High usage affects water plant

Hot dry days and cool nights might be great for vegetable gardens – particularly tomatoes – but dry summers can strain the town’s ability to provide water.

“Big Creek is low,” said Public Works Director, Lamar Nix. “There’s not much water in it right now. That means there isn’t much excess water in Big Creek after the town withdraws the amount necessary to operate the plant.”

The town has the capacity to pump two million-gallons-a-day (MGD) of water.

It's pool time in Highlands!

The pool at the Highlands Recreation Park is the place to be on hot summer days. It’s open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1-5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Cost is $2 per person at the door, pool passes are available at $45 per person or $90 per family - prorated as season expires. Call 526-5982.

Agencies prepare for PanFlu outbreaks and disasters

Concerns about avian and pandemic influenza have been rising in Macon County as residents and health officials alike try to prepare for a possible outbreak.

Officials at the Macon County Health Department have been turning away dead birds that have been brought to them for testing for avian influenza, and the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital just completed a mock bird flu disaster drill this past week.

Janet Lee of the MC Health Department stressed that pandemic influenza is not an imminent threat, though there has been a lot of hype in the media and on the internet about the avian flu virus in Asia, she said.

“The virus has to go through a lot of changes before it can go from person to person,” Lee said. “If we have a pan-

Town Board grants variance

It’s just about official. The Town Board is partial to developers’ variance requests if the variances are requested to save trees.

 Commissioners have long granted road grade variances for the sake of the environment and lately they’ve granted road radius variances for the same reason.

At the June 21 Town Board meeting, commissioners heard a subdivision variance request from developer Bill Turrentine of the Riverwalk subdivision on U.S. 64 east.

The deeper Turrentine gets into the project, the more trees he wants to save. “We went to the trouble of hiring an environmentalist and land planner to lay this subdivision out on this special piece of land,” said Turrentine. “It’s 32 acres of some of the prettiest property I’ve ever seen with incredible trees. It’s never been

Landslides part of MC history

– Part 2 –

By Ashlyn Williams

With the North Carolina Geological Survey (NCGS) maps of potential landslide areas nearing completion, many question “What can be done now?” People moving to the area from the flatlands don’t typically think of landslides as a problem, said experts.

“When we built here 35 years ago, we didn’t think about that,” said Maethel Shindelman, co-coordinator of the League of Women Voters. Unfortunately, most people have not considered the risk that building in the mountains sometimes poses. “People come from places like Florida, and never expect any
Cleaveland resigns from Planning Board/Appearance Commission

Dear Editor,

I have served this community for many years. First as a Town commissioner for four years, then as mayor for 14 years and most recently as chairman of the Planning Board and Appearance Commission for the past two years.

My service on the Planning Board and Appearance Commission has been very rewarding personally. We have accomplished much in the last two years but much remains to be accomplished. It is with sadness and regret that I submit my resignation from both boards.

The Planning Board is appointed by the Town Board to function as an independent board charged with reviewing subdivision plats for compliance with the law and making appropriate independent recommendations to the Town Board. We have not had a Planning Board meeting since I have been chairman that has not been attended by at least one Town Board member and as many as three. This has tended to interfere with the autonomy of the Planning Board. This needs to stop.

We are a community of laws and all board members are charged with enforcing and applying the laws fairly. When a new subdivision is proposed, the Planning Board is required by law to recommend the subdivision to the Town Board if it complies with the town’s subdivision regulations, and the Town Board is required by law to approve a proposed subdivision that is in compliance with the regulations. These legal requirements have been compromised, ignored and interfered with over the past two years by arbitrary and capricious decisions based on personal agendas and whether certain board members on both boards “like” the applicant or the project, not whether the proposed subdivision complies with the law.

In my opinion, the Town Board has entered into dangerous territory by approving or disapproving projects on the basis of personal preference while ignoring the law. It is my sincere hope that the Town Board reverses the politicization of our subdivision review process because it is dividing the town as well as compromising the integrity of both boards.

John Cleaveland
Highlands

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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.
Irene James turns 101

On June 12, Irene Picklesimer James turned 101. She celebrated the day with family and friends at her home. Pictured are her daughters Wilma Gordon and Geri Crowe and her sons Herb and Tom James.

Carl Green

Carl Green, age 87, of Highlands, NC, died Thursday, June 22, 2006 in Highlands-Cashiers nursing home. He was a native of Habersham, Co., GA, a son of the late Hanable and Nancy Norris Green. He was a US Army veteran of World War II, and was of the Baptist faith.

He is survived by two sons, Eddie Green of Westminster, SC and Randy Green of Marietta, GA; one brother, Fred Green of Highlands, NC; eight grandchildren and several great-grandchildren also survive.

Graveside services were held Saturday, June 17 at 2 p.m. at Flats of Middle Creek Cemetery. The Franklin VFW Post #7334 and American Leglion Post #108 conducted military rites.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

... WATER continued from page 1

water to its residents. During peak days like Fourth of July, the town has hit the 1.3 MGD mark. Right now the water treatment plant is pumping 1.3 MGD.

“We are exceeding one million gallons a day mid-week in mid-June which is typically what we pump on peak holidays,” said Nix.

The reason is simple. No rain and lots of sprinklers. When there is a drought, people water their landscaping.

“There is more of a strain on the system every year because more people are installing elaborate sprinkler systems. It’s a trend,” he said. “Nowadays people expect and want nicer things and that includes automatic sprinkler systems as part of the home hardware.”

The town has five pumps in operation — three in Big Creek and two in Lake Sequoyah, which is the town’s backup water supply, so getting the water isn’t the problem. It’s just that the maximum the town can pump is two MGD. It takes two pumps to supply the two MGD. Pumping is alternated among the five pumps so they all wear the same.

“We don’t have a water supply problem, we have a demand issue,” said Nix. “How long do we have to run the pumps each day to keep up with the demand?”

Nix said he’s waiting to see what happens on the Fourth of July. “We may hit a new high on the Fourth if we’re hitting the July Fourth peak right now,” he said. “I’m expecting a lot of visitors and a lot of homeowners using their sprinkler systems.”

As per the town’s ordinance, if the drought continues and the plant nears the two MGD usage, homeowners on town water will be asked to voluntarily refrain from watering their lawns or washing their cars. That request can change to mandatory action backed up by the police.

“But we’re not there yet,” said Nix. “All we need is a good rain and it will be all right.”

It’s been about three weeks since Highlands has had a good hard rain.
It's amazing the things you can learn at dinner parties, especially when your dinner party friends are all weird, like me. You already know I am kind of a rowdy guy and therefore, you will not be surprised to learn that I can get boisterous when gossip and stories are being told. Laughing is contagious and I guess we were lucky the police didn't arrive. Anyway, when you have to watch out for me is when I get quiet as I am usually on the hunt. Such was the case the other night. Things were going good until someone brought up a new product called Butt Cream, something I admittedly know little about. After verifying I had heard the words “butt cream” correctly, I clammed up to listen. I tried to make myself invisible and it must have worked because people were confessing to some really strange stuff. I am never allowed to break out paper and pencil so I had to make mental notes.

So here's a public announcement for all those moms out there. "Mothers of America, there is a miracle product out there you can apply to your infant's fanny rash and it is poetically called Butt Cream." Could I make this up?

According to the ladies at the party, all of whom are grannies with sons of experience looking at fannies in many shapes and sizes, once you have tried everything to cure that little guy's raw rash and nothing helps, you simply slap on a dab of “Butt Cream” and, ta da, the rash is gone.

Be careful if you try to look for this new cream on the web as it is crammed in between two porn sites which I didn't open but I am sure will be the topic of our next dinner party and you can take that to the bank.

Once the group had established that this miracle cream was better than Georgia ice cream, the conversation turned to its many other uses. For example, this stuff works on all kinds of cheeks.

Here are a few examples of how to use Butt Cream. If your face becomes irritated from applying too much cosmetic gook, simply rub some Butt Cream on those other cheeks; POW, instant relief. Not only is it good for dry knees and elbows, but one dinner guest...

---

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Creation on the edge

I haven’t written much about our deteriorating environment, mainly because I wasn’t sure of my facts and felt more at home in the political arena. After seeing the documentary “Kilowatt Ours,” I intend to become better informed on the subject, and, in fact, to make some fundamental changes in the way I conduct my daily life.

Every once in a while, a book or movie has a life-altering impact on us. It touches a vital nerve or opens the heart, not just for a moment but forever. “Kilowatt Ours” may have been such an experience for me.

For many of us, I suspect, issues like global warming, air and water quality, conservation of wilderness, and energy independence are met with denial and helplessness. We tend to shut out persistent cries of warning about the folly of the status quo, believing either that science will find a way of fixing things, or believing that we are doomed and nothing we can do will make a difference. I plead guilty to both of these myopic attitudes.

Having studied the evidence as best I can, it seems obvious that we are facing a real crisis on global warming. The irrelevant dispute about whether the cause is human pollution or cyclical weather patterns is just that, irrelevant. The arctic ice is thawing rapidly, the ocean is warming, and we can only guess at the likely consequences. Certainly the increase in hurricane activity is probably one. Our government is typically floundering or willfully obtuse about the issue.

“Kilowatt Ours” focuses on the plight of several small Appalachian communities in West Virginia, where mining for coal has become highly profitable as a substitute for our “addiction to oil,” a phrase recently appropriated by the same president who has behaved as if he never heard the word “conservation.”

The mining companies are simply blowing off the tops of mountains to get at the coal underneath, leaving permanent blight. I was deeply touched by the visible despair and helplessness of people whose families had inhabited these hills and “hollers” for generations, as they watched, and in some cases fought against, the destruction of their habitat.

Our consumption of energy is so immense that no amount of coal—which, not so incidentally, is a major contributor to global warming—nor the depleting oil resources can satisfy. This has allowed the brilliant minds in Washington to reprise the argument for nuclear facilities, which are monumentally expensive and monumentally dangerous. And where are the nuclear towers most likely to be built? In the same rural America, of course, that is already paying a heavy price for our gluttony.

On the vehicular energy front, we are more than a day late and a dollar short. General Motors and Ford are starting to manufacture cars that can run on either gas or ethanol 85, a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gas. Ethanol would benefit our farmers, large and small, who can produce huge amounts of the corn needed to make it, but the per gallon price is likely to be higher than gasoline. Brazil has been successfully making ethanol from sugar cane since 1975.

I’m DonLeon and that’s my opinion.

Hey, wait a minute! Am I going to have to raise the price of my gyro to cover the increase in my water bill?

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**ANOTHER VIEW**

The magic, not the beast, captivates

Several months ago I read that Malaysian fishermen had spotted not one, but three Bigfoots, or Bigfeet in the Johor region of southern Malaysia. They described two adults and a juvenile, all large, hairy, and stinky and assumed that they had seen a family. The beasts walked on two legs, as one would expect of any self respecting hominoids. Such stories have a way of disappearing and never resurfacing, much like Bigfoot himself. Imagine my glee when I read later that the Malaysian government had announced an expedition to search for the creatures.

Whether this was to be a serious scientific effort or an attempt to boost eco-tourism remains to be seen, but at least for the moment, it keeps the dream alive. Shortly thereafter, the “Johor Wildlife Protection Society” reported that it had scientific evidence of the existence of Bigfoot. The society reported that one of its members had studied the “Orang Lenggor” for six years and had interacted with a colony of the hominoids, 70 percent of whom resemble giant humans. The rest of the tribe look more like apes. Adults range from 10- to 12-feet tall. Kids are six to seven feet. I wonder if Mike Krzyzewski could slip any of these guys by Duke’s Director of Admissions. Their life experiences should be an acceptable substitute for a high school degree and anybody can major in sociology.

I remember the night that I first heard of Bigfoot, or Yeti, as his Asian cousin is called. I was a young boy in Richmond, Ind., and shared a room with my brother. A Bakelite Zenith radio rested on a bedside table between us. It was late but I couldn’t sleep. I turned the dial, AM only in those days, searching for something of interest. I intercepted signals from near and far in the days of 50,000 watt clear channel stations.

A British naturalist, Ivan T. Sanderson, was being interviewed and discussed the existence of this yeti, or as his Asian cousin is called. “Of course Yeti exists,” I remember him saying in a somewhat annoyed tone. “Many of the native sherpas have seen him (or them) and have described him in great detail. These giant beasts walk upright across the frozen Himalayas, and yes, of course, I’ve seen the tracks,” he added impatiently. Proof? If someone would simply fund an expedition, and

I believe he quoted a price of $20,000. Mr. Sanderson would be happy to travel to Tibet and return with a specimen.

Wow! I determined that night to become a naturalist and roam the world in search of strange phenomena. I didn’t become a naturalist and didn’t learn for many years that Ivan Sanderson had become an embarrassment, a pariah in the scientific community. He claimed that, in 1932, while on expedition in Africa, he was attacked by a large flying reptile, presumably a living descendant of the dreaded pterosaur. He became interested in flying saucers and reported a sighting. The Bermuda Triangle also captured his interest. One wonders if the difficulty in capturing Yeti has been that, when cornered, he simply takes refuge in his space ship. As Sanders descended further into disguise, his scientific journals became Argosy, True, Sports Afield, and Saga.

In 1958 giant foot prints were reported at a construction site in the redwood country of northern California, where a company owned by Ray Wallace was cutting a logging road. The term “Bigfoot” appeared in a front page story in the “Humboldt Times,” and stuck. My spirits soared. I remember it was about the time I had a page story in the “Humboldt Times,” and return with a price of $20,000, Mr. Sanderson would be happy to travel to Tibet and return with a specimen.

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admitted to applying it to a troublesome zit that would not go away. The zit is still there but the skin around it reportedly looks wonderful. She wanted to show us but we looked away.

Then another guest said, “I probably shouldn’t tell you this but has anyone heard about nose sucking?” Hey, is that the understated question of the night? The group grew quiet and I moved my chair back a little to make myself less conspicuous.

I couldn’t imagine what this has to do with baby rash, but I was afraid to ask. He continued, “Once I was left to care for my infant grandson while his breast-feeding mom was away shopping. The kid starts to wail….and wail….and wail. I tried everything to get him to stop. Then, in an act of desperation, I pulled the child to my face and it accidentally found my nose. There was instant gratification as the kid thought it had found a new milk source.” Are you grossing out?

The group continued to sit speechless and now everyone was staring at me except the story teller. Finally he turned to me and said, “I shouldn’t have told you that, right?” I responded, “Well, I would never admit to nose sucking, but your new found sport is safe with me.” Since this person is of some prominence on the plateau, I will not mention his name unless, of course, you want to make a donation to the HOFO club.

The next morning I was on the web early to find out if there was anyone else on the planet brave enough to admit to nose sucking and I was shocked to find that there were many. As it turns out, my friend may be a trend setter for the Highlands area. Even though he is still in the closet on this, in time, he may just stand up and shout, “My grandson sucked my nose.”

Awesome, don’t you think? After all, off the plateau, emergency nose sucking is quite common.

Oh, did I mention that HOFO stands for “Help Ole Fred Out”?

Cowboy Envy is riding back to Highlands to the Performing Arts Center for two shows only. This award winning group is being brought back by The Instant Theatre Company. Dress for the Best Dressed Cowboy, Cowgirl, Little Cowboy and Little Cowgirl contest! Bring the whole family to one of the best shows you’ll see all season. $20 for Adults; $5 for 17 & under.

Cowboy Envy Returns

One of the nicest things about Highlands Cove is that you don’t have to live here to enjoy all that goes with it. Our many amenities are open to the public, pay as you use. There are 18 holes of spectacular golf where the views are nothing short of inspiring. A clubhouse with a fully stocked golf pro shop. A practice facility that rivals any in the area. And a PGA professional staff.

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Great golf. Fabulous food. Excellent service. Enjoy Highlands Cove today. We’re located six miles east of Highlands on Highway 64. The course is open daily. Call 828-526-4185 for a tee time. Peregrine dining hours are seasonal. Call 828-787-2465 for our dining schedule, reservations or information on special events.

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

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... OUTBREAKS continued from page 1

demic will have plenty of time to prepare.”

In October of 2005 members of State Emergency Management, NC Public Health, and Emergency Medical Services met to decide how to best prepare the state for an outbreak of pandemic flu - the result was the Pandemic Influenza Exercise Task Force. The Task Force was charged with completing a statewide exercise by May 30, 2006 to test the preparedness of hospitals and emergency officials during a pandemic outbreak.

Macon County sent their Medical Reserve Corps, a group of volunteers who are either retired or not working full-time who have experience with disasters, to assist the State Medical Assistance Team, which had set up an alternate care facility at Park Ridge Hospital in Fletcher, NC. SMAT is a self-sustainable team made up of physicians, nurses, paramedics, and other medical personnel who can help hospitals in dealing with medical disasters.

An alternate care facility is a safety net for a hospital in case of an overload of patients during a disaster. The SMAT and Macon County teams cared for “patients” at the facility as if they were dealing with a real-life pandemic outbreak. The rest of the statewide drill was done on paper only.

“Park Ridge was the only hospital required to open an alternate care facility.” said Debbie Gilbert, the Regional Disaster Planner for WNC Hospitals and EMS as well as the coordinator for the State Medical Assistance Team. “But all North Carolina hospitals are required to have an alternate care facility.”

The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital’s alternate care facility is the Jane Woodruff Building on the hospital campus.

A pandemic influenza outbreak is caused by a new influenza A virus that is unlike past influenza viruses. It can spread quickly because people have no immunity to it and can occur at any time of the year. Because of the suddenness of an outbreak it might take between four to eight months for a vaccine to be created.

Scientists fear the avian flu virus could cause a pandemic if it mutates and begins spreading from person to person, though that has not yet occurred. For the spread of avian flu has been from birds to human. Targeted surveillance of North American bird species — those that migrate directly between Asia, the Pacific Ocean, and North America — is being conducted by the US Depts. of Agriculture and Interior according to the Macon County Health Department.

“We have a team -- the Macon County Disaster Preparedness Team -- that meets twice a year,” said Lee. “We meet to work with any disaster. Since we constantly plan for a disaster, we’ll have enough time in case a pandemic occurs.”

Lee said hospitals like Highlands-Cashiers Hospital are planning ahead because they know patient load may double in some areas, but they’re looking at what they can do about that, she said. Businesses should also be aware of how they could be affected. “Businesses have to be aware that they may have 40 percent less people if a pandemic strikes,” she said.

Dr. Howard B. Radest, adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina who conducted a ethics symposium at the hospital last week, said there is no place in the country that is guaranteed to be untouched should outbreaks occur. “Highlands could become an evacuation location from urban areas,” he said.

But Lee also stressed the importance of individual preparedness. “With any type of disaster you need to prepare to take of yourself for up to two weeks. You can’t depend solely on the government.”

The next meeting of Macon County Disaster Preparedness Team is July 24 at 9 a.m. at the Health Dept.
... VARIANCE continued from page 1

timbered. It’s a great piece of property. We’re trying to save trees and we need curve radius variances to make it work.”

He requested 14 curve radius variances from the traditional 150 degrees to 90 degrees. This has become the state standard for many row scenarios, but the town has yet to follow.

Whether the state allows 150- versus 90-degree radius uses depends on the road type – whether it’s a local/residential road or a residential/collectors road. Town Engineer Lamar Nix said only one of the roads, Riverwalk Drive was a residential/collectors road. “That’s the only road long enough (2,500 feet) for which the state would require the 150-degrees,” he said. “Other than that, they’re all local/residential roads.”

But Turrentine requested the variance for that road, too. "I just read the state standards and the state must have a reason for them. I want to make sure we interpret the state standards correctly," said Commissioner Amy Patterson.

Commissioner Herb James said the board customarily grants grade variances and they have granted radius variances, too. “I think we should amend our ordinances to reflect what we’re doing.”

Patterson agreed but said that was about the future; they had to decide what to do now.

Patterson said since the town was in the process of amending its ordinances to reflect the state’s new regulations she didn’t think it was fair to penalize Turrentine at this point.

Commissioner James pointed out that the developers had actually improved Riverwalk Drive which was in existence when they bought the property.

The board voted unanimously to grant the variances.

... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 6

to determine if the hair is from some unknown species. It turns out that it is bear fur, then maybe what the villagers saw was a family of escaped Russian dancing bears. But what if the sample proves to be from a previously unknown species?
I have waited most of my life for proof of Bigfoot. What if he is really out there and his existence is proved? Will he hunt him to extinction, or capture him and display him in 200? Will the vast jungle of southern Malaysia become a Mecca of eco-tourism, suffering ravages similar to those occurring in the Galapagos Islands today? Will we shrink his habitat, or is it his home, until we drive him to extinction? I’ve waited a long time for proof, but I think I’d rather remain in the dark. Besides, the moment we see him the magic dies, and it is the magic, rather than the beast, that has captivated me for over 50 years.

Golfers support Highlands Playhouse

The annual Highlands Playhouse Benefit Golf Tournament raised slightly over $10,000 for the 68-year-old theater. The event, held the first Monday in June was hosted again this year by the Highlands Cove Country Club, a 6,699 yard, par 71 course.

“It was very well coordinated and the course was in absolutely beautiful condition,” said tournament chairman George Schmitt. Two foursomes competed in a shotgun-start (each team starts at a different hole), scramble format (after each team member hits a ball, team members can then hit from the location of whichever ball has achieved the best position). Overall winners were Tony Potts, Steve Chenoweth, Patrick Moore, and Will Madden. Jay Calloway won the putting contest and received a two-ball putter. “We thank Highlands Cove for the great meal and their golf pro Mark Todd for all the wonderful help he gave us,” added Schmitt.


Following the event, participants enjoyed cocktails, a buffet and an auction that included three- and four-party golf rounds provided by Highlands Cove Country Club, Trillium Country Club, Wildcat Country Club, Cullasaja Country Club, Highlands Falls Country Club and the Highlands Country Club. Dr. John Baumrucker won a raffle for a red glass vase from Azerbaijan which was donated by Highlands Fine Art & Estate Jewelry Corp.
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July 9
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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.

Chestnut Hill flag ceremony

By Susanna Forrester
Reporter

The Chestnut Hill Flag Day Ceremony was a celebration of patriotism where the raising of the retirement community’s flag on its brand new flagpole took center stage.

Chestnut Hill and Highlands residents gathered to reminisce about the flag and the future of the nation as Col. William D. Bathurst presented a history of the flag that was both humorous and educational.

“I’m very proud of this and I hope that all the residents are because you all contributed to it,” Bathurst said.

The names of those in whose memory or honor donations were made were read by Horace Duncan. After a reading by Dorothy Jackson, and several songs led by Molly McKim and Joyce Hetzel the group adjourned to the flagpole for the raising of the flag by George Sorge, the oldest veteran in residence at Chestnut Hill.

George Boone, of Chestnut Hill, then led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a rousing version of The Star Spangled Banner. The ceremony concluded with Father Tommy Allen’s benediction.

Molly McKim and Joyce Hetzel led the singing of “America the Beautiful” while Willard Allen plays the piano.

... LANDSLIDES from page 1

Events such as massive amounts of rain added to saturated ground and an earthquake — such as the one felt in Macon County last Thursday — could make for a disaster that newcomers to the area may not expect. Relatively minor earthquakes have a history occurring in North Carolina, particularly in Macon County. Experts say that this recurrent pattern of quakes has definitely contributed to the increased risk of landslides in areas of steep slope development.

Earthquakes are not the only indicators of slope movement in this area. In fact, weathered rock slides can occur at such a slow rate, that their effects may go entirely unnoticed. “This type of slide only moves inches per month and are the least catastrophic,” said Latham.

Unfortunately, Macon County and other surrounding counties have dealt with much more severe slides. In July 1997, the Pigeon River Gorge experienced a dangerous rock slide that resulted in $10 million worth of damage and an inconvenient rerouting of traffic on I-40.

A Yancy County golf course also experienced a debris flow slide where one of the course’s sand traps moved as an intact body down the green. “It is clear...
Macon Bank opens new Highlands branch building

Macon Bank announced the completion of a new 3,400 square foot building for their Highlands branch. The bank’s board of directors, employees and local citizens held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new building on Wednesday, June 14.

“This building will allow us to better serve our customers with additional room for our growing branch,” said Tony Potts, Macon Bank Highlands Branch Manager. “The property this new building sits on is just right across the street from our old location so we were able to watch it being built from the ground up.”

Construction of the building began in August, 2005. It features three drive thru lanes, an outside ATM and a large conference room upstairs. With the new building just across the street from the former location, customers have been able to find the branch with no problem.

“We wanted this building to be very comfortable for our customers and employees,” said Potts. “I particularly love the large back porch which overlooks Main Street and the future site of Pine Street Park.”

A grand opening celebration will be held Friday, July 7 with food, drinks and prizes.

Macon Bank, Inc. is a North Carolina chartered, locally-owned and operated financial institution that focuses on full-service banking, including small business customers. The bank operates 10 offices in Western North Carolina. On May 31, 2006, the bank reported $918 million in assets and 196 employees.

... LANDSLIDES from page 10

that this occurred because of an embankment failure,” said Latham.

Though these are more recent events, a careful study of North Carolina’s Geological history shows a definite pattern. July 15-16, 1916 there was a massive flood recorded in Transylvania County. “This flood resulted in two deaths and 56 plus landslides,” said Latham.

On August 10-17, 1940, Deep Gap’s had debris move through the Blue Ridge Escarpment in areas with greater than 30 degrees slope. This resulted in over 400 landslides in a very small area.

“After investigating the Peak’s Creek slide, we determined that it began at the top of Fishawk Mountain — elevation 4,420 feet,” said Latham. What followed was a very large debris flow — a combination of rock, loose soil, and bedrock — which moved at 2,25 miles per hour.

“Research showed this area already had ancient debris flow deposits,” she said.

The same is true in other cases involving landslides. “Often you can notice debris flow line in areas prone to slides. Now it is time to increase the public’s awareness,” said Latham.

The League of Women Voters has taken an active role in trying to promote awareness of the potential problems with landslides. The league feels, though it is a national organization, it is best to focus on local issues especially when connected with a disaster like Peak’s Creek.

As easily buildable land dwindles, “steep slope development is rapidly being promoted and sold,” said Susan Ervins, co-coordinator for programming.

Building in the mountains is certainly an area of development that can’t be halted all together, but it should be approached with caution, said officials. Ordinances concerning development of slopes greater than 30 degrees could be just one of the many solutions toward making development safer.

A potential buyer should be aware of the risks when buying any home, but when purchasing one on a steep slope, it would be a good idea to consult a geologist, said Rebecca Latham of the NCGS.

Lots of contractors already have a geologist/engineer on staff, she said.

In the future, the development of a “Citizens Guide to Landslide Hazards” manual is hopefully in store for builders and citizens in Macon County and the surrounding areas, said Latham. It is obvious that this would be a great help in making sure that homeowners, developers, and consumers investments and lives are protected.
OB/GYN joins staff at hospital

A new specialist in obstetrics and gynecology has joined the medical staff at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and has opened a regular part-time medical practice.

Dr. Carmedo A. Hernandez, who has been in private practice in Brevard since 2001, is expanding his OB/GYN practice to Highlands two days per month. He will see both obstetrics and gynecology patients at his Highlands office, as well as perform outpatient GYN procedures through the hospital here. He will perform all deliveries and inpatient surgery cases at Transylvania Community Hospital in Brevard.

“We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Hernandez to our area,” said Ken Shull, president and CEO of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. “He comes very highly recommended by a number of his medical colleagues in Brevard, and he will bring an added dimension to the range of services already being offered by our community of physicians.”

Dr. Hernandez will become the second gynecologist serving the area on a part-time basis. Dr. C. Willis Sherrer, MD, continues to see patients at his Highlands office each Monday. He recently relocated his office from the Jane Woodruff Clinic to Suite 700 on the lower level of the Jane Woodruff Medical Building, located at the rear of the hospital campus.

Area physicians hear of ethics dilemmas in age of terrorism

Retired and active physicians here received a brief glimpse Friday into the myriad of ethical dilemmas that health care providers could face in the event of a major terror attack or natural disaster.

The program was the first of two symposiums planned this summer at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital by the Highlands-Cashiers Senior Physicians group. More than 24 physicians and guests heard Dr. Howard B. Radest, adjunct professor of philosophy at the University of South Carolina at Beaufort, and an expert of ethics, talk about recent efforts to develop a program of ethics education that will help prepare health care workers to face the difficult questions that could surface in the event of a massive terrorist attack.

Radest was one of group of educators, physicians, and public health leaders in South Carolina to develop the Ethics and Public Health In An Age of Terrorism curriculum for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

In the event of a major terrorist attack or natural disaster that overwhelmsthe health care system, providers may well face difficult choices regarding allocating limited medical resources, restricting civil liberties to isolate populations affected by bio terrorism, and effectively communicating with and gaining the cooperation of large numbers of highly alarmed people. In the wake of 9/11, Radest said experts around the country have been studying how to appropriately respond to the hard choices that could come with cataclysmic situations.

“We realized that public health workers have to be better informed. They have to be educated in ethics and the law,” he told the group. “The question is: how do you put ethics tools in the hands of the people who need them.”

Radest explained that the purpose of ethics education is not so much to tell right from wrong (most of us can do that), but to help people choose between two good options, or more often, two bad choices.

While ethics tools have their place in helping human beings face difficult questions, he cautioned that they have

The Prince House is one part of Highlands Historical Village

For anyone who has not yet had the chance to see what’s on display and what’s in the archives at the Highlands Museum, the Historical Society is sponsoring an open house this Saturday afternoon, June 24, from 3-6 p.m. The public is invited to enjoy homemade refreshments, mountain music played on Appalachian instruments, and an introduction to the growing collection at the archives.

According to archivist Ran Shaffer, many individuals have donated valuable photographs, diaries, genealogies, books, and documents as well as furniture, paintings, tools, and musical instruments. “Amelia Ennis gave us the original barns from Helen’s Barn; Beverly Quin gave us George Mass’s photographs, and Doris Potts gave us many of Henry Scadin’s photographs. We have Luther Rice, Sr.’s cherry wood hutch from Matt Schroeder and a fascinating Remington accounting machine used by Jackson County Bank in the 1930s. The Reese family donated Samuel Kelsey’s chair. We received John Jay Smith’s handmade landscape collage of Bridal Veil Falls from Mary Fitzhugh and a history and genealogy of the Crunkleton family from Walter Taylor. There are photographs of the Reese family and home from Marie Reese and all the homes built by Roy Phillips from Edna Bryson. And more come in every day.”

The Historical Society is hoping that more families whose roots reach back in Highlands’ history will consider bringing their diaries, genealogies, stories, and photographs for the archives to preserve or copy, since there is a growing local interest in saving and researching these records for current and future generations. “These are what makes history fascinating,” Ran claims. “They are what bring people together and spark fond memories, which is also what we believe the open house will help promote.”

Walk in the Park

The role of “Doc” Alfred Hawkins will be played by Charlie Edwards in the upcoming Walk in the Park. Edwards is seen above at the “rock house” where Hawkins and two sons lived when they first came to Horse Cove in 1883. A former member of the Union Army, “Doc” Hawkins received hostile treatment, but won the affection of the local population by his treatment of the sick. Walk in the Park is set for July 7, 8 and 9, with shuttles from the Conference to Memorial Park from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is $15 for adults; students are admitted free. Tickets may be purchased at the Conference Center on the day of attendance, or in advance at Cyranos Bookshop or D & J Express Mart.
A son remembers his father’s answers

By M. H. Benton
Contributor

In the summer of 2001, I was an engineer for a large company in eastern North Carolina. The day had been long and taxing; not unlike most of my days during the heat of the summer. Increased power needs, to keep the plant cool, were taxing our systems to the very limits. Later that night, the test of my limits would only just begin.

Like most boys, my father was my hero. His personality was more gentle than rough. Given his height, it was easy for him to be that way. For me, he always had the answer. One day, he showed up at St. Simons Elementary School, to pick me up for a doctor’s appointment. Filling the frame of the classroom door I had to smile at the comments of my fellow first graders: “He’s a giant!” exclaimed one. “Wow, is that your Dad?” asked another. It was always like that with my dad. He always commanded a calm strength, either by his size or his character. Nothing could ever beat him in my mind.

It was 9:15 p.m. one late August night. I had just settled into bed, as the next day was due to start well before sunrise. I almost did not answer when the phone started ringing. I was in no mood for questions off at my father as if from their own. I braced myself and asked, “What’s wrong?”

“I have lung cancer.” The words swam around in some misty haze in my mind. I heard them; they simply could not be the truth. After a few uncomfortable moments getting my wits about me, the questions started. “What does this mean?” “What are you going to do about it?” “What do you need me to do….?” I rapid-fired questions off at my father as if from the barrel of a machinegun. “I’m going to the Mayo in Jacksonville,” he replied in a strong, calm voice. Again he had the answers.

Over the next few months, I made it a point to visit with my Dad. I guess it is common for us to make time when something like this happens to a family. Reflecting now, I can only regret not doing more of that all along. We always make time when time is the commodity we see running out. A surprise trip for Father’s Day was the first time I noticed something was different. It was nothing overt or dramatic. More the little things only noticed by someone that has distance between visits. For the first time, true fear swelled inside me. I would not allow myself to feel in my heart what my head was telling me. It was not something I talked with my Dad about; still he answered my concerns and reassured me. I believed if anyone was going to beat cancer, he would do it.

Soon the heat of summer was again upon me at work. Things with Dad were going as well as anyone expected. My fears began to subside. Dad even joked at how the chemo was doing just the opposite of what he was told it would do. Instead of losing his hair, a snow-white abundance covered his head. No appetite? Not my Dad! He was eating everything in sight. As late July approached, I was hopeful about life. My job was going great; Dad was doing great. Maybe the last year had produced for daddy the result he has said. He would beat this. I was not surprised – daddy always had the answers.

Again a phone call in the night would change all that. This time it was my aunt. “You need to come see your dad.” This time there was no confusion. It was something in her voice. “He is in the hospital and wants you to come see him.” The same call was made to my brother and sisters. Daddy was calling the family close to him.

I called my boss and explained my need to be away from work. Over the next weeks, my father was getting weaker and weaker. More than assisting him now, I was carrying him to the bathroom. I promised Pat I would not leave him for a moment, but I had to allow my father the dignity of privacy when I could, he did not ask, it was something understood. It is hard to convey how you can have such joy while feeling such total pain in your soul. It was time for me to be there for my father. I have wished my whole life to make my father proud of me, I guess every boy does. One bad night, that became the subject of our talk.

It was sometime after 2 a.m., Daddy needed to go to the restroom. I was having a hard time by this point and he knew it. When we finally got him back into bed and all tucked in he told me was very proud of me. “I want you to know I am proud of you,” he started. “Not for all this,” referring to staying with him at night. “I am proud of you for who you are.”

Without saying a word I sat in the chair and placed my head on his bed. To say I was crying does not cover it. I was sobbing. Daddy simply put his hand on my head and told me it was OK. Lying on that bed, dying he still

• See ANSWERS pg 22
... REDMOUNTAIN continued from page 5

1980, and almost every car there is equipped to run on ethanol, gasoline, or any combination of both.

Hydrogen currently requires more energy to produce than it is likely to provide, but in the long run we may be able to adapt it to run our cars with no pollution and at very low cost. It's still in the pipedream stage.

"Kilowatt Ours" showed how private residences could be almost totally free of outside energy providers. The first step is to gradually replace all appliances with energy-efficient models, and all incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL). At a cost of about $20,000, admittedly a steep price, enough solar panels can be installed on the roof or on a nearby piece of land to furnish all energy needs. This conversion would be a perfect candidate for government subsidies or tax credits, many of which are already in place.

But we're going to have to wait for a new, visionary Congress and a visionary president to make energy conservation a high priority item. Although the president seems to have awakened a bit lately, the vice president still scoffs at conservation as an opium dream of weak-kneed liberals.

Of course there are many other depredations of the environment which are harder to quantify. Our national forests are being sold off to developers. National parks have been made thoughtlessly accessible to motorcycles and snowmobiles. The oceans are heavily polluted near human habitats. Although some rivers and streams have been cleaned up, there are still many others with toxic accretions. Air quality is poor in many areas—particularly here near the Smoky Mountains (which are not named the Smokies because of our coal-fired pollution).

I shudder when I think of the legacy we are leaving our grandchildren. Not only are we saddling them with a fiscal deficit swollen by an unnecessary war, but with a deeply wounded planet which may take generations to heal. If they are lucky.

Earth Rally
MusicFest with supper, dancing, & Eco-Treasure Hunt & Orienteering, Thurs., June 29 at the Rec Park at 6 p.m. Donation $10 for adults, $5 for kids.
Upcoming

- Mom and Me Swim Lessons at the Rec Park, 10:30-11 a.m. Cost is $2 or a pool pass. Call 526-5982 for more information. Start date to be announced.

On-going

- Al-Anon meets every Thursday at noon in the community room of the First Presbyterian Church.
- Zachary-Tolbert House - will be open for tours Friday, June 23 through Saturday, October 14 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information or for special tours call the Cashiers Historical Society, 828-743-7710 or email info@cashiershistoricalsociety.org.
- The Highlands Historical Village Museum and Archives are open every Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- 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.
- Every Friday from 6-8 p.m., singer-songwriter Sylvia Sammons performs at the Highlands Village Square on Oak Street from 6 to 8 p.m. Fressers will be open with food and drink.
- 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 828-526-1FIT.
- 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 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9 a.m. Contact Health Tracks at 828-526-1FIT.
- 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 $8 each for 10 sessions. Contact Health Tracks at 828-526-1FIT.
- First Saturday June, July, August and September "Happy Hour" an old-fashioned hymn sing at Highlands United Methodist Church in the Sanctuary from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Pianist: Tillie Arwood. Song Leader, Carol Shuttleworth.
- Yoga at Highlands Rec Park every Mon. & Wed. beginning June 2. $7 per person per class or $50 per month.
- A Grief Support Group is held every Friday from 10-12 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for anyone who has lost a loved one through death or is dealing with a progressive illness with a loved one. Interested in attending, please contact Helen Moore (Hospice) 526-0727 or Martha Porter (chaplain at HCH) at 787-1463.
- Every Tuesday Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30, the meeting starts at 6 p.m.
- Every Tuesday evening, Spiritual Cinema Circle at The Instant Theatre Company brought to you by StarPony Productions at 7 p.m. Visionary, inspiring movies showcased at film festivals around the world are viewed. Suggested donation: $5, Beverages and snacks available for purchase.
- Live music nightly at On the Verandah at 7 p.m. Chad Reed plays Wednesday - Sunday night and Sunday Brunch; Angie Jenkins plays Mondays; Paul Scott plays every Tuesday.
- Live music at Skyline Lodge & Restaurant every Friday and Saturday night.
- Live music at Fressers in Helen’s Barn. Featuring Cy Timmons Wed. throughSat., 6 p.m. until.
- Live music at Cypress Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.
- Live music at SweeTreats every Friday and Saturday.
- Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine
- See UPCOMING EVENTS pg 18
**Spiritually Speaking**

**Had your bath?**

Rev. Hunter Coleman
First Presbyterian Church

Simply put, communion is God feeding us with food that will satisfy our deepest hungers. Simply put, baptism is God washing us clean. We see baptism in its pure and simple state in Jesus' encounter with the women at the well. Most likely a prostitute, the Samaritan woman was at the well at that time of day, not for water, but for business. In the eyes of those who saw Jesus conversing with her, Jesus was guilty of speaking with one who was vile, one who was nothing more than dirt under their feet. How could he, the holy son of God, allow himself to be seen in broad daylight with such filth? But there he was, big as life, having conversation with a lady of the night.

In his encounter at the well, he gets around to telling her about a spring of water welling up in her unto eternal life. He offers her such a wellspring. If she would surely have denied or defended her conversation with a lady of the night. With God's justice and righteousness flowing in and through him, Jesus related to her, not in the usual way most males did, not as a potential customer, but as a human being due respect and courtesy; a potential friend. For the first time in a long time, if not the first time ever, a man was not treating her like dirt. That was the living water that cleansed. There are others that ache for cleansing. For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

**See Spiritually Speaking pg 17**

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**Places of Worship on the Plateau**

**Blue Valley Baptist Church**
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Sunday night services every 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**
Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**
NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

**Christ Church**
(Anglican)
The Rev. Thomas “Tommy” Allen- 526.2320
Sunday services: 9 a.m. Community Bible Church
Tuesday: Bible Study in Cashiers at noon
Wednesday: Men’s Bible Study at 8 a.m.
Thursday: Morning Prayer at 10:30
(Peggy Crosby Center Rm. 203)
All are Welcome!

**Christian Science Services**
Third and Spring Streets, Highlands, NC
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: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Prayer & Worship – 11:00 a.m.
Wednesdays: 10 a.m. Women’s Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Small Groups for kids Pre-K through 8th; 6:15 pm – 8:15 pm Adult Bible Study; 6pm-7pm Choir Practice

**Community Church**
Old Fashioned Hymn Sing, 7-8 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.

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

**Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church**
Rev. Tien, Priest
Parish office, 526-7999
Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

**Scaly Mountain Baptist Church**
Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7

**Scaly Mountain Church of God**
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship – 6 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

**Shoftoff Baptist Church**
Pastor Rev. Wayne Price
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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

**Whiteside Presbyterian Church**
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
... SYMPOSIUM from page 12

their limitations. Such systems of principles often don’t establish priorities among the various maxims, and sometimes those maxims conflict with one another. And every situation is different. “All moral choices in life are imbedded in real situations,” he told the group. As a result, information becomes a key tool.

“The more you know, the better off you are. The more transparent you are (to the public) the better off you are,” he said. And in the event of catastrophe, information not only has tactical importance, it will also have strategic implications. Who is told what, and when, can dramatically shape the outcome of the event.

“Additionally, the threat of terrorism is not going to go away, he added. “With terrorism there is no beginning, middle or end. The threat of terrorism is a continuing activity, a continuing possibility for all of us. That’s what living in an ‘Age of Terrorism’ means,” he told the physician attending the lecture. “Americans had the illusion prior to 9/11 that we were all somehow immune. Now we know that isn’t the case.”

Radest pointed out that even non-urban areas like Highlands could be dramatically affected in the event of a terrorist attack on a major center such as Atlanta, or a natural disaster such as a major hurricane.

“This could become an evacuation location. There’s no place in the country that is guaranteed that it will go untouched,” he concluded.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 16

There are still others, too many to number, who have never entertained any notion of ever feeling clean. From their earliest memories they have always felt worthless and useless, so much dirt under other peoples’ feet. They see themselves as filthy and live that way. They would never dare go anywhere that promises anything different for them. Baptism is a holy sign and seal of God’s cleansing grace. God and God alone cleanses. Whether or not those baptized too feel cherished, redeemed, and purified by the soul cleansing love of the lamb, depends in no small part on whether or not believers around them are God’s cool clean water.

As God’s people, we are to be God’s cleansing waters. God’s spring welling up into eternal life. The power of Jesus’ merciful and gracious Spirit in and through us generates a flow of mercy and compassion towards each other, that will, if anything will, wash clean.

Mattice and Wesley are two principal characters in Clyde Edgerton’s Walk Across Egypt. Mattie, who loves her church, is an elderly women living alone. Wesley, a teenager who has escaped a youth detention center, has never been inside a church. Mattie, unknown to her family and friends, has taken Wesley in to try and help him. On a Saturday night she is contemplating what it might mean for him to go to church with her the following day.

“Mattice saw before her a pale boy who needed the cool cleansing water of hymns sung to God, of kind people speaking to him, asking him how things were going, the cool water of clean people clean children.

“The cool water of young and old sitting together and to care about each other and to read and sing and talk together about God and Jesus and the bible. Their cool clean water would bring color to his cheeks, a robustness to his bearing. It would do it.”

What about the Wesleys of the world, those treated like so much dirt underfoot? Shall we treat them like they are used to be treated, shall we treat them like they expect to be treated, or, remembering how we are cherished, redeemed, and purified with all our own faults and fears, misgivings & imperfections, ..treat them accordingly?

The prophet Amos says if God’s people aren’t like cool, clean water, aren’t justice rolling down like waters and righteousness, like an ever flowing stream, are helping the unclean feel clean, then, no matter how beautiful the sanctuary, how grand the music, how great the offering, they will be an offense to God.

God’s people are to be God’s cool clean water. This explains why one of the prominent pieces of furniture in God’s house is the baptismal font. Font, of course, is short for fountain. Children love to sing a song about God’s fountain of cleansing love because of the hand motions that accompany its singing: “Deep and wide. Deep and wide. There’s a fountain flowing deep and wide.”

We are God’s cool clean water. All of us are needed if there is to be a rolling down, ever flowing stream. How about you? Had your bath? Have you bathed in the cool clean water? Do you feel cherished, redeemed, purified? Those who would let these cool clean words cascade over you.

“Have mercy on me, O God. According to your steadfast love and abundant mercy...

Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity. Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Put a new and right spirit within me. One that will bring color to my cheeks.”

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(828) 526-4929
Visit us at
www.WarthConstruction.com

Rand Soellner
Architect
www.randarch.com
Phone: 828.743.6010
Cell: 828.269.9046
rando@earthlink.net NC Lic.9266 FL Lic.AR9264
Carolina School of the Arts. Tickets for the event are $15. Directed by Orville Wike and accompanied by pianist Reed Ericksen, the all-star band will play at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center for two days.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **June 22-25**
  - Extra Kay Jewelry Trunk Show, Thursday through Saturday at Acom’s on Main Street.
  - June 22-July 9
    - “Fiddler on the Roof” at the Highlands Playhouse. Performances are Tues.-Sat. at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Call 526-2695 for tickets.
    - Highlands Male Chorus at PAC. Tickets are $15 per person.
    - Open House at the Highlands Historical Village next to the Rec Park. 3-6 p.m. For anyone who has not yet had the chance to see what’s on display and what’s in the archives at the Highlands Museum, the Historical Society is sponsoring an open house this Saturday afternoon. The public is invited to enjoy homemade refreshments, mountain music played on Appalachian instruments, and an introduction to the growing collection at the archives.
    - Songwriter Jon Zachary brings his acclaimed songwriters-in-the-Round Series back to the Studio on Main Saturday night. Jon assembles some of the most amazing singer songwriters in the new folk movement for this intimate gathering. Hear these performers sing their own music. $15 for Adults and $5 for 17 & under.
    - At Cyranos’s Book Shop Matthew Eberz will sign copies of “Tenth Man” on Saturday from 1-3 p.m. “Tenth Man” is a story of two soldiers, one of the present and one from the past, both fighting a war – not on a foreign battlefield but on American soil.

- **June 26**
  - Summer Bible Conference at First Baptist Church. Sunday, June 25, 10:45 a.m., and 6:30 p.m.; Worship; Monday, June 26, noon, Lunch and Bible Study and 7 p.m., Worship; Tuesday, June 27, 7 p.m., Worship; Wednesday, June 28, 6 p.m., Supper and 7 p.m., Worship. For information call 526-4153.
  - A photography workshop led by local photographer Cynthia Strain from 2 to 5 p.m. at Mill Creek Gallery will help digital and film photographers better understand their camera controls and will teach participants how to take better pictures. Cost is $35. Call 787-2021.

- **June 29**
  - Zahnere Conservation Lecture Series. Dr. Jim Costa presents “The Social Lives of Insects.” 7 p.m. at the Highlands Nature Center. Admission is free.
  - Music Fest and dinner Thursday at the Highlands Civic Center at 6 p.m. The Cashiers Music Company and friends will play and a dance floor will be open for dancing and clogging. The event is part of JMCA’s Earth Rally, a fundraiser which also includes an Eco-Treasure Hunt and Orienteering Hunt the same day. The suggested donation for the dinner and evening activities is $10 or more ($5 for children and $5 for 17 & under).

- **June 30**
  - Mountain Music Concert featuring Frazzled at Cool Cats Hot Dogs at 256 S. 4th Street on June 30 and July 1.
  - The Atlanta Sacred Chorale will perform in High-
**EVENTS**

- **Old Edwards Inn & Spa**
  - Extravagant spa resort in Highlands featuring a variety of luxurious amenities.

- **Cajun dance lessons** with Morris and Anita Williams of Carolina Cajun Dance.

- **Art Show and Book Signing**

- **US Flag Retirement Ceremony**
  - By Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival.

- **Mountains Music Concerts**
  - Featuring Grass Roots Revival, Native American jewelry, arts & crafts.

- **Churrascaria**
  - A unique 4000' mountain top retreat designed by Dynamic Designs, Inc.

- **Help Wanted**
  - **Old Edwards Inn & Spa**
    - Full and Part-time Retail Sales - Weekends required, no exceptions.
    - Must be responsible, professional, and have retail sales experience.
    - Apply at 828-526-5577.

- **High Country Cafe**
  - Now hiring, includes all positions, positions on the floor and in the kitchen.

- **Nancy's Fancys**
  - Now hiring full or part-time help.

- **Wildcat Cliffs Country Club**
  - Hiring waitstaff and bartenders for full and part-time seasonal employment.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

- **New for 2006!**
  - Free by Owner classified ads for items under $1.00.
  - (Excluding Real Estate or Vacation Rentals)
  - Otherwise terms are 20 words for $5; $2 for each 10-word increment.

- **Old Edwards Inn & Spa**
  - Two-story luxury inn with spectacular views.

**Help Wanted**

- **OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA**, an extraordinary luxury destination spa resort in Highlands, has the following hourly positions available:
  - Night Auditor
  - Spa Café Cook
  - Security Officer
  - Banquet Captain
  - Maintenance Worker
  - On-call Banquet Server
  - In the Spa: Nail Tech, Hair Stylist, Esthetician

**Accounts Payable Clerk**
- Full time year round position at Highlands Country Club.
- Good benefit package and nice working conditions in a non-smoking office.
- Prior accounts receivable experience is needed.
- Send resume by fax to 828-526-3461 or mail to P.O. Box 220, Highlands, NC 28741.

**Bar 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.

**SWEET TREATS 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.

**Happy People with Smiling Faces**
- 3 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun.
- Approx. 25 to 30 hours.
- Call 526-5214.

**Old Edwards Inn & Spa**
- Small luxury destination spa resort, 32 rooms, suites & cottages.

- **Gourmet continental breakfast**, evening wine and cheese reception, evening turn-down, 24-hour room service, fitness center, meeting center and access to all Old Edwards Inn & Spa amenities.

**Old Edwards Inn**
- Small luxury inn in a garden setting, 29 guestrooms, suites & cottages.

- **Gourmet continental breakfast**, evening wine and cheese reception, evening turn-down, 24-hour room service, fitness center, conference center and access to all Old Edwards Inn & Spa amenities.

**Skyline Lodge**
- A unique 4000' mountain top retreat designed by Dynamic Designs, Inc.

- **The Lodge**
  - At Old Edwards Inn
  - Small luxury inn in a garden setting, 29 guestrooms, suites & cottages.

- **Highlands Lodgings**
  - Small luxury destination spa resort, 32 rooms, suites & cottages.

- **Features**: Madison's Restaurant and Wine Garden for fine dining; The Spa at Old Edwards Inn is a European Spa; The Farm for special events and meetings.

**Classifieds**

- **For more information and complete details**, call 526-3387 or 526-8739. Ask for Philip or Carla.
the website, www.hchospital.org.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER – Must have B.S. or M.S. degree in Occupational Therapy and current N.C. licensure. 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.

COOKS 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 AIDE AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL – Full time, 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., various days. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Salary depends on experience. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301 or apply online through website, www.hchospital.org.


C.N.A.WOULD IT BE GREAT TO WORK WHERE YOU ARE TRULY APPRECIATED AND REWARDED FOR THE CARE YOU PROVIDE? Wouldn’t it be great to have leaders who are committed to quality care, where the starting salary and differentials are very good, and where excellent, affordable benefits are available? There is such a place - Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospitals in Highlands, NC! Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301, for further information.

FOR RENT

APARTMENT – Scaly Mountain. Furnished, one bedroom, laundry, deck microwave (no stove) $300 a month plus utilities. 6 months lease. No smoking, no pets. 526-1552.

VACATION RENTAL – Sapphire/Cashiers: 4 bedroom/3 bath, stone FP, all conveniences (plasma TV, PC, good linens, towels, china, satellite). Gated community/club. Lake access, with horses, kayaks, canoes available weekly. Monthly and long holiday weekends possible. $900 week, $3000/month. 3 day minimum by the-day/weekend. 770.479.5535 x229 days - kevin. 770-704-9926 evs.

VACATION RENTAL – The Lodge on Mirror Lake, Fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, 3-day min. Call 828-342-2302.


REAL ESTATE FOR SALE


HOUSE IN THE MOUNTAINS: CONDO IN THE CITY—Simplify the weekdays by moving to a lower-maintenance abode. Two options: LUXURY FLAT: 2 yrs old. Downtown Decatur walk to restaurants. Near 2,000 sq ft. Open floor plan w/ split bedrooms. Many community amenities: gym, gathering rooms, pool, secured parking, 2 lg BRs, 2 1/2 BS, LR, DR, 2 fireplaces, granite and stainless in kitchen, barstools and eat in area. You’ll love it here. $475,000. Call Emile Markert or Dave Quan, REMAX Executives, Inc of Decatur 404-387-8300, EM 404-915-8222, DQ 404-427-2717. OR TRADITIONAL BRICK TOWNHOUSE/W PATIO GARDEN—Downtown Decatur in a favorite location off West Ponce, and extremely well cared for, 2-car garage at kitchen level, 3 BRs, 2 1/2 BS, hardwood floors, 2 flr, LR, DR, den—a prize end unit. Low fees, fee simple ownership. $470,000. Call Emile Markert or Dave Quan, REMAX Executives, Inc of Decatur 404-387-8300, EM 404-915-8222, DQ 404-427-2717.

BY OWNER – Classic Country Home between Cashiers and Franklin. 4 bed, 3 bath 4.2 acres perenniel landscaping with waterfalls pond $421,000. No Realtors. Call 828-743-5768.

BY OWNER—SAPPHIRE VALLEY – Unique “Timberpeg” Post and Beam home. Three Levels: Upper level: 2 bedrooms, full bath and deck. Main level: open living room w/ fireplace, dining room and kitchen, 2 full baths, master bedroom and large deck with spectacular view. Lower level: large family room, w/ fireplace, full bath, laundry room and outside patio. A large 2 car garage, with a fully finished room with bath on 2nd level. A separate roomy workshop all located on approximately +/- 2 acres on a plateau cul-de-sac. By appointment only 743-2567.


BY OWNER – Adorable 3 BR/2 BA Cottage with wonderful mountain view. One mile from Main Street. Highlands. $275,000. For Appt. 828-526-1085.


THE COACH CLUB, CHESTNUT STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC. Lot of 13,000 on 10 1/2 acres. Level wooded property with 10 X 16 carport, house and large patios. Located inside private gated 9-site park in Highlands. One of the finest parks in the country. Truly, $279,000. Call 828-526-1029 or 4363 e-mail: bobmanny@onemnc.com

LOT FOR SALE – Highlands, close to town. 1.5 acre lot with 300-ft. creek front and long view. Only 2.8 miles from Main Street, Highlands. Lots of large rhodies, hardwood trees and beautiful mountain view. $279,000. Call 828-526-1029 or 828-526-9952 (cell).

NEW SET OF 18” UNVENTED GAS FIREPLACE LOGS, New — still in the box. $295. 828-526-4077.

FULL SIZE WASHER & DRYER – $175 or will trade for stackable. Call 421-7922.


GEM ELECTRIC CAR – Excellent Condition. Has turn indicator, over 100 years old. From E.B. (Ted) Mell Estate in Athens, Ga. All original including leather seat. Call 828-349-4581.

1995 GRAND CHEROKEE LARED0, loaded, V-8, 4WD, new tires, new brakes, leather, PW, PL, 168k, priced to sell, $3,900. Call 200-0013.


RAINBOW E-SERIES VACUUM CLEANER – excellent condition with all accessories, $925 call Dee @ 828-369-9828.

SOLID DARK OAK DINETTE CABINET – 19”x64”x84” glass windows on top. 3 drawers on bottom. 2 bottom doors with keys. Imported from Belgium. Excellent condition. $1,500. Call 369-3250.

WANTED

WANTED TO LEASE – Cottage, Cabin or Apt. in the Highlands area annual basis. Single, meticulous, adult male, 61. Non smoker, ex military. Fifty year resident of Naples Florida. First part of June. I would like to be in the $600 to $800 range. Contact Capt Mike Root 239-287.

STEREO RECEIVER – good condition with speaker and auxjacks. No portables. Call 526-5669.

SERVICES


H & D HOUSECLEANERS – We’re the team for minor cleans. Dishes, beds, floors, & baths. Give us a call “cause we are the Best” 706-982-1994 or 706-782-0376.

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES OWNERS ASSOCIATION – is compiling a roster of insured vendors in the following categories: painting/pressure washing, light carpentry, and general handyman services. If interested call Dan (828) 526-8286 ext. 264.

SCOTT’S CONSTRUCTION “ME FIX IT” – Decks, roofs, pressure washing, painting, lawn service, small electrical, floors, carpet cleaning.

I hope this helps! Let me know if you need anything else.
Totally renovated
2 bedroom & 1.5 baths home
inside Highlands Town limits

$339,000
New architectural shingle roof – Large cedar covered porch
Multiple parking spaces – Slate & Hardwood floors throughout
All new double-pane insulated windows – Custom-built granite top
stove island – All new electrical — Central heat
Freshly painted interior and exterior — Vaulted ceilings
Designer decorated — Ceiling fans throughout

Call: 404-697-4989

had the answers I needed to hear.

The next night things had worsened. No longer would we be
making trips to the bathroom. No longer was his mind sharp. It seems
he had accomplished all that he
needed to and was now ready to slip
away from us. We made it through
that night without speaking. The next
day, Pat had arranged for Dad to get a
bath. They have a special one there
for people that cannot take one on
their own. I arrived to find daddy
calm and relaxed from the bathing.
Daddy had said his goodbyes to
everyone and no longer wanted
visitors. It was me and Pat now for
the most part. daddy’s time was very
near; Patty knew it more than I. I still
had that small part of me that refused
to think this could be happening to
him. We settled in for the night.

I had been bringing a book with
me for the last few days as daddy
mostly slept now. I think I had read
every book the hospice had to offer
so now I was adding to their
selection. It was sometime after 8
p.m. and daddy’s breathing became
tired. I called the family caregiver
(I am sure that is not the right term,
but they do so much for people it fits
much more than nurse), he did not
have to say it was time – I knew it. I
held Daddy’s hand for the last time
and told him that I loved him and
that it was OK. Everything was done
and he need not worry any more.
Even though I said it, it was more like
he was talking to me trying to make
me understand. I did understand. He
gripped my hand and with that took
one more breath and was gone.

I called home to tell Pat and she
came right away. Strangely, I did not
cry. I thought I would. I had calmness
about me. I had not yet understood
the gift my father had given me over
the past two weeks. Now I simply felt
at peace with him. I think about that
time now often. Every day something
from it inspires me to do better. I am
so thankful to have had the privilege
of spending that time with my father.
More than watching him die, I
watched him live until the very end.
With his last breath he gave me one
last answer – everything is OK.

MountainTop Relay for Life
is at the Cashiers’ Green this
year.
It begins 5 p.m. Aug. 25
and ends 7 a.m. Aug. 26.

Meadows Mountain Realty
Mountain views in town!

450 North 4th Street
P O Box 811
Highlands, NC 28741

Brushy Face
Town of Highlands, NC

View Visual Tours at www.highlandsproperties.com • Phone 828.526.1717 • Fax 828.526.1711
The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of June 14-21. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials are used.

June 14
- At 4:30 p.m., Denise Marie Cook, 50, of Scaly Mtn., was arrested for driving without insurance, a license or registration and for possession of marijuana. She was held on a $500 surety bond.
- At 3:46 p.m. a motorist was cited for obstructing traffic on Carolina Way.
- At 11 a.m., $2,400 worth of arts, antiques and collectibles was reported missing from a residence on Cobb Road.
- Officers responded to a call of a fight with gun shots at a residence in the Mirror Lake area.
- At 1 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Spring and Fourth streets. There were no injuries.
- At 10:46 p.m., officers investigated a suspicious vehicle at a residence on Horse Cove Road.

June 15
- At 4:10 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 42 mph in a 25 zone on Horse Cove Road.
- At 8 a.m., a motorist was cited for driving with an expired registration at U.S. 64 west and Webmont.

June 16
- The dept. responded to a mutual aid call from Cashiers. It was cancelled en route.

June 17
- The dept. responded to a mutual aid call from Cashiers. It was cancelled en route.

June 18
- The dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on U.S. 64 east. There were no injuries.
- The dept. responded to a vehicle fire on N.C. 28 at Cherokee.

June 19
- The dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident at Smallwood and Leonard roads.
- At 11:11 p.m., officers found an open door at a business on Main Street.

June 20
- A motorist was cited for speeding 41 in a 25 zone at N. Fourth and Poplar streets.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of June 14-21.