets, call Kristy Budner at 404-888-3740.

• Healthy Carolinians of Macon County has scheduled their third 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. Any person or organization wanting to sponsor the golf tournament, or would like to register a team can call Rhonda Blanton at 828-349-2425.

Oct. 15-16

 Art League of Highlands Fine Art & Fine Craft Show, 10-4 at the Recreation Park. The Children's Table will be open both days for well-supervised fun activities as usual. All work is original. Free admission. Contact Marty Ruppert 828-883-2560. Oct. 22

• The annual Highlands School Fall Festival this year at Highlands School in the Serving Wine,

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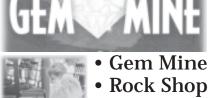




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new gymnasium at 5 p.m. Oct. 29

"Nature by Night" at the Highlands Nature Center. 7 p.m. Bring your flashlight



and learn about nocturnal creatures through games, activities, and observations along the Garden trails. Ages 5 to adult, \$2 per person. Pre-registration required, call 526-2623.



Page 14 - Highlands' Newspaper - Friday, September 16, 2005

# At Instant Theater Sat. night



Playing for listening pleasure Saturday, Sept. 17 at 8 p.m. is original live music with George Reeves and Lee Ladensack and bassist James Poe.

Reeves and Ladensack met in Cashiers in 1996 and shortly afterwards formed the band Hurricane Creek with bassist James Poe and drummer Sam Potts. Most recently they have received recognition for the haunting release "Feathers on the wind" co-written by the duo to benefit the victims of the Peak's Creek tragedy when Hurricane Ivan hit in September of 2004 causing a mud slide that devastated homes and lives.

Make your reservations early to experience this evening of Live Original Music by these very talented musicians. For reservations call 828-342-9197. Adults \$15; 17 & Under \$7. Limited Seating. Complimentary wine and soft drinks served with performance.

# HCP to hold auditions Sept. 18

Auditions will be held for the Highlands Community Players production of the comedy "The Second Time Around" on Sunday, Sept. 18, 3 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. There are roles for an older man; an older woman, two middle-aged men, two middle-aged women and small roles for a teenage boy and teenage girl

Performance dates are October 27-30 and Nov. 4, 5, and 6. Director is Jim Gordon, 743-2654. The play is available for reading in the Hudson library in Highlands.

# **ITC** offers free acting classes

Registration has started for The Instant Theatre Company's 2005-2006 free classes in the Performing Arts for students in grades 5 - 12.

Theater Arts 1 for grades 5-8 is on Wednesday afternoons from 4-5 p.m. beginning September 21.

The class includes basic stage craft and technique, acting including improvisation, voice control, character development, and scene study 1. The class will be supervised by Collin Wilcox Paxton and taught by Sara Dodson, a graduating senior in the Theater Department at Western Carolina University. Ms. Dodson will graduate with a B.A. in the spring of 2006 and will receive Honors credit from the University for teaching this class at ITC.

Theater Arts 2 for grades 9-12 meets Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. beginning September 22.

The curriculum covers the collaborative essentials of theater. Among the subjects being taught are: play analysis, voice control, and a refresher course in basic stage technique, play writing, monologues, advanced scene study and improvisation. The class will be supervised by Collin Wilcox Paxton and taught by Hannah Case, a graduating senior in the Theater Department at Western Carolina University. Ms. Case will graduate with a B.F.A. in the spring of 2006 and will receive a Theater Arts Workshop credit from the University for teaching this class at ITC.

To register call The Instant Theatre Company at 526-1687. There is a limited quota of students for each class and early registration is suggested.

# PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU •

#### **BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965 Sundays: School - 10 a.m., Worship - 11 Sunday night services every second and fourth Sunday at 7

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

#### **BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

#### CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, Georgia The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding, Pastor Church: 706-746-2999 Pastors residence: 706-746-5770 Sundays: 9 a.m. - choir Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

#### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY **SAINTS**

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#### **CHRIST CHURCH** 743-9370

#### The Rev. Thomas Allen "Traditional Episcopal Worship"

Sunday Worship and communion at 4 p.m. Tuesday Noon Bible Study: noon Parish House Thursday worship and communion at 10:30 a.m. Pot Luck Dinner: Last Sunday of the Month. All services at the Community Bible Church

#### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

526-2830 • Corner of Spring & Third Streets Come hear the healing message of the Christ Sunday at 11 a.m. Wednesday at 7 p.m.

#### Study Room Open Saturday, 1-3 p.m. **CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pastor Everett Wilson, (828) 743-3379 Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 Prayer - 6:30 p.m. Evening Service - 7 p.m.

#### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church) Steven E. Kerhoulas, Senior Pastor 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. Womens Bible Study Wed: 5:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting; 6:15 p.m. Supper; 7 p.m. Teaching

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan - 526-2968 Sundays: Choir – 9 a.m.; Adult Sunday School classes – 9:15 a.m.; Holy Eucharist – 10:30 a.m.; Children's Chapel – 10:30 a.m. Mondays: Womens Cursillo Group (Library) - 4 Tuesdays: Mens Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8 Wednesdays: Liturgy Mtg - 4 p.m.; Christian Education – 5 p.m.; Supper & Program – 6 p.m. Thursdays: Holy Eucharist - 10 a.m. Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526--4153 Sun.: Worship – 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School - 9:30 a.m.; Youth - 6:30 p.m.; Choir - 7:15 Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.; Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.

#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175 Sun.: Worship - 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Sunday School -9:30 & 9:45.

Wednesdays: Children's Devotions - 9:30 a.m.; Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m. Thursdays: Bible Study - 10 a.m. Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m.& 5

#### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

#### HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

#### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376 Sun: School -9:30 & 9:45 a.m.; Worship - 8:30 & 11 Wed: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study & activities – 6

#### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor, 2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741

Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

#### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130 Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 Choir - 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m. MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cypriant 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 Wednesdays & Fridays: Mass – 9 a.m. Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m. Sundays: Mass - 11 a.m.

#### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7 Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

#### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Evening Worship - 6 p.m. Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

#### For more information call 526-3212. SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

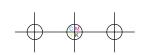
#### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769 Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby Sundays: Fellowship & Worship - 11

#### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122 Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11



# Police & Fire

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Sept.

#### Sept. 7

 At 9 a.m., officers responded to a call of a stolen antique goat cart valued at \$500 from a residence at VZ-Top. The case is under investigation.

#### Sept. 8

• At 6:20 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Mt. Lori. All was

#### Sept. 9

• At 9:10 p.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 was issued a citation for a traffic light violation at N.C 106 and Main St.

#### Sept. 10

• At 9:10 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Wachovia Bank. All was secure.

#### Sept. 12 • At 3:50 a.m., John Dean White, 38, of Tacoma, Wa., was arrested for DWI on N.C.

- At 11:05 a.m., a resident on Satulah Ridge Road reported damage to his prop-
- At 3:05 p.m., a motorist was cited for driving without a license on Wilson Road.

#### Sept. 13

• At 6:50 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Wachovia Bank. All was secure.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Sept 9-14

#### Sept. 9

- The dept. responded to fire alarm at a residence on Dillard Road. Smoke was coming from the oil furnace.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled en route.
- The dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on U.S. 64 west. One victim was taken to the hospital.

#### Sept. 11

• The dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 28 south. There were no

#### Sept. 12

 The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Highlands School where a girl passed out during an exercise class. She was taken to the hospi-

#### Sept. 13

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a house under construction on Norton Ridge Road where a man fell 25 feet. He was severely injured and taken to the hospital.

# **Contacting the Highlands Police Department**

There are three ways to contact the Highlands Police Department -- but it depends on the nature of business.

If there is an emergency, Police Chief Harrell advises people to call 9-1-1.

For all non-emergency police assistance matters, he asks that citizens call local dispatch at 526-4131 or 369-9116.

To talk to or leave a message for a specific officer, or to contact the department on all other matters, call 526-9431.

If officers aren't on patrol, someone will be there to answer the phone, otherwise leave a message on the recording.

# **SPORTS PAGE**



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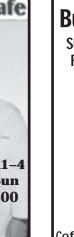
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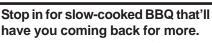
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# ... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 10

United States whatsoever. It was just the easiest target in the Middle East to attack (so they thought). There were no WMD, no nuclear program.

Meanwhile, Osama Bin Laden got away. Thousands of new terrorists were created by our invasion. We installed a moderately decent puppet regime in Afghanistan, but the rest of the country was controlled by local warlords and opium growers, as well as remnants of the Taliban. The election in Iraq demonstrated peoples' yearning for

freedom, yet neither we nor the Iraqi security forces could provide stability on a daily basis. Even though it was obvious that we needed more troops in Iraq, Secretary Rumsfeld had insisted that a smaller force could do the job, so his reputation was on the line. The President, for whom loyalty is the supreme virtue, backed him up.

All of this is tragic beyond words, but I still I think we can't just cut and run. We can't negotiate with the insurgents, who represent mainly

Islamic extremists, committed to establishing Taliban-like societies across the region. We will have to deal with them eventually, but can only do so from a position of relative strength, or at least from a stand-off. That is probably the closest we will come to an exit strategy. In the meantime, in 2006, we can throw out as many of the bumblers, fanatics, and chicken hawk military "experts" as we can find on our





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**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

MEDICAL FRONT OFFICE PERSON 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 ORGANIZA-TION 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

**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.

**<u>DIETARY AIDE</u>** – 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-

CLINICAL DIETITIAN AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. NC license and 1-2 vears experience in clinical nutrition required. Food service experience helpful. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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VIEW LOT FOR SALE - Whiteside Mountain Road. 100 ft. by 400 ft. By owner. Call 526-4692.

**CONDO FOR SALE** – By Owner. Great 2-bedroom, 2-bath upstairs condo in town. Save gas, walk everywhere! Asking \$210,000. Call for details. 526-3671.

HOUSE FOR SALE - 275 Foreman Road. In-town on .87 acre-wooded lot. 2 bedrooms, 11/2 baths, study, large workshop/studio, stone fireplace, oak floors, hemlock paneling. Quality construction, mature landscaping, exterior stonework. Asking \$425,000 (828) 342-2624. Broker/Owner

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AFFORDABLE LOTS – SKY VALLEY.
Gated golf community. City water. No membership fees. \$24,900-\$35,000. Call Mary Mason, 706-746-3111. Resort Realty

460 FT. RIVERFRONT W/HOME on

3Br/2.5 Baths, includes nice furnishings. Garage & Workshop. \$289,000. Call Mary Mason, 706-746-3111. Resort Realty.

IDYLLIC ACREAGE - 13.37 acres with views/creek, pasture, sewer & well. All usable. \$335,000. Owners/Agents. Call Mary Mason, 706-746-3111. Resort Realty.

#### **SERVICES**

<u>NEW DAY CARE</u> – Preschool 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. After-school Care 3-6 p.m. Fun and Learning! 828-342-5029

**CERAMIC TILE-GRANITE-MARBLE** – Counter, cabinet and lighting enhancement. All phases of interior work. New and remodels. Over 35 years experience. Appalachian Leather & Decor. 706-746-3627 or 828-524-

**PAINTING & PRESSURE WASHING -**DP Painting & Pressure Washing . In business since 1984. Quality work, guaranteed. References. Call 526-3542

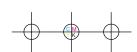
AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE - Call Dick Friess. Cell: (772) 359-0412 • 24-hr. (706) 746-3657. North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida,

HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE -Atlanta Airport Shuttle. Drive - Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.

#### WANTED

**ROOMMATE** - Private bedroom, bath, living room. \$350 per month plus utilities. Call 526-1552





Located nearby, between Highlands and Cashiers on Hwy. 64.



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# Fall Colors Fine Art Show coming up



Mary and Emily Montgomery, enjoy painting with sponges during the Art League of Highlands Fall Colors Fine Art Show, set this year for Oct. 15-16, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rec Park.

If you or someone you know have recently acquired an antique goat cart, it may be stolen property. Call 526-0165.

# ... RAISES continued from page 1

fund line item in the sheriff's department budget.

"That money was going to be used for the construction of an evidence building, but Sheriff Holland requested to use it for salary increases instead," said Evelyn Southard, county finance officer.

Though Sheriff Holland did not include himself in the salary increase, effective Sept. 13, 2005, the starting salary for Macon County Sheriff Deputies is now \$28,500. Not including the sheriff, 38 deputies have received salary increases

Highlands Mayor Buck Trott said the county can offer packages the town can't. "That's why it was so important for us to get the take-home vehicles for our officers," he said. Vehicles are now a part of the Highlands Police Department employment package.

Through the Powerpoint presentation, commissioners learned that in six months, criminal, narcotic and juvenile investigations included 569 investigations, 1,248 criminal charges filed, 100 juvenile cases, 69 cases involving child victims, 22 juveniles charged with crimes and 43 classroom presentations.

In that same period, 10,410 calls were received at the sheriff's department, with 8,041 walk-ins. There were also 2,906

volunteer hours logged at the department. "At \$7 per hour, that's a savings of "20, 342," said Holland.

One big change is the number of inmates housed daily at the detention center. In 1999 an average of 22 inmates were housed. Since January 2005, an average of 70 inmates have been housed. The maximum capacity in the facility is 75 per day. "Our jail has been filled to capacity more than 14 times in the past six months," said Holland.

But those inmates don't sit idle, he said. During the first six months of 2005, inmate road crews have spent 131 volunteer hours collecting 32,833 pounds of trash from county roadsides.

Holland said dealing with mental health issues continues to plague the county and his department. In the last 30 days, 34 deputies have been involved with 18 involuntary commitments which took them 195 hours.

# ... ROOM TAX from pg 11

sion Law and not General Statute like many other counties, there isn't an enforceable mechanism with teeth in it. "Noncompliance would result in a misdemeanor conviction with a \$25 fine," he said

As of June 2005, the standard 15 percent administrative withholding is back in place – retroactive collections are over, said Greenwood.

He said the "extra" money collected retroactively was set aside to pay for the audit – estimated to cost \$50,000. Now that some of those funds are being returned to each chamber, it may take a little longer to collect enough money to pay for an audit. "But hopefully it will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2005-2006," he said.

The chambers can only use proceeds from the occupancy tax to promote travel and tourism in Macon County.

# More ways to help

- Highlands United Methodist Church is compiling a list of persons interested in going to MS or LA to do hurricane relief work. Please contact the church office at 526-3376 if you'd like to be on the list.
- Curves International founders Gary and Diane Heavin have set up a disaster relief fund for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. They are personally matching any contribution made up to \$1,000 per Curves location. Every dollar will count as two. Donate by Oct. 24. Send local Curves donations to P.O. Box 1332, Highlands.
- The Cashiers Highlands Humane Society is offering the use of our trailer in support of transporting aid to the Gulf Coast. We are also offering animal supplies as well. Call Greta Somerville, board president at 743-0455.

# Work Out Longer For Less

# New Equipment...

All **new Cybex** strength training equipment is now available to members in addition to a full line of cardiovascular equipment.

# New Hours...

HealthTracks now has **expanded hours**. We're open until 7 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

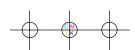
# **New Rates**

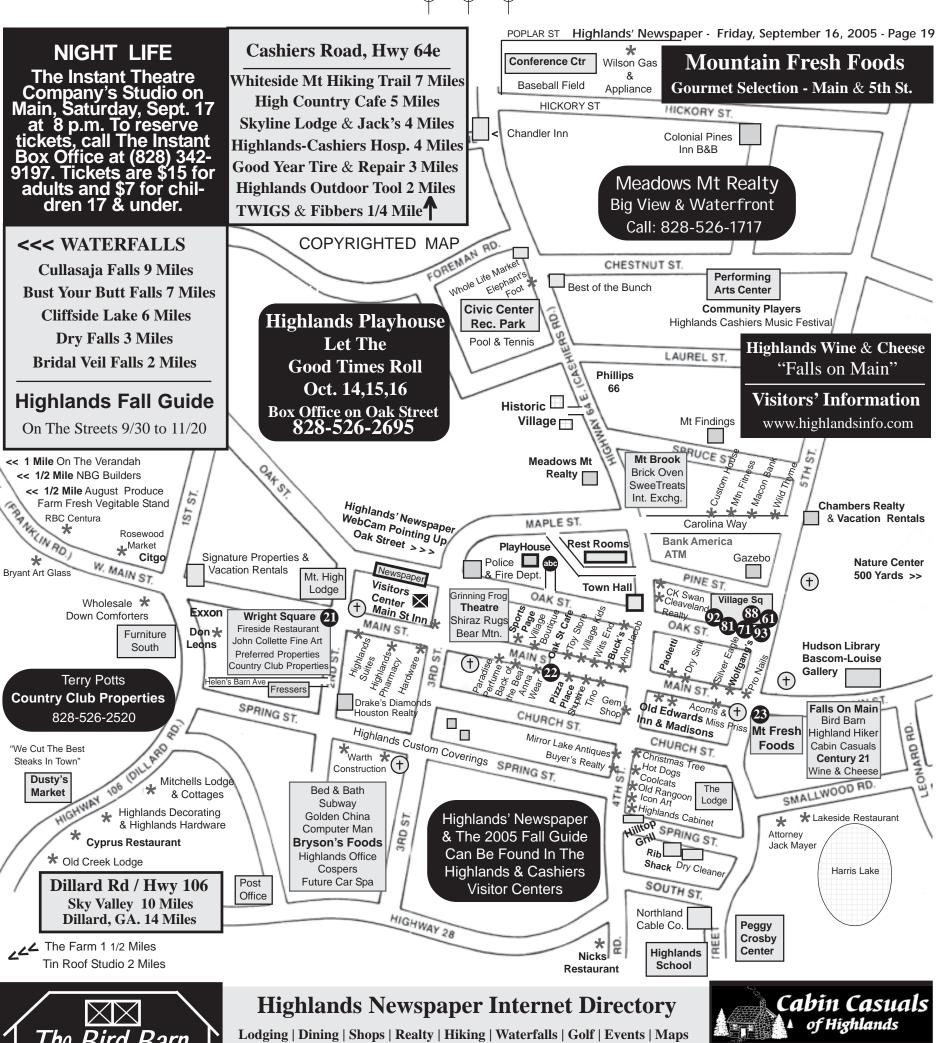
**Save** with our quarterly, semi-annual and annual memberships. Call us today!



A Service Of Highlands - Cashiers Hospital

**526-1FIT** (526-1348)







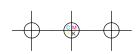
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PALMER COTTAGE

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# **COTTAGE WALK**



I his 3 bedroom, 2 bath, well maintained home is just what the Doctor ordered. Have you been looking for a place to enjoy all the fun of Highlands while being able to walk to town, then this is it. Priced at \$389,000, you will not find a better value. Low maintenance, two car garage. Nothing to fix up. A must see.

 ${
m W}$ hen Arnold Palmer picked a location of his choice the 13th fairway at Cullasaja Club was his ideal spot. This Lake Villa located on the 13th Fairway

Signature hole at Cullasaja Club is right on the lake, overlooking the golf course and mountains, enjoy the spacious great room, or screened sitting area. Completely renovated with an outstanding kitchen, hardwood floors, stone fireplace, exercise room, guest suite and completely furnished. A total of 4 bedrooms, 3 baths this home has all you need to start enjoying golf in the mountains. Membership available upon club approval. MLS# 56690 Offered at \$998,000 View a Visual Tour at our website. Tour #420158

#### **MOUNTAIN** CULLASAJA CLUB **GETAWAY**



One bedroom, one bath A-frame chalet overlooking a pastoral setting. This chalet is tucked away only a short distance from downtown Highlands. Striking green metal roof, wood siding, brand new carpet and single car garage. It can be yours for only \$275,000. MLS#56780

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