

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 3, Number 36

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Sept. 9, 2005

On-going

- 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 p.m.
- At Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4:30-6:30. Complimentary Samples Saturday from 12:30-4. Open Sun.

Sept. 9-10

- Model A Club race and seminars. The Hill Climb race is at 1 p.m., Fri., with practice runs beginning at 9 a.m. on Monkey Hill. The seminars are Sat. at the Rec Park at 9 a.m.

Sept. 9-11

- Sixth Native Plant Conference begins with a talk by gardening author Felder Rushing on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. His talk will be open to the public at no charge. Registration is \$100 for all events. Call 526-2602.

Sept. 10

- Spaghetti supper in the parish hall at the Catholic Church on Saturday at 5 p.m. This is a fundraiser for the new playground at the church. Cost is \$6 per person and includes spaghetti with Paoletti's famous sauce, salad, bread, drink & dessert.

- At Instant Theater Studio on Main Street. ROCK'O — An Acoustic Dance Party. Come dance to LIVE Classic Acoustic Rock & Roll in a unique and intimate atmosphere. Complimentary wine and soft drinks served. Tickets are \$15 for adults. Call 342-9197.

Sept. 11

- Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church begins its 2005-2006 Faith Formation program Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. in the Church fellowship hall. Classes are for all ages (pre-K to high school). Please call the Church office at 526-2418 or 787-1008 to register.

Sept. 12

- The annual Hospital Auxiliary luncheon will be on Tuesday, at 12:30 at Chestnut Hill. Lunch will be \$15 and annual dues \$10. Call 526-3837 for reservations.

- An 11-week Beth Moore Bible Study, The Patriarchs: Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, starting Mon. at the school at 4 p.m. Call Carol Bowen at 526-5168.

- Want to know what to do to treat your hemlocks? Come to the JMCA forum to be held Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Rec Park.

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 cafeteria.

- InterChurch Pot Luck Supper at First Baptist Church at 6 p.m. Call Pat Griffin at 526-2418.

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
79-59 °F	78-58 °F	75-57 °F

Town says 'game' has changed

By Kim Lewicki

For about a year, the town and the county have been tossing the recreational funding football around. Just when the town thought the game was over, commissioners say the county has changed the rules.

"We thought we were entering into a contractual agreement, now they're calling it a memorandum of understanding. I don't understand what that is," said

Commissioner Amy Patterson.

At the Aug. 1 Macon County Commissioners meeting, the county agreed to help fund the town's recreation department up to \$500,000 per year for four years and to ask the town to continue the landscape maintenance of the county's Zachary Field on Buck Creek Road.

"They really need an answer on this," said Chairman Allan Bryson. "They want

•See GAME page 2



For the storm weary from Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama, these recently refurbished entrance signs to Highlands were a welcomed sight. (See related Book Review on page 11). The signs were repainted and finally added by Chamber of Commerce Board member Bill Aaron.

Highlands offers refuge from Katrina

By Kim Lewicki

The Hansen family of Metairie, La., is just one of thousands to evacuate the Gulf coast and one of several families to take refuge in Highlands from Hurricane Katrina.

Karl and Terri Hansen have owned a Highlands vacation home since 1993 and said when it was evident they should evacuate there was no question as to where they should go.

"We are lucky and fortunate to have a place to come to," said Karl.

"It used to be our vacation home, now it will be our main residence," said Terri. "At least for a while."

She said when they drove up N.C. 106 and saw the sign entering Highlands it was a welcomed sight. "We were relieved and glad to be home," she said.

The Hansens and other families who now call Highlands home quickly

enrolled their children in Highlands School to establish some semblance of the continuity and stability suddenly snatched away a week ago.

As of this week, there are 15 new students at the school scattered across grades K to 12, said Principal Monica Bomengen.

"The school administration and everyone else has been very gracious and welcomed us with open arms," said Terri. "They have made the transition very easy."

Like most other school systems across the nation accepting students from hurricane ravaged Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana, Macon County waived all the regular paperwork — social security cards, birth certificates, immunization records.

"We didn't bring anything because we thought the hurricane would blow

•See REFUGE page 10

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Town Board firming up policies

By Kim Lewicki

At the Sept. 7 Town Board meeting, commissioners got closer to finalizing two policies — one concerning sewer connections, the other non-conforming buildings.

Though both require further discussion by committees, the end is in sight.

The sewer connection policy involves mandatory connection to sewer lines by new homes if the lines are adjacent to new homes; the requirement of existing residences served by septic systems but adjoining the sewer system to connect within two years; and the requirement of existing residences along sewer lines installed after the adoption of an upgraded sewer policy to connect within one year.

The big question is connection fees. Should they be reduced for those currently using a septic system that isn't failing but by policy must connect? Should those who must incur the cost of a pressure line versus a gravity line pay reduced connection fees?

Commissioners said it's a lot more expensive to sewer Highlands than flat areas and the town must build up its sewer fund by requiring hook-ups. "Besides Highlands is not a good place for septic tanks," said Commissioner Amy Patterson. "Well-functioning is relative."

The alterations, repairs or rebuilds of non-conforming buildings ordinance is being discussed at length, too.

Commissioners have suggested allowing routine maintenance of non-conforming buildings in the right-of-way — painting, replacement of exterior

•See POLICIES page 15

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Grahams head for Winston-Salem

A steady crowd of well-wishers said goodbye last week to outgoing hospital administrator Jim Graham and his wife Beth at a reception at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Pictured here are Tony Potts and Steve Chenoweth, both members of past hospital boards. The Grahams are relocating to Winston-Salem, N.C., to be nearer to family.



• OBITUARY •

Donna Lynn Munger Henry

Donna Munger Henry, 49, of Highlands, NC died Tuesday, September 6, 2005 in Highlands. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of Fred and Madge Owens Munger of Highlands. She was a landscaper and of the Baptist faith. She was known as Momma Donna to numerous children.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by a daughter, Sheena Adams and her husband Harrison of Clarksville, Ga.; one son, Jackson Henry of Highlands, N.C.; two sisters, Patricia Barnes of Clayton, Ga., and Gloria Munger of Highlands, N.C.; and one brother, Ricky Munger of Clayton, Ga. Four grandsons also survive. Funeral services were held on Thursday, September 8, 2005 at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands with Rev. Mark Bagwell, Rev. Ronnie Hodge and Rev. Kenneth Carver officiating. Burial was in Highlands Memorial Park. Members of Heavens Saints Motorcycle Ministry served as pallbearers.

The family received friends on Thursday, September 8, 2005 from 10-11 a.m. one hour prior to the service, at Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

... GAME continued from page 1

stability to do their budget so they don't have to worry about it every year."

But the fourth version, now called a memorandum of understanding, which was presented at the Sept. 7 Town Board meeting, has changed substantially, said town commissioners.

"We have some definite questions," said Patterson. "We no longer have a contract with them, yet they are contracting with us to provide recreation for the county. They are actually asking us to do more with less money," she said.

The town wanted a minimum of \$500,000 a year for a 15-year period; the same amount of money it had been getting from the county for years as part of a now defunct water/sewer agreement.

What they got was up to \$500,000 for four years, with appropriations determined by a budget request submitted each fiscal year.

Now the memorandum of understanding reads: "Town will maintain ownership and control of all property committed to recreation services within its corporate limits...and the Town agrees to operate and maintain the County's recreation facility outside its corporate limits...including the operation and maintenance of the Buck Creek facility in its Recreation Department's budget and shall assume responsibility for operation and maintenance of the facility to the same extent as if it were part of the Town's own recreation facility. Town shall

schedule all activities at the county's facility and provide all routine maintenance except for the lower level which the county shall continue to use for non-recreation purposes."

"They've lead us down a primrose path," said Commissioner Dennis DeWolfe. "This is totally open-ended. We pick up the obligation with no commitment on their end."

Commissioners said the county is asking the town to take on more fiscal responsibility without the money to go with it.

"They're not increasing money for the recreation budget from what we were getting for in town in the past," said Patterson. "They are asking us to do more than what they are willing to pay for."

Commissioner Herb James said the fourth draft is totally different than his original understanding. "I thought it was \$500,000 a year with no strings, with us just scheduling out at Zachary Fields, now it's something else."

Patterson said recently County Manager Sam Greenwood said it was the county's obligation to provide recreation on this side of the county.

The Town Board wants a formal face-to-face discussion with county commissioners to explain their side. The board said if the county doesn't agree to a meeting within a reasonable amount of time, the town will cease maintaining Zachary Field until a formal contract is agreed upon.

ROCK'O to Rock the Instant Theatre

ROCKO ROCKS! Put on your dancing shoes and come dance to Live Classic Acoustic Rock & Roll at The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main, Saturday, Sept. 10 at 8 p.m. To reserve tickets, call The Instant Box Office at (828) 342-9197. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children 17 & under.

Complimentary wine and soft drinks will be served with the performance. Call (828) 526-1687.

Though not meant to replace ITC's live theater component enjoyed all summer and coming up in October, the musical venues through



September are worth every penny. Saturday's Drom-edary instrumental duets was spectacular.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

On 'picking a bone'

Dear Fred,

After reading "Just exactly what is a local" in the Aug. 20 edition of Highlands' Newspaper, I thought I'd help you out.

Rather than have you suffer from sleepless nights simply because you haven't a clue as to the origin of 'a bone to pick', I shall take great delight in helping you over come your 'clueless-ness.' Don't bother to look up this word as Mr. Webster neglected to include it in his pile of words. I made it up. May I suggest you lay your paws on a copy of "Heavens to Betsy!" by Charles Earle Funk. You've heard of him, he's the author of "A Hog on Ice." The following is Mr. Funk's take on 'a bone to pick.'

A difficulty to be solved; a nut to be cracked; a complaint, dispute, misunderstanding or the like to be settled. The original idea was something to mull over or to occupy one as a bone occupies a dog.

An anonymous newspaper columnist recently (1995 is recent?) said that this expression started in Sicily where the father of a bride would give the bridegroom a bone to pick clean of meat as a symbol of the difficult task of marriage that he was undertaking. His statement of the Sicilian custom may be true, but any connection between that custom and our English expression of more than 400 years is beyond credibility.

The related expression that we use commonly nowadays - "I have a bone to pick with you," to have a complaint to settle with one - is much more recent, dating back scarcely 100 years. Fred, surely you can remember the happenings of a century ago.

The young lady has 'a bone to pick' with you due to your amazing capability 'to stick one's neck out.'

As for 'Just exactly what is a local?' - take two aspirin with a moonshine chaser; end of headache regarding who's a local and who's not. To prevent further crunching of your brain matter, perhaps all who have lived here for a few years should be referred to as locals.

By the way, I too, have a bone to pick with you. You are most persistent in referring to your lovely petite wife as 'the little missus.' That really grates on me. Perhaps she refers to you as 'the little mister.' If this is the case, we need not go forth with an undercover investigation.

Karen Gilfillan
Cashiers Writers Group

In defense of Realtors

Dear Editor,

After reading the column written by Fred Wooldridge regarding Realtors in the Sept. 2 edition of Highlands' Newspaper, I must voice a response. As a real estate broker who works an average of 60 hours a week, weekends, holidays, and is always on call - as are my colleagues - I feel we all deserve an apology.

To compare us to motorcycle gangs who lurk around every corner and to refer

•See LETTERS page 6

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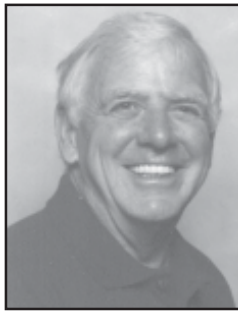
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• LOOKING AT LIFE •

'Brother, can you spare a dime?'

No, I was not around when E. Y. Harburg and Jay Gorney wrote that famous song back in the great depression year of 1932. I just look that old.

Etched somewhere in the deep recesses of my mind, a scary place as you well know, I remember this story. I was about eight years old when my dad shoved a



Fred Wooldridge

large black and white picture in front of me and said, "What do you see in this picture?" Remember now, he was not my friend, he was my dad. I stared at the picture for a long time, knowing this was a trick question.

"I see snow, old cars, and lots of cold men wearing overcoats and

weird hats, standing in line with their hands in their pockets." "What else do you see?" he asked. I stared at the picture again, knowing I must find something else to please him. Out of desperation, I finally said, "The small bird on the corner of that building?" Pa snatched the picture from my hand and shook his head in disappointment.

With his best instructor's voice he said, "This picture was taken in 1930, during the great depression. These men are out of work and are hungry. They are standing in a bread line, waiting for a handout. Notice all the men have their backs to the camera. They are embarrassed and ashamed of their plight. Now look at the picture again

and tell me what you see." Now I'm freaking out because, while I couldn't care less, I simply must please him.

I stared at the picture again, desperately searching for something. "Well, dad, this is a picture of the depression and these men are hungry and..." Pa interrupted, "Who are the only people in the picture who have jobs?" Then it hit me. Over in the corner of the picture were two police officers leaning against an old Packard with their arms folded. "The cops" I asked? "They're not cops, they're police officers and you're right, they are the only people in the picture who are not hungry."

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 10

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Highlands rallies for Katrina victims

The following avenues are available for those wishing to aid in Katrina relief:

- Bank of America has entered into a formal agreement with the American Red Cross to accept contributions for assisting the relief efforts of Hurricane Katrina affected areas. Public donations for the American Red Cross are being accepted at all Bank of America banks nationwide. Contributors may make checks out to "American Red Cross - Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. If you require a receipt, send your donation in the form of a check or money order to the American Red Cross at P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013 or donate online at www.redcross.org/donate.

- All branches of RBC Centura Bank are accepting donations for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. A special account has been set up for Hurricane Katrina victims. Deposits are being accepted in the form of cash, checks, cash advance or transfer of funds from an RBC Centura account. Donors don't have to be customers of the bank.

- The Highlands United Methodist Church is collecting flood kits through Sept. 16 to be distributed by the national United Methodist Committee on Relief. The following items must be new and each one must be included in the kit for it to be sent out. Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag - 1 hand towel, 1 washcloth, 1 comb (not pocket-size), 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers), 1 bath-size bar of soap (3-oz. and up), 1 toothbrush (single brush in original wrapper. No child-size brushes), 1 large tube of toothpaste with expiration date six months or longer, 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages. In a separate envelope, include a check for \$1 for each kit to cover costs of processing and shipping. Do not include any religious, political or patriotic notes or emblems in any kit. Deliver kits to the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street by Sept. 16.

- Highlands United Methodist Church has also pledged \$10,000 to relief efforts.

- Fressers Restaurant will donate a portion of sales for an indefinite period of time.

- The First Presbyterian Church has started a relief fund through the Presbytery. Make checks out to the Church with "Katrina Relief" specified. People can call the office at 526-3175 or mail checks to P.O. Box 548, Highlands.

- In response to the devastation in the Gulf States, Mrs. Tracey Hedden's fifth-graders are having a money drive called "Helping Hands For Hurricane Relief." Those who contribute will receive a colored hand (based on level donated) with their name on it. The hand will be displayed in lobby of Highlands School. The money will be turned into one of the relief funds.

- Dr. Patsy Wilson is the school liaison for the families from the Gulf Coast at Highlands School. She is assessing what additional needs they have beyond what the school can provide. The PTO is purchasing school supplies to replenish what the churches have donated for general school use at the beginning of the school year.

- There is a drop-off area at the Post Office (inside the door) for items such as water, diapers, cleaning fluids, peanut butter, toothpaste, soap, etc., please nothing perishable.

- The Dry Sink is accepting donations for the American Red Cross. Make checks payable to the American Red Cross, write Katrina Relief on the memo line.

- Mario Gomes, CEO of the Old Edwards Hospitality Group has started Katrina relief fund and so far collected almost \$1,000. Old Edwards will match dollar for dollar. All money will be sent to American Red Cross. To contribute, contact Gomes at 787-2600.

Literacy Council needs donations

The Literacy Council of Highlands has been awarded a \$10,000 "Challenge Grant" from the Hayes Family Foundation. To receive this grant, the Literacy Council has to raise matching funds in the amount of \$10,000. The grant money will be used to furnish a computer lab for the after-school tutoring program, the adult literacy program and will



Cris Hayes from the Hayes Family Foundation hands the Challenge Grant to Linda Driver, vice-president of the Literacy Council Board of Directors and Breta Stroud, executive director of the Literacy Council.

serve as a language lab complete with English language software, head phones and microphones for each computer.

Funds will also be used to equip the Literacy Council with a resource library which will provide badly-needed resources for both students and volunteer tutors. To help them raise the matching funds, and to acquire the Challenge Grant, call the Literacy Council at 526-9381.

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TRANSPORTER 2 rated PG-13

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Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:15), 7:15, 9:15

THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN

rated R

Weekdays: (4:10), 7, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:10), 7, 9:10

THE BROTHERS GRIMM

rated PG-13

Weekdays: 7, 9
Sat & Sun: 7, 9

MARCH OF THE PENGUINS

rated G

Weekdays: (4)
Sat & Sun: (2), (4)

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... LETTERS continued from page 3

to us as necessary evils, ants, and to say that a "good Realtor" is an oxymoron leaves me no choice but to challenge his intellect.

I, too, have been a columnist with a readership much larger than Highlands' Newspaper and I know there is a responsibility that comes with each written word and Mr. Wooldridge has offended every Realtor in this area but obviously it matters

little to him.

As far as the "windfall" of money that falls into a sorry Realtor's lap, once you pay for advertising which consists of more and more publications with the average length of time on the market being nine months and then split the commission with the selling agent and their company the windfall gets blown away quickly- sort of like the recent hurricane!

The race for Town Board

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

Question 2

Multi-family development — not to be confused with affordable housing — has been in the Highlands news lately.

How do you feel about multi-family development in Highlands as it applies to the Land Use Plan — "To consider limited multi-family opportunities on a site-specific basis" consistent with the village character of Highlands and to examine all zoning districts. Multi-family development could include duplex, triplex, quadruplex, apartments, condominiums and townhouses?



**Mayoral Candidate
Mayor Buck Trott**

In my opinion everyone realizes that Highlands is going to grow. The problem facing us is how to best manage the growth.

Growth can be in the form of single houses which can lead to urban sprawl or it can be in the form of some type of multi-family housing leading to increased density.

Single-family housing normally uses more land and leads to an increase in impervious surfaces thereby causing increase in storm water runoff. Multi-family housing, especially cluster housing, serves to allow more density on less ground size.

Either case requires utmost monitoring and control in order to protect the natural environment and maintain the town's village character. When one considers the current zoning regulations coupled with the watershed ordinances I feel that the increased growth can be managed as suggested by the Highlands Planning Board on a site specific basis.

I truly feel that The Planning Board performed in an outstanding manner and developed an excellent guide to be employed in growth management.

There are reputable Realtors and reputable real estate firms in this town who have built a reputation on integrity and I suggest your paper do the same.

**Pat Allen
Vice President/Managing
Broker
Harry Norman Realtors
Highlands**



**Mayoral Candidate
Zeke Sossomon**

The Land Use Plan recommends considering additional multi-family development, and I think it should be considered seriously

Present zoning allows virtually no new multi-family construction. The Land Use Plan does not have any particular recommendations as to where or how much should be allowed, but I think that larger parcels — Two plus acres — with reasonable density should be considered on a parcel by parcel basis.

The objective of the proposal made by the Land Use Plan, as I understand it, is to pull this sort of development into the central area of the Town. Sort of to create a "walking district." This could be done in a way to create attractive alternatives to the ½-acre minimum lot with a house.

The arguments against this are two: it allows more people/traffic, and creates a greater demand on municipal services. I think both are answered by restricting the application of new multi-family development. We're not talking about turning the entire town into condos. As with everything else, reason and proper advance planning can make it work, and I think that's what the Land Use Plan is talking about, really. Plan ahead.

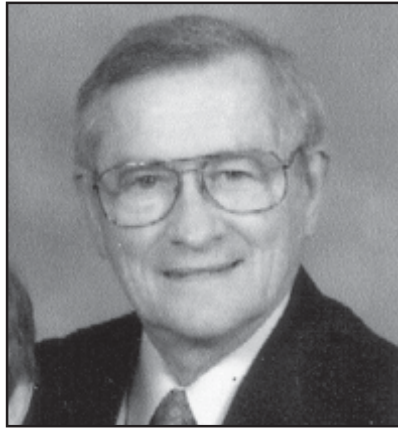
The question also notes the other recommendation made in conjunction with this, "to examine all zoning districts." That's an even better recommendation. Some of what is now "commercial" in one form or another, could be well-used, or better-used, as residential, and specifically multi-family residential.

By the way, the proposed new "Conditional Use" zoning will help greatly by allowing greater participation at the initial planning and permitting stage.



... QUESTIONS continued from page 6

Highlands' Newspaper - Friday, September 9, 2005 - Page 7



**Mayoral Candidate
Don Mullen**

I agree with the vision of the updated land use plan which states that we maintain "an attractive mountain community, whose future is guided by the beauty of the plateau's natural environment, the uniqueness of Highlands' village character, and the richness of the area's culture and history." In other words, we must honor our heritage as our growth continues in a carefully controlled manner.

Any building planned in Highlands should conform to this vision and be carefully reviewed on an individual basis to make certain each new structure conforms to the envisioned character of our town. Ridge-top and high rise development must be discouraged. Landscaping of each facility should be done in keeping with the mountain character of our town. Properly done multi-family units built within walking distance to the downtown area on a limited basis could be an asset to the community. Careful attention must be given to resulting water runoff and impingement upon other properties in our community must be carefully considered. Developers and property owners must be strongly encouraged to take into consideration neighboring owners when making their plans so as not to disrupt current living conditions. As a member of an Architectural Review Board in a previous community I lived in, I have considerable experience in this area.

When plans are approved by the town, they must be strictly adhered to. Recent developments in the town have "pushed the envelope" in their building and forced the commissioners to impose upon them obedience to the zoning regulations after near completion of projects. This has resulted in undue hardship to not only the business community but also the citizens of our town as traffic, both automobile and pedestrian, has been severely disrupted for long periods of time. This is unacceptable. Non-adherence to zoning regulations should result in significant penalties to the perpetrators.

Once again, to honor our heritage requires adequate management and efficient leadership as we grow in a carefully controlled manner.



**Commissioner Candidate
Amy Patterson**

I understand the appeal of multi-family housing for people who do not need a large house or the upkeep of a second home. There is nothing inherently wrong with multi-family housing. The problem comes with increasing our population density by allowing more people on less space. (The pros and cons of increasing our population density are outside the scope of this question and can not be adequately discussed in a few sentences.)

An alternative would be cluster housing. For example, a 3-acre tract that was zoned R-2 would allow one single family dwelling per 1/2 acre. Six homes could be built on the tract. With cluster housing, the six homes could be in the form of townhouses or condominiums in one area of the tract. That satisfies the desire (or need) for smaller, easier living arrangements but does not increase our overall density. It has the added benefit of keeping a larger area of natural habitat than would be possible with six single-family dwellings on each 1/2 acre.

I am not sure how multi-family development relates to the "village character" of Highlands. A "village" has different meanings to different people and is something I would like to explore with the Land Use Committee. To some it may mean where you live, work and play all in the same area. That definition could apply to areas of New York City. To others it is more of an attitude, like a small town where everyone knows and looks out for everyone else. Or maybe it is a town that promotes walking. That would require wide, adequate sidewalks in the commercial areas and pedestrian walks from the residential areas. You may have a community with "village character" with or without multi-family housing.

• See QUESTIONS page 8

Tutor training classes

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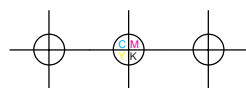


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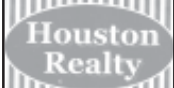

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... QUESTIONS continued from page 7



**Commissioner Candidate
Hank Ross**

There are a few remaining undeveloped properties that have the zoning (R-3) required for multifamily. The remaining properties near downtown could provide much needed housing for our aging population within walking distance to town.

This development could take several different forms such as duplex, triplex, quadruplex, apartments, condominiums or townhouses. The clustering of single family homes could also be an option. Although I am not a proponent of adding more multifamily than the zoning ordinance currently allows, there may be some special cases.

A few of the under developed commercial properties may be better suited for multi-family. Multifamily developments can also create tree buffers and common green space that are not required in commercial zones.

As for the Werder property that made the news lately, this was a special case. In my opinion, the developer's plan would have had less of a negative impact than what may happen with its current zoning. My feeling is that the town does not need another strip commercial property, especially at such a high visibility location.

The Werder property is currently surrounded by a major highway, a commercial building, a museum, a baseball field, a hotel, a Land Trust buffer area, an undeveloped commercial property and one single family residence. A multifamily development seemed like a good fit to me. Also, the developer's plan would have preserved the historic house and the green space surrounding it. A 40-foot deep wooded buffer around the site was proposed that we could not require for the commercial zone.

Multifamily zoning in Highlands is not very dense development. In the zoning ordinance, one-quarter of an acre of land is required for each housing unit. This quantity is considered medium density by land use planning standards and is not high density as one would see in urban areas. There are some areas in Highlands that currently have one-quarter acre lots for single family homes.



**Commissioner Candidate
Eric Pierson**

I believe limited multi-family development in Highlands can represent positive growth in certain areas as opposed to the alternatives. By limited, I mean keeping a low density, ensuring a reasonable buffer around these areas and not allowing for timeshares and the like.

Several good opportunities have recently been lost due to one decision or another that will potentially lead to more property destruction or no development at all to property well suited for multi-family housing.

Not only would multi-family be more in character with the town of Highlands, it would provide good tax revenue (which the town needs to keep from raising our taxes to cover recent items in its budget and the loss of revenue from decreased commercial property within the town), not to mention allowing for more green space in areas that will otherwise be developed to its maximum limit.

• See QUESTIONS page 9

• BIZ NEWS •

Madison's Awarded

The Old Edwards Inn and Spa is pleased to announce that its flagship restaurant, Madison's, is the recipient of a *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. The August 31, 2005 issue of *Wine Spectator* included the restaurant in its annual listing of award winners.

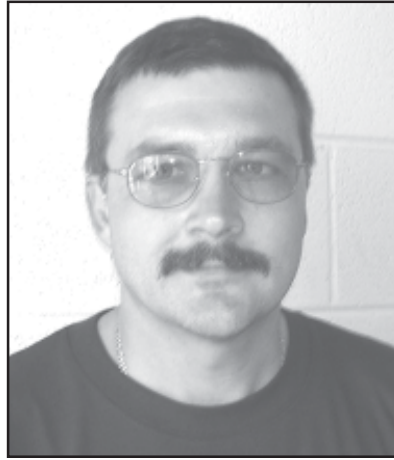
According to the publication, restaurants chosen for Awards of Excellence are "recognized for a commitment to a fine wine program, with a sufficient selection of better producers along with a thematic match to the menu in both price and style."

"This is a great achievement for the whole Madison's team," said CEO Mario Gomes. "This award reaffirms all of the hard work we have put into making the Madison's experience one to treasure. More than just dining, a meal at Madison's is a chance to embrace the joy that is food and wine pairing."



... QUESTIONS continued from page 8

Highlands' Newspaper - Friday, September 9, 2005 - Page 9



**Commissioner Candidate
James Manley**

I do not have a problem with multi-family development as long as it meets all requirements of the Town's zoning ordinances.

I think people should be able to develop their property if that is what they wish. People are just trying to get the most value out of their property.

Fall Colors Art Show

Don't miss the Fall Colors Fine Art Show Oct. 15-16, 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. Mark your calendar now! For info on the show, contact Marty Ruppert 828-883-2560.

PTO meeting Sept. 15

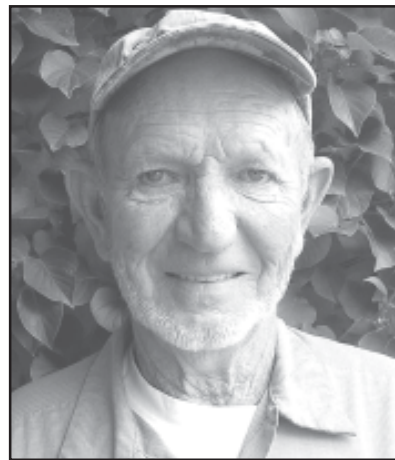
The first Highlands School PTO is Thurs., Sept. 15. The Junior Class will sponsor a supper in the cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. prior to the PTO General meeting at 6 p.m. in the Gymnasium.

The program for the meeting will be a musical presentation by the kindergarten and first-graders followed by a Panel Discussion by teachers on "Avoiding Homework Hassles."

The Book Fair will be open from 5-6 p.m. for parents who want to shop for books with their children. The Junior class will provide childcare, and donations are appreciated.

Local pianist Bryson releases CD

Jamie Bryson, formerly of the Cashiers - Highlands area, will release his first CD recording of piano favorites on Saturday, September 10. He will be performing a concert in the Cashiers Baptist Church Sanctuary at 7 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public with no admission charge, however, an offering will be received. English Nagy, a Soprano from Charleston, S.C., will be a featured vocalist at the concert. English and Jamie served together in the music Ministry of Citadel Square Baptist Church. For more information you may visit Jamie's website at www.jamiebryson.com



**Commissioner Candidate
Larry Rogers**

I don't like the idea of each site being different and changed to fit the location leaving a gap for political opportunities.

We need to stick by our zoning laws or change the zoning regulations.

Country music at PAC

Friday night, September 16 the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center will

Present "Country Music, Highlands Style," at 8 p.m. Admission is \$10, with seating on a first-come, first-served basis. The concert will feature two bands: one bluegrass, one country music.

The bluegrass band is "Bluegrass Alliance," led by Barry Palmer, a pharmacist, on banjo. Other members of the band include a dentist, Johnny "Doc" Martin, guitar; computer analyst Tom Hicks, mandolin; legal assistant LaRita Buchanan, vocalist and bass; and Chuck Nation, fiddle, who is pastor of at Baptist church.

The other band, "Clearwater Country," is made up of natives of Western North Carolina: Mike Wilson, lead vocalist and rhythm guitar; Robert Jenkins, lead guitar; J.C. Norris, steel guitar; Bobby Jenkins, steel guitar; Lyman Robbins, drummer; and Kimberly Wilson, backup vocalist.

Reserve a seat by calling the Performing Arts Center at 526-9047.

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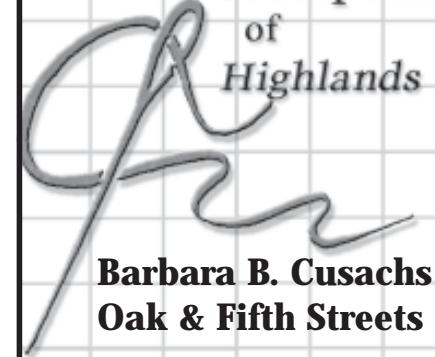


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Christian Chorale rehearsing

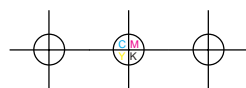
The Highlands Community Christian Chorale composed of singers from all the local churches will have its first rehearsal on Monday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m., at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

Fletcher Wolfe, Grammy Award winning conductor and Director of Music at

the Episcopal Church, will lead the chorale this year.

The annual Christmas Concerts are set for Saturday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.

Anyone who enjoys singing beautiful music is cordially invited to join the group.



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... REFUGE continued from page 1

Mapquest



The Hansen family lives in Metairie -- the star on the map.

through and we'd be back in a few days," said Terri.

Under the McKinley Homeless Assistance Act they aren't required to pay tuition like most out-of-state families. "Under the Act, they are entitled to an education," said Dr. Rodney Shotwell, superintendent of MC Schools.

The children, Corinne, 13 and Trey, 15 in grades eight and nine, respectively, are doing as well as can be expected, said their mom.

"Last week I asked them how it's going and they said "OK" which is good coming from teenagers!" she said laughing.

The Hansen's other two children are in their early 20s. Their son is a student at Mississippi State and their 24-year old daughter lives in New Orleans. Her home on Fontainebleau Street took nine feet of water. But she's fine.

Terri said warnings of imminent danger began coming in Friday, Aug. 26.

"About 1 a.m., Karl gassed up both cars just in case," said Terri. "We don't usually evacuate, but this time we decided

it was best." They left their home in Old Metairie in Jefferson Parish on East Livingston Place, 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27 and arrived in Highlands, 2 a.m., Sunday morning, Aug. 28. Then Katrina hit.

The 17th Street Canal levee – which delineates Jefferson Parish from Orleans Parish – broke, one of three breeches in the Lake Pontchartrain's levee system – and the rest is history.

The Hansens had hoped their area didn't flood, but news reports soon indicated much of Jefferson Parish -- Louisiana's second largest parish -- is underwater. Since Monday, some of the 435,000 Jefferson Parish residents were allowed back to salvage a few belongings, but were told to be out by 6 p.m. Thursday.

Once Thursday's deadline passes, authorities say residents can't return until the water is gone and power is restored.

Karl, who holds a judicial post in Jefferson Parish said he wasn't surprised at the devastation following Katrina.

•See REFUGE page 18

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

Not knowing what to do with this worthless information, I asked, "Do you want me to become a cop...I mean, a police officer?" "What I want you to do is promise me you will never stand in line and ask for charity. Find something to do so you will never have to grovel for food. Eat out of garbage cans, but don't ask for hand outs. There is nothing more demeaning in life than to have to beg for food and ask others for help." More worthless information an eight-year-old would never need.

Flash ahead 16 years and I am standing in another kind of line, at attention in the Police Chief's office. The chief is pinning badges on us and shaking our hands. I was now a police officer, oops, I mean a cop. I always referred to myself as a cop to rebel against Pa. Did I become a policeman because of his influence? Nah! I was too rebellious a person to please him. I did it because I wanted to.

Now that I am in the last quarter of my life, I am happy to report to Pa I have never stood in a bread line. He would be proud of me. He is also

having a triple apoplexy in his grave at the conduct of Americans today. Not only are handouts readily accepted, they are expected.

People actually complain loudly when our government or charity organizations are not there with the bounty. In Pa's era, the government handouts were slow to come and meager, but greatly appreciated. No one expected the government to bail them out. It was not their responsibility.

Now, folks complain if FEMA is not there fast enough with the free \$700 generators. There is no longer shame in being homeless, out of work or destitute. Lots of people wear their plight with great honor. They feel the government has an obligation to feed, house and clothe them. They are indignant when it doesn't happen fast enough. Just turn on your TV and watch closely.

Charity and help are most appreciated when it is not expected or demanded.

Cajun music & dancing



Scores of folks turned out for the Cajun Music and Dance Festival at PAC Saturday, Sept. 4. There was a lively Cajun band, lots of home-style cajun cooking and lots of toe tapping going on. About \$550 was raised for the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center and \$450 was raised to support the Katrina Relief effort.

Photos by Kim Lewicki

BOOK REVIEW WITH KATIE BRUGGER

Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana's Cajun Coast, by Mike Tidwell

My friend Janet Wilson loaned me this book a month ago hoping I would review it in advance of last Sunday's Cajun Festival. For personal reasons I couldn't write it before and after Hurricane Katrina it is difficult to write it now.

This book (along with one I referenced in my recent *Watershed* review: *The Control of Nature*, by John McPhee) warns of exactly the disaster that Hurricane Katrina wrought. The horror that has unfolded in New Orleans in the last week has been foretold in many places, including a New Orleans Times-Picayune series a couple of years ago that predicted almost exactly what has happened, from the number of citizens who stayed behind to the flooding after the levees broke.

This is not just a natural disaster. There is a very large human contribution to the scope of New Orleans' misery. First of all is the system of levees along the Mississippi River built to prevent flooding. The lower part of the state of Louisiana was created by the accumulation of sediment deposited by flood after flood through the millennia. The Mississippi drains a huge swath of the North Ameri-

can continent, from Saskatchewan to New York, and all the rich dirt that was carried with the water built up a maze-like system of land and water we call "bayou." But after a disastrous Mississippi River flood in 1927 the Army Corps of Engineers was instructed to build levees to prevent a disaster of that magnitude again. Since then the Mississippi River has been channeled along a narrow route past New Orleans and all the silt is dumped out into the Gulf of Mexico.

The river regularly replenishes the sinking land with fresh sediment. But because no flooding has been allowed, no new sediment is reaching the bayous, and the land is disappearing. New Orleans is sinking. If you've never been in New Orleans the sight of boats higher than buildings is a disconcerting sight. From *The Control of Nature*: "The [Mississippi] river goes through New Orleans like an elevated highway. Jackson Square, in the French Quarter, is on high ground with respect to the rest of New Orleans, but even from the benches of Jackson Square one looks up across the levee at the hulls of passing

•See REVIEW page 14

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On Thursday, Sept. 1 at the Buck Creek fields, the Fighting Highlanders got their first win, 6-4 against Tallulah Falls. They came out expecting a "green" team but ended up playing a hard fought game.

"The team played well, particularly since they weren't ready for it," said Coach David Parrish. "This was the first time these teams ever played each other and we were told they were "new."

Turns out they were much better than anticipated and Parrish switched form starting only freshmen and sophomores to the regular starting line when he realized what was needed.

"Since the team was 'very new' the Tallulah Falls coach wanted to play our

JV team, which we don't have," said Parrish.

Nick Kerhoulas and Jason Aspinwall had each got one goal; Alec Schmitt made two goals and Ryan Bears made two goals with one assist. Matt Chenoweth, Buddy Parrish and Jake Heffington each helped with an assist and freshman Ezra Herz had seven saves in goal and played excellently in his first high school match. "Ryan Bears played exceptionally well considering he was injured," said Coach Parrish, "as did Jake Heffington, Tyler Wavra, Buddy Parrish and Matt Chenoweth who also played injured."

The next home game is Sept. 12 against Hiawasee Dam.

- PTO Meeting/Book Fair, Sept. 15 -

The first Highlands School PTO is Thurs., Sept. 15. The Junior Class will sponsor a supper in the cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. prior to the PTO General meeting at 6 p.m. in the Gymnasium.

The program for the meeting will be a musical presentation by the kindergarten and first-graders followed by a Panel Discussion by teachers on "Avoiding Homework Hassles." The Book Fair will be open from 5-6 p.m. for parents who want to shop for books with their children. The Junior class will provide childcare, and donations are appreciated.

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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 p.m.
 - Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4:30-6:30. Saturday, complimentary samples 12:30-4. Open Sunday.
 - HealthTracks, at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, offers special fitness classes Monday through Thursday. HealthTracks at 526-1348 for details.
 - 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. 9-10**
- Model A Club race and seminars. The Hill Climb race is at 1 p.m. Friday with practice runs beginning at 9 a.m. on Monkey Hill. The seminars are at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. and will discuss touring safety, new improved rear oil seal, F100 steering box. Award ceremony at 6 p.m. at the Rec Park.
- Sept. 9-11**
- Sixth Native Plant Conference sponsored by the Highlands Biological Foundation to benefit the Highlands Botanical Garden begins with a talk by gardening author Felder Rushing on Friday evening at 6:430 p.m. His talk will be open to the public at no charge, with seating at PAC on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is \$100 for all events. Forms available at the Biological Station or by calling 526-2602.
- Sept. 10**
- Our Lady of the Mountains Faith Formation children's group is holding spaghetti supper in the parish hall on Saturday from 5 p.m. until...This is a fundraiser for the children and a new playground at the church. Cost is \$6 per person which includes spaghetti with Paoletti's famous sauce, meat balls, salad, bread, drink and dessert. For more information, please call the church office at 526.2418.
 - At Instant Theater Studio on Main Street. ROCK'O - An Acoustic Dance Party. Out on your dancing shoes and come dancing. We're rolling up the rugs, folding up the Director's Chairs and creating a Dance Hall. Come dance to LIVE Classic Acoustic Rock & Roll in a unique and intimate atmosphere. Complimentary wine and soft drinks served with all performances. For ticket information call 828-342-9197. Only 50 seats available.

Reservations STRONGLY Suggested.

Sept. 11

• Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church wished to welcome all catholic children in the community (new and old) to join us for the start of our 2005-2006 Faith Formation program. Classes begin Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. in the Church fellowship hall. Classes are available for all ages (pre-K to high school). Please call the Church office at 526-2418 or Kristen Karcher, director of faith formation at 787-1008. Registration forms are in the Church office located at 315 N 5th St.

Sept 12

• The annual Hospital Auxiliary luncheon will be on Tuesday, at 12:30 at Chestnut Hill. Lunch will be \$15 and annual dues \$10. To enjoy this time of good fellowship, please call 526-3837 for reservations.

• A Beth Moore Bible Study, The Patriarchs: Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, beginning Monday at Highlands School at 4 p.m. This study is open to anyone who desires to participate. There is a workbook to accompany the study, and there will be a video presentation and discussion each week for 11 weeks. Carol Bowen is the facilitator. Call 526-5168.

• Want to know what to do to treat your hemlocks? Come to the JMCA forum to be held Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Contact The Jackson Macon Conservation Alliance at 526-9172.

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. 15-22

• Fall 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 September 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 8 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 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. For ticket information 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. 24

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association



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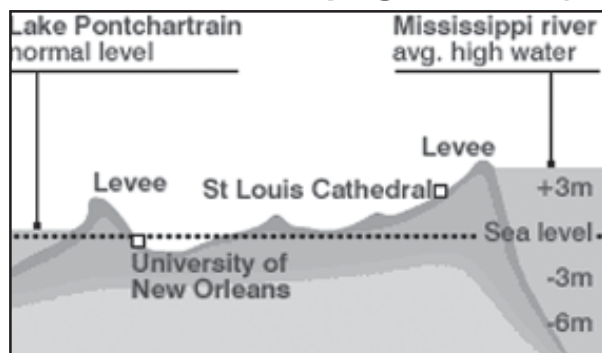
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ships. Their keels are higher than the Astro Turf in the Superdome, and if somehow the ships could turn and move at river level into the city and into the stadium they would hover above the playing field like blimps." The levees themselves are also sinking so need to be constantly built up.

Another factor in the loss of land is the gas and oil industry. Early in the exploration for oil in Louisiana many wells were dug in the bayous and straight canals were dredged for the interconnecting pipelines. These new waterways dramatically increased the rate of erosion.

Mr. Tidwell went to the bayou country to learn about Cajun life by hitchhiking down the bayous on shrimp-ing boats. What he learned along the way shocked and amazed him: 25 square miles of Louisiana disappears every year—roughly equivalent to the island of Manhattan. As he moved along the bayou channels he saw ghostly groves of drowned trees, telephone poles along the edge of the bayou angling crazily as the water undermined them, and worst of all, graves slowly tumbling into the water, the above ground tombs sinking down with the land.

The marshes and barrier islands protect the land from hurricane storm surges. Mr. Tidwell wrote [this book was published in 2003]: "For New Orleans alone, hemmed in by levees and already on average eight feet below sea level, the apron of wetlands between it and the closest Gulf shore was, cumulatively, about 50 miles a century ago. Today that distance is 20 miles and shrinking fast. With very slow evacuation speed virtually guaranteed (there are only three major exit bridges that jump over the encircling levees for central New Orleans' 600,000 people) it's not implausible that a major hurricane could cause tens of thousand of deaths."

Why should people outside Louisiana care about this? Other than the fact that these human activities are directly connected to the disaster in New Orleans, the health of the bayous is important to the entire nation. Louisiana accounts for an astonishing 20 percent of America's coastal marshes and 40 percent of its salt marshes. These marshes are absolutely essential for millions of migrating birds as a resting place before and after the long flight across the Gulf of Mexico. As these marshes recede, the length of the migrating bird's over water flights lengthen and more birds will be unable to make it.

The coastal wetlands are also a crucial nursery for shrimp, crab, and most of the fish that are caught in the Gulf of Mexico. These bayous are the source of 30 percent of America's seafood harvest and that industry will sink along with the land.

The frustrating thing is — not only has all this been known for a long time, there have been experiments done that show it is within our power to reverse the damage and still nothing has been done. The estimated cost of restoring the bayous and barrier islands is \$14 billion over 50 years. This was deemed to be too high. The current estimated cost of the damage done by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans alone is \$50 billion.

What we must hope for is that the rebuilding of New Orleans

• See REVIEW page 18

• PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11
Sunday night services every second and fourth
Sunday at 7

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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Sky Valley, Georgia

The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 9 a.m. - choir

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

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

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Tuesday Noon Bible Study: noon Parish House

Thursday worship and communion at 10:30 a.m.

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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

(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. Women's Bible Study

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968

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

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

Children's Chapel – 10:30 a.m.;

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

Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8

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

Education – 5 p.m.; Supper & Program – 6 p.m.

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.

Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

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

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

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

Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Sun.: Worship – 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

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Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130

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

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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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 Aug. 31-Sept. 7.

Sept. 1

- At 8:09 a.m., officers responded to a 911 hang-up from a residence on Worley Road but the call was due to a faulty telephone.

Sept. 3

- At 3:30 p.m., Adam Sackman, 17, of Highlands, was arrested for simple assault and injury to personal property.

- Three times the night of Sept. 3, officers were called about bears on property.

Sept. 4

- At 9:20 p.m., officers were called to a residence on E. Wingina to investigate a domestic dispute. They were told to separate and discuss it in the morning.

- At 10:15 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Bowery Road concerning suspicious activity. A car had been driven up without lights on and then backed out of the driveway.

Sept. 5

- At 5:35 p.m. and 5:40 p.m. officers investigated two incidents of dog bites at the same place.

Sept. 6

- At 1 p.m., officers responded to a call of an assault between employees at the Highlands Playhouse.

- At 8:11 p.m., a motorist was issued a warning citation for not have a tail light.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Aug. 31- Sept 7.

Aug. 31

- The dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident with injuries on Horse Cove Road. The victims were transported to the hospital.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Sagee Trace. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Aug. 25

- The dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident on U.S. 74 East at the Cullasaja Club. The victims were transported to the hospital.

• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

SPORTS PAGE



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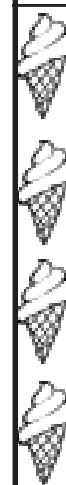
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... POLICIES continued from page 1

siding, re-roofing, etc.— as long as maintenance and repair doesn't farther encroach into the right of way. But structural repair or reconstruction like replacing walls or roofs wouldn't be allowed under any circumstances.

The same would go for non-conforming buildings not in the right-of-way accept the Zoning Board of Adjustment would have the authority to grant a variance.

As to non-conforming buildings destroyed by fire or natural disaster,

commissioners are considering a percentage component. But, if rebuilt, they must conform to all standards.

Non-conforming buildings on the National Register of Historic Places would be allowed to be rebuilt if an exact replica is built.

"You're all very close to an agreement on these items," said Town Administrator Richard Betz.

Commissioners agreed it could be done by the next Town Board meeting on Sept. 21.

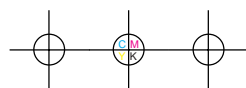
Large-scale antique show, Sept. 30

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

The three-day event, put together by well-known antiques dealers Michael and Nancy Weaver, features 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.

Call the Playhouse at 526-2695 for tickets.



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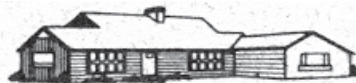
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HELP WANTED

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

HIGHLANDS POLICE DEPT. - Seeking a police officer. Successful candidate must be 21 years of age; BLET-certified; submit to an extensive background investigation, drug screening and a psychological evaluation. Applicant must possess a valid North Carolina driver's license. Applicant must successfully complete the Highlands Police Department application process. Base Salary. Contact Captain T.R. Carver, 310 Oak Street, Highlands, or call 526-9431.

PART-TIME BI-LINGUAL OFFICE ASSISTANT POSITION - Available immediately. Help local organization improve harmony and understanding between international residents and the community. Must write and speak English and Spanish fluently, excellent interpersonal skills, computer literate. Ability to work with people of varying backgrounds and socioeconomic levels. Send resume to International Friendship Center, 348 S. Fifth St, N.C., or call 526-9938 ext. 290.

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.

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

C.N.A.S! CHECK OUT THE NEW CNA WAGE SCALE AT FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER: Starting at \$9.50 per hour (Plus weekend and shift differentials). All shifts available. Excellent benefit package for full-time positions. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar at 828-526-1301.

MAMMOGRAPHY TECHNOLOGIST AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Perform mammography examinations and associated mammography QC, perform general radiography and CT procedures. MRI experience a plus. Must share call. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2003 LAND ROVER FREELANDER SE — AWD, V6, Leather, Sunroof, CD, 17" Wheels, Excellent Condition, 28,700 miles, \$19,900, Call 421-0615

REAL ESTATE - RENTALS

FAMILY RETREAT FOR RENT - Rustic lodge with Whiteside Mountain View. 8.68 acres surrounded by National Forest with seclusion that includes a tennis court, pool, sauna, streams and trails. 7 bedrooms, 7 baths, with spacious great room with stone fireplace, commercial kitchen, wet bar, large dining area and more. Call Pam Taylor at 526-9027, 342-6988 or 526-2520.

HOME FOR RENT, Highlands, Broadview Acres, 3br, 2ba, large yard, renovated, \$1,000 month, 6 month or 1 year. 678-296-8384.

FURNISHED APARTMENT. One bedroom and bath, kitchen, living room and outside porch. Call 526-2561.

VACATION HOME FOR RENT - Long range mountain view, spectacular sunsets, private road, large deck, sleeps 6. MBR-King, BR-Queen, Den-Queen Sleeper Sofa, fireplace. \$1,200/week, Call Charles or Lorna at 526-3233.

RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT - High-

lands Plaza. Call 864-630-0808.

STORE FOR RENT - on 4th Street. Call 864-630-0808.

REAL ESTATE - SALES

SCENIC LOTS. Turtle Pond area. Views; private. 828 526 2759 marbago@direcway.com

HIGHLANDS-WALK TO TOWN - Rare offering. 28 RV lots, some with RV vacation homes and porches in place. 2 1/2 blocks from Main Street. 7 creek-front lots available. Lots from 95K-129K. Only 10k upon signing contract. Close by mid-April, 2006 in time for season. Hurry these won't last. Call 706-613-1438, 706-202-5292 (cell) or 828-526-9493.

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

BY-OWNER SAPPHIRE VALLEY - New on the market. A unique "Timber-peg" Post & Beam home. Three levels: Upper level: lofted bedroom, full bath and bedroom with its own deck. Main Level: Open living room w/fireplace, dining room and kitchen, 2 full baths, master bedroom and large deck with spectacular view. Lower Level: Large family room, w/fireplace, full bath, laundry room, an outside patio. A fully finished room and bath over a 2 car garage. Also a separate roomy workshop all located on approximately 2 acres, on a private cul de sac. By appointment only (828) 743 2567

FRANKLIN - Creek and pasture with view. Purchase 81.82 acres or any size parcel. Call owner for pricing and website. 1-800-640-5495.

HIGHLANDS HOUSE FOR SALE - 3 bedrooms, 2-bath, stacked stone fireplace. Ridgeview. \$349,000. Broker/owner. Call 526-9455.

HOUSE FOR SALE - IN HIGHLANDS, YET PRIVATE. 0.6 acre borders creek, walk to Main St. 4-bed, 2-bath. \$450,000. (828) 226-6123.

HOUSE FOR SALE - Lake Glenville/Cashiers. 2-bed, one-bath on 1/2 acre. Views, carports, studio. \$135,000. Call: 802-272-4740.

CASHIERS CABIN. Location and Elevation. 2/1 on 1.4-acres \$145,000. Total Refurbish. Call 828-743-5782 for appt.

SERVICES

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

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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.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

CALL THE REAL ESTATE BOOK North America's largest and most successful "Homes for Sale" magazine is offering the chance to be an Independent Distributor of the Cashiers-Highlands area. This market meets the criteria of our other 400 successful territories. Comprehensive training, on-going support help ensure success. Candidate should possess strong sales skills, customer support and follow-up. No franchise fees or royalties. Initial start-up and working capital required. Contact Tara Truitt at 770-962-7220, ext. 24608 or email ttruitt@treb.com for more information.

MUSICIANS WANTED - Call Charissa at The Pizza Place: 526-5660.

WANTED

UPRIGHT PIANO - Good quality, well-maintained. Call Kathy at 404-255-4894, 404-694-4894 or 526-4784.

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

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Pre-employment substance
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Old timey car race Friday, Sept. 9



Old times will be remembered on Monkey Hill, (Hickory Street) Friday, Sept. 9 at 1 p.m. during the F.A.S.T. Southeast Hill Climb for Model A and T Fords, bone stock, modified and speedsters. Spectators are welcome. Practice runs begin at 9 a.m.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

... REFUGE continued from page 10

"Everyone has always known under the worst case scenario this would happen," he said. "We have been lulled into security due to non-events."

He said it's true that some of the hardest hit areas were low income areas, but New Orleans is no different than anywhere else.

"People live where they can. Some of the more affluent areas are geographically better and so they are less apt to have problems. But we all know we live in a bowl."

Karl said unfortunately it may take a disaster like Katrina to accomplish on a federal level what many in New Orleans have been attempting for years – to build a stronger, higher levee system and to begin a coastal restoration program.

"But 90 percent of those programs are federally funded, only 10 percent comes from the state," he said. "We also need a better coastal erosion program. We have no coastline as a barrier and the delta is diminishing. There is nothing to stop the full force of a hurricane. If we could restore the coast line, we could significantly reduce damage."

The Lake Pontchartrain Levee was raised to 18 feet a few years ago, which is high enough to withstand a category three hurricane. Hurricane Katrina was a category five.

"At what level does the government determine to protect the general public? 100 percent, 80 percent, 70 percent? It's a diminishing return," said Karl.

He said Holland is beneath sea level but that country spends trillions of dollars on their levee system.

But Karl said people in New Orleans are resilient and he expects most of the people now housed in the Astro Dome and various convention centers across the south to make their way back to New Orleans.

"People from New Orleans don't displace themselves from where they grow up. They stick it out through thick and thin. If the federal government is going to rebuild housing, people will return because people in New Orleans want to be in New Orleans. They don't want to be displaced. If you have nothing and no opportunities anywhere anyway, you come back to what you know."

Karl said he'll take his family back as soon as it's feasible. But it doesn't look like that will happen anytime soon. Meanwhile, he said "Life is real good under the circumstances."

Like so many other families from the Gulf Coast area, there are friends and family they haven't heard from. "Our son's friend's two sisters and father are missing. No one knows where they are or have heard from them," said Terri.

They lived in hard-hit Slidell, across the lake, northeast of New Orleans. "The eye went right through there," said Terri. "It was a very affluent area and they had all the means to leave but a lot of people chose to stay. They wanted to protect their property. It wasn't just the poor and the infirm that stayed. There are a lot of victims — rich and poor."

• See related Book Review by Katie Brugger on page 11.

... REVIEW from pg 14

Orleans will include a rethinking of the whole system of levees. Perhaps we could follow the example of the Dutch who, Mr. Tidwell tells us, have learned that the sea cannot be held back with impunity. They have begun to, as they put it, "make room for water," by banning new construction on floodplains and regulating instead of preventing floods so the subsiding land is replenished. Our actions will tell a lot about us: will we learn from our mistakes and restore the land or will we rebuild as it was before and set ourselves up for a repeat? As bad as this disaster is, I'm not too optimistic because change will require government to oppose the interests of developers.

Mr. Tidwell mixes these dire warnings of impending disaster with profiles of interesting people he meets in his travels from boat to boat. But all of this may disappear with the bayous, and Mr. Tidwell effectively communicates the sorrow of a culture that is dying due to human's attempts to control nature.

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Put on your dancing shoes and come dance to Live Classic Acoustic Rock & Roll at The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main, Saturday, Sept. 10 at 8 p.m. To reserve tickets, call The Instant Box Office at (828) 342-9197. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children 17 & under.

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Bridal Veil Falls 2 Miles

<<< FRANKLIN, N.C.

Franklin Rd. Hwy 64w 18 Miles

Cashiers Road, Hwy 64e

Whiteside Mt Hiking Trail 7 Miles
High Country Cafe 5 Miles
Skyline Lodge & Jack's 4 Miles
Highlands-Cashiers Hosp. 4 Miles
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TWIGS & Fibbers 1/4 Mile ↑

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Dillard, GA. 14 Miles

The Farm 1 1/2 Miles
Tin Roof Studio 2 Miles
Koenig Builders & Peak Experience 3 Miles

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Hot Dogs
Coolcats
Old Rangoon
Icon Art
Highlands Cabinet

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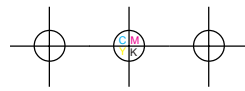
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AMBIANCE OF A BYGONE ERA

Experience the charm of a bygone era with this 6 bedroom, 4 bath, Joe Webb log cabin, built in the 1920's. Located within walking distance of town and situated on over 7 acres, this rustic Big Bear Pen cabin has loads of personality. Enjoy the great mountain views from your covered deck or relax by the fire of the native stone fireplace. Laurel accents, wood beams, and hardwood floors make this the perfect mountain retreat. Property can be subdivided and comes with most furnishings. Just reduced to \$1,298,000. MSL#55142 Visual Tour #328023



TOO CUTE FOR WORDS



This 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home is beautifully decorated, well maintained, with a great yard. The farmhouse style lends itself to a restful rock on the front porch, while enjoying the outdoors. Inside, warm-up by the living-room fireplace. Nice kitchen dining combination. Master bedroom on the first floor, two bedrooms upstairs, unfinished basement with work area. \$348,000.00 MLS#53231 Visual Tour # 209961

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