**School board candidates speak out**

Eight people are vying for the two seats opening up on the Macon County School Board. Tony Esterwood is vying to unseat Tommy Cabe for the District 11 seat; everyone else is running for Kevin Corbin’s seat at-large. Though they vary in age, gender, and occupation, the one thing they all have in common is an interest in the school system and the education of the children of Macon County. Each candidate was asked to answer four questions. The following are their answers. They are listed alphabetically.

**Question 1. Please tell the citizens a bit about your background — age, family particulars, job.**

**Brooks Bennett:** I am 55 years old, married with one child and have been a resident of Macon County for 31 years. I graduated from Cabe for the District 11 seat; everyone else is running for Kevin Corbin’s seat at-large.

**Question 2. What do you see as the most pressing issue facing the school board?**

**Brooks Bennett:** I see the most pressing issue as the need to increase funding for our schools and to ensure that every child receives a quality education.

**Question 3. What would you like to see accomplished during your term as school board member?**

**Brooks Bennett:** I would like to see an increase in the funding for our schools and to ensure that every child receives a quality education.

**Question 4. What do you think city/county government can do to help the school board with its work?**

**Brooks Bennett:** I think city/county government can do more to support our schools by increasing funding and providing additional resources.

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**Power outage cripples half of Highlands**

**By Susanna Forrester**

Though half the town didn’t even know there was a power outage, the other half limped through the day while power went on and off between noon and 7 p.m., Monday, Aug. 21.

The outage was initiated by a piece of equipment which was likely struck by lightning, said Lamar Nix, town engineer. "The piece is called a 'blade' kind of bracket used in lieu of a fuse. It broke and knocked out the power and during the process of finding the fault in the grid, we knocked Duke Power off so we had to wait for them to come and fix that."

The hub affected was on U.S. 64 west and the businesses were on the north side of town including N.C. 106.

Resident Colleen Holt, who lives on Spring Street, said from her porch she could see lights on at Fireside Restaurant but she had no power nor did Regions Bank or the Post Office. "I kept going off and coming back on, so I finally just stopped setting my clocks!"

Nix said a heavy load was the reason power went on and off for.

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**Golfers to get boost up**

**By Susanna Forrester**

Participants in this year’s Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund Classic, Monday, Aug. 28 at the Cullasaja Club, will get a chance to see a professional golfer in action and give the fund a real boost.

**Stew Kirkland,** a member of the National Long Drive Association and recently won an event that moved him into the National finals in Colorado, will stand on the 9th Tee all day and for $10 per person in the foursome — $40 for a foursome — he will hit a drive the foursome can use as their tee shot. Half the money from the driving fee goes to Kirkland and half to the scholarship fund.

"For every group that comes to number nine, I’ll hit six balls," said Kirkland, a Remax five-time world-long drive qualifier. "I guarantee a short chip or a putt."

• See GOLFERs page 11

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**6th Mnt. Top Relay for Life this Friday**

**By Skip Taylor**

Smiles, hugs, handshakes, and a few tears will fill the evening twilight that settles over the fields behind the Cashiers Community Center this Friday night, as once again hundreds of friends, neighbors and soon-to-be-friends gather to walk through the night to fight cancer.

It’s a time to celebrate life, support those who fight on, and remember — perhaps tearfully — those who are no longer here to walk among the thousands of luminaries lining the track in their honor.

Organizers are expecting hundreds of walkers, survivors, and spectators from both Highlands and Cashiers to turn out for the sixth annual Mountain Top Relay for Life. And whether a music lover, barbecue lover, or lover of fun, there will be plenty to keep everyone entertained throughout the evening.

But the primary purpose, of course, is to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

"Over the past five years, this event has raised a total of $908,000 to help fight cancer and we are going to break the million-dollar mark this year," said Buck Trotter, who has co-chaired the event since it began. "But we need everyone to come out. You don’t have to be a member of a Relay team. Come listen to the bands, eat some of the fabulous barbecue or other food, or buy a ticket for the many great prizes being offered!"
A Jewish response to a Jewish response

Dear Editor,

I read Dr. Redmountain's "Radical Middle" article of Thursday August 17, 2006 and it left me to ponder some questions, to wit: Is that the title of the weekly section of your paper (I wouldn't know because we are vacation home-owners and not here year-round), OR is "Radical" just the mindset of the author, OR was his sometimes sensible, but sometimes outrageous words just printed to purposely elicit the "feedback" that is encouraged in your by-line OR was "middle" in there just as a reference to the Middle East, because it sure isn't a "middle" of the road perspective in the political realm.

A couple of years ago I read two consecutive weekly articles by Mr. Woolbridge. The ones about the voting "turtles" of Palm Beach County, Florida and the one about the chain restaurants that had the audacity of wanting to open franchises in Highlands. I took it personally and got p-o'd and I actually wrote letters to the editor; something I had never done before. But as time has passed I have come to see him as an equal opportunity offender, so I am coming around in my own mind to cut him some slack. Accordingly, with the looming possibility of a couple more years passing I'll change my opinion about the good "doctor." I'll temper my opinions and stick to facts rather than get personal.

If I had started reading the article backwards from the end I would have chalked it up to a reasonable commentary about the world's violence, extremism and dire warning about the terrible possibility about nuclear escalation. I would have probably just agreed with him and turned the page to look for a crossword puzzle. But then I would have gotten to the first 4 paragraphs...the one about the author being a jew (but to be sure he added that he wasn't a religious one)...and that as such he was ashamed of the "atrocities" committed by Israel and about how Prime Minister Olmert and his cabinet could be tried in the Hague for "war crimes". It's incredible that the author didn't think to (at least) add Sheik Nasralah's name into that sentence. And that's when my wife told me either she or I had to respond.

In the author's own words... "Israel was "threatened with [its] obliteration." Why does he then so easily gloss over his own words? Does not a sovereign nation have the right, and the obligation to its citizens, to defend itself when it is threatened with obliteration? Israel is a country of 6 million people, surrounded by countries of several hundred million people, many of whose governments have, for 58 years since the establishment of Israel, helped nurture the mindset that Israel and its inhabitants do not have the right to exist. With Iran being one of them who may be capable of pulling that off. And, am I living in the Twilight zone...war crimes trials at The Hague...Oh please!!! Israel is in a war for its existence. Yes, the loss of innocent lives is horrible, the nature of war is terrible...but to defend one's own existence in the face of overwhelming odds is just. War crimes? The author loses all credibility here. Maybe we should posthumously indict Roosevelt, Churchill and Truman for war crimes committed in the killing of hundreds of thousands of people in Dresden, Hiroshima & Nagasaki...of course not. Why is it so easy for people to point the finger at Israel?

CNN is really great at showing the loss of innocent lives in Lebanon. And yes Israeli artillery killed non-combatants while aiming at the terrorists. The terrorists who deliberately chose to headquarter, and fire their rockets, in the midst of their people. They are the war criminals. I'm curious why the author didn't pick up on the fact that Hezbollah's rockets had no target OTHER than innocent people? I would ask the people who think like the author to indulge me with a favor. Draw a picture of two soldiers aiming a rifle at each other. One is an Israeli soldier and one is a Hezbollah fighter. Now, behind the Israeli draw a woman and her child, and in front of the Hezbollah fighter draw a woman and her child. The Israeli soldier is just defending what is his. The Hezbollah fighter wants to "drive Israel into the sea." To him it's a win-win situation. He knows that it doesn't matter if he gets killed, because after all he will become a martyr of Allah and have 72 virgins at his disposal. Furthermore his group also gains worldwide political support and multi-millions of dollars of funding; and the jihadists gain recruits when CNN shows the killing of his woman and child.

How do you fight a mindset like that? The author seems to say you ignore it. How ludicrous is that?

Richard Lundy
Vacationing in Highlands

Thanks for ordinance

Dear Editor,

I will start this letter with a huge thanks Dr. O'Neil for coming forth and speaking up about the "perceived" noise coming from the Riverwalk area. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.
... CANDIDATES continued from page 1

from Western Carolina University with a BS in education. I later went back and got an MA in education. In addition to this I am certified in school administration. Presently, I work for Johnson Controls Incorporated in a management position.

Tommy Cabe: I am 63 years old and was born and raised in Macon County. Aside from the nine years I spent in the navy during Vietnam, I have lived here all my life. I’ve owned and operated a land surveying business for over 30 years. I’ve been involved in Macon County Schools as a student, parent, grandparent and volunteer. My spouse is a teacher at Cullasaja School.

William Cozzens: Well, I have lived in this area since August 1991. My wife, Karen, and I got married in 1997 and we moved here to Franklin in December 2000 and have been here ever since. We have really enjoyed living here. My wife and I cannot have children. However, we both really love kids, and are hoping to adopt some day. Growing up my father was in the military, and so we traveled all over the world. I believe in all in all, I attended nine different schools, finally graduating from Smoky Mountain High School in 1992. After graduation from high school, I attended Southwestern Community College for a short while before going to school and earning a Class A CDL. Later, I returned to SCC and graduated with an Associate in General Education, and went on to Western Carolina to obtain a Bachelors Degree in Political Science with a minor in business law, and then on for my Master’s Degree in Public Administration. After graduation, I went to work at where I am now, as a federal agency. I work as a claims representative. I have been with the federal government for 6 years. One interesting piece of information is that this year on Aug. 1, 2006, my wife and I changed our name from William and Karen Smith to William and Karen Cozzens. I wanted us to revert to our original ancestral last name. So, most people now us by Smith not Cozzens. My wife and I are very active in our church, as I am an ordained minister (Priest specifically). I don’t wish to hide anything. Karen and I do all of the music at the church. She plays the flute and I the piano. I also love to sing, some country, but my favorite is contemporary Christian. I used to do concerts, but not in a long time. We are also active in our homeowners association. I am the current president and she is the treasurer. Lastly, we are also active in the Franklin Support Group.

Joey Curtis: I am 41 years old. I was born in Franklin and have lived here my entire life. I am proud to have been able to call Franklin home all that time. My wife’s name is Missy and I have two wonderful children who both attend South Macon Elementary. I have worked at Drake Software for the past 18 years as a software programmer. My wife works as a speech teacher at South Macon.

Wendy Dalton: I have lived in Franklin for 26 years. I am 45 years old, married to Terry Dalton and we have three children: Jessica 24, Trevor 21 and Tyler 7. I am Vice President of Dalton Construction, Inc. and former owner of Dalton’s Bible Bookstore.

Tony Esterwood: I am 46 years old and am married with three children: Connor 14, 8th grade; Emily 12, 7th grade; and Shannon 10, 5th grade at East Franklin School. My wife Rita who recently completed a Class A CDL. Later, I returned to SCC and graduated with an Associates in General Education. 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 $493,000. Must see to appreciate!
Why I drive a shoe skate

Stop what you're doing right now, walk out and look at the car you drive. Is it you? Does it really fit your personality? Stare at it hard and study its looks carefully. Is the old saying “You are what you drive” true?

Do people who drive a Toyota Scion bx (the box) think they are as dumb as their car looks? And if you own a pickup truck, is it mandatory to wear a baseball cap, scratch your crotch and spit between your teeth?

Actually I don’t have a clue, but I would guess not. I base this guess on the fact that I drive a shoe skate. Oh, I like to skate but you wouldn’t look at me and say, “I’ll bet he drives a shoe skate.” We had a cleaning lady once who arrived in her Mercedes. Was she rich or was she also sleeping in it because she couldn’t afford rent?

Three years ago I decided I was just too damn old to be swinging from cliffs all day and decided to retire…again. Then I looked at my poor ole Jeep Wrangler and decided it should retire also. We had been through a lot together. I would trade the old boy in for something else. By the way, all Wranglers are boys.

Enter the little missus, a person who is usually only interested in two things when picking a car: the color and the radio. But this time it was different. She was “truckt out,” having bounced around in that little Jeep for thirteen years. She wanted a softer ride.

It had to be a 4 wheeler because, where we live, if we face a mountain truck or a car coming the other way, I am required to leave the road and drive up the embankment into the woods to avoid a head on collision. Bowery Road folks who thought their road was dangerous (what a joke) should call me.

My new car had to have a rag top (that’s fifties talk) so we could take it off (the top) and explore the wilderness. It also had to have a soft ride. Does such a vehicle exist?

It was time to search the web for my new dream car. I typed in “must be short to fit my stubby garage + 4 wheel + 4 cylinders + soft ride + rag top + cheap + awesome radio” and, as an extra bonus for the little missus, I typed in “lipstick holders.” POW, out came my shoe skate.

Fred Wooldridge
Feedback is encouraged! email: rappeddown@aol.com

Prosper in 2006! Advertise in Highlands’ Newspaper
Believe it or not

I don’t know if the Internet has made it worse, or if it was always as bad only less noticeable, but the proliferation of conspiracy theories grates on me like few other flights from reason.

Oh, sure, there was always astrology and various cults and bits of selective insanity. It fascinated me that otherwise normal people, apparently possessed of the usual number of brain cells, could nevertheless believe some outrageous ideas.

Take astrology. Despite the fact that the relationship among various constellations has changed radically over the years, invalidating the basic assumptions of this ancient system, millions of people still live their lives according to the precepts of astrology, or at least take it seriously enough to choose a potential partner.

Where religion is concerned, there is almost no limit to what people are willing to believe. From the virgin birth to primitive dietary laws to twenty-six virgins in paradise as a reward for male martyrs, from following David Koresh of the Branch Davidians in incendiary suicide to dying by Kool-Aid on the orders of the Reverend Jim Jones, the list is legion.

I have long speculated that some people must have an encapsulated part of their brains that allows them to suspend reason, but history informs me that literally millions have died in the past, defending ludicrous notions of all kinds, making it unlikely that it is some form of anatomical dysfunction.

I don’t know what makes some susceptible to conspiracy theories — I wanted to interview Oliver Stone about it, but he seems to have outgrown it, whatever it is, with the making of the movie “World Trade Center.” I know, of course, that a paranoid personality makes such beliefs more likely. Also, an initial exposure to one conspiracy makes the acceptance of others more likely.

Europeans, who have experienced multiple real conspiracies in their lifetimes, seem inclined to believe them more widely than Americans. We are considered perpetual innocents by people in many foreign countries. Whether we have been spared a lot of conspiracies or just kept more ignorant by a lethargic press, I don’t know.

I remember the shock everyone went through when it was revealed that President Eisenhower had been lying when he denied the existence of spy planes over the Soviet Union, or even when President Nixon was exposed as a serial liar.

We probably have gotten inured to revelations of lying by our government. That is certainly one reason we are willing to believe many a far-out tale which attains widespread currency.

Currently there seem to be two or three primary conspiracy theories circulating around the world. One takes the form of disbelief that some individual or group could have perpetrated a major event, therefore some else must have done it. It used to be the Kennedy assassination. Nowadays it’s the collapse of the World Trade Center. Left-wingers offer a complex narrative which blames
ed her Family Nurse Practitioner training is the school nurse at the Macon Middle School. I am actively involved with coaching soccer, coaching swimming and leading Cub Scout Pack 217 as the Cub Master. I work at the Center for Family Medicine as a Board Certified Family Medicine Physician. I have lived in Macon County for 16 years. When my children were younger I was an active school volunteer. I am the president of the Macon County Soccer Club and have helped organize an annual swim club for children at the Franklin Health and Fitness Center during the winter months.

Guy Gooder: I am 36 years old this past week in fact. I am the middle child of three; I have an older sister Anita and younger brother Colin. My parents are Betsey and Gary Gooder of Franklin. I have been married to my wife Alicia for 14 years and have two children, Krash, age 11, and Sydney, age nine. I grew up in my family’s newspaper business working as a paper boy, advertising designer, photographer/darkroom technician. Graduated Franklin High class of 1988, attended Southwestern Community College and Appalachian State University graduating in 1992. I currently own and operate Gooder Grafix which was started in 1995. I work with area non-profit organizations such as the Macon County Soccer Club, The Dave Linn Foundation, Inc., The Macon County Fair Board, and The Franklin Youth Tennis Association.

Question 2. Why would you make a good school board member?

Brooks Bennett: My experience in education plus my background in business would be beneficial if I am elected to the board of education. Through family, friends and parents; I have kept up with the needs and concerns of the community as far as education goes. I have heard some good things and I’ve heard about some things that need changing. I enjoy listening to people and being part of an administrative board that can make changes based on their input. It is time for the board of education to take a serious look at their criteria for hiring administrators. The focus needs to be on hiring the most qualified applicant for any position. The people hired should also understand the culture of Macon County. It is alarming to me when local qualified candidates with traditional degrees are not granted interviews and marginally qualified people with non-traditional degrees are hired.

Tommy Cabe: When elected, I promised that I would be available to the public. I frequently visit and volunteer in Macon County’s schools. I feel that my being a “people person” makes me particularly approachable to students, parents, and school employees who have questions or concerns. Now that the School Board will be choosing a new superintendent, I’m eager to continue the projects that we have started. Being a professional land surveyor will be a positive attribute if and when the board has to purchase property.

William Cozzens: Some may wonder if a minister can keep a distinction between church and state. I do this every day in my job. Even though, I have strong faith in my beliefs, I am very much for the rights of the individuals, especially students and teachers. I do not believe it proper for the state to interfere with those rights. I believe that...
During the 7th annual Highlands Native Plant Conference, landscape designer Lois Fuller will lead a field trip to two gardens she has designed, including one at the home of Dr. "Mo" Wheeler at the base of Shortoff Mountain. Pictured is a water feature from that garden, as well as a stunning row of hydrangeas. The conference is at PAC on Chestnut Street, Sept. 8-10, and will feature six speakers and nine field trips, all led by landscape designers, naturalists or horticulturists. For ticket information, call 526-2602.

... CANDIDATES continued from page 6

I would be good, fair, and open to the opinions and ideas expressed by the people I am responsible for as a teacher and a child currently enrolled in our school system. Teachers and students should be free to express their thoughts and opinions in an open atmosphere. I believe as a elected official, it is vitally important that they listen to what the people are saying, whether it be school board or anything else. I want to state emphatically, that I do not have any kind of agenda. I know a lot of people who run for office do, but my only desire is to be a listening ear for teachers, students, and parents. I want them to know that their opinions and ideas are important. I remember many, many times, when school board leaders in various places that I attended school, did not always pay attention or care about what the voters thought. I think this is wrong. I believe that as a school board member, my most important task should be that of ensuring that the concerns of students, teachers and parents are all addressed appropriately and promptly. I am a very strong advocate of student rights. I truly believe that since they are the ones going to school, they need to have a voice. I would like to strive to see that this is done. I believe in being partial and fair in everything. In addition, I truly believe in open communication. Communication flows two ways, from the board to the public, and from the public to the board. I believe that I would be good, fair, and open to the opinions, ideas, and concerns expressed by the people who elected me. I believe that I can bring a fresh perspective to the body elected to govern our local school system. Sometimes, it is good elected people with new ideas and new ways of thinking and doing things. I am also to have some diversity in government, because only then can we grow and be a truly united nation.

Joey Curtis: I believe I would be a good school board member because I want the best education for the children of Macon County. I want to do what is best for the children in all aspects. If you do right by the kids, everything else will fall into place. I am not beholden to any political party or any agenda. I have been very involved with the school system for the last several years. My daughter will be in 5th grade this year and my son will be in 2nd grade. In that time, I have volunteered at South Macon School many many hours in both of my children’s classrooms as well as various other classrooms besides. I have helped with one one tutoring in reading and math. I was Vice President of South Macon PTO for two years. I am currently President of the Macon County Academic Foundation so I am aware of some of the needs of the teachers. I will work to bring integrity and honesty to the board.

Wendy Dalton: The experience that I have gained in owning and managing two businesses and serving on various community boards, has given me the opportunity to develop strong leadership skills. I have the courage to address tough issues and confront problems as they arise. As a mother of a teacher and a child currently enrolled in our school system, my motivation is...
Performances are Tuesday-Saturday at 8 PM and Sunday matinee at 2 PM.

"To Kill A Mockingbird" Aug. 17-27

From left: Scout (Jessica Bryant) and Jem (Zachary Burke) look on as Atticus Finch (Ron Grooten) is confronted by Bob Ewell (Mike Smith). Photo by Al McLeod

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.

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clearly in the best interest of our children, teachers and their future.

Tony Esteswood: As a physician I think I could bring a unique perspective to the school board and I would like to work on school health related issues. I would like to see further expansion of the school health programs so teachers are not responsible for making as many medical decisions and students with chronic medical conditions can be better monitored and miss fewer school days. I would like to work on improving the quality of our school nutrition program. I also would like to continue the support for the early college program and see it grow into a full four year program once the SCC construction is complete. I feel I am a fair, honest, and approachable person who could make a positive impact in our schools.

Mike Geiger: I have family in the system and my grandmother was the lunchroom manager at Otto School for years. There are a lot of questions that need to be answered and as "Joe Off the Street," you can't find things out unless you're in the system.

Guy Gooder: Any parent that is an advocate for public schools has the ability to make good decisions for our children and teachers. The school board members are public trustees of our children's education. I feel that I am assertive enough to help the school board make good decisions on issues that affect a wide range of individuals or specific groups. Working to make our schools the best they can be and positive learning centers for our children energizes me. I know a variety of parents and they all have a common thread when speaking about their children's education — quality. I want to be involved in insuring our children get quality education, comparable not just nationally but globally.

Question 3. Did the unsettling affairs (the past year in particular) at the administration level and/or the way the school board dealt with them, have anything to do with your decision to run for school board?

Brooks Bennett: No, not really. But, "No Child Left Behind" puts a lot of pressure on teachers and students. The board needs to work hard to make sure the teachers and students get the information and resources needed to make sure none of our children get left behind. They also need the additional guidance counselors talked about in the last meeting.

Tommy Cabe: No. This had nothing to do with my decision to run for this position again. The decisions we made at that time were based on what the law requires.

William Cozzens: No, the unsettling affairs of the past year, did not have any impact on my decision to run. However, these affairs will certainly impact on how I would perform the function of the job to which I am elected. As I indicated, fairness, and open two way communication, are the critical element for any elected official. I believe the community has a right to know what is going on. There has to be a way to balance one's privacy, with what the community be made aware of.

Joey Curtis: I ran for school board two years ago for the seat that Suzie McCoy now holds. So, I have been interested in the school board for sometime. Although I did not like what happened at the administration level and did not totally agree with how it was handled, that was not the reason that I decided to run. I decided to run two years ago and again this time because I wanted to do all that I possibly could to ensure that not only my children, but all the children of Macon County had a top notch quality education. I want to see to it that everyone who graduates from high school, whether they attend college or not, have the necessary skills to be productive citizens.

Wendy Dalton: There has not been any single issue that influenced my decision to run for school board and I will not comment on the unfortunate circumstances at the administration level. However, there has been a gradual trend toward a lack of accountability within the administration which has lead to our current situation. The most important thing is to focus on the future and how we can move forward from...
Outsourcing medical care

Last week I wrote of the growing crisis in American healthcare. Two stories appeared this week to put an exclamation point on that column.

The first featured an American woman from Arkansas, an uninsured small business owner. Faced with the need for hip replacement, she shopped around. She found India where a new hip cost her $7000, compared to between $30,000 and $60,000 for the same procedure in the U.S. She chose India and was delighted with the care she received there and with the outcome. Her surgeon was an English speaking, English educated orthopedic surgeon. The staff professional and compassionate. She was even able to limp around and take in a few sights before returning home. When I told this story to a colleague, an orthopedic surgeon, he responded that he wouldn’t take care of her post operative infection. Considering that she had no infection and that if she did she would be more likely to seek care in Arkansas than South Carolina, I think he might have missed my point, and he once again equated cost with quality.

The second story was similar, but broader in scope. A few American companies, crushed under a burden of escalating healthcare costs for their employees, are exploring international options. Although there are just a few companies sending their employees abroad today, this mini-trend is a dead canary in a mine shaft, if ever there was one. India and Indonesia have been mentioned as destinations and the article stated that medical tourism was morphing into global healthcare.

Twenty five years ago, when I was employed by the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, Italians flew in droves to Houston for coronary artery bypass surgery. So great was the reputation of Dr. Denton Cooley and his staff, that the Italians saw no need to develop a heart surgery program at home. Italians arrived, received new vessels, recuperated, and visited the Galleria for a little shopping before boarding a return flight to Rome. Today Americans are flying to India to have their joints replaced or their gall bladders removed. There was a time when we made shoes in this country, when were the world’s leader in steel, automobiles, televisions, when the clothes we wore were made in the USA. Where are those industries today?

Doctors once joked that whatever U.S. industry faltered and died, there was no way to outsource burgers or doctors. The world is a very different place today. It seems that only burgers are safe from the effects of globalization. Americans have sought foreign healthcare before. While U.S. citizens have been crossing the Mexican border for affordable care for several years, wealthy Mexicans still bring their families to Houston when illness strikes. Several years ago, in the early 80s, the American dollar was so strong that a few Americans traveled to London for elective surgery. The gourmet meals, luxurious surroundings, and first-rate care of the English private system were appealing, as was the chance to be a little different, to save some money, to see Big Ben before coming home, and just maybe thumb a nose at the bloated American health care system.

While international travel is not a big trend and may not grow to become one, it hurts U.S. hospitals for the patients who are leaving are the very ones whose company insurance subsidizes care for under funded Medicare and Medicaid patients, and for those with no insurance and no means to pay. The most ironic point is that American doctors, the very same doctors who have demonized malpractice attorneys for decades as the root of all healthcare evil, now issue a rather hollow warning. If there is a problem, they proclaim ominously, the patients who have traveled abroad will lack the protection of the legal system. In other words, the right to sue your doctor suddenly becomes a good thing, but only if his name is Patel or Singh.

Globalization does indeed make strange bedfellows.

... REDMOUNTAIN continued from page 5

our own government. We allegedly wanted an excuse to attack Iraq, so we staged the event. A plethora of detail follows, supposedly proving how the explosion after impact could not have caused the kind of flames which collapsed the buildings.

On the Arab street, the Jews are blamed (they are blamed for everything, in the newest version of anti-Semitism). Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, colluded with the airlines in blaming nineteen Saudi terrorists for the hijackings and suicide missions. The American government, of course, cooperated with the Israelis.

A second theory, slightly different from the first, raises doubts about the perpetrator of a murder or accident, like the one that killed Princess Diana. This one points to her husband, Prince Charles, and the British government, colluding in a murder-cum-accident, because Charles wanted to re-marry and Diana was standing in his way.

More or less finally, there is the kind of conspiracy in which a small, diabolic group controls giant organizations and authors all of its policies. In the United States, for example, this could be President Bush’s advisors or a few corporate directors or Jews in high government posts. In Latin America it’s the CIA, of course, or the Vatican among fallen Catholics.

What all of these theories have in common is that they give people a chance to reinforce their prejudices and feel justified in what they already irrationally believe. They also overcome uncertainty, especially when there is some doubt about who did the deed. Nothing is quite as uncomfortable as uncertainty. People will often go to any lengths to avoid it.

I think the reason I dislike conspiracy theories so much is that they usually make so little sense. If more than two people are involved in any kind of secret manipulation, the odds are that the third, or fourth, or fifth, will beaching to spill the beans.

It’s an old dictum among bank robbers, actually, that if two are involved it’s one too many. And don’t ask who told me that. I’m keeping it very close to my chest.
... CANDIDATES continued from page 8

this point in time.

Tony Esterwood: Although the personal issues are very concerning and got my attention, they were not a significant motivating factor for my running for the school board. I am not in a position to judge the current school board since I am not privy to all the details of these difficult situations, but I hope that if I am elected I will be able to deal with difficult situations in a fair and open way.

Mike Geiger: Not really. There are just money questions that need to be answered. For instance, assistant teachers’ pay and teachers’ pay. If the school board is going to push the “No Child Left Behind Mandate” it needs to be pushing to pay the people who teach and care for these kids. You can’t get quality teachers and teacher assistants if you don’t have the funding. Teachers need assistants to help them do the job. Across the state from and to the coast teachers assistants make $4,000 more a year than here. If the system wants kids taken care of, it has to pay to get it done. If people can’t make a living at it they will eventually have to give it up.

Guy Gooder: No. I had some issues with certain decisions prior to Dr. Shotwell’s incident and the Highlands School incident and one currently. First off, Dr. Shotwell should have finished the school year just like every teacher and child finishes the school year. I can’t comment anymore in depth on his issues because I don’t have all the facts and was not involved in the decision making processes of the board at that time. I have problems with the fact that the school board never challenged a honors biology teacher at Franklin high school who assigned a major paper on comparing the scientific evidence for both creationism and evolution. Macon County also joined a lawsuit with eleven other boards of education challenging the constitutionality of the recently enacted law requiring all kindergarten children to obtain “comprehensive eye exams.” Without a more in depth eye exam most children would not be tested for Visual Memory and Hyperopia, Color Blindness or “Lazy Eye,” Acuity-distance the 20/20 test is all that will be checked. There also is a problem with not having assistant teachers in third grades classrooms. The most pivotal time for children academically and teachers will have no help, no chance to reach students that are falling behind, time for making lesson plans etc. Children come to a realization that they are smart and capable of learning or not in third grade. Teachers must have the time and means to keep any child from second guessing their ability and intelligence.

Question 4. Is there anything in particular you would like to see changed about the school board - the way it conducts business, the way it conducts meetings, the way it communicates with the public… anything?

Brooks Bennett: With a budget of 34 million dollars, there is need for line item expenditures not lump sum expenditures to hold the board accountable for spending. Taxpayers should not have to hire someone to find out how money is being spent, it should be public knowledge. Money spent on legal fees should also be public knowledge. Taxpayers should not have to hire someone to find out how money is being spent, it should be public knowledge. Money spent on legal fees should also be public knowledge. Board members should meet with their constituents on a regular basis to listen to their concerns and let them know what is going on. After all, the board represents the citizens of Macon County.

William Cozzens: Whether one is a state or federal employee, we are paid by the tax dollars of the citizens of our community, and therefore, we have a responsi-
... CANDIDATES continued from page 10

Bally as elected officials to the voters, to the ones who pay our salary to keep them informed. So, I truly believe that there has to be a balance between privacy and the public right to know.

Joey Curtis: I would like to see the board be more proactive in dealing with problems quickly like what occurred this past year. If that means putting an administrator or anyone on leave for a period of time until the problem is worked out, then so be it. I believe that the school board had their hands tied as far as communicating to the public. I don’t believe that they should talk about particulars of a situation if there is ongoing litigation in the courts. No one wants to be accused of anything or have their name mentioned in the media for something that is just based on rumor and innuendo. People are going to gossip enough in private but we don’t need more of the same from the media. I think that if there are improprieties, and the board has evidence to that, then that person should be at the very least be put on leave immediately until the issue is cleared up. That would at least give the public the message that the situation is being dealt with. Not being on the current board and not knowing all the details, it is hard for me to say if anything different could have been done.

Wendy Dalton: I feel strongly that it is very important that the board receive constructive input from teachers and school staff before making decisions that have an effect on them and their classrooms. The superintendent is course one of the most influential positions in a school system. Their style of leadership and willingness to properly supervise those within the administration are critical to maintaining a spirit of unity within the school system. I would encourage respect and cooperation between teachers, administration and parents with an attitude of teamwork. Knowing that there is a support system in place to adequately equip the teacher in the classroom, is a huge asset for the education of our children.

Tony Edensor: If elected I hope the school board can operate in an open and transparent way so that the public can obtain the information that it needs to support the decisions that are made. I hope I can make a positive influence in this area.

Mike Geiger: Except for extremely closed door policy on personnel stuff, the public should be kept informed. Personnel issues should be dealt with behind closed doors but everything else should be out in the open. Elected officials are on the board for the public and the public should know what’s going on before final decisions are made and it should have some kind of input on it.

Guy Gooder: The board needs to move meeting to Tuesdays so that someone wanting to get items on the agenda will have an easier time getting in touch with the superintendent or chairman of the board. I would like to see meetings put on public access cable TV, this would be good for the county commissioner meetings also. Parents should not have to be inconvenienced going in person when we have today’s technology. The board’s websites should have the minutes of the monthly meetings updated more often. They are usually two months behind. I think public access is important and these suggestions make the school board much more transparent. Budget information and superintendent reports should be put on the board’s website also.

... GOLFERS continued from page 1

for an eagle. Each team that donates will make no worse than a birdie. Number nine is 370 yards. I’ll fly it to the middle of the green.”

Kirkland started playing with his Dad when he was six years old in Illinois. “There were cow pastures on one side and soy fields on the other so you can just hit it and let it go,” he said.

He qualified for the finals in Greensboro, N.C. on August 13 with a 365-yard drive winning by 23 yards over the 1996 champion. This will be his fifth trip to the finals.

“I won a local contest in Atlanta with a drive of 408 yards, beating even the 18 to 44 year olds,” said Kirkland, 46, who achieved his first hole-in-one at the World Finals. “I’m one of the favorites in Mesquite, NV.” He is a Bang Golf Staff Member.

There are still spots open for the tournament which is the scholarship’s main fundraiser. Registration for the event is at 11 am. A lunch buffet will be provided, as well as an open practice range and tee gift distribution. A shot gun start scramble will begin at 12:30 pm and from 5 to 7:30 pm cocktails and a dinner buffet will be served.

“Of course I will be there to support my dad,” Kirkland said. “He’s earned this.”

Jaimie Chamber the MGC President. The Health Clinic is just one community project that the Mountain Garden Club has taken sole responsibility for including the labor are the Wetzler Memorial Garden located on the east side of the Cullasaja Club, The Butterfly Garden at the Highlands School and the Daylily landscaping at the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society.

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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 460, 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.

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$10 for the traditional Country Buffet with soup, salad bar, carvery, hot meats and vegetables, drinks, and dessert bar for $10.95, just like Sunday lunch.

Dinner Friday and Saturday is the Special Buffet with Angie Jenkins playing Broadway piano until 9 p.m., for your dining pleasure, $13.95.

Special Karaoke featuring good voices, friends, food and fun! Also, 30 sleeping rooms for your guests.

OLD CLAYTON INN
60 S. Main Street – Clayton, GA
706-782-7722 for reservations

We are now open Sundays for dinner 4 to 8 p.m. for the traditional Country Buffet with soup, salad bar, carvery, hot meats and vegetables, drinks, and dessert bar for $10.95, just like Sunday lunch.

Dinner Friday and Saturday is the Special Buffet with Angie Jenkins playing Broadway piano until 9 p.m., for your dining pleasure, $13.95.

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Angie Jenkins with Stell Huie.

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

buy me to take it off your hands.” I asked? He shot right back, “GM will give you three grand if you’re bold enough to drive such a car.” He continued, “Even though it’s a Chevy, the engine and drive train are made by Suzuki. Not too much on this car is American so you know she’s well built.” It was the boldest purchase I ever made.

We call her (yes, it’s a “her” car) “The Lil Tracker” and shortly after we drove it off the lot, GM heard about our purchase and discontinued making them. They also discontinued making the Firebird shortly after I bought one also, along with the Toyota Celica. Should I be getting a message here?

Even though rednecks make fun of me, I love “The Lil Tracker.” I put a “buck” license plate on the front to make it look more masculine. I am considering fake bullet hole decals also.

For New Yorkers who may be reading this, a “buck” in North Carolina is not a dollar but a male deer. Having a picture of a male deer on your car is the ultimate sign of massive amounts of testosterone flowing through the driver’s body. I know you can relate to the bullet holes so I won’t explain that.

I just hope the fake bullet holes never become real.

Buy Fred’s new book “I’m Moving Back to Mars” at your local book store.
"Simon Suites," now being presented by Highlands Community Players at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts, is a composite production from Neil Simon’s hit comedies: “Plaza Suite,” “London Suite,” and “California Suite.”

What fun this show was and a joy to watch. The variety kept it moving and the composite of four shows was a good way to showcase new directors and new talent with Highlands Community Players.

As only Neil Simon can do it, the vignettes were both poignant and funny with topics ranging from a widower on the dating scene, to an ex-husband who is dying of cancer, to high-school sweethearts reuniting to a friendship stretched thin.

Newcomers to Highlands Community Players including Jennifer Royce, Breta Stroud, Rick Siegel and Faye Siegel, hold their own with veteran actors Jill Montana, Wayne Coleman, David Spivey, Virginia Talbot and Sandie Trevathan who have performed for HCP, Highlands Playhouse and elsewhere in the country.

Four new directors — Donna Cochran, Mary Adair Leslie, Annette Coleman, and Nancy Reeder — graduates of HCP’s directing class — each directed an act from one of these three “hotel suites.”

Given the performances of everyone, it’s clear the directing class worked and the women’s past acting experience probably didn’t hurt, either.

One of the new directors, Nancy Reeder, chose to direct an act from “California Suite.” She found it a challenge not only to direct the four actors as they play two couples who have been together on vacation too long, but also to choreograph the physical comedy of Neil Simon. Rick Siegd, who made his debut in “1 Remember Mama,” and Faye Siegd, a newcomer to HCP, play one couple (no relation), while Bonnie Earman, seen in “Stepping Out,” and Stuart Amor, an HCP favorite, play the other couple.

Rick, who with his wife Helene owns 4½ Street Inn, is also chairman of the Board of Directors of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. He says he has had tons of fun working with these fantastic people even though he found the scene a physical challenge. Faye is a summer resident who loves living here, and finds it difficult to leave each fall to her permanent residence in Atlanta. This is her first time on the HCP stage though as a tour guide in Atlanta, she found herself doing a one-person show for each tour. She says she has had a wonderful time getting to know the entire cast. Bonnie is the manager of The Old Rangoon, soon opening at the Old Edwards Inn complex. She is a 37-year resident of Highlands who is involved in a lot of community projects. Stuart who has performed in 17 plays for HCP is the owner of Brick Oven Pizza and the Movie Stop Video store. Stuart loves being on stage, especially when it involves physical comedy.

In the episode from “Plaza Suite” the two couples find themselves in a raging argument after a mishap occurs on the tennis court. Actors Stuart, Rick, Bonnie, and Faye are certain to get many laughs as they fight, bite and even crawl across the stage of the Performing Arts Center.

"Simon Suites" runs through Sunday, Aug. 27, with evening performances at 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The Sunday matinees, Aug. 27, begin at 2:30 p.m. The Performing Arts Center is located on Chestnut Street in Highlands. The ticket office is open 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call 526-8084 for more information and tickets.

Go see the show. You’ll be glad you did.

-- Kim Lewicki
Highlands School Staff

ADMINISTRATION
Mr. Brian Jetter, Principal
Mr. Terry Bradley, Assistant Principal
Tom Jessup, Guidance Counselor
Annette Jenkins, Receptionist & Guidance Secy.
Judy Smart, Secretary
Peggy Warren, Sams Manager

ELEMENTARY
Joy Archer, 3rd Grade
Betty Baker, AIG
Jane Chalker, Great Beginnings
Kim Chenoweth, 1st Grade Assistant
Cindy Cox, 2nd Grade
Dan Kowal, Elementary E.C./ESL
Gail Garland, Media Assistant
Christine Murphy, 3rd Grade
Karen Hasbrouck, Interpreter
Tracy Hedden, 5th Grade
Donna Sizemore, 1st Grade Assst.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Carla Harris, E.C.
Steve Massey, 7th & 8th Grade Social Studies
Sara Mayer, 6th Grade
Michelle Lane, 7th & 8th Grade English, Social Studies
Gene Borino, 6th Grade Math, Science & Health
Stephanie Smathers, 7th & 8th Grade Science
Elizabeth Woods, 7th & 8th Grade Math

HIGH SCHOOL
Carol Bowen, Librarian
Dave Cashion, Vocational
Adrian Holt, Science
Judy Iliff, Math
Dr. Terry Harris, Exceptional Children
Simeon Hickman, Social Studies
Karen Hasbrouck, Translator
Cathy McIntyre-Ross, English
Brett Lamb, HS P.E.
Chris Green, Social Studies
Anne Porter, Business Teacher
Butch Smart, Math & A.D.
Sabrina Cashion, F.A.C.S.
Sallie Taylor, Art
Kristina Kirchner, Band
Martha Andrews, English
Patsy Wilson, French

CAFETERIA STAFF
Jean Shaffer
Lynn Vinson
Cindy McLane
Mary Owens
June Zachary, Mgr.

CUSTODIAL STAFF
Jack Cotton
Dana Gordon
Elaine Tillson
Mike Beck
Susie Collins

BUS DRIVERS
Dale McCall
Mike Beck
Nancy McCall
Jack Philpot

Highlands School PTO officers

President: Kim Ingram
Vice President: Debbie Laaster
Secretary: Annette Jenkins
Treasurer: Colleen Fogle
Past President: Susie deVille
Volunteer Coordinator: Christine Murphy

Elementary Parent Representative: Gina Billingsley
Teacher Representative: Donna Sizemore

Middle School Parent Representative: Michelle Munger

High School Parent Representative: Sammie Leffler
Teacher Representative: Cathy McIntyre-Ross
Here’s to a great 2006-2007 school year!

Dear staff, teachers, parents, and students,

I love new beginnings. I think that is why we all like Springtime. It is a season of new beginnings and the opportunities that come with fresh starts. The beginning of school is like that.

It is the “beginning” of a new school year and from my standpoint, I would encourage each student and parent to make the most of this new beginning. You are only limited by yourself and the limits that you place. This school year is yours to make the most of it.

Parent and grandparents, spend time with your kids. They are the most precious gift you will ever have. Read to them – help them with homework and you will accomplish more than just school work. Your relationship with them will grow and the rewards of that are boundless.

We are blessed with wonderful teachers and staff and speaking of new beginnings, we have four wonderful new principals this year to guide you in learning.

Thanks to Dr. Yeager for helping us with the hiring of these four wonderful principals. We are blessed to have had Dr. Yeager as an interim Superintendent and these four new principals to start the year.

Also, keeping with the theme of new beginnings, within a few months the Board will have hired a new Superintendent. Unfortunately, Dr. Yeager is limited in his time to serve our community by his retirement stipulations. We would LOVE to keep him but he tells us he must vacate the post by the first week of November. Let me say simply that his time with us has been great and I applaud our Board for seeking out and hiring such an individual. He has been wonderful for our kids and that is the bottom line.

Have a great year and may God bless each of you as we work together to make Macon County the best.

Kevin Corbin
Macon County School Board Chairman

Back to School Week in Highlands

• Thursday, Aug. 24
  The Highlands School administrators will hold an Open House from 4-6 p.m. Parents and students are encouraged to pick up schedules, meet their teachers, and drop off their classroom supplies. Student-serving groups in the community are invited to set up displays in the gymnasium to provide information to families. For more information, contact the school at 526-2147 or check the school web page at www.highlands-school.org.

• Friday, Aug. 25
  First Day of School for students at the Highlands School. It will be a full day of school from 8 a.m.-2:53 p.m.

• Saturday, Aug. 26
  Several local churches are hosting a “Back to School Field Day” from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the town ball field. There will be games, lunch, inflatables, cotton candy, and fun. Preschool and elementary children are invited. In case of rain, it will be held in the Rec Park gym.

Boys Varsity Soccer

Fri., Aug. 25 vs. Rabun Gap Nacoochie 4:30 p.m. @ Home
Mon., Aug. 28 @ Rabun Gap Nacoochie 4:30 p.m.
Wed., Aug. 30 @ Franklin 6 p.m.

Mon., Sept. 7 vs. Hiwassee Dam 4 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 9 vs. Hayesville 4 p.m.

Mon., Oct. 2 @ Swain 6 p.m.
Mon., Oct. 16 @ Murphy 6 p.m.

Mon., Oct. 25 vs. Polk 6 p.m.

Wed., Oct. 30 vs. Tallulah Falls 6 p.m.

Mon., Nov. 6 @ Andrews 6 p.m.

Thurs., Oct. 22 vs. Rabun Gap Nacoochie 4:30 p.m.

Thurs., Oct. 28 @ Madison 5 p.m.

Visa & MasterCard accepted.
$10 minimum with credit card

Hill Top Grill

Hamburgers & Fries
Sandwiches & Salads
Ice Cream & More!
At 4th & Spring... on the hill
526-5916

Good Luck!
526-5210
At the Falls on Main
**2nd free health screening Sept. 9 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital**

Registration is now under way for the second free health screening for residents of Highlands and Sylva County. That screening will be held Saturday, Sept. 9 at the new Jane Woodruff Clinic on the campus of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Participants will be checked for important health indicators such as blood pressure, blood sugar levels, cholesterol levels, height, weight, bone density, hearing, and body composition. They will also have the opportunity to talk with experts on a variety of health topics, including the opportunity to talk directly with a physician at many of the screenings. There is no charge whatever, however pre-registration is required.

To pre-register, participants can use the hospital’s website at www.hchospital.org, by clicking on the screening menu, and completing the registration form. Or they can call the hospital’s Foundation office at 828-526-1435.

Appointment times will be assigned as part of the registration process to help reduce lines and waiting times. The screening begins at 7:15 a.m. As in the past, those participating in a screening are asked not to eat or drink anything but water after midnight the night before.

They should also wear short-sleeved garments, and women who wish to have their bone density checked should wear socks instead of hose, and shoes that can be easily removed.

Confidential results of screening tests will be reviewed by the participant’s own family physician (or another local physician if no family doctor is specified) before being mailed.

**Cassandra King signs at Cyrano’s**

**Saturday, Aug. 26, 1-3 p.m.**

Best-selling author and Highlands summer resident Cassandra King will sign copies of “The Same Sweet Girls” and her other novels at Cyrano’s Bookshop on Saturday afternoon, Aug. 26, from 1 to 3 p.m. Hailed by critics and writers such as Sue Monk Kidd (“The Secret Life of Bees”) Ms. King’s funny, poignant tales dislill a true picture of the South, the kind that can only be written by a native. “The Same Sweet Girls” her most recent work, is about a group of college friends — among them the First Lady of Alabama and a former Broadway showgirl — who reunite every other year to catch up on their lives and families.

Anne Rivers Siddons, author of “Sweetwater Creek” and “Peachtree Road” said “If anybody has written a better book about the power of women’s friendships, I haven’t read it.” "The Same Sweet Girls" was a Book-of-the-Month Club selection and was the number one national Book Sense selection when it was released last year.

Ms. King’s other novels include “Makings Waves” and “The Sunday Wife,” which was also selected by Book Sense, the Book-of-the-Month Club and the Literary Guild. "Making Waves," takes place in a small Alabama town where Donnette Sullivan has just inherited her aunt’s house and beauty shop. In its review of Ms. King’s first novel, the Birmingham News said "you can’t go wrong with this winner.” The heroine of “The Sunday Wife” is Dean Lynch, married to an influential and ambitious Methodist minister, but increasingly uncomfortable in the traditional role she is asked to fill. The Boston Globe found it “an intelligent, witty novel, skillfully written,” while Library Journal declared that "King may be the wife of Pat Conroy, but with ‘The Sunday Wife’ she established herself as an authentic southern novelist in her own right.”

Ms. King, a native of Alabama, also writes short stories and has been a journalist and a college-level writing instructor. She and husband Pat Conroy spend the winter in the South Carolina Low Country.

Cyrano’s Bookshop is located at 390 Main Street. Books can be reserved for autographing by calling (828) 526-5488 or sending an e-mail to cyranos@nctv.com.

**Hudson Library seeks input for plans**

The Hudson Library is hosting a number of “Focus Group” discussions to help plan future directions for the library. These meetings will be lead by Ron Dubberly of Dubberly Garcia and Associates, an Atlanta consulting firm that specializes in assisting libraries in growth situations. The public is also invited to participate in this process by completing one of the survey forms that will be found in the library lobby.

The Hudson Library has a unique opportunity for growth when the Bascom-Louise Gallery, which currently occupies about one third of the current building, moves into its own permanent facility in the near future. The Focus Group discussions and public input will play an important part in determining how best to plan for the library’s future even as it continues to provide the level of service that Highlands’ residents and visitors have come to expect.

Please contact the Hudson Library at 526-3031, Robert E. Smith at 526-4594 or John Gaston at 526-3120 for information.
... RELAY continued from page 1

raffled that night. You can also purchase a luminary to honor a loved one, or just come clap for the cancer survivors who walk together at 6:30 p.m.”

The event, which raised $216,000 last year, has been the number one Relay for Life event in the county for five years running, and Trott says this year’s event is already has a solid start on its way to reaching its $219,000 goal.

“It’s great to be number one in the country, but the real goal is to do everything we can to stop this dread disease in its tracks by funding research, new treatment options, and fostering education and prevention. Raising money is how to do that,” he said.

The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. and won’t end until 7 a.m. Saturday morning. Some 30 teams of walkers will be participating, and many of those teams will be selling food, crafts and other items, as well as tickets for a large variety of raffle prizes.

Food being offered will include barbecue as tickets for a large variety of raffle prizes, $100 gift certificate to Reeves Hardware and $200 gift certificate to Lakeside Restaurant. Tickets for those items can be had from the Just For You team.

Some 30 teams of walkers will be participating, and many of those teams will be selling food, crafts and other items, as well as tickets for a large variety of raffle prizes. Food being offered will include barbecue from the grill of Dennis “Doc” Wilson, “dusty dogs” and “fat burger” grilled by members of Highlands Rotary, fresh corn on the cob from Highlands Scout Troop 207, baked goods from the Church of the Incarnation team and much more.

If taking home a bargain is your thing, there’s plenty of chances to do that as well – “chance be the key word. Some of those items being raffled that night include two portfolios of prints by the late artist Hubert Shuptrine, an archery entertainment center, a decorated beveraget set, a hand-carved cherry wood bowl, a collection of Stanley Tools, a hand-quilted wall hanging, a commemorative Longaberger basket, a $150 gift certificate to The Log Cabin Restaurant, a $100 gift certificate to Reeves Hardware and a $100 gift certificate to Lakeside Restaurant. Tickets for those items can be had from the Just For You team.

“Not only are we going to do our part for the fight against cancer, we are going to have a great time,” says Pat Griffin, the other co-chair of Friday’s event and the organizer of the evening’s entertainment. “The night of Relay is always a blast.”

The music gets under way at 7:15 p.m., with classic rock and Delta blues from the band Headwater. Out of Otto, NC, the band is a newcomer to Relay, and features brothers Jarrod and Jacob Ainsworth (on lead guitar and vocals, respectively), Andy Stimpson (bass), and John Kilby (drums). Soon after perennial Relay and area favorite Hurricane Creek will bring their unique blend of soft rock and pop selections to the stage at 10:15 p.m., with a second set to begin at 11:15 p.m.

Folksinger Lee Knight gently wakes up the crowd of diehard relayers at 5 p.m. with his traditional mountain ballads and banjo tunes. The event wraps up at 7 a.m. Saturday morning.

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Village Square
Art & Craft Show
Saturday, Sept. 2
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Fine art and Folk Art, Pottery, Turned Wood, Portraiture, Regional Photography, Jewelry and more by local artists.

Bake Sale by the Girls’ Clubhouse Food at Fresser’s, Public rest rooms, plenty of parking! On 5th St. between Oak & Pine.

Call Mill Creek Gallery & Framing at 787-2021 for details

Highlands Plaza
526-3379
Buy a Bel Canto ticket and support Highlands School music program

Over the last two years the Bel Canto recital program has donated over $20,000 to the Highlands School music program. This program involves students from elementary school through high school level and has about 240 students participating.

The money raised by the Bel Canto Recital goes directly to the music program. Other than the music teacher’s salary, the Bel Canto financial budget is invisible to the students. The money provided by the Bel Canto allows the school to purchase musical instruments for the students.

The intent of the early instruction is to teach students to read music and play an instrument by the fifth grade. The emphasis is on instrumental work although students may also participate in a choral program. Students buy their instruments if they can afford them or they can rent them for a monthly fee. Those who cannot afford either are allowed to use the school’s instruments. No one is denied access to the program.

The money that Bel Canto donates to the school goes directly to the music program. Neither the county nor the local administration has any claim on it. Music teacher Kristina Kirchner decides how it should be spent. The list of items Bel Canto contributions purchased this year is impressive. Most schools must devote many hours and much hard work toward fund raisers in order for their music programs to be successful. “I consider myself very lucky to have such a generous group of people to donate so much money to the music program. I cannot express my appreciation and gratitude for your generosity,” said Kirchner.

The items purchased last year were: band and small ensemble music: $1,200, choir music: $100, tubes: $3,000, two baritones: $2,250 each, two French horns: $1,800 each, drum heads and mallets: $100 – a total of $12,500.

This year’s wish list includes: music: $1,500, tenor saxophone: $1,500, piccolo: $1,000, bass clarinet: $4,000, bass clarinet stand: $250, snare drum: $900, bass drum: $1,500, congas: $500 – a total of $11,120.

With the remaining money, Kirchner wants to take the 6th – 12th grade band students on a field trip to Western Carolina University to hear their bands perform. “By hearing these outstanding bands, I hope to inspire my students to practice and work ever harder so that they may one day be such great musicians,” she said.

This year’s Bel Canto Recital is Sunday, Sept. 3 at the Martin-Lipsomb Performing Arts Center at 4 p.m. Highlands School will share in the proceeds along with the Bascom-Louise Gallery.

Instruments purchased for Highlands School with last year’s Bel Canto proceeds.

The purpose of Bel Canto is to foster art and music through its support of the school and the gallery. Bel Canto ticket holders not only make this possible, but enjoy an afternoon of beautiful singing at PAC and an elegant wine reception and buffet at the Highlands Falls Country Club. Call 526-5252 for available tickets.

Wine Dinner at Wolfgang’s Aug. 28

Wolfgang’s Restaurant and Wine Bistro is presents a wine dinner Monday, Aug. 28 featuring Monticello Vineyards. Stephen Corely of Monticello Vineyard and Corley Family Napa Valley is coming in from the coast. At the hors d’oeuvre reception at 6 p.m., Montreux vintage Brut champagne will be served. During dinner, the Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and the Proprietary Red Wine that recently received 93 points from the Wine Spectator will be served. Please call Leah for reservations at 526-3807.
... OUTAGE continued from page 1

seven hours. “Due to all the air-conditioners and hot water heaters – we had to pick up the load slowly, but during the process we would knock it off and have to restart again,” he said.

A number of businesses struggled through the power outage without closing but others had no choice. “We had to close early,” said Lisa Nix of the Hilltop Grill. “We lost a lot of business.” But Mary Vaughn, manager of Summer House Antiques said she stayed open. “A few people wandered in even though there were no lights. Some paid cash and others gave me their credit card information to run later,” she said.

Cynthia Gomes with Old Edwards Inn & Spa said The Lodge owes out of power and all the guests had to be relocated Monday night.

“We were out for about six hours,” said Julie Burns, a clerk at the Highlands Post Office. “We did everything manually. It was tough, and it was slow. But we stayed open.”

Sheila Bryson, manager at Bryson’s Food Store, said it was a very terrible stressful day because the power kept coming on then going off again. “We had to flip everything off then back on not to overload. We had a generator for the cash registers and credit card machines so our technology was OK, but we don’t have generators for our compressors or lights,” Bryson said. “But we stayed open the entire time and escorted customers around the store with flashlights. They seemed to like it.”

Linda, a worker at Mountain Fresh, said they could only let people grab the items that had prices on them because their scanners weren’t working and they didn’t have enough employees to escort customers through the store to price items for them. She said it “wasn’t all that bad, we just closed early.”

Some like Kitty Schultz of Dusty’s Meat Market, took it all in stride. “We’ve been here long enough we know what to do when it goes off,” said Schultz. “It’s hard on your equipment, though.”
Scenes from a southern childhood

By Laurie J. Anderson
Special to Highlands' Newspaper

Harper Lee had warm remembrances of childhood when she wrote “To Kill A Mockingbird” in 1960, cramming her novel full of wry observations of her neighbors and family in Depression-era Alabama. She didn’t shy away from the darker side of those years when crafting a coming-of-age story of small-town bigotry. The novel went on to earn a Pulitzer prize, was made into an Academy Award-winning film, and finally adapted into one of America’s most popular stage plays.

The narrator is the grown-up Scout, Jean Louise Finch, who’s come back in her memories to make sure she’s done what her father asked of her,” says director Catherine Clay, “Scout relates how her life changes when her father, lawyer Atticus Finch, agrees to defend Tom Robinson, an African-American accused of attacking a white woman.

The story parallels Harper Lee’s own life. Like Scout, Lee was still a child during the infamous Scottsboro trials of the 1930s, in which several innocent teenage black boys were convicted of crimes they did not commit. Lee’s father practiced law and the Lee family followed the teens’ trials from their small Alabama town. Both Lee and Scout were also tomboys whose chief playmates were male — Lee had her older brother Edwin and friend Truman Capote, Scout had her older brother Jem and friend Dill.

“There were persons everyone regarded like Boo Radley,” adds Cheryl Rookwood, who plays Finch family housekeeper Calpurnia. “When we were kids, one person was somewhat feared and some of the kids would tease him and I always wondered if I was walking in his shoes how would I feel.”

“To Kill A Mockingbird” is a reminder of life and attitudes during the Depression of the 1930s. Yet, despite the dark subject matter — the conviction of a black man for a crime he didn’t commit — thanks to the director and actors the show is both entertaining and thought-provoking. The set is simple and perfect in its depiction of a southern house-lined street in a small town complete with busybodies, prejudices and secrets.

All summer Highlanders have enjoyed connecting with the actors on the Playhouse stage. This time four locals join the cast of “Mockingbird” — Jessica Bryant, from Cashiers John Gaston, Jim Gordon, and Michelle Hott, all from Highlands.

Whether you’ve read the book and seen the play or maybe not, see it again. The rendition at The Playhouse is polished and well-worth the ticket price.

“To Kill A Mockingbird” runs at the Highlands Playhouse Aug. 17–27. For tickets or more information, call the Playhouse at 828-526-2695. – Kim Lewicki
Robert Edwards Inn and Spa

The Cleveland Clinic present Women’s Wellness Retreat
September 10 – 14, 2006

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Featured Guest Speakers from The Cleveland Clinic

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Tanya Edwards M.D., Integrative Therapies for Women’s Health
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UPCOMING EVENTS

• At the Bascom-Louise Gallery Fine Art Center: Tea with the fiber artist: Donna Rhodes. She will discuss fiber arts and answer questions about the medium and her upcoming class: Beaded Woven Pouch.

Sept. 9
• Free Health Screening at Highlands Cashiers Hospital for residents of Highlands and Scaly Mountain. Event beginning at 7:15 a.m., at the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the campus of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Pre-register, participants can use the hospital’s website at www.bchospital.org, by clicking on the screening menu, and completing the registration form. Or they can call the hospital’s Foundation office at 828-526-1345.

• At the Bascom-Louise Gallery Fine Art Center: Women’s Wellness Retreat at Old Edwards Inn & Spa presented by the Cleveland Clinic. Call 787-2810 for package details.

Sept. 11
• There will be a study of Beth Moore’s newest Bible study on the Book of Daniel at Highlands School beginning Monday at 3:45 p.m. Anyone who is interested in joining this group can call Carol Bowen, the facilitator, at 526-5168 for further information. The only charge is the cost of the accompanying workbook, approximately $18, and scholarships are available. Everyone is welcome!

At Cyrano’s Book Shop
Book Signings • 1-3 p.m.
August 26
Cassandra King – The Same Sweet Girls
August 30 • 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Sandra Mackey – Lebanon A House Divided
September 2
Pat Conroy – The Pat Conroy Cookbook
September 9
F Clason Kyle – In Order of Appearance
September 16

Dennis Ackison – Murder at Fontana Dam
September 23
Paul Gerhardt – Feline Four
September 28

Tom Smoot – The Edison’s of Ft. Myers
October 7
William Rawlings – Crossword October 8

Fred Wooldridge – I’m Moving Back To Mars
October 12 • 6-7:30 p.m.

Susan Mason – Silver Service
October 14

Joan Medlicott – 11-1, The Covington Series
Celia Miles • 11-1, Muttie’s Girl
Gayden Metcalfe • 3-5, Being Dead is No Excuse
October 21

Gerry Soul – Life As I Slice It
October 28 • 10 a.m. – noon

George Ellison – A Blue Ridge Nature Journal
December 16
Carl Smith – Louisiana Burn

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THE following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Aug 15-22. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

Aug. 16 • At 3:40 p.m., officers responded to a two-car accident at Main & Second streets.

Aug. 17 • At 8:17 p.m., officers responded to an animal complaint at a residence on Cherokee Drive.

Aug. 18 • At 11:45 a.m., officers responded to an animal complaint on S. 4th Street. It was false.

Aug. 20 • At 3:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-car accident at S. 4th Street. It was false.

The Whiteside County Sheriffs Dept. log entries for the week of Aug 15-22.

Aug. 15 • At 8:34 a.m., a motorist was cited for not having insurance or a car in good working order.

Oct. 15 • At 5:50 p.m., officers responded to a two-car accident at S. 4th Street. It was false.

Aug. 18 • At 10:30 p.m., a motorist was cited for not having insurance or a car in good working order.

Aug. 20 • At 3:10 p.m., officers responded to an animal complaint on S. 4th Street. It was false.

Aug. 21 • At noon, officers responded to an animal complaint on S. 4th Street. It was false.

Aug. 22 • At noon, officers responded to an animal complaint on S. 4th Street. It was false.

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Vietnamese wine dinner at OTV

Marlene Alvarez and Andrew Figel of ...on the Verandah, featured Tung Nguyen and her crew from Miami’s Hy Vong Vietnamese restaurant at a wine dinner, Aug. 15. Next up is McKinnons with a French Croque theme, Sept. 14. Call 526-2338 for tickets.