Auditors make minimal suggestions

The town’s basic financial statement and audit was presented at the Oct. 18 Town Board meeting. The town’s finances were found to be in order and healthy by Martin Starnes & Associates of Hickory, N.C., but auditors did make a few suggestions as to financial practices.

“An organization like the town of Highlands, with a limited number of personnel for certain functions, there are inherent limitations of the effectiveness of certain controls due to the lack of segregation of duties among town personnel,” reads the audit letter. The firm suggested that whenever practical, the town should segregate access to assets from access to the general ledger. “In a small unit of government, such as the town of Highlands, when ide-

Town looks at pole fees

Renting space on utility poles has become big business for municipalities and with a little help Highlands might be able to tweak this underused revenue source.

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, the Town Board met with Ted McGavran with McGavran Engineering, a firm that specializes in inventorying utility poles, upgrading them, and handling all the issues with the renters including managing, permitting and the enforcement of contracts. All of this with no cost to the town. “This is an aggravation for the

High-rise moratorium on Dec. agenda

Macon County Commissioners listens and have acted on what was said during the public session of the Nov. 6 meeting in Franklin.

Weekend Weather:

Friday: 67.4°F, Saturday: 60.3°F, Sunday: 55.3°F

Urging from 22 speakers — five from Franklin — against the proposed high-rise condominium on U.S. 64 east in Highlands, prompted commissioners to put a moratorium resolution against such development on the December Macon County Commission meeting agenda.

“It was great to have them all there and they made some very good points,” said Macon County Commission Chairman Allan Bryson. “A moratorium will be discussed at our next meeting.”

Everyone who spoke begged commissioners to consider a moratorium on high-rise development in Macon County until the county’s planning board revisits the high-impact ordinance to take into account high-rise development. Some requested a height restriction three stories; others suggested tree-top height.

Noting the environmental impact and visual pollution most
In the upcoming weeks, we have several important meetings at the Town Hall. Pam Hysong with the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be here to talk to the staff and commissioners about programs available for affordable housing in and around Highlands.

Recent revival of interest in the subject by many in our community has resulted in beginning not only a study of the problem but also ways to alleviate some of these growing concerns. Currently there are many expensive homes and condominiums either being built or planned in and around Highlands, but no one has approached the real problem we have in our community of affordable housing. We hope that developers will answer our call and help us with this.

Real growth in any community must be inclusive of all people. Many middle and lower income people who work in our area cannot afford to house themselves and their families close to their workplace. That is not good for either them or the community. Effective and healthy development involves all aspects of the community including business, housing, recreation, and open green space, and all of these must be integrated in an inclusive way to prevent “sprawl” of any single entity. Communities who ignore these ideas eventually die.

At that same meeting with the representative from USDA we will be further discussing money that is available for clearing the silt from our water supply lake, Big Creek. She has said money is available at a very low interest rate from the federal government to be paid over a 40-year period. At the present time we are getting estimates regarding how much we need to get to completely clear Big Creek of silt to protect our water supply. We need to do that this winter. Since it appears we will not be getting any “free”

Dr. Patti B. Wheeler
Highlands

Party could bring us together

Dear editor,

While strolling Main Street on Halloween night this year it occurred to me that this would be the perfect time to have a town party. With the exception of the Christmas parade there is no event at which the whole town gathers.

Why not have a Fall Finale party on Main Street on Halloween night? Trick-or-treat could be from 6-7 as it is now, and then a band could play on a stage set up near Main and Fifth Street until 10 or so.

I think it would be good for Highlands to have an event that brings all of us together.

Katie Brugger
Highlands

Be careful what you wish for

Dear Editor,

There is an old adage that applies very well to the Town of Highlands: be careful what you wish for ... you just might get it! For years the Highlands government has refused to let Highlands be a “normal” town. They won’t allow

Katie Brugger
Highlands
Edward Jackson “Buzz” Baty

Edward Jackson “Buzz” Baty, age 86, of Highlands, died Wednesday, November 1, 2006 in a Sylva hospital. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late Henry Jackson Baty and Sillar Crane Baty. He was a carpenter and retired as a maintenance worker for Highlands Country Club. He was a member of Highlands First Baptist Church, and a veteran of the US Airforce, serving during World War II. He was the Commander of VFW Post 1224 in Highlands and Adjutant for the American Legion Post 0370 in Highlands.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Carrie Chastain Crain; a daughter, Lucille Nix and her husband, Steve, of Clayton, GA; two sons, Roberta Crain of Scaly Mountain, NC and Kay Bryant of Anderson, SC; a grandson, Lamar Nix and his wife, Melanie, of Clayton, GA; and three great-grandsons, Justin Nix, Jacob Nix, and Luke Nix.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Friday, November 3, 2006 at Clear Creek Baptist Church. Rev. Kenny Kilby, Rev. Walter Wilson, Rev. Oliver Rice, and Rev. Everett Brewer officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Jack Billingsley, Darrell Billingsley, Kenneth James, Crawford Neely, Gilbert Beck, and Jimmy Lowe.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Darrell Keith Authier

Darrell Keith Authier, age 78, of Highlands, died Friday, November 3, 2006 at his residence. Mr. Authier was a part-time resident of Highlands for 25 years and a full time resident for the last two years. He was born in Elk Point, SD, the son of the late Rene and Edna Authier. He was a retired CPA and owned Authier, Burtlett, and Keyono in Newnan, GA. He was a member of the Highlands Rotary Club and a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands.

He is survived by his wife Sara “Sally” Virginia Harrison Authier; two daughters, one son, 16 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and seven step-children.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, Nov. 11 at 2 p.m. at Highlands First Presbyterian Church with Rev. Hunter Coleman officiating. Burial will be held at a later date in Mississippi.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church Building Fund, Main & 5th St., Highlands, NC 28741 or to the Holy Family Lutheran Church ELCA, 2152 Dillard Road, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Andrew Jackson “Jack” Crain

Mr. Andrew Jackson “Jack” Crain, age 83, of Clear Creek Road, Highlands, NC died Wednesday, November 1, 2006 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

A native of Rabun County, GA, he was the son of the late Andrew Nathaniel and Bessie Mae Billingsley Crain. He was a former president of the Highlands Lions Club and a member of Flats of Middle Creek Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Carrie Chastain Crain; a daughter, Luclle Nix and her husband, Steve, of Clayton, GA; two sisters, Roberta Crain of Scaly Mountain, NC and Kay Bryant of Anderson, SC; a grandson, Lamar Nix and his wife, Melanie, of Clayton, GA; and three great-grandsons, Justin Nix, Jacob Nix, and Luke Nix.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Friday, November 3, 2006 at Clear Creek Baptist Church. Rev. Kenny Kilby, Rev. Walter Wilson, Rev. Oliver Rice, and Rev. Everett Brewer officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Jack Billingsley, Darrell Billingsley, Kenneth James, Crawford Neely, Gilbert Beck, and Jimmy Lowe.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Carson Edward Forrester

born October 24, 2006 in Asheville, N.C. at Mission Hospital
7 pounds, 14 ounces
21 inches
to Robbie and Jennifer Forrester and siblings
big brother Austin and big sister Gracie Forrester

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Highlands Fire Department, PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741.
**Raffle for Class of 2011**

Fully decorated pre-lit Christmas tree. See it in the Highlands Printing storefront at Highlands Plaza. Tickets are 6 for $5 or $1 each, available from parents of current 8th graders. The drawing will be November 18 at the Highlands School Alumni Basketball game.

**Highlands’ Oriental Rug Shop**

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**Laughing at Life**

He was just ‘poking fun’

Date line: Palm Beach County, Florida...oops, I mean SIN CITY.

If you are reading this newspaper from Highlands, stop right now and get down on your hands and knees and kiss the ground beneath your feet. Then look up to heaven and praise God you are still in Highlands and not Palm Beach County, Florida.

Next, hunt down every Highlands Town Commissioner, regardless of what you think of him, or her, and give them a hug. You just don’t know how good you’ve got it.

The reason I am recommending this bizarre behavior is that I have just arrived in Palm Beach for the November elections. I made good on my promise to nail the “do nothing” Congress and vote for anyone who was not currently in office. Even if a guy was from the “DUH” Party, I voted for him. Personally, I think they’re all from the “DUH” party.

The voting officials down here are pretty tricky. The name on the ballot may not be the person you voted for. For example, Palm Beach Congressman Mark Foley’s name appeared on the ballot but a vote for him was really a vote for Joe Negron, a virtual nobody until Foley got caught with his pants down. Hooray for Mr. nobody! In Palm Beach you vote for the person you want and then later read the paper to see who you really voted for.

Is this a great county, or what?

Unless you have been living on Mars, where I came from, you are aware that Foley has been accused of poking fun at the young male pages hanging around Congress. Ole Foley, not to be confused with old fogey, checked himself into a rehab center at forty grand a month and blamed the whole thing on booze and a Catholic priest from his childhood. Actually, he was not accused of drinking with the priest, but I guess that’s also possible. Attention pedophiles: if you are caught, blame a Catholic priest! It works every time.

Now that the cat’s out of the bag, angry pages are coming forward and giving new meaning to the term, “getting your shorts in a twist,” with allegations against Foley.

In reality, Congressman Foley was only keeping up with events furthering the rise and fall of the American Empire. You remember Roman Senators always had a young lad on the side for their pleasure. Oh and here’s another weird thing. If you happen to be a Congressman having fun with an underage female page, then you are simply a dirty old man and don’t qualify for the “priest defense” They may want to use the “Clinton defense” instead. Or, if they’re geezers, like me, use the “Kennedy defense”

Since this is Palm Beach County, you may be wondering whether one of the confessing pages was named Chad. If so, you are confused. The “dangling chad,” not a gay bar in Delray Beach, was a year 2000 embarrassment that put ole George in office by the Supreme Court. Wasn’t that a fun time? Hmmm, maybe not! There most definitely was an Ethiopian in the fuel supply on that one!

And speaking of Delray Beach, the Catholic priest who swiped 8 million dollars from his church has returned to the USA and is in the slammer. The hot babe he was cavorting with has disappeared. Father Sticky Fingers hired the same lawyer as Foley so maybe he’ll claim he was molested by a priest also. A priest molested by a priest? Vei is mir, a shandel! Should I convert to Judaism? Stay tuned folks, more to come.

Are you sitting down? I walked into my Palm Beach Catholic Church last Sunday and learned that someone swiped the entire collection; over four grand. I just know a Republican did it. Hold it, I’ve got to stop and take a bath.

OK, I’m back. All this mess about what Senators are sleeping with which pages will be straightened out by the Congressional Ethics Committee. Led by holier than thou, Nancy Pelosi, who, of course, has no axes to grind. (Ha) Is the term “Congressional Ethics” an oxymoron?

If you are trying to decide whether I am a Democrat or a Republican, then you must know by now I am neither. I am fed up with it all and detest politicians as much as pedophile priests.

While I miss the quiet of Highlands, the fact is I wouldn’t have missed this tacky, trashy soap opera for anything. Once I get my psyche shields into “I don’t care” mode, it’s actually fun to watch.

Finally, if you are wondering if I have ever been molested by a priest, the answer is no, but I was once attacked by a gorgeous 30-year-old nymphomaniac at the age of 10. Does that count?

* Read Fred’s column while you’re away at http://www.highlandsinfo.com/newspaperdownload.htm
... MORATORIUM continued from page 1

said the project doesn’t fit into Macon County.

Bob Houston with the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department was the first to speak and the only opponent to outline the protection for such a complex would cost taxpayers.

“The estimated cost to provide fire protection to the proposed high-rise would be a little more than $2 million and would include the purchasing of a 100-foot ladder truck, two 1,500-gallon tanker trucks and the land on which to build a structure to house the vehicles,” he said.

The fire departments in Macon County exist through a fire tax which is levied against all property owners. “This expense would have to be paid for in the form of a fire tax increase to residents in the Highlands Fire District,” said Houston. “For all this to be purchased in one year, it would mean a tax rate increase eight times the current rate of .012 to .096.”

He said not only would it be unfair to the property owners in the district, but training to fight fires and perform rescues on a high-rise condominium would be an unfair imposition on the all-volunteer Highlands Fire and Rescue Department.

Mercedes Heller, with the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, said the multi-story condominium complex would not only threaten the wildlife habitat, rivers, streams and the biodiversity of the area, but it's just plain bad business. “Thousands of people come to gaze upon distances as far away as Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee, not gazing at a 10-story condo. Such development will discourage people to move here,” she said.

Many, like Elaine Whitehurst of the Laurel Garden Club, said if one high-rise condominium is allowed, “we will soon be smothered with high-rise developments.”

“Hasn’t the community seen what has happened in south Florida and Gatlinburg. The hunger for money is insatiable!”

Highlander Pat Boyd said there are lots of ways communities can grow without destroying the fragile system that brought people here in the first place. “Please place a moratorium on all high-rise construction until the planning board can complete a high-impact study and evaluate what the county should do in the future in the way of development in the county. People don’t move to the mountains to look at city-type..." See MORATORIUM page 12

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### Highlands Fine Dining

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### Don Leon’s Cafe

“Park anywhere, but eat at Don Leon’s!”
Lunch served Tuesday—Sunday...11am—3pm
- 30 Dillard Road, 526-1600
**Reading by example**

We are enhancing our involvement in H.S. with young people in an effort to be good role-models and mentors. Highlands Police officer Thomas Parker read to Mrs. Chalker's Great Beginnings class on Friday, Oct. 27. The Highlands Police Department will be participating in community as role models and mentors.

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**SEE THE SITES**

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

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

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**New number game to appear weekly**

Over a recent cup of joe at Buck's Coffee Cafe, local physicist Pete Sargeant and mathematician Don Cook came up with a three-dimensional number puzzle sure to tease your brain. It's a take off of the popular Sudoku number puzzle, only a bit more involved, and will appear each week in Highlands' Newspaper.

Email your answer to parkco@aol.com for a special message.

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**Pseudocube © 2006**

**a new mind game**

No. AB10

THE SETUP: The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through the center number of the middle layer. Each diagonal contains 3 numbers equaling the total of the three center numbers. One of the diagonals is shown with circles.

THE CHALLENGE: Start with the three center numbers for each layer and two other numbers. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser... and try to figure out where the other 22 numbers belong... GOOD LUCK!

Feedback is encouraged!
Email pseudocube8@aol.com
Mountain Top celebrates 6th year as number one ‘Relay for Life’ per capita in the nation

This past August, Mountain Top communities gathered in Cashiers to take up the fight against cancer with the American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life. What resulted was another memorable event that earned national recognition.

For the sixth consecutive year, Mountain Top has earned the title of Number One Relay For Life in the nation. This ranking is the result of a partnership between Mountain Top communities (Highlands, Cashiers and surrounding areas) and Franklin. The rankings are divided into population categories and based on all teams participating in the more than 4,500 Relay For Life events held in the United States in 2006.

“We congratulate the volunteers, participants and sponsors of the Mountain Top communities for once again winning this award,” said Jan Stanfield, American Cancer Society community manager. “It is extremely difficult to maintain this national standing year after year – we applaud their exhaustive efforts in the fight against cancer.”

Volunteers from the community recently attended the American Cancer Society’s 2006 Relay University in Winston-Salem where they accepted the Number One award during a ceremony with several hundred of their peers representing respective Relays. Volunteers representing the Mountain Top Relay For Life included event co-chair, Buck Trott and Yellow Mountain Baptist Church team captain, Judy Rogers.

“Thank you to everyone who participated in this year’s Relay For Life,” said Trott. “Relay For Life is really hard work, but it’s so rewarding to see the results. Money raised from our Relay goes to support cancer education and prevention programs, patient services and research efforts that we hope will eventually eliminate cancer completely. I’m truly inspired by the dedication and passion displayed by everyone involved – it’s this commitment that allows us to celebrate this national honor year after year.”

The two-day Relay University conference recognized achievement for outstanding 2006 Relay For Life events and offered participants intensive learning opportunities in preparation for next year’s Relays.

In addition to comprehensive course curriculum geared toward priority Relay For Life topics, special highlights included reports from Celebration on the Hill, the American Cancer Society’s 60 Year Research Anniversary and the tremendous opportunity volunteers have to impact the ACS mission through Relay For Life.

Relay For Life events were held across the nation in 4,582 communities and raised over $373 million. Since its beginning in 1985, Relay has grown from one event to a national and international phenomenon. To date, the Mountain Top communities have raised over $1 million for the American Cancer Society through the Relay For Life.

The Wrap Up celebration for the 2006 event is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 18 at 8:30 a.m. at Cashiers United Methodist Church. Planning committee members, team captains, participants, survivors, sponsors or anyone else interested in becoming involved with Relay For Life and the American Cancer Society is invited to attend. The program will include a report on the success of this year’s event, team and sponsor recognitions, and 2007 Relay plans. Those planning to attend should RSVP by Nov. 16 to Buck Trott, 526-4645; Pat Griffin, 526-0542; or Jan Stanfield 828-713-2187.

Relay For Life is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship. The funds raised from the events support the American Cancer Society’s mission to eliminate cancer through research, prevention and early detection programs. Relay represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day, cancer will be eliminated.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

For more information about local programs provided by the American Cancer Society, contact Jan Stanfield at 828-713-2187, call the national information center at 1-800-ACS-2345 24 hours a day or visit our Web site at www.cancer.org.
**RADICAL MIDDLE**


An open letter to Senator Obama

Don't do it! Don't run! Not now! I've been reading that you're seriously considering a 2008 presidential campaign. I think it would be a huge mistake, politically and strategically.

You may even have a chance to win the nomination, your only serious competition coming from Hillary Clinton and perhaps Evan Bayh, as far as we know at this time.

But if you are nominated and run, you will be subjected to vicious attacks during the campaign by your Republican opponent, based on your lack of experience, and you will be made to appear overly ambitious, arrogant, and conniving.

Even people who know you as a “different kind of politician” might be alienated by what could be seen as a premature grasping for the highest office.

If you're positioning yourself as a possible candidate for the vice presidency — an office that would, assuming a Democratic victory, give you plenty of experience — then what you're doing seems understandable. But it would certainly be more in keeping with the straight-talking Barack Obama we have come to know, to announce your intentions clearly and honestly.

Apart from strategic reasons, the reality is that you have had very limited experience as a two-year U.S. Senator. You utterly lack experience in foreign affairs, you have no administrative experience, and even your domestic background is somewhat narrow.

Furthermore, I know your family life is extremely important to you. If you bide your time politically, your teenage children will be able and probably willing to campaign with you, while now they will just miss you terribly and feel abandoned by you. Not to mention the wife you'd be leaving behind to care for them.

I realize that if you pass on 2008, and the Democratic candidate wins, you may have to wait until 2016 before you can run for president. This is not such a terrible fate. By that time, you will probably have had 10 years of added experience in the Senate or even higher office, which can't help but be a great advantage. And you will still be only 55 years old.

Those of us who perceive you as a very talented and thoughtful leader, with a unique ability to bring people together, don't want you to shoot yourself in the posterior as you rush ahead willy-nilly. It must be flattering to be mentioned as a potential presidential candidate after such a brief stint in national politics, but it's also daunting to contemplate the man with some literary and historical familiarity ought to know, is a prime recipe for the mighty to stumble and fall…Sincerely yours…

It's ridiculously early to be handicapping the 2008 presidential races, but that doesn't mean that every self-appointed pundit isn't doing it. I've done it before, and I'll probably be doing it soon again, and it will be just as silly.

Highlands doesn't seem to be capable of planning. They wait until something becomes a crisis and then over-react just like they did with ETJ! Every time an issue comes up they bring in an outside “expert” to tell them what to do. Can they not solve a problem on their own? Outside experts may have some good ideas, but they don't have to live here! Does the town government serve the people who elected them or do they serve the North Carolina League of Municipalities and its agenda?

Every time I think about Highlands a verse from the Bible comes to my mind. “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. People eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs” (I Timothy 6:10 NIV).

Many people don't understand the far reaching truths from this verse. Money itself does not cause problems; the love of money is what causes problems. A few people have made a lot of money in Highlands and don't care what happens to the people who live here. When they have made their money and are finished in Highlands they will move to the next “hot spot” to spoil things there.

Highlands you asked for it! Now live with it!

Harold Neely
Highlands

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**Letters continued from page 2**

Fast food, chain stores or anything for average people. They have been asking for things that are now issues in Highlands. Issues like high-rise buildings, affordable housing, a viable work force, high rent, building density, the hospital and all of the problems that go with them have been brewing for a very long time. Would we have all the problems we now have if they had let Highlands be “normal?”

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**Auxiliary parking lot handles overload**

The subject of much press lately, the recent acquisition of property adjacent to Zachary Field on Buck Creek Road, served as an auxiliary parking lot this past weekend when Highlands School Varsity Boys Soccer team played the first game of state playoffs. Cars filled every space, lined the road and islands, eventually filling the auxiliary lot, once people knew it was available for parking.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

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**Feedback**

Email: redmountain8@msn.com

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The Visitor Information Program airs at 7 am, 9 am, 4 pm, 6 pm, 9 pm, and 11 pm.
... LETTERS continued from page 8

‘Open’ and ‘public’ meeting differences

Dear Editor,

A recent letter criticized the mayor and the town board for not allowing some people at the October 25th meeting to have their say in support of a rezoning petition.

The letter also implied that the board has a habit of not allowing a citizen to speak when the board is against the position of that citizen. I disagree on both counts. I was at the meeting of October 25th.

The developer’s engineer made his presentation for rezoning and answered questions from the Board. A contiguous property owner, Mr. Larry Austin, objected to the rezoning because his driveway runs through the middle of the proposed development.

There was more discussion between the developer and the Board. Then Mrs. Sanders had her say. She presented a petition on behalf of the twelve residents of her neighborhood (one of whom is Mario Gomez, the developer) in favor of the development and gave their reasons for support of it. At some point a motion to deny the rezoning was made. There was more discussion.

Then the misunderstanding occurred. The mayor, who is responsible for the orderly conduct of the business of the meeting, cut off the discussion to have a vote. Mrs. Sanders challenged his right to do that because she wanted Mr. Walker to speak. The Mayor declined but relented at the suggestion of board member Hank Ross. Therefore, as it turned out, the board heard three people for rezoning and one against rezoning. The mayor and the board treated the developers and their supporters fairly.

The heart of the misunderstanding is the conflict between the supposed right to speak as opposed to the right of the mayor to run the meeting. The explanation lies in the difference between an open meeting and a public hearing. A regular town board meeting and its committee meetings are public only to the extent that North Carolina law requires them to be open to the public. The rationale is that a public board will render its decisions honestly and above board when it is being observed by the public. However, the board is not obliged to allow any public comment at all in these meetings.

In contrast, a public hearing is designed to provide the opportunity for citizens to come and give their opinions pro or con. For example, if the town board gave the preliminary green light for the zoning request, North Carolina law requires that it hold a hearing for comment. That is the designed forum to insure that the public has input on such decisions. Moreover, North Carolina money from the federal government, we must take a different approach which may cost us a bit more.

We will also meet with an architect from Asheville who has been involved in designing town halls for towns of our size. This will be an initial brainstorming meeting to begin the process of possibly building a new town hall in Highlands. As our town grows our present building has become inadequate for our current needs, and something must be done within the next few years. We look forward to studying this problem and taking the appropriate steps to alleviate the problem.

This week we also be met with McGavran Engineering from Charlotte who are specialists in town utility poles. We are in the process of changing over our utility poles to make them safer and more efficient, and we look for new information in doing this more effectively. I think we are doing a good job at this now, but it is always good to hear other ideas of how to do it better. Just because we have always done things a certain way does not mean there is not a better way. We must always be looking to improve ourselves no matter how good we think we are.

One last comment about our Town Board meeting a few weeks ago when there was agitation amongst some people...

Griffin Bell
Highlands

... POLES continued from page 1

town of Highlands to deal with and a business opportunity for us,” said McGavran. “The cost of upgrading gets passed on to the attachees so there’s no cost to the town.”

Highlands has been charging renters like Verizon and Northland Cable $10 per pole but McGavran says the going rate is $17-$18 per attachment. With four or five attachments per pole he said Highlands is grossly undercharging.

Highlands officials listened to McGavran with some skepticism because all efforts to get Verizon to cooperate with the town concerning upgrades and pole change-outs has fallen on deaf ears.

McGavran said though his company only has 13 employees, its investment is in intellectual capital and it is used to dealing with Verizon and other companies alike.

“They will comply,” he said. “They need your poles.”

As of Jan. 1, 2007, the state takes over all franchises. This means towns and municipalities in North Carolina can no longer be in the business of local franchises for pole attachments.

“The state considers this as important an infrastructure for economic development as water and sewer and they want to take away any perceived stumbling blocks in the industry,” said McGavran. “They feel the more competition, the better for the consumer.”

Northland’s franchise with the town runs through 2009, but it can renegotiate with the state in January.

McGavran said since the state is open...

• See POLES page 13

... SPECIALTY FOODS...

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Highlands’ Newspaper - Thursday, Nov. 9, 2006 - Page 9
**A grain of truth remains**

Senator John Kerry might have learned a valuable lesson last week, the lesson that criticizing the U.S. military is a third rail issue in American politics. Chances are that Kerry didn’t learn it, because he obviously hasn’t learned a more general lesson. Failure to acknowledge one’s mistakes has sunk a good many politicians.

Following a gaffe, one first removes one’s foot from one’s mouth, then immediately accepts responsibility and apologizes. Failure to do so gives a story legs, keeps it on CNN, on the front pages, before the American public, even in “Highlands’ Newspaper.”

Even when Kerry stuttered an apology, it came out as, “I’m sorry if you misunderstood what I said.” His remark, which he characterized as a botched joke, would be hard to misunderstand, but if he did misread his lines, he did so badly.

Addressing students, he told them that if they didn’t do their homework and stay in school, they might find themselves “stuck in Iraq.” He later explained that he had intended to blame George Bush’s lack of preparation as the reason the nation is “stuck in Iraq.”

We are “stuck in Iraq” because George W. Bush didn’t do his homework at Yale? If this is confusing, blame the Senator, not me. If it makes sense, report immediately to your nearest Army recruiter. But this story is not about the unwillingness of John Kerry, politicians in general, to admit their failings. Neither is it about the dangers inherent in ignoring, denying, and spinning. It is not about the politician’s distrust of the American people’s willingness to forgive or about our presumed inability to smell a lie. It is about the truth behind Kerry’s statement.

Rather than dodge, deny, spin, and lay blame on his opponents, he might have said, “Yeah, I said it, and I meant it. Here are the facts upon which I based the statement. We are fighting an increasingly unpopular war, a war which demands an endless supply of soldiers, sailors and Marines to meet the military’s needs. If these needs cannot be met by honestly presenting the facts to young people willing to risk death or dismemberment in the service of their country, then we have chosen to resort to deception, for the war is a monster which must be fed. It is wrong to prey on the uneducated and vulnerable to feed the monster. That is why I said what I said.”

The Army is having so much trouble meeting its recruiting goals that it has resorted to lying to recruits and encouraging them to lie and falsify in an attempt to satisfy the Army’s needs. The kids most susceptible to this duplicity are those who didn’t do their homework, who didn’t finish school, who don’t have much sophistication or many options. The fact is that the military needs more volunteers than it can find in an increasingly difficult recruiting environment. Under intense pressure from their superiors to meet quotas, the recruiters respond to these demands with whatever tactics are effective. A recent undercover report by ABC News revealed that recruiters have told some recruits that the war in Iraq ended a long time ago, or that while the war still drags on, there is little chance that the new soldier will be sent to a combat zone.

While the brass turns a blind eye, recruiters help unqualified young people appear qualified. Reluctant recruits, uncertain of their decision, have been threatened with jail should they renege. Recruiters have advised recruits to lie about criminal records or drug problems, to forge documents, to conceal significant and disqualifying health histories, all in the name of filling the ranks.

Maybe some of the problems we have seen in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo Bay are a result of recruiting from the bottom of the barrel. The truth is, our military is a montage of courageous and cowardly, of saintly and sadistic, of stable and unstable, of educated and uneducated, of good and bad, of disciplined and undisciplined, of professional and renegade. It is neither all good or all bad. In this, it mirrors society. War is a nasty business, recruiting apparently no less so.

We claim that our military is the best in the history of warfare. Maybe so, but 300 Greeks who held off 100,000 Persians in 480 BC should merit at least an honorable mention. I’m not suggesting that we don’t have a fine army, only that it must not be above scrutiny. Murder and rape of civilians, abuse of prisoners, fratricide, and lying to recruits are not the hall-

---

**Another View**

Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

--See Another View page 11--
Is business about feminist agenda?

Since the deadline for this column was Monday, and the election was Tuesday, I can’t comment on the results. I hope we’re happy when we read this. Now, down to business.

I don’t know what Condoleezza Rice’s political future is, but I sure am pleased with the job she’s doing in her present position, especially considering the rocky environment she has been working in. Compared to recent secretaries of state, she’s looking real good.

Prior to Ms. Rice, my favorite lady in a position of power was Margaret Thatcher, indeed a solid conservative and good friend and confidant of Ronald Reagan. Oh, if only she could have been cloned. But that’s a column for another day.

Prior to her, for those of us who don’t remember the hill, much less going over it, Jeane Kirkpatrick sticks in my memory as being a solid citizen and worthy Ambassador to the United Nations, the cesspool of the universe. But that, too, is a column for another day.

So what’s my point in promoting the strong and highly productive women? It is to prove that I am not a chauvinist, much less a misogynist, a fact necessary to not confuse the point of today’s pontification. That point is STUPID television commercials.

I have been involved in either business or a profession (public accounting) forever. I thoroughly enjoy business done right, and abhor business done poorly. So will someone kindly explain to me why so many advertisers feel the need to humiliate the male gender in promoting their products or services.

Personally, I keep a mental record of such moronic behavior and will not patronize the perpetrators. Further, I can’t be alone in this attitude (I hope) so the advertisers are eliminating some portion of their market. Why?

Beyond that, often the portrayal of a man doing something stupid, which has nothing to do with the point of the message, actually distracts the viewer from understanding the marketing intention of the commercial.

One leaps to mind.

A woman is showing her friend her new Pella windows. Her husband, or whatever, is seen through the subject windows wrestling with a barbecue grill and ends up in a massive conflagration. Now, call me myopic, but, aside from denigrating the male of the species, what value does this little episode have to do with selling windows? Nothing to me. To hell with Pella.

There are dozens of examples of such foolishness, which causes me to wonder, is the pursuit of female domination greater than the interest in doing business, or, God forbid, doesn’t the male consumer care that his kind is being humiliated on an hourly basis? Where are the male executives who should be objecting to such blatant sexism? Has doing business been reduced to promoting the feminist agenda?

I don’t get it. I’m glad I’m old.

... ANOTHER VIEW

continued from page 10

marks of a professional force, even if they are relatively uncommon occurrences. Twice in the past year and a half, recruiting operations have been suspended to allow “retraining” of recruiters following revelations of deceptive and illegal recruiting practices. A recruiting hotline was declared as recently as last Friday. Those in charge first make the familiar claim that there are a few bad apples then suspend operations for a day of cosmetic retraining of the entire barrel. What is the message if we must resort to lying to meet the needs of our all volunteer force?

The irony for John Kerry, and the more important lesson for politicians is this. Had Kerry stuck to his statement and to his guns, his prestige might actually have been enhanced. Americans hunger for strong courageous leadership, for leaders who will sacrifice position for principle. John Kerry hurt his party and reinforced his own “flip-flop” image. The American people didn’t like being lied to by Richard Nixon or by Bill Clinton and they don’t like being played the fool by any vote mongering politician.

While Kerry’s cowardly retreat from his inflammatory comment will not provoke a constitutional crisis, it serves as yet another example of the state of American politics. In the bright glare of adverse publicity he, like so many others, blinked.
Proceeds from antique show delivered

Highlands Playhouse representatives, Dwight Bryant and Joana Baumrucker present Highlands Mayor Don Mullen with a check for $3,000 - proceeds from the Playhouse’s recent antique show held at the Highlands Civic Center. For the second year in a row, the Playhouse has shared proceeds with another group. Last year Highlands School was the recipient.

...MORATORIUM continued from page 5

Karen Hawk said if a high-rise is allowed, the view will be destroyed and the county will be forever changed.

Many feared allowing the high-rise would set a precedent that couldn’t be reversed.

“Think of the impact on the communities of Macon County. This is not the kind of development Macon County wants,” said Lee Hodges.

Bill Crawford, a Franklin resident said the impact from any tall building will be far greater than the eye can see.

Debbie Boots, also of Franklin said the high-rise would be out of sync with the environment and urged commissioners to develop a vision for the county and a comprehensive land use plan with density taken into account.

Mike Kizer, of Highlands said the high-rise would decrease property values, hurt the county’s tax base and represent uncontrolled growth. “This will be a horrible mistake if it’s built,” he said.

Ginny Harris, of the Laurel Garden Club in Highlands said a precedent for Macon County has already been set. “It’s for low-profile simple mountain designs which have already been established and have flourished for 100 years.

Patrick and Puddin Brogan, of Highlands, said “If you’re lucky enough to be in the mountains, you’re lucky enough. Enact a moratorium. Tree-top height is appropriate.”

Charlie Cowie, of Franklin, said anyone who’s seen the differences in Florida’s Martin County and St. Lucie County knows what can happen here. “Martin County has a height restriction; St. Lucie County doesn’t,” he said.

Hannah Bradley who moved to Macon County from Atlanta said 10-story buildings don’t belong in Macon County. “They belong in Atlanta or Gatlinburg. I’m not opposed to development, but developers must have respect for the land, the community and the rest of us. Once it starts it doesn’t stop,” she said.

Ann Maxwell, who lives in the Flat Mountain area of Highlands said the county needs proper planning before it allows a huge project like this. “You must consider the drain it could have on the area. This summer four of the five wells in our neighborhood went dry.”

Cynthia Strain, who has lived in Highlands for 25 years, said she has heard a lot of empty promises from developers. “Highlands Cove and now Riverwalk are examples of how development destroys the environment. Now another developer is promising to be ‘Highlands friendly.’ Sounds like another empty promise to me. Close this barn door before the horse gets out.”

Susan Irvin, of Franklin and a member of the Macon County Planning Board, said other communities in North and South Carolina have suffered the consequences of enacting a height ordinance after the fact. “We are about rural mountain communities with small towns. That’s where we want to live, that’s where visitors want to come.

• See MORATORIUM page 22
Dillard man wins ‘Auxiliary’ quilt

This year’s lucky winner of the Wildflower Quilt raffled off last month by the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary was Donnie Fountain (L) of Dillard, GA. Donnie and his son Everette display the quilt, which was lovingly stitched together by quilter Hazel Miller of Highlands of panels featuring hand-embroidered depictions of a local wildflowers. Auxiliary members draw and then embroider the panels throughout the year. This was the 15th year for the popular raffle. This year’s Auxiliary President Kitti Barber once again sold the ticket that was eventually drawn as the winner. Fountain said he already has a wall in his house on which to hang the new heirloom.

... AUDITORS continued from page 1

al segregation of duties isn’t possible, it is critical to have an oversight function,” the letter continues.

For instance, Martin Starnes noted that cash collected in the Parks and Recreation Department wasn’t remitted to the Finance Department. “The effect of such action is that cash on hand could be misappropriated and the misappropriation might not be detected promptly,” wrote auditors.

The firm recommended that all monies—cash and checks—be collected from the Parks and Recreation Department be reconciled to the receipts log daily. “The town’s Parks and Recreation Department should designate an employee not involved in the collections of monies to reconcile the receipts and take the money to the town’s finance department on a timely basis and a member from the finance department should take the deposit to the bank.”

The town’s Parks and Recreation Department is currently under investigation with the State Bureau of Investigation following allegations of the misappropriation of funds at the Rec Park early this year.

In general, Martin Starnes suggested that access to the books and records of the town should be separated from access to the assets of the town as much as possible. “Alternative controls should be used to compensate for any lack of segregation of duties,” wrote the auditors. “The town council members should provide some of these controls.”

Martin Starnes said town officials agreed with their recommendations and are aware of the weaknesses but, “due to the cost benefit analysis, hiring additional personnel doesn’t appear feasible.”

The auditors said their comments and recommendations are only intended to improve the internal control or result in other operating efficiencies.

The firm was hired on February 14, 2006 to perform the town’s audit.

The firm verified that the town’s assets exceeded its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year by $29,306,391 in net assets and that total net assets increased by $520,324.

At the close of the current fiscal year, Highlands’ governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of $2,286,600, a decrease of $130,295 in comparison with the prior year. But auditors noted that cash on hand could be misappropriated and the misappropriation might not be detected promptly.”

Auditors said the town’s continued diligence in the collection of property taxes and diligence in collecting delinquent utility charges has positively influenced Highlands total assets.

Town Administrator Richard Betz reported that sales tax proceeds are robust this year. So far, the town has received $283,942 with only $750,000 anticipated. Property tax proceeds are at $1,024,208, with $2,101,875 anticipated and interest rates are also robust in all funds.

... BALLOT continued from page 1

50 it’s John Snow with 7,383 votes to Ken McKinnon’s 5,579.

For N.C. State House District 19 it’s Mike Gooder with 3,596 votes.

For County Commission District 1 it’s Brian McClain with 6,331 votes to Allan Ricky Bryan’s 6,186.

For the two County Commission District 2 it’s Ronnie Beale and Bob Simpson with 6,416 and 6,233 votes, respectively. Harold Corbin got 5,718 and Rick Mashburn got 4,969.

... POLES continued from page 9

ing this up to everyone it’s especially important for the town to get its poles and its renters into compliance, to have contracts and to run this like a money-making business with a paper trail. “Right now you don’t have any record of who or what’s on each pole.”

“This is more complicated than folks like us can handle,” said Commissioner Amy Patterson.

Commissioner Herb James agreed. “We need help with this.”

Town Administrator Richard Betz said since it’s obvious that Nin Bond will likely use the state’s recent ruling to re-introduce Highlands Cable Group and since Bond and McGavran have past business dealings, he questioned their relationship.

“Nin and I became acquainted some years ago when we were considering working on a grant for Hayesville but that never happened and I haven’t been involved with him since,” said McGavran.

Commissioners agreed to take the information under advisement and to seek the Town Attorney’s advice.
Saturday game ends a great 2006 season for Highlanders

The Highlanders lost to Jordan-Matthews in the second game of the state playoffs 3-8 culminating a great year on the field. Jordan-Matthews has been in the top five for State every year for the past four years. New to soccer, HS senior Darin Keener took on the dreaded position of goalie keeper and made some spectacular saves during the season. This one was made during the Hayesville game earlier in the season. Final Highlander Record Overall: 12-9; Final Conference Record: 10-0; First Round of State Playoffs: 7-3; Second Round of State Playoffs 3-8.

Free concert at 1st Pres

The music committee of Highlands First Presbyterian Church and the music department of Western Carolina University will co-sponsor a faculty showcase concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19. This is a part of the church’s ongoing concert series. Featured musicians will be Eldred Spell, flute; Terri Armfield, oboe; Michael Schallock, tuba; Mary Kay Bauer, soprano; Robert Holquist, baritone; Michael Lanford, piano; and Lillian Buss Pearson, piano.

The free concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main Street. Everyone is invited.
**SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING**

**An Encounter Scripture**

**Mark 10: 17-31**

> Coming face-to-face with Jesus is not always a pleasant experience. Jesus is direct, demanding, and difficult. Some turn away from the real Jesus. Dietrich Bonhoeffer called that the difference between “cheap grace” and “costly grace.” More about that later.

> Hopefully, most of you are here this morning hoping to have an encounter with Jesus. That’s the purpose of the hymns, the music, the sermon and the liturgy. We hope to meet Jesus.

> In our scripture today a man comes before Jesus. He is a good man. He knew Jesus. I think this man is representative of us all. He had “great possessions.” So do we all when compared to the vast majority of the world’s inhabitants. We have more stuff than we need. We come here today to kneel before Jesus. What then?

> This is a story of a man who is met by Jesus. Not only is he met by Jesus, but he is called by Jesus. This is not primarily a story about the man’s money. Jesus tells him that the way to eternal life comes through discipleship. Get your priorities straight, then “Come, follow me.”

> And difficult. Some turn away from the real Jesus. Dietrich Bonhoeffer called that the difference between “cheap grace” and “costly grace.” More about that later.

**See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17**

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**PLACES OF WORSHIP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>3645 U.S. 64 E, Highlands</td>
<td>526-4885</td>
<td>Sun: 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.; Choir - 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>2152 Dillard Road, Highlands</td>
<td>526-9741</td>
<td>Sun: 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.; Choir - 6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Sun: 9:45 a.m.; Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Youth Group: 1:00 p.m.; Adult Choir: 6:30 p.m.

Wed: noon – Men’s Emmaus Reunion Group; 4:45 – Children’s choir and handbells; 5:30 – Supper; 6 – Adult Handbells; 6:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 7:15 – Adult choir

(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs: 12:30 – Women’s Bible Study (nursery)

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**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA**

8 miles south of Highlands on U.S. 64 in Satolah

Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130

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

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**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130

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

---

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin

369-6871

A Baptism each service

---

**SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD**

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

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

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**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sun: 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.; Choir – 6:30 p.m.

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**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

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**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**

Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769

Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

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**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.; Choir – 6:30 p.m.; Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

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**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

---

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4885

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

Sun: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 a.m. Worship

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

Sun: Worship- 8:15 a.m.; 10:45 a.m.; 5:30 p.m.

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**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376

Sun: 9:45 a.m.; Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Youth Group: 1:00 p.m.

---

**HIGHLANDS 7TH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

Weekly evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Loyd Kidder at 526-9474

---

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

6th Street

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

---

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130

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

---

**MOUNTAIN SYNOGOGUE**

St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin

369-6871

Fri: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

For more information, call (706)745-1842.

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**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Rev. Tien, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

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**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

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**TIMBERLINE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

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**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

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In “The Horses of Proud Spirit” Melanie Sue Bowles recounts her efforts to save unwanted and abused horses and provide them with a safe, nurturing environment. Ms. Bowles will sign copies of her memoir at Cyrano’s Bookshop on Friday, Nov. 10 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Ms. Bowles and her husband, Jim, lived in rural Florida where all their neighbors seemed to keep horses. Melanie Sue decided that she, too, wanted a horse. After riding a docile creature at a nearby farm, she bought it for $1,200. But when she got home with Cody, a knowledgeable friend told her that the horse was actually a broken-down thoroughbred, so mistreated, sick and hobbled with pain that she should not be ridden. Months of care and attention from a veterinarian and the Bowles restored Cody to health—but now an inexperienced horsewoman like Melanie Sue found the high-spirited Cody impossible, indeed dangerous to ride. Everyone said she should sell him and acquire a more manageable breed. But Bowles did not have a revelation; she would try to see things from the horse’s point of view. She watched how other horses interacted with each other and with their human owners. She learned what frightened and reassured them. She and Cody became best friends.

The remarkable stories that follow detail Melanie Sue’s relationship with Cody and many other horses that eventually joined her at the Proud Spirit Horse Sanctuary, which is now located on 329 acres in Mena, Arkansas. Ms. Bowles, a firefighter and EMT, had found a new calling. Inspired by her father and the Florida environmental crusader Marjory Stoneman Douglas, both of whom emphasized fulfillment through helping others, she told her husband: “I want to make a difference in the lives of horses, Jim, lots of horses. I want to have a sanctuary for any horse that needs us, that’s been abused, neglected, abandoned or forgotten. A place where they can live out their lives in peace and dignity.” Melanie Sue saved horses on their way to the slaughter house, horses whose spirit had been beaten out of them. Her book is full of heartwarming (and sometimes sad) stories and is illustrated with photos of Cody, Strut, Annie, Wrangler and many other of the 150 proud and happy equines that have ended their days under the care of Melanie Sue and Jim. While “The Horses of Proud Spirit” is a must for horse lovers, Ms. Bowles’s fine writing and remarkable achievements will appeal to all who like happy endings achieved against great odds.

Cyrano’s Bookshop is located at 390 Main Street in Highlands, North Carolina. Books can be reserved for autographing by calling (828) 526-5488 or sending an email to cyranos@nctv.com; to learn more about our store please visit www.cyranosbookshop.com.
Concierge Service

This chair away from his tax collector's desk

The story is about someone like us being met by Jesus and asked to follow, but who decides that it is not a way he wants to go. He believes, but then he walks away.

Another left a lucrative career, pushing two more of them a fishing boat and family:

This is the only story in the gospels in which someone refuses to follow. Can we not sympathize with this man? We can certainly identify with his materialistic encumbrances – the stuff. Like him, all of us have many possessions – more than we need to live.

We know how to dispose of all of our stuff tends to chain us to the stuff. Yet, more than that, don’t we all know how risky a matter it can be to be met by Jesus? Can we blame the man for walking away rather than following?

Today's story reminds us that there are good, understandable, reasonable reasons for not following Jesus. Jesus is too often presented by us, from the best of motives, as the solution to all our problems, the way to fix everything that's wrong in our lives. But this story reminds us that Jesus is sometimes the beginning of problems we never would have had if we had not met Jesus.

Barbara Brown Taylor also says this is not only about money. If that were so, we could buy our way into heaven by putting our money right now. The kingdom of God is not for sale. The poor cannot buy it with their poverty any more than the rich can buy it with their riches. The kingdom of God is God's consummate gift, to be given to whomever God pleases, for whatever reason(s) pleases God. Beware how you analyze that. It's serious business.

The catch is, we have got to be free to receive the gift. We cannot be otherwise engaged. We cannot be tied up right now, or too tied down to respond. We cannot accept God's gift if we have no spare hands to take it with. We cannot make room for it if all your rooms are already full. We cannot follow if we are not free to go.

This rich young man went away sorrowful because he understood all at once that he was not free. His wealth was supposed to make him free, but kneeling in front of Jesus he understood it was not so. He was unwilling to prioritize. Invited to follow, he went away sorrowful instead, for he had great possessions that he hugged behind him like a ball and chain. He could not believe that the opposite of rich might not be poor but free.

Although Jesus's disciples misunderstood many things, they understood the cost of discipleship as that young martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer did during WW II. Two of them had left their fishing nets behind, two more of them a fishing boat and family. Another left a lucrative career, pushing his chair away from his tax collector's desk to follow. All of them had walked away from something, but not because it was a prerequisite for becoming a disciple.

The story is told of Clarence Jordan, that great prophet and writer of the "Cotton Patch" gospels, who visited an integrated church in the Deep South. Jordan was surprised to find a relatively large church so thoroughly integrated, not only Black and White but also rich and poor, and this was in the early sixties!! Jordan asked the old country preacher, "How did you get the church this way?"

"What way?" the preacher asked. Jordan went on to explain his surprise at finding a church so integrated, and in the South, too. The preacher said, "Well, when we left our small church, we went to the deacons and said, 'I'll be the preacher.' The first Sunday as preacher, I opened the Bible and read. "As many of you as has been baptized into Jesus has put on Jesus and there is no longer any Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, because you all one in Jesus."

"Then I closed the book and said, 'If you one with Jesus, you one with all kind of folks. And if you ain't, you ain't.'" In other words, get your priorities straight. Jordan asked what happened after that.

"Well," the preacher said, "the deacons took me into the back room, scolded me and told me they didn't want to hear that kind of preaching no more." Jordan asked what he did then.

"I fired them Deacons," the preacher roared.

Then what happened, asked Jordan.

"Well," said the old country preacher. "I preached that church down to four members. Not long after that, it grew and grew. And I found out that revival sometimes don't mean bringin' people in but gettin' people to love Jesus."

Costly grace sometimes. Sometimes I think we in the church have made discipleship such a small, trivial thing that we have made belief look easy. There's an old joke about the evangelist who, after preaching a long sermon, gave an altar call. "Come to the altar and give your life to Christ!" He said. No one came.

In frustration, the evangelist said, "Come to the altar, as a way of saying that you love and honor God." No one came.

In even greater frustration, the evangelist appeared to the congregation, "Come to the altar as a way of saying that you want to live a better life." No one came.

Finally, expected, "If you love your mother, come down to the altar."

Sometimes, as it says in the book of Hebrews, God's word is sharper than a two-edged sword. God's word cuts us, strikes us, almost kills us with its truth. Yet in that word, in encountering that face, hearing his call, and in saying "Yes," despite the cost, there is life everlasting.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 15
**Upcoming Events**

- **Cyrano’s Book Shop**
  - **Book Signings**
    - 1-3 p.m.
    - (Unless otherwise noted)
  - Nov. 25 11-1
  - Riley Weston – Before I Go
  - December 16
  - Carl Smith – Lousianna
  - Burn

- **On-going**
  - Yoga Classes at the Rec Park, Mondays and Wednesdays. Bring your mat. $7 per person per class or $50 for a monthly pass.
  - FREE improv classes at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call the ITC office at 828-526-1687. A new class is forming now. You may also email us at instanttheatre@instanttheatre.org. Come play with us!
  - Angie Jenkins on the piano at the Old Clayton Inn in Clayton on Fridays and Saturdays for dinner.

- **Highlands Eateries**
  - **Buck’s Coffee Cafe**
    - Open 7 days a week
    - 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
    - Coffee, tea, wine, pastries, sandwiches
    - 384 Main Street

- **Catering Available**
  - **Rib Shack**
    - LUNCH & DINNER
    - 461 Spring Street • 526-2626

- **Stop in for slow-cooked BBQ, Ribs, Fried Chicken, Hot Wings and other Southern favorites that’ll have you coming back for more.**

- **High Country Cafe**
  - **Down home favorites everyday!**
  - Breakfast & Lunch
    - 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
    - Sunday through Friday;
    - Saturday, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.
  - 526-0572
  - Cashiers Road next to the Community Bible Church

- **Pescado’s Burritos**
  - In the middle of 4th St.
  - Open for lunch and dinner
  - Mon-Sat. • 526-9313

- **Hill Top Grill**
  - “Quick Service Not Fast Food!”
  - Hamburgers & Fries
  - Sandwiches & Salads
  - Ice Cream & More!
  - Open for lunch Mon.-Fri.
  - At 4th & Spring streets...on the hill
  - 526-5916
  - $10 minimum with credit card

- **Sports Page Sandwich Shoppe**
  - Soups • Salads • Desserts
  - Loaded Baked Potatoes
  - Mon-Fri. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
  - Sat. 11 a.m. -4 p.m.
  - Closed Nov. 10 & 11 ONLY
  - 314 Main Street • 526-3555

- **Salamanders**
  - Available
  - **Rib Shack**
    - LUNCH & DINNER
    - 461 Spring Street • 526-2626

- **Booksigning at Cyrano’s Book Shop. Melanie**
  - Nov. 10 – Friday

- **The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 7-mile hike on the Bartram Trail from Jones Gap to Fishhawk Mountain with great views now that trees are leafless. Meet at Wal-Mart plaza at 9:30 a.m. or at Jones Gap trailhead at 10:15 a.m.**

- **Every Tuesday Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.**

- **FREE improv classes at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call the ITC office at 828-526-1687. A new class is forming now.**

- **Beginners Clogging class Tuesday, 6-7 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley Community Center.**

- **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.**

- **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.**

- **Beginners Clogging class Tuesday, 6-7 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley Community Center.**

- **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.**

- **Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is offering 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.**

- **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. If interested in attending, please contact Helen Moore (Hospice) 526-0727 or Martha Porter (Chaplain at HCH) at 787-1465.**

- **On-going**
  - Yoga Classes at the Rec Park, Mondays and Wednesdays. Bring your mat. $7 per person per class or $50 for a monthly pass.
  - FREE improv classes at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call the ITC office at 828-526-1687. A new class is forming now. You may also email us at instanttheatre@instanttheatre.org. Come play with us!
  - Angie Jenkins on the piano at the Old Clayton Inn in Clayton on Fridays and Saturdays for dinner.

- **Food Signings**
  - **Sue Bowles’ “The Horses of Proud Spirit” 1-3 p.m. Nov. 10 – Friday**
  - **All veterans will be honored guests at Southeastern Community College’s Veteran’s Day Salute 11:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 10, in the Balsam Auditorium on the Jackson campus.**

- **The Appalachian High Folk Concert Series in Highlands presents Jack Williams at The Instant Theater Company. The concert series is a seasonal, coffee-house style concert series featuring nationally touring, award winning, festival headlining acts. Call 828-342-9197.**

- **The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 7-mile hike on the Bartram Trail from Jones Gap to Fishhawk Mountain with great views now that trees are leafless. Meet at Wal-Mart plaza at 9:30 a.m. or at Jones Gap trailhead at 10:15 a.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Bring a drink, a lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes.**

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Nov. 13 - Monday
• Chamber of Commerce Fall Finale at Highlands Inn.

Nov. 14 - Tuesday
• Discussion of the movie "Chocolat." In this chocolate shop, Vianne begins to create mouth-watering concoctions that almost magically inspire the straitlaced villagers to abandon themselves to temptation and happiness. A "Two Thumbs Up!" Movie is available at rental stores and on DVD at Hudson Public Library. Coordinator: John Gaston. All sessions are on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. You may come to the sessions that interest you or when you are in town, as well as be a regular participant. If you have any questions, call or email Creighton Peden at 526-4028.

Nov. 16 - Thursday
• 10th annual Ladies Holiday Banquet for all ladies of the community at the Highlands Civic Center, 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by First Baptist Church. Top-selling author Donna Otto, will speak. This year’s theme is “Leaving a Legacy” with a special tribute to Gwynne Robinson, founder of this ministry. Special holiday music. Caterer: Let Holly do the Cooking. RSVP by Nov. 6. 526-4153.

Nov. 17, 18, 19 - Fri-Sun
• WONDERLAND is the 4th annual all-children’s cast production for the North Georgia Community Players. This play is a delightful adaptation of Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking Glass" and features favorite characters from the "Alice in Wonderland" story. Five performances are scheduled. Show times are Friday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m., Saturdays, Nov. 18 and 17 at 7 p.m. and Sundays Nov. 13 & 19 at 3 p.m.

Nov. 18 - Saturday
• Gingerbread House Workshop by Designer Krys-ti Rogers at The Christmas Tree on the hill. Call 526-3087 for more information.

Nov. 19 - Sunday
• Concert at First Presbyterian Church featuring the music department of Western Carolina University at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Ruby Cinemas
Franklin, NC
Adult – $6; Child – $4
Nov. 10-16
THE SANTA CLAUSE:
THE ESCAPE CLAUSE rated G
Fri: (4:10), 7, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:10), 7, 9:10
Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7

FLUSHED AWAY rated PG
Fri: (4:05), 7:05, 9:05
Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:05), 7:05, 9:05
Mon – Thurs: (4:05), 7:05

FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS rated R
Fri: (4:20), 7, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:20), 7, 9:20
Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7

FLICKA rated PG
Fri: 7:15
Sat & Sun: (2:15), 7:15
Mon – Thurs: 7:15

MAN OF THE YEAR rated PG-13
Fri: (4:15), 9:15
Sat & Sun: (4:15), 9:15
Mon – Thurs: (4:15)

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike down Park Ridge to the Connector Trail and return to Park Creek. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 10 a.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Reservations are required. Call leader: Mo Wheeler at 743-9560 or 743-9579.

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate to strenuous 7-mi...
HELP WANTED

BASCOM LOUISE GALLERY – a non-profit Fine Art Center, seeks Managing Director to oversee all operations as well as fund raising and transition to new facility. Requires skilled manager who is well organized, high energy, personable and outgoing.

BASCOM LOUISE GALLERY – a non-profit Fine Art Center, seeks an administrative assistant to assist with all office functions. Requires computer skills and ability to multi-task.

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

HOUSEKEEPER IN ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES at HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Experience in hospital cleaning is preferred. Other housekeeping experience is helpful. This full-time position is Friday through Tuesday with Wednesday and Thursday off. Hours are 7 a.m.-3:30 a.m. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Manly Talley (828)-526-1301, or apply online through the website, www.hchospital.org.

ASSISTANT HEALTH TRACKS SPECIALIST/FITNESS TRAINER at HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Must be able to train and monitor members of a fitness and wellness facility. Requires excellent telephone skills, some computer skills, and an outgoing personality. This part-time temporary position from December 1st - March 31st is for Tuesday’s and Thursday’s 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

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TERESTED IN A NEW CAREER? Become a Certified Nursing Assistant for Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. C.N.A. classes will start on Monday, November 27, 2006. Students will be paid while in class Mondays through Fridays. Upon graduation, students will become a Certified Nursing Assistant and will receive a substantial increase in pay. Excellent benefit package available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through the website, www.hchospital.org.

MAINTENANCE MECHANIC IN PLANT OPERATIONS AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Background in physical plant maintenance, two years apprenticeship and four years work experience preferred. Some computer experience preferred. This full-time position is Monday through Thursday. Required to work on Saturday one day each month. Upon graduation, full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment background check. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through the website, www.hchospital.org.

CNA OR CNA II FOR ACUTE CARE AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time position for 36 hours per week. Range of pay, depending on number of years’ experience, is $9.50 to $11.90 per hour. Weekend and shift differentials. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through the website, www.hchospital.org.

MANAGER, ACUTE CAREER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. R.N. licensed in N.C. Masters Degree preferred, but not required. Responsible for patient care, management, resource management, and fiscal management of Acute Care, Emergency, Respiratory Therapy and Outpatient Procedure Clinic. Also responsible for ensuring compliance with all standard applicable laws governing nursing and clinical practice in N.C. and for the 24-hour management and operation of the departments. Excellent salary and full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through the website, www.hchospital.org.

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Experience in management of Housekeeping, Floor Care, and Laundry is preferred as is knowledge of State and Federal regulations. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through the website, www.hchospital.org.


CNA OR CNA II FOR FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time, night shift position for either 32 or 36 hours per week, including every other weekend. Range of pay, depending on number of years’ experience, is $9.50 to $11.90 per hour. Weekend and shift differentials. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1303 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.
**CLASSIFIEDS**


**MICROWAVE** – GE space-saver, 19”x12”x12”, black. $60. 526-5834.

**ENGLISH & AMERICAN ANTIQUES** – 18th & 20th Century, Private Estate Sale by Appointment only. Call 828-452-4888.

**COLEMAN HEATILATER FIREBOX INSERT** with blower. Includes rack, vent pipes, brick front and hearth, mantle, screen, glass doors. Uses gas or wood. NEVER USED. REDUCED price $550 or OBO. 828-349-3320.

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

**VERMONT CASTINGS WINTERWARM** wood burning fireplace insert with ash pan and pan cover, fire screen for door, vent pipe, and owner’s manual. $800. Firm. Sold as is where is. Call 828-743-9340 for details.

**ANTIQUE FURNITURE** – beds, love seats, chairs, tables, lamps, curio cabinets and collectible paperweights, Royal Donalds, Hummels, etc. By appointment only. 828-326-3298.


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**AKC REGISTERED SHELTIES** Sable Merle & Blue Merle. $300. Call 706-982-9325.

**OAK ROCKER** over 100 years old. From E.B. (Ted) Melf Estate in Athens, Ga. All original including leather seat. Call 828-349-4581.

**RACE CAR SALES** 1962 CHEVROLET IMPALA – 1/2 scale model. $950. 526-5584.

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**CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS** – Extraordinary personal attention, help with shopping, personal chef and table service, house openings and closings, grocery shopping, personal shopping, personal chef and table service. Available on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. Call 828-326-3298.

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**FIREBOX INSERT** – lighted with stained glass upper doors, wood doors on bottom, has open shelves too, very nice 450 obo, King size bed frame with brass headboard & bed $75 obo, please call 828-369-2223 or after 5pm 828-331-8422.

**GOOD CONDITION** – Light and detail cleaning, concierge services, in home shopping, personal chef and table service, house openings and closings, grocery shopping, personal shopping, personal chef and table service. Available on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. Call 828-326-3298.

**5000 VACUUM CLEANER** – Extend-a-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.

**REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS**

**PIN ID # - ADDRESS – GRANTEE – DATE – SALE – GRANTOR - APPRAISED**

Highlands Township

- **0518574, 15 BONNEVILLE RD, HFCC, FAULKNER MARCIA J, 10/20/2006, $975,000., GRIFFITH RAY C, $1,042,480.**
- **0501684, 148 OWL GAP RD, CORRIGAN THOMAS G, 10/20/2006, $364,000., MORRISON ROBERT A, $255,700.**
- **0538218, LOT 5 THE COTSWOLDS SUBD, B & C MOUNTAIN INVESTMENTS LLC, 10/19/2006, $485,000., PEARSON L WAYNE, $294,840.**

**FIRE & RESCUE REPORT**

This composite photo of the proposed high rise condo as the Cold Springs Homeowners Association believes it will look from the Cold Springs community lake off Shortoff Road south of the building site. Wright distributed this and two other composite photos to the commission and the audience at Monday night’s meeting.

Such a complex in the midst of Highlands will be a beautiful small-town experience for the owners of the condos, but it will diminish everyone else’s experience.”

The final speaker, Bob Wright, representing the Cold Springs Property Association whose views would be dominated by the high-rise should it be built, said the state’s ridge law, initiated by the condo that grew in Banner Elk, N.C., offers no protection here. Nor will the N.C. Department of Insurance and fire marshal offer help, he said.

“As long as everything is up to code and meets their building specs they don’t stop development.” It’s up to the local representatives,” he said. “We’re not asking to restrict the developer’s rights, we’re just asking him to be reasonable and to keep the structure below the tree-line. This is a wake-up call. When Macon County plans worked up the high-impact ordinance, they never dreamed this could happen. It was clearly an oversight but it’s easily fixed. Please help us fix it.”

Use of the 19 acres on U.S. 64 east is under scrutiny by the courts. The Davids, the original sellers, want restrictive residential covenants for a single-family housing development to follow the land, but their buyer has since sold the property to a developer from Florida who initially proposed a 30-story condominium on the site.

The courts recently ruled in the David’s favor, suggesting they could go to jury trial for a final decision.