The first step in the case of Kenton vs. Old Hemlock Cove was taken Oct. 23 in Superior Court in Franklin with Judge Dennis Winters presiding.

Both sides left without an answer. Judge Winters said he would take the case under advisement and try to make a decision by the end of the week.

Linda and Kenton David were represented by Fred Jones, Sanders Dupree, managing partner of Old Hemlock Cove LLC, was represented by Ken Fromneath.

On January 15, 2004, the Davids sold a 19-acre tract on U.S. 64 east to Dupree with the understanding that a single family residential development would be built there.

Recently, Dupree sold the property to Forever Pick its ETJ representatives refuse to do it,” said County Commissioner Chairman Allan.

“ETJ appeal continues

The town says it’s over, but the county is still appealing its right to forever pick its ETJ representatives. Until the county gets in writing that the town will allow this, the county will continue to appeal.

“The town has had every opportunity to end this by sending a letter allowing the county to pick its appointees and the commissioners refuse to do it,” said County Commission Chairman Allan.

Commission to speak out

Though just an advisory commission, the town’s Appearance Commission thinks its time to take a stand.

At the Oct. 23 meeting, member Pat Taylor asked why the commission wasn’t involved concerning the construction of a fence in Wright Square. The Wright Square Association said it’s constructing the fence behind Wright Square to alleviate a perceived drainage problem and to keep customers bound for Don Leonard’s Café from parking there.

Zoning Administrator Larry Gatenbihl said the town didn’t have a say in the matter for two reasons.

“It’s not considered new construction, so a Special Use Permit...”

By Kyle McKim

Coach Kyle McKim

After another wonderful year of volleyball, Highlands High School Lady Highlanders are once again the Little Smoky Conference Champions. Finishing with a 6-0 Conference record and a 13-6 season record the Lady Highlanders, and all of Highlands for that matter, can be very proud of their team.

With a very small squad of only eight; Toni Schmitt, Katie Bryson, Allison Winn, Angela Sanchez, Becca Ashburn, Sara Bates, Brie Schmitt and Danny Puchacz, the girls fought through a tough schedule of opponents.

Often times our athletes were on the court playing with injuries and pain. They sacrificed to play with the team and as a team, constantly encouraging and motivating one another.

Girls’ VB team conference winners

The girls experienced quite a lot of taking adjustments to what they had been previously accustomed.

We started the season off early with a challenging camp at the end of summer and began strenuous, time consuming practices which stretched the girls’ endurance and honed their skills. To the girls dismay we implemented a daily run which end of summer and began strenuous, time consuming practices which stretched the girls’ endurance and honed their skills. To the girls dismay we implemented a daily run which

flu vaccinations in Highlands Oct. 31

The Macon County Public Health Center will hold flu vaccination clinics for adults and healthy children age nine and older in at the Highlands Civic Center on Tuesday, Oct. 31 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Additional clinics will be scheduled and announced in the local media and on the health department’s information line at 349-2081.

No appointments will be taken and vaccine will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Persons unable to wait in line may have someone wait in line for them and vaccine will be taken to the vehicle.

The cost for the vaccine is $25. Persons who are on Medicare Part B or Medicaid should bring their card with them. Individuals with Medicare, Part C will have to pay for the vaccination.

If your insurance carrier covers the cost of flu shots, please bring your insurance card and we will bill it for you.
Recycling in town's sights

The Town Administrator, Richard Betz, and I just returned from a most instructive meeting of the North Carolina League of Municipalities in Greensboro. Mayors, Commissioners and Town Administrators, Managers and Clerks from all over the state were there. It was a time of networking with others in similar positions and learning state of the art activities in City and Town governments. As members of the League the Town of Highlands has always participated in this important activity and organization. Our League is recognized as one of the best in the country.

One of the sessions at the meeting was on Municipal Recycling: Reasons and Ways to Achieve Excellence. There has been renewed interest in recycling in Highlands and we are beginning to investigate the feasibility of full recycling pickup in the town, especially with the change in State law regarding land fills and the pressure that is putting on the town to change the way we collect solid waste and commercial waste materials. We have a little over a year to make major changes in our collection techniques, and this is a good time to consider adding recycling to our collection methods.

There have been rapid changes in recycling across the state in the past five years because not only are landfills filling up with recyclable materials but it has become financially feasible for full recycling in our towns and cities to actually pay for itself. Recycling has been shown to conserve natural resources, recover materials for the economy, reduce air and water pollution, keep habitats intact, save on energy and improve our nation’s ability to compete. It also helps to prevent global warming.

With a program of education of the public and organization. Our League is recognized as one of the best in the country.

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With a program of education of the public and
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.

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

COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

This remarkable new home is ready to live in! Buy now for the holidays! 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.

Incredible Value at $2.595 million

Two lots: 4+ acres at Norton Ridge. 5 bed septic, well in. Ready to go! $425,000. Beautiful 3/4-acre cleared lot in Highland Hills. $179,000.

Laurel Branch at Skyline

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.

Laurel Falls at Skyline

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.

Old Highlands charm with a complete renovation

This beautiful home, tucked away in Laurel Falls at Skyline, is very sophisticated yet charmingly rustic. $749,000.

Re-elect Allan “Ricky” Bryson

“...I’d be honored to have your support so we can continue moving Macon County toward a brighter future for all.”

- Education
- Strong Law Enforcement
- Smart Growth
- Clean Water

“For the future of our county depends on how we deal with these issues. I will continue to pay strict attention to every detail.”

Paid for by the Committee to re-elect Allan “Ricky” Bryson

Forrester-Hearn marry

On Saturday, Oct. 14, at 2 p.m., Susanna Forrester of Cashiers and Chad Hearne of Franklin were married at Whiteside Presbyterian Church in Cashiers. The couple honeymooned in Charleston, S.C. and will reside in Franklin. Susanna is a reporter for Highlands’ Newspaper and Chad is employed by Drake Enterprises. Both are also students at Western Carolina University.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Re-elect Allan “Ricky” Bryson County Commissioner

“The future of our county depends on how we deal with these issues. I will continue to pay strict attention to every detail.”

Paid for by the Committee to re-elect Allan “Ricky” Bryson

Incredible Value at $2.595 million

Two lots:

- 4+ acres at Norton Ridge. 5 bed septic, well in. Ready to go! $425,000.
- Beautiful 3/4-acre cleared lot in Highland Hills. $179,000.
Hiking About Highlands

Along the ridge, the ‘huanting’ Graveyard Fields beckon

By Susanna Forrester Hearn
Reporter

Graveyard Field sounds like a scary place, but ghosts don’t roam this high mountain meadow, at least not human ones. There aren’t even any graves here.

Graveyard Fields is located off the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 296.4, and the area earned its name during the early 1900s when it underwent extensive logging. The stumps jutting out of the ground resembled grave markers, especially later when they became overgrown with moss. These “graves” no longer exist because of a devastating fire in the 1920s that left the valley barren. But, the area still retains an eeriness similar to a graveyard. Much of it is covered with tall grasses and scruffy bushes with an occasional stand of trees. The headwaters of the Pigeon River originate here, and several waterfalls are located in the immediate area.

On a foggy, overcast autumn day with the wind rustling the grass, Graveyard Fields takes on a life of its own. You can hear the voices of lost trees telling their stories to the bleak sky. It does feel at times that this place is haunted. It’s just not the typical image of ghosts wandering around beneath the towering ridges.

The simplest trail to take for a good view of the valley is the Graveyard Fields Loop. The loop makes a wide circle around the area, but it is easy walking for those who aren’t used to hiking. There is also a waterfall downstream from the main entrance to the valley. It’s a steep climb but there are wooden stairs that make it much easier. The trails and waterfalls are clearly marked with signs for those new to the area.

Graveyard Fields is a popular area and can be busy during peak seasons, but on a chilly autumn day a certain hush falls over the valley. Birds and small mammals can be seen darting beneath the scrub, and you can see why the valley has retained its name even after its tombstones have burned away.

OLD EDWARDS INN Spa

is offering a final 50 exclusive annual memberships to The Fitness Center at Old Edwards Inn

Membership benefits include:
Unlimited use of the fitness center including:
~Exercise studio featuring TechnoGym
   state-of-the-art equipment
~Individual and group workouts, as well as
   specialized instruction classes
~Weight training studio
~Outdoor heated salt water pool and spa

Use of the Spa Amenities Building including:
~Ladies and Men’s locker rooms
~Steam rooms, whirlpools and sauna
~Spa Solarium for relaxing between workouts or treatments
   ~Reflection Room
   ~Spa Café
~Spa Terraces

Access to the Hummingbird Bar at Old Edwards Inn

Please contact Tara Southern at 828-787-2601 for more information or to reserve your membership.

Graveyard Fields is located off the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 296.4, and the area earned its name during the early 1900s when it underwent extensive logging. Enter the Blue Ridge Parkway at Hwy 74/23 at Balsam or from Rt. 276 east of Waynesville or Rt. 276 west of Brevard.

Photo by Susanna Forrester Hearn
INTRODUCING SIMS VALLEY
“A Refreshing Change is Coming!”

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

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

NOW SELLING
Pre-opening selections will be available through October 28!

Call us at 828-743-2288.
You will not be disappointed.
I pulled her close and whispered softly in her ear, “Please, honey, just one more time. If you do this for me, I promise I won’t ask again.” She whispered back, “You said that last time and I believed you. Now, here you are, asking me again and promising it will be the last time, but I know it won’t be. It’s always ‘the last time’ but it never is.” There was silence as I held my breath, waiting for her decision.

“Oh, but I am telling you right now, this really is the last time. Do you understand me?” I lit up with delight. “I promise.” She reached for the car keys and off we went to SweetTreats for our final ice cream cone of the season.

Neither of us can afford to eat at SweetTreats on a regular basis and it’s not because of the price. At our age, life is cruel. The ice cream goes directly to her hips and my gut. Not fair, but we so love the waffle cones filled with yogurt, nuts and fruit that we can’t stay away. It is late October and our licking time is coming to an end. Even though we don’t allow ourselves to go often, it is one of the places we always miss when we are away. Bob Carlton is responsible for our oral lust; shame on him.

I hate leaving Highlands, but at the same time, I can’t wait to get out of here. For me, it is an emotional roller coaster. Oh, how much I will miss my awesome friends and, at the same time, how much I look forward to hanging out regularly with my family. You can’t imagine the conflict. I will miss the walk up Sunset Rock for lunch with the little missus, but I look forward to quiet walks along the ocean, allowing the water to lap over our feet. No more hikes in the forest but, instead, laps in the pool.

I will miss the politics of Highlands. Watching Highlands’ politics is a spectator sport for me. I feel sorry for folks who take it so seriously, but I understand the mentality. In South Florida, I can’t be bothered, except for the voting foolishness.

I will miss my friendly bridge buddies at the Rec. Park. Let there be no Oral lust. 

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

See WOOLDRIDGE page 31
I have written on several occasions about the corruption in this administration and in this Congress, but have not filled in the details, either because of lack of space or lack of direct relevance to the column in which my comment appeared.

Now, as so many seem mesmerized by the Mark Foley scandal, and as I note how much juicier most readers find it than how their tax dollars are mis-spent and their civil rights abused, I feel compelled to describe the extent of the “real” corruption going on in the White House and the current Congress.

The Foley story is one gay man’s tragedy. It certainly constitutes an abuse of power, as does every sexual contact between someone in authority and a subordinate (e.g., Bill Clinton’s escapade). But, contrary to much of the press coverage, Foley’s fascination with some of the male pages is not pedophilia, which is usually defined as sexual interest in children up to the age of puberty.

A much more serious transgression than Foley’s is the cover-up by the Republican leadership in the House, apparently including the Speaker. Although he has denied that he had prior knowledge of Foley’s behavior, at least two credible witnesses claim they informed Mr. Hastert directly. (To experience the Yiddish word chutzpah in its exquisite plenitude, I refer you to the story in which several Republican representatives tried to blame the Democrats for the Foley incident.) Anyway, back to a different kind of corruption. There are currently 65 lobbyists for every congressman in the nation’s capital. They spend $200 million each month to wine and dine the senators, representatives, and high government officials. They also dispense billions of dollars as campaign contributions. All of this is perfectly legal. Nevertheless, it has gone a long way toward destroying the democracy we like to believe we live in.

The members of Congress are constantly pressured to vote the way their major contributors wish. It is a rare one who can resist the pressure, because his or her ability to remain in office depends, at least in part, on how much money he can raise. Money — big buckets of it — has become the absolute requisite for winning elections. One retiring senator said he spent more than half his time in office raising money, which is one reason he quit.

But money isn’t the only obstacle confronting newcomers who want to run. State legislatures, following the example set by Tom DeLay in Texas, gerrymandered (manipulated) district boundaries in such a way that incumbent representatives are assured of re-election in all but 50 or 60 districts. That’s out of 435, which means that only 15 percent or so are actually contestable.

The Presidency, which comes up for... See REDMOUNTAIN page 14

I’m DonLeon and that’s MY opinion.
I know almost nothing about our congressional candidates. My interests are more national and international in scope, so I've made no great effort to educate myself. I beg forgiveness from my editor when I confess that I read no newspaper. I don't watch local TV. We have DISH at my house and for some reason, local political ads never appear on my favorite channels, which include ESPN, CNN, FOX, National Geographic, Discovery, and whoever is showing Law and Order or any of its numerous spinoffs.

I get my information from the Internet. Links to an interesting story routinely lead me to Washington, New York, London, Paris and the Middle East. It's a pretty informative approach, but one which leaves me ignorant of local and regional concerns. There must be some technological difference between cable TV and its satellite cousin, which permits cable to teacast local political ads, perhaps the strongest argument I know for the satellite variety.

I was in the gym the other morning, running the treadmill while watching one of my favorite channels on cable. I don't remember which one to blame, but I was exposed, in rapid succession, to anti-Health Shuler and anti-Charles Taylor campaign ads. It is fascinating that neither Taylor nor Shuler was ever mentioned in the ad that each sponsored. They were all about the shortcomings of the other guy. Maybe at the end, there was a statement similar to, "I'm Heath Shuler (Charles Taylor), and I endorse this message with all its lies, distortions, and character assignations."

If even a fraction of the charges are valid, these guys should both be in bright orange jump suits instead of Armani suits. Few Congressmen or congressional wannabes shop at Walmart. Even fewer retired congressmen need to pinch pennies. No wonder people fight so hard for these jobs. No wonder they discard truth, fairness, and dignity for a chance to go to Washington. Win once and one is almost guaranteed to be elected again and again, unless he gets too greedy or frolics too openly in the congressional cloak room. Holding government office is about greed and ego. It is about ambition rather than service. I don't think it was always so. I believe there was a time when citizen politicians, like citizen soldiers, served when they were needed and then returned to the farm, the shop, or the newspaper.

I've been hearing for several years about the proliferation of negative ads, but my experience the other morning was a real eye-opener. I could not have imagined how unsavory the electoral process had become, how trite, how petty, how mean-spirited. Neither ad addressed the candidate's position nor those of his opponent, on issues that concern me. On Election Day, I had planned to follow the strategy of throwing out one bunch of bums every few years and installing a new set of bums to replace them. That approach presumably keeps the first bunch from getting too deeply into our pockets. It's hard to unseat an incumbent after he has employed the resources of the United States government to fortify his seat, but I believed it was the duty of the electorate to try.

After watching those ads last week, I've decided that the aspirant bum is every bit as bad as the incumbent bum. I've resolved further, that I won't waste my time going down to the Sacky...
MC’s New Century Scholars inducted at SCC

Sixty-two seventh grade students from Macon Middle, Highlands and Nantahala schools, representing the class of 2012, were recently inducted into the New Century Scholars Program at Southwestern Community College. After a cookout to celebrate the occasion, the students, their families and friends, and educational officials from Macon County and SCC gathered in Myers Auditorium for an induction ceremony.

“This is your first day of college,” SCC president Dr. Cecil Groves told the young people.

Groves went on to talk about the value of the New Century Scholars Program and explained that each student now has the opportunity to receive a guaranteed college education with tuition paid through Southwestern and, if the students choose to go on, another two years at Western Carolina University.

The New Century Scholars Program, begun in 1995, is a collaborative educational effort among the public schools in Macon, Jackson and Swain counties and Southwestern Community College. The program targets “high potential” students at the end of sixth grade and provides extra support to those students through their middle school and high school years.

Students are nominated based on their potential for academic success, yearly promotion and leadership ability. Selected students must display effort in the classroom and have a positive attitude and desire for education, have good behavior and character and meet the county attendance policy.

Upon completion of high school, each student is awarded a tuition scholarship for each of his/her two years at Southwestern Community College.

If RE-ELECTED
As your Sheriff...

• I will lead an even more aggressive charge in the fight against drugs.

• I will further build on the partnerships that I have established within our community.

• I will continue to be committed to our youth, their safety, and their future.

• I will expand crime prevention efforts within the Sheriff’s Office.

• As always, I will be available to the citizens and my office will be accountable to our community.

Married 13 years to Marci, a Macon County School Social Worker. Members of Pine Grove Baptist Church. Residents of the Cullasaja Community. Son of the late Arvil Lester Holland. Grandson of Lester and Donnie Holland. Member of the Sheriff’s Office since 1991.

“Thank you for all your calls of support, but most importantly, all your thoughts and prayers during the election process.”

- Robby, Marci & Boots

Deputies are now more involved with our schools & our youth.

Sheriff Holland implemented “Reality Check 101.” It’s a program for students in Macon County Schools where inmates volunteer to tell students about the effects drugs have had on their lives, the lives of their families and the consequences of their drug addiction.

““It’s about the choices we made.”

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

Continuing to Enforce the Law...
FAIRLY
HONESTLY & PROFESSIONALLY

DRUG ARRESTS are UP by more than 40%
CRIME is DOWN by 16% in Macon County

“These numbers show that by working together, we ARE making a difference in Macon County.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments or concerns.”

Sixty-two seventh grade students from Macon Middle, Highlands and Nantahala schools, representing the class of 2012, were recently inducted into the New Century Scholars Program at Southwestern Community College, included, (L to R): Gabrielle Tilson, Emily Munger, Kimberly Machuca, Cody St. Germain. Not pictured: Clayton Creighton, Shelby Houston and Austin Reese.
**BOOK REVIEW WITH KATIE BRUGGER**

**“With God on Our Side”**

This summer I read the new book of one of my favorite political writers, Kevin Phillips, entitled “American Theocracy.” I fully intended on reviewing it, that is, until I read it. First of all, it is three books in one. Phillips argues that there are three major problems facing this country: radical religion, oil dependency, and increasing indebtedness, so I found the book’s title misleading.

But my main problem with the book is that he never made the case that radical religion is a problem (he does a better job on the other two). His premise is there is a possibility that religious fundamentalists are going to take over this country and turn it into a Christian version of the Taliban. He suggests this is true, and makes all sorts of claims that it is true, but there was no evidence. I found myself searching on the internet for the proof that Phillips should have provided, and I decided I shouldn’t be proving the author’s case for him.

I believe the Republican Party has become the dominant political party due to the formation of a coalition made up of traditional Republicans — low taxes, no regulation, libertarian — and religious fundamentalists, whose main concern are moral matters — abortion, sex, marriage.

The majority of traditional Republicans really don’t care about the issues that matter to the religious right, but they have found the merger to their advantage so they are willing to play the game to keep the religious voting Republican. And it’s been good for the religious right also: Republican-orchestrated decreases in regulation and taxation on religious organizations were detailed in the recent “New York Times” series “In God’s Name.”

But as this decade has progressed the divide between the two sides of the coalition has gotten increasingly obvious. Every year the Republican politicians trot out the “family values” issues in time for the election, promising such tinkers as a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage in return for the evangelical vote, and then every odd year those family values issues seem to disappear from the Washington agenda, even while there’s lots of time for wars and tax cuts.

A religious conservative has written a book, to be released this week, that makes this exact point. The author, David Kuo, was second-in-command in the Office of Faith-Based Initiatives from 2001-2003. “Tempting Faith: An Inside Story of Political Seduction,” reportedly describes the disdain that people in the Bush administration show for the religious right and claims that the reason for the “faith-based initiatives” was not to help religious organizations help the poor, but to manipulate the members of religious organizations to vote Republican. (Keith Olbermann of MSNBC has done some reports on this book; you can see them online at crooksandliars.com)

If I was an evangelical voter I would feel very used right now. The Republican Party doesn’t follow through on its promises. With control of both houses of Congress and the White House, why hasn’t there been legislation banning abortion and gay unions?

Phillips proposes a motive for the Republicans in courting the religious right: “Economic conservatives often warm to sects in which a preoccupation with personal salvation turns lower-income persons away from distracting visions of economic and social reform.”

This is not to say some traditional Republicans aren’t opposed to abortion, indeed many of these people have never gotten over the changes the sixties brought. However, it is clear from polling data that the majority of Americans — including Republicans — are in favor of gay rights, abortion, stem-cell research, etc.

I have read most of Ann Coulter’s latest book “Godless: The Church of Liberalism.” I don’t think I’ll ever be able to get through one of her books in its entirety — she is insane in my opinion — but I was curious to see what she had to say on this subject. What the book turns out to be is just an excuse for her to vent her paranoia about liberals. Phillips may have not made his point, but Coulter can’t seem to remember what her point is. She came up with a couple of cute phrases, such as “the public school is the temple and teachers are the high priests” and “abortion is the sacrament” that paint a picture of a “liberal secular church” and then she goes off on a rant after rave of wild accusations and strange often absurd claims about liberals.

Coulter directs most of her venom at scientists, in particular “Darwiniacs” (a typically charming Coulterism) who “renounce God and instead worship Darwin.” Richard Dawkins is exactly the sort of atheist, scientist, and religion-basher she loves to hate — his latest book is called The God Delusion — but Coulter’s claim that all liberals and all believers in evolution are anti-God is ridiculous.

Her distortions are too bizarre to address. Here’s a typical quote: “Their grandiose self-conceptions to the contrary, the cult members [those who believe in evolution] are rarely scientists at all. They’re almost always biologists — the ‘science’ with the greatest preponderance of women.” Did you get it?
One week left of HS boys soccer

Jake Heffington keeps control of the ball during the Hayesville game at home in Highlands. Highlands won 9-1. Photo by Noel Atherton

... BOOK REVIEW continued from page 10

that? Biologists aren’t scientists, and perhaps the reason that is so is because so many of them are women. Why do conservative women so often argue against the capabilities of their own sex? Actually, science is one area in which the Republican-religious alliance has done real harm. The Bush administration is engaged in a war on science, but I think this is as much for their own convenience as it is to please the fundamentalists. Sure they’ve banned stem-cell research and insisted on abstinence-only sex education, but the real pay-off is elsewhere. Ignoring and questioning scientific findings makes it a lot easier to eliminate regulation and to refuse to take action on such “non-problems” as global warming.

On the cover of “Godless” Coulter is wearing her trademark black and a conspicuous cross on a chain around her neck. I looked at the covers of some of her other books, and on those she’s wearing low-cut black tops and no cross. Excuse me for thinking this is shameless condescension towards Christians. It appears to me that Coulter is exploiting the religious right for personal gain — to sell books — in addition to doing her part to rile the evangelical troops to help the Republicans win another election.

One day the religious right will wake up to the fact that they are being exploited and they will exit the Republican Party. This may already be happening, with the Congressional page scandal adding fuel to the history of unfulfilled promises.

Pat Oliphant’s cartoon of Oct. 13 is right to this point. The cartoon shows President Bush at the pulpit of an empty church (except for someone at the organ), and Bush is saying: “Now let us all sing Hymn Number 503. What a friend we have in a stay-the-course, family-values, anti-abortion, ban-the-homos, conservative right-wing Republican Jesus.” Two figures are in the foreground. One says: “He could preach to the choir,” and the other replies, “Had they stayed.”

This Republican Party coalition has always been unnatural and it is only a matter of time before it splits up. There is no chance that the religious right will take over the Republican Party. There is no way the religious right will win over the majority of Americans on social issues. I’m sorry conservatives, but the liberals won the culture wars a long time ago.

This isn’t to say that there isn’t a wacko fringe out there who want to institute a Christian Taliban here. If you doubt that, just google “Christian Reconstruction.” This is a movement that “calls for Christians to put their faith into action in all areas of life including civil government, and envisions, among other things, the private and civil enforcement of the general principles of Old Testament and New Testament moral law, including those expounded in the case laws and summarized in the Old Testament Decalogue.” – Wikipedia.com

My message to liberals worrying about an American theocracy: there are plenty of urgent problems facing this country, don’t waste your time on phantoms.
Leadership Highlands Class of 2007 activities begin

The Leadership Highlands Class of 2006-07 just completed a challenging and comprehensive opening retreat at Clemson's outdoor lab for leadership training.

The first challenge was getting to Clemson by 9 am on a Tuesday morning through the fog. One member of this class had just sprained her ankle the day before but arrived ready to take on the program.

Leadership Highlands' mission is to enhance development of leadership skills in the community and maintain an effective network of committed leaders in our community and this class was ready to go! The morning exercises directed by the Outdoor Laboratory at Clemson put the group through team building challenge work and it took jumping through hoops literally. The class proceeded to a fine lunch and a short respite at the center then settled into a workshop conducted by Chuck Ewart. Ewart is world renowned for his seminars with chambers across the nation and leadership training.

Chuck has served on many chamber boards in NC and SC and received numerous honors for his work and dedication to his communities and abroad. Over the two-day retreat the class discussed areas such as diversity, desert survival, and leadership modeling and planning to name a few.

The next challenge for this class will be monthly presentations and continuing leadership training. WNC professors Dr. Leroy Kaufmann, Dr. Beverly Little, and Dr. Phillip Little will present the training sessions. The class will also use the morning to arrange speakers and field trips for other members to put their talents and skills into action.

The areas of focus for presentations are economy, education, health and human services, government and law, arts and culture, and environment. If you would like to learn more about this program please call the Chamber of Commerce at 526-5841.
‘Lord of War’

Lord of War 2005 Drama/Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage (Weatherman, National Treasure, Raising Arizona, and more), Ethan Hawke (Assault on Precinct 13, Taking Lives ) Jared Leto (American Psycho, Alexander), and a solid supporting cast. Written and directed by Andrew Niccol (Terminal, Simone, and Truman Show), and music (score in its upbeat tone) by Antonio Pinto. Rated R for some very disturbing scenes of violence.

The Storyline Yuri Orlov (Cage) is a Ukrainian immigrant who came to the U.S. as a child, has he assimilated well. All it takes is witnessing one mob assassination attempt to tell him where the money is that drives a market economy. So while some in his family pursue a career in the restaurant trade, he works on learning the ins and outs of the arms dealing trade. And it turns out he just has a natural talent. Before you know it, he is rubbing elbows with some of the world’s most deranged sadists ever be recognized as legitimate heads of state.

As his career takes off, he engages the help of his little brother, Vitaly (Jared Leto) who is not exactly the most tightly wrapped package under the tree. Together they tour some of the world’s least desirable vacation destinations, and make a handsome living of it.

Along the way they attract the attention of Jack Valentine, a dedicated and apparently incorruptible Interpol agent (played by Ethan Hawke), and they continue to travel in the same circles for as long as they are in essentially the same line of business, that is hanging around really bad people in really bad places.

A very well done, compelling, and rather grim drama, brilliantly narrated in a rather monotone style by Cage, it seems real enough, at least to those of us who don’t have an extensive background in arms dealing. Apparently many of the characters in the story are thinly fictionalized portrayals of actual people involved in arms trade.

It seems pretty clear that one of the repeat customers is patterned after Charles Taylor of Liberia (complete with cannibalism references) and Cage’s character is based on a former KGB agent, Viktor Bout, who took the loss of his job, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, as a clear indicator that capitalism was definitely the way to go.

There is a fair level of action but the story really is more of a narrative, as the character of Yuri describes the history of his life, business, and the entwining of the two in a methodical, sociopathic sort of way.

Good performances by the supporting cast, but there is no question that this is Cage’s show, and he does his usually stellar performance, as he does in nearly all of his roles, in films as diverse as the comic thug-punk in movies like Raising Arizona and Amos And Andrew, the annoying Yuppie in Vampires Kiss and the dreadful Leaving Las Vegas.

If you like this one, a few more in political/drama/thriller genre are Rules of Engagement, Syriana, Contender, and Manchurian Candidate. There are about 5000 others are available at Movie Stop Video, stop on by and take a look.

Highlands School Alumni Basketball Game

By Marlee McCall

On Nov. 18 in the new gym at Highlands School, there will be a fundraiser to support the Booster Club, which in turn provides money for Highlands’ athletes, and the Jack Cabe Endowment Fund.

Jack Cabe was the Highlands’ School basketball coach from 1964 to 1975 while he also taught sixth grade. His two children, Pat and Geoff graduated from Highlands. He died in 1997 from cancer. After his passing some of his former player established the fund.

Come support Highlands School athletics starting with barbecue by Doc Wilson served at 6 pm. The basketball game featuring Highlands’ School alumni follows. Entertainment will be provided between each quarter, including cheerleading, contests, and door prize distribution. The event is free but donations will be accepted and “School Spirit” items such as chairs and T-shirts will be sold.

For more information or to sign up to play, call Brett Lamb at (828) 526-2147. This event is possible thanks to the backing of the following sponsors: Wayah Bank, Highlands Construction, Smokey Mountain Chevrolet, Pescadoes, Lloyd Construction, Carolina Homes by Design, Macon Bank, High Country Photo.
... MULLEN from page 3

public as to the importance of recycling. I am convinced we can certainly make it work in Highlands. The State of NC gives incentives for successful programs and the materials which can be recycled has expanded yearly. Collection efficiency includes same-day as waste collection and use of special carts. With good leadership, good management and education of the public, Highlands can make recycling work just as many towns in North Carolina have done. There are now 357 recycling programs in our state in both small and large municipalities. The time has come for Highlands to become a part of this.

At this meeting of the League of Municipalities there was also a session on Strategic Leadership For Municipal Boards put on by the School of Government from Chapel Hill. Strategic leadership and planning on our boards and on our Board of Commissioners is important to the proper and efficient function of our town as we look at where we have been, where we are now, where do we want to be and how will we get there. I hope we can have a retreat of our Board sometime early next at a different location so we can brainstorm our past and future.

There was also a very fine session on Ethics in Public Life, a topic that recently has been in the public eye because of ethical breaches in Washington. Fleming Bell, a professor at the Institute and School of Government in Chapel Hill, has written a book, Ethics, Conflicts, and Offices: A Guide for Local Officials. He led this interesting session at the meeting in Greensboro. I will leave you with a quote from M. Scott Peck on ethical “smugness” which we always need to contemplate in decision making. “The capacity for ethical behavior is dependent on the capacity for us to question the validity of our perceptions and values. Virtually all of the evil in this world is committed by people who are absolutely certain they know what they are doing.” Let us all hope we can be honest with ourselves.

... REDMOUNTAIN from page 7

election every four years, also requires vast amounts of money, even for an incumbent like President Bush in 2004. It cost over $200 million for him to get re-elected, and only a little less for John Kerry to lose. You know that a lot of corporations “invested” their money in each candidate, hoping it would eventually pay off.

In third world countries, you have to bribe everyone from the permits clerk to the judge. That’s what we usually mean by corruption. Here we have a higher quality of corruption. We send money directly to our elected officials only we call it a campaign contribution.

I haven’t yet even touched on the biggest corruption of all — the granting of government contracts and purchases to favored corporations.

In Iraq, as former ambassador Brennan testified, trunks full of hundred dollar bills were handed out willy-nilly, to contractors, Iraqi politicians, and anyone clever enough to get in line. On top of that,

... ANOTHER VIEW from page 8

Community Center to vote for either of them. But don’t worry. I have never accepted the argument that one who fails to vote relinquishes his right to criticize the government. I pledge that on the first Thursday after the first Tuesday after the first November in November, I’ll be back telling you what I think about our government and the drones who feed off of it. If it didn’t require several hundred dollars, promises to special interests and at least one opinion that matches yours, I might make a run myself.

Then again, maybe I would not have to acknowledge that I oppose American Imperialism, government for special interests, and slow destruction of our planet, nor that I prefer that the religious right stay in church and out of politics, that our elected officials serve us rather than themselves and their corporate masters, that we protect our borders even while welcoming those who have resided within those borders for years, nor that I am unwilling to sacrifice American freedom on an altar of fear.

Then again, maybe I wouldn’t have to reveal these obvious flaws. I could just claim that my opponent had slept with his father in law.

dozens of corporations friendly to the Bush administration, like Halliburton (formerly run by Cheney) and Custer Battles, have won non-bidding contracts, overcharged, and defrauded the government. And they routinely get away with it. It doesn’t take a genius to figure out how this works. It’s a shell game carried on at the highest levels. A corporation gives a sizeable contribution, say two million dollars, to the Republican Party (there is no limit to the “soft money” that can be given to a political organization). The corporation then “wins” (from a Republican-led government) a no-bid contract for several million, with an over-run of a couple of million more. Everyone except the average taxpayer profits. It’s legal corruption of the highest degree.

Until someone in Washington has the guts to write and pass a constitutional law that takes the money out of politics, and creates very limited public funding of elections, we will be watching what’s left of our democracy flow down the sewer. We’re at the 23rd hour now. And you can only imagine the kind of government we will inherit when time runs out.

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Casa Luna area, Mtn. & Lake Views, screened porch & open deck, total renovation in 2002. $675,000 mls #59065

Casa Luna area, Mtn. & Lake Views, screened porch & open deck, total renovation in 2002. $675,000 mls #59065

Desireable Sagee Mountain, 3 bed, 4 1/2 bath, den/rec room, spectacular mountain view! Top quality! Offered at $1,995,000.

VZ TOP CONDO - 3 bedroom, 2 bath furnished condo. Spectacular views. Offered at $395,000.

4.72+/- acres, 3 bed, 2 bath home, stable, fenced pasture & mountain view. Offered at $775,000. mls #55620

2 bed, 2 1/2 bath home on a 1+/- acre lot with a meadow feel off of Flat Mountain Road. Offered at $385,000.

SAGEE MOUNTAIN, 3 bed, 3 1/2 bath, cathedral ceilings, hardwood, marble floors, 2 fireplaces, 2 garages, generator, $1,750,000. mls #60537

Little Bear Pen Mt., Outstanding view, 3 bed, 3 bath w/2 master suites, in-town location. Offered at $799,000. mls #60211

King Mountain Club, Great View, 5 Bed, 5 1/2 Bath, Finished Basement. Generator, Large Home, Offered at $1,100,000. mls #60122

SAGEE WOODS, 3 bed, 3 1/2 bath, fenced pasture & mountain view. Offered at $775,000. mls #55620

VZ TOP, 2 bed, 2 bath, one level, many updates. Gated access, tennis courts. Offered furnished at $395,000. mls #59420

4.67+/- acres, 4 bed, 3 bath, additional lot available. Best buy in Sagee. Offered at $849,000. mls #60121

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**ETJ continued from page 1**

Bryson. “All they have to do is put it in writing.”

Town Attorney Bill Coward and County Attorney Rickey Moorefield appeared before Judge Dennis Winter in Supreme Court in Franklin, Wednesday, Oct. 25. Coward filed a motion of summary judgment and Moorefield filed a brief in opposition to the town’s motion for summary judgment titled “Plaintiff Bryson’s Brief in Opposition to Defendant’s Motion for Summary Judgment.”

Now Coward is asking if the county is no longer a party in the case, as ruled by the courts Sept. 14, why is the county attorney representing citizen Allan Bryson and why aren’t the briefs which were written on county letterhead faxed on a county fax machine from the county annex building?

Moorefield emailed the following statement to Bryson:

“I am sending this written confirmation of the arrangements for my continuing to represent you individually in the lawsuit against the Town of Highlands. First, of all, the dismissal of the county and the county commissioners has been appealed to the Court of Appeals. The county’s case is not eliminated, it is simply being appealed. “The issues with respect to the county’s portion of the case and your individual portion of the case are very interrelated. When this case was filed, I asked you to allow yourself to be named as an individual plaintiff because of the difficulty of establishing that the county had standing to file the suit in the first place.

“After the county was dismissed, I discussed with you that it would be more efficient and cheaper for the county if the board voted to authorize me to continue to represent you individually because protecting your interest would promote the county’s interest in seeing that the ETJ residents were provided appropriate representation.

“You did not want to do that and told me that you would pay me to represent you out of your own pocket if I could do so in a manner that would keep your portion of the case separate from the county’s.

“You said you were willing to hire another lawyer yourself if I thought you should. I told you that I felt responsible for getting you into this lawsuit and that I would continue to represent you individually at no charge.” Winter’s will rule later this week.

**... SPEAK continued from page 1**

is not required and the town doesn’t have a fence ordinance of any kind,” he said.

Thomas Craig, newly appointed vice chair of the commission, suggested the commission let the Town Board know how it stands on the issue.

“When something like this goes this public - when something that affects the appearance of the town is going on, we should make a statement to the Town Board,” he said.

Newly appointed chairman Rick Siegel asked the question and commission members unanimously agreed to draft a statement even though the commission knows it’s only an advisory board with no authority.

In other Appearance Commission business, members unanimously accepted the Highlands Park condominium project plans as presented, with a few suggestions concerning exterior moldings. Nellis must also return to the commission with a landscape plan.

Following the Appearance Commission, the Planning Board sat.

Gantenbein said he has drafted four more notices of violation against RiverWalk on the grounds that silt continues to leave the property, polluting both the perennial stream on the Daughtrey property and the Cullasaja River.

**... HIGH-RISE continued from page 1**

property to Bill Shepherd, who allegedly plans to build a high-rise condominium complex on the site.

Now the Davises are suing Old Hickory Cove LLC on the grounds that previously agreed to residential covenant restrictions won’t be adhered to. Traditionally, residential covenants follow the land, but Dupree contends “mutually agreed to restrictions were never finalized prior to closing on Jan. 15, 2004.”

“The buyer and seller must mutually agree on restrictions similar to those of Highlands Point. This unrestricted property was conveyed and the buyer and seller never mutually agreed to restrictions. The property closed in January 15, 2004 and nothing more was done until my client sold the property,” Fromnecht told Winters.

Fromnecht agreed the parties discussed restrictive covenants for the then-planned residential subdivision, “but those covenants weren’t finalized or filed anywhere,” he said.

Winters said a letter in the David’s complaint says they did agree.

“There was talk back and forth, but never a final agreement. Nothing happened until my client tried to resell this property,” said Fromnecht. “The agreement to agree was never fulfilled. If restrictions had been agreed to, they would have been stipulated to the complaint, Judge.”

Attorney Jones alleges the parties reached an agreement as to restrictive covenants prior to closing. “There was a checklist of conditions prior to closing and they were similar to Highlands Point. They even agreed that Linda David would sit on the association board,” he said.

Judge Winters said there is an ambiguity in the contract, after closing and there is no clearance of ambiguity in the deed.

Jones said the facts stand, that an agreement as to restrictive covenants were made prior to closing.

Meanwhile, the transaction between Dupree and Shepherd is closed in escrow awaiting the decision of Judge Winters.
... LETTERS continued from page 2

on very small lots, leaving nearly 80 percent of the 4.22-acre property in common area with heavily vegetated green space including a beautiful park area along the highway. The alternative for OEL is a two-story strip mall including apartments and a parking along the commercially zoned highway with the back half of the property used for ½-acre building sites for large homes. That would mean no common area green space, no park along the highway and probably not a tree left standing by the time development is complete.

I and the family who originally owned the entire tract along the highway as well as the entire Pinecrest Subdivision, Jack Walker, were there as representatives of the Pinecrest subdivision home owners with a petition in favor of the project signed by every property owner in the subdivision.

The Board turned down OEL with its usual discriminatory arrogance and snide, sarcastic comments after allowing the one citizen, who was there in opposition, to speak freely.

I spoke and tried to present our petition and speak in favor of the project on behalf of the entire Pinecrest neighborhood.

I asked the Board to consider our feelings, that residential use of this type was the best use of the land and would harmonize with the surrounding neighborhood. When Mr. Walker (age 82) tried to speak, he was rudely told by the Mayor that they decided who would be allowed to speak and that he could not speak. He went so far to say that "this is not an open meeting.'

Commissioner Patterson commented that the Board would decide the zoning, not the neighborhood. Whatever!

When the Board considered the Werder property rezoning (directly across the street from this project) to multifamily earlier this year, they greeted the neighbors in opposition to the project with open arms, allowed them to speak multiple times at multiple meetings, both planning and town meetings, and warmly received their petition in opposition and made it part of the meeting record.

I had to go to the Town Hall the next day and ask to have our petition added to the record because the Board did not accept it during the meeting. Also during the meeting, Commissioner Marsh stated that "There's no point in sending this on to the Planning Board because we already know the vote will be — four against and three for it. I say we just deny it now!"

What a revealing statement! How does he know how the Planning Board would view the OEL project? How could the Planning Board possibly be effective if we know what the vote will be before it is heard?

 Commissioner Ross stated "I would be in favor of two per acre but no more."

Ironically, he had just voted, an hour earlier, in favor of three per acre on the Nellis project on Harris Lake.

Commissioner Marsh, Ross and Patterson's statements lay bare what is really driving the majority of this Board, and certainly the Mayor — personal agendas which tend to serve those whose thinking is as their own.

How many times have we heard the statement from this board "We cannot do this because it would set a precedent"? Folks, I'm here to tell you that a "precedent" has already happened!

It's not who you are, how your land is zoned, or what issue the majority of the people ask to be considered in Highlands anymore; it is who you know and if you think the same as this faction.

It is apparent that all citizens of Highlands do not have the right to be heard and that all citizens are not treated equally! If you don't believe me, ask Mayor Mullen!

Georgia Sanders Highlands

Have a safe and happy trick-or-treating

Dear Editor,

We at the Highlands Police Department offer the following tips to children and parents this Halloween.

Trick-or-Treaters:
• Carry a flashlight
• Walk, don't run.
• Stay on sidewalks
• Obey traffic signals
• Stay in familiar neighborhoods
• Don't cut across yards or driveways
• Wear a watch you can read in the dark.
• Make sure costumes don't drag on the ground.
• Shoes should fit (even if they don't go with your costume)
• Avoid wearing masks while walking from house to house
• Carry only flexible knives, swords or other props
• (If no sidewalk) walk on the left side of the road facing traffic
• Wear clothing with reflective markings or tape
• Approach only houses that are lit
• Stay away from and don't pet animals you don't know.

Parents:
• Make your child eat dinner before setting out.

See LETTER page 20

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Highlands Community Players’
‘Crimes of the Heart’ opens Oct. 26

By Beth Henley

The Highlands Community Players first production of the 2006-2007 season opens on Thursday, October 26th with Crimes of the Heart. This Pulitzer Prize winning comedy-drama examines the plight of three Mississippi sisters whose lives reunite when the youngest of them, Baba (Katie Cochran) has just shot her husband. The oldest sister, Lenny (Lee Lyons) takes care of their ailing grandfather and thinks she is turning into an old maid; while Meg (Breta Schulte) the middle sister, who tried to make it in Hollywood, has had a wild life filled with many men. The reunion of this dysfunctional family causes much joy, but also many tensions. Their troubles are highlighted by several additional characters including priggish cousin, Chick (Mary Adair Leslie), a jilted ex-lover, Doc Porter (Ron Leslie) and an amorous young lawyer, Barnette Lloyd (Nathan Smith). Crimes of the Heart is the story of how these sisters escape the past, survive crisis after crisis, and seize a positive future.

Crimes of the Heart, is directed by Jim Gordon and the talented production team includes Tanji & Stuart Armor, Sue & Jim Schulte and Byron Gordon.

The box office is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For tickets and reservations please call: 828-526-8004.

Crimes of the Heart opens on Thursday, Oct. 26 and continues through the weekend and the next weekend, November 2 - 5. Evening performances begin at 7:30pm and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30pm. All performances are at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, Chestnut Street, Highlands. The Highlands Community Players present Good Plays, Well Done.
New gallery opens on 4th Street

Gallery on 4th celebrated their official opening with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony. Pictured from left to right are: Steve Chenoweth, Michelle Hubbell, Al Skwiertz, Jan Van Hook, Rick Siegel, Matthew Smith, Laura Harrison & Jim Mullen. Gallery on 4th specializes in original oil paintings, antique furniture, jewelry, ceramics, and the most unusual “Wood Blossoms”.

Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner
11:00AM ~ 4:00PM
$18.95 Adults, plus tax
$12.95 Children, plus tax

Or Family Dinners To-Go
(Serves 4-6 people)
10-12 lb. Smoked Whole Turkey
Choice of Two Sides & Whole Pumpkin Pie
Side choices include: Cornbread Stuffing and Gravy, Green Beans, Black-Eyed Peas, Sweet Potato Soufflé, and Baked Beans

$35.00, plus tax
Family Dinner To-Go Orders must be placed by
Tuesday, November 21, 2006.
Pick-up between 10:00AM ~ 5:30PM
November 22–23, 2006

For more information call 828–526–2626

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HS Fall Festival epitomizes family fun

Final figures aren’t in yet, but traditionally the festival is Highlands School’s biggest fundraiser. This year’s festival was Saturday, Oct. 21 at the school. Above Katie Ingram gets a special creation painted on her face. Below, Ethan and Eliza Tate frolick in the castle bounce.

... LETTERS from page 17
- Children should carry quarters so they can call home.
- Ideally, young children of any age should be accompanied by an adult.
- If your children go on their own, be sure they wear a watch, preferably one that can be read in the dark.
- If you buy a costume, look for one made of flame-retardant material.
- Older children should know where to reach you and when to be home.
- You should know where they’re going.
- Although tampering is rare, tell children to bring the candy home to be inspected before consuming anything.
- Look at the wrapping carefully and toss out anything that looks suspect.

Now go out and have a safe and happy Halloween!

Highlands Police Department

... VOLLEYBALL from 1

tended their stamina enabling them to better compete in the intense matches they faced.

To our delight, as the season progressed, they realized the benefit outweighed the pain as they continued to win and advance to the state playoffs. The coaching staff had high expectations and the girls answered in full with a successful and triumphant season.

As their coach I am proud of all the achievements individually and as a team. It has been my privilege to have the opportunity to be the coach of such a wonderful group of young ladies.

Don’t miss the Highlands School Alumni Basketball Game in the new gym, 7 p.m., Nov. 18!

... VOLLEYBALL from 1
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Lake front home with private dock • $1,699,000.00

If you love the lake and the convenience of being in the city; then this is the home you have been waiting for! The exterior is a perfectly balanced blend of stone, cedar shake and bead board. The interior finish is a collective masterpiece by three of Highlands distinctive artists. There are three master suites, the main floor master includes two fireplaces, one in the bath and one from the jetted tub. There are four fireplaces, four full baths and one half bath. The great room, dining room, kitchen and master suite share the same breathtaking view of the lake. The two terrace level suites, den and exercise room have an equally impressive view. Expansive decks on both levels make this home perfect for entertaining. The garage and work shop are entry level. There is easy access to the private dock and fire pit. Call Jan Davis for details.

Also available at Sequoyah Point are two vacant lots - Lot 1 (0.67 +/- acres) with 230 +/- ft. shore frontage for $500,000; and Lot 2 (0.59 +/- acres) with 230 +/- ft. shore frontage $550,000.

Inside the City Limits
Private End Unit with Separate Guest Suite • $359,000

This stately Williamsburg residence commands a prime corner of park-like grounds with formal grace. Towering trees lend sublime beauty creating a sensational background for fashionable Highlands gatherings on the expansive deck. The elegant main floor fills a generous portion of the townhome with pristine formal rooms, a fire-lite great room, island kitchen, spacious dining area, laundry room and is highlighted by a private master suite that overlooks the forest setting. Two handsome bedrooms and a bath on the upper level completes the primary living area and sequesters the family in serenity. Guests enjoy a delightful one bedroom, one bath garden level apartment with full kitchen and covered patio. Soaring ceilings, glowing wood floors and light-filled rooms make this an exceptional value. Furnishings are negotiable.

Information herein deemed reliable but not guaranteed.
Full-time cardiologist Dr. Carl Curtiss and radiology manager Laura Ammons discuss the need to upgrade the hospitals current ultrasound unit. A new unit is already on order that will provide state-of-the-art imaging for cardiology and other diagnostic purposes.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital getting ‘to the heart of the matter’

The hospital announced plans this week to make a major investment in its cardiology program. It plans to purchase more than $500,000 in new diagnostic equipment over the course of the next few months. And it will assume sole responsibility for providing the financial support needed to establish its new full-time cardiologist, now that the hospital’s former partner in the venture is no longer in the picture.

“The board of directors, with the full support of the foundation board, is committed to providing the resources necessary to ensure that we have a successful cardiology program here,” said hospital President and CEO Ken Shull. “All of us recognize that we need to move forward and build on the progress we have been making in the nine months since Dr. Carl Curtiss opened his practice here.”

Late last year the hospital entered into a joint venture with Northeast Georgia Heart Center in Gainesville, GA, to bring a full-time cardiologist to the area. Dr. Curtiss moved here from Colorado to become the cardiologist at the Mountain Heart Center, which opened last February in Suite 304 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic. However, Curtiss left the cardiology group at the end of September, and the hospital and Northeast Georgia Heart Center amicably dissolved their partnership, said Shull.

“Dr. Curtiss wanted to stay in the area and the hospital wanted to keep him here,” said Shull.

We believe full-time cardiology is very important to our communities, especially considering the average age of the population here,” said Shull. “Cardiology was the specialty listed as most important by those who responded to our communitywide survey conducted last fall.”

One crucial piece of diagnostic equipment, an ultrasound unit used for echocardiography, was being supplied by the Northeast Georgia group. So the hospital needs to upgrade its aging ultrasound unit in order to maintain the same imaging standard. Shull said that upgrade has been part of the hospital’s plans for several years anyway.

Laura Ammons, manager of the hospital’s radiology department, said ultrasound technology is used for far more than just cardiology. Ultrasound uses sound waves to image a wide variety of internal organs, such as the kidneys, liver, and heart, as well as to track fetal development and to spot tumors and lesions. The hospital averages more than 100 ultrasound procedures a month.

Ammons says the new unit being acquired, a Phillips HD 11, is one of the few on the market today that “does everything well.”

In the area of stress echocardiography, the new ultrasound unit will allow better viewing of blood vessels, heart pumping efficiency, and heart valve function, says Dr. Curtiss.

• See HEART page 30
The Buckerettes coming to ITC

Yeeehaa! Dust off yer best duds and mosey on over to The Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main to hear The Buckerettes in concert October 28 at 8 p.m.

Hailing from Asheville, The Buckerettes is a trio of cowgirls with a diverse background of musical histories. This variety is the foundation for The Buckerettes show, and includes folk, swing, jazz, country, bluegrass and old time, blues, good ole rock n’ roll and even a little MooTown. You’ll hear a cowgirl slant to some of their songs.

Offering unique and joyous vocal harmonies, playing guitar, fiddle and stand-up bass, “bucking the system” with their lively original and crowd pleasin’ songs, these cowgirls seem to reach across all fences and rope the audience in to ride along with them on the trail.

Roberta, Robin and Deb can get almost anyone on the dance floor or engage an audience for an evening of songs, comedy and pure entertainment.

Hang on to your saddles, with The Buckerettes leading the trail ride, anything can happen!

Prizes will be given for the best costume (of any type) and free chow will be around, too. Call the Instant Theatre Company at 828-342-9197 for tickets to the October 28 performance.

The Studio on Main is located in Highlands at 310 Main Street. The studio has free parking and elevator access to its intimate theatre.

Halloween Trail at Nature Center

Looking for a fun Halloween activity for the whole family? Then come to the Nature Center and walk the “Enchanted Forest” Nature Trail Saturday, Oct. 28.

The Nature Center staff will lead small groups through the Botanical Garden. Bring your flashlights and enjoy trick-or-treating along the trails where you will encounter a variety of friendly forest creatures portrayed by students from the Biological Station’s CEP. Learn about nature as each plant or animal you meet shares entertaining and interesting facts about themselves!

Groups will leave the Nature Center approximately every 15 minutes from 7-9 p.m. The cost for this event is only $1 per person. For more information, please call 526-2623.

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Tuesday, Oct. 17 at the Macon County Community Building, candidates for the three Macon County Commission seats answered a set of “yes-no or comment” questions put to them by the Macon County chapter of Property Owners of America.

Though they didn’t participate in the question and answer segment of the presentation, the candidates for the Sheriff’s office, State Senate and House were invited to give a brief three-minute statement prior to the question-answer segment.

The questions were categorized by subject.

PROPERTY RE-VALUATIONS

OVERVIEW: Over the next couple of years Macon County property owners will receive their new property re-valuations from the tax office. According to WLOS – (Asheville Channel 13) – Weaverville property owners just got hit with an average 42% across the board increase. Land values in Macon County have also risen substantially. Without any adjustment in the current millage rate our residents will be paying much more in property taxes. With Macon County “coffers” still quite healthy and growing every year as it is.

QUESTION: Would you vote to lower the millage rate so that the county property tax receipts would remain basically “revenue neutral” after revaluation with no more than say a maximum 5% overall increase?

Corbin: Yes. Last time the reva was lowered from 43 cents to 37 cents. I can see it going even lower this time.

Beale: Yes. Revenue neutral is good, but you have to be careful about that. The definition of revenue neutral is the addition of two different values – growth and personal property.

McClellan: Yes. We are the third lowest millage rate in the state. We have 5.91% of the share of income. I would like to look at homestead exemption and taxableness below a certain income. But we’re doing this backwards. We need to figure out what we need to spend and adjust the millage rate accordingly. The best way is to put back in not take it out to start with.

Bryson: Yes. We lowered the millage rate last time. I’m for revenue neutral – as low as we can do it. And we’re looking into homestead exemption.

Mashburn: Yes. But revenue neutral is just a Band-Aid. I’m for giving it back but people should keep to it and begin with.

Simpson: Yes. There is a statute mandate that revales are based on 100% tax value. Then cut from there. There no need to take more this year.

WHEN LAWS NEGATIVELY AFFECT PROPERTY VALUES

OVERVIEW: Government sometimes passes laws that are supposed to be “in the interest of the general public.” These laws may limit or restrict what a property owner can or can’t do with their property. At times, this can severely diminish the value of their property.

QUESTION: In such cases do you feel that a property owner is entitled to compensation for the loss of value in their property due to the passing of such a law?

Beale: Yes. If someone did something to my property, or if the government did something to my property.

McClellan: Yes. In an easy accessible way. Don’t want it to be impossible for the average person to get compensated. Should be easy to do so people don’t get frustrated with the process.

Bryson: Yes. The county should support people when hurt by the government.

Simpson: Yes. Any damage claim against people due to the government, like if a business has to close, people should be compensated. This is still America.

Corbin: Yes.

ROAD & ACCESS RIGHTS-OF-WAY

OVERVIEW: Many parcels in Macon County have minimal access easements that may only be 8 – 15 feet in width. If an ordinance mandating wider easements were ever adopted, it may prevent these people from subdividing their land. The word “subdivision” is understoof to mean the division of land into two or more parcels for resale.

QUESTION: Would you support an exemption for these property owners that would continue to allow them to subdivide their land so long as the subdivision was in accordance with all current laws?

McClellan: Yes. Exemption is a simple matter. They should be grandfathered in until that piece of property changes owners.

Bryson: Yes.

Mashburn: Yes. It’s the law.

DO WE NEED A SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE?

OVERVIEW: Macon County already has several laws on the books both state and local such as Erosion Control, Watershed, Environmental Health Services for Septic Tanks, Flood plane, Building codes etc. All of these are designed to regulate construction and development.

The Erosion Control Ordinance already requires approval of a “Preliminary Plat” together with a comprehensive plan to control erosion and sedimentation.

QUESTION: Assuming that all of these laws are being fully enforced, do you feel that we need additional regulations to control general “neighborhood housing development” in the form of a subdivision ordinance?

Mashburn: No. No land use and no subdivision laws.

Simpson: No, unless you want it. If we have any ordinance, it will be the one you want.

Corbin: No. Enforce what we have.

Beale: Yes. You know the planning board has been working on this. It’s in the hands of the commissioners now. The ordinance planned will help enforce the laws on the books now. We’re on the right track. Just take one step at a time. This is vital to the county.

McClellan: No. We don’t need what’s in the current form. Most subdivisions in the county are upscale. Additional regulations just add to the cost of construction and put’s affordable housing out reach of people.

Bryson: No. But we are in the early stages of this. We don’t need more rules, but we need to streamline the rules we now have in place. The purpose of the ordinance is to streamline the process so citizens can get faster service from the county.

STEEP SLOPE CONSTRUCTION

OVERVIEW: The building department has building codes and jurisdiction over all construction in Macon County requiring foundation inspections, engineering as needed, etc. The Soil & Erosion Control Ordinance regulates how roads are to be built over all types of terrain.
From left, Commission candidates incumbent Allan Bryson, Ricky Mashburn, incumbent Bob Simpson, incumbent Senator Snow’s representative, Ken McKim and Marge Carpenter. Phil Haire was unable to attend.

**CANDIDATE FORUM ... COMMISSION RACE**

**QUESTION:** Assuming that all these existing ordinances are being enforced, do you feel that we need additional rules governing construction on steep slopes?

Simpson: No. The truth is you can’t stop building on steep slopes - we’re in the mountains! But anything over 16% grade probably needs engineering requirements so the house or road doesn’t fall off the mountain. I don’t think that’s asking too much.

Corbin: No. I believe in property rights as long as everyone keeps their property on their own land.

Beale: Somewhat. This is discussed in the subdivision ordinance. We have to be proactive in the county or the state will step in and tell us what we can and can’t do. The valleys are filling up and there’s 50% left to build on in the county. I’d rather take care of it locally than through the state.

McClellan: No. We don’t need more ordinances. We need to reallocate our resources to enforce the soil and erosion sedimentation laws. More regulations puts housing costs out of reach. What happened at Peek’s Creek didn’t begin in a housing development it began on USFS land.

Bryson: No, as long as the health and general welfare is maintained and protected.

Mashburn: No.

**RIDGE TOP DEVELOPMENT**

**OVERVIEW:** The state currently has a Ridge Top Ordinance that applies to elevations in excess of 3,000 feet. This rule limits the height of any construction on these ridge tops to a maximum height of 35 feet.

**QUESTION:** Do you feel that additional laws are necessary to govern ridge top development insofar as single family home construction is concerned?

Corbin: No. There’s not much over 3,000 feet anyway. This is a perfect example of soil erosion laws we have in place. If we enforce those we don’t need anything else.

Beale: No.

McClellan: No. Just enforce what we’ve got.

Bryson: No.

Mashburn: No. Enforce what we have.

Simpson: No. We don’t need anything more at this time.

**WRITING OF ORDINANCES**

**OVERVIEW:** The County Attorney was responsible for the drafting of the pending subdivision ordinance. The Planning Board has had very little input as to its actual content. The public has been left almost completely out of the process.

**QUESTION:** Do you feel that the public and the people in the industry that is to be regulated should have a voice in the drafting of an ordinance that will affect them?

Beale: Yes. The recent subdivision ordinance was presented to the planning board in one afternoon. We voted unanimously to present it to the commission, but it is important to enforce what’s on the books. But need to kick it back to the planning board and re-establish the committee and go to the public for the answers. It works that way. People want a voice and they’ll tell you what they want.

McClellan: Yes. Everyone involved and affected should have a place at the table. We should work on a resolution beneficial to everyone.

Bryson: Yes. Government needs input from the community. We’ll get this worked out so that all can live with it.

Mashburn: Yes. For the people by the people.

Simpson: Yes. People have to have the vote to buy into this. We need everyone’s input.

Corbin: Yes. Everyone affected by any regulation should be involved.

**WATER & SEWER**

**OVERVIEW:** Considering the growth and the number of individual wells and septic systems being installed in Macon County.

**QUESTION:** Do you feel that at some point, Macon County should get into the water and sewer business?

McClennan: Yes. May have to if development continues outside municipalities. Citizens should have some choice.

Bryson: No. Not at this time. As it stands now, the new well ordinance put out by the state is mandatory.

Mashburn: Yes. Eventually we will have to especially with 1-1 1/2 acres septic system scenarios.

Simpson: Maybe. We’ve been discussing this for four years. Franklin is dealing with water/sewer as it grows. We’ve got new schools, the need for more infrastructure. We have to think about 10-20 years from now.

Corbin: No for now. Need to study this further. Sometime in the future we will have to look at water and sewer.

Beale: Not now but future growth will follow the water and sewer. If we lose our water quality, we’re in trouble. Those coming will be looking for clean water sources.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**COMMISSION**

**OVERVIEW:** Over the years, Macon County has spent a lot of money funding the Economic Development Commission or E.D.C. Very little seems to have been accomplished.

**QUESTION:** Based on the fact that construction and real estate is the primary source of jobs, do you feel that the E.D.C. should be re-evaluated and hire a full time person to promote Macon County?

Bryson: No. We do need to re-evaluate the EDC. As far as hiring a full-time person, not at this time.

Mashburn: Yes. Reevaluate the EDC and hire someone who can work 100% of the time on recruiting for Macon County.

Simpson: Maybe. We definitely need to re-evaluate the EDC. But a full-time person means using taxpayers’ money. When we open the new SCC, that will be a shot in the arm for Macon County. Clean industry is coming. People are beginning to move here full time.

Corbin: Yes. If the person has experience with high tech jobs and research high tech jobs so that when people graduate from SCC, we can put them to work.

Beale: Maybe. The EDC needs to be re-evaluated. But mainly the county has to be proactive. What do we have to offer these businesses? South Carolina gives them tax breaks for 10 years. We could use a grant writer, maybe not a full-time person.

McClellan: Yes. Need someone who reports to the MC Commission who is accountable. Need some full-time person with a clear mandate as to the types of jobs we’re looking for.

**ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT**

**OVERVIEW:** Both the Building and Erosion Control departments have enforcement personnel and a strict set of rules to enforce. The proposed subdivision ordinance provides very little in the way of guidelines. It is written in vague terms and leaves many unanswered questions.

**QUESTION:** Do you truly feel that the subdivision ordinance as currently written will help with the enforcement of existing laws? If yes – How?

Mashburn: No.

Simpson: No. It’s too difficult to understand. The language needs to be understandable to the people.

Corbin: Not yet. First of all, it’s not approved yet. And before it is, it must be carefully written.

Beale: Not yet. But we need regulations on the books that are enforceable.

McClellan: No. Not as it’s currently written. We need something to help enforce the current laws so rules aren’t enforced subjectively. Right now the ordinance is too vague to enforce. It needs to be clear and concise.

Bryson: Not yet. The purpose is to speed up the permitting process not take away property rights. If it harms no one, it will stand.

To learn more about the Macon County Chapter of Property Owners of America, go to www.propertyownersofamerica.org
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Vocal ensemble from Westminster School here Oct. 29

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  urday, in October. 2820 Dillard Road. Call 526-0229.
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  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 Sta-
  ble Barn on Oak Street.
• FREE improv classes at Instant Theater on
  Main Street. Call the ITC office at 828.526.1687. A
  new class is forming now. You may also email us at
  instanttheatre@instanttheatre.org. Come play with
  us!
• Angie Jenkins on the piano at the Old Clay-
  ton 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 happen-
  ing 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.
• Highlands Historic Village is open for tours
  Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through
  the end of October. The House-Traper-Wright Home
  and the Museum and Archives are located at 524
  N. 4th Street, across from the Funeral Home. Spe-
  cial 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.
• 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 Hospi-
  tal will have Osteoporosis prevention exercise
  classes on Mondays and Tuesdays of each week
  from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free with HealthTrack Mem-
  bership or $8 per class for non-members. Call
  Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.
• Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospi-
  tal is offering a total body and muscle-toning work-
  out exercise class at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thurs-
  days. Free with Health Track Membership or $8 for
  non-members. An advanced class will also be avail-
  able on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9 a.m.
  Contact Health Tracks at 828-526-1FIT.
• Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospi-
  tal is offering a total body and muscle-toning work-
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  Contact Health Tracks at 828-526-1FIT.

The Westminster Vocal Ensemble from the Westminster School in Atlanta will be in concert at First Presbyter-
ian Church, at 7 p.m. The group will also sing at the 11 a.m. service Sunday morning, Oct 29 at First
Presbyterian Church on Main Street.

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The Westminster Vocal Ensemble from the Westminster School in Atlanta will be in concert at First Presby-
terian Church, at 7 p.m. The group will also sing at the 11 a.m. service Sunday morning, Oct 29 at First
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Trick-or-Treating Oct. 31 in town

Characters of all ages, shapes and sizes will turn out for the town's annual trick-or-treating on Main and Fourth streets. The fun starts at 6 p.m. Walkers only! Pictured from last year from left are Megan Lewicki, Franka Dadic, Callie Rawlins and ... no one knows who the other guy is! Photo by Jim Lewicki
"5.7 Billion and Counting"
Mark 3:31-34

Rev. Hunter Coleman
First Presbyterian Church

The world that God loves and calls the church to love is 5.7 billion. But how? Who can even fathom statistics that say that half of the world will go to bed hungry tonight? Millions upon millions of them children. UNICEF reports that this day, as every day, 34,000 children under the age of five will die; 12,000 from dysentery; 7,000 from pneumonia; 5,000 from measles; 3,200 from tetanus; 3,700 from diarrhea. One follows the other. If we don't feel that kinship, that there is a bond between us, then we can be no less than brothers and sisters, no matter what time it is, it is still night.

If you cannot do this, then see each other as God sees them, heaven's true light would shine upon each of us as the stars in the heavens. If only they would choose to become women of God's love and the light that shines through his Son. "For in Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek. All are one in him." As God had promised Abraham centuries earlier, his descendants now number as the stars in the heavens. If only they would choose to see each other as God sees them, heaven's true light would shine upon the earth.

A wise old rabbi once asked his pupils how they could tell when the night had ended and the day come. "Could it be," asked on student "when you look at a tree in the distance and tell whether it is a fig tree or a peach tree?" "No," said the rabbi. "Well, what is it?" demanded the student. "It is when you look on the face of any person and see your sister or brother. If you cannot do this, then no matter what time it is, it is still night."

If this table makes us sons and daughters of the heavenly Father, then we can be no less than brothers and sisters. One follows the other. If we don’t feel that kinship, we have not yet drunk deeply enough of this table's one cup, one bread, one loaf.

**See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 29**
...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

cup of redemption, or eaten sufficiently of its one loaf of adoption. If we do feel a kinship that transcends all that divides and separates the human family, how can we keep from doing all we can as citizens of the world’s richest country to shape our nation’s international policies to be more just and caring? How can we keep from giving all we can to organizations that take our family’s plight to heart. Scripture doesn’t mince words: “How can you say you are devoted to your heavenly father who you cannot see and be indifferent to his sons and daughters whom you can see?”

Once a year, Christians around the world observe World Communion Sunday. They gather at Tables to hear what we will hear in a few minutes. Pastors and priests will lift the one cup and the one loaf from which worshipers will eat and drink as the family of God. They commune, not as homeless and housed, not as rich and poor, not as strong and weak, not as Asians and Europeans, not as us and them. They do it as sons and daughters of the creator of heaven and earth. They do it, if they do it at all, as sisters and brothers.

She was from Eastern Europe. He was from California. They found themselves continued from page 28 sitting by each other on a long flight from New York to the west coast. He told her about his family. She told him about hers. She had a daughter living in Israel. Assuming she was Jewish, he made a remark to that effect. She explained that she wasn’t Jewish but had raised her daughter as a Jew.

When he asked why, she told him this story:

The Nazis came to my village in Poland to round up the Jews for removal to camps. The smell of death was in the air. I was doing my weekly shopping near a train station. Close by Gestapo offices and German soldiers were pushing Jewish villagers onto trains. One soldier was pushing a Jewish woman with a little girl with her. He turned to the Jewish woman and pointing to her daughter and asked, “Is this your child?” The women stopped, looked straight at me and said, “No, she’s hers,” I took her and raised her as mine. Jesus’ unorthodox table habits in the name of God incensed those who knew better. He ate with the marginalized and disenfranchised. “Becold a winebidder and a friend of harlots” cried his accusers. Early on they began plotting how to stop his desecration of the holiest of acts, eating a meal. Worried for her son’s safety, his mother and brothers went looking for him to take him home. When she found him, she sent a message that she wanted to see him. Told, his mother and brother wanted to see him, Jesus pointed to those crowded around him and said: “These are my brothers and sisters. All who do the will of my Father are my family.”

Vos named ‘Water Operator of Year’

Tim Vos, manager of King Mountain Club in Highlands, received the North Carolina 2006 Outstanding C-Well Operator of the Year Award for the Western North Carolina division. State Inspector Ray McCall of the Raleigh office nominated Vos. King Mountain Club has the first micro-filtration system in North Carolina.
Charles Frazier and George Ellison to sign at Cyrano’s on Saturday, Oct. 28

Both “Cold Mountain” author Charles Frazier and esteemed regional historian and columnist George Ellison return to Cyrano’s Bookshop to sign their new books on Saturday, Oct. 28. Mr. Ellison will sign copies of “Blue Ridge Journal: Reflections on the Appalachian Mountains in Essays and Art” from 10 a.m. until noon, while Mr. Frazier will sign his new novel, “Thirteen Moons” from 2 to 4 p.m.

Charles Frazier first came to Cyrano’s in 1997 to autograph copies of “Cold Mountain,” his phenomenal bestseller which won the prestigious National Book Award. Named for the peak which rises in the Pisgah National Forest between Waynesville and Brevard, “Cold Mountain” was a retelling of “The Odyssey,” but set during the Civil War. The New York Times hailed the book for “its hugeness, its freshness, its scope and its soul.” In the New York Review of Books, Alfred Kazin said that “Charles Frazier’s feeling for the Southern Landscape is reverential and beautifully composed. He has written an astonishing first novel.”

“Thirteen Moons” takes place even closer to home than “Cold Mountain” did. Mr. Frazier grew up in Andrews and went to high school in Franklin, where his father was the principal, and many of the locales in the book are familiar, from Wayah Town to Nantahala. The novel’s title refers to the months of the Indian lunar calendar — bone moon, corn tassel moon and so on — and evokes the inexorable passage of time.

Isheno, Will Cooper, looks back in old age at a life which ranged from his orphaned youth as a 12-year-old white boy running a trading post among the Cherokees (when they still held the mountain fastnesses of Southern Appalachia) to his time in the state senate in Raleigh, and representing his adopted tribe in the corridors of power at Washington. Cooper’s loyalties are divided between Bear, the Cherokee chief who takes the young Will under his protection and teaches him the traditional Indian ways, and Claire, his first and greatest love. Claire’s mixed-blood father is a wealthy landowner who adheres to the newer ways, and hopes that by imitating the white man he will be accepted and respected. But the Cherokee removal known as the Trail of Tears upsets everyone’s plans.

Cooper is loosely based on the real-life William Holland Thomas, who helped some of the Indians remain in the mountains, and later formed them into a regiment that fought for the Confederacy. Last year the Cashiers Historical Society sponsored a symposium on Thomas (who often visited the valley) that brought noted historians to the High Hampton Inn. Bear and other characters in the novel were also inspired by actual historical figures. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution review of “Thirteen Moons” declares it “A brilliant success … Frazier’s second act should convince everyone that he’s here to stay. It is a powerful, dramatic, often surprising and memorable novel. There will be no sequel for the aged Will, of course, but a third act for Frazier seems like a sure thing.” And USA Today said it was “magical…the history lesson in Thirteen Moons is fascinating and moving…You will find much to admire and savor.”

There is also much to savor and admire in “Blue Ridge Nature Journal.” George Ellison’s fascinating essays on the geology, flora and fauna of our region are accompanied by his wife Elizabeth’s pen-and-ink drawings and watercolors. The delicate, almost oriental quality of Ms. Ellison’s art seems to echo George’s information on “the Asian connection.”

Ellison’s fascination with the geology of the Southeast seems like a sure thing.” And USA Today said it was “magical…the history lesson in Thirteen Moons is fascinating and moving…You will find much to admire and savor.”

The Ellisons moved to the Bryson City area in 1973, and live in a cove surrounded by mountains, and later formed them into a regiment that fought for the Confederacy. Last year the Cashiers Historical Society sponsored a symposium on Thomas (who often visited the valley) that brought noted historians to the High Hampton Inn. Bear and other characters in the novel were also inspired by actual historical figures. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution review of “Thirteen Moons” declares it “A brilliant success … Frazier’s second act should convince everyone that he’s here to stay. It is a powerful, dramatic, often surprising and memorable novel. There will be no sequel for the aged Will, of course, but a third act for Frazier seems like a sure thing.” And USA Today said it was “magical…the history lesson in Thirteen Moons is fascinating and moving…You will find much to admire and savor.”

There is also much to savor and admire in “Blue Ridge Nature Journal.” George Ellison’s fascinating essays on the geology, flora and fauna of our region are accompanied by his wife Elizabeth’s pen-and-ink drawings and watercolors. The delicate, almost oriental quality of Ms. Ellison’s art seems to echo George’s information on “the Asian connection.”

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... HEART continued from page 22

The other major piece of equipment being purchased is a nuclear medicine scanner, which is currently provided on a part-time basis by a mobile unit. “We’ve been looking at this purchase for some time now, and it makes financial sense for the hospital to have its own nuclear medical unit on site,” Shull added.

Like ultrasound technology, nuclear medicine scanning is used for much more than cardiology, including studies of organs such as the gallbladder and lungs, as well as the skeletal system. Adding its own unit will likely cost in the neighborhood of $300,000 plus installation and remodeling costs. The hospital already has a trained technician on staff.

Both pieces of new equipment will be utilized by the hospital’s other cardiologist, Dr. William Wharton, of Asheville Cardiology Associates, as well as other local physicians.

“Cardiology has been identified as a major priority by area residents and the hospital is responding to that need. The Foundation is firmly behind the hospital’s commitment to upgrade its equipment and to provide ongoing support for the cardiology program,” said Russell Harris, executive director of development for the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation. “We will be identifying potential donors who have an interest in supporting capital needs at the hospital and who have a specific interest in our cardiology program.”

Shull said the hospital has already ordered the new ultrasound unit, and hopes to have the nuclear medicine unit up and running as early as January.

“With this new equipment area physicians will be able to provide 80-85 percent of general cardiology care,” Curtiss said. “Only patients who need invasive procedures such as catheterization, surgery, or invasive electrophysiological studies for arrhythmias will need to leave the area. Those patients will still have to be referred to Asheville, Gainsville, Atlanta or another hospital of their choosing.”
... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 6

doubt in your mind that South Florida bridge players are less friendly. For a struggling player like me, it is important to have friends to play bridge with. I am a ho-hum player who gets eaten alive in South Florida. At least in Highlands they smile as they trounce me. When South Florida bridge players smile, they have gas.

I am already missing the awesome Highlands' weather of summer. October is such a crazy time of the year. In the past, I have packed to leave when the weather was in the upper sixties and the sun shining brightly. Other times, I have broken icicles off the porch furniture before storing it.

By December, I will be lusting for a SweeTreats cone but will, instead, be snacking on inexpensive fruit and veggies grown locally, another tradeoff. I miss my grapefruit while living in Highlands because I refuse to pay 97 cents for a puny looking piece of fruit. In my other life, a huge bag of Indian River red grapefruit is only $4.95 at a knock-your-socks-off fruit store a short distance from our home. Did I mention I have oral lust for grapefruit also?

Then there are the people of Highlands. A man once read an article I wrote and asked his wife, “Does this guy like Highlands, or not?” Sometimes when I poke fun, it seems as if I don’t. It is the people who live here that make this place so great. Let me go on record. We have loved this place since arriving here in 1968. We always will.

In Florida, we struggle with the... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 6
disinterested merchant employees who won’t even look up and acknowledge your presence when you approach them. It makes me want to pack my stuff and head for Bob Carlton’s store.

Finally, there is the horrendous traffic of Florida. After spending six months in it, it is hard for me to get worked up over so called traffic jams on 4th Street and slowpokes on the Franklin Road.

Bye, Highlanders, God willing, I’ll see you in May. My column should appear all winter.

While you’re away, read Fred’s column in the Highlands’ Newspaper all winter at www.highlandsinfo.com/newspaperdownload

... CYRANO’s continued from page 30

don three sides by national forest land; Elizabeth’s studio-gallery is in Bryson City itself. Her illustrations have appeared in many newspapers, outdoor and wildlife journals and in the movie “Songcatcher.” George’s columns run in the Smoky Mountain News and the Asheville Citizen-Times, and his biographical introductions to Horace Kephart’s “Our Southern Highlanders” and James Mooney’s “History, Myths and Sacred Formulas of the Cherokees” are minor classics in and of themselves. Mr. Ellison came to Cyrano’s last year to sign copies of his previous book, “Mountain Passages: Natural and Cultural History of Western North Carolina and the Great Smoky Mountains”; he is also a frequent and popular teacher at the Elderhostel programs held here at The Mountain.

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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Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7:05

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Fri: (4:20), 7, 9:20  
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Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7

THE GUARDIAN  
rated PG-13  
Fri: (4:30), 7, 9:30  
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:30), 7, 9:30  
Mon – Thurs: (4:30), 7

Nov. 3
• The Waynesville Gallery Association will again host “Art After Dark,” its popular monthly gallery stroll. Now in its fourth year, “Art After Dark” is becoming a significant contributor to the evening arts and entertainment scene in Waynesville. The season begins the first Friday in May and continues the first Friday of each month through December. Participating galleries remain open until 9 p.m. giving downtown diners and strollers the opportunity to enjoy shopping after 5. Many galleries will also be hosting artist receptions, provide live music and serve tasty treats.

Nov. 9
• Wine Dinner at OEL’s The Farm, Virtus Importers. 6 p.m. Call 787-2610.

Nov. 11, 13, 17, 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 “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.

Nov. 11
• The Appalachian High Folk Concert Series in Highlands presents Jack Williams at The Instant Theatre Company. The concert series is a season al, coffee-house style concert series featuring nationally touring, award winning, festival headlining acts. Call 628-342-9197.

Nov. 14
• Discussion of the movie “Chocolat.” In this chocolate shop, Vianne begins to create mouth-watering confections that almost magically inspire the straitlaced villages to abandon themselves to temptation and happiness. “A Two Thumbs Up”! Movie is available at rental stores and on DVD at Hudson Public Library. Coordinator: John Gaston.

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

Nov. 18
• Highlands School Alumni Basketball Game in the new gym at 7 p.m. Barbecue Dinner in the gym at 6 p.m. Program to include highschool and middle school and cheerleader introductions plus quater-time entertainment. 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.

Nov. 21
• How Democratic Is The Constitution” - from The New York Review of Books, Volume 53, Number 3: Feb. 23, 2006. Coordinator: Dave Scheyer. Material to be distributed via e-mail. All sessions are on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. You may come to the sessions that interest you or when you are in town, as well as be a regular participant. If you have any questions, call or email Creighton Peden at 526-4038.

Nov. 25
• Holiday dance with Hurricane Creek after the Tree Lighting at The Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main. For young and old. Celebrate the season with complimentary cider, hot chocolate and great music. Call 828-342-9197.

• At Cyrano’s Book Shop on Main Street, a book signing from 11-1. Riley Weston. “Before I Go.”

• Free reading of “Papa’s Angels” at The Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main. 7 p.m.

Dec. 2
• Free reading of “Papa’s Angels” at The Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main. 7 p.m.

Dec. 5
• Simon Weisenthal’s book, “The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness”. Coordinator: Carole Light. All sessions are on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. You may come to the sessions that interest you or when you are in town, as well as be a regular participant. If you have any questions, call or email Creighton Peden at 526-4038.

Dec. 9
• Wooten Performance Company brings their giant puppets called “Woopets” for the enjoyment of children of all ages. at The Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main. 7 p.m. Call 828-342-9197.

Dec. 12
• “Why I Am a Skeptic about Religious Claims,” by Paul Kurtz, Free Inquiry, June/July, 2006, pp. 30-33. Coordinator: Don McCormick. All sessions are on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. You may come to the sessions that interest you or when you are in town, as well as be a regular participant. If you have any questions, call or email Creighton Peden at 526-4038.

Dec. 16
• Barbara Ehrenreich’s book, “Bait and Switch: The (Futile) Pursuit of the American Dream.” Co-ordinator: Fia Scheyer. All sessions are on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. You may come to the sessions that interest you or when you are in town, as well as be a regular participant. If you have any questions, call or email Creighton Peden at 526-4038.

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Charles Frazier Thirteen Moons

November 25 11-1
Riley Weston – Before I Go

December 16
Carl Smith – Louistiana Burn

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The community response to this innovative fund-raising concept has been a resounding success again this year. The opportunity to support the Performing Arts Center, or the PAC, through NOT attending a function, appeals to many. In a summer season filled with an increasing number of charitable events, the No-Go offers a fun way to vote for the continued success of the PAC while not filling your calendar with another night out.

Nell Martin and Margaret Pennington, Co-Chairs, want to express their appreciation to all these generous donors:

W We are most grateful to our 2006 Partners, both full time and part time residents, for their interest in nurturing and developing the performing arts through donations and volunteerism. Membership in this group enables the PAC to pay for the “bread and butter” expenses of its operation. At the same time, Partners help staff events at the PAC. Our Partners are helping the community, the various performing arts groups, and having fun while they do it! Our membership year begins in November, so expect to receive the new campaign mailing shortly.
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GUITAR DISTORTION PEDALS Digitech - Metal Master (distortion pedal) Death Metal - DOD (distortion pedal) Ac Adapters Free $30 or $50 for both. dcd1982@aol.com or 526-1536

LINE 6 SPIDER II HD HEAD 150W, AC Adapter and free guitar cable Price $100 or make me an offer. (volume pot needs repaired). dcd1982@aol.com or 526-1536

KING SIZE WATERBED FRAME – Wood, Lighted pannels and shelves in headboard, underbed storage, mattress possibly available, too.

$300. Call 828-371-8677.


MICROWAVE – GE spacesaver, 19’x12’x12’, black. $50. 526-5834


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

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

EUROPEAN-MADE OAK WOOD LARGE (6’ TALL X 7’ LONG) ENTERTAINMENT CENTER – Lighted with stained glass upper doors, wood doors on bottom, has open shelves too, very nice $450 obo, King size bed frame with brass headboard $75 obo, please call 828-369-2223 or after 5pm 828-331-8422.

526-1773

ALL WOOD LARGE (6’ TALL X 7’ LONG) ENTERTAINMENT CENTER – Lighted with stained glass upper doors, wood doors on bottom, has open shelves too, very nice $450 obo, King size bed frame with brass headboard $75 obo, please call 828-369-2223 or after 5pm 828-331-8422.

ELECTROLUX VACUUM – Very good condition, with power head. $125. Call 828-526-4077.

EXTERIOR STORM DOORS – 32-inch $25 or 35-inch $35. Call 828-526-4077.

3-DRAWER DRESSER – Oak wood, $75. Call 828-526-4077.

See CLASSIFIEDS page 38.
**VEHICLES FOR SALE**

**2000 PONTIAC MONTANA EXTENDED VAN** – Well maintained. Cruise. Electric. $6,100. Call 342-9475 days, 526-4876 evenings.

**1997 ISUZU TROOPER** – 4-W Drive, Leather interior, CD, Sunroof. New Car Has Arrived! Selling Isuzu for $4,500 OBO. 526-3262


**2003 DODGE STRATUS** – red exterior, gray interior, 30,000 miles, AMFM cassette, A/C, PW, PS, PB, clean. $8,000 obo 828-526-3257.


**1991 SUBURBAN 3/4 TON** – 130K miles, 20K on Tranny, 50 V8, lift w/wheels & tires, good condition, never off-road, white/blue $4500. Call 200-0013.

**GEM ELECTRIC CAR** – Excellent Condition. Has two motors and will cruise at 40 mph. Many extras including new tires. Great for gated communities, golf courses, and senior citizen communities. Asking $6,500. email gem603@prodigy.net

**WANTED**

**HOME TO RENT** – Mature, professional couple seeks to rent unfurnished residence for at least a year while building new house. Ideal tenants. Please call 526-0248.

**STACKABLE WASHER/DRYER** – Call 421-7922.

**UNWANTED ITEMS** in good condition for a family of five. please call Tony @ 828-779-1765.

**SERVICES**

**WILL CLEAN HOUSES** – Anyday EXCEPT Thurs., Fri., and Sunday. Retired school system employee. Call Doris Stamey at 524-3249.

**FIVE STAR CLEANING & MAINTENANCE** – Light and detail cleaning, concierge services, openings and closings, grocery shopping, personal shopping, personal chef and table service, house repairs, improvements: lighting, plumbing, fixtures, tile, drywall repairs and more. Call 828-332-7201.


**H & H HOUSE CLEANERS** – We’re the team for minor cleans. Dishes, bed, floors, & bathtubs. Give us a call “cause we are the Best!” 706-982-1994 or 706-782-0376

**SCOTTS CONSTRUCTION ‘ME FIX IT’** – Decks, roofs, pressure washing, painting, lawn service, small electrical, floors, carpet cleaning, house cleaning! No job too small. 30 yrs. exp. Call David at 828-369-5886 or 828-347-5051.

**PAINTING, PRESSURE WASHING** – “It’s All We Do” Free Next Day estimates. References. Gary miller. Call 526-0722.


**HOME & COMMUNITY** – Senior homes, day care, in-home care, home health, medical care and odd jobs. Call Bruce at 828-369-3168 or 828-347-5051.


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