

# Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 4, Number 41

Locally Owned & Operated

Thursday, Oct 12, 2006

## On-going

- Every Tuesday evening, Spiritual Cinema Circle at The Instant Theatre at 7 pm.
- Live music nightly at ...on the Verandah at 7 p.m. 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 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.

## 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.

## Oct. 12 - 15

- Lauren LaChance Botanical Pressings Trunk Show at Acorns.

## Oct. 13 & 14

- Don't Count Your Chickens - a unique show feature Folk Art and other fanciful items from 10 a.m. to 6 pm. at the Highlands Conference Center. Free admittance.

## Oct. 13, 14, 15

- At the Highlands Playhouse, "North Platte Canteen," Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. Call 526-2695.

## Oct 14

- At Peak Experience Trunk Show of two artists from 10-5. Martha Goodman with Remnants Jewelry line and Harks Designs featuring leather bags, belts and skirts. 2820 Dillard Road. Call 526-0229.

- Sale and lunch for the Bolivia Mission on Saturday at the Methodist Church on Main Street from 11-3 with 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 Cyrano's Bookshop, writers Joan Medicott, Cella Miles and Gayden Metcalfe will all sign their books on Saturday. Both Medicott and Miles are on from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Metcalfe 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 ...on the Verandah, Trio Lococo from 8-11 p.m.

- Turkey Shoot in Scaly Mountain at the new Scaly Mountain Volunteer First Station on Hale Ridge Road. Guns provided.

## Oct. 16

- Quarterly Mirror Lake Improvement Asso. Mtg., 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center.

## Oct. 16-21

- At ITC in Oak Sq. on Main St, "Sylvia" - a romantic comedy about a marriage and a dog. Call 828-342-9197 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.

At the Oct. 9 Planning Board meeting, Town Planner Larry Gantenbein distributed excerpts from

North Carolina General Statutes regarding the matter, but a gray area still remains.

The issue came up most recently when newly appointed Zoning Board member Tony Potts recused himself from voting on Wild Thyme Restaurant's request

for a parking variance.

Potts is the manager of the Macon Bank on Carolina Way whose parking arrangement with Wild Thyme ended when the bank moved into its new quarters across the street. Since his employer's ac-

•See RECUSAL page 12

## Highlands community picks up the slack

The school system purchased the set, but thanks to volunteers, a playground is up at Highlands School. Volunteers have spent months on the project readying the land, collecting site supplies and the last two Saturdays, erecting the set. Further donations will furnish sod and bark chips to tie the complex together.



Photo by Kim Lewicki

## 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.

"I am not able to give the media feedback on the summarized issues regarding input from one party involved in a personnel matter," he said.

Tisdale claims her allegations are more than a "personnel matter." They center around accusations leveled against the administration, the school board and employees at Macon County Schools concerning sexual harassment, misappropriation of funds, and the general lack of accountability of the school board, she said.

These allegations came in the

form of a 2,500+ word letter-to-the-editor emailed to the media.

Besides claims of sexual harassment, Tisdale alleges wrongdoing by the administration and board concerning system operations.

She wrote that "a bid of nearly one million dollars for school food supplies, and services for the 2005-2006 school year was contracted out while a married employee was romantically involved with the district manager of the company that received the contract. This same man was also al-

•See WRONGDOING page 19

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## 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.

The backlog of septic permit applications that has plagued the Environmental Health Division of the county health department for more than a year is finally dwindling. But an average of 110 permits a month is still considered the norm for Macon County.

"Development has slowed or halted everywhere in the country, even in south Florida," said Barry Patterson, county environmental health supervisor. "But Western North Carolina and Northern California are booming." He said the Nantahala area is really growing "matching Highlands in land prices," he said.

At the Oct. 2 Macon County Commission meeting, Patterson had good news to tell. "The backlog of septic 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.

County commissioners re-  
•See PERMIT page 12

## Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
64-45°F	65-46°F	67-47°F

# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### 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,

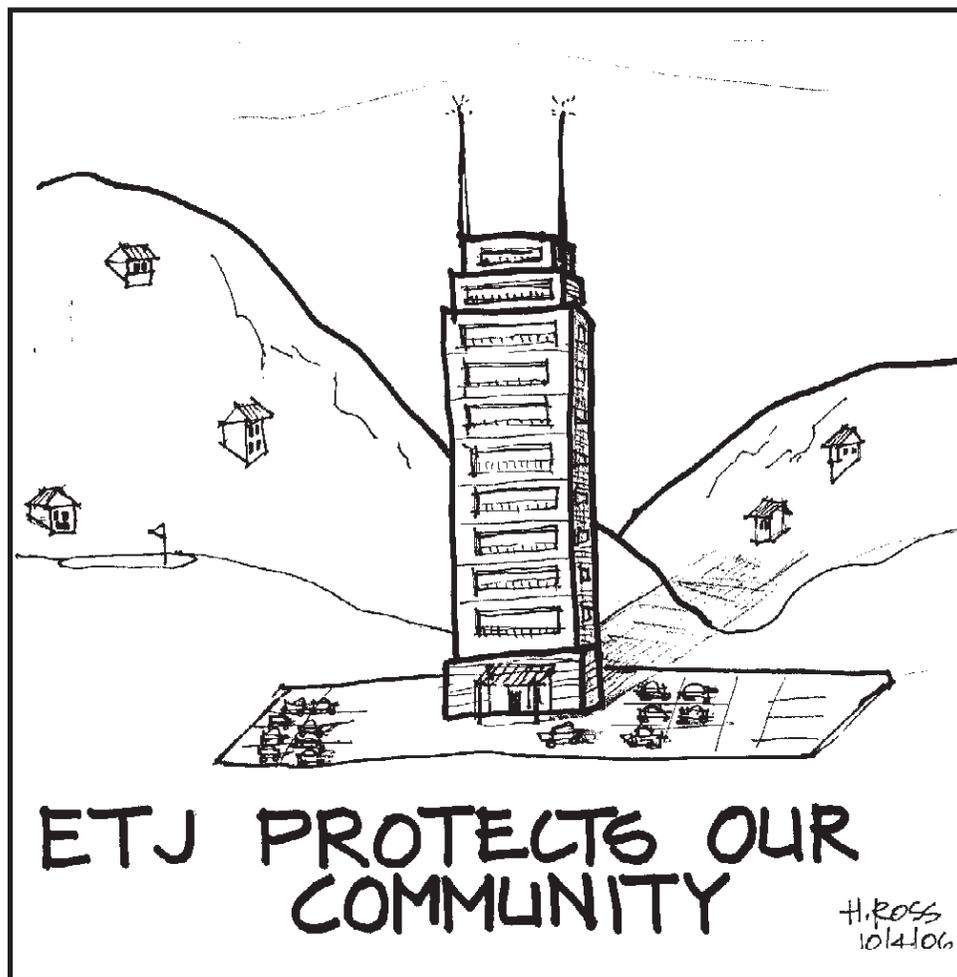
As the elected representative of 75 property owners and 65 home owners in eastern Macon County I am writing to state our association's total opposition to the high-rise condominium project proposed for a site on US 64 east, Cashiers Highway, near the Community Bible Church outside Highlands.

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

## • BIRD'S EYE VIEW •



## • LETTERS •

sewage treatment in the WSII public water supply watershed for the Town of Highlands, and (4) create significant new traffic flows, congestion, and entry/exit traffic hazards on US64.

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 the 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

### LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR POLICY

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

## Highlands' Newspaper

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## • FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

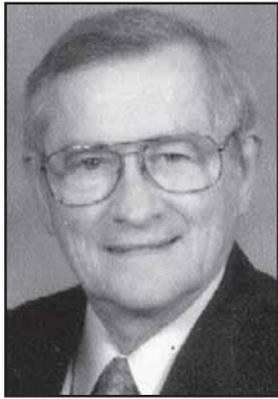
### A recap of the week's events

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



Highlands Mayor  
Dr. Don Mullen

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.

## CP COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

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

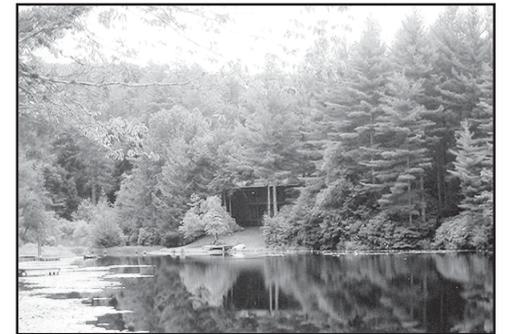
### Old Highlands charm with a complete renovation



You will love the bright openness of this spacious home with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, plus loft. It has just been updated with slate patio, cypress floors, vaulted v-groove cypress ceilings, pine and cypress paneling, granite countertops, solid pine doors, 2 massive rock fireplaces, 2 master suites, new 30-year architectural grade shingle roof on a large lot with plenty of parking. Lovely landscaping as well, on the Atlanta-side of Highlands. \$749,000.

### On Apple Lake!

5 lots - 2.16 acres. Plus, 3-bedroom, 2-bath home on two levels. Cathedral ceilings, stone fireplace, spacious decks, two-car garage and gorgeous landscaping. Offered at \$1.2 million.



### Laurel Branch at Skyline



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

### 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.



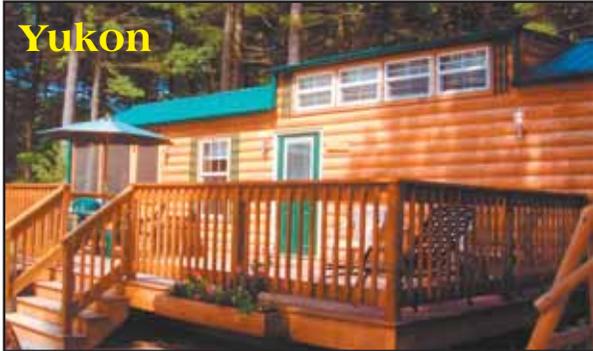
# Chestnut Cottages

674 Chestnut Street, Highlands

## Ready for Spring '07 Season Lot and Cottage Packages

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Lot #23 \$79,000; Lot #9 & 28 \$89,000 each; Lot #21 & 22 (creekfront) \$99,000 each



**Yukon**

**Yukon Floor Plan**



Includes: Cypress log or lap siding, wood paneling, one four-window dormer, 12'x13' carpeted loft with light and outlet, full-sized appliances, bath with tub and shower, commode, vanity, 20-gallon water heater, overhead cabinets, stairwell, two ceiling fans, exterior doors with built-in blinds, double-pane windows with mini-blinds and screens, snack bar, wardrobe, linen closet, laminate wood floors, electric fireplace and conventional stick-built construction. Options Available: Trapezoid windows, cedar paneling, bed with mattress, porch – several sizes with or without screen, dishwasher, heat and air-conditioning.

Includes: Cypress log or lap siding, cedar paneling, two sets of trapezoid windows. 8'x12' loft over kitchen and bathroom, full-sized, stainless steel appliances including dishwasher, bath with double shower and sliding glass doors, commode and vanity. 20-gallon water heater, overhead cedar cypress cabinets, two ceiling fans, French doors, bedroom exterior door with built-in blinds, 4'x12' deck, double-pane windows with mini-blinds and screens, snack bar, built-in closet with drawers, propane central heat, linen and pantry cabinets, laminate wood floors, electric fireplace with mantel and integrated entertainment cabinets, mirror with cedar trim above fireplace and conventional stick-built construction. Options Available: Bed with mattress, air-conditioning.

## Rocky Mountain High



**Rocky Mountain High Floor Plan**



**To view: Call for appointment  
Closing all pre-installation sales on  
November 1, 2006  
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email:  
chestnutcottages@mac.com**

## • 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

**H**iking 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. Always use caution, of course. Though most of the views have rails, some do not, and even the rails haven't kept some from taking the long plunge to the valley below.

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.

PRE-OPENING INCENTIVES  
EXPIRE OCTOBER 28, 2006



# INTRODUCING SIMS VALLEY

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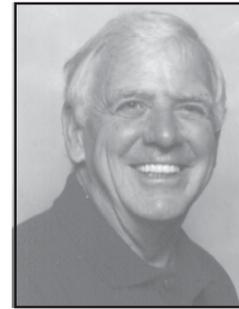
◆ MAIN STREET ◆ OAK SQUARE ◆ HIGHLANDS  
Naples, FL ~ Tampa, FL ~ Sarasota, FL ~ Orlando, FL

## • 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? Hmmm!

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



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback  
is encouraged!  
email:  
askfredanything@aol.com

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, reticent, 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, inhumane, 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

•See WOOLDRIDGE page 9

## • HIGHLANDS FINE DINING •

Why wait for a special occasion?  
At Madison's every day is special!

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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. Lunch or dinner, the service will make you feel, dare we say, special.

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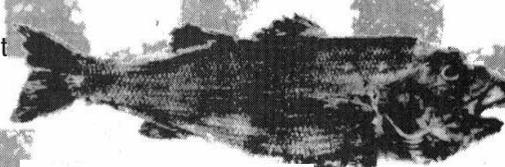
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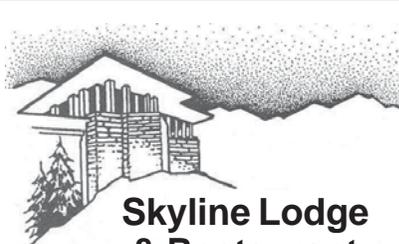
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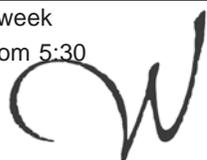
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## What everyone knows

**S**ometimes the future is obvious. Nearly 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



**Dr. Alex Redmountain  
Feedback  
is encouraged!**

•  
email:  
[redmountain8@msn.com](mailto:redmountain8@msn.com)

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



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## • ANOTHER VIEW •

### What's in a name?



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.  
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

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 striking 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

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 and death as grand adventures, 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.

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 “Axis of Evil I” and then follow up with “Axis of Evil II” and “Axis of Evil III” co-starring Iran and North Korea.

Many of us who never experienced

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

The success of the 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Kirchner 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.

### 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](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) click on NEWS.

**Players wanted for HS alumni game**

On Nov. 18 it's the Highlands School alumni bBasketball 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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## • ARTIST IN OUR MIDST •



Reed saw the love and loyalty in the dog's expression.

### The love of painting's in her genes

By Susanna Forrester  
Reporter

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. On occasion 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

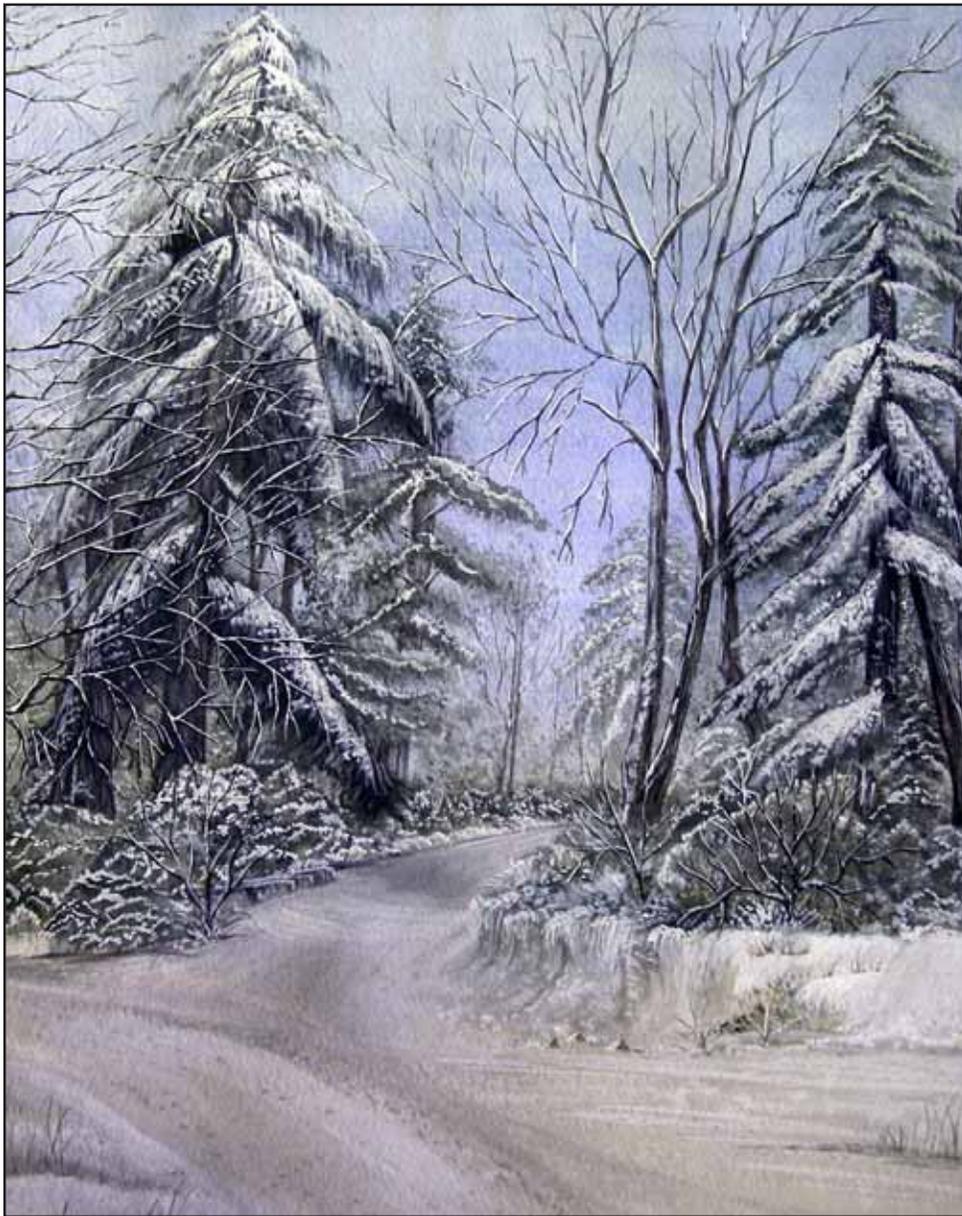
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Reed captures the primitive peace that still lingers on the plateau.

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.

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### ... 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 charg-

es 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.

"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 recent employees 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.

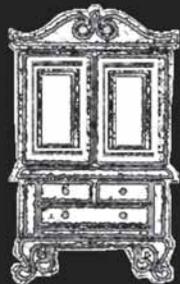
However over the years, the public's perception has been that certain members on various boards shouldn't vote on certain issues simply due to their involvement in those issues.

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

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## Hospital Foundation receives annual donation from HCC



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.

### ... 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 *intifada* 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.

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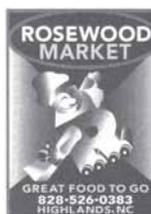


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**Girls' Clubhouse members at HCCDC**



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

**The TWIGS Family Tree...at Highlands Edge**



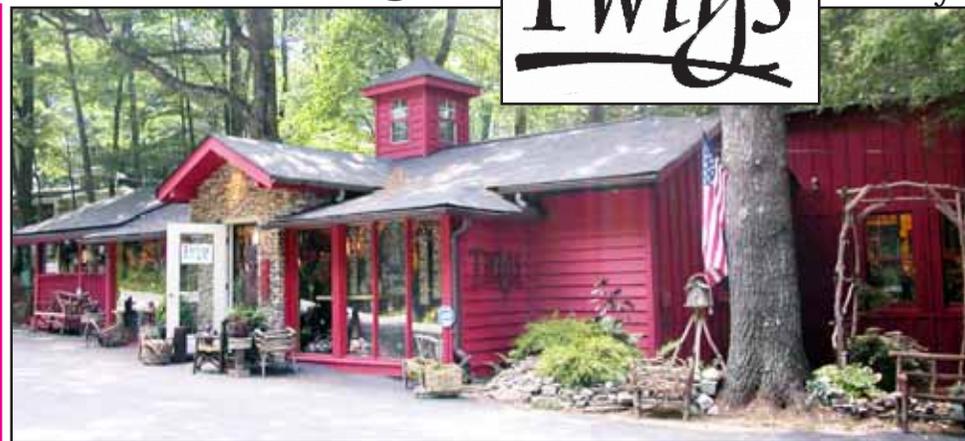
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ON APPLE LAKE, 2 levels of Mtn. living, stone fireplace, wrap around decking, 2 car garage. Dwelling & 5 lots, \$1,200,000. mls #59116



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Rocky Knob, Hardwood floors, Custom Kitchen, 2 Car Garage, Generator, Decks & Porches. Lake Osage access. \$975,000.00. mls #58529



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



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



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



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



Walk to town, 3 bed, 3 bath plus a den/office, cathedral ceilings, porch w/fireplace & garage. Offered at \$795,000.



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



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



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



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



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



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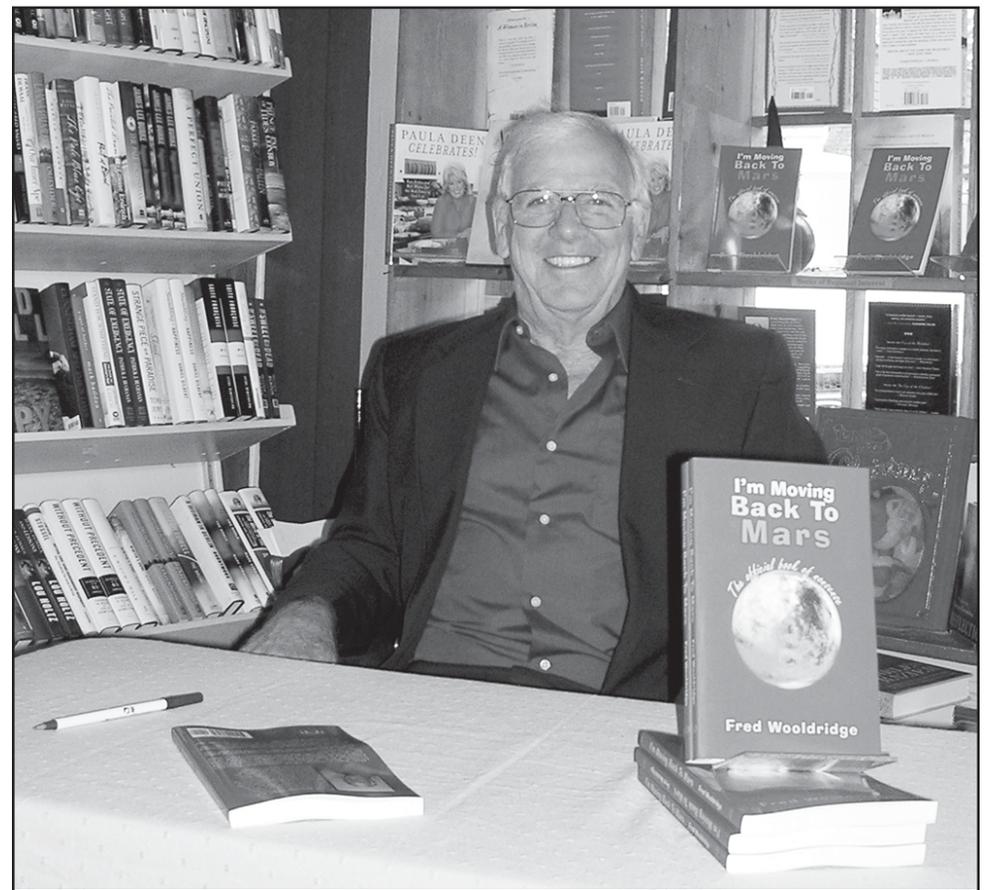
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Author and columnist Fred Wooldridge was at Cyrano's Bookshop on Sunday signing copies of his hilarious "I'm Moving Back to Mars." Wooldridge is just one of several authors on the booksigning circuit at Cyrano's.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

## 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 lives 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 Highlands at First Citizen Bank, on Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. On Wednesday, Oct. 25, it will be at Highlands-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

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• BUSINESS NEWS •



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 "genuine 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 Metcalfe'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. Metcalfe 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 Metcalfe'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 Delta 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 Campbell's Soup" and include recipes for Mason-Dixon Curried Chicken Salad, Hot Pimiento Cheese With Bacon, Like-ta Died Potatoes and Bing Cherry Salad With Coca-Cola. As Ms. Metcalfe observes, "We won't forget you just because you've up and died. We may even like you better and visit you more often."

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.

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## ... WRONGDOING continued from page 1

lowed 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 far 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 \$100,000 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. It's 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 would 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 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, charges 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 employee 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.

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Documenting the placement and condition of area waterways like Big Creek will help the town and UCWA chart a course to maintaining river health. Photo by Kim Lewicki

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

By Susanna Forrester  
 Reporter

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 as it 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.

•See INTERNS page 23

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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.

**'Crimes of the Heart' opens HCP's 2006-2007 season**

The Highlands Community Players announces the 2006-2007 season. Beginning on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> with the Pulitzer Prize winning, "Crimes of the Heart" by Beth Henley.

February brings an old-fashion melodrama, "Caught in the Villian'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.

"Crimes of the Heart" opens on Thursday, Oct. 26 and runs for two weekends at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands The box office opens on Thursday, October 19 for season subscribers and on Monday, October 23 for the general public.

Call (828) 526-8084 for tickets or for season subscriptions. The Highlands Community Players is a non-profit, all volunteer organization bringing quality theater to the Highlands plateau.

**Signups for MC Girls Basketball through Oct. 21**

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

... **INTERNS** continued from page 21

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. These mountains are old. They're all cracked up. They erode easily. Human development has increased 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.

... **RECUSAL** from pg 12

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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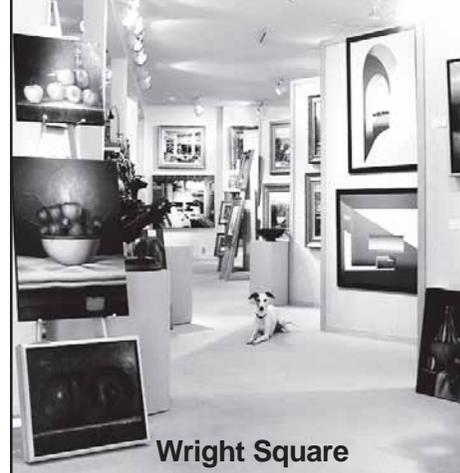
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On Thursday, Sept. 28, The League of Women Voters continued its Candidate Forum at the Tartan Hall in Franklin.

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 McClellan. 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 McClellan (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:

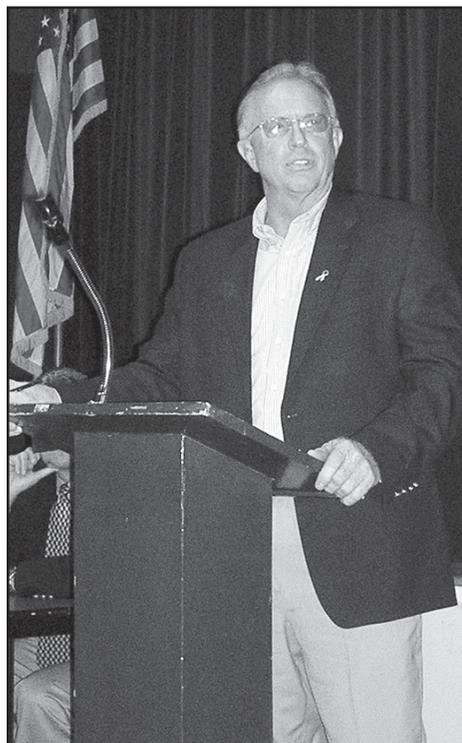
• Why do you want to be a county commissioner; why would you be a good one and what are some of the important issues facing the county this term?

#### 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 Eljay. 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 reval



Commissioner Bob Simpson is running for re-election to his District II seat.

year. The last reval was in 2002. It's interesting when you see what property is worth in Macon County.

#### Simpson:

I have 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 industry. 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

## • CANDIDATE FORUM....



Susan Irwin with the League of Women Voters introduces the candidates at the Sept. 28 forum at Tartan Hall in Franklin.

the planning board to get something down 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 done. 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 Peek'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 in-

creased 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 do support having more employees to enforce ordinances. Have to start with the rules and regulations. Those we have might be enough, rather than writing new ones. The subdivision ordinance is a tough one. Before I vote on that I have to make sure its 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.

# ...DISTRICT II •



Candidate Ronnie Beale and Bob Simpson wait for their turn to speak to the audience. Photos by Kim Lewicki

#### • 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. Sometime I agree, sometime I don't and if I don't I 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:

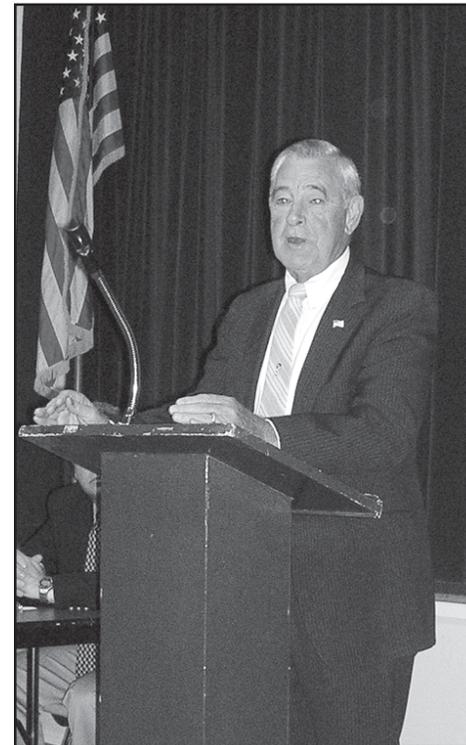
I stood here four years ago and pledged integrity, humility and trustworthiness. I've tried to do that in all I've done. I have listened to everyone so I'm no different today than I was four years ago. I'm open to everyone because basically everyone has the same problems. Every vote I get I got because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



Harold Corbin is running for one of the two District II seats.

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. High tech is great, but competition is fierce. South Carolina entices those industries with no taxes for 10 years. The contractor industry is pure and simple. That's the hang pin for Macon County. We could employ a grant writer, someone who could be out there looking, come up with one person and that's their job. High tech jobs are going to India.

#### Simpson:

Over the last four years I have dedicated time to economic development by working SCC which is going to be the most high tech school this side of Silicon Valley. But want contractor jobs, too. Training and development runs hand in hand. We need a full time economic development person. 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.

#### 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 voice your op-

position 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. 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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  - 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](http://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](mailto: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 in 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 AI-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 will be open for tours Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. through October 14. The house is located at 1940 Highway 107 S., two miles south of the Cashiers Crossroads. Special tours and events may be

**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- 342-9197.*

arranged by calling the Cashiers Historical Society, 828-743-7710.

• Highlands Historic Village is open for tours Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through

the end of October. The House-Trapier-Wright Home and the Museum and Archives are located at 524 N. 4th Street, across from the Funeral Home. Special tours or access to the archives may be arranged by calling the Highlands Historical Society at 828-787-1050 or by e-mailing [highlandshistory@nctv.com](mailto:highlandshistory@nctv.com).

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

• 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 HealthTracks Membership or \$8 per class for non-members. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

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

• Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is holding Pilates classes on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Cost of the class is \$10 per session or \$8 (each) for 10 sessions. Contact Health

• See EVENTS page 33

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• **UPCOMING EVENTS** •

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charming clubhouse and Peregrine restaurant and bar. Come see us. We promise you a mountain high.

We're located six miles east of Highlands on Highway 64. For information, visit the sales office adjacent to the entry gate. Or call us: 828-526-8128 or toll free 1-866-220-2209. Homesites range from \$105,000 to \$595,000. Single-family homes begin in the low \$900,000's. The Views condominium homes are priced from \$695,000. Web site: [www.highlandscove.com](http://www.highlandscove.com).



HIGHLANDS  
**COVE**

Marketed by:



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

# C.S. Lewis, myth, and conversion



**Rev. Tommy Allen  
Christ Church**

Before myth became fact for C.S. Lewis, he underwent numerous long night talks with J.R.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 was not ultimately a liar, but that man perverted his thoughts into lies (Romans 1). Tolkien believed that man's ultimate ideals come from God because man comes from God. 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: and 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 refracted Light through whom is splintered from a single White to many hues, and endlessly combined in living shapes that move from*

• See SPIRITUALLY page 29

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

**BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11  
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7  
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.  
Upcoming Events:  
Oct. 22: 7 p.m., 4th Sunday Singing featuring "New Image" from Alto, Ga.  
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**

Sky Valley, Georgia  
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling, Pastor  
Church: 706-746-2999  
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770  
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month  
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329  
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

**CHRIST CHURCH**

(Anglican)  
The Rev. Thomas "Tommy" Allen • 526-2320  
Sunday: Holy Communion: 4:30  
(Community Bible Church)  
Tuesday: Bible Study in Cashiers at noon  
Wednesday:  
Mens 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)  
All are Welcome!

**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**

Pastor Everett Brewer  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.  
Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday -- 7 p.m.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)  
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 1; 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast; 9 a.m. - Sunday School; 9:45 a.m. - Choir Practice; 10:30 a.m. - Children's Chapel; 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II  
Monday: 4 p.m. - Women's cursillo Group; 5:30 p.m. - Women's Cursillo Group  
Tuesday: 8 a.m. - Men's Cursillo Group; 9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting  
Wednesday: 2 p.m. – Interlude; 6:30 p.m. – Choir

Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - Men's Cursillo Group Meeting; 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with healing; 10:30 a.m. - Daughters of the King Meeting; 10:30 a.m. – Bible Study  
• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153  
Sun.: Worship – 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.;  
Choir – 7:15  
Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.; Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175  
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun.School – 9:30 & 9:45.  
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Mens Bible Discussion & Breakfast  
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers  
Wednesdays: Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7  
Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m. & 5

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

Sixth Street  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

**HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study  
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376  
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 8:30 & 11 a.m.;  
5 p.m. Youth Group  
Wed: noon – Mens Emmaus Reunion Group; 4:45 – Children's choir and handbells; 5:30 – Supper; 6 – Adult Handbells; 6:15 – children, youth, & adults studies;  
7:15 – Adult choir  
(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)  
Thurs: 12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA**

Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,  
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741  
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Choir – 6 p.m.

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

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**

St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871  
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

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

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Rev. Tien, Priest  
Parish office, 526-2418  
Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

**SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD**

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Evening  
Worship – 6 p.m.  
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.  
For more information call 526-3212.

**SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**

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

**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

... SPIRITUALLY continued from page 28

mind to mind. Though all the crannies of the world we filled with Elves and Goblins, though we dared to build Gods and their houses out of dark and light, and sowed the seed of dragons 'twas our right (used or misused). That right has not decayed: we make still by the law in which we're made.

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 Greeves 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 transcends 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 Regress, 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

• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

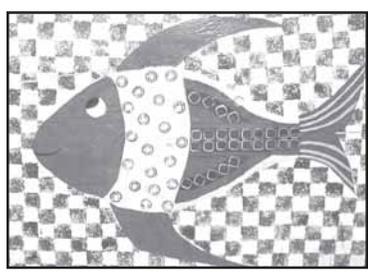
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 pastries, sandwiches  
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# HS Co-ed Middle School Soccer Team - 2006



Tyler Converse



Jenny Coram



Clayton Creighton



Andre Dewhurst



Clay Dunn



Jose Feria



Tim Fogle



Casey Molinary



Emily Munger



Justin Rodriguez



JJ Rodriguez



Cai Roman



Bevan Schiffli



Logan Schmitt



Michael Shearl



Stephanie Smart



Cody St. Germaine



Dylon Tucker

Not pictured:  
Danielle Potts



Robbie Vanderbilt



Justin Watson



Samuel Wheeler



Ryan Sprague

# 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.

at the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main, 310 Main Street, Highlands. Wine, cocktails, and "people biscuits" will

be served. The Studio on Main has easy parking and elevator access.

For reservations call the ITC box

office at 828-342-9197. "Sylvia" contains strong language and is recommended mature audiences.

## ... 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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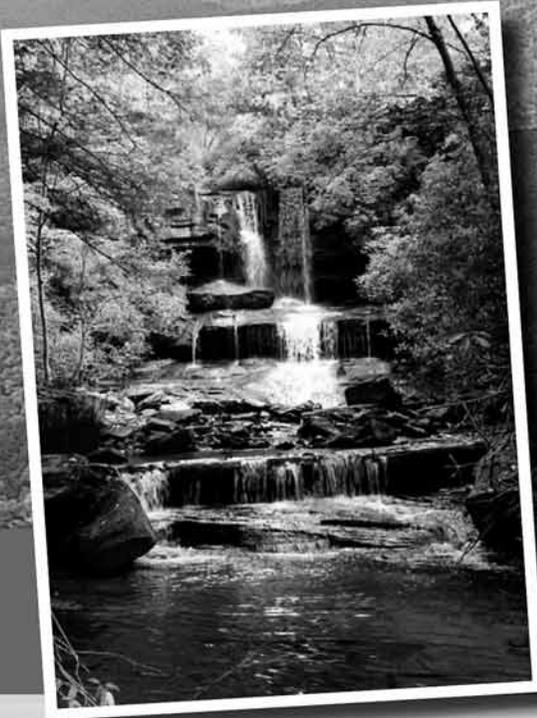
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# • UPCOMING EVENTS •

## Ruby Cinemas

Franklin, NC

Adult – \$6; Child – \$4

Oct. 12-18

### MAN OF THE YEAR rated PG-13

Fri: (4:20), 7, 9:20

Sat & Sun: (2), (4:20), 7, 9:20

Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7

### 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)

Tracks at 828-526-1FIT.

- A Grief Support Group is held every Friday from 10-12 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for anyone who has lost a loved one through death or is dealing with a progressive illness with a loved one. If interested in attending, please contact Helen Moore (Hospice) 526-0727 or Martha Porter (Chaplain at HCH) at 787-1463.

- 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 pm. 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.

Oct. 12

- Meet the Artist-Photographer, Nona Boston, Thursday at Fressers Eatery in Helen's Barn from 5-7p.m. Her portfolio includes images from more than 20 countries on three continents. For more information, call 526-4188.

Oct. 12 – 15

- Lauren LaChance Botanical Pressings Trunk Show at Acorns. Open Monday through Saturday.

Oct. 13 & 14

- Don't Count Your Chickens – a unique show features Folk Art and other fanciful items for home, garden, body and soul from 10 a.m. to 6 pm. at the Highlands Conference Center. Free admittance.

Oct. 13, 14, 15

- At 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 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 barrow.

- Whole Life Market is pleased to present the showcase of Silver Leaf Jewelry & Designer Ashley Aspinwall Saturday from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. On display will be custom made semi-precious and precious stones, fresh water pearls, and sterling silver designs.

- At Cyrano's Bookshop, 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 on Saturday. Both Medlicott and 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.

- 24th Annual Highlands Arts & Crafts Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Free admission and parking. Breakfast and lunch available. Over 100 vendors. Raffle drawings with prizes, Sponsored by the Highlands Woman's Club and the Highlands Recreation Department.

- At ...on the Verandah, Trio Lococo from 8-11 p.m.

- Turkey Shoot in Scaly Mountain at the new Scaly Mountain Volunteer First Station on Hale Ridge Road just off of NC Highway 106. Guns will be provided for shooters who need them. Shots are \$5 each and shells will be furnished. Food and drinks will be available and children are invited to participate in the free Turkey Trot Coloring Contest where cash prizes will be given. The event benefits the restoration of the 105-year old historic Scaly school house, now being used as the community center. For more information, call 787-1860.

Oct 15

- **Cashiers Historical Society Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday, 5:30 p.m. at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library. Noted author Ron Rash, Parris 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, 1-3 p.m. by Stormie Omartian (10 week course) at the Cashiers Methodist Church. Call Phyllis Edwards 828-743-9648 for more information.

Oct. 16-21

- At ITC in Oak Square on Main Street, "Sylvia" - a romantic comedy about a marriage and a dog.

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.ACAdemey.org](http://www.ACAdemey.org) for more details. See you at the fair!

Oct. 20

- Angel 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 Stoltz and Lee Knight performing at the Highlands Playhouse at 7 p.m. It's free. Sponsored by JMCA.

- 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 fly caster and fly tyer. The grand raffle prize of a Brookings guided fishing trip will be won at this meeting. Call 743-2078 for information. Everyone is welcome.

Oct. 21-22

- Fall Colors Fine Art Show at the Highlands Rec. Park sponsored by the Art League of Highlands. All original fine art. Over 50 artists. Children's Art Room and Show both days. Free admission. Door prizes. 10-5. Contact: Robin Anne Cooper 864-654-2068.

Oct. 21

- Ornament signing at The Christmas Tree on the Hill with Lisa Kelechava, founder and designer of Joy to the World Collectibles. Signing Pet Set and Glitterazzi glass ornaments from 1-3 p.m. at the store on 212 S. Fourth Street. on the hill. For more information, call 526-3687.

- Highlands School Fall Festival., 5-9 p.m. at Highlands School.

- The North Carolina Bartram Trail Society will hold its 29th annual meeting on Saturday at the Macon County Public Library in Franklin, NC. At 11 a.m., Brevard naturalist Ina Warren will present a one hour, slide-illustrated program entitled, Milkweeds for Monarchs: Where there's A Will, there's a Waystation. This program features both the life cycle and the fall migration of the monarch butterflies. Warren will also discuss some of the obstacles that monarchs face in both their migration to their overwintering areas in Mexico as well as threats to their survival in the summer breeding grounds in the US.

- Whole Life Market is pleased to present the showcase of Beadwork Essentials & Designer Britt Ammann Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Display will be a wide range of beaded jewels and local hand crafted pottery.

Oct. 24 & 25

- Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and AnMed Regional Blood Center will conduct their annual fall blood drive later this month. The bloodmobile will be in Highlands at First Citizen Bank, on Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. On Wednesday, Oct. 25, it will be at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

from 9 a.m. until noon and at Ingles parking lot in Cashiers from 2-5:30 p.m.

Oct. 26-29

- Highlands Community Players presents "Crimes of the Heart" by Beth Henley at PAC. Call (828)526-8084 for tickets.

Oct. 28

- At ...on the Verandah, Trio Lococo from 8-11 p.m.

- The Buckerettes at the Studio on Main. Channel your inner cowboy and cowgirl and dress up in your western duds to hear this all girl cowgirl band from Asheville. The Buckerettes play a variety of toe-tapping music ranging from "cowboy" to swing. Show is at 8pm. Call 828.342.9197 for tickets.

- Halloween "Enchanted Forest" Nature Trail at the Highlands Nature Center. 7 – 9 p.m., all ages. Bring a flashlight to go trick-or-treating through the Botanical Garden and encounter friendly forest creatures who share interesting nature facts about themselves. \$1 per person. Call 526-2623.

Nov. 11, 13, 17, 18, 19

- WONDERLAND is the 4th annual all-children's cast production for the North Georgia Community Players. This play is a delightful adaptation of Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking Glass" and features favorite characters from the "Alice in Wonderland" story. Five performances are scheduled. Show times are Friday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m., Saturdays, Nov. 11 and 18 at 7 p.m. and Sundays Nov. 13 & 19 at 3 p.m.

## 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*  
George Ellison – *A Blue Ridge Nature Journal: Reflection on the Appalachians*

Charles Frazier • TBA

Nov. 5 • TBA

Thirteen Moons

Nov. 25 11-1

Riley Weston – *Before I Go*

**December 16**

Carl Smith – *Louisiana Burn*

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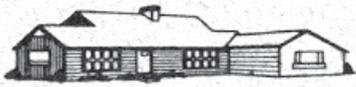
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**HIGHLANDS FINE ART GALLERY**, interviewing for manager, assistant manager, full and part-time sales personnel. Salary and commission. Year-round employment. Call 828-787-1743.

**EXPERIENCED PUNCH-OUT WORKER** wanted in Highlands area for full-time work. Must have clean driving record and agree to a background check. Company vehicle provided. Vacation and benefits available. References required. Stop by Warth Construction office at 330 Spring Street in Highlands to pick up an application or email your resume to info@warthconstruction.com.

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employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through the website, www.hchospital.org.

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**RECEPTIONIST FOR PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE**. Full time, Monday through Friday. Associate degree in business or related field preferred. Will accept minimum of two years' work-related experience in physician's office or clinic. Must have significant computer knowledge. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through the website, www.hchospital.org.

**EARN WHILE YOU LEARN! ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A NEW CAREER?** Become a Certified Nursing Assistant for Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. C.N.A. classes will start on Monday, November 27, 2006. Students will be paid while in class Mondays through Fridays for 6 hours a day. Upon graduation, students will become a Certified Nursing Assistant and will receive a substantial increase in pay. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. If interested in joining a dynamic healthcare team, call Judy Miller at 828-526-1317, Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301, or apply online through website, www.hchospital.org.

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**CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL**. This full-

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**VACATION RENTAL** - Sapphire/Cashiers: 4 bedroom/3 bath, stone FP, all conveniences (plasma TV, PC, good linens, towels, china, satellite). Gated community/club. Lake access, with horses, kayaks, canoes available. Weekly, monthly and long holiday weekends possible. \$900 week, \$3,000/month. 3 day minimum by-the-day/weekend. 770-479-5535 x239 days - Kevin. 770-704-9926 eves.

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•See CLASSIFIEDS page 37

# HS Middle School Girls Volleyball – 2006



Julian Buras



Taylor Buras



Sayne Cruz



Elizabeth Gordon



Copeland Hardin



Katlin Lewis



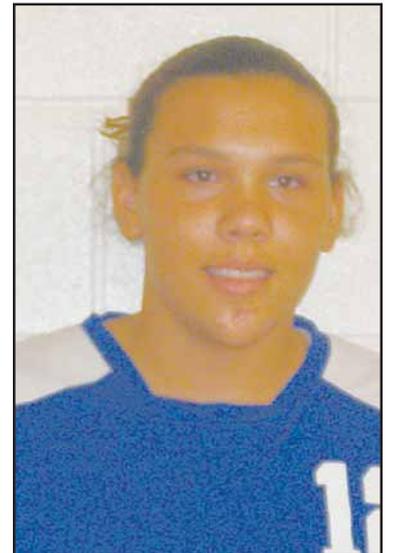
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Stephanie Puchacz



Courtney Rogers



Coach Bill Lanford with his winning team. The girls have won the majority of the games they have played this year.

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## • CLASSIFIEDS •

ple seeks to rent unfurnished residence for at least a year while building new house. Ideal tenants. Please call 526-0248.

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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 zone 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 town 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, SweeTreats, 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 nine 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, and 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  
Highlands

## Antique show good 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

## POLICE & FIRE REPORT

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Oct. 3. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

Oct. 3

- At 4:45 p.m. officers responded to an accident in the parking lot of Gates Nursery. There were no injuries.

- At 2:50 p.m., officers responded to a noise complaint of dogs barking and people walking in the woods.

Oct. 4

- At 9:40 a.m., damages totaling \$60,000 were reported made to a car parked at ...on the Verandah.

- At 9:25 p.m., a visitor reported his car stolen from a spot in front of Wolfgang's on Main Street but later remembered he had moved it to a spot in front of Scudder's on Main Street. Officers located the car.

Oct. 5

- At 11 a.m., a resident reported receiving harassing phone calls.

- At 4:11 p.m., a vehicle valued at \$52,000 was reported stolen from a parking spot on Main Street.

- At 10:15 a.m., officers responded to a complaint that the road was blocked by construction equipment.

- At 7:24 p.m., officers responded to a call of a noise complaint at S. 4th Street.

Oct. 6

- At 8:25 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 43 mph in a 25 zone at Poplar and U.S. 64 east.

Oct. 7

- At 9:20 a.m., a motorist was cited for driving without a license at N.C. 28 and Cook Road.

Oct. 8

- At 8:15 a.m., a motorist was cited for driving without a license at U.S. 64 east and Sherwood Drive where a two-car collision took place.

Oct. 9

- At 11:17 a.m., a motorist was cited for failing to stop at a stop sign at Maple and Oak streets.

- At 11:15 a.m., the larceny of a sign valued at \$85 was reported at Satulah and South streets.

During the week, officers issued 2 warning tickets and responded to five alarms.

The following is the Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Oct. 3

Oct. 3

- The dept. responded to an accident on N.C. 28. There were no injuries.

Oct. 4

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Hicks Hill Road where someone had fallen. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Oct. 5

- The dept. responded to the call of a "smell of propane" at a residence on Worley Road but it was unfounded.

Oct. 6

- The dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Department to help extinguish a structure fire.

Oct. 7

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Azalea Lane where someone had fallen.

Oct. 8

- The dept. responded to a three-vehicle accident with minor injuries at N. 4th Street.

Oct. 9

- The dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Department to help extinguish a structure fire.

CALL NOW Area Code 828							
<b>ANTIQUES</b> Elephant's Foot Highlands, 526-5451 Shiraz Oriental Rugs Highlands, 526-5759 <b>ART GALLERIES</b> Bryant Art Glass Highlands, 526-4095 Hubert Shuptrine Highlands, 787-1123 John Collette Highlands, 526-0339 Mill Creek Highlands, 787-2021 Robert Tino Highlands, 526-0667 The Very Thing Highlands, 526-2333 Tin Roof Highlands, 526-3900 <b>BEAUTY &amp; SPA</b> All Seasons Salon Highlands, 526-0349 Creative Concepts Highlands, 526-3939 Images Spa Highlands, 526-8832	<b>BEAUTY &amp; SPA</b> Mountain Magic Highlands, 526-4049 Old Edwards Spa Highlands, 526-8008 Pro Nails Highlands, 526-8777 Taylor Barns Salon Highlands, 526-4192 The Very Thing Highlands, 526-2333 <b>BOUTIQUES</b> Acorns Highlands, 787-1877 AnnaWear Highlands, 526-4660 Bear Mtn Outfitters Highlands, 526-5784 Bungalow Boutique Highlands, 526-8555 Cabin Casuals Highlands, 526-3320 Coolcats Hotdogs Highlands, 526-9990 McCulley's Highlands, 526-4407 Nancy's Fancys Highlands, 526-1029 The Exchange Highlands, 526-1029	<b>BOUTIQUES</b> Village Kids Highlands, 526-5799 Vivace Highlands, 526-1880 Wits End Highlands, 526-3160 <b>DAY TRIPS</b> Adventure Depot Cashiers, 743-2052 Dillsboro River Co. Dillsboro, 866-586-3797 Family Float Trip Dillsboro, 888-593-5050 <b>FOODS</b> August Produce Highlands, 526-4617 Bryson's Foods Highlands, 526-3775 Dusty's Market Highlands, 526-2762 Ingles Food Store Cashiers, 743-3801 Mountain Fresh Highlands, 526-2357 Rosewood Market Highlands, 526-0383 The Hen House Highlands, 787-2473	<b>FOODS</b> Whole Life Market Highlands, 526-5999 Wine & Cheese Highlands, 526-5210 <b>GIFTS</b> Bird Barn Highlands, 526-3910 Christmas Tree Highlands, 526-3687 Grinning Frog Highlands, 526-9033 Needlepoint Highlands, 526-3901 Radio Shack Highlands, 526-3350 Speckled Hen Highlands, 526-3910 <b>HOME DECOR</b> Amer. Upholstery Walhala, 864-638-9661 Black Bear Furniture Highlands, 526-9933 Dry Sink Highlands, 526-5226 Furniture Buy-Trips Highlands, 526-2973 Highlands Cabinet Highlands, 526-8364	<b>HOME DECOR</b> Highlands Cust Cov Highlands, 526-4226 Highlands Decor Ctr Highlands, 526-3571 Highlands Hardware Highlands, 526-3719 HomePlace Blinds Sapphire, 743-5451 Old Rangoon Highlands, 526-8288 Southern Shutters Clayton, 706-782-5212 The Summer House Highlands, 526-5577 Wholesale Down Highlands, 526-4905 <b>JEWELRY</b> Acorns Highlands, 787-1877 Drake's Diamonds Highlands, 526-5858 Highlands Gem Highlands, 526-2767 Highlands Fine Art Highlands, 526-0656 Kent LTD Highlands, 526-1960 Silver Eagle Highlands, 526-5190	<b>LODGING</b> Chambers Rentals Highlands, 526-3717 Main Street Inn Highlands, 526-2590 Mitchell's Lodge Highlands, 526-2267 Old Clayton Inn Clayton, 706-782-7722 Old Edwards Inn Highlands, 526-8008 The Lodge Highlands, 526-8008 Skyline Lodge Highlands, 526-2121 <b>RESTAURANTS</b> Brick Oven Pizza Highlands, 526-4121 Bucks Cafe Highlands, 526-0020 Cafe 460 Highlands, 526-8926 Cyprus Highlands, 526-4429 Don Leon's Highlands, 526-1600 Fressers Eatery Highlands, 526-4188 Fressers Express Highlands, 526-8867	<b>RESTAURANTS</b> Golden China Highlands, 526-5525 High Country Cafe Highlands, 526-0572 Hill-Top Grill Highlands, 526-5916 Lakeside Highlands, 526-9419 Madison's Highlands, 526-5477 Mountain Perk Sapphire, 743-7889 On The Verandah Highlands, 526-2338 Peregrine Highlands, 787-2465 Pescado's Highlands, 526-9313 Pizza Place Highlands, 526-5660 Rib Shack Highlands, 526-2626 Ristorante Paoletti Highlands, 526-4906 Rosewood Market Highlands, 526-0383 Skyline Restaurant Highlands, 526-2121 SportsPage Highlands, 526-3555	<b>RESTAURANTS</b> SweeTreats Cafe Highlands, 526-9822 Wolfgang's Highlands, 526-3807 <b>REAL ESTATE</b> Buyer's Realty Highlands, 526-0988 Catatoga C.C. LakeToxaway, 877-6270 Century 21 Highlands, 787-2121 Chambers Agency Highlands, 526-3717 Country Club Prop. Highlands, 526-2520 Highlands Cove Highlands, 526-4185 John Schiffl Highlands, 526-5750 Keller Williams Highlands, 526-9520 Meadows Mountain Highlands, 526-1717 Architect - Soellner Sapphire, 743-6010 Builder - Warth Highlands, 526-4929 Builder - NBG Highlands, 526-4780

