On-going
• Every Tuesday evening, Spiritual Cinema at The Instant Theatre at 7 p.m.
• Live music nightly at...on the Veranda; Paul Scott plays Wednesday; Angie Jenkins plays Mondays; Chad Reed playing Tuesday and Thursday-Sunday for Sunday brunch.
• Live piano music with Hal Phillips at Skyline Lodge & Restaurant every Friday and Saturday night and Sunday brunch.
• Live music at Fressers in Helen’s Barn, featuring Cy Timmons Wed. through Sat., 6 p.m. until.
• Live music at Cypress Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.
• Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Saturday from 4:30-6:30.
• Live music at Wolfgang's Bistro every Sun. and Mon. It’s Momo on Piano; every Wed. it’s Paul Scott’s Trio; and every Thurs., Fri it’s Rickey Dean on piano.

Oct. 12
• Meet the Artist-Photographer, Nona Boston Thursday at Fressers Eatery in Helen’s Barn from 5-7 p.m. Her portfolio includes images from more than 20 countries on three continents.
• Lauren LaChance Botanical Pressings Trunk Show at Acorns.
• At the Highlands Playhouse, “North Platte Canteen,” Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.
• Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Saturday from 4:30-6:30.
• Sale and lunch for the Bolivia Mission on Saturday at the Methodist Church on Main Street from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m.; a hot dog lunch, a bake sale, and yard sale items.
• Whole Life Market showcases Silver Leaf Jewelry & Designer Ashley Aspinwall Saturday from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Semi-precious and precious stone, fresh water pearls, and sterling silver designs.
• At Cy vacation’s Bookshop, writers Joan Medicot, Celia Miles and Gayden Metalca will all sign their books on Saturday. Both Medicot and Miles are on from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Metalca is from 3 to 5 p.m.
• 24th Annual Highlands Arts & Crafts Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Free admission and parking.
• At the Town Planner’s Office at Highlands Volunteer First Station on Hale Ridge Road. Guns provided.
• At IT in Oak Sq. on Main St, “Sylvia” - a romantic comedy about a marriage and a dog. Call 828-342-8197 for tickets.

Recusal from board decisions discussed
To vote or not to vote. That question is raised by the public and board members regarding their affiliation with agenda items time and time again.

Officials stand by claim of “no wrongdoing”
Newly appointed Macon County Schools Superintendent Dan Brigman said he could not answer questions concerning allegations made by recently terminated Director of Personnel Tamra Tisdale against Macon County Schools.

Off-duty septic permit process gets easier for all
A tell-tale sign that growth and development are alive and well in Macon County is the continued flow of septic applications filed at the health department.

September 27 septic permit applications as of Sept. 27 was 252, which represents an 8-10 week delay, he said. "The downward trend is continuing from the worst case of 559 applications which represented a 12-15 week delay early this past summer."

He said of the current backlog of 101 permits is due to the large June influx received in advance of the July 1, 2006 increase in application fee. “That more than doubled the normal monthly total and immediately put us behind an additional 4-5 weeks,” said Patterson.
Property owners ask for moratorium on high-rise construction

The following letter was mailed to the Macon County Board of Commissioners last week. If you also oppose any high rise construction in the beautiful mountains of Macon County, Cold Springs asks interested citizens and community associations to send a letter to our commissioners in support of a moratorium.

Dear Editor,

As the elected representative of 75 property owners and 65 home owners in eastern Macon County I am writing to state our association’s total opposition to the high rise condominium project proposed for a site on US 64 east, Cashiers Highway, near the Community Bible Church outside Highlands.

Our Association requests the county commissioners enact a six-month moratorium on all high rise construction in Macon County until such time as the planning board and the commissioners can evaluate proposed changes to the High Impact Ordinance and the pending subdivision ordinance. For the purpose of the moratorium, high rise construction may be defined as any structure higher than three stories above grade or 40–feet from the finished ground elevation grade to the highest point of the roof.

The Cold Springs community lies near the base of Shortoff Mountain due north of the proposed 10-story high-rise structure. The completed building will tower over the treetops and will be visible from many home sites in Cold Springs, as well as numerous other small communities outside the Town of Highlands ETJ.

The Association bases its opposition to the project on the following points: this high rise project and others like it that will follow will (1) create visual pollution of the beautiful Macon County forests and mountains, (2) require a water tower structure of equal or greater height (more visual pollution) to provide sufficient water pressure to supply high pressure water to a building sprinkler system on the upper floors, (3) house residents for 100-120 condominium units thereby creating significant new demands for ground water supply and sewage treatment in the WSI public water supply watershed for the Town of Highlands, and (4) create significant new traffic flows, congestion, and entry/exit traffic hazards on US 64.

We submit that the 10-story condominium project being proposed is so bizarre and unthinkable to the citizens of Macon County that the imminent possibility of such a high impact residential project was inadvertently overlooked during the debate surrounding the county’s high impact use ordinance. Citizens believed that the North Carolina “ridge law” would protect our communities from such an objectionable structure in the mountains. Now, understanding the limitations of the existing law, a practical and realistic height restriction for residential and commercial construction in the beautiful mountains of Macon County should be added to the existing ordinance as well as the pending subdivision ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Robert K. (Bob) Wright

Restaurant parking issue getting out of hand

Dear Editor,

I just couldn’t let the opportunity go by without saying a word or two about this seemingly unsolvable restaurant problem.

As I see it, there is plenty of room in the Highlands area for everyone who wants to visit the restaurant of his choice to do so without fences being built to discourage or keep people from going to the place of their choice (as in the Helen’s Barn parking lot).

There are enough problems to deal with in this world without having to put up with someone’s ridiculous notion that this will solve anything.

I have lived in Highlands for many years and feel that it is a special place to be. If more people would be more concerned about doing unto others as we would have them do unto us, we wouldn’t have this petty problem at all. Stop and think about it. We reap what we sow...now don’t we?

Marilyn McIntyre
Highlands
A recap of the week’s events

The Macon County Commissioners have voted to appeal the judge’s decision which was favorable to the Town of Highlands regarding the choosing of planning and zoning board members from the extraterritorial jurisdiction area. Even though Macon County is one of only a handful of counties in the State of North Carolina which has shown no interest in zoning, all of a sudden they are wanting to protect the people in Highlands ETJ by requiring that they choose the representatives. It has gone from concern about our method of counting population (which is what the suit was really about) to “procedural and statutory issues between the county and the town.”

As the Town of Highlands tries to protect itself against developments such as the planned 10-story condominium project just outside our jurisdiction, the County Commissioners, instead of taking appropriate zoning actions within the county, are wasting everyone’s time and money by continuing a frivolous lawsuit. They are “fiddling while Rome (the county) is burning.” We are no longer disputing that the county make these appointments. This is all an ongoing frustration that the county commissioners are keeping alive. We are not sure what they want other than continued harassment as we continue to try to control growth in our jurisdiction. So should they.

The Town Board of Commissioners heard what the people had to say about the new zoning ordinances in the ETJ area along the corridors on the Cashiers and Dillard roads in a public hearing this past Wednesday. The Planning Board had worked long and hard producing these ordinances and the Board of Commissioners is grateful for their efforts. However, we elected to take these comments into consideration along with trying to better understand the thinking of the Planning Board before making the final decision on approval. I am sure that minimal changes will be made in what was presented to us. This delays this decision by only a couple weeks and the Planning Board can finish their work on all the ETJ areas very soon.

Just a note on the bid for work on the Poplar Street maintenance warehouse. After full advertisement, we only received one bid for the work and some questioned the efficacy of opening the bid at that time. In opening this bid we were within the law because the threshold for formal bids is $300,000. Two bids were not necessary because the estimate was less than that and actually came in under what the Town had budgeted for the project. The Town had saved quite a bit by having the plans done by town employees. Then they were reviewed by the Appearance Commission and the Public Works Committee. The procedure was done “decently and in order” and according to the law. While errors can happen, none was made in this case. We make every effort to avoid them and to operate the Town in a professional manner.

I appreciate the public concerns expressed at the last Town Board meeting regarding the silting of our lakes and the threat to our water supply. I am glad to see more of the public getting involved in this important matter. Frustrating attempts to obtain funding for this have stimulated me to proceed with federal money from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture under a loan agreement which would be paid off in 40 years at a very low interest rate of 3.5 percent. To fully protect our five pumps on both ends of the Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoia, all of Big Creek must be dredged. As soon as we have the appropriate figures and the Board approves it, we will file our application for this. We have been assured by representatives of the USDA’s Rural Division that the money will be available sometime this winter and we can proceed with doing the work.

To prevent this silting from continuing we also have begun a concerted effort to obtain right of ways so that we can surface the roads around the lakes as soon as possible. To accomplish this in a complete way Hickory Hill, Chowan, Wyanoak and Azalea roads need to be hard surfaced to prevent silt runoff into Big Creek. We are working closely with the N.C. Department of Transportation to accomplish this and are hoping for a positive response from the home owners in these areas in our desire for rights of way. If necessary, we could have a meeting with them to explain the importance of these actions.

Reduced to $2.995 million

This remarkable new home is the perfect Executive Retreat. It allows owners and guests ample space to enjoy the view of Whiteside Mountain and a mountain stream. The attention to detail is obvious from the entrance to the lower level living area. Complete with glass elevator, 2 kitchens, oversize 2-car garage, wood, Travertine & tile coloring, 3 fireplaces.

In Highlands Point.
Now offered at $2.995 million.
Hiking in and about the Plateau

A view of Whiteside from the overlook on U.S. 64 east. Photo by Jim Lewicki

Familiar, mystifying Whiteside Mtn.

By Susanna Forrester > Reporter

Hiking up Whiteside Mountain has become a tradition in my family. I have seen it every season, and it has never lost its ability to awe and amaze me.

It would be hard for any visitor to the Highlands and Cashiers area to miss the bold rock face that looms over the valleys and coves. It would be even harder to miss taking at least one hike up to the top to get the view of a lifetime. Though I have heard that some people have missed it, and many of them are locals.

The trail to the top of the mountain is not hard to find. It is located off U.S. 64 east in Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. If you are coming from Highlands, follow U.S. 64 until you reach the country club on the right. It’s just before the overlook and the county line. Follow the main road through Wildcat Cliffs till you see a sign for the Whiteside trail, the parking area will be on the left. There is a $2 parking fee for each vehicle.

The trail to the top makes a loop. If you go to the right you have a hard climb ahead of you. If you go to the left you can take your time up a more gradual climb, but don’t forget the steep descent on the way back to the parking lot. Either way you’ll still see the same magnificent views at the top.

I could describe every nook and cranny of the mountain for you, but it’s best that you discover them for yourself. The trail skirts the edge of 750-ft. high cliffs that drop off sharply.

The mountain is rich with history and wildlife. It might be a good idea to take a pair of binoculars with you, so you can get an up close view of the peregrine falcons that call the mountain’s steep cliffs home. The falcons were reintroduced to the mountain back in 1985 through the endangered species program. Whiteside had originally been a part of their native habitat. February 15 through July 25 is their mating season, and the best time to catch a glimpse of these beautiful, swift birds.

Whiteside, which tops out at 4,930 ft., belonged to the Cherokee Nation before the Seventh Cherokee Treaty of 1819. Settlers owned the land on the eastern slopes of Whiteside during the mid-1800s and the Macon County Land Company bought the rest of it after the Civil War for about seven cents per acre. The Ravenel family’s estate swallowed up the mountain in the early 1900s.

The mountain was later owned by a private corporation which used it as a tourist attraction, busing groups of people to the top of the mountain. Whiteside was logged in 1947, and after that it was purchased by the U.S. Forest Service and is now apart of the Nantahala National Forest.

The majority of the mountain has escaped development, and is preserved for future generations. So if you haven’t seen it, now might be a good time. With fall in full swing, the valleys and ridges will be on fire with color. Make sure to bring your camera and plenty of film. You won’t want to forget this one.
INTRODUCING SIMS VALLEY
“A Refreshing Change is Coming!”

An exciting new high valley community is being introduced to the Cashiers/Glenville/Highlands area of North Carolina. Not a resort with all too many homes, transient renters and excessive recreation fees for amenities seldom used, but rather a private enclave for people who truly love the mountains and fully appreciate the opportunity of living in a high valley setting.

Limited to less than 75 homesites on more than 220 acres, Sims Valley will be unsurpassed in quality.

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You will not be disappointed.
For the past 21 years, Shiraz has had prominence in the Highlands, N.C. area as the ultimate resource for genuine, hand-knotted Oriental rugs. Shiraz has built a reputation that is second to none. Hand Cleaning, repairing and appraisals, too.

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**Laughing at Life**

**You sure don't sweat much for a fat girl**

Ring, ring…..“Hello?”

“Fred, this is Bitsy. Why don't you ever write something "nice" about someone? All you ever do is make fun of everyone.” I had a really good smart aleck comeback, but, because I was speaking with a lady whose husband is capable of beating me up, I held back. Actually, at this point in my life, almost everyone is capable of beating me up. So I said politely, “Then I would be like all the other writers and eventually get fired because no one reads their stuff, God forbid.” The matter was dropped but after I hung up, I thought, could Bitsy be right? Am I not a "nice" person who never says anything "nice" about anyone? Hmmmm!

Research was needed here, so I went to work. First, let me preface my findings by telling everyone, in my opinion, one of the greatest Barney Fife lines ever spoken was, of course, on the Andy Griffin show. Barney had just returned from his first date and Andy asked him if he was "nice" and complimented her. Barney said “Yes, I was nice to her. I told her she didn't sweat much for a fat girl.” Way to go Barney and you were right on target.

Doing my homework, I looked up the word “nice” so I could write something politically correct, whatever that is. Turns out the word “nice” means wanton, dissolute, riotous, coy, fussy or particular, trivial and I could go on and on….bla, bla, bla.

Since I have not totally mastered the English language, (are you shocked?) I looked up the first definition of “nice” which is “wanton.” Ha….turns out I might write more “nice” than Bitsy thinks. "Wanton" means hard to control, undisciplined, lewd, bawdy, unruly, merciless, inhuman, malicious, extravagant, playfully mean and cruel. Do I want to make Bitsy happy and write “nice” about someone? I wasn’t sure what the word “dissolute” meant either so I looked it up, hoping for a kinder definition of “nice.” Wrong again, Bitsymeister. It means lacking restraint, marked by indulgences of the drink. While this might be the definition of the “Fred” word, I was surprised to learn that Bitsy thinks I am 'You sure don't sweat much for a fat girl'.

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

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RESTAURANT AND WINE GARDEN

Highlands most beautiful upscale dining destination celebrates every day with their Carolina High Country Cuisine and the Wine Spectator Award Winning wine list.

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Torbreck Vintners
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“Park anywhere, but eat at Don Leon’s”

Lunch served Tuesday—Sunday...11am—3pm

30 Dillard Road, 526-1600
What everyone knows

S

tone the future is obvious.
early everyone, it seems, knew
that occupying Iraq was going to
be a hellish challenge. Everyone except
our President and Secretary of Defense,
and the neo-cons who dreamt that our
troops would be showered with flowers
rather than home-made bombs.

What everyone knew was that the
sectarian antagonisms among Shia and
Sunnis and Kurds had only been kept
in check by Saddam’s brutal
dictatorship, and would surely erupt
when he was toppled.

But this is not about Iraq. It’s about
the blindness that cripples many
leaders, and the courageous vision of
others. Everyone expected South Africa
to rupture into a bloodbath after
apartheid was abolished. But because of
the calming influence of Nelson
Mandela and Bishop Tutu, and their
insistence on reconciliation rather than
retribution, carnage was avoided.

Which brings me once again to
Israel. After its creation in 1948, many
Jordanians (now called Palestinians)
 fled their homes and farms. For the
most part they ended up in refugee
camps, where many continue to live.
None of the surrounding Arab nations
would take them in and grant them
citizenship. They found it convenient
to have these displaced men, women
and children remain homeless as an
irritant against the hated Israelis. And
they liked having a bargaining chip to
use against the West.

Meanwhile, the Jews living in Arab
countries were mostly driven out, their
property confiscated and their
citizenship revoked. Israel absorbed the
vast majority of these Jewish expellees,
with some going to the U.K. and the
United States.

Even before Israel’s creation in
1948, the Jews living in Palestine
looked down upon their Arab
neighbors. They saw them as primitive,
often illiterate, violent and
quarrelsome. Apart from
whatever reality this view
represented, it was accompanied by the
usual prejudices of white Caucasians for
people of any shade of brown, even if
technically they were Caucasians too (just
as the British behaved in India). Naturally
this was deeply resented by the Arabs.

After the establishment of the State
of Israel, the prejudice and resentment
continued. On another level, even more
harmful than the prejudice itself was the
contempt that some Jews felt and
exhibited toward the Arabs. This was later
fueled, in part, by the rapid victories of
the Israeli army against the Arab
aggressors in 1948-49, 1956, 1967, 1974,
and 1982. Even though Israel offered
citizenship to Arabs living within its
borders, there was no doubt that the
Arabs were treated as second-class

See REDMOUNTAIN page 13

Dr. Alex Redmountain
Feedback is encouraged!

email: redmountain8@msn.com

I’m DonLeon and that’s
MY opinion.
**“Heart of the High Country”**

Highlands’ Own TV Show...on Northland Cable Channel 14.

Every day at 8 a.m., noon, 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 10 p.m., & midnight.

The Visitor Information Program airs at 7 am, 9 am, 4 pm, 6 pm, 9 pm, and 11 pm.

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**Another View**

What's in a name?

The United States launched “Operation Just Cause” in 1989. Doesn’t ring a bell? “Operation Just Cause” was the first war to be named by the public relations guys. I’ll give you a hint. In Panama it is simply referred to as “The Invasion” or “La Invasion.” Yes, it was our attack on Panama to remove Noriega. Pentagon humorists called it “Operation, Just Because.”

Wars had, until that time, usually been named for the adversaries. Spanish-American War, Mexican-American War, Franco-Prussian War. Pretty much everyone was involved in the two world wars of the 20th century, hence the names. Naming the parties helps us with history. I still have trouble remembering whom the Trojans fought.

We called our struggle for independence the “Revolutionary War.” Others call it the American Revolution, because it not the first and will not be the last last revolution. We call our intramural war The Civil War, or the War Between the States, or the War of Northern Aggression, depending on one’s point of view and geographical location. I know of only one war named for its duration, the Hundred Years War. I’m not sure who fought in that one, but they battled for a long time.

I’m not sure who decided that we had to give our wars sexy names, probably some PR guy in the Defense Department, maybe a press agent, but certainly a spin doctor. If some other country were doing it, we’d call it propaganda, a term that carries more than mildly pejorative connotations. The goal seems to be to rally support for the folks at home, while stirring fear in the hearts of the enemy.

Desert Shield morphed into Desert Storm. Even the Iraqis knew that a desert storm could be a savage event. In case you’ve forgotten, the war to remove the Taliban was named “Operation Enduring Freedom.” Pretty inappropriate for a country that, at least as far as I know, has never enjoyed the fruits of freedom. Imagine a high school junior, 20 years from now, naming the combatants in that one. We now have an umbrella war to cover all the wars that we wage in the foreseeable future, the “War on Terrorism.” I’m all for fighting terrorism, but not by using methods which make us like terrorists to everyone else in the world.

The world might call this war “U.S. Imperialist Terrorists vs. Ragtag Islamist Terrorists.” We might call it “Gulf War Two.” Sequels are very hot. I just hope we don’t rise to “Police Academy,” “Halloween,” or “Rocky” numbers. I would hate to see us rename the Iraq War “Axes of Evil I” and then follow up with “Axes of Evil II” and “Axes of Evil III” co-starring Iran and North Korea.

Many of us who never experienced combat thought of war as a grand adventure. Those who are old enough, learned the reality and horror of war watching Viet Nam on the nightly news, or in my case, caring for the casualties of that war in the safety of an evacuation hospital in Japan. Our Dads, returning from Europe and the Pacific never talked about their war. That should have given us a clue. War is not a game and it is not a grand adventure. A new generation is learning that lesson from the images of Iraq and Afghanistan.

It seems to me that to endow wars with names that sound like the titles of video games discredits the brave men and women who die in those wars, and the many more who are scarred. Catchy titles do not change the reality of war; do not make them less lethal, less dirty, or less dehumanizing.

We are not invading Panama, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, or Granada. We are up against a determined, resilient enemy, who interestingly still sees war as a game and it is not a grand adventure. As martyrdom, as a path to Paradise. If we go back to calling these conflicts “wars” we might be less eager to start another one.

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**Highlands School and Bascom-Louise get $10,000 checks from Bel Canto proceeds**

The success of the 14th Annual Bel Canto Recital culminated in the presentation of checks for $10,000 to Highlands School for its music program and to Bascom-Louise Gallery for its permanent art collection.

Principal Brian Jetter and music teacher Kristina Kircher accepted the check for the school. Kaye Gorecki, director of Bascom-Louise Gallery accepted the gallery’s check.

The Bel Canto Steering Committee thanks the many benefactors and business friends who supported this year’s Bel Canto Recital. For 14 years, the recital has benefited the gallery’s permanent collection and sought to strengthen the school’s music program since 2004.

Vocalists Roy Cornelius Smith, Metropolitan Opera Tenor and Megan Roth, mezzo-soprano were accompanied by Stephen Dubberly, a Highlands favorite for 14 years.

Next year’s Bel Canto is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 9, 2007.

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**Sweatshirt and poster designs needed for Chamber of Commerce contest**

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the Highlands Olde Mountain Christmas. To kick-off the season, there is the annual art contest for drawings that will go on the sweatshirt and on the Highlands Olde Mountain Christmas poster.

Prizes included $100 for the drawing selected for use on the sweatshirt and $50 for the poster winner.

Drawings should be in color and have the words Highlands Olde Mountain Christmas incorporated into them. All entries should be delivered to the Highlands Visitor Center on Main Street across from Reeves Hardware by November 1.
... WOOLDRIDGE
continued from page 6

restrained. She needs to talk to the little missus. I know you’re going to look all this up.

Bitsy is my friend and I want to please her, so here is my “nice” article. Be “nice” and try not to take a bathroom break until you’re finished reading this. Also, do not call the house as I will be in lower Slovakia until next summer. You can send my dental bills there also. Here goes.

Once upon a time there was a very “nice” girl named Tricksy who worked in a dental office with a couple of “nice” dentists. Nah, never mind, I better not go there because one should never say “nice” things about people who stick scary instruments into your mouth. Let me think…..hmmm, I need to be “nice”

Ha, I got it! Once upon a time there was a “nice” man who was so rich he bought up an entire town, including most of its commissioners and changed its name to…..wait, I can’t go there either. This being “nice” is harder than I thought.

OK, how about this, Miss Bitster? Once upon a time there was a very “nice” chamber of commerce director who, out of the blue, gave up a gravy job with good income to live in a sweaty little place called…..oh, oh; I might be too “nice” to write about this also. What’s a mother to do?

Wait, this might work. Once upon a time there was a wonderful, “nice”, surgeon who wanted to practice in a small town but couldn’t because the hospital medical staff was just too “nice” to allow that to happen. Hey Bitsy, is that good, or not? Should I go on?

Gosh, I’m beginning to think I am not mean spirited enough to write “nice.” I just might have to stick with my usual tacky, meaningless, smart aleck nonsense which will probably continue to include poking fun at everyone and everything, including an occasional toilet humor story.

Sorry Bitsy, I am just to “nice” to be “nice.”

* While you’re away this winter, read Fred’s column in Highlands’ Newspaper at www.highlandsinfo.com click on NEWS.

Players wanted for HS alumni game

On Nov. 18 it’s the Highlands School alumni basketball game in the new gym at 7 p.m. There will also be a BBQ dinner in the gym at 6 p.m. Call Brett Lamb at 526-2147 if you want to play. Call Stephanie McCall at 526-4499 if you want to be a sponsor. The night is free but donations will be accepted. All proceeds benefit the Jack Cabe Endowment and the Highlands School Booster Club.

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Keep Your Sheriff’s Office Moving in the RIGHT Direction...

Re-Elect VOTE Nov. 7th
HOLLAND for SHERIFF

Sheriff Holland has kept his 2002 campaign promises to the people of Highlands and Scaly Mountain communities.

YOUR Sheriff’s Office has worked proactively aimed at prevention & has built partnerships with the citizens we serve.

YOUR Sheriff’s Office is more aggressively patrolling all areas of Macon County.

YOUR Sheriff’s Office has made the county’s drug problem a top priority with results to show!

YOUR Sheriff’s Office is more involved with our community & the future of our county…OUR YOUTH!

Since Sheriff Holland was elected in 2002...

★★ Macon County CRIME is DOWN ↓
★★ Macon County DRUG ARRESTS are UP ↑
★★ Macon County BREAKING & ENTERINGS are DOWN ↓

Source: NC Attorney General State Crime Report & NC State Bureau of Investigation

Results of Commitment to Making a Difference in Our Community

“For Questions, Comments, or Concerns, please call me…anytime.”

Sheriff Robert L. Holland
(Work) 349-2152
(Home) 369-6096

Paid for by Citizens to Re-Elect Robert L. Holland for Sheriff
Cindy Reed has been in touch with her artistic side since she was a child, and it shows in her paintings. “From the time I was a little girl I liked to color and draw,” said Reed, who is entering her 14th year as a teacher assistant at Highlands School. “In grade school I won a prize for coloring the American flag.”

This early interest has blossomed into a hobby that Reed considers a stress reliever, as well as just a fun way to pass the time. She uses photographs to paint her landscapes, which are filled with bold colors and strong lines. Occasionally she also paints other subjects such as a sleek black Labrador that reminded her of her dog which had passed away. “He belonged to a friend and he just looked so similar to mine that I had to paint him,” she said.

Painting has offered Reed a chance to work with what she loves — color. “That’s one thing I love about painting — mixing the colors, trying to get them just right. It takes from two days to a week to finish a painting.” One set of paintings are scenes from out west in the Teton mountain range of Wyoming. A friend who had vacationed there brought back photos, and Reed borrowed them for her paintings.

Though Reed has not been to Wyoming or the Grand Tetons, she knew how to capture the striking western landscape with her paintbrush. She has not forgotten her surroundings here in Highlands either. “I’ve done several local landscapes and I hope to do more because I think it’s such a beautiful area,” she said.

Reed, who just started with acrylics this past winter, recently did a painting featuring Bridal Veil Falls which she donated to the Satulah Club for a raffle. She admitted that it was one of her favorite paintings. Another painting she did in the Highlands area features Bowery Road in the clutches of a winter snowfall — one of the few she has done in watercolor.

Reed was featured in the February issue of Laurel magazine, and since then interest in her work has exploded. “I’m just so shy about it,” she said. “My phone has been ringing off the hook.” Reed is not ready to turn her artwork into a commercial venture, but
she may consider doing paintings for others later. “I don’t want it to become a job because it’s not fun anymore. It’s something I hope, when I retire, I have more time for,” she said.

She is shy when it comes to showing off her creations, which are done with acrylics, and sometimes watercolor, but there is a spark of excitement in her voice when she describes her work.

“My daughter and husband hate to see me get my paints out because I don’t cook, and I don’t clean,” she said with a smile.

But as the great-niece of the late local primitive artist Aunt Met Brooks, painting’s in her blood and she knows some things are just more important than others.

Reed captures the primitive peace that still lingers on the plateau.
... PERMIT continued from page 1

cently increased funding so more staff could be hired which means the department can get on track and stay on track for 2007.

“We are on track to be caught up early next year – by that I mean a sustainable 2-3 week backlog period,” said Patterson. “I now feel we can be caught up earlier than March 2007, probably by February.”

Proponents of the “fast-track” philosophy commissioners voted to decrease the fast-track fee from $165 to $100. Director of the Health Department Ken Ring said the $100 fee will cover the manhours required to do the final sign-off procedures on-site and in the office.

Commissioners have authorized the health department to require developers with more than two septic applications to use the fast-track scenario.

Fast-tracking involves requiring applicants to pay the health department a reduced fee to both verify that soil sample reports are accurate and to get the final sign-off, but to pay a private contractor to inspect the system. A private contractor charges anywhere from $700-$2,500 to do the work but can usually get it done a lot faster than the health department. “Obviously this costs developers more money, but they have a choice,” said County Manager Sam Greenwood. “Contractors usually have more people on the payroll and can come in and do a subdivision in a week’s time.”

Ring said technically the fast-track theory should work, but people have figured out a way to get around that, he said.

“I instead of applying for three or more lots at a time, they are just applying for two,” he said.

Unfortunately, the health department lost one of its staff to another county which brings the number to four full-time authorized environmental health specialists. Recent changes in state authorization procedures will accelerate authorization for the two most recently employed who came on board in August.

The department expects to have six authorized environmental health specialists by early December.

... RECUSAL continued from page 1

tions caused the issue to come before the Zoning Board, Potts wasn’t comfortable voting on the matter.

His co-members accepted his recusal and his vote automatically became the vote with the majority which was to deny the restaurant’s request for a parking variance.

Since a 4/5 majority was met for the vote, Potts’ recusal had no affect on the outcome, but Gantenbein said it was probably an illegal recusal because Potts didn’t have a direct, substantial and readily financial interest in the issue.

According to N.C. General Statutes, 160A-75, Voting — “No member shall be excused from voting except upon matters involving the consideration of the member’s own financial interest or official conduct. A failure to vote by a member who is physically present in the council chamber, or who has withdrawn without being excused by a majority vote of the remaining members present shall be recorded as an affirmative vote.

“The point is the financial interest must be enough to affect the person’s vote,” said Planning Board Chairman Griffin Bell.

But how much of a financial interest is an “interest?” That’s the gray area. The use of Macon Bank’s parking spaces cost Wild Thyme $1 a year.

However over the years, the public’s perception has been that certain members on various boards shouldn’t vote on certain issues simply due to their involvement in those issues.

But Town Attorney Bill Coward has always said they would have to have a “substantial financial interest to be recused.”

N.C. General Statutes 160A-388(e) further complicates the matter. “A member of the board or any other body exercising the functions of a board of adjustment shall not participate in or vote on any quasi-judicial matter in a manner that would violate affected persons’ constitutional rights to an impartial decision maker. Impermissible conflicts include, but are not limited to, a member having a fixed opinion prior to hearing the matter that is not susceptible to change, undisclosed ex parte communications, a close familial, business, or other associational relationship with an

• See RECUSAL page 23
... REDMOUNTAIN continued from page 7

citizens, much as newly-enfranchised Blacks were treated in the American South during the 1960s and 1970s.

Everyone knew, once again, that this was an invitation to major trouble, as the intifadas rebellions of 1987 and 2000 proved. Everyone, that is, except the Israeli leadership, which made no effort to find out what grievances the Palestinians had, or to initiate policies that would diffuse the rage.

It is clear to me, if not to right-wing Israelis and their supporters among American Jews, that if Israel gave up its settlements on the West Bank, every single one, they could come to some accord with the Palestinians and achieve a (more or less) lasting peace. But a hard-headed chauvinism (“We won the damn war and we’re entitled to the spoils”) and the continued fantasy of Israeli military superiority (a fantasy shattered by Hezbollah) keep the self-defeating policies alive.

When Ariel Sharon was prime minister, he began to see the light, evacuated Gaza, and turned it over to the Palestinians. With the rise of Hamas to power, Gaza has become a lawless province, populated by thugs, pimps, various militias, and ordinary people who are prisoners in their own homes. At least Palestinians can’t blame this on Israel.

Sooner or later, the Palestinians are going to tire of Hamas’ incompetence and elect a government that is willing to negotiate in good faith with the Israelis. The latter must also come to the table with honest intentions. Then it will be up to the U.S. to act as broker by applying the right amount of pressure to the negotiating parties.

We will need new leadership in this country, of course, to help make this happen. It could mean all the difference in our shattered relationship with the Muslim world.

2006 marked the 25th Annual Bob Jones Invitational Golf Tournament hosted by Highlands Country Club for benefit of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation. Jimmy Watts, Chairman of the Bob Jones Tournament Committee presents a check in the amount of $80,000 to Bill Gaston of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation. Pictured from left, Club Administrator Martha Betz, Gaston, Watts, Dr. Martin Teem, and Jim Santo. Not pictured, Anne Bailey, Wayne Beckner, Allen Hardin and chairman emeritus Walter Wattles. Proceeds to the foundation have exceeded the $2.6 million dollar mark.
Girls’ Clubhouse members at HCCDC

On Friday afternoon, members of The Girls’ Clubhouse went to the Highlands Community Child Development Center to play with the children there. Since everyone wanted to stay outside and enjoy the balmy autumn afternoon, the girls hung out on the race track with the toddlers, played tag, and generally gave the supervisors a little break. The club of middle school girls meets each Friday afternoon at Highlands School before embarking on a community service project.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Girls’ Clubhouse members at HCCDC

On Friday afternoon, members of The Girls’ Clubhouse went to the Highlands Community Child Development Center to play with the children there. Since everyone wanted to stay outside and enjoy the balmy autumn afternoon, the girls hung out on the race track with the toddlers, played tag, and generally gave the supervisors a little break. The club of middle school girls meets each Friday afternoon at Highlands School before embarking on a community service project.

Photo by Kim Lewicki
SHERWOOD FOREST 3/4 bedroom, one level, 2 car garage, workshop, deck & waterfall. Offered at $595,000. mls#59447

BOWERY RD - 4 bed, 4 bath plus 2 1/2 baths, screened porch with fireplace, 2 car garage. Offered at $2,150,000.

ONAPPLE LAKE, 2 levels of Mtn. living, stone fireplace, wrap around deck. Offered at $2,150,000.

Attention all renovators, 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage. Offered at $345,000. mls #59825

SAGEE WOODS, under construction, 4 bed, 4 1/2 bath, beamed ceilings, custom kitchen & 2 car garage. Offered at $1,600,000.

IN TOWN, knotty pine paneling, wood floors, fireplace, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Offered at $459,000. mls #59862

HIGHLANDS FALLS C.C. 3 bed, 3 bath, high ceilings screened porch with fireplace. 2 car garage. Offered at $895,000. mls #59874

IN TOWN, 2.06+/- acres, 3 bed, 3 1/2 bath, enclosed outdoor swimming pool. $1,000,000. mls #58784

AWESOME VIEWS - 3 living rooms, 10 bed, 7 bath, 3 kitchens, office & massive stacked stone fireplaces. Offered at $1,799,000.

NEW CHALET, 2 bed, 1 bath, large decks, garage & utility room. A great way to enjoy Highlands & at an affordable price. $275,000. mls #59490

HIDDEN SPRINGS, 2 bed, 2 1/2 bath, bonus room. Complete renovation with new kitchen & baths, hickory floors, great deck. $299,000.

ENGLISH MANOR, spectacular views, vaulted & domed ceilings, 4 bed, 5 baths, soaring ceiling, gourmet kitchen, 3 car garage. $4,600,000.

SAGEE Mountain - 4 bed, 4 bath gardens, 2 car garage & huge screened porch. Offered at $1,395,000.

MINOR LAKEFRONT 3 bed, 2 bath, Stone fireplace, hardwood floors, knotty pine paneling, sun rm, private dock Offered at $685,000.

HISTORICAL TRADITIONAL, 3 bed, 3 bath, porches, wood floors & 1 Bed, 1 Bath Guest House. Offered w/basic furnishings $595,000.

SPECTACULAR VIEW, 3 bed, 2 1/2 bath plus den. Soaring living room w/stone fireplace, custom kitchen, 2 car garage. $1,650,000. mls #56924

IN TOWN 2.63+/- acres, 3 bed, 2 bath, split floor plan, rock fireplace, commercial kitchen. Offered at $899,000.
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Three southern authors to sign at Cyrano’s Bookshop on Saturday, Oct. 14

Writers Joan Medlicott (author of “The Ladies of Covington Send Their Love”), Celia Miles (“Mattie’s Girl: An Appalachian Childhood”) and Gayden Metcalfe (“Being Dead Is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral”) will all sign their books at Cyrano’s Bookshop on Saturday, Oct. 14. Both Ms. Medlicott and Ms. Miles will autograph from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Ms. Metcalfe will sign her book from 3 to 5 p.m. Fans of Southern culture and literature will want to meet all three authors.

Phenomenally popular novelist Joan Medlicott was born on St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands and now lives in Barnardsville, north of Asheville. She says the idea for the “Ladies of Covington” came to her while soaking in the bathtub, “I am grateful to the universe for its guidance.” The Covington series features widowed friends Grace, Hannah and Amelia, who move to North Carolina and remodel an old farmhouse, learning in the process that life has much to offer women “of a certain age”—new challenges, rewards and even a boyfriend. Library Journal says it is “like a Grandma Moses painting” brought to life, and the Tampa Tribune calls it “a must-read for women of all ages.” There are now seven books in the series, including “The Gardens of Covington” and “From the Heart of Covington.”

Ms. Medlicott’s latest (non-Covington) novel, “The Three Mrs. Parkers” is set in Salem and Walhalla—in Oconee County, S.C., not far from Highlands—and involves three generations of estranged relatives who come together to save the family property. “Women need to connect,” Ms. Medlicott said in an interview in the Christian Science Monitor... Those connections revolve around “women who find themselves, who build new lives, who accept the possibilities that life offers and are willing to take risks.”

Celia Miles is a friend and colleague of Medlicott’s; her novel “Mattie’s Girl: An Appalachian Childhood” is a coming of age story set in 1940s Jackson County and tells of nine-year-old June, raised by her Aunt Mattie, widow of the murdered county sheriff. The book critic of the Asheville Citizen-Times calls it “a very

*See CYRANO’s page 18
Fall blood drive is Oct. 24 & 25

Each unit of blood that is donated impacts someone’s life, maybe even several people’s live say health officials. Whether it aids individuals who are fighting terminal diseases or builds one’s immune systems to keep them strong during the medical treatment, your gift of life during the upcoming fall blood drive can make a difference.

"Maybe it’s a one-time transfusion that saves a life," says Ann Greenlee, manager of the laboratory at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. "Those who give blood usually never see the person they help, but every one of those patients has a face, and a family, and loved ones. Each unit of blood someone donates affects many, many people.”

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and AnMed Regional Blood Center will conduct their annual fall blood drive later this month. The bloodmobile will be in High-lands at First Citizen Bank, on Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. On Wednesday, Oct. 25, it will be at High-lands-Cashiers Hospital from 9 a.m. until 12:00 noon and at Ingles parking lot in Cashiers from 2-5:30 p.m.

Last year’s donations were the largest amount of blood ever collected in the Highlands-Cashiers area. Over 260 units were given but that still isn’t enough. The number of blood products used for patients has been increasing significantly each year. Nearly 170 of your friends and neighbors received blood or blood products at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital last year.

"Blood we get now will last up to 42 days. So blood donated during your drive will help us during a time when collections are normally minimal," says Greg Johnson of the AnMed center, which has supplied the hospital’s needs for blood products for nearly 20-some years.

A unit of donated blood can go a long way, says Johnson. Each unit can serve the needs of up to four different patients. Red cells are separated out and used to help accident victims and those who need transfusions as a result of surgery. Platelets are used to treat those undergoing chemotherapy, or who suffer from other types of cancer-like blood diseases. Locally, approximately 45 percent of those who received blood or blood products last year suffered from cancer or cancer-like illnesses.

The plasma stock derived from each unit donated is used for burn victims, while other elements are removed and given to hemophiliacs and other patients with clotting deficiencies.

Anyone 17 years or older and weighing at least 110 pounds can potentially give blood. If you are taking medication, it won’t usually prevent you from giving blood, however you may want to bring the name of the medication with you.

Those who would like to give blood but who are uncertain whether or not they are eligible should still come to the blood drive. AnMed officials will determine one’s eligibility during the donor screening process.

Give the greatest gift you can give; the gift of life.

Macon County to sponsor annual American Red Cross blood drives

The American Red Cross urges residents in the Macon County area to donate blood. All blood types are needed at this time.

Because blood can be separated into three components—red cells, plasma and platelets—a single donation can save up to three lives. In the more than 100 area hospitals served by the American Red Cross, pre-mature babies, accident victims and patients with cancer or recovering from surgery need approximately 1,500 units of blood or blood products each day.

Eligible blood donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in general good health. Donors must have a form of positive identification in order to donate.

Angel Medical Center is sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive on Friday, Oct. 20 from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Cashiers Historical Society meeting to feature award-winning writer

Critically acclaimed writer, Ron Rash, will be the featured speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Cashiers Historical Society, Sunday, October 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library.

Rash is the John A. Parris Jr. and Dorothy Luxton Parris Distinguished Professor in Appalachian Cultural Studies at Western Carolina University.

His poetry and fiction have been published in more than 80 journals and magazines including Yale Review, Georgia Review, Oxford American, New England Review, and Southern Review.

Rash has received many awards for his writing, including The Appalachian Writers Association Book of the Year Award for 2003 and Forward Magazine’s Gold Medal for Best Literary Novel of 2002, both for his first novel, One Foot in Eden.

Many Western North Carolinians will be reading Rash’s book, “Saints at the River,” as part of the region’s community reading program, Together We Read.

All members of the Cashiers Historical Society are urged to attend the meeting to hear first-hand about the activities conducted on their behalf by the Society and its plans for 2007 and beyond. Those interested in becoming members may call the Cashiers Historical Society, 828-743-7710 for information.
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Dinner Friday & Saturday is the Special Prime Rib Buffet with Angie Jenkins playing Broadway piano until 9 p.m., $14.95.

Karaoke Saturdays Oct 14 and 21, which is the Halloween Karaoke Dinner and Dance with costumes 5-9 p.m. continuing until 11 p.m.

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Why Knot Knit Highlands recently celebrated their grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Pictured from left are Laura Harison, Michelle Hubbell, Jan Van Hook, Rick Siegel, Beki Ledford, Monica Champion and Tanji Armor. Why Knot Knit is located in Village Square. It is a full service knitting store offering yarns, accessories and classes.

...CYRANO’s continued from page 16

good novel” and praised the book’s “gen- uine material and authoritative tone.” Ms. Miles’s other books include “A Thyme for Love” and “Thyme Table Mill,” both of which chronicle the ongoing adventures of Cary Randall as she settles on an herb farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and pursues her dreams of love, motherhood and opening a water-powered gristmill.

Any reader who doesn’t laugh while reading Gayden Metcalf’s “Being Dead Is No Excuse” is already dead, at least from the neck up. A combination anthropological study, social guide and cookbook, “Being Dead” immortalizes (in tomato aspic) the funerary rites of the Mississippi Delta—the town of Greenville, to be exact (home of the late Walker Percy, who spent summers in Highlands, as well as Shelby Foote). But folks from as far away as Virginia, north Florida and Texas will recognize the rituals. With co-author Charlotte Hays, Ms. Metcalf deciphers the differences between Episcopal and Methodist send-offs in music, manners and most especially food. Do you have a good spot reserved for you in the historic cemetery? Will the obituary be flattering but recognizable? Will the deceased’s mistress show up and go through the receiving line? Gayden Metcalf’s hilarious anecdotes and pointed wit call to mind Florence King, the National Review columnist and author of “Confessions of a Failed Southern Lady” who boasted of her upbringing: “No matter which sex I went to bed with, I never smoked on the street.” For instance, after the service for Mrs. Gilbertson, hacked to death with garden shears by her fed-up daughter Anna Sue, one Deacon matron commented, “The real tragedy of the Gilbertson murder was that Anna Sue’s youngest daughter didn’t get to make her debut.”

Chapter titles include “Who Died?” “Stuffed Eggs, Etiquette and Delta Pâté” and “Comfort Foods: There Is a Balm in Gilead.” The book includes recipes for John Besh’s hill country café style Pecan Pie, a mix of cajun and Creole flavors, or “Fabulous Celery Root Soup.”

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 e-mail to cyranos@nctv.com; to learn more about our store please visit www.cyranosbookshop.com.
Wrongdoing continued from page 1

I owed to use an office on the central office property as his own,” wrote Tisdale, who claims she reported this to the superintendent and that documentation was given to the school board concerning the matter. Tisdale’s letter continues, “Money was spent by superintendent Dr. Shotwell, without board approval for in excess of the amount allowed under his contract, $3,000. For example, almost $36,000 was spent to purchase furniture, without bids, for only five offices at the central office. The board was not aware of it because two board members questioned the need for such expensive furniture. This furniture was purchased from a company that Dr. Shotwell had done business with in a previous job. Local vendors had no chance to compete for this sale,” claims Tisdale.

“Also, close to $300,000 was spent to build a warehouse behind the central office, without the required prior approval from the State Department of Public Instruction,” wrote Tisdale. “Had a responsible board reviewed these expenditures and required that contracts be handled properly as required by law in many cases, there was the possibility of saving thousands of taxpayer dollars. If board members didn’t know, they should have asked their job, and it’s kind of hard to miss a warehouse going up in the parking lot of the central office especially when its original foundation was 2-3 feet and suddenly grew to 5-6 feet,” she wrote.

“Had a responsible board reviewed these expenditures and required that contracts, or the lack thereof, be handled properly as required by law in many cases, I think there was the possibility of saving thousands of taxpayer dollars. If that had occurred then maybe we would not have teachers buying school supplies out of their own pockets on their already meager salaries,” further wrote Tisdale.

Tisdale said the school system is the largest employer in Macon County with more than 600 employees. “The payroll for the 2005-2006 school year was approximately $1.1 million dollars per month. With raises, this amount should be much higher for the current school year. During the course of one school year, hundreds of millions of federal, state, and local funding flow through this small school system and the public automatically trusts the board and administration to do what is right. The few examples I have given you are only a drop in the bucket of the mismanagement that has occurred,” she wrote.

Superintendent Brigman said he will continue to research the funding issues and historical events once he arrives on November 1. Interim Superintendent Dr. Frank Yeager’s last day is November 8.

“I feel confident that the Macon County Schools Board of Education and interim superintendent have taken appropriate actions to ensure the maximum accountability exists and corrective measures have been taken to address the issues noted,” wrote Brigman in a recent email.

After the school board terminated Tamra Tisdale at its September meeting, Yeager was given permission to address Tisdale’s allegations.

Yeager read from a prepared statement, “In February 2006, changes and counter-charges about wrongdoings and violations of Macon County Board of Education policies and NC state law were leveled at and between Tamra R. Tisdale and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rodney Shotwell concerning alleged sexual harassment and other charges. Tisdale also directed separate charges at five other board of education employees.

“In March 2006, the board employed the law firm of Helms, Mullis and Wicker from Charlotte NC, to investigate both the charges and counter-charges made by Shotwell and Tisdale.

“In April 2006, the law firm provided the board with an investigation report. “No evidence was found to support any wrongdoing of any employees of Macon County Schools other than Shotwell and Tisdale” concluded Yeager.

Brigman said one of his primary goals upon arrival to Macon County will be to strengthen communications and trust among all stakeholders.

“The Macon County school system consists of an outstanding leadership team, administration and staff that have worked diligently to ensure efficient and effective operations at all levels throughout the system,” he said. “I feel very honored to assume duties as superintendent and will strive to ensure the district continues to make progress as well as demonstrating good stewardship of each of the taxpayers dollars.”

School Board Attorney John Henning Jr. said, as Dr. Yeager reported, investigations by the law firm of Helms, Mullis and Wicker found no wrongdoing by any Macon County Schools employee.

“I was personally there for the hearings and during the thorough investigation and their findings were that there were no wrongdoings whatsoever,” he said.

Special preview Oct. 22

The Instant Theatre Company will preview the film “Conversations with God” Sunday, Oct. 22 at 2 and 7 p.m. before it goes nationwide. Oct. 27.

Adapted from the books by Neale Donald Walsch that inspired and changed the lives of millions worldwide “Conversations with God,” tells the true story of Walsch (Henry Czerny) who, at the lowest point in his life, asks God some very hard questions. The answers he gets from God/within become the foundation of an internationally acclaimed book series that has sold over 7 million copies and been translated into 34 languages. The film by producer/director Stephen Simon, chronicles the dramatic journey of a down and out man who inadvertently becomes a spiritual messenger and bestselling author.

Tickets are $10. Call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.
The Town of Highlands and the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association (UCWA) are partnering to give local streams some much needed first aid beginning with a stream assessment and then a mapping project.

Two students, Grant Kimmel and Bynum Hoekstra, from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are spending this fall semester working on the project which involves wading up area streams with GPS units to track the course of unidentified streams and creeks—some which feed into well-known streams. While they’re doing this they will also mark areas that have been compromised by erosion and silt.

Katie Calloway, Director of UCWA, had been discussing the project with Larry Gantenbein, Watershed Administrator, who sits on UCWA’s board of directors for some time. They decided they had to get up close and personal with the streams. “The only way to tell where it’s going and what’s going on is to walk it,” said Calloway. “You can’t really tell from aerial mapping.”

“The CEP students were going to be here for the whole semester and we thought, ‘How perfect,’” said Calloway. “This is a significant project for us.” She said the students, who are both environmental science majors, take classes at the Biological Station as well as working on the project in exchange for a full semester of credit.

The interns will map perennial streams, starting with streams that flow into Big Creek. Perennial streams flow year round. “These streams are protected,” said Gantenbein. “There has to be a maintained 30 ft. vegetative buffer along their banks. The reason it has to remain is it’s the last opportunity stormwater has to drop silt before it hits the stream.” As water flows down hill on its way to streams, creeks and rivers, it “empties” impurities into the vegetation is flows through along the way.

After they students finish Big Creek the next project will be Mill Creek, which is classified as a degraded stream under the Federal Clean Water Act. “They’ll be using standardized assessment methods,” said Calloway. “They’ll be taking pictures and gathering data which will be gathered into a bound-report at the end of the semester.”

“They’ll work through the town—Mill Creek and another creek in Mirror Lake area,” said Gantenbein. “Several streams that aren’t on the map need to be identified. We need to identify points where siltation is coming down from construction sites and going into the creeks.”

Calloway said UCWA hopes the information gathered by the students will help UCWA in applying for grants so it can implement restoration projects after the assessment is complete. “We’re glad the CEP project is back. It’s an awesome opportunity for the town of Highlands to get great student help, and for the students to get credit,” said Calloway.

Environment science interns help town and UCWA outline health of area waterways

By Susanna Forrester

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‘Crimes of the Heart’ opens HCP’s 2006-2007 season


February brings an old-fashioned melodrama, “Caught in the Villain’s Web.” In May 2007, the production of “Enchanted April” by Mathew Barber will be presented. Finishing up the season next August will be “How the Other Half Loves” by Alan Ayckbourn.

Now is the time to buy your season subscriptions. You get to see four plays for the price of three, plus early choice of seating and a quarterly newsletter.

Mark your calendars for the last weekend in October and the first weekend in November for the Pulitzer Prize winning “Crimes of the Heart” by Beth Henley, directed by Jim Gordon. “Crimes of the Heart” is a play overflowing with infectious high spirits but is unmistakably a tale of a very dysfunctional family.

Set in Hazelhurst, Miss., this southern comedy drama features three sisters, Lenny played by Lee Lyons; Meg played by Breta Stroud; Babe played by Katie Cochran; their society conscious cousin, Chick played by Mary Adair Leslie; a young lawyer, Barnette Lloyd played by Nathan Smith and an old high school sweetheart, Doc Porter, played by Ron Leslie; all trying to find themselves and relate to each other. Jim Gordon directs.

The Highlands Community Players is a non-profit, all volunteer organization bringing quality theater to the Highlands plateau.

Applications are available at the Highlands Civic Center. The cost is $30. A copy of your birth certificate is required. The league includes those ages seven to 18 (Must be seven by Oct. 15).

A minimum of 8 players must sign up to form a team. Anyone interested in coaching please contact Michelle Munger. Leagues will exist in the age categories where there are enough teams to play. Remember, the final day to register is Oct. 21.

For more information call Michelle Munger at 526-8029 or 342-3551.
Environmental science students from the UNC-Chapel Hill have been in Highlands over the past several years, participating in various environmental research projects while partnering with several agencies.

Gantenbein stressed the importance of the project protecting Highlands’ water supply. “Silt has always been a problem. When the black dirt from the mountains above gets washed into the streams, it’s hard to keep track of the problem. The impervious surfaces. Since I’ve been here I’ve seen it increase dramatically. The watershed enforcement officer is one guy. One guy covering this part of the county is inadequate.”

“That’s one reason the town exercised ETJ,” said Gantenbein, who added that any structure already located on the 30-ft. vegetative buffer would not be removed. “If it was there at the time of ETJ it gets grandfathered in.”

Meanwhile Gantenbein hopes to secure funding to undo damage already done. Large silt deposits can be hand removed, the course of the stream can be restored, stream grade can be restored, illegal pipes can be removed, and the flood plain can be restored, he said.

“If you don’t restore streams and allow them to retain their expansion areas then you’re just forcing them to flood somebody else downstream.”

When the students finish their mapping projects, they will present their findings to both the Town Board and to UCWA.

Concierge Service
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... RECUUSAL from pg 12
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affected person, or a financial interest in the outcome of the matter. If an objection is raised to a member's participation and that member does not recuse himself or herself, the remaining members shall by majority vote rule on the objection," it reads.

Planning Board Co-Chair Ginger Slaughter said the point is people know if they’re involved or not. "It really comes down to the 'smell test.' It's not just about money, it's about perception."

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Highlands' Newspaper - Thursday, Oct. 12, 2006 - Page 23
... RECUUSAL from pg 12
On Thursday, Sept. 28, The League of Women Voters continued its Candidate Forum at Tartan Hall in Franklin.

Candidates running for openings on the Macon County Board of Commission answered questions from the League and from the audience.

Running for the District I seat is incumbent Allan Bryson and Brian McClelian. Running for the two District II seats are incumbent Bob Simpson, Ronnie Beale, Harold Corbin and Rick Mashburn. Mashburn didn’t attend the forum.

Last week Highlands’ Newspaper reported on answers from candidates for the District I seat – Bryson (D) and McClelian (R). This week, we will report on answers at the Sept. 28 forum from the candidates running for District II – Democrats incumbent Bob Simpson and Ronnie Beale and Republicans Harold Corbin and Rick Mashburn.

**QUESTION 1:**
- Why do you want to be a county commissioner; why would you be a good one and what are some of the important issues facing the county this term?

**Corbin:**
I was on the board 1998-2002 and we accomplished a lot in those four years. There are many qualities of Macon County that deserve our appreciation – first our people, our open farmlands, our green mountains and our streams and rivers. It’s an inescapable fact that all of this is disappearing before our eyes because other people like what we have in Macon County. We’re supposed to grow another 10,000 people in the next five years. We have challenges before us. We need to strike a balance between what is beautiful and desirable and good and prepare for the future which is gaining on us. Preserve what’s desirable and good and prepare for the growth we’re going to have – that’s the challenge.

**Beale:**
I graduated from Franklin High School in 1973, went to Southwestern Community College but didn’t stay because I had to go to work. I’m married to my wife Sissy for 26 years and we have three children. I’ve been blessed. I was born and raised at the head of the Elifay. I’ve been a contractor since 1979 and I’ve made payroll every year. That’s one of my qualifications. I’ve been on the Macon County Planning Board. We’ve been warned about growth and now we need to see what we need to do about it. We have to listen to the people in this diverse county and figure out a way so the positive outweighs the negative. Growth is a tough subject. But we need to talk. We need conversation. Zoning slope development, subdivision ordinances are things we need to talk about. We have to come up with legislation and it won’t be something everybody likes, but we will get something good out of it. 2007 is a real Commission year. The last real was in 2002. It’s interesting when you see what property is worth in Macon County.

**Simpson:**
I’ve been one of your District II Commissioners for four years. I am asking for the candidacy once again. This is so much easier with people like you behind us. People who do for others. People who care. Planning for the future is a big part of what’s going on in the county. There are water and sewer needs. The number one request of us is recreation. Schools are growing in leaps and bounds. We are about to remodel two schools and build another. All this takes infrastructure and planning. I am here to continue and finish what we started.

**QUESTION 2:**
- Throughout Western North Carolina development is increasing. Do you think steep slope development needs special care and would you ask for a steep slope development ordinance?

**Beale:**
The truth is construction wags the dog in Macon County. Only 900 jobs from industries. People drive up the hill to Highlands to go to work. We have to look at steep slope development but need to put the developers at the table, put those totally against steep slope development at the table, get all who know and care at the table to come up with a rational decision. Growth in the mountains is going higher and higher. Valleys are filling up. Builders are going higher and have to address this in some form.

**Simpson:**
This has become a very hot topic in the last four years. Zoning or no zoning? We want the public input and we challenged the planning board to get something done on paper. We did get the high-impact ordinance on the books. Steep slope development is tough. The state is coming down the pike with regulations concerning steep slope development the way they want it. If the state comes down before we have something, we’ll have to adopt what they say and if we don’t the commissioners will be held responsible personally. This issue has got the attention of the state because of slides that have happened in Waynesville, Asheville and of course Peak’s Creek. It is going to be impossible not to have some kind of ordinance.

**Corbin:**
I wish we could get something done. I have a lake in front of my house. There’s a man who lives up the mountain from me. He built a road and now all his road is in my lake and killed my fish. There are ways to do it; ways to put up silt fences; ways to stop erosion. There are ways to do things in the mountains. It’s different in the foothills. But in Macon County, North Carolina, there are hills and mountains all around. I don’t want to see all the mountains built on but there will be development and roads in the mountains, it just needs to be done the right way.

**QUESTION 3:**
- The sedimentation and erosion ordinances aren’t being enforced. If they were, it would most likely take care of the worst problems in the county. But by the time enforcement officers learn of problems, the damage is already done. A subdivision ordinance would require the registration of a plat at one time instead of one piece at a time. Being under some kind of review would make sure developments are in compliance before the work is done and it’s too late. Would you be in favor of increased staffing on the county level to get this done?

**Beale:**
The most important thing in our mountains is our water quality. If we lose our water quality, we’ve had it. That’s why we have to think about steep slope development. But we can’t have knee-jerk reactions of all or nothing. This is more than a one-man show. In Clayton, there are four sedimentation officers and I can tell you, you will do it right in Georgia. So it’s coming. Our ordinance has to have teeth in it. We tentatively passed the subdivision ordinance but we need enforcement. When you pass an ordinance, you have to have enforcement. A good ordinance has to be enforced or it’s not worth anything. If we lose our water quality, we lose it all.

**Simpson:**
I support having more employees to enforce ordinances. Have to start with the rules and regulations. Those who have might be enough, rather than writing new ones. The subdivision ordinance is tough one. Before I vote on that I have to make sure it’s fair for all people in Macon County. We do have problems with run-off but it could be fixed with proper enforcement. As the county grows, we have to have staffing just like in other places. We’ve seen this in our health department. Had to hire new people to take care of septic inspection backlogs. But we have to have the money to pay for it.

**Corbin:**
I’m in favor of hiring additional personnel and to increase fines. They can be cited, talked to and then fined. But right now we don’t have enough personnel to enforce what we have on the books.
QUESTION 4:
What can you accomplish concerning animal control?

Simpson:
I head the county's animal control committee. I am for the spay and neuter program. We came up with a program, but the county must decide if it wants to get into pound business or decide if it wants to contract it out. All of this is underway and will have a plan to present to the commission very soon.

Corbin:
I'm in favor of some sort of animal control. It must be done by one organization whether it's the county or another group. Need someone who can punch the button on this. I hate the state of North Carolina telling us what we have to do. We know better what we need to do in Macon County. We need animal control by one body.

Beale:
I thank the Humane Society and others. They have the love and desire to do this. It costs a lot of money to run these operations. We need to get information from other centers so if the county decides to it might want to get into the shelter business it will know. It will take a lot of resources but it's something that has to be taken care of. But it's a full-fledged thing getting into the animal control business.

QUESTION 5:
* As an elected official who represents the public and its leaders there is a delicate balance between pleasing the public and being the leader for the overall good. What sector do you listen to?

Corbin:
I served four years as chairman of the commission – the first two years I was voted chairman by the Republicans and the second time I was chairman I was elected by the Democrats and I've always voted for what is best for Macon County. I listen to everyone. I may not agree, but I listen to them. There are open sessions where people can speak and when I was on the board, my phone rang constantly. If I wasn't there to answer, I always returned the call. Sometimes I agree, sometimes I don't, and if I don't tell them why. Money has no influence. I believe in doing what's right whether it's popular or not; whether it suits the biggest contributor or not.

Beale:
I live life with humility and integrity. I would bring that to the board. If I don't win, that won't stop me from living that way. In big politics, money does play a part. But here locally, need to work for the good of the people. Listen and make the best judgment. I'm active in the community, in my church and with my family and my priorities are in the right place.

Simpson:
I stood here four years ago and pledged integrity, humility and trustworthiness. I've tried to do that in all I've done. I have listened to everyone so I'm no different today than I was four years ago. I'm open to everyone because basically everyone has the same problems. Every vote I get I got because I am a husband, father, Christian and businessman for 30 years.

QUESTION 6:
* As far as economic development goes, what can be done to develop more and better jobs, more industry and more diversity?

Corbin:
The building industry accounts for 90% of jobs in Macon County and that will continue. High tech jobs are good paying jobs so we have to offer the education it will take to get those jobs if they come. I was chairman of the Southwestern Commission. I signed a grant to bring the high tech Internet to Macon County. Cut and sew operations are history. I wouldn't turn anyone down who's bringing a payroll to the county but need to look at high-tech jobs and we need to get out and hunt for them.

Beale:
Days of seeing smoke stacks are over.

Corbin:
I agree with you. But right now, if we entice these companies to come to Macon County, we don't have the infrastructure to support it all. We need bonds to build things like a convention center to keep contracts and businesses here.

Simpson:
I signed a grant to bring high tech to Macon County. We will have the infrastructure to support it all. We need bonds to build things like a convention center to keep contracts and businesses here.

QUESTION 7:
* There is talk of a 10-14 story high condominium project outside the Highlands ETJ area. This will cause visual pollution as well as other negative factors. As a commissioner, would you vote your opposition to the NC Department of Insurance, oppose through a resolution or oppose it by revising the current high-impact ordinance to include a three-story height restriction on buildings in the county?

Beale:
As far as that being built, I don't believe it will start. I have to listen to the folks in Highlands. But Nantahala is building a four-story condominium on the lake and it's going to be beautiful. But we have to listen to the communities before I'd say I'm in support of a blanket ordinance.

Simpson:
I don't think it will ever get off the ground. The state has a 35-foot ridge law. If the people don't want it, if they're against it like they were for the I-3 interstate it won't happen.

Corbin:
A 10-story won't work. But I would make a trip to Highlands and talk to the citizens. If they want it, OK. If they don't want it, OK.

QUESTION 8:
* Sum up why you should be elected commissioner.

Beale:
I've never held a public office before but been involved in a lot of things in Macon County. I have good leadership qualities and I've proven that with my family and church. I have integrity of character. If transparency is what you're looking for, I'm open and not fake. I will listen and try to do what's best. I run a company with 30-40 employees and I have learned to listen. I will use what I've learned in life and business and bring that to the commission.

Simpson:
It's a hard job to run for office. You need good people to do it. I've been doing it for four years. It's been a very short four years. I've stayed informed and I will continue to work hard for you. This past term worked with the planning board, worked to get you a new library, expanded college, the first board to get our teachers a supplement, remodeling two schools and building another, bigger and better fire protection with a full time officer. We passed the sexual predator ordinance, beefed up the sheriff's department, have a sexual business ordinance. Have worked hard for the people of Macon County. Plus, there's been no tax increase, and that's a bizarre thing in the United States. I will continue to be open with you. Always available. I'm asking for your support again.

Corbin:
When I was on the previous board, we were responsible for many accomplishments. New schools, SCC campus in Macon County, the start of a new library. I'm a native to Macon County and when I go home tonight, I'm going to sleep in the same room where I was born. Won't be the same bed, of course, but it's the same room.

- Kim Lewicki
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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**ITC presents ‘Sylvia’ Oct. 16**

Sylvia (Jillian Burfete) has won the heart of Greg (David Kronawitter) but becomes a major bone of contention in his relationship with wife Kate (Madeleine Davis). Attention all Friends of the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society - The Instant Theatre Company's production of “Sylvia” opens Oct. 16-21, 8 p.m., at the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. For each advance ticket sold for Tuesday, Oct. 17 and Wednesday, Oct. 18 ITC will donate $5 to the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society! This is a delicious and dizzy drama about a man, a woman, and a dog. “Sylvia” is also the story of challenges, communication and compromise. Tucked in this rich play, between all the laughter, you’ll find timeless issues and wisdom. For reservations call the ITC box office at 828-342-9187.

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**On-going**

• At Peak Experience, trunk shows every Saturday in October. 2820 Dillard Road. Call 526-0229.
• Free Round Robin Tennis each morning at the Rec Park from 9 a.m. until noon.
• Yoga Classes at the Rec Park. Mondays and Wednesdays. Bring your mat. $7 per person per class or $50 for a monthly pass.
• Sally Foster Giftwrap Sale to benefit Highlands School. Pick up order sheets at the front office of the school, talk to a student, or go on line at www.SallyFoster.com to order use code number: 605265. All orders will be delivered to Highlands School.
• Thursdays at the Barn: If you would like a walking tour of the new property on which will sit our new Fine Art Center, join us any Thursday at 5 p.m. for a personal tour. Meet us at the Crane Stable Barn on Oak Street.
• 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!
• Mountain Findings will be open until 6 p.m. each Friday. The normal hours of operation have always been 10 am to 4 pm, Monday through Saturday.
• Angie Jenkins on the piano at the Old Clayton Inn on Clayton on Fridays and Saturdays for dinner.
• Shakespeare & Co. bookstore in Highlands Village Square is hosting readings by members of the Highlands Writers Group at a literary happening 3-5 p.m. the last Sunday afternoon in each month during the summer and fall. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited. Call 526-3777.
• Last Highlands Al-Anon meeting is Oct. 15. Resume May 2007. Cashiers meeting to continue.
• The Scaly Mountain Women’s Club’s pancake breakfasts the fourth Saturday of each month through October from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
• The Zachary-Tolbert House” in Cashiers becomes a major bone of contention in his relationship with wife Kate (Madeleine Davis). Attention all Friends of the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society - The Instant Theatre Company’s production of “Sylvia” opens Oct. 16-21, 8 p.m., at the Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main. For each advance ticket sold for Tuesday, Oct. 17 and Wednesday, Oct. 18 ITC will donate $5 to the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society! This is a delicious and dizzy drama about a man, a woman, and a dog. “Sylvia” is also the story of challenges, communication and compromise. Tucked in this rich play, between all the laughter, you’ll find timeless issues and wisdom. For reservations call the ITC box office at 828-342-9187.

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**Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital**

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.

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.

Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and the Museum and Archives are located at 524 N. 4th Street, across from the Funeral Home. Special tours or access to the archives may be arranged by calling the Highlands Historical Society at 828-787-1050 or by e-mailing highlandshistory@nctv.com.

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**Upcoming Events**

Creativity to fill Rec Park soon

It takes a gymnasium full of artists and a room full of children to make the Art League of Highlands Fall Colors Fine Art Show what it is. The gym will be brimming over with over 50 artists and their original work, some of whom will be demonstrating their techniques. The Children's Room will be well-supervised painting experience for all kids who come. Their work will be hung in the gym in the Children's Art Show. There will even be crafts for those who prefer. Admission is free on Oct. 21 and 22 from 10-5 at the Civic Center in Highlands. Door prizes as well.

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C.S. Lewis, myth, and conversion

Before myth became fact for C.S. Lewis, he underwent numerous long night talks with J.R. Tolkien and H.D. Dyson, friends of Lewis’ from undergraduate days. Lewis also had in depth conversations with Owen Barfield who had “shown Lewis that myth has a central place in the whole of language and literature.” Lewis once referred to myths as “lies and therefore worthless, even though breathed through silver.”

For Lewis, myth at this time in his life was simply a mirage and this myth, beautiful as it may be, is just lies. Until Tolkien convinced Lewis that myths held truth (that, indeed, the Gospel was the grandest of myths, yet rooted in historical truth) Lewis rejected both gospel and myth.

Lewis understood the power of myth but could not bring himself to believe that myths held any truth. However, it was Tolkien who explained to Lewis that myths were not lies. Tolkien proved to Lewis that man’s ultimate ideals come from God because man was made: and not only made, but made under God’s authority. Thus, Tolkien continued to explain to Lewis that not only do our abstract thoughts come from God “but also our imaginative inventions must originate with God, and must in consequence reflect something of eternal truth.” In explaining to Lewis, Tolkien said: “Fantasy remains a human right: we make in our measure and in our derivative mode, because we are made; but not only made, but made in the image and likeness of a Maker.” Tolkien explained to Lewis that fairy stories and myths, although created in our minds, actually reflected a fragment of true light. Tolkien went on to say that pagan myths “are therefore never just lies: there is always something of the truth in them.”

Tolkien, who believed that the gospel story was the ultimate true myth, presented his argument to Lewis compellingly:

‘Dear Sir, Although now long estranged, Man is not wholly lost nor wholly changed. Disgraced he may be, yet is not dethroned, and keeps the rags of lordship once he owned: Man, Subcreator, the refractions of Light through whom is splintered from a single White to many hues, and endlessly combined in living shapes that move from

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Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.
Upcoming Events:
- Oct. 29: 10 a.m., 5th Sunday Singing & Dinner featuring “Promised Land.”
- Nov. 26: 7 p.m., 4th Sunday Singing featuring “The Marks Men.”

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

**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**
The Right Rev. 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**
The Rev. Thomas “Tommy” Allen • 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion: 4:30
(Community Bible Church)
Tuesday: Bible Study in Cashiers at noon
Wednesday: Men’s Bible Study at 8 a.m.
(Highlands First Baptist; Christianity Explored in the 21st Century, 7:8 p.m., Bank of America Building 2nd floor.
Thursday: Morning Prayer at 10:30
(Peggy Crosby Center Rm. 203)

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES**
Third and Spring Streets, Highlands, NC
Sundays 11 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
Study Room open Saturdays from 1-3 p.m.

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
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)
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Women’s Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Students’ Dinner (free for kids in 8th grade and younger);
5:30 p.m. Supper; 5:45 p.m. – 7:15 pm Small Groups for kids Pre-K through 8th; 6:15 pm – 7:15 pm Adult Bible Study 6pm-7pm Choir Practice
• Small Groups are offered for all ages throughout the week, see our website or call for more info.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**
Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968
Sunday: 8 a.m. – Holy Eucharist: Rite I 8:30 a.m. – Breakfast; 9 a.m. – School; 9:45 a.m. – Choir Practice; 10:30 a.m. – Children’s Chapel; 10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist – Rite II
Monday: 6 p.m. – Women’s Cursillo Group; 5:30 p.m. – choir
Tuesday: 8 a.m. – Men’s Cursillo Group; 9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting
Wednesday: 2 p.m. – Interlude; 6:30 p.m. – Choir
Tolkien continued over a period of time to convince Lewis that myths have truth contained in them. Lewis was unsure how the death and resurrection of Christ could have saved the world. Tolkien had been explaining earlier how myths were “God expressing himself through the minds of poets, and using the images of their mythopoeia to express fragments of His eternal truth.” Tolkien proceeded in telling Lewis how Christianity was a myth but different because God invented it with actual history and the people were real. Lewis responded: “You mean,” asked Lewis, “that the story of Christ is simply a true myth, a myth that works on us in the same way as the others, but a myth that really happened? In that case, he said, I begin to understand.” Tolkien had explained to Lewis how there was actually a real dying God with a precise point in history with historical consequences. It was the myth combined with historical consequences which convinced Lewis of the veracity of the Christian faith.

Lewis was fond of myths and never questioned the story behind the Balder and Adonis myths or any other myth that portrayed a dying God. Tolkien challenged Lewis’ position about myth and drove him back to his presuppositions (Lewis’ belief that myth was “breathed through silver”). While Lewis appreciated myth and the stories portrayed in them, he had failed to stop and think about his thinking. Lewis assumed that “myths were lies” but never thought about how they could be true coming from a Naturalist worldview he once believed.

Twelve days after Lewis had reasoned with Tolkien concerning Christianity and myth, he wrote to Arthur Greaves saying: “I have just passed on from believing in God to definitely believing in Christ – in Christianity. I will try to explain this another time. My long night talk with Dyson and Tolkien had a good deal to do with it.” Lewis eventually understood Tolkien’s argument about myth being true and beyond our experience. Already fond of myths, Lewis now defended them as conveyers of something that is true but yet beyond reason. In his book, The Progress of Redemption, William Van Gemeren says:

Mythology supplies an interpretation of human experience and custom. It is more comprehensive framework within which individuals and society understand themselves and in terms of which they explain all that is beyond rational explanation.

Myth has a transcendental facet because myth goes beyond the natural world to explain truths and reality.

C.S. Lewis said “myth is the isthmus which connects the peninsular world of thought with that vast continent we really belong to . . . Now as myth transends thought, Incarnation transcends myth. The heart of Christianity is a myth which is also a fact.” Later, after Lewis’ conversion to Christianity, he writes in An Experiment in Criticism, “Myth is always, in one sense of that word, ‘fantastic.’ It deals with impossibles and preternaturals.” Lewis recognizes in order to understand the Gospel message, that one must transcend his thinking and go beyond the natural world for this Dying God myth to be real.

In The Pilgrim’s Progress, Lewis writes about how our imagination can lead to the truth about God:

But then another voice spoke to him from behind him, saying: ‘Child, if you will, it is mythology. It is but truth, not fact: an image, not the very real. But then it is My mythology. . . This is my Inventing, this is the veil under which I have chosen to appear even from the first until now. For this end I made your senses and for this end your imagination, that you might see my face and live. We see how the use of myths offer glimpses into a less tainted world than the one now called earth, the fallen and "bent" world. The better world according to Lewis is “Deep Heaven” and “But Heaven is not a state of mind. Heaven is reality itself.” Lewis stresses here that . . .

*See SPIRITUALLY page 31*
Instant Theater on Main Street presents ‘Sylvia’ Oct. 16

Attention all Friends of the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society! The Instant Theatre Company’s production of “Sylvia” opens Oct. 16 at the Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main and will run through Oct. 21. For each advance ticket sold for Tuesday, October 17 and Wednesday, Oct. 18 the Instant Theatre Company will donate $5 to the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society! You get to support your favorite cause AND enjoy one of the most delicious and dizzy dramas ever.

“Sylvia” is the story of a man, a woman, and a dog. “Sylvia” is also the story of challenges, communication and compromise. Tucked in this rich play, between all the laughter, you’ll find timeless issues and wisdom.

What audiences will find the most delightful is that the dog is played by an actress who does not pretend to be an animal, but says things a dog might say. And any dog owner understands that dogs DO talk!

Warm and fuzzy with occasional bites of sarcasm, A.R. Gurney’s “Sylvia” is for anyone who has owned a pet, loved a pet, or loved someone who owned a pet.

“Sylvia” runs Oct. 16 – 21 at 8 p.m.

...SPIRITUALLY
continued from page 29

reality is not something of the natural mind, the state of it, but Heaven is what makes reality. “God the trumpeter, Myth the trumpet, Joy the tune.”

We have seen how Lewis has portrayed myth and how it seeks to go beyond our experiences. On October 24, 1931, Lewis wrote a letter to his brother Warnie about the idea of God. He said: “...it is arguable that the ‘idea of God’ in some minds, does contain, not a mere abstract definition, but a real imaginative perception of goodness and beauty beyond their own resources.” Our faith in God does not rely upon a mere abstract thought, but we must realize that our faith “is not one of the many functions of man like feeling, thinking or love, but it lies on a deeper level. Faith belongs to the transcendent dimension.” Therefore, to know God, one must see that the Christian experience is truly outside the self. That God reveals himself to his people and is not a product of their imagination, but rather, He is the loadstar of the self.

Otherwise, if we fail to see God as outside of ourselves, or as a true myth, then God becomes a projection of the self. A God who is a projection of the self is none other than a projection of the ego which ultimately fails in dealing with the human condition.

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Sat & Sun: (2), (4:20), 7, 9:20
Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7, 10
THE GRUDGE 2 rated PG-13
Fri: (4:15), 7:10, 9:15
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:15), 7:10, 9:15
Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:10
THE DEPARTED rated R
Fri: 6:45, 9:30
Sat & Sun: 6:45, 9:30
Mon – Thurs: 6:45
THE GUARDIAN rated PG-13
Fri: (4:30), 7, 9:30
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:30), 7, 9:30
Mon – Thurs: (4:30), 7
OPEN SEASON rated PG
Fri: (4:10)
Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:10)
Mon – Thurs: (4:10)

From the text:
- **Upcoming Events**
  - **Oct. 13 & 14**
    - Don’t Count Your Chickens – a unique show featuring folk art and other fanciful items for home, garden, body and soul from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center. Free admission.
    - **Oct. 13, 14**
      - The Highlands Playhouse, “North Platte Canteen,” Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. Call 526-2695 for tickets.
  - **Oct. 14**
    - There will be a sale and lunch for the Bolivia Mission Project on Saturday at Highlands United Methodist Church from 11-3 with a hot dog lunch, a bake sale, and yard sale items. Baked goods will include: apple & blueberry pies, jams & jellies. There will be a few items from Bolivia for sale and some big items like a refrigerator, oven, and a motorized wheel barrel.
  - **Whole Life Market** is presenting the opening of the Smokey Mountain National Park and is a master flyer caster and fly tyer. The grand raffle prize of a Brookings guided fishing trip will be won at this meeting. Call 743-2078 for more information. Everyone is welcome.
  - **Oct. 15**
    - Cashiers Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, 3:30 p.m. at the Albert Carson-Cashiers Community Library. Noted author Ron Rash, Pariss Distinguished Professor in Appalachian Cultural Studies at Western Carolina University, will speak. Rash is the author of several award-winning books, including “One Foot in Eden” and “Saints at the River.” For further information, call the Cashiers Historical Society at 743-7710.
  - **Beginning Oct. 16**
    - The Power of a Praying Woman, Mondays, 6-9:30 p.m. at Stormie Omartian (10 week course) at the Cashiers Methodist Church. Call Phyllis Edwards 828-743-9648 for more information.
  - **Oct. 19**
    - Asheville Christian Academy will host a Christian College Fair including over 25 Christian colleges from around the country from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The fair will include a financial aid workshop and families with high school or junior college students are encouraged to attend. Asheville Christian Academy is located at 74 Riverwood Road in Swannanoa. You may call ACA at 581-2200 or visit www.ACACademy.org for more details. See you at the fair!
  - **Oct. 20**
    - Any Medical Center is sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive on Friday from 10:30 am to 3 p.m. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment.
    - Walkin’ Jim Stotz and Lee Knight performing at the Highlands Playhouse at 7 p.m. It’s free. Sponsored by JMCIA.
    - The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will hold its final meeting of the season on Thursday at Grace Community Church in Cashiers. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and features professional guide, Willie Cope, who will discuss fly fishing tactics for fall and winter fishing. Mr. Cope specializes in the streams of the Smokey Mountain National Park and is a master flyer caster and fly tyer. The grand raffle prize of a Brookings guided fishing trip will be won at this meeting. Call 743-2078 for more information. Everyone is welcome.

Tracks at 828-526-1FTT.
- • 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 787-1463.
- • 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. Paul Scott plays Wednesday; Angie Jenkins plays Mondays; Chad Reed playing every Tuesday and Thursday-Sunday for Sunday brunch.
- • Live piano music with Hal Phillips at Skyline Lodge & Restaurant every Friday and Saturday night and Sunday brunch.
- • Live music at Fressers in Helen’s Barn, featuring Cy Timmons Wed. through Sat., 6 p.m. until.
- • Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.
- • Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Saturday from 4:30-6:30.
- • Live music at Wolfgang’s Bistro every Sun. and Mon. it’s Momo on Piano, every Wed. it’s Paul Scotts Trio; and every Thurs. & Fri it’s Rickey Dean on piano.
- • Meet the Artist-Photographer, Nona Boston, Thursday at Fressers Eatery in Helen’s Barn from 5-7 p.m. Her portfolio includes images from more than 20 countries on three continents. For more information, call 526-4188.

At
Cyrano’s Book Shop
Book Signings • 1-3 p.m. (Unless otherwise noted)
October 12 • 6-7:30 p.m.
Susan Mason – Silver Service • Elegant Savannah Cuisine
October 14
Joan Medlicott • 11-1, The Covington Series – The Three Mr. Parkers
Celia Miles • 11-1, Mattie’s Girl: An Appalachian Childhood
Gayden Metcalfe • 3-5, Being Dead is No Excuse – The official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral
October 21
Gerry Soud – Life As I Slice It
October 22
Ann Merritt – The Highlander
October 28 • 10-12
George Ellison – A Blue Ridge Nature Journal: Reflection on the Appalachians
Charles Frazier • TBA
November 5 • TBA
Thirteen Moons
November 25
Riley Weston – Before I Go
December 16
Carl Smith – Louisiana Burn
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... LETTERS continued from page 2

To be fair, parking regulations must apply to all businesses in B2 & B3

Dear Editor,

Over the past several months we have watched with interest the debate over the parking situation for some Highlands restaurants. As the arguments have bounced between the Town Board, the Zoning Board, some local restaurants and restaurant patrons, we have resisted the temptation to jump into the fray with our own opinion. However, after the story we read last week where some of our town Zoning Board may think it is unfair to impose current parking requirements on four specific restaurants located outside the B-1 central business district, we realize it is time for us to throw our ball into this game.

At the same time discussions have been going on regarding exemptions for these four specific restaurants, we have spent thousands of dollars “mining” for parking so that our B-2 zoned Nick’s Restaurant project complies with the parking requirements set forth in the Special Use Permit issued to us by the Highlands Zoning Board on June 20, 2006. Every commercial enterprise in the B-2 and B-3 zones is required to provide parking based on a formula specific to their type of business. More than one half of our total property at First and Main is dedicated to providing on-street mandated parking. Calculate the per square foot value of Highlands’ downtown real estate, apply this to the number of parking spots required, and then add the cost for the owner/operator of paving, snowplowing, other maintenance, and insurance. I am sure you will agree that this adds up to not only a big investment in parking but also a big ongoing expense.

There are nine other restaurants in the B-2 and B-3 zones that are rarely mentioned during parking discussions. Log Cabin, On the Veranda, Subway, Golden China, Rib Shack, SweetTreats, Brick Oven, Fireside and Cyprus are, to the best of our knowledge, abiding by the same B-2 and B-3 parking requirements that some seem to think are unfair. A number of these restaurants are tenants and their rents certainly reflect the costs of providing parking. Others are operated by the property owner. Their cost of operations is definitely impacted by the fact that a large percentage of their valuable property is dedicated to parking.

There is another facet to the restaurant parking debate that we feel has been left out of the discussion. Any business in the B-2 or B-3 zone that is not required to follow the same parking requirements as the other businesses in that zoning district creates additional parking problems and associated expenses for neighboring businesses in compliance.

As of this date, it is our understanding that only one of the four restaurants granted an off site parking variance has lost some of its conditionally approved parking. We are sympathetic to their situation, but surely they were aware that this could happen. They are now faced with the same options we would have if we wanted to add seats, that is to buy or lease additional land or to relocate the restaurant.

We want to make it clear that if there are going to be exceptions made to parking requirements for four specific restaurants in the B-2 and B-3 districts, we expect the Zoning Board and the Town Board to include all B-2 and B-3 restaurants and businesses in this windfall. Anything less would not be fair.

Jan and Gus Lard, Patty and Nick Moschouris

Antique show for community

Dear Editor,

I want to commend Dwight Bryant of Bryant Art Glass, Joanna Baumrucker and the rest of the Board of the Highlands Playhouse for the second outstanding Highlands Antique Show last weekend. For the second year it proved to be a very well-conceived and executed event.

The Highlands Antique Show provides everyone in the community the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of a remarkable amount of fine antique furniture, jewelry, silver and other items in one setting. It also brings a large number of people from all over the eastern United States to experience the town of Highlands, its ambiance and its resident commercial establishments. Last week-end the shops, restaurants and hotels seemed to be overflowing with customers.

The Highlands Antique Show provides a chance to see and purchase beautiful antiques, and it brings many new patrons to the other businesses of Highlands. It is a win/win situation that reflects well on the entire Highlands community.

Robert J. Boerner Highlands

Condo a safety risk

Dear Editor,

In addition to all the other reasons that a 10-14 story condominium building should not be built in this area is fire protection and safety.

Highlands Fire & Rescue is not equipped to provide fire protection and rescue to a building that tall. Three stories is about the maximum height for our fire and rescue services at present.

Also, I wonder if enough water could be supplied for hydrants to feed fire engines, including a ladder truck, even if they were available. The N.C. Department of Insurance should definitely look into this.

Bob Houston
Highlands Fire & Rescue