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Highlands School Newspaper INSIDE FREE Highlands' Newspaper

Volume 1, Number 10

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Sept. 19, 2003

Week of Sept. 19-25

- Support Highlands School with a banner about your business to be displayed in the gymnasium all year long. Call 526-2147 for details.

- Turn in your used printer ink cartridges to Highlands School. It means money to the school.

- There is a "Teacher Wish List" at the school. Call the office at 526-2147 to see how you can help. Teachers need everything from paper to pens.

Sept. 19-22

- Art Walk 2003 Festivities begin. Children's ArtWalk takes place at the Highlands Nature Center 10 a.m.-2 p.m. ArtWalk opening ceremonies are at the Gazebo on Pine St. from 3-7 p.m.

Sept. 20

- Children's Art Walk is Saturday, Sept 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Highlands Nature Center. There will be music, drama, hands-on art, face-painting, lemonade, cookies, hot dogs, popcorn and much, much more. For more info, call Janet Wilson at 526-1552.

- Juried art exhibit starts at Bascom-Louise Gallery.

Sept. 21

- Highlands Community Players present "Art," Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Sept. 22

- Community-wide Beth Moore Study - When godly people do ungodly things - at Highlands School 5:30-7:15 p.m. For more information, call Carol Bowen at 526-5168.

- Healthy Carolinians is hosting a benefit golf tournament at Highlands Cove. Proceeds will go toward organization to help assess and develop health and safety resources for Macon County. \$100 per player or \$400 per team. For more information, call 349-2426.

Sept. 24

- Registration for the Young Artist series at the Bascom-Louise Gallery. Art workshops for grades 4 through 8. It's 3-5 p.m., five Wednesdays starting Oct. 8. Each session is \$20. Call 526-4949 to register.

Sept. 25

- PTO Meeting and Book Fair, 7 p.m. at Highlands School.

Current noise ordinance to be enforced

By Kim Lewicki

Construction might be booming in Highlands, but it's got to boom Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Though commissioners were thinking about amending the noise ordinance to accommodate construction schedules in the commercial dis-

trict and weekend construction in the residential districts, in the end they decided to enforce the ordinance currently on the books.

"As I told you in the beginning of this, we've never really had to worry about enforcing the ordinance, but now that we do, we can do it," said Town Administrator Richard Betz.

Over the past several months, area innkeepers - owners of the Main Street Inn and Kelsey-Hutchinson Lodge, in particular - have called town officials about weekend and after-hour construction noise bothering their guests. In some cases, even causing them to check out early.

▪ See NOISE page 5

ABC Results

For the first time in several years nine out of the 10 Macon County schools met or exceeded their targeted ABCs growth model for the 2002-03 school year.

"I am proud of the commitment to education and the continuous improvements that have been made in our schools over the years. We are a shining star in both the Western region and the state and we will continue to lead the way as we progress through this school year," said Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell. "Our teachers, students principals and support staff have accomplished a lot. I feel blessed to work in a school system that is committed to quality and academic achievement."

There are six Schools of Distinction

• Cartoogechaye Elementary

▪ See ABCs page 5

It's year 7 for The Girls' Clubhouse



They're back at it, a bunch of enthusiastic middle school girls ready to serve Highlands with a smile. There are 12 girls this year - nine sixth-graders and three seventh-graders who returned to the club from last year. Pictured clockwise are Bobby Joe Talley, Susan Barnes, Sarah Hedden, Sally Zachary, Ladonna Rodriguez, Casey Jenkins, Jenna Shearon, Haley Rice, Keelie Miliroy, Lacey Tucker, Maricia Owens and Brie Schmitt. You'll see them at the Children's ArtWalk, Sept. 20

Highlands Cable franchise in jeopardy

By Kim Lewicki

One week from now it could all be over for Highlands Cable Group.

At the Sept. 17 Town Board meeting, commissioners heard reports from Town Administrator Richard Betz and Town Engineer, Lamar Nix documenting that Highlands Cable Group has been stringing cable in

town without paying pole attachment fees or securing permits.

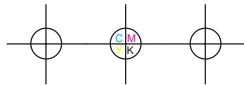
"I haven't issued a permit, because we haven't received detailed make-ready plans indicating where they will be going underground and where they will be attaching to poles," said Nix.

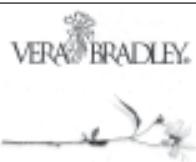
As of 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17,

Nix said Highlands Cable Group has attached to 58 poles illegally. "Nin Bond was supposed to identify which poles he thought he'd have problems with."

Months ago, when commissioners asked if there was room on the poles in town for two cable groups,

▪ See CABLE page 2





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... CABLE from page 1

Nin Bond, owner of Highlands Cable Group, said he would go underground if he couldn't fit on the poles.

Nix said on 40 of the 58 poles Highlands Cable strung, don't meet the required 40-inch clearance as mandated by the National Electric Safety Code's Rules for Clearance.

"The 40 inches is the required 'safety zone' for climbing space for linemen," said Nix. "He's putting anyone who climbs those poles in danger."

But Betz said Highlands Cable shouldn't be attaching in the first place. "In July the board extended his construction schedule for one more year, contingent upon certain requirements which he hasn't met, yet," he said. "He has been flagrantly violating our ordinance, totally ignoring what we've asked him to do."

Nix said he didn't know how he or Richard Betz could have been any clearer as to what was required.

"We put it in writing and we said it to him face-to-face," said Nix.

Betz said Bond hasn't paid any

pole attachment fees, hasn't submitted a detailed make-ready plan and said just Wednesday he showed documentation verifying workmen's compensation insurance even though he has been stringing cable for weeks.

"I suggest you consider revoking his franchise agreement," said Betz.

At Commissioner Mike Cavender's suggestion, the board voted to give Highlands Cable Group one week to come into full compliance or the town would revoke its franchise agreement with Nin Bond and Highlands Cable Group.

The board wants all the necessary documentation, the pole attachment fees and it wants the cable strung out of compliance to be taken down and brought into compliance.

Furthermore, if Bond plans to go underground, the board wants proof that he has permission to encroach into property owners' rights-of-way.

The board also requested Betz to ask the police department to insist that Highlands Cable Group stop work immediately.

Parking for Satulah hikers a 'no go'

At the Sept. 17 Town Board meeting, Town Administrator Richard Betz said the Hobson Family was not willing to allow parking at the town's water tank, as requested by the board.

"The family said parking would do more damage than good and the deed restriction is in place to keep

Satulah like it is," said Betz. "The family feels allowing parking will ultimately do more damage to Satulah."

Many Highlanders have voiced concern about development cutting off access to the summit for hikers. So far a solution hasn't been found.

Email questions to Town Board candidates

There are three seats open on the Highlands Town Board. Commissioner candidates are:

Mike Cavender
322 Hickory Hill Road
PO Box 2010
Highlands, NC 28741
(828)-526-2368

Alan Marsh
651 Holt Circle
Highlands, NC 28741
(828)-526-5130

Dennis DeWolf
6 Bruner Road
PO Box 1296
Highlands, NC 28741
(828)-526-4662

Eric Pierson
1697 Bowery Road
PO Box 547
Highlands, NC 28741
(828)-526-9373

In the five October issues prior to the Nov. 4 election – Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 – Highlands' Newspaper will publish a question-and-answer column

Herbert N. James
234 Picklesimer Road
PO Box 563
Highlands, NC 28741
(828)-526-2866

Email your questions to highlandseditor@aol.com. We will select questions and each candidate will be asked to answer the questions.





Be ready for the flu season

- Available at the Highlands Civic Center -

The Macon County Public Health Center will begin administering flu vaccinations on October 13.

Shots will be given on a walk-in basis without appointments.

The cost of the flu vaccine is \$18 per dose and it's covered by Medicare Part B.

Pneumococcal vaccinations

will also be available for people who meet the guidelines and will also be \$18 per dose with some free vaccine available for certain high-risk children.

Highlands Civic Center
Oct. 18 - 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Oct. 28 - 1- 4: p.m.



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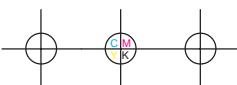
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• Laughing at Life •

Frumpy Stiltzskin and the three bears

with Fred Wooldridge



I have just finished my first children's book, specially designed for those very savvy, streetwise three to five year olds who are bored with the current Ya da, Ya da stuff they're currently dishing out. City slicker kids are thirsting for some real action. "Lil Buckeyes", children who visit Highlands from Buckhead, will love this book as will Highlands' children. It's about three very cool bears. Read the story out loud, using your very best singsong voice, like when you talk to toddlers, or old people, like me.

Once upon a time, there were three bears, Papa bear, Mamma bear, and the very lovable, but extremely obese (that means grossly fat) Baby bear. The bears were tooling around Highlands in their brand new Jaguar convertible when they happened upon the home of Frumpy Stiltzskin. He is the third cousin, twice removed by several marriages and divorces, of Rumple, a grouchy old guy with one leg and bad breath. (But that's another story)

Looking in the window, the bears see that Frumpy isn't home, so Papa bear, using his latest state of the art burglary tools, breaks into the house. (In the original version, a little girl named Goldilocks commits the burglary.) As your parents have already taught you, breaking and entering of an unoccupied dwelling during daylight hours is a third degree felony. You are not afraid for baby bear because you have read my publication, "Modern Treatment for Child Criminals," and know

that, if caught, baby bear will only get timeout.

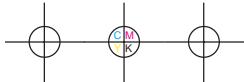
Once inside the house, the bears head straight for the liquor cabinet. Papa bear tastes the Jamaican rum. "This rum is too strong," Mamma bear then tastes the Grand Marnier. "This is too weak." Baby bear breaks the seal on a bottle of Louie XIV brandy and says, "This brandy is just right," and drinks it allllll up. (Here, a picture of a very happy Baby bear holding a brandy snifter bigger than his head.)

Next, off to the kitchen where they find three bowls of paella on the table. Paella is a delicious Cuban dish. Frumpy's third marriage was to Adriana Rosa Macedo Rodriguez who loves to cook. She is also a delicious Cuban dish. Tasting from the first bowl, Papa bear says, "This paella is too spicy." Mamma bear samples the second bowl. "This is too mild." Baby bear, now having trouble with his motor control from drinking the brandy, struggles to sip from the third bowl. "This is just right" he slurs, eating it all up.

Then Baby bear announces "I am very sleepy" (who wouldn't be) and the three head for the bedrooms. Papa bear finds his bed too hard: Mamma bear announces

▪ See WOOLDRIDGE page 5

Seasonal resident Fred Wooldridge has made it his hobby to poke fun at just about everything from nature to politics. He means no one harm.



... ABCs continued from page 1

- Cowee Elementary/ Iotla Elementary
- Cullasaja Elementary
- East Franklin Elementary School
- Nantahala School
- Highlands School

South Macon Elementary School was the only School of Excellence and Franklin High School was the only School Of Progress.

Out of the nine schools recognized, seven schools exceeded their targeted growth and the other two met their expected growth.

Nantahala School one of the county's two K-12 schools, was named one of the "top 10 most improved high schools in the state."

"It is the only high school in the Western region to receive this honor and the only one named in the top 10 which is also a School of Distinction," said Showell.

Educators say North Carolina has stayed the course on school improvement efforts since 1995 when the ABCs of Public Education accountability was first approved, and the 2002-2003 scores prove it.

"These gains prove that our commitment to protecting our investments in education is paying off," said Gov. Mike Easley.

Officials say student test scores are high and achievement gaps are closing which indicates ABC testing is paying off.

... NOISE continued from page 1

"I have heard from several innkeepers that the noise bothers their guests and that doesn't make Highlands a very attractive," said Commissioner Mike Cavender.

On the other hand, a rainy spring and summer – May through August saw 41.84 inches of rain, the fourth wettest summer trimester ever recorded in or around Highlands – has caused construction projects to fall behind.

Commissioners agree there has been confusion concerning the particulars of the ordinance and say homeowners and contractors need to be educated.

Concerning loud, disturbing and unnecessary noises, the ordinance reads:

The percentage of students performing at the proficient level, also considered grade level, is the highest in state history. Achievement gaps among different racial groups narrowed significantly and across all groups.

The ABCs of Public Education emphasizes accountability at the school level and instruction in basic, core subjects. The model uses end-of-grade tests in reading and mathematics to measure student achievement in grades 3-8 and prediction formulas for end-of-course tests for growth. It uses end-of-grade tests in grades 3-8 in reading, mathematics and computer skills for the performance composite at the elementary and middle school levels and end-of-course tests at the high school level.

At the high school level, the accountability measures are more numerous and include student performance on the 10 mandatory end-of-course tests. These are: Algebra I; Algebra II; Biology; Chemistry; Economics, Legal and Political Systems; English I; Geometry; Physical Science; Physics; and U.S. History.

Other measures include the percentage of students completing College/University Prep or College Tech Prep courses of study, change in the competency passing rate between grades 8 and 10, and the ABCs dropout rate.

... WOOLDRIDGE cont. from page 5

hers is too soft and Baby bear couldn't care less about comfort and just wants to lay down and get some sleep.

While the bears sleep, Frumpy comes home and sees that his house has been broken into. He finds the empty bottle of Louie XIV as well as the empty paella bowls. He screams out in anger, reaching for his .357 Magnum revolver. (Here, a picture of grumpy Frumpy brandishing a scary gun. Hold child close and read on.)

Frumpy's scream awakens Mamma and Papa bear but they are unable to wake up Baby bear as he is too blitzed on brandy to budge. Leaving him, they leap out the bedroom window. Again, do not become alarmed. Baby bear has read my handbook, "How to Escape the Child Welfare Department Without Getting Killed." He will be OK.

After doing the "Someone has been sleeping in my bed" bit

twice, Frumpy finds Baby bear, still zonked out, and decides to call the police. While he is away, Baby bear awakens, finds his parents gone and heads for the bedroom window but is too fat to fit through the window opening and gets stuck. (Here, an inside picture of Baby bear's great big fanny stuck in the window. Point and laugh, please.)

Meanwhile, Frumpy is so relieved that the bears didn't find his hidden moonshine stash, he decides to let baby bear go. They are all eventually reunited and live happily ever after. (Here, a big sigh.)

No more burglaries for Baby bear until he loses some weight and completes the 12 step program.

And I always like to leave parents who buy my books with a statement of moral logic, like "Never leave the house with a bear behind."

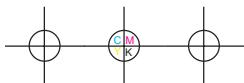
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• Book Review •

When Bad Things Happen To Good People – by Harold S. Kushner

By Katie Brugger

Contributor

I've heard of this book for many years, but I thought that it was entitled "Why Bad Things Happen To Good People." As I read this slim volume I realized that one word makes all the difference.

The short review: Kushner says that "— it happens," and the only thing we can do, since — it has happened, is to ask, "What can we do with the — it?" Of course he doesn't actually use the word "— it." He says it's Fate, or chance, or randomness, or chaos. He hasn't a clue as to *why* bad things happen.

It seemed to me that Kushner's main goal with this book was to convince people not to blame God when something bad happened in their life. A natural response to a tragedy is "Why would God let this happen?" But Kushner asserts that God cannot be responsible for the events in our lives because of two reasons: God cannot intervene in the world and humans were given free will. Either Fate or bad people cause all bad things.

Kushner concludes from an analysis of the Book of Job that either God is good and just or God is all-powerful, but God can't be both. If bad things happen to good people and an all-powerful God *allows* them to happen, then God is not good or

just. Kushner declares he would rather have a God who was powerless but good. For those readers who believe that God intervenes in the events of the world, Kushner makes a convincing case for why that intervention would be a bad idea. Life is livable because the laws of nature are consistent and dependable. We know we can always depend on gravity as a constant, but what if God suspended gravity to keep some "good" person from hurting themselves in a fall?

Another common response to tragedy is to blame ourselves. "This is God's way of punishing me," or "I have sinned," or "I should have done something differently." Kushner argues that, since God can't act in this world, bad things cannot be a judgment from God. He also suggests that we have an overblown sense of our power, so we are wrong to take the responsibility for what happens to us (although how this squares with his assertion that humans have free will and are responsible for causing bad things is never made clear).

Kushner's conclusion: "God does not cause our misfortunes. Some are caused by bad luck, some are caused by bad people, and some are simply an inevitable consequence of our being human and being mortal, living in a world of inflexible natural laws. The painful things that happen

to us are not punishments for our misbehavior, nor are they in any way part of some grand design on God's part. Because the tragedy is not God's will, we need not feel hurt or betrayed by God when tragedy strikes. We can turn to Him for help in overcoming it, precisely because we can tell ourselves that God is as outraged by it as we are."

I found myself wondering how this was (is?) such a popular book. It seems to me that many people, particularly Christians, would find the portrayal of God in this book to be contrary to their beliefs. Kushner's God is powerless. The events of this world are not God's will or part of God's design. God can only stand by and watch creation unfold and yet, somehow, "be there for us" when we turn to "Him." This brings me to another contradiction in Kushner's thinking: if God can't intervene in the world, then how is God capable of doing the things that Kushner attributes to "Him": comforting the afflicted, giving courage and strength where before there was none, motivating people to enter medical research or service professions, etc.

There were a couple of interesting discussions. The first is about why pain and suffering exist. He argues that without pain we would not be able to exist in this world of survival for very long. As my husband says,

"The reason blood is colored red is to get your attention." Pain alerts us to a problem. Someone I know once pointed out to me the difference between pain and suffering: pain is physical; suffering is psychological. I think this is a useful distinction. Kushner claims to answer why there is pain and suffering, but he really only addresses the physical. Suffering occurs when we can't find meaning in our pain and our tragedies, and Kushner tells us there is no meaning. There is only meaning in what we do *about* them, he contends.

The second discussion I found interesting is about Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden. His theory is that eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is a metaphor for the evolutionary arrival of homo sapiens; that significant moment when we were no longer animals, but humans. Animals cannot make moral choices because they have no knowledge of good and evil. It is precisely this knowledge that makes us human. I have long embraced this idea but what followed was new to me: God's admonishments to Adam and Eve as they were expelled from the garden are not punishments, but statements of fact about what it means to be human.

1. You must leave the garden

▪ See REVIEW page 19

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• Movie Pix •

The movie guy presents:

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Guys and Dolls

Starring Marlon Brando, Jean Simmons, Vivian Blaine and Frank Sinatra

This is THE best adaptation of a stage show musical-turned-to-film. It's fun, fast, cute and brilliantly choreographed by Michael Kidd, a genius in his field. Based on stories by Damon Runyon, the show features minor thugs using a hilarious form of charm school dance (Fat Tonic in the TV show "Simpsons" is undoubtedly based on this idea.)

The story line. Hey, it's a musical, there is no storyline. Well, there sort of is, but it's incidental to the show. After a really cool, stylized walk through New York we meet Nathan Detroit (Sinatra) searching for a badly needed grand to finance a crap game. Sky Masterson (Brando, who can't sing a lick, but otherwise does a good job) takes a bet for the said grand that he can't convince Salvation Army Sergeant Sarah Brown (Simmons) to accompany him on a date to Havana.

Meanwhile, Detroit and longtime fiancée Adelaide (brilliantly played by Vivian Blaine. She does the whole show, including the songs, in a flawless, whiney, annoying accent that is perfect for the part) struggle to set a wedding date, as they have been engaged for 14 years now.

Some how or another, all ends up happily ever after, but not before you get a chance to see a bunch of neat stage sets, some good dance numbers and hear



Stuart Armor

some well done, catchy songs, including Stubby Kaye's "Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat." (Kaye as Nicely Nicely is far and away the best actor in the show.)

Some critics complained the movie was "too stagy." I confess, I'm not exactly sure what that means. It's a movie of a 50s Broadway musical, so anyone looking for realism is obviously missing the point. Seems to be some debate about whether or not Jean Simmons' singing voice was dubbed in, if so, they did a good job of it.

Other good stage-to-screen musicals worth seeing are "My Fair Lady," (winner of like a million Oscars), "Fiddler on the Roof," "West Side Story," and my all time favorite, "Little Shoppe of Horrors." These and about 5,000 other titles are available at Movie Stop Video.

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Each week Stuart Armor, owner of the Movie Stop in Mountain Brook Center, critiques a video for our readers.



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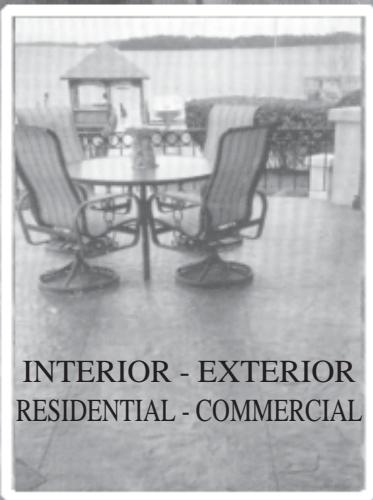
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• Florist Tips & Tricks •

Arranging Flowers in Clear Vases and Containers

by Jan Burchett
Best of the Bunch Florist



Clear vases are very popular now. Arranging flowers in them can be a challenge as stems below the water level can be seen. Making the arrangement look attractive, both above and in the vase, is always your goal.

As you prepare to arrange the flowers in your vase, clean the rim of the vase with glass cleaner or soapy water and dry thoroughly. Fill the vase with fresh tepid water until it is a few inches from the top of the vase.

Adding flower food is always a plus and there are many commercially available brands. Check with your florist if you have questions or want a recommendation.

After the water is added, dry the rim completely. Use clear tape (either 1/4" tape from a florist or regular Scotch Tape (registered trademark) can be used) to form a grid on the top of the vase and extend the tape 1/2 to 1 inch down the sides of the vase. The grid should form 1/2 to 3/4 inch squares on the top of the vase. After you have made sure all strips are secure and have rubbed out any "bubbles" in the tape run the tape around the rim of the vase to secure the ends of the strips forming the grid.

Now you are ready to begin your arrangement. Place your greens in first. Make sure there are not any leaves that extend down into the water. Before placing the greens in make sure to wipe all stems to remove any dirt and debris. You don't want to see that floating in your clean water. Form a criss-cross effect with your

foliage and flowers. This will help to hold your arrangement even more secure. Remember from a past tip that you always want to cut your stems on an angle, never straight across.

When using a glass bowl, container or compote that is shorter than a tall vase, you can use floral foam to secure the stems. Floral foam is commonly called Oasis which is a patented brand name.

Place a piece of foam into the container so that at least 1/2 to 1 inch is above the container. This allows you to arrange the flowers at an angle and your arrangement will look fuller.

Now the interesting part. Crumple up some clear cellophane wrap and carefully wedge it between the glass and the floral foam. Use a generous amount and compact it all around the floral foam. Make sure you hide the foam completely on all sides.

Use a pencil or wire coat hanger to push the wrap down to the bottom so everything is covered and hidden. This method is inexpensive and safe for even your best cut glass or crystal.

After the foam is completely covered on the sides only, add water to the container. Tape the foam in place with clear tape. Make an X with tape or run two parallel strips to hold the foam in place. Don't forget to dry the edge of the container completely before taping. Now you are ready to arrange your masterpiece!





• Life Under Construction •

Life without regrets

with Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

OK. By now you are not patiently waiting for me to eloquently write the perfect phrase or sentence that you might enjoy if you were reading a Pulitzer Prize Winning article. No, that is not my goal. Besides, I am not that talented. I'm not offering any earth shattering advice that will rock your world. I'm just contributing some humble ramblings that might make your life a tad easier to construct. Just bits and pieces about life in general. Often by incomplete sentences. Then I just get out of your way, so you can think about it.

It's a good thing I decided to turn the volume of my life down last week because it helped prepare me for the bad news I received this week. This news was a bit tough for me to handle and the edges were very rough. I'm reminded that we don't live in a padded world.

It's rather strange because as I was sitting down in my living room to do a bit of journaling about my situation, I heard a thump on my glass door. Sure enough, a bird ran into the glass. He must have seen the reflection of the bird feeder. Instead of receiving a treat he met with a big surprise and fell to the ground. There was no movement. Not exactly a nice sight right before I was trying to collect my thoughts. I just couldn't sit and look at him lying on the deck, so I left. And then it hit me as if I had run into a wall. Sometimes you run into someone or something that tries to stop you from loving and enjoying life. Instead we find that we fear it. We all know this feeling because it happens to all of us. We all have "stuff" to deal with. So I guess this article will be about moving forward with courage and grace, no matter what, and not having regrets.

Not having regrets for me has to do with prioritizing what I do and whom I let into my world. I've learned this lesson back in 1995 when I was flying out of San Francisco heading for Atlanta. I heard the pilot's voice say good morning. Following his greeting, the pilot announced his thirty years of flying



experience. I was flying a lot back then, and I never heard this before. He mentioned that he had turned the plane back towards San Francisco to attempt a landing. Everybody was listening intently now. He said, "The plane isn't behaving properly." Now I have heard people say that about children, but never planes.

In short, for the next 40 minutes we practiced crash landing techniques. The drill went as follows. "Put your head down between your legs, brace yourself, and whatever you do, don't look up." I had plenty of time to think about life, or rather about dying. I became clear about one thing.

I had regrets. That's when I learned the importance of setting priorities and to paying close attention to things in my life that were necessary and precious. What kind of choices are you making as you build your future? Remember choices become habits of the heart and they determine the quality of your life.

I am once again painfully aware of how critical it is to take time to get priorities clear. You will always have time for the most important things in life, but not if you choose the unimportant things first. Anything short of a conscious commitment to the important is an unconscious commitment to the unimportant. Achieving clarity with your decisions is part of living deliberately.

Remember, you are the architect of your future. Are your priorities in order?

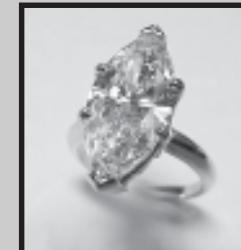
"The most important things in life aren't things." Anonymous

Dr. Maryellen Lipinski is a psychologist by profession and an international professional speaker. She coaches individuals to obtain their goals in life and works as a Realtor at Village Realty to help them find a home in these majestic mountains. Her first book, *Random Thoughts and Mine Always Are. Conscious Detours to Creative Power* will make you laugh, cry, and think! Her next book, *Life Under Construction...A Work In Progress* is due out in October! www.maryellenlipinski.com

Highlands' Newspaper - Friday, September 19, 2003 - Page 9

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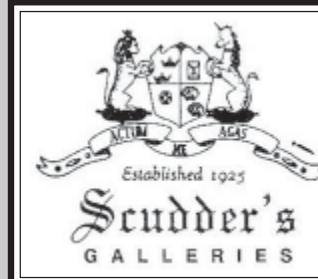
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The screenshot shows the Adobe Reader interface displaying the July 25, 2003 issue of the Highlands' Newspaper. The newspaper's masthead is visible at the top, followed by a table of contents and several news articles. The layout includes columns for text and images, typical of a digital newspaper format.

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• Cooking on the Plateau •

....From Thea's Kitchen

In celebration of peaches



Bryson's Food Store still has baskets of peaches for sale.

I am blessed to have a peach tree in my backyard that produces the sweetest peaches I think I have ever eaten. And of all things – it is a white peach tree. That is why this recipe is a white peach recipe, but any peach by any other name will work just fine.

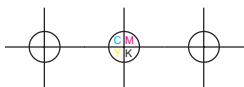
This has been a wonderful year for peaches, a bumper crop indeed. The "old timers" predict a difficult winter following a bumper crop season, but with peaches put up as chutney, you can enjoy these flavors, sweetness and heat through the winter months in this unforgettable chutney.

Thea's White Peach Chutney Yield: approx. 4 pints

2 quarts cut up peaches
5 medium thinly sliced apples
10 cloves garlic whole
2 Tbls. diced fresh ginger root
1/4 cup honey
1 cup dark brown sugar
1 cup raisins
1 cup minced Vidalia onions

1 pint apple cider vinegar
1 Tbls. cinnamon
2 teaspoons dry mustard
2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon dried red hot chili peppers, or 2 minced fresh red hot chili peppers

Combine all ingredients. Bring slowly to a boil and simmer uncovered, stirring occasionally for up to 4 hours. Refrigerate (for up to two weeks) or can. To can; wash and sterilize four (1 pint) jars and their lids. keep them on cookie sheet in a 250° oven until needed. Ladle boiling chutney into jars, filling within 1/8 inch from top. Wipe rims and seal. When cool, check seals and label. Store in a cool dark place.





Polish exchange student joins student body, enjoys Highlands



Maciek Golaszewski (left) doing classwork in Physics with Zack Woodcox.

**Story and Photo by Cole Berg
12th Grade**

Highlands school has welcomed many foreign exchange students from a variety of countries in past years, including Japan, Spain and Germany. This year Maciek Janusz Golaszewski from Olsztyn, Poland joins the Highlands School student body.

Maciek has many hobbies, including playing basketball and

soccer, listening to music, and creating graffiti. "In Olsztyn the government provides interested artists a wall specifically designated for a demonstration of their artistic talents," said Maciek adding, "Yes, I would be the happiest person alive if I had a wall" [to fill with graffiti here]. At Highlands School, he demonstrates his artistic ability through his art class. Art teacher Sallie Taylor says "Maciek's art is very free and flowing."

Maciek currently plays soccer for the Highlands School. Like most Highlands teenagers, Maciek's favorite American pastimes are watching movies and TV, playing basketball, meeting people, and hanging out. He hopes to play on the high school basketball team.

Maciek, who lives with his parents and older brother in Poland, is currently residing with the host family of Skip and LaDonna Keener. He says he thoroughly enjoys staying

with them. In January, he will move in with the Jim and Kim Lewicki family.

"I miss my family, friends, food, my bicycle, my room, my house, and lots of other stuff like that." Maciek says. During his residency in Highlands, he hopes to help the teams win games, learn English, learn about the American culture and "get lots of new experiences."

According to Maciek, school life in America is much different from that in Poland. There he is in a secondary school where, like here, he has a total of 35 class meetings a week. However, class attendance schedules in the two schools vary significantly.

At Highlands School most students take seven classes that meet five days a week each. Some days at his school in Poland Maciek attended eight classes; on others he attended only six. Although the daily class schedules in Poland vary, class meetings still add up to the 35 total meetings per week.

His school in Poland is also far larger than Highlands School, just as Olsztyn is a far bigger town than Highlands. "Highlands is more like a little village," he responded when asked how it

compares to Olsztyn.

Those interested in learning more about Maciek's school in Poland may log on to: www.vlo.olsztyn.pl. The Web page for Maciek's home school in Poland is linked to English teacher Beverly VanHook's homepage (www.geocities.com/bvhk12). Just log on to the page and click on the British flag to convert the page into English and learn about Maciek's home school.

Maciek began learning the English language only five years ago and has learned much since coming to Highlands. He likes the people here; "They are really friendly," he said.

Coming Up from pg. 1

Monday, Oct. 20

Soccer vs. Murphy (home) 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 21

PSAT

Saturday, Oct. 25

FALL FESTIVAL 5 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 27

Soccer at Blue Ridge (away) 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 29

Soccer vs. Swain (home) 4:30 p.m.

Middle School Student Government Association



New Middle School SGA officers this year are (back row left) vice president Greg Porter, treasurer Sayward Thompson, president Sally Wheeler and secretary Ashley Owens.

7th grade representatives include (middle row left) Luke McClellan, Savannah Clark, Katie Henderson, Andrew Billingsley, Will Mathowdis, Shelbi Chastain, Brie Schmitt and Lacey Tucker.

... Sewing continued from page 1

creator's own choosing. She cuts one type of material—often a denim fabric—for the outside of the bag and another type—an old T-shirt, for example—for the lining. She then sews the pieces together to create the handbag.

Pockets and handles of old jeans, beads, and lace give each bag a unique style. Ramsey says that if everything goes smoothly, each bag is made within 15-20 minutes.

The most frustrating part of the whole experience, says Ramsey, is when she rips materials, or the bag just doesn't look right. Even though these stressful times do occur, Ramsey takes pleasure in the thought that she's "making cool things," and as an afterthought, she jokingly added, "oh...and the money!"

Aside from money, Ramsey's motivation and inspiration have come from her mom, sisters and friends who admire her work.

"It's pretty cool just to know that you're making something that people actually want," Ramsey noted.

According to Anna Herz, the product is definitely something that 'people want.' When asked how the purse-sales were going, Anna responds, "They're going great. I just have one left right now...They're just so different!"

She says that she sees herself pursuing a career in design by going to college as a fashion/journalism major. She would like to work as an editor for a magazine such as *Vogue*.

For now, Ramsey plans to keep her "company" simple, and as for employees or partners in the near future she says, "Well, this has been a cool experience, and I've learned a lot. I'm really just playing it all by ear."

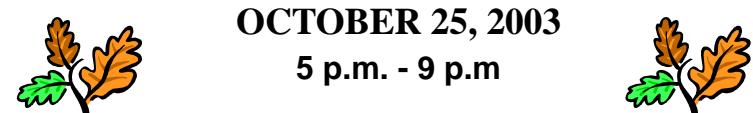
The demand for Ramsey's purses has been so great that Annawear is currently sold out, but Ramsey says she intends to make more.

The purses range in price from \$15-\$18, and Ramsey promises a style for everyone in the teen-adult age group.

FALL FESTIVAL

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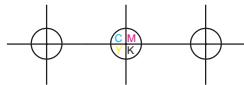


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Coming up at Highlands School

Monday, Sept. 22

Soccer vs. Andrews (home) 4:30 pm
Volleyball at Walhalla (away) 5:30 pm

Wednesday, Sept. 24

Soccer at Murphy (away) 6:00 pm

Thursday, Sept. 25

Volleyball at Rosman (away) 5:30 pm

Friday, Sept. 26

Make-Up Club and Fall Sports Pictures

Monday, Sept. 29

Volleyball at Rabun Gap (away) 4 pm

Tuesday, Sept. 30

Volleyball vs. Swain (home) 4:00 pm

Wednesday, Oct. 1

Soccer vs. Blue Ridge (home) 4:30 pm

Thursday, Oct. 2

Volleyball at Hiwassee Dam (away) 5 pm

Monday, Oct. 6

Soccer at Swain (away) 6:00 pm

Tuesday, Oct. 7

Fire Prevention Week
Volleyball vs. Rabun Gap (home) 4 pm

Eighth Grade NC Computer Tests

Wednesday, Oct. 8

Fire Prevention Week
Soccer at Hiwassee Dam (away) 4:30 pm

Eighth Grade NC Computer Tests

Thursday, Oct. 9

Fire Prevention Week
Volleyball vs. Blue Ridge (home) 4 pm

Soccer vs. Rabun Gap (home) 4:30 pm

Friday, Oct. 10

Fire Prevention Week
Teacher Workday (No classes)

Monday, Oct. 13

Soccer vs. Hayesville (home)

Wednesday, Oct. 15

Soccer at Andrews (away) 6 p.m.

See COMING UP page 3

Ramsey Ashburn capitalizes on art of sewing

By April Hicks

10th Grade

There are many undiscovered talents that lie among the youth of Highlands School including the talents of outstanding guitarists, agile gymnasts, remarkable actors, and astonishing artists. Local sophomore Ramsey Ashburn adds her unusual gift to the list—the art of sewing.

Ramsey began sewing when she was in eighth grade and has since developed a talent for making such articles as shirts, handbags, and even skirts that she occasionally wears to school. In early summer, Ramsey approached local shop-owner and designer Anna Herz of Annawear, asking if she thought the purses would sell.

Anna thought the bags had potential, so Ramsey asked about selling them at Annawear. Anna readily agreed, and Ramsey sold



Ramsey Ashburn (right), pictured here with Annawear owner Anna Herz, shows off some of her work. Photo by: Melissa Warren

handbags throughout the summer—about six on her own time, and about six at Annawear.

Ramsey started making bags when the innovative youth needed an accessory to match her attire. "I

needed a purse to go with my outfit, so I made one," she said.

The bag-making process, which Ramsey taught herself, begins with two different types of material of the

See SEWING page 3

Highlands School Welcomes Six New Teachers

By Margie Potts

12th Grade

Highlands School has six new additions to the faculty this year. The new teachers include: Carol Bowen, Molly Jones, Carla Harris, Terry Harris, Adrian Dewhurst and Sim Hickman.

Principal Jack Brooks is proud of the new additions to his faculty. "I am excited to have found faculty members with a wide variety of backgrounds and teaching experiences," he said.



Carol Bowen, a native of Vienna, Georgia, is new to the Highlands School media center. Presently, she says, she is "really enjoying" her job and is "looking forward to getting

to know the students better."

Bowen has made changes in the look and feel of the library already. Highlands Furniture donated a very large rug, which children sit on during reading time. Other changes include fresh coats of paint and a new color scheme, lamps, plants, and a pet frog named Fred who gets everyone's attention.

Bowen has an Education Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) in instructional technology/media.

Her goals at Highlands School include making the media center as friendly as possible, teaching students research skills, promoting reading, assisting students and teachers with technology needs and building a collection of materials needed to meet the needs of the students.

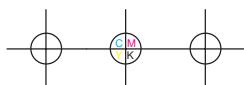
Bowen says, "Highlands is one of the most beautiful places God created! I hope to be here until I retire!"

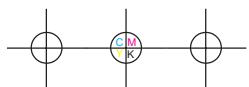
Teaching first grade this year is Molly Jones. Jones grew up in Sampson County, NC, and attended East Carolina University. She earned a BA in elementary education from the Methodist College in Fayetteville.



Jones has taught fourth grade at Sherwood Park Elementary in Fayetteville and second grade at Beaver Dam Elementary in Roseboro, NC. She says, "I really loved teaching second grade, but first grade is so exciting! You really get a chance to see enormous growth in both levels."

See NEW TEACHERS page 2





...New Teachers continued from page 1

Each week Jones sends home a newsletter informing parents of weekly and upcoming events. She has developed first grade centers for topics such as spelling, counting and colors.

When she is not at school, her hobbies include: reading, dancing, being with family, and traveling. Ms. Jones's husband is currently an assistant golf professional at Wade Hampton Golf Club in Cashiers

"Highlands is a wonderful community in which to teach," said Jones. "It is a very friendly and family-oriented place, which is important when teaching the children. Community involvement is awesome and truly makes an impact on the children."

A husband and wife team joined the exceptional children's program at the Highlands School this year. Dr. Terry Harris and wife Carla work with high school and elementary students, respectively.

Carla Harris attended college in Alabama before moving to Dallas where she began her studies in education and her teaching career. She taught at Weaver Elementary in a suburb of Dallas for two years and has experience working with exceptional children in kindergarten through fifth grade. She holds certification in exceptional children education for pre-kindergarten through twelfth and elementary education for K-8.

She said their love for cool weather and friendly people brought them to the mountains of Western North Carolina. "My husband and I want to teach here at Highlands forever, or until we retire," she said.

Carla Harris is enjoying moving into and decorating her new home and



hopes to find time for her hobbies, including watercolor, paper crafts and printmaking.

Dr. Terry Harris holds certification for exceptional children generic at all-levels pre-K through twelfth grade. He holds special certifications as Support Group Facilitator—American Cancer Society, Therapist—Charter Member of American Association of Christian Counselors, and Non-Violent Crisis Intervention—Crisis Prevention Institute of America.

Harris attended the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor where he received a bachelor's degree in political science/music. He also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, receiving a master of Divinity as well as a Ph.D. in psychology counseling.

Harris is originally from Dallas but has also lived in Colorado as well as Nebraska. Just out of high school he was drafted to play baseball for the Houston Astros, but declined the offer in favor of a college scholarship. After college, he traveled for a year with the contemporary Christian music group Truth. Before becoming a teacher he worked as a pastor and as a minister of worship.

Harris taught severe and profoundly mentally and physically handicapped students in Garland, Texas as well as autistic students with

behavioral problems. Harris said, "I enjoy teaching and counseling people who have to overcome a lot of challenges in their lives."

His hobbies include: golf, singing, reading, Play Station II, and watching the wildlife from the rocker on his deck.

Harris says, "I see a long and fruitful future at Highlands School. I look forward to watching the students' progress through the different grade levels in one school. It should be fun watching the students from Kindergarten to Twelfth grade."

Adrian Dewhurst is another new addition to the faculty. This will be her first year as a teacher. She is currently working on achieving her teacher certification.

Dewhurst was born and grew up in Franklin and attended Bryan College in Tennessee on a soccer scholarship. She earned a degree in sports medicine.

In addition to teaching and taking classes, she is also planning her wedding. She will marry David Holt December 20 in Franklin.

As a certified athletic trainer and emergency medical technician, Dewhurst worked at Western Carolina University as an athletic trainer for the men's basketball, baseball and football teams before pursuing a career in teaching. This year at Highlands School she teaches biology, chemistry, physics and anatomy and physiology.

Dewhurst says, "I've really enjoyed my teaching experience so far. I love the size of the school, the faculty and staff and all of its students."

Her hobbies include soccer, rock climbing, kayaking, backpacking,

snowboarding, and mountain biking. She also enjoys playing the violin and piano.

As for a future at Highlands School Dewhurst says, "I am not really sure at this point, but I see the possibility of remaining here for a while."

Teaching US history and world history this year is Sim Hickman. Hickman holds North Carolina Teacher Certification in social science grades six through twelve.

Hickman was born in Chicago, IL, and grew up in Washington, DC. He attended Frostburg State University, earning a BS in political science with a minor in economics. He also holds a BA in secondary social science education.

Hickman says the reputation of the school, administration, faculty, and students brought Hickman to Highlands. His past teaching experiences include seventh and eighth grade at Blue Ridge School and four years as an eighth grade teacher at Summit Charter School.

Hickman has created a great new way of keeping up with homework. Each week he hands out a paper listing all graded assignments for the week and requires students to check off what they have completed. At the end of the week, the check-off sheet is turned in, along with the completed assignments. "It's a good way for kids to start becoming organized," Hickman said.



Hickman enjoys music, camping, mountain biking, and snowboarding. On thinking about a future at Highlands School, he said, "I see a long rewarding career with many new friends along the way."

The Mountain Trail pullout
is produced by the
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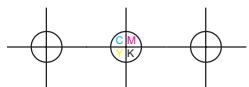
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Teddy Bear Picnic

Great Beginnings students at Highlands school hosted a teddy bear picnic at Harris Lake recently. Their guests were their third and fourth grade reading buddies.

Great Beginnings took this trip to wrap up their three week study on bears. Before the picnic great beginnings sorted, graphed, measured, and wrote about their teddy bears. Everyone had a great time even the ducks at the lake.

Photo by Jodie Zoellner



Highlands community finally has 'home' field at Buck Creek

The fruits of about three years of labor finally paid off when the Buck Creek Fields were dedicated, Friday, Sept. 12.

The Zachary sisters – who sold the county thier family homestead below market value so the children of Highlands could finally have some "home" fields to play on – Macon County Commissioners, Town Board members, parents,

teachers, students and members of the Highlands Recreation Committee all turned out for the celebration.

The Highlands School band got things going, varsity cheerleaders added some pep and a luncheon buffet was enjoyed by all. Monday, the school booster club supplied free hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks in honor of the first soccer games to be played on the field.



Highlands School varsity cheerleaders are ready for the busy sports season ahead.



Boosters, Claire Knapp & Jan Lard man the concession booth.

**"Finally,
'home' games
can be
played at
home."**

– Jan Lard



Commissioner Rickdy Bryson commended everyone who helped make the Buck Creek Fields a reality.



The Highlands School band led by Ms. Teem, added a festive note to the occasion.



On Monday, Sept. 15, the Buck Creek Fields were christened with two soccer games and free hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks. The middle school soccer team played hard against Cullowhee Valley but lost 6-0. The varsity soccer team whupped Hiwassee Dam 13-0.



• Hikes around the Plateau •

Panthertown Valley continued

By Leah Ferree

Contributor

This week, I have put together a few suggestions of spots you should include when you explore Panthertown Valley. Some of the more popular attractions in the valley include Granny Burrel Falls, Schoolhouse Falls, and Little Green Mountain. You can actually hit all three of these on the same 5.5 mile loop.

From the Salt Rock Gap Trailhead, pass through the service gate and continue on the road. Once you reach a split in the road, bear right. Keep in mind that this is a complete split in the road (actually leading three different ways). There will be other side trails before this one.

Once you take a right, you will continue on this path until you come to a little wooden bridge. As soon as you pass over the bridge, there will be a

smaller trail on your right. You will be able to hear Granny Burrel Falls by this point. You can either follow the trail to the left to the top of the falls, or you can bear right and go straight to the water. This waterfall is a nice calm one. However, there is not much of a sandy beach to sit upon. You can always sit on the rocks if you like.

To stay on the Little Green Mountain loop, follow the trail past Granny Burrel Falls, across the valley floor for 1.6 miles. Shortly after an uphill climb, bear left. Follow this trail up the south ridge of Little Green Mountain. (At some points, you may have to walk through a little bit of water depending on how much rain we have gotten). Once you reach the top of the mountain, you will be rewarded with a view of the valley floor beneath you.

The Little Green Mountain Trail is a moder-

ately easy one full of diverse landscapes. You will encounter lots of lush green ferns and mosses, one area full of nothing but pine trees, and yet another that contains all of the deciduous trees contained in this forest (including: poplar, oak, magnolia, birch, rhododendron, mountain laurel, and mossy Appalachian bogs).

Schoolhouse Falls is going to be off the trail that you have been continuing on. It will be about half way through the Little Green Mountain loop. You will be able to hear the falls from the trail and you will actually see one of the covered wooden campsites mentioned last week. You will have to take a side trail a few feet to actually get to the water, but once you are there, you will find a lovely sandy beach perfect for relaxing before you head back around on your loop. There is a little



Photo by Leah Ferree

Granny Burrel Falls at Panthertown Valley.

sandy island in the water on your left that you can easily walk out to. (The water will be about knee deep). You can also follow the path around to your right and actually walk behind the falls. If you choose to do this, please be careful of the fragile plant life around you. There is also a nice wading pool at the foot of the falls. The falls are about 12-15 feet and are not that powerful. This spot is a perfect little oasis in the middle of the forest and is usually a very quiet spot to spend the day.

To get back to the Salt Rock Gap Trailhead from Schoolhouse Falls, contin-

ue on the Little Green Mountain Trail. Once you get to the main road that you took past the service gate, take a left.

Remember to purchase a map before you go so that you do not end up getting lost. There are no signs except at the main gate and as you will find, there are many trails that may look the same.

Each week Leah will feature a hike on and around the Highlands Plateau.

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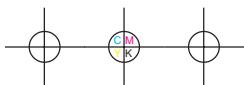
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... Spiritual message



God-barren Lives

Rev. Kim Tyree Ingram
Highlands United Methodist Church
Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1-20

I. In the scripture it tells us that God had closed Hannah's womb. The problem was not so much infertility as it was the absence of God in her life. She was in a place of crisis and not sure God was listening. Mary's (the mother of Jesus) womb was unexpectedly filled. Hannah's womb was unexpected empty. Mary was God-bearing, but Hannah was God barren.

Often in our lives when we go through crises or times of doubt and uncertainty, we question the existence or presence of God. We wonder if we cannot "feel" God in our lives that perhaps God has taken a break, walking down a different path. However, God never leaves us. We have the assurance of God's presence even when we can't feel it.

Can you identify times of highs and lows throughout your Christian journey? Have you had "mountain top" experiences with your faith? The memory of these will often sustain us through the "cave" or low experiences. Pray and wait.

II. There are also times when our lives are not in crisis, but we still have doubts about faith. We pray but don't feel like anyone is listening. We want some kind of response to our prayers or our faith practices, but none come. We want results from our ministry.

Hang in there. God hears our prayers. We may go through "dry spells" but one day the waters will flow again, our cups will run over. Advent is the coming of Christ. We have times when we must wait on God. However, because of our faith, we can wait empty and expectant, not empty and dry. John Wesley encouraged people to practice their faith until they had it and then they would practice their faith.

What are your spiritual practices that enable you to get through the dry times of your faith? Do you pray regularly, read scriptures, perform acts of service? Keep at it with the confidence of the blessings of Christ.

III. In verse 11, Hannah made a vow and asked that God remember her and give her a son and she would give him to the Lord all the days of his life. Remember in Hebrew scripture means not only to recollect, but to put back together again.

■ See SPIRITUAL 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 a.m.
Sunday night services every second and fourth Sunday at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

Buck Creek Baptist Church

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

Christian Science Services

On the corner of Spring and Third streets
526-2830
Sunday: Morning Service – 11 a.m.
Wednesday: Evening Service – 7 p.m.
Tuesday & Friday: Study room open 2-4 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627
Sundays: Worship – 10 a.m.; school & primary classes – 11 a.m.; Women's & Men's Org. – noon
Tuesdays: Women's Org. – 6:30 p.m.; Library – 6-8
Wednesdays: Boy Scouts of America mtg. – 6:30 p.m.; Young women's activities – 6:30 p.m.

Clear Creek Baptist Church

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

Community Bible Church

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Steven E. Kerhoulas, Pastor, 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east
Sundays: School – 9:30 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.
Tuesdays: Women's Bible Study – 9:45 a.m.
Wednesdays: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study – 6:30
Thursdays: Guys Sr. High Discipleship – 6 p.m.

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Rev. R. Michael Jones, D. Min., Rector: 526-2968
Sundays: Holy Eucharist – 8 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; Adult Class – 10 a.m.; Children's – 11 a.m.
Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo @ Hampton Inn – 8 a.m.
Wednesdays: Supper and Program @ First Presbyterian Church – 6 p.m.

Thursdays: Women's Cursillo Group @ Library – 9:30 a.m.; Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sundays: 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 p.m.
Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.; Student & Adult Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30

First Presbyterian Church

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175
Sundays: Worship – 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. (child care at 11 a.m.); School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Wednesdays: Children's Devotions – 9:30 a.m.; Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.
Thursdays: Bible Study – 10 a.m.
Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Highlands Assembly of God

Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7 p.m.

Highlands Seventh-Day Adventist Church

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

Highlands United Methodist Church

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

Lutheran Church of the Holy Family – ELCA

Rev. Pam Mitcham, Pastor,
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30 a.m.

Macedonia Baptist Church

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Rusty Wolfrey, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.; Choir – 6 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

Mountain Synagogue

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Friday: Sept. 12 Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

Rev. William M Evans, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Fridays: Mass – 9 a.m.
Saturdays: 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

Pastor Allen Melton
Sundays: Radio Program 1340 AM – 8:30 a.m.; School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.; Evening – 6
Aug. 31: Rev. Melvin Shuler, a pentecostal preacher will preach. For more information call 526-3212.

Shortoff Baptist Church

Pastor Rev. Baker Crane
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7 p.m.

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Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin

526-9769
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time)
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

Westside Baptist Church

Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby
Sundays: Fellowship – 11 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.

Whiteside Presbyterian Church in America

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



... REVIEW continued from page 6

and you will know that you will die. Only humans know they will die and it is the knowledge of our death that gives meaning and value to life.

2. The woman will have pain in childbirth. The human head has increased to the upper limit in size that is possible to safely be born through the average woman's pelvis, which causes more pain for humans than for other animals in birth, but this large head is necessary for our intellect to exist.

3. You will work for your food. Animals follow instinct to eat but humans create agriculture and industry and painting and poetry to eat.

4. There shall be desire and tension between man and woman. There is a perfect description of marriage.

Kushner was motivated to write this book because his son was born with a disease that causes premature aging, and he knew by the time the boy was three that he would be "abnormal" all of his life until he died sometime in his early teens. Kushner wants to refute all of the ways in which people torture themselves in grief. He wants to offer only that which is comforting. He continually disparages theology as an empty intellectual response to suffering, but in my mind, if you believe in God, theology is a necessary element in the answer to the question of human suffering.

The reason I read this book is that I believe that it is essential for a theology to be able to explain *why* bad things happen to good people. I knew Kushner was a rabbi, so I

expected an explanation rooted in Jewish theology. I personally find it strange that someone is able to believe that God created the world and at the same time believe God is not in any way responsible for what happens. Can you imagine a manufacturer claiming in court, "I may have built this product but I am not responsible for any malfunctions"? When a Ford Pinto exploded upon rear impact, Ford could have claimed, according to Kushner's logic, that once the car left their assembly plant they could no longer intervene in its makeup so they were not responsible for anything that happened to it. We hold humans responsible for their creations, but we are to give God a pass?!

It seems to me that the only way to have a God worthy of the name is

for everything that exists and everything that happens to be God's will and God's responsibility. How could an infinite being not know everything that will ever be in the whole course of time? How could a Being capable of creating this universe be powerless over that which flowed from Itself? Yet Kushner thinks that absolving God of all responsibility will make us feel better. Relax, he says, there is no meaning to what happens to you, fate and chance and chaos are in control. Wow, I'm really comforted now. If I knew someone suffering from loss, I'd give him or her another book. (Available at the Hudson Library, call letters 296.3K)

Katie Brugger is the co-author of *The Game of God*, available at the Hudson Library.

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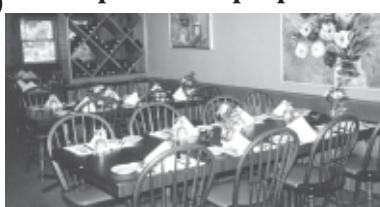
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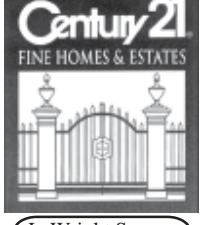
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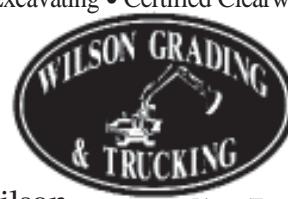
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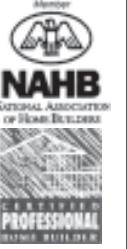

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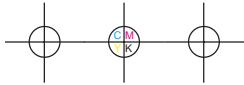

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• Obituaries •

Julena Steinheider Duncombe

Julena Steinheider Duncombe, age 91, of Austin, Texas and a summer resident of Highlands, died Saturday, September 13, 2003 in a Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Born in Dorchester, Nebraska, Mrs. Duncombe was employed with the US Naval Observatory for 31 years and was assistant editor of Celestial Mechanics Magazine. She was a member of the Congregational Church in Goehner, Nebraska.

Mrs. Duncombe was also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the American Astronomical Society. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Raynor Lockwood Duncombe;

step son Raynor Bailey Duncombe and wife Janice of Middleburgh, New York; grandchildren, Raynor Luccioni Duncombe and wife Heidi of Charlotte, NC and Christina Luccioni Duncombe of Williamsburg, Virginia. She was the daughter of the late Frederick and Ella Beender Steinheider. Memorial services will be held on Saturday, September 20, at 11 a.m. in the Bryant Funeral Chapel, Highlands, NC.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorials be made to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, P.O. Box 190, Highlands, N.C. 28741 or to the charity of ones choice. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Harris "Dave" Clary

Harris Dave Clary, age 57, of Highlands, NC, died Monday, September 15, 2003 in the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was the son of Thomas Hudson and Thelma Harville Clary. He owned and operated Highlands Furniture for 31 years and also owned the Radio Shack. He was a member of Highlands First United Methodist Church for 31 years, where he served on many committees.

He was Charter member of the Highlands Jaycees. He was past member of the Rotary Club, serving on the Planning Board for many years, and also served as Chairman. He served on the Cold Springs Association Board, and coached Little League Baseball. He

graduated from Augusta College.

He is survived by his wife, Rebecca Early Clary, son, Matt Clary, daughter, Amanda Blanton, grandson, Kodi Blanton, sister, Lucia and husband, Dan Formby, mother-in-law, Wilma Early. Memorial services were held Wednesday, September 17 at 11 a.m. at First United Methodist in Highlands with Rev. Kim and Eddie Ingram and Rev. Tom Steagald officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Highlands First United Methodist Church, PO Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741 or the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, PO Box 742, Highlands, N.C. 28741. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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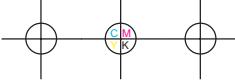
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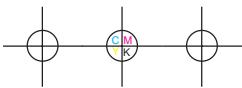
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Mountain Fresh
(828) 787-2002



Custom Home at Twin Falls. Mountain living is to be envied in the spacious 3 bedroom plus a loft, 3 ½ bath home that overlooks a rushing stream. Great room features a post & beam frame with a massive stone fireplace. Custom kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite countertops. Lower level has room for expansion and a huge two-car garage. Master suite opens on to the large wrap-around porch and has a wonderful custom bathroom. A lot of quality and a lot of house in this contractor's personal home. Offered at \$725,000.



Sherwood Forest. Three bedrooms, 2 ½ bath home features one level living and is located on a gentle knoll overlooking a Hemlock and Rhododendron glen with a small stream. Stone fireplace, wood floors, large covered porch with two-car garage. Offered at \$585,000.



Little Bear Pen. Mountain view from this charming home located on Center Drive. Wood floors, fireplace, knotty pine paneling. Offered at \$525,000.



Be King of the Mountain. Lovely home features large open plan with huge glass walls to take in the spectacular mountain vistas. Main level has great room plan with large kitchen, office and master bedroom suite. Lower level has family room with pool table, big screen TV, three guest rooms and two baths, exercise room and large deck. Offered unfurnished for \$1,750,000 or professionally furnished for \$1,890,000.



Sagee Woods. Brand new, three bedrooms, 3 ½ baths plus den and office. Huge rooms, three fireplaces, custom dream kitchen. Four-car garage. The finest quality from the stonework to the Australian cypress floors. Professionally landscaped. Offered at \$1,910,000.



Elegant Mountain Living. Quality custom home professionally decorated. Four bedrooms, three up/master suite down, three full baths, one half bath, Master suite has his-and-hers vanities and closets, whirlpool bath, separate tiled shower, private toilet area. Custom kitchen with stainless appliances, granite tops, large utility room with oversized pantry, bar sink and small refrigerator, wine cooler, large great room with stone fireplace, separate dining room, wrap-around front porch, screened porch off great room. Deck off master suite. Wood floors down, carpet upstairs. Two-car attached carport, security system. Shown anytime. Offered at \$798,000.



This home is a must-see! Spotless and well built, with plenty of decks and windows make this a great floor plan. Big stone fireplace in open great room, three bedrooms plus large office. On over half an acre of land with plenty of room for gardening. Offered at \$475,000.



Twin Falls. Brand new, spacious home features an open great room plan, gentle access, mountain view and stream on rear of lot. Custom finishes and good quality materials make for a spacious, enjoyable mountain retreat. Offered at \$975,000.



This four bedroom, two bath home has just been completely remodeled. It has two complete living areas and would be perfect for two families or would make a great rental. It is walking distance to Mirror Lake and to Town. Priced at \$550,000.

