Condominiums on Harris Lake possible

A multi-family complex on Harris Lake might not be dead in the water after all. At the Aug. 16 Town Board meeting, developer Bill Nellis convinced commissioners that the four, four-plex buildings and one single-family home on 4.4 acres on Harris Lake and its “Picnic Park” deeded to the town was the lesser of two evils. But more importantly, he said it was a wise use of the property.

“Four units in four buildings leaves more open space, more undisturbed forested areas and a public park on a waterfront,” said Nellis. “You won’t have the lake lined with massive houses. And if you think that scenario’s not going to happen, you have your heads buried in the sand.”

He said economics won’t...

With board OK, team in place at school

Just in time for the first day of school, Friday, Aug. 25, the last few vacancies at Highlands School have been filled. At Monday night’s Macon County School Board meeting, members took care of a lot of personnel business and filled several positions.

With board approval, Terry Bradley joins the administration as Assistant Principal at Highlands School. He takes over for Mark Thomas who went to Louisiana.

Bradley is married with two children, an eight-month old and an 11-year-old. He has a bachelor’s degree in physical education from the University of South Carolina and a masters in education administration and supervision. He was a teacher and coach in South Carolina from 1985-1999; assistant principal at Newberry Middle School in Newberry, S.C. from 2001-2004 and a biology teacher at Newberry High School from 2004-2006. He also taught at Walthala, S.C.

“You come to a point when you start looking for a good place to raise your kids and this is it,” he said Tuesday, at the “Meet the Principal” affair at Highlands School.
Riverwalk, revisited

Dear Editor,

Readings from recent newspaper stories regarding the Riverwalk development, concerns over a project of this magnitude voiced at the original Planning Board meetings, are, unfortunately, proving to be well founded.

In finance, there is a procedure called “Due Diligence” and, it refers to the process of research and analysis that takes place in advance of an investment. In lay terms, due diligence is the responsibility one has to investigate and identify issues, and due care is doing something about the findings from due diligence. From the issues raised in newspaper coverage of recent meetings of the Planning Commission and the Town Board concerning Riverwalk, it is becoming increasingly apparent that there was not a whole lot of due diligence involved in the genesis and subsequent approval of this development. I realize the advantage that exists in using hindsight to identify problems associated with Riverwalk, but on the rare occasion for Highlands of developing a subdivision with 68 homes carrying a potential resale value of $50,000,000 plus warrants a project retrospective.

Ecological concerns of silt runoff into Cullasajja River and ultimately to the already endangered Mirror Lake are now a reality. Despite remedying erosion control, the original silt genie cannot be put back in the bottle. The change in management responsibility at this time is also disturbing, in that the new principal managing partner, Don Chandler, is quoted as saying “This is the biggest project either Bill (Turrentine, brother of the original managing partner, Tom Turrentine) or I have ever been involved in and we think it’s the most important project to the town and will have the biggest impact.”

In addition to improved analysis of new constructions permits, the problems associated with this project require the Town Board revisit previous recommendations for a full time compliance officer, and adopt penalties for non-compliance that have significant financial impact. Currently, Zoning Administrator, Larry Gatenbein, has a duty full plate and can’t be expected to be fully responsible for compliance matters.

The Highlands Plateau has a finite area for residential development, so proposed future use of the plateau must be carefully monitored, and subject to the aforementioned “Due Diligence.”

Bill Conway
Highlands

O’Neil confused about the issues

Dear Editor,

I have little respect for someone who not only misquotes me in the newspaper but also has little respect himself for a community which is trying to protect itself against poor development planning.

He is putting his individual needs (i.e., perceived excessive noise) above the greater good of the community.

Our Board of Commissioners has bent over backwards to appease Bob O’Neil by changing the noise ordinance. The Town will interpret this ordinance in appropriate ways for the good of the storm watershed area, the protection of our streams and lakes and for the entire community regardless of the unreasonable musings of one unhappy individual who never seems satisfied.

Dr. Don Mullen
Mayor of Highlands

A heart-felt farewell

Dear Editor,

Let me be the first to publicly express my gratitude and appreciation to outgoing school board chairman Kevin Corbin for his 23 years of service to the children of Macon County.

For the past eight years, it has been my pleasure to work with Chairman Corbin and the school board to ensure that the county and the school board together could build two new schools and renovate numerous others, such as East Franklin Elementary. Chairman Corbin’s ability to bring our school district to 7th out of 115 school districts in computer connectivity is evidence of his skill in working together with the commissioners and other stakeholders to provide top quality education for Macon County students.

I wish the best to Kevin, Beth, and their family in their new business venture. I know that the children of Macon County will be foremost in the heart of Kevin Corbin. A heartfelt thank-you.

Allan Bryson
MC Commission Chairman

LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR POLICY

We reserve the right to edit submissions.
Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands’ Newspaper.
Please email letters by Monday at 5 p.m.
There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.
Where Are They Now?

- Part 2 -

The Cox brothers

By Susanna Forrester

Reporter

Growing up in Highlands doesn’t always prepare you for the rest of your life, but it doesn’t limit the places you can go in life, either, said the Cox brothers.

“It was a unique way to grow up—small school, everyone knows each other, everybody who wants to can play varsity sports,” said Dr. Christopher Cox, a professional photographer who divides his time between Scaly Mt., NC and New York City. “One of Talbot’s cameras, a 1968 Leica M4, given to me by my mother, Kandi, continues to be one of my main cameras to this day.”

Reuben Cox attended Highlands School from kindergarten until 10th grade. Then in September 1988 he enrolled at The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, N.C. where he graduated in the spring of 1990. He studied photography from 1990 to 1994 at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City.

Both Cox brothers have distinct memories about their childhood experience in Highlands. “I grew up in a 1950s log cabin in Buck Creek that was built by the local logging company for dances. My father painted, and drove an Austin Healey; my mother was a school teacher,” said Cox. “I didn’t know what decade it was. I was a happy child.”

“Highlands is clearly a singular place. It’s beautiful and fun, as well as incredibly safe for kids,” said Dr. Cox. “One time a fellow physician asked me if I grew up in a safe place.”

Both Cox brothers are still in touch with their childhood friends and relate to others who had different backgrounds than their own.

Dr. Cox’s brother, Reuben, took a more artistic path and gathered much of his inspiration from his childhood in Highlands. He can name off a number of Highlands photographers who lived in the old Talley homestead in Buck Creek, including the one of the oldest houses in Highlands,” said Cox. “One of Talbot’s cameras, a 1968 Leica M4, given to me by my daughter, Kandi, continues to be one of my main cameras to this day.”

When home from college, I would make regular visits to the home of the photographer, W. Burton Talbott, who lived in the old Talley homestead in Buck Creek.

Obituary

Pauline McDermott Carlson

Mrs. Pauline McDermott Carlson, age 85, of Grace Lane, Franklin, NC, died Friday, August 11, 2006 at her residence.

Born on September 11, 1920 in Putnam, CT, she was a daughter of the late Thomas James and Mildred Shepard McDermott. Mrs. Carlson was a graduate of the Cumberland School of Nursing in Brooklyn, NY, was a registered nurse, and a nurse practitioner. She worked her entire life at military hospitals.

She is survived by a daughter, Judy Michaud and her husband, Louie, of Highlands, NC; a sister, Ruth Fenimore of Riverdale, CA; a brother, Rowland McDermott of Warner Robbins, GA and Franklin, NC; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Frances “Bob” Carlson who died in 2002, and a daughter, Patricia Ann Hann.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 1131, Fairfax, VA 22038-1131.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Country Club Properties

Call Pam Taylor, anytime.
(cell) 342-6988, 526-9027, 526-2520

Laurel Branch at Skyline

This beautiful home, tucked away in Laurel Falls at Skyline, is very sophisticated yet charmingly rustic. Bright, open plan with top of the line kitchen appliances, dining and great room with cathedral ceilings, open and covered decks, guest quarters, a master suite to die for on nearly 2 acres with 2-car garage with apartment. Offered at $1,495,000.

On Apple Lake!

Three-bedroom, 2-bath home on two levels. Cathedral ceilings, stone fireplace, spacious decks, two-car garage and gorgeous landscaping. Offered at $12 million.

Joe Webb Cabin & Stone House!

A complete remodel and a 2002 addition all in one! Cathedral ceilings, walk-in closets, wet bar, porch, Four bedrooms, 4 baths, close to town in Webmount. Includes guest house, waterfall, small pond and stream on 2.18 beautiful acres with gated entrance. Top-of-the-line appliances complete the package including two Bosch dishwashers and 4 fireplaces! Offered at $1,395,000.

Reduced to $2.995 million

This remarkable new home allows owners and guests ample space to enjoy the view of Whiteside Mountain and a mountain stream. The attention to detail is obvious from the entrance to the lower level living area. Complete with glass elevator, 2 kitchens, oversize 2-car garage, wood, Travertine & tile coloring, 3 fireplaces and more. In Highlands’ Point. Now offered at $2.995 million.

Reduced to $479,000

Tucked away in charming Highland Hills, this 3-bedroom, 2-bath is ready for occupancy after an extensive remodel. New front and back porches, wood floors, stone fireplace and garage. Offered at $479,000 from $499,000. Must see to appreciate!

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For the past 21 years, Shiraz has had prominence in the Highlands, N.C. area as the ultimate resource for genuine, hand-knotted Oriental rugs. Shiraz has built a reputation that is second to none.

Hand Cleaning, repairing and appraisals, too.

WE GUARANTEE OUR QUALITY AND YOUR SATISFACTION.

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Prosper in 2006! Advertise in Highlands' Newspaper

Toilet humor

I am calling you to tell you that you are my favorite writer. I never miss reading your column and I think you are the cleverest person I know.” I could feel my head swelling beyond belief. She went on and on about how great I am. Who is this lady who loves my prose so much she has called to shower me with continuous compliments? Just when I thought I couldn’t feel more pompous, she said, “But I have a problem with some of the stuff you write about. Why do you sometimes use toilet humor in your stories? I don’t like toilet humor and it is the only thing that turns me off about you. It is degrading and you are worthy of better.”

I sat in silence, my grin having turned to shock. My mind raced for a clever answer that would let me off the hook and, at the same time, please her. In less than two minutes, she had managed to inflate my ego to the top of the scales and then trash it. Women, in general, are very good at that. Even now I am not sure what my answer was but I think it had the word “duh” in it somewhere. Then, to further freak me out, she told me who she was, a lady of elegance and some prominence in our community who shall remain anonymous. Well, maybe I’ll tell you who she is if you pay me.

After the phone call, I sat and pondered my plight. I so much wanted to please her but to give up toilet humor and displease all my toilet humor fans may be more than I can give. Such is the plight of a satire writer.

During the three years of writing for Highlands' Newspaper, I have managed to insult, embarrass, degrade and make fun of every occupation, politician and religion in our community. Nothing is sacred. While it’s all done in fun, not everyone agrees. I once had so many people mad at me I formed the “Mad at Fred” club so they could gather together and stick needles in a small Fred doll. Realtors and construction companies come to mind. It helped.

I wanted to call my fan back and tell her that my answer was but I think it had the word “duh” in it somewhere. Then, to further freak me out, she told me who she was, a lady of elegance and some prominence in our community who shall remain anonymous. Well, maybe I'll tell you who she is if you pay me.

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There is no justification for Israel’s retributive atrocities in Lebanon. As a Jew, I am ashamed. As a human being, I am appalled.

It demonstrates that, when threatened with obliteration, any nation-state is capable of unfettered violence.

But as a fellow-Jew, although not a religious one, I expect more respect for human life from my co-religionists. Just as I always expect more from my adopted country, the United States.

There may come a time when Israel’s Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and his cabinet will be tried as war criminals by the International Criminal Court at The Hague.

It’s true that Hezbollah provoked the Israeli response by kidnapping two of its soldiers and killing eight others. There is even reason to believe that Hezbollah wanted a war with Israel.

It would have been in its interest to engage Israel in hostilities, hoping that Iran and/or some of the Arab countries would join in a jihad against the Jews. Instead we just have many innocent civilians dying on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border.

What is stunning to me is that Olmert actually believed he could annihilate Hezbollah by a military campaign. Even if Israel were able to kill every single member, new recruits would spring up in a matter of weeks. Syria or Iran would replace destroyed armaments almost as fast.

So I ask myself, what were they—the Israeli leaders—thinking? Were they thinking at all? Meanwhile, the United States colluded with Israel, its “war on terror” blinding it to the deep-seated hatred it was stoking on the Arab street.

As I write this, the 48-hour bombing cessation is being widely ignored by the Israeli Air Force. Innocents continue to die.

The only hope I can muster is that some sort of comprehensive accord can be worked out, with a robust international force on the southern Lebanese border, Hezbollah disarmed, and the democratically-elected government in Beirut bolstered by aid from Europe and the U.S.

But Hezbollah willingly disarming seems like a pipedream to me. And I doubt Israel would agree to any terms while Hezbollah remains armed to the teeth.

The worst-case scenario is a much wider war, with Iran allied with Hezbollah and the United States drawn in by its alliance with Israel.

It would make the Iraq war look like an overnight skirmish.

One of the things that this latest deadly conflict emphasizes is the brutality and futility of most wars. No matter how finely-tuned and accurate the missiles may be, countless civilians will be killed.

The more sophisticated the weapon, the more civilians will die. This would be especially true, of course, for nuclear weapons. And an
Ex-users discuss ‘life-after’ drugs

By Susanna Forrester

Ex-users discuss ‘life-after’ drugs

By Susanna Forrester

The League of Women Voters of Franklin held a forum on Thursday, Aug. 10 to discuss drug problems and their solutions, such as the newly opened Oxford House, a shelter for women recovering from addiction.

Guest speakers included Lt. Brian Ledford of the Macon County Sheriff’s Department, and Jim Bottomlee, Hospital and Institutions Representative for Narcotics Anonymous.

“As long as drugs are here the problems associated with them are going to be present,” said Ledford. “Meth is the drug of choice for this area. 90 to 95 percent of drug cases in this area are meth related.”

NC laws have recently been enacted that keep pills containing oxycodone behind the counter, so that buying them requires a person to be at least 18-years-old and to provide a signature. Ledford said that once other states enact similar laws “it’s not going to be economical” for meth users to make the drug. “They’ll have to travel so far to get the ingredients,” said Ledford.

Creating awareness has become a major part of Macon County’s drug enforcement program. Store owners have been schooled about suspicious buying habits, and community members are encouraged to call in if they suspect something is going on around their neighborhood.

“People calling in about customers buying certain things in stores, strange smells in neighborhoods — we welcome those calls,” said Ledford.

Ledford also provided the number to CrimeStoppers. “Anything called into CrimeStoppers is investigated. You don’t have to leave your name. You don’t have to do anything,” he said. “It doesn’t matter if you live in the county or in Highlands or out of Franklin city limits.”

“Every law enforcement officer we have is out here doing what they can to make a difference and get it off the streets,” said Ledford.

The next step in battling drugs within a community is treating and rehabilitating addicts, and helping them to stay clean. Franklin has taken that step with their newly opened Oxford House.

Oxford House is not meant to be a rehabilitation facility or a treatment center, but a drug-free environment that is democratically self-run and self-supported that keeps former drug users off the street and gives them the ability to become apart of the community again.

“When I first moved here I was appalled that there was a lack of treatment facilities here,” said Bottomlee, who once found himself homeless, broke, and living in a car because of his drug addiction. “I think this is a beautiful well-run program. It puts responsibility back on the individual.”

Franklin’s Oxford House is strictly for women, and many of the women coming into the home have nothing but the clothes on their backs. Each woman is required to do certain chores, and those who don’t do their share of the work are heavily fined. Most of the time residents are users who have already had a couple of weeks of clean time, after having gone through a detox program in a correctional facility or a hospital.

“They can stay however long they need to,” said Bottomlee. “But if you use you get an eight-minute warning. You’ve got eight minutes to pack your bags and get out the door.”

“It’s hard to get back on your feet after a life of addiction,” said Kayla Compton who has been treated at both the Black Mountain Center and Balsam Center for her drug addiction. “I was ready to give up and die. Thank God the community has services for people like me.”

Compton and Bottomlee appealed to the community to continue to assist with this life-changing effort by donating needed items to the house such as blankets, sheets, kitchen wares, and even a lawn mower.

“If it’s the little things you get back. Those things mean a lot,” said Compton. “I was one of those people you didn’t want in your community. Today I don’t feel that way.”

For information about donating items to the Oxford House call Kathy McCay at 349-2426, and to report suspicious activity through CrimeStoppers call 349-2600.

CPR classes start Sept. 20

An American Red Cross Adult CPR with AED, Infant/Child CPR, and First Aid Basics course will be sponsored by the Macon County Public Health Center.

The course will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 20 from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the Macon County Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Drive. You may take individual parts or the entire course. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay at the Macon County Public Health Center before Monday, September 18, 2006. If you have questions, please call Jennifer at 349-2439.

... BOARD continued from page 1

With Bradley and Guidance Counselor Thomas Jessup, who has been on the job since early this summer, Principal Brian Jetter says he’s got a good team in place and looks forward to meeting all the teachers on Monday when they return to school.

Also new to Highlands School is Judith liiff as the new high school math teacher. She will likely pick up where Ms. Jane DeWolf left off. DeWolf is teaching at the alternative school.

David Kowal is the new English as a Second Language and Exceptional Children teacher. (See story page 20).

There will be many new faces in the cafeteria as well. Pamed a Chastain, Kimberly O’Connor and Charles Scott will all work as part-time food assistants this year.

Three more new courses will be available to students at Highlands School this year: Lifetime Activities which will include archery, tennis, table tennis, bowling, badminton, recreational games, and golf will be taught by Butch Smart. Current Events and Issues will be taught by Simeon Hickman; and Special Topics in Reading and Writing will be taught by Martha Andrews.
Big oil and big medicine are one and the same

American health care, like a BMW 760Li, a damned fine ride, but one that not many can afford. The problem is that our system doesn’t provide bus service for the rest of the population. I am an American doctor who is fed up with the cost, waste, and inequity of U.S. health care and I’ve finally decided to say so. We are fond of boasting that we enjoy the finest health care in the world. Really? Ask the nearly 50,000,000 Americans who are uninsured. There is no doubt that ours is the most technologically advanced medical care in the world, nor is there any doubt that it is the most expensive.

Do all these bells and whistles make for better care and does the enormous cost result in better overall care for Americans? If you are the proud owner of the most advanced total knee replacement and have a good insurance policy, you may well answer, “Yes.” If you can’t afford the insulin needed to treat your diabetes, can’t find a doctor willing to accept Medicaid patients, or can’t pay the staggering costs of treatment for catastrophic or not so catastrophic illness, you will certainly disagree.

America has been sold a bill of goods. Insurance companies, giant pharmaceutical manufacturers, makers of medical equipment, corporate HMOs and hospitals, and yes, sadly, doctors, have played on the American fear of “big government,” or maybe it’s “big brother” to discourage the adoption of a saner, safer, leaner, and more equitable health care system.

In the current medical environment, manufacturers representatives hawk each new product in much the same manner as snake oil salesmen of earlier generations. The typical presentation includes a dozen Krispy Creme donuts and reassurance that the cost can be passed along to the insurance company. Doctors flock to purchase the new product, which, after all, costs them nothing and which might provide a competitive advantage over the guy down the street who is vainly trying to control costs by using up the old stuff. Patients watch the TV ads, and they often shop for a doctor who uses the newest, most expensive gimmick.

Many new products really are better than those of their predecessors. MRIs provide far more information than X-rays, but unfortunately we order MRIs at $1,000 or $1,500 per study when a $50 x-ray would do the job. Doctors complain that malpractice lawyers force such excesses, and I am sure that the litigious nature of society contributes to the problem, but I believe that intellectual laziness and insecurity contribute at least as much to the explosive growth of “defensive medicine.”

A few years ago, a colleague told me that his daughter, a recent college graduate, had taken a job selling medical equipment. He added with a mix of disbelief, disgust, and parental pride that her first-year income exceeded that of most of the family physicians in our town. She was bright, pretty, and knew the way to the donut shop, but come on. Where is the value? The answer is that the emphasis is on profit rather than care. A few years ago, the president of Blue Cross of South Carolina spent $3,000,000 for a vacant lot on Kiawah Island, South Carolina. Corporate profits, share holder dividends, and executive bonuses are more important than affordable premiums or fair reimbursement for health care providers. We see through the lies of Big Oil, when we realize that Big Medicine is no different.

We were on a bus in Vancouver, British Columbia several years ago, about the time laser eye surgery for vision correction was becoming popular. American ophthalmologists were charging $3,500 for the procedure. A sign on the bus advertised the same procedure for $599 CD, which at the time was less than $500 USD. When we returned home, I told a friend of the disparity. He answered that he wouldn’t want a $500 operation on his eye. And that’s the problem. We believe that cost equates with quality, while in the world of medical care, there is absolutely no correlation.

I began this column by questioning the widely held belief that American health is the finest in the world. Let’s examine that claim. The United States spends more than twice as much, on a per capita basis, as any other industrialized nation. We spend nearly twice as much as any other country on health care. We spend nearly twice as much as any other country on health care. Despite spending more, we have a higher rate of infant mortality and lower life expectancy than our European neighbors. We are the only industrialized nation that spends more than twice as much on health care as our European neighbors. Despite spending more, we have a higher rate of infant mortality and lower life expectancy than our European neighbors.

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Performances are
Tuesday-Saturday
at 8 PM
and
Sunday matinee at 2 PM.

“To Kill A Mockingbird”
Aug. 17-27

Veteran actor Ron Growden plays Atticus Finch

To make reservations, call the Box Office at 828-526-2695, or stop by in person.

Box Office hours are Monday-Saturday 10 AM-5 PM.

The Playhouse is located in the heart of Highlands on Oak Street

... REPIEVE continued from page 1

of their business and if the allotted parking is extra – not needed by that remote establishment to satisfy its parking requirements.

In Highlands, the number of seats allowed a restaurant in the B2 and B3 commercial districts in town is determined by the number of parking spaces the restaurant can provide on the property. Town ordinance demands one parking space per three seats.

Don Leon and Fressers in Helen’s Barn both have remote parking arrangements with Furniture South. Both restaurateurs said no one actually uses the parking across N.C. 106, but it’s on the books to satisfy the town’s parking requirements.

Don Leon’s and Fressers’ parking arrangement with Furniture South is good until 2011, but both owners wonder what will happen to their businesses after 2011 or if they sell their businesses.

“You would reduce my seating which would basically force me out of business,” asked Don Leon. He said the issue has been fueled recently by another restaurateur in town who is maliciously trying to damage other restaurants’ businesses.

The parking ordinance needs to be reviewed,” said Debbie Grossman of Fressers. “Why should a few restaurants on Main Street be penalized? Restaurants on Main Street are zoned B1, which means they don’t have to supply parking.

Grossman also said on one hand the parking spaces must be large enough to accommodate an SUV which can carry six or more people, but the space counts for only three seats, not six.

She said the Fire Marshal tells businesses how many people they can accommodate and what is considered safe.

Don Leon also reminded the board that about two years ago, the zoning for the Main Street Inn was changed to B1 when the owners opened the restaurant to the public. The zoning change eliminated the need to correlate seats in the restaurant with available parking spaces.

“This is a discriminatory situation,” he said. “You could do one of three things — abolish the ordinance, increase the seats per parking space or rezone to B1.”

Reverend Thomas Allen, said instead of penalizing businesses, the town should foster the business climate.

“The town needs more seats in this town, especially at lunch time,” he said.

Seasonal resident Ann Trinkle, who said she was speaking for lots of women who don’t want to cook and who like to go out to eat at lunchtime, said the parking lot next to Helen’s Barn is rarely filled and even though it’s not Fressers’ or Don Leon’s parking, she should be able to park wherever she wants regardless of the restaurant she chooses to eat in.

“You’re punishing the business owners and jeopardizing their livelihood, but you’re punishing us as citizens, too,” she said.

Mayor Don Mullen said he had many calls from concerned citizens about the parking arrangements levered against certain restaurants in town. Affected are Don Leon’s, Fressers, Wild Thyme and Lakeside Restaurant.

On Commissioner Hank Ross’s recommendation, the board agreed to take the issue under advisement and to look at the situation carefully over the next few months.

“I think we should review the parking ordinance as a whole,” said Commissioner Ross. “Things change over time and the ordinance is about 30 years old. We should review it but not just the restraints on restaurants, but the whole parking ordinance.”

VIP registration Aug. 24

Registration for the VIP After-School Program will be held on Thursday, Aug. 24, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the following schools: Cartoogechaye, Cullasaja, East Franklin, Iotla, and South Macon.

Students from Cowee School may register for the Iotla program as transportation to Iotla School will be available for Cowee students.

Registration fee is $25 and monthly tuition fees is $170. The drop-in daily rate is $10/day. Call Lenora Clifton at 524-4414.
Dowden pavilion dedicated at Zachary-Tolbert House in Cashiers

Tom Dowden accepted the naming honor for himself and his wife, Wendy, and spoke of his amazement at seeing what he considered their small gesture evolve into this significant benefit to the community.

The Pavillion is named for Tom and Wendy Dowden in honor of their many contributions to the Cashiers Historical Society, chief of which was the donation of the Zachary-Tolbert House and its contents. Rep. Phil Haire (N.C. House District 119) was on hand for the unveiling of the commemorative plaque.

Eleanor Welling, chair of the Cashiers Historical Society Board, spoke of the evening as the fulfillment of a dream. Welling said the dream began with house owner, Robert Red “Bubba” Tolbert, who wished to sell the home and property to someone who would restore and preserve it. Ann McKee Austin perceived the potential benefit to the community of Cashiers and marshaled the resources that culminated in the preservation of this historic site. Welling thanked John Warren for providing the evening’s music, Myra Hunt for her spinning demonstration, Melba Rillott for the quilting exhibition, and Martha Black for initiating the archaeological dig. Viewers of the artifacts displayed were delighted to find that the dig had turned up many interesting items including pre-Cherokee projectile points dated approximately 3000 B.C. and a two-cent piece from the 1864 period.

Tom Dowden accepted the naming honor for himself and his wife, Wendy, and spoke of his amazement at seeing what he considered their small gesture evolve into this significant benefit to the community.

The Dowden Pavilion may be rented for private functions. For information, call the Cashiers Historical Society, 743-7710.

... NOISE continued from page 1

and Alan Marsh voted against changing the start-up time.

This time the board’s decision was fueled by complaints from people who earn their living in the building and service industry, not by seasonal residents as before. In July the board changed the ordinance when residents in the vicinity of the Riverwalk subdivision complained of early morning construction noise.

Commissioner Hank Ross said he rushed into the decision to change the start-up time from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. “I think 7:30 a.m. is a more reasonable time,” he said. “I work with folks in this sort of business and I think we imposed a penalty to local contractors.”

Sam Woodley, a contractor with the Riverwalk subdivision said imposing a time limit of any kind is unreasonable and shortsighted of the board. “We have to get the hours in when the weather is good,” he said. “This just prolongs the development process. You’re depriving a working man from his right to make a living. Maybe you already made your money, but a lot of us haven’t. This is just common sense and there doesn’t seem to be much of that around here.”

Mike Bryson reminded the board that in the winter it gets dark early which cuts the work day substantially.

Commissioner Patterson said keeping the hours 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. was not unreasonable. “That’s still a 10-hour work-day,” she said. “They can work, they just can’t work in the dark.”

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Bargain Hunters — Attention!

Price reduced $5,000 weekly until sold

OPEN HOUSE SAT. & SUN. 12-4 P.M.

Terms and Conditions:
The $5,000 weekly discount will continue until sold. A deposit of 1% will freeze sale for 3 days. The down payment shall then become due. Owners will consider short-term financing.

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Highlands-Cashiers Hospital honors its volunteers at dinner

As has been the custom for the last several years, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital said thank you to its many volunteers with a special dinner party this week at Highlands Falls Country Club.

More than 100 volunteers, spouses and hospital managers attended the thank you party, held Thursday evening. Addressing the group briefly, Hospital CEO and President Ken Shull told volunteers they had contributed nearly 17,900 hours of service during the past year, the equivalent of eight and a half full-time employees.

“You are the icing on the cake. You provide the things that go beyond what we as a hospital could normally provide. You make an important difference,” he said.

The party drew volunteers from across the many facets of hospital operations: from the Eckerd Living Center, HealthTracks, Highlands-Cashiers Hospice, the gift shop, hospital auxiliary, and a host of various ancillary departments. In all, the hospital has nearly 150 active volunteers.

Following the brief reception and official remarks, volunteers and other guests enjoyed a buffet of prime rib, chicken, salmon and stuffed flounder.

“Our volunteers are an integral part of our hospital family,” Shull observed later. “They are a big part of what we do for our patients, residents, and customers, and we are happy to be able to pay tribute to them in this small way.”

Douglas and Linda Strack talk with David Taylor, RN, (L), clinical services manager and Hospice director at the hospital. Douglas, who works with Hospice, is one of the hospital’s newest volunteers.

... CONDOMINIUMS from page 1

work for little cottages on the property. “The more expensive the lot, the bigger the house, that’s the economics of it.”

Even though the Planning Board voted 4-3 against rezoning the R2 tract conditional use multi-family, the Town Board agreed to the concept, but would only consider it if new plans included a decrease in density.

During the meeting, Nellis said he could build three buildings rather than four which would translate to 14 condominiums and one single-family home rather than 16 condominiums and one single-family home.

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf suggested allowing Nellis to return to the board on the premise that he redesign the project to not exceed three units and potentially less. Commissioner Herb James said he liked the multi-family scenario better than a single-family development.

Commissioner DeWolf suggested allowing Nellis to return to the board on the premise that he redesign the project to not exceed three units and potentially less. Commissioner Herb James added that he must meet the 24% built-upon. To do that, Nellis will have to purchase 8 acres from either the Land Trust or another neighbor.

“Before you bring the plan back, we want concrete evidence you have secured the property necessary to meet the built-upon,” said Ross. “Around here, that could take you another three years.”

The Town Board wants the new plans to go to the Planning Board first. Nellis said he could have them ready by the next Planning Board meeting.
Labor Day Week-end artisian craft show at Village Square

Digitally altered photographs by Larry Brannan will be just one of the many wonderful offerings by local and regional artisans at the Village Square Labor Day Art & Craft Show in Highlands held on Saturday, Sept. 2 from 10 to 5. Located on 5th St. between Oak and Pine. Sponsored by Mill Creek Gallery & Framing, call 787-2021 for more info.

SEE THE SITES At Highlands Cove, we’re offering exceptional homesites for custom-built homes. You may choose a cool, wooded setting dense with oaks, hemlocks, pines and rhododendrons. You may prefer a panoramic view of the Blue Ridge. Or a site overlooking our impeccably groomed golf course. The average lot size is 4/5 of an acre. We’re a 430-acre, gated community soaring to 4,700 feet above sea level. Our amenities include a huge clubhouse, a fine restaurant, 18 holes of golf, tennis and a fitness center. Since choice lots in such splendid mountain surroundings are more and more difficult to find in Highlands, come see our sights and sites now.

We’re located six miles east of Highlands on Highway 64. For information, visit the sales office adjacent to the entry gate. Or call us: 828-526-8128 or toll free 1-866-220-2209. Homesites range from $105,000 to $595,000. Web site: www.highlandscove.com.

Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund Golf Classic
Monday, August 28, 2006 at the Cullasaja Club

We ___________________________would like to make a donation and become a sponsor of this exciting event in the following manner:

_____ $5,000 Diamond Sponsor: (Tee Sign, Program Recognition and 8 Dinner Tickets)
_____ $1,000 Platinum Sponsor: (Tee Sign, Program Recognition and 6 Dinner Tickets)
_____ $500 Gold Sponsor: (Program Recognition and 4 Dinner Tickets)
_____ $300 Patron Sponsor: (Program Recognition and 2 Dinner Tickets)
_____ $150 per Golf Contestant_____ Guest Tickets at $50 per ticket for the Awards Party

There will be ______ Golfers in our group and their names are:
1.___________________2.___________________3.___________________4.___________________

Payment for golf must be made to guarantee your registration to play. The first 128 “PAID” contestants will participate in the event! Golf Contestant donations must be mailed or delivered to David Cull or Connie Smith at: Cullasaja Club, 1371 Cullasaja Club Drive, Highlands, NC 28741 or you may drop your entry and check at Town Hall. Make your checks payable to Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund. Diamond, Platinum, Gold and Patron Sponsor donations can be mailed or delivered to the Town of Highlands, P. O. Box 340, Highlands, NC 28741 or to David Cull or Connie Smith. For more information or to make a donation of any kind, contact Helen Simmons at 508-2542.

Golf Contestants may bring guests to the Awards Party by purchasing a ticket at the cost of $50.

All Donations are Tax Deductible
To Kill A Mockingbird' opens tonight at Highlands Playhouse

"To Kill A Mockingbird," based on Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, opens tonight, Aug. 17 at the Highlands Playhouse and runs through Aug. 27.

The fictional story of the trial of Tom Robinson, a black man accused of attacking a white woman in a small Alabama town in the 1930s, has riveted audiences since it first saw print in 1960. In 1962, the novel was turned into an Oscar-winning feature film starring Gregory Peck. The play, adapted by Christopher Sergi from the novel, is one of the most performed shows in the nation.

The story is narrated by the adult Jean Louise "Scout" Finch, the daughter of defense attorney Atticus Finch. She relates in adulthood how, as a child, she saw her father bravely stand up not only to Tom's accusers Bob and Mayella Ewell, but also to an entire town.

"I love and admire the quiet strength and integrity of Atticus; that's why I'm so delighted to play him," says actor Ron Growden, himself a father of four daughters. "Like Atticus, I have children about whom I constantly worry, and have had to face the evil of a Bob Ewell. I'd like to think I have done half as well as did Atticus."

Growden is a Maryland-based performer who earlier this year had featured roles on Maryland stages in Cabaret, The Apollo of Bellac and the musical Cats. A longtime fan of Harper Lee's novel, he has approached his role carefully.

"I fear being compared with Gregory Peck and have not consciously chosen anything from his wonderful film portrayal. For calmness and fairness, I think about my late father-in-law, a Christian minister with the occasional devil in his eye."

Scout as a child is played by 13-year-old Cashiers resident Jessica Bryant, who was in the Playhouse presentation of "Fiddler on the Roof" earlier this summer. Other local actors include Jim Gordon, Michelle Holt and Wyatt Stinson. Fans of the Oscar-winning 1962 movie will also note another local connection — Highlands' native Collin Wilcox Paxton performed in the film as Mayella Ewell, a role played in this production by actress Clara Smith.

"To Kill A Mockingbird" runs at the Highlands Playhouse Aug. 17-27. For tickets or more information, call the Playhouse at 828-526-2695.

Tickets on sale for Bel Canto

With the 14th Annual Bel Canto Recital scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 3, the steering committee has welcomed to its membership two dedicated patrons of the arts in Highlands.

Kitty Moore and Horst Winkler, both civic leaders, have joined the committee that guides the musical event that raises funds for the music program in Highlands School and the permanent art collection in the Bascom-Louise Gallery.

Both Moore and Winkler, are enthusiastic about the 2006 Bel Canto artists, Roy Cornelius Smith, Metropolitan Opera tenor, and Megan Roth, rising young mezzo-soprano, who will present a program of highlights from opera and musical theater.

The two new committee members are working with long-time volunteers Patricia Boyd, Stell Huie, Keturah Paulk Lewis Doggett, Curtis James, Janet Grantham, Ed Bohlung, Cynthia Gomes, and three who have served since Bel Canto's inception 14 years ago, Joanna Rainey, Lucina Painter and Richard Joel, chairman.

Tickets for the recital and buffet reception that follows are now available by calling 526-5252. Seating in the Performing Arts Center on Sept. 3 is limited to 200.

Reach EVERYONE with Highlands' Newspaper!
Community Players presents ‘Simon Suites’ starting tonight

The Highlands Community Players’ production of Simon Suites opens Thursday at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

The four episodes drawn from the award-winning playwright Neil Simon’s London, California and Plaza Suites contain the snappy dialogue, wit and ironic humor for which Simon is famous.

Performances run August 17 through 20 and 24 through 27. Evening shows begin at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are $15 each and can be reserved by calling the Box Office at 828-526-4904 or visiting the office in person daily from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Simon Suites features four episodes and four directors from the HCP New Director’s class held during the year.

“Going Home” from London Suite features the mother-daughter duo of Jill Montana and Jennifer Royce playing mother and daughter.

“Visitor from Hollywood” from Plaza Suite is directed by Mary Adair Leslie with veteran HCP actor David Spivey playing Jesse and Breta Stroud playing Muriel. Leslie is assisted by Janny King.

Annette Coleman directs her husband, Wayne Coleman, Virginia Talbot and Sandie Trevalin in another London Suite episode entitled “Diana and Sidney.” Trevalin also assisted director in this episode.

The fourth episode is “Visitors from Chicago” and is directed by Nancy Reeder. Taken from Simon’s California Suite, the episode features Stuart Armor, Rick Segel, Bonnie Earman and HCP newcomer Faye Segel. Ginny Harris assists director Reeder. This production is rated PG-13 because of strong language and adult situations.

‘Interlude’ to feature Atlanta singers Wed. during free concert

The Church of the Incarnation free concert series will feature the Capitol City Opera Company soloists in a performance at the church on Wednesday, Aug. 23 at 2 p.m.

Included in this program will be opera soloists, duets and quartets. These renowned costumed singers will present selections by Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, DeLiebe as well as Gilbert and Sullivan.

This group, who will give this free performance for Highlanders, was heard recently in a performance at the Rabun Gap Nacoocie School where ticket prices were quite expensive and the house was sold out.

Don’t miss this outstanding and colorful performance. Since these concerts are usually filled, please come early to secure a seat.
Database of room tax contributors nearing completion

Soon the county will have a complete database of every entity responsible for filing, collecting and turning in room occupancy tax to the county.

Gary Nicholson was hired by the county to verify the homeowners, hotels and motels, bed and breakfasts, condominiums and townhouse owners and businesses registered with the county and to discover those who aren’t. After about seven months of work, he’s almost finished.

"Once I’m on top of this, and I’m getting there, the database will be complete and the software interface installed,” said Nicholson. “The database will have each business name, owner, how it’s organized, local address, out-of-town address, federal ID or social security number, and it will indicate whether the property is rented out seasonally May through October or all year so the county doesn’t expect tax during off months.”

People who rent their homes up to 90 days at a time are responsible for collecting three percent room occupancy tax which is sent to the county. If a home is rented for more than 90 days, occupancy tax is not levied. The county sends the money to the state and the state returns the county its portion. The county then takes 15% as an administration fee and returns the rest proportionately to the chambers of commerce in Highlands and Franklin.

Over the last seven months, Nicholson has been sending out letters to those suspected of renting their homes as vacation rentals. About 300 letters were sent out to homeowners — only about 100 haven’t responded and he’s concentrating on that last group now.

Nicholson said he won’t concentrate on the money angle until the database and software to interface is complete at which point the county can keep track of owners and collections.

“I expect to add a substantial number of new filers to the rolls,” he said. “Don’t know how much money will be added, that will be determined later.”

He said he’s not referring to commercial hotels and motels, but he’s shocked at the number of people who had no idea they were responsible for the tax. "There are a lot of people not registered with the county,” he said. "There are scenarios where two families buy a home, use it a few times a year and rent it out the rest of the time,” said Nicholson.

He said part of the problem is there is very little mechanism in place to let people know they are responsible for the tax when they rent their home as a vacation rental property. “We need a single point, even if just as a courtesy, to let them know about their responsibilities,” he said.

Using realtors and attorneys to get the word out is top on his list of ideas because they have personal contact with the buyers but he said a note could also be put on the property tax bills.

Nicholson is also working on a new monthly form and if people traditionally owe less than $25 a month, a quarterly form.

He said once the database is complete, he will turn his sights on how other communities and municipalities in North Carolina disburse and spend the room occupancy tax.

"I will see what successful communities are doing the money on and will likely make some serious recommendations to the Macon County Board of Commissioners that may suggest changes as to the way the money is spent,” he said.

He said Nantahala has no applicant to receive the room occupancy proceeds so funds aren’t sent directly to Nantahala. “There is a lot of building going on up there and it’s likely that the second homes being built will be used as vacation rental homes so basically Nantahala will be pumping a lot of room tax into the system and getting nothing in return.”

Chambers in Buncombe County, Boone, and Beech Mountain give one-third of the room occupancy tax to their municipalities which have used the money to build a soccer field, bonsai garden, visitor center, renovations to an arcade, sidewalk upgrades and parks.

However, in the case of Blowing Rock, the county sent all the room tax money to the municipality and none to the chamber of commerce which is a member-based institution. Blowing Rock used the money to build a visitor bureau and to enhance the quality of life of summer people, visitors and locals by upgrading sidewalks, parks and renovations to a community building.

MC Commission Chair Allan Bryson said he wants to re-look at the state statute and the county’s policy concerning the use of room tax proceeds.

- Room Tax, Part 2 -

Gardens at Fisher estate on tour

The gardens topping Sagee Woods can be toured Saturdays Aug. 19-26. Carpools leave the gazebo on Pine Street every half hour from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tickets are $25, available at the Episcopal church. All proceeds benefit the church’s outreach programs. For info, call 526-2968.
More musings from an ‘unhappy’ individual

Dear Editor,

If I misquoted Mayor Mullen in my article I am deeply sorry, but I don’t think so. I will stick by what I have said. It appears that the Mayor wants to apply the town ordinances as he sees fit and how he interprets them and to whom he wants them applied. Ordinances are written to be applied equally, fairly and fully. Maybe we should only apply the “driving while impaired” law when and where we like. Maybe this week at the Highlands Country Club, then next week it will be the Highlands Falls Country Club’s turn. My statement is as absurd as the mayor’s.

By the way, he makes an excellent point in his letter about “community trying to protect itself against poor development planning.” Let’s think about that statement, who let Riverwalk start construction? Who gave permission for the project? So therefore, who is to blame for the “perceived excess noise” and the silt in our river and in Mirror Lake.

Remember, this project was started on Mayor Mullen’s watch and he and the Town Board will have to bear the blame for not stopping it and making things right before it is allowed to continue. I’m not blaming Riverwalk, they are developers, the Town Board gave them the green light for the project so why not full speed ahead? They are businessman running a business with the Town Board’s blessings.

Let’s go back to the “perceived excess noise” that the mayor implied I was wrong about. I believe the residents of Mirror Lake and surrounding areas would differ with him on that point. We have the three cats that enjoy the Highlands summers with us. Every morning they were out on the porch enjoying the peacefulness until the “perceived excess noise” started. Now, no more porch. It’s under the bed with their little ears down until 6 p.m. when the “perceived excess noise” stops.

I am not “unhappy” except with the mayor and Town Board’s lack of action and enforcement and lack of using the fine Highlands Police force to enforce ordinances the mayor thinks are good for the entire community. All the Town Board needs to do is enforce what is on the books and put some teeth into development planning for the good of all the good people of Highlands. Do that and I promise I will go back to riding my “hog,” smoking B-B-Q and enjoying my time in paradise.

People, it takes intestinal fortitude to make the hard, right decisions for Highlands and to get off the fence and do what’s right for the future and not worry about who might get offended. It takes people who will stand up for the good of all.

Let’s see if the mayor and Town Board have the “right stuff” for Highlands. If not, when elections are held again vote some new shooters in and give someone else a shot at getting it right. The mayor and Town Board must answer to the people. I hope they remember that fact. It may come in handy someday.

Dr. Robert O’Neil
Highlands, Fort Lauderdale

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Pinchot Development, Lot 4, under construction—
customize and make it your own.

It takes inspiration to build the perfect Mountain Craftsman home. When you step inside a TimberStone home, you’ll see it expressed in every detail—the beams, the stonework, the cabinetry. At TimberStone Fine Home Builders, we have a passion for quality Mountain Craftsman homes and when you hire us to build your mountain retreat, you’ll experience it every step of the way.

For more information, call 828-508-2300 or email jnm@bellsouth.net
Bomengen principal in Atlanta

Highlands resident Monica Bomengen has been named principal of the School of Integrated Academics and Technology (SIA Tech), a charter high school in the Atlanta Public Schools system. She leaves the position of Director of Alternative Strategies with Macon County Schools.

A native of Hayesville, N.C., Bomengen attended Western Carolina University on a full academic scholarship as the first Palmer Scholar, graduating Summa Cum Laude in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English.

The appointment of the principalship of SIA Tech Georgia completes a professional circle of sorts for Bomengen. She cites her first love as working in urban schools with students at risk of not graduating from high school. She professes eagerness to return to the inner city and to the academic experimentation and innovation encouraged in charter schools.

SIA Tech Georgia is part of a nationwide network of charter high schools with its main office in San Diego, CA.

Bomengen will maintain her primary residence in Highlands so her daughter, Vicky, can complete her studies at Highlands School, where Bomengen was principal in 2004.

Stop I-3 group hits the highways

The Stop I-3 Coalition and its grassroots members hit the highways today in north Georgia and Western North Carolina with a catchy roadside campaign aimed at increasing membership and keeping the heat on the officials who are pushing this ruinous route.

The proposed interstate would run from Savannah to Augusta and thereafter to Knoxville – inevitably affecting the mountain communities and economies of Southern Appalachia. Those traveling through the region's scenic byways this week, and for the next month are likely to see the fruits of the coalition's latest venture.

Modeled after the Burma Shave campaigns of yesterday, grassroots supporters have erected a series of five signs on their property, each with a catchy ditty punctuated with an entreaty to “Stop I-3.”

One such ditty goes like this:

This freeway is a thing to stop,
Proclaim it from the mountaintop,
Stop I-3

Other ditties and can be found in the May newsletter archived at www.StopI3.org. Those wishing to put up a series of signs should contact: Sandy Lyndon at bandit@bbinc.org. The Stop I-3 Coalition represents a growing confederation of community organizations and conservation groups located in the four-state Appalachian region. It is dedicated to stopping an unnecessary interstate or any similar highway that it believes would do irreparable harm to mountain economies, forests, farms, and streams, and to rural qualities of life rooted in a strong sense of place.

... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 7

... much as a percentage of GDP (gross domestic product) as any comparable nation and all of those countries provide universal coverage in some form. In each, the rate of infant mortality is lower and the life expectancy greater than ours. We currently spend over $6,000 annually for every man, woman and child in the U.S. while leaving millions unprotected. American auto manufacturers spend more for medical care than for steel. The cost of providing medical care is crippling us in our efforts to compete internationally. In the near future, health care costs will account for 20% of GDR and still we will have millions without health care coverage. We will still suffer the embarrassment and injustice of enormous discrepancies in infant death and life expectancy based on socioeconomic factors. Much maligned Cuba, which spends at most a few hundred dollars per year per citizen on health care, has a lower infant mortality, higher immunization rate, nearly identical life expectancy, and is able to export doctors and nurses to serve the needs of other Caribbean basin nations. So do you still believe that cost equates to quality or that we are getting our money’s worth?

Between 20% and 30% of insurance premiums are eaten up in administrative costs by commercial insurance companies. That’s a lot of lots on Kiawah, a lot of fat dividend checks for shareholders, a gigantic drain on the American economy. The administrative cost of Medicare is a paltry 2%. In America, health care is a business and the business of business is making a profit.

There is no doubt that this environment has spawned many changes. Ours is the most advanced care in the world. But we simply can’t afford to wreck our economy and deny affordable care to millions for the sake of a slimmer pacemaker, a better knee replacement, or another blood pressure medicine. Medicine as a business has produced much that is good, but has failed to provide the essential of universal care at a reasonable cost. I think it is time to choose, and I believe that the choice is an easy one.
... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

her I cannot please all the people all the time and all that ya de ya de but decided she was much too smart to buy into that excuse.

Then the little missus came to my rescue as she has so many times before. "Why didn't you tell her the truth?" Not having a clue what she meant, I asked, "And what might that be?" She smiled, "You can't help it; it's in your genes. You are a tacky, toilet person."

POW, it hit like a brick. She is right. I can't help it. Whenever two or more Wooldridges gather together, sooner or later, toilet humor stories will surface and the laughing begins. My kids have the same sickness: Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, birthdays, it's always the same. We are all toilet people. By the time the conversation ends, I am mopping tears from my eyes and my stomach is hurting from laughter, all in the name of toilet humor. It is a Wooldridge illness. People can be asked to change and they can change, but not when it's in the genes. I am toilet driven and it is beyond my control. It is my fate. Please, I am begging for understanding.

I know there are probably others out there that feel the same as my caller, so to make matters better, I am creating the "Betty Poop" doll. Those who are displeased with my toilet humor can gather together and stick needles in her. My new poop doll is an improvement over the old Fred doll. When you stick a needle in my new version, she sings, "Poop Poop a Doop."

I hope this helps.

• Don't forget to buy Fred's new book "I'm moving back to Mars" at your local book stores.

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Sat. Aug. 19, 10 - 2
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In the middle of 4th St.
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Down home favorites everyday!
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(828) 526-9822

Highlands’ Newspaper - Thursday, Aug. 17, 2006 - Page 17
Israel threatened with extinction would not hesitate to use one or five of its stock of about a hundred nuclear bombs. The time is long past for all nations to renounce the use of such devices. The time is even longer past for all nations to renounce war as a way of settling disputes.

But this seems unlikely to happen anytime soon. We may even have to suffer a nuclear exchange for example, between Iran and Israel, before the world reawakens to the horrors of war.

Then there will be conferences, meetings, amendments to the U.N. charter, and sincere pledges of renunciation.

Until the next time.

Are we doomed to this endless cycle of brutality, terror, and stupidity? I don’t know. I hope not. People sometimes describe what’s happening in Lebanon as inhuman. Unfortunately, it is very human indeed.

We see to be a species with our very DNA committed to warfare.

We are very much like the chimps we resemble.

The major difference is that we have developed a technology so deadly we can bring about our own extinction.

As Kurt Vonnegut has succinctly stated, So Be It.

This is a great achievement for the whole Madison’s team,” said CEO Mario Gomes. “This award reaffirms all the hard work we have put into making 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.”

Madison’s Restaurant and Wine Garden presents “September Wine Dinner” at The Farm at Old Edwards Inn, Thursday, Sept. 21 at 6 p.m. It features Steele Winery, located in Napa Valley, Calif., presented by winemaker, Jed Steele. It’s a six-course gourmet dinner for $149 per person inclusive. Call 828-787-2610 for reservations.

Hy Vong Restaurant of Miami visited … on the Verandah

… on the Verandah welcomed Tung Nguyen and Kathy Manning of Miami’s award-winning Hy Vong Vietnamese restaurant on Tuesday, Aug. 15 for a six-course delight for the palate.

Andrew Figel, OTV’s partner-executive chef, and Tung Nguyen, Hy Vong’s co-owner and chef, collaborated on a menu that appealed with its distinct flavors and French influence. The dinner featured Tung’s famous steamed pork rolling cakes, shrimp paté on sugar cane, spiced calamari salad, Carolina grouper with fresh mango and green peppercorns, curried chicken and sweet potato, Tung’s ginger flan and Vietnamese coffee.

All the courses were paired with wines from the Verandah’s Wine Spectator and Wine Enthusiast award-winning cellar.

“We’ve been enjoying Hy Vong’s wonderful cuisine since 1980. My parents were driving down “Calle Ocho” in Miami during Hy Vong’s opening week and fell in love with the food and with Tung and Kathy’s easy style. They wrote a letter to the “Miami Herald,” Hy Vong won rave reviews and the rest is history,” said Marlene Alvarez, GM/co-owner of … on the Verandah.

A true success story, Tung Nguyen left Vietnam in 1975 and along with his refugee sponsor, Kathy Manning opened Hy Vong Restaurant in 1980. Tung’s daughter, Lyn, born just after Tung’s arrival in America, attended Harvard and received her MBA from Cornell University. After spending time in Manhattan as an investment banker, Lyn returned to Miami to launch a new venture with her mother and Kathy selling “heat and eat” delicacies at gourmet markets throughout South Florida. Hy Vong restaurant is located at 3458 SW Eighth Street in Miami, 305-446-3674.

Upcoming guest chef dinners include a French Creole dinner on Thursday, Sept. 14 with Aziz Mehram and Billy Glendenning of McKinnon's Louisiana of Atlanta.

This year, … on the Verandah celebrates its 25th anniversary. From Sept. 10-16, the nightly menu will reflect classic dishes from the last 25 seasons. The week culminates in a “birthday” party on Sept. 17 from noon to 6 p.m. Marta, Alan, Andrew and Marlene invite everyone to stop by and enjoy the celebration. There will be live music and great food throughout the day.

On the Verandah is open seasonally, from mid-March through New Year’s Eve. Reservations for the dinner or Sunday brunch at … on the Verandah can be made at 828-526-2338 www.ontheverandah.com
Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles winners

Cathy Garren, managing broker at the Cashiers office was Top Listing Agent for the month of July. She was awarded the Masters Emerald award for her production in 2005. She was also the Top Listing by Volume and the Top Sales by Volume agent in her office in 2005.

Elizabeth Matej, broker associate with the Cashiers office, was Top Sales Agent for July. She was awarded the Masters Ruby award for her production in 2005. She was also the Top Listing by Units and Top Sales by Units agents for her office in 2005.

Sherman Pope, broker associate in the Highlands office, was Top Listing Agent for the month of July. He was recognized as Rookie of the Year for his office in 2005.

Kurt Ostdiek, broker associate with the Highlands office, was Top Sales Agent for July.

Cathy Garren, Elizabeth Matej, Sherman Pope, and Kurt Ostdiek

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Dr. Sherrer is the former head of GYN services
at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta.
Call 828-243-1745 for an appointment
MC County’s 3 ESL teachers work with 251 Hispanic students

By Susanna Forrester

This fall Highlands School will have a new teacher—an ESL teacher who will work with the growing number of Hispanic and foreign language students entering Macon County Schools.

Two ESL teachers already cover Franklin High School, Macon Middle School, and Franklin’s elementary schools. The ESL teachers travel between their assigned schools administering tests, providing one-on-one instruction, and evaluating students’ basic communication skills.

One of the main jobs of an ESL teacher is to administer a placement test that determines the level of English proficiency a student has. The student, if identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP), is ranked according to these categories: Novice Low, Novice High, Intermediate Low, Intermediate High, Advanced and Superior.

“In NC you have to get them a placement test after the first 30 days of enrollment,” says Terry Bell, Director of Auxiliary Services at Macon County Schools. The students are assessed on their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills.

LEP students’ grade levels are still determined by their age, but even a student ranked as Intermediate or Advanced in their English language skills may be required to take ESL training.

“Just because they appear to speak the language better does not mean they comprehend it well,” said Bell. “They need the ability to read and comprehend.”

Parents of LEP students also need to be able to comprehend what is happening in their child’s education. Spanish language report cards are available for all K-5 classes at Macon County Schools, and one on one contact with the parents is encouraged. Parents are often asked to volunteer in the classroom or at the school.

“Teachers themselves are encouraged as part of their job to make contact with families,” said Bell. “We have an open house just for the families to give out information and meet with them.”

In the future Bell said even more will be done to help train classroom teachers in dealing with and communicating with LEP students. “We’re trying to help the classroom teachers. We’re trying to get them more training in that area,” Bell said. As of now state conferences, online videos, and college courses are available to assist teachers of ESL students.

In the eight years since Macon County began using the ESL curriculum, the program, which started with only five students, has grown to 251 Hispanic students, which is roughly six percent of the total student population in Macon County. Highlands School has 35 Hispanic students enrolled for this year, and the numbers are expected to grow.

“As the population grows we will have to grow with it,” said Bell. “Under ‘No Child Left Behind’ we have to meet the reading goals for our students no matter who they are or where they’re from.”

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**PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU**

**BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 767-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**
The Right Rev. John S. Erbelding, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

**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

**CHRIST CHURCH**
(The Rev. Thomas “Tommy” Allen - 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion: 4:30
(Community Bible Church)
Tuesday: Bible Study in Cashiers at noon
Wednesday: Men’s Bible Study at 8 a.m.
(Highlands First Baptist)
Thursday: Morning Prayer at 10:30
(Peggy Crosby Center Rm. 203)

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday – 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; 
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Women’s Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Students’ Dinner (free for kids in 8th grade and younger);
5:30 p.m. Supper; 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 pm Small Groups for kids Pre-K through 8th;
6:35 pm - 7:15 pm Adult Bible Study
6pm-7pm Choir Practice
• Small groups are open for all ages throughout the week. See our website or call for more info.

**_EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**
Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2966
Sunday: School – Holy Eucharist-Rite I; 8:30 a.m. -
Breakfast: 9 a.m. - Sunday School; 9:45 a.m. - Choir Practice; 10:30 a.m. - Children’s Chapel; 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II
Monday: 8 p.m. - Women’s cursillo Group; 5:30 p.m. -
Women’s Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. - Men’s Cursillo Group; 9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting
Wednesday: 2 p.m. – Interlude; 6:30 p.m - Choir
Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - Men’s Cursillo Group Meeting; 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with healing; 10:30 a.m. - Daughters of the King Meeting; 10:30 a.m. - Bible Study
• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

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**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. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Sun. School – 9:30 & 9:45,
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men’s Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers
Wednesdays: Supper - 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.
Sat: Adventists 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 9:45 a.m.; Worship 8:30 & 11 a.m.;
5 p.m. Youth Group
Wed: noon – Men’s Emmaus Reunion Group; 4:45 -
Children’s choir and handbells; 5:30 - Supper; 6 – Adult Handbells; 6:15 - children, youth, & adults studies;
7:15 – Adult choir
In (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 - Women’s Bible Study (nursery)

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA**
Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

**LITTLE CHURCH OF THE WILD WOOD**
(In HorseCove)
Old Fashioned Hymn Sing, 7 p.m. Casual Dress.

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

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**
St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin
369-6871
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
For more information, call
(706)-445-1842.

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Rev. Tien, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

**SCALLY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

**SCALLY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD**
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Szemore
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.

**SHORTROFF BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Rev. Wayne Price
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study

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

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

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**For more information, call (706)-445-1842.**
On-going

• Mountain Findings will be open until 6 p.m. each Friday. The normal hours of operation have always been 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. People that work in local shops have asked that we stay open past 5 p.m. at least one day a week. We will try this through September and if successful may make it a permanent change.

• Tom Wise on the piano at the Old Clayton Inn in Clayton on Fridays and Saturdays for dinner.

• Bascom-Louise Gallery Garden Tour Tickets are on sale! Call the gallery and reserve your space. 526-4949.

• Shakespeare & Co. bookstore in Highlands Village Square is hosting readings by members of the Highlands Writers Group at a literary happening 3-5 p.m. the last Sunday afternoon in each month during the summer and fall. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited. Call 526-3777.

• Al-Anon meets every Wednesday at 10:45 a.m. in the community room of the First Presbyterian Church.

• The Scaly Mountain Women’s Club’s pancake breakfasts the fourth Saturday of each month through October from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

• The “Zachary-Tolbert’ House” in Cashiers will be open for tours Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. through October 14. The house is located at 1940 Highway 107 S., two miles south of the Cashiers Crossroads. Special tours and events may be arranged by calling the Cashiers Historical Society, 828-743-7710.

• Highlands Historical Village is open for tours Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through the end of October. The House and Taper-Wright Home and the Museum and Archives are located at 524 N. 4th Street, across from the Funeral Home. Special tours or access to the archives may be arranged by calling the Highlands Historical Society at 828-787-1050 or by e-mailing highlands历史@nctv.com.

• New Beginners Clogging class Tuesday, 6-7 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley Community Center. Come have lots of fun and exercise. Call 743-7663.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will have Osteoporosis prevention exercise classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free with Health Tracks Membership or $8 per class for non-members. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1 FIT.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is offering a total body and muscle-toning workout exercise class at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Free with Health Track Membership or $8 for non-members. An advanced class will also be available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9 a.m. Contact Health Tracks at 828-526-1 FIT.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is holding Pilates classes on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Cost of the class is $10 per session or $9 (each) for 10 sessions. Contact Health Tracks at 828-526-1 FIT.

• First Saturday “Happy Hour” an old-fashioned Hymn Sing at Highlands United Methodist Church in the Sanctuary from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Pastor: Tillie Arwood. Song Leader, Carol Shuttleworth.

• A Grief Support Group is held every Friday from 10-12 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. For more information please call Jean Logan at 399.3022.

• The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will feature local fly fisherman, Keith Lewis, at its meeting at 7 p.m. at Grace Community Church in Cashiers, Keith specializes in wild brown trout and will discuss his favorite spots, including the Nantahala River and streams in the Smoky Mountain National Park. Call 743-2078 for information.

• Women’s Health Series, with Dr. Sue Aery of Cashiers-Highlands Chiropractic and Acupuncture and Whole Life Market at Highlands Whole Life Market at Highlands Whole Life Market. 5:30-7 p.m. Subject: Stress and Hormones. Call 526-5999 to reserve a seat.

• At Bascom-Louise Gallery. Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Pottery with Pat Taylor. 7 p.m. Free. Donation.

• At Instant Theatre in Oak Square on Main Street, Cocktail Hour Theatre - doors open at 5:30 and reservations are strongly recommended. Call 828.342.9197 for tickets - only 2 more shows left!

• At Cyranos Book Shop, a signing by authors Douglas W. Bostick & Jason R. Davidson, “The Bootahale: Tales and Recipes from the Southern Kitchen, from 1-3 p.m.

• At Instant Theatre in Oak Square on Main Street, another chance to experience Song writers in the Round. Come see a favorite: Thad and The Greenman. Stay tuned for more info.

• Fisher Garden Tour 10:12:30. Carpools leave from the Gazebo on Pine Street every half hour. Tickets are $25, available at the Episcopal Church in Highlands. Proceeds benefit the church’s outreach programs.

• Pacific Tours’ Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5 mile hike to beautiful Split Rock Cascade on the Chattooga River. Expect some scrambling over rocks and445 MAIN STREET
HIGHLANDS, NC 28741

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Experience five days of education and relaxation during the Women’s Wellness Retreat at Old Edwards Inn and Spa. Your package will include a pre-reception wellness consultation to customize your retreat to achieve the results that you desire.

Journaling classes, cardio fun-outs, yoga, and a cooking demonstration are just a few of the wonderful activities offered. Delight in gourmet wellness cuisine each day. Indulge in daily spa and salon treatments.

Learn about establishing your ideal daily routine, managing your metabolism, weight regulation, positive self-image and stress reduction.

Featured Guest Speakers from The Cleveland Clinic

Ellen Mayer-Sabik M.D.  Cardiac Care
Identifying the risk factors for heart disease and recognizing its symptoms so that you can reduce the risks of coronary artery disease and heart attack.

Tanya Edwards M.D.  Integrative Therapies for Women’s Health
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Starting at $1599 per person inclusive of tax and gratuity
Package includes deluxe room (upgrades available at the Inn and Spa), healthy cuisine, wellness lectures and activities

Limited space for Day Registrations and Wellness Lecture Tickets
Contact us for reservations and information at 828-787-2610 or visit us on the web at www.oldedwardsinn.com
Nothing says ‘summer’ like a sunflower

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Are they called sunflowers because the flowerhead looks like the sun or because it follows the sun across the sky, looking east in the morning and west in the evening? The wild sunflower, from which all the cultivars have been derived, grows naturally in all of North America from central Canada to northern Mexico. It grows in prairies and dry, open areas, and is sometimes a weed in cultivated fields and pastures. These are in the field at Short Off and Buck Creek Road. In the background is the old Lowe homestead.
HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED CABINETRY INSTALLER NEEDED – Part time employment. Competitive pay. Willing to work with your schedule. Must be dependable, have tools, transportation. Call (828) 526-9201.

FULL TIME MANAGER & PART-TIME HELP – needed for a new up-scale yarn shop in Highlands. Call 404-542-2904 or 404-832-6887.

MANICURIST/PEDICURIST & AESTHETICIANS – Needed for exclusive private heath club in Cashiers. Must be team player. NC license required. Send resume to: P.O. Box 405, Cashiers, NC 28717.

FULL TIME & PART-TIME HELP – needed for a new up-scale yarn shop in Highlands. Call 404-542-2904 or 404-832-6887.

MANICURIST/PEDICURIST & AESTHETICIANS – Needed for exclusive private heath club in Cashiers. Must be team player. NC license required. Send resume to: P.O. Box 405, Cashiers, NC 28717.

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB – is now hiring full-time housekeepers. Competitive wages, flexible hours, and employee meals. Apply in person 981 Dillard Road, Highlands or call 828-526-2181 for application.

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB – is now hiring full-time housekeepers. Competitive wages, flexible hours, and employee meals. Apply in person 981 Dillard Road, Highlands or call 828-526-2181 for application.

OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA – an extraordinary luxury destination spa resort in Highlands, has the following hourly positions available: Night Auditor, Spa Cafe Cook, Security Officer, Banquet Captain, Maintenance Worker, On-call Banquet Server. In the Spa: Nail Tech, Hair Stylist, Esthetician. Full time, part time, and seasonal positions available. North Carolina license required for spa positions. Excellent benefits, including low cost housing. Apply online at www.oldedwardsinn.com and click on Careers, or stop by 137 South 4th St., Highlands to complete an application. EOE/Drug free workplace.

BARTENDERS, COCKTAIL SERVERS, AND FOOD SERVERS – needed for the evening shifts at Highlands Country Club. Experience is a plus, positive attitude a must. Please apply at 981 Dillard Road, Highlands or call for application (828) 526-2181.

SWEETTREATS IN HIGHLANDS – needs Kitchen Prep, Dishwasher, Servers and Counter Help. Come by or call Beth or Bob, 526-9822.

PIZZA PLACE OF HIGHLANDS – seeking mature adults for full time, year round help. Competitive wages. Please apply in person. Must speak and read English.

PIZZA PLACE OF HIGHLANDS – looking for a qualified full time, year round night time manager. Pay based on experience. Please apply in person. Must speak and read English.

SCALEY MOUNTAIN BP & GENERAL STORE – needs part-time cashier 2nd shift 3-7pm Monday thru Friday, Saturday or Sunday 7am – 6pm. Starting $9 per hour. Some benefits. Apply in person. No calls please.


FULL OR PART-TIME RETAIL SALES – Weekends required, no exceptions. Must be responsible, professional appearing, enthusiastic and have retail sales experience. Call The Summer House in Highlands at 828-526-5577.

HIGH COUNTRY CAFE – now hiring for all positions, on the floor and in the kitchen. EOE employer. Call 526-5572.

ADMISSIONS/CASHIER/RECEPTIONIST/ SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL: Customer relations experience essential; clerical experience preferred. Basic computer and calculator skills required. This full-time position is for Monday through Friday. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301 or apply online through website, www.hchospital.org.

FLOOR TECH IN ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL: Experience in commercial floor care is preferred. Other floor care experience is helpful. This full-time position is for Monday through Friday. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301 or apply online through website, www.hchospital.org.

COOK AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL: Full-time, year-round employment; 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., various days of the week. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Competitive salary and full benefits available after 60 days. Pre employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301 or apply online through website, www.hchospital.org.

DIETARY AIDS AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL: Full time, 12-hour shifts available for all days, weekdays, and weekends. Salary range based on years of experience. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

CNA OR CNA II FOR FIDELIA ECKERT LIVING CENTER – This full-time position is for ten-hour days including every other weekend. Starting salary is $8 per hour, increasing to $9.50 per hour after graduation as a C.N.A. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301 or apply online through website, www.hchospital.org.


C.N.A. TRAINEE FOR FIDELIA ECKERT LIVING CENTER – C.N.A. class will be required. Starting salary is $8 per hour, increasing to $9.50 per hour after graduation as a C.N.A. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301 or apply online through website, www.hchospital.org.

CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL: This full-time position is for 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday, nights. Must have completed two years of college from an approved program in Medical Technology and possess a credential as an M.L.T. from either ASCP or HEW. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301 or apply online through website, www.hchospital.org.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERT LIVING CENTER – Must have B.S. or M.S. degree in Occupational Therapy and current N.C. license. Requires two years’ experience practicing in area of clinical expertise. Competitive salary. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301 or apply online through the website, www.hchospital.org.

see CLASSIFIEDS page 25
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VACATION RENTAL — In Sky Valley. 10 miles from Highlands. $500/wk, $2,500 per month. Call 772-234-8492 or 772-427-2171.


ADORABLE 3 BR/2 BA COTTAGE with wonderful mountain view. One mile from Main Street. Highlands. $275,000. By Owner. For Appt. 828-526-1085. 8/27


HOME SITES — 1-acre plus, 2 miles from Main Street. Highlands. Starting at $189,000. Community will be gated. Call 828-526-9622.

ITEMS FOR SALE

PAIR BRASS ANTIQUE TWIN BEDS — $550
Call 828-787-1515.

SALTWATER AQUARIUM — 55-gallon saltwater aquarium with heater, filter, 2-door oak cabinet, and more. $150. Call Sandy at 369-6263.

MOUNTAIN BIKES — GT Talera, man's 20", women's 16"; 21 speed, quick release 26" wheels; comfort seats, car rack & helmets included. $500 for all. Call 526-0624 or 743-5730, after 5 p.m.

FIREBOX INSERT HEATLIER WITH BLOWER — Gas or wood. Includes rack, vent pipes, brick front and hearth, mantle, screen, glass door, fire screen for door, vent pipe, and owner's manual. $250. 526-5834.

SNOWMOBILES — Yamaha. 1984, 5-speed 22” girl, 8” tires, steel rims, new tires, $200. 828-743-4406.

HEAVY BRASS ELECTRIC HANGING FIXTURE — Six green, glass panels, 4 feet of matching chain. 22” inch diameter. $975. Call 526-1773.

GAS FIREPLACE LOGS — Hargrove Vent Free, 24” long, 50,000 BTU/hr. $150. 526-5834.

MILLION LAUREL — Property includes dockable lake lot in Sky Valley. 10 miles from the center of town. Build your dream maintenance abode. Two options:

CITY SIDE, WOODED LOT ON HIGH RIDGE — 3-bed-2 bath, stone FP, all conveniences (plasma TV, PC, good linens, towels, china, satellite). Gated community/club. Lake access, with horses, kayaks, mountain laurel. $325,000. Storage spaces: $225,000. Chris Gil-ver unit. Beautiful, secure & affordable. Retail space:

- Two 13x13 CANOPY — Nearly new. Great for picnics, craft show, etc. $50 each 828-349-3320

- 2 TRAILERS — One 1990 - 32 ft. and One 1989 - 25 ft. Both with 2 build-outs each, full-sized refrigerators, full-sized toilets, one has W/D, complete with screen porches, new wood flooring and carpet. Both are nicely finished. Both in good condition. Can be seen @ Carolina Court. Unit #1 and Unit #2, priced @ $8,000. each or $15,000 for both. Must be removed during the month of November 2006. Contact: Charles Dasher @ 828-526-5939, or carolinacourt@mac.com

VERMONT CASTINGS WINTERWARM — wood burning fireplace insert with ash pan and pan cover, fire screen for door, vent pipe, and owner’s manual. $800. Firm. Sold as is where is. Call 828-743-9340 for details.
The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Aug 9-15. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

**Aug. 9**
- At 2 p.m., the Town of Highlands reported an act of vandalism on a sewer line that cost the town $5,000 to repair.
- At 5:30 p.m., a resident on Oak Street reported a roll of quarters worth $300 missing from his home.

**Aug. 10**
- At 11:50 p.m., Mark Alan Bailey, 38, of Mirror Lake Road in Highlands, was arrested for driving without a license, driving without insurance, driving without an inspection sticker, and driving without a license plate.
- At 9:30 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 41 mph in a 25 mph zone in U.S. 64 east and Hickory Street.

**Aug. 11**
- At 8:15 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 47 mph in a 25 mph zone at U.S. 64 east and Poplar Street.
- At 12:12 noon, officers responded to an alarm at Regions Bank. It was false.

**Aug. 12**
- At 9:01 a.m., officers responded to a noise complaint at Highlands School.
- At 12:50 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Satulah Drive. It was false.

**Aug. 13**
- At 3 p.m., officers assisted EMS with a medical call on Hummingbird Lane.
- During the week, the department issued five warning tickets.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Aug 10-15.

**Aug. 10**
- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Sedgee Drive. It was false.

**Aug. 11**
- The dept. responded to a report of smoke in the vicinity of deville Drive. It was unfounded.

**Aug. 13**
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Country Home Antiques on U.S. 64 east where someone was cut by a piece of porcelain.

**Aug. 14**
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Hummingbird Lane. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. responded to a report of a utility trailer that had come loose and was hitting cars on Buck Creek Road. It was unfounded.

**Aug. 15**
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled.