

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 4, Number 36

Locally Owned & Operated

Thursday, Sept. 7, 2006

On-Going

• "Sally Foster" wrapping paper sale through Monday, Sept. 25. Orders will be delivered to the school the 2nd week in November. The Highlands School receives 50% of all sales. Order online at www.SallyFoster.com enter the code 605265. Or, order forms are at the school office.

• FREE improv classes at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call the ITC office at 828.526.1687.

• Every Tuesday evening, Spiritual Cinema Circle at The Instant Theatre Company at 7 pm. Visionary, inspiring movies. \$5, Beverages and snacks available for purchase.

• Live music nightly at ...on the Verandah at 7 p.m. Chad Reed plays Wednesday - Sunday night and Sunday Brunch; Angie Jenkins plays Mondays; Paul Scott plays every Tuesday.

• Live piano music with Hal Phillips at Skyline Lodge & Restaurant every Friday and Saturday night and Sunday brunch.

• Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn. featuring Cy Timmons Wed. through Sat., 6 p.m. until.

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

• Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Saturday from 4:30-6:30.

• Live music at Wolfgang's Bistro every Sun. and Mon. it's Momo on Piano; every Wed. it's Paul Scott's Trio; and every Thurs. & Fri it's Rickey Dean on piano.

Through Sept. 14

• At Bascom-Louise Gallery The Potters of Seagrove.

Through Sept. 30

• Trunk Show at Acorn's. Juliska.

Sept. 8-10

• The Annual Native Plant Conference at the Performing Arts Center. For more information call 526-2602.

Sept. 9

• Free Health Screening at Highlands Cashiers Hospital for residents of Highlands and Scaly Mountain, Saturday, beginning at 7:15 a.m. To pre-register call the hospital's Foundation office at 828 526-1435.

• Author F. Clason Kyle signing his book "In Order of Appearance" at Cyrano's Bookshop from 1-3 p.m.

Sept. 10-13

• Relationship Conference each evening 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m., at Community Bible Church. Call -526-4685 to register.

Sept. 10-14

• Women's Wellness Retreat at Old Edwards Inn & Spa presented by The Cleveland Clinic. Call 787-2610 for details.

Sept. 11

• Beth Moore's newest Bible study on the Book of Daniel at Highlands School beginning Monday at 3:45 p.m. Call Carol Boat 526-5168.

• The annual luncheon of the Highlands/Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary Monday at 12:30 p.m. at Chestnut Hill. Call 526-3837.

Sept. 12

• "A Year in the Life of a Black Bear," 7 p.m. Highlands Civic Center.

RiverWalk in everyone's sights

Rivers running brown and lakes filling with silt have town officials, developers and community associations scampering for ways to keep telltale signs of development from destroying Highlands' waterways.

Development at the RiverWalk subdivision is clearly not the only culprit. Officials say residents, and other commercial projects in town shoulder a share of the blame, but because of its proximity to the Cullasaja River and sub-

sequently Mirror Lake, everything that goes environmentally wrong on the RiverWalk site is left for all the world to see.

Watershed Administrator Larry Gantenbein fined the River-

• See RIVERWALK page 12

Septic permit process on the upswing

With septic permits a commodity in Macon County, some Realtors representing subdivisions with septic-permitted lots aren't wasting time advertising the fact. "Septic-permitted lots available now," reads one sign in Franklin.

Health Director Ken Ring, whose department oversees the septic permitting process, said a sizable dent has been made in the county's septic permit backlog, but at the Sept. 5 meeting, county commissioners called for even more action.

"Back in May 2005, we told you to put every application for two or more permits on the fast-track," said Commissioner Bob Simpson. "If you had done that then, you wouldn't have a backlog now."

Ring said he didn't realize that had been ordered and agreed the stipulation would certainly help.

Fast-tracking involves requiring applicants to pay the health department a reduced fee - currently \$165 -- to both verify that soil sample reports are accurate and to get the final signoff, but to pay a private contractor to inspect the system.

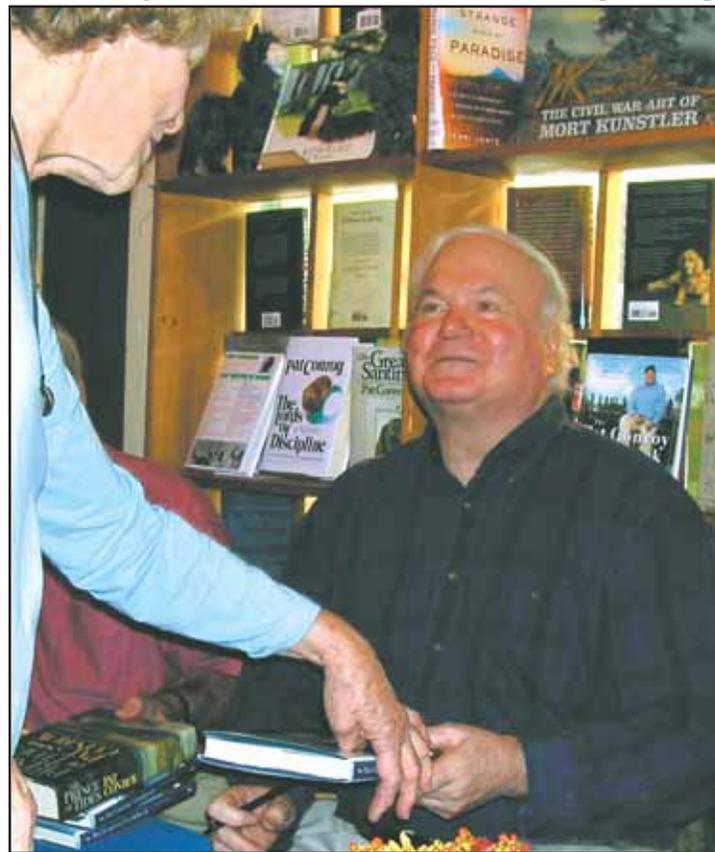
Private contractors charge

• See SEPTIC page 13

Weekend Weather:



Conroy caters to fans at signing



Pat Conroy, who is summering here in Highlands, signed copies of his latest nonfiction book "The Pat Conroy Cookbook," at Cyrano's Bookshop Saturday morning. He is famous for his fictional yet autobiographical works -- The Lords of Discipline, The Great Santini, The Prince of Tides, and Beach Music.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Boards OK fewer homes on Satulah Village South

A reduction in permitted homes is something few developers request, but in a surprise move, Old Edwards Inn & Spa representatives appeared before the Planning and Town boards requesting just that for the Satulah Village South site.

"We want to save as many trees as we can so we want to reduce the number of homes from 16 to 14," said Bronce Pesterfield, engineer on the project.

Though board members were pleased, they were a bit confused.

• See OEI page 16

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County ready to deal with problem pets

County commissioners took the first baby step toward solving its nuisance animal problem when at the Sept. 5 meeting a bare-bones nuisance animal ordinance was presented and accepted into the county's Code of Ordinances.

"As I said a few months ago when I first requested you consider such an ordinance, this is just a Band-Aid on a bigger issue, but it will eliminate one current problem," said Sheriff Robbie Holland. "Other issues still have to be dealt with by the animal control committee, but it's a step in the right direction."

With no place to take stray or nuisance animals, the hands of the Sheriff Department, and both the Franklin and Highlands Police departments have been tied.

An operating budget has been developed and site picked out for a county-run animal shelter, but Chairman Allan Bryson said the animal control committee has to decide the direction the county wants to take.

The adopted ordinance concerning nuisance domestic animals says it is illegal for any owner or person in control of any domesticated animal to allow the animal to damage any real or personal property owned or controlled by or in the possession of another.

It is also now illegal for the owner of a domestic animal, including a dog or cat, to allow the animal to run at large or on any lands used for recreational pur-

• See PETS page 6

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

Redmountain is disconnected

Dear Editor,

After reading numerous political articles by Dr. Alex Redmountain, it occurs to me that we exist in a parallel universe. I'm sorry but his thought process is strewn with disconnects. He lacks a geopolitical and historical perspective.

Unfortunately, he is not alone. Practically speaking, most of the Democratic Party, aided and abetted by the "mainstream media" has been co-opted by the far left. An amalgamation of socialists, environmentalists, wingnuts, hardcore anti-capitalists, fellow travelers and, above all, disinterested people who do not comprehend that we have been at war for about five years, form this coalition. These are the folks who threw Senator Lieberman over the cliff. They feel that a war on terror is too nebulous a concept. It is not a war on terror. It is a war against Islamic fascists who use terror as a weapon.

Senator Zell Miller said it best, "The Democratic Party is a national party no more." Where are the Hubert Humphreys, Scoop Jacksons and John Kennedys of today? These were men of integrity and reasoned judgment. In today's Democratic political climate, it is doubtful they would stand a chance of being elected by their party.

Why can't they see the parallels with the 1930s? Fascism in Italy resulted in the Italian invasion of Abyssinia. Hitler and Stalin murdered millions and went on the march. The racist Japanese raped and murdered throughout China prior to attacking the United States.

I could never understand the reticence of the United States and Western Europe to speak out in unison against the growing madness. It is almost surreal to re-read the fantasies of Chamberlain and Daladier. The mutterings of Fr. Coughlin and the anti-Semitic speeches of Charles Lindburgh went, for the most part, uncontested. The consternation is that such men ever had any influence. Appeasement politics ruled the day! Today, it seems incomprehensible.

No longer. Five years after the Islamic fascists killed over 3,000 of our citizens, I get the point. We are at the brink of moral insanity. We get the isolationist bleating of Buchanan on the right and the moronic utterances of a Carter on the left, a man who never met a dictator he did not like.

We can rail about the evils of progressive modernism, moral equivalence and cultural relativism all

• LETTERS •

day. But until the next Winston Churchill comes along and we finally wake up to the apathy of the west, the struggle for freedom and our way of life will be more difficult.

America won World War II because the objective was not to understand the Nazis and Japanese or to reach an accommodation with them. The objective was to win the war! Anything less in the war against Islamic fascists could mean the defeat of our freedom. I am not that sure that Americans value freedom as highly as we once did.

I can only conclude that there are three reasons why anyone cannot see the light. Either they are ignorant of the 1930s and never studied the parallels with today's horrors, are intellectually incapable of connecting the dots or have their head stuck firmly in the sand. My inspiration for this letter are two men.

Obviously, Dr. Alex Redmountain, who seems incapable of writing an article without bashing our president. The other is Victor Davis Hanson, an original thinker and a man of singular vision.

Jack Cota
Highlands and Atlanta

Apologies in order

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to apologize to Ms. Gary, a reader of my column under the heading "Another View - Sexual predators are easily hidden" in the Aug. 31 issue of Highlands' Newspaper.

I am sorry that you were offended by the use of the term "retard" in my column. I attempted to create a mood to match the depravity of the offense.

I consulted with two people in whom I have utmost confidence, my wife and my brother-in-law, before running the piece. We split two to one in favor of running it as it appeared.

I tried to shock without offending, because I found it a shocking story. I'm sorry that I missed the mark. If you will consider the content of the article, I hope that my abhorrence of exploitation of the small, the weak, or the disadvantaged will become apparent. I apologize for the use of the offensive term.

Dr. Henry Salzarulo
Scaly Mountain

NCDOT should finish the job

Dear Editor,

As a resident of Bowery Road and a former opponent of its widening and subsequent paving, I learned with great dismay that the paving is now complete. COMPLETE?

Supposedly the asphalt has been put down, but all I see is tar and gravel and sand and then more sand and more sand. A sign warning of "loose gravel" was also erected, and a steam roller was left on site.

I thought to myself at the time that maybe they, the NCDOT, would finally get this project completed after many months and mistakes. I also thought that the base they applied was more than adequate. Surely when the Walhalla Road project was done, the manpower and equipment needed to finish this one would be available.

Several days later, after walking my dog on the road and having to clean my shoes and her paws, I was more than anxious to see the project completed. Now I learn that there are no plans to re-pave at the present time. Re-pave, how about PAVE, period! If you want to see real asphalt, travel down N.C. 28 south of town.

Well, got to go. The tar's a bubblin' and I've got to watch!

Henry Cheatham
Highlands and Atlanta

LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR POLICY

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

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Treatment at hospital fantastic

Dear Editor,

This letter is dedicated to the entire staff of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

On Sunday, Aug. 6, while vacationing in beautiful Sapphire and returning from a shopping trip I tripped and broke my elbow. Being in great pain, my husband call 911 and in less than 15 minutes the ambulance from Cashiers pulled into our driveway. Within minutes, we were on our way to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital with my husband following us. The kindness and caring for my pain and well being of these paramedics was extraordinary.

After arriving at the hospital emergency center, again, I was amazed at the care and professionalism of the personnel. Within minutes, I was given pain and anxiety drugs to help me cope with my injury. After X-rays were taken, I was advised to stay or come back the next morning, Monday, the 7th, to face the surgeon and find out what had to

•See LETTERS page 8



Photo by Katie Brugger

Mike Houston, wastewater plant operator, Tinker Poteet with W.K. Dickson the engineering firm what designed the plant, Monty Ridenhour with Crocket Assoc., which supplies fixtures for wastewater plants and Brian Tripp with W.K. Dickson Engineering, surveying the crystal clear effluent

Citizens tour newly expanded wastewater treatment plant

By Bob Wright

Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association
Last week, citizens were invited to tour the new Highlands wastewater treatment plant with Chief Operator Mike Houston. As a retired engineer, the state-of-the-art processing facilities and computer controlled equipment were very interesting; but the spotless, cleanliness of the site, the buildings, and all of the equipment will impress any visitor. So will the lack of any smell folks often expect to be around "a sewage treatment plant."

The plant was recently expanded from

.5 million gallon-a-day capacity to 1.5 million gallons-a-day capacity to the tune of \$5 million and it took about two years to complete.

Expansion revolved around the installation of two new 750,000-gallon Sequential Batch Reactors (SBR), a new larger equalization tank, a new compressor building that houses compressors which shoot air into the tanks full of micro-organisms who do their magic on sewage. The new components facilitate a new tertiary (third phase) ultra-violet treatment

• See WWTP page 9

• OBITUARY •

William Dewey Hedden

Mr. William Dewey Hedden, age 73, Franklin, NC, died Friday, September 1, 2006 at his residence.

A native of Macon County, NC, he was a son of the late William W. and Rosetta Leopard Hedden. A US Army veteran of the Korean War, he was a retired swimming pool builder in Virginia. Mr. Hedden was a member of Walnut Creek Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Patsy Henry Hedden; two daughters, Diana Hedden Sims of Franklin, NC and Patty Hedden Potter and her husband, Blair, of Franklin, NC; three sons, James William Hedden and his wife, Billie Jo, of Franklin, NC, David Dewey Hedden and his wife, Vicky, of Franklin, NC, and Thomas Louie Hedden and his wife, Debbie, of Manassas, VA; a brother, Ernest Hedden of Franklin, NC; 11 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Don Lee Hedden, who died in 1971.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Monday, September 4, 2006 at Walnut Creek Baptist Church. Rev. Wesley Hooper and Rev. Tom Duke officiated. Burial was in the Strain Cemetery. The Franklin VFW Post #7339 and American Legion Post #108 conducted military graveside rites.

Memorials be made to Relay for Life, c/o American Cancer Society, 120 Executive Park, Building 1, Asheville, NC 28801.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

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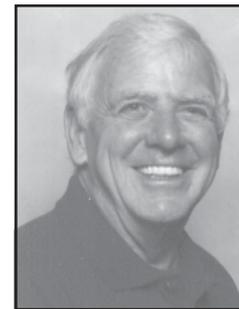
• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

The three little piggies

This is another of my wonderful bedtime stories you can read to your kids when you want to impress upon them just how rotten and unfair life can be. Before you start to read, sit them on your knee and say, "All men, including piggies, are not created equal and life is not always fair." Also, you might need tissues for your nose. Ready....here goes.

Once upon a time in a land far, far away there lived a little piggy named Dork. Little Dork was born a member of the Lucky Sperm Club and because his parents had lots and lots of money, Dork ate only the finest slop, lived in the most expensive pigpen that money could buy and rooted around in the best of circles. Life for Dork was wonderful and he thought it would be like this his whole life. Kinda like "Freddie, the Leaf, only more better.

While Dork was busy living the life of riches, another little piggy by the name of Dana was born in another, not so great, pigpen. Dana was not a member of the Lucky Sperm Club and her parents had to work hard to put her through Piggy school.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback
is encouraged!
email:
rappeldown@aol.com

She ate the usual piggy slop and her pigpen was unremarkable. But Dana was very smart and studied hard at school to get ahead. Her goal was to someday live like a lucky spermer even though she realized few make the transition.

Our third little piggy came from stark poverty. His parents were criminal piggies who spent half their life in jail. This little piggy was named "Darn". Little Darn had no opportunities in life and was taught a life of crime by his parents. He was a street wise little piggy thug who was somewhat like little Dork, not so smart. (Are

you falling asleep yet?)

What is remarkable about these three little piggies is that they all eventually wound up living in a little town called Highlands. While Dana was able to use her smarts and talent to land a good paying job, young Dork was living it up and cared little about getting ahead. After all, he had all the money he could ever want. Then Dork's parents got tired of their son's foolishness and said, "Get a job."

While little Dork was still panicky

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 6

• HIGHLANDS FINE DINING •

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• **RADICAL MIDDLE** •

Time to awake from the nightmare

Finally a majority of Americans is waking up and expressing its dissatisfaction with President Bush's war in Iraq. A number of recent polls reports that about two-thirds of all those surveyed now oppose the war and the way it is being conducted.

And the opposition is coming not just from so-called "liberals" but from the entire political spectrum. The President seems to think that the sentiment is a reflection of national exhaustion, rising casualty rates, and an unwillingness to "stay the course," because people just don't fully comprehend the gravity of the mission in Iraq. That's probably what his sycophantic advisers are telling him.

The truth is much simpler. Most Americans finally understand that there was no connection between Iraq and 9/11. Furthermore they have figured out that the way the war was and is being waged, not by the troops on the ground but by incompetent civilian authorities, like Secretary Rumsfeld and others around him, cannot be justified.

Recently several retired generals, all of them highly decorated, called for Rumsfeld's resignation. Senior active-duty officers are understandably reluctant to voice their opinions, but many have still expressed their disgust with current policy in Iraq.



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

•
email:
redmountain8@msn.com

Mr. Bush, whose obsession with loyalty verges on the pathological, refuses to get rid of the Secretary. He has supported his every move over the years. Of course by asking for Rumsfeld's resignation, he would inevitably highlight the failure of his own policies.

A painful example of these failures is the impact they have had on the nation's veterans (including me). A letter from one of them, a former naval aviator in the

1960s, is appended below. He fully expresses my feelings.

**Return Enclosed
the Symbols of My Years of
Service**

• Joseph DuRocher was for 20 years the elected public defender of Florida's Ninth Judicial District, covering Orange and Osceola counties. Since retirement, he's been writing and teaching law at the University of Central Florida and the Barry University School of Law. He was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy in the 1960s, serving as a Naval Aviator in the Atlantic, the Caribbean and the Mediterranean. Last month, Mr. DuRocher returned his Lieutenant's shoulder bars and Navy wings to President Bush and enclosed the following letter:

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:
As a young man I was honored to serve our nation as a commissioned officer and helicopter pilot in the U.S. Navy.

Before me, in WW II, my father
• See REDMOUNTAIN page 7



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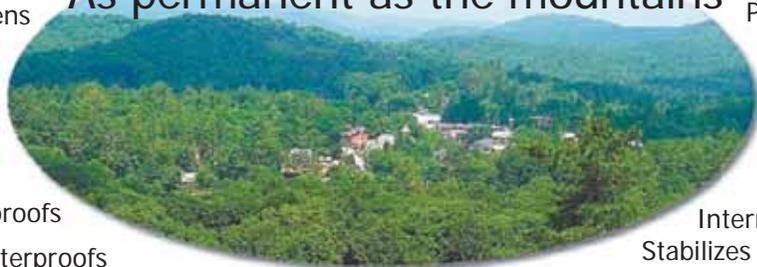
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2nd Village Sq. Art Show even bigger



Artisans at the Village Square arts and craft show drew crowds on Saturday, Sept. 2.
Photo by Kim Lewicki

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

about having to work, young Darn heard about all the lucky spermers that lived in Highlands and just knew he could steal some of their money. This is how all the little piggies wound up living in Highlands. (Now ask your little listener which piggy they can best identify with.)

Because he was not so smart little Dork had difficulty finding a job. Finally, out of desperation, he called his parents to tell them he was coming home to return to a land of leisure and riches. His parents panicked and used their powerful influence to have young Dana fired from her job and make their son, Dork, the replacement. (Use tissues, if necessary.)

Dana was heart broken. As she packed to leave Highlands, she realized that life was not fair and that she was joining a large contingent of talented folks who had been fired from their jobs by lucky spermers with influence.

While little Dork was just settling in to his new job, young Darn, the thug piggy, was eyeing little Dork and working on a scheme to steal his money. (Are you keeping up?)

This is the part where you might need more tissues. Young Darn went to little Dork and told him he had a scheme to steal all his money and unless he fired everyone who used to work for Dana and put him in charge, he would steal all of Dork's money. Little Dork panicked, fired all of Dana's employees and hired Darn, mostly out of fear.

Wait, our story has a happy ending. Dana never became a lucky spermer but because she was smart, found another job in another town and lived happily ever after marrying a lucky spermer. Little Dork learned to like his new job but always lived

in fear of young Darn.

Eventually, young Darn went to jail for conspiracy, little Dork was fired for incompetence and Miss Dana sat in her little home town, having a good laugh. Remember children, being smart is OK, but being a lucky spermer is what is really important in life.

... PETS from page 1

poses owned by or under the control of Macon County. Such animals must be kept under the restraint of a leash, chain or wire, by the owner.

The ordinance outlines a three-violation process. Upon the first complaint, the Sheriff or designated law enforcement official notifies the owner of the violation and the complaint made and is told that upon a second violation, the animal will be declared a nuisance animal.

Once declared a nuisance animal, the owner must keep it under the restraint of a leash, chain or wire whenever off the owner's premises.

Upon the issuance of a third violation, a misdemeanor has been committed and the owner is subject to penalties — \$100 court costs and whatever fine the judge hands down, said Holland.

Right now the ordinance is applicable in all areas in Macon County outside the corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction of any municipality.

"But the town of Highlands and Franklin can adopt this ordinance and then it will be applicable everywhere," said Holland.

The ordinance goes into effect December 1, 2006.

– Kim Lewicki

HS boys soccer firming up as a team



Photo by Noel Atherton

Will Mathowdis and Alec Schmitt team up against their Franklin opponent at last week's game. The score was 2-0 Franklin. "Our team has showed a lot of improvement from game to game this season," said Coach Chris Green. "The boys are getting in much better condition and they are becoming more comfortable with their positions and they are starting to play more as a team."

... REDMOUNTAIN continued from page 5

defended his country, spending two years in the Pacific aboard the USS Hornet (CV-14). We were patriots sworn to protect and defend. Today I conclude that you have dishonored our service and the Constitution and principles of our oath. My dad was buried with full military honors so I cannot act for him. But for myself, I return the enclosed symbols of my years of service: the shoulder boards of my rank and my Naval Aviator's wings.

Until your administration, I believed it was inconceivable that the United States would ever initiate an aggressive and preemptive war against a country that posed no threat to us. Until your administration, I thought it was impossible for our nation to take hundreds of persons into custody without provable charges of any kind, and to confine them in holes like Gitmo, Abu Ghraib and Bagram. Until your administration, in my wildest legal fantasy I could not imagine a U.S. Attorney General seeking to justify torture or a President first stating his intent to veto an anti-torture law, and then adding a signing statement that he intends to ignore such law as he sees fit. I do not want these things done in my name.

As a citizen, a patriot, a parent and grandparent, a lawyer and law teacher, I am left with such a feeling of loss and helplessness. I think of myself as a good American and I ask myself what can I do

when I see the face of evil? Illegal and immoral war, torture and confinement for life without trial have never been part of our constitutional tradition. But my vote has become meaningless because I live in a safe district drawn by your political party. My congressman is unresponsive to my concerns because his time is filled with lobbyist largesse. Protests are limited to your free speech zones, out of sight of the parade. Even speaking openly is to risk being labeled un-American, pro-terrorist or anti-troops. And I am a disciplined pacifist, so any violent act is out of the question.

Nevertheless to remain silent is to let you think I approve or support your actions. I do not. So, I am saddened to give up my wings and bars. They were hard won and my patents and wife were as proud as I was when I earned them over 40 years ago. But I hate the torture and death you have caused, more than I value their symbolism. Giving them up makes me cry for my beloved country. — Joseph W. DuRocher

Anything further I might have to say would be mostly redundant. I hope there are thousands of other veterans who will wake up from the nightmare of seeing their buddies killed or wounded, and the false loyalty to a Commander-in-Chief who is undeserving of that loyalty, and speak their truth to power.

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• ANOTHER VIEW •

An apology offered

“Words are bullets,” is a favorite expression of a close friend of mine. I fired one last week. I don't get much feedback, so I never know if I've left you laughing or crying, annoyed or inspired, fuming or yawning. It didn't take long for a reader to fire back after publication of last week's effort.

After reading her letter, I decided that feedback is way overrated. Her letter left me humbled and embarrassed. Any of you who have no idea of what I'm talking about didn't read last week's column, need read no further here and may go directly to my friend Alex Redmountain's always thoughtful column or the ever fascinating classifieds.

If you're still here, I owe you an apology. I'm sorry. I'm sorry for bad taste. I'm sorry for employing an unnecessary offensive term in order to shock you. I'm sorry that I didn't listen to Lizzie and heeded instead, my own counsel and that of my equally reckless brother-in-law.

I'm sorry that what I wrote might have offended you to the extent that you will boycott my future articles, because I need you this week and the one after that, but more because I hurt you or someone you know or someone you love, and you deserve better.

I'm sorry that I might have hurt Kim Lewicki, who made room for me in the “newspaper” after I found myself without a voice. I'm sorry that even, Bull, my wonderfully wise 10-year-old son, has warned me that I should soften my work. This is the same Bull, who when Lizzie suggested that I move closer to the middle of the road interrupted, “Dad, if you go to the middle of the road, you'll get hit from both directions.”

Most of all, I'm sorry because I was wrong. I'm not suggesting that this is a right, left, or center issue. I'm not claiming that I should be shielded by the ideal of freedom of expression, especially that sacred protection of a free press, because I'm not a journalist, much as I'd like to be. I'm an aging, but still active doctor, one with strongly held ideas, one who likes to express them, who hopes that you laugh when I want you to, and that you cry on cue, or rage when that's my intent. Of course, I



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

hope that most of you agree with me, but not by so great a margin that my efforts are a waste of time and energy. While we're on the subject, my e-mail address is printed each week and I could use your help to keep me in line, even if feedback is way overrated.

“Words are bullets.” My offense would have been less had I fired without having a pretty good idea of the response. Ignorance is sometimes the best and only excuse. I tried to draw a line between shock and

offense, told myself that I needed the word to set the appropriate tone for a column that dealt with a vile guy doing a heinous act.

Of course, in doing so I moved way closer to the guy than I would ever want to be. I'm sorry for that, too.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

be done. The answer was simple – fly back to Florida or have it done here.

I chose to trust the surgeon, Dr. Herbert K. Plauche. He normally operates on Thursday, but arranged with the hospital to operate the next morning, Tuesday the 8th, to minimize my wait and pain. How caring can a doctor be?

For me, August 8th is a blur. After meeting Dr. Leila Martin, the anesthesiologist, and briefly Dr. Plauche, I woke up surrounded by smiling nurses who helped me to get dressed and send me home with the cell and home phone numbers of Dr. Plauche. Almost unheard of.

After having the staples removed by Dr. Plauche on Wednesday, the 16th of August, we left for Florida.

It is very difficult to express one's gratitude to so many highly skilled and compassionate professionals working together in a small community hospital. They had a standard far superior to most major hospitals around the country.

From my family and especially me, thank you Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Brenda Wendt
Florida

Revamp parking regs

Dear Editor,

I has been brought to my attention that yet another restaurant (Don Leon's

•See LETTERS page 9

... WWTP continued
from page 3

which totally removes the need for chemicals in the process. "This means we are completely chemical-free at the plant," said Town Engineer Lamar Nix. "We are chlorine and sulfur dioxide free."

None of the old components are defunct, they're just being used in different ways now. The old SBR tank is now the digestion tank. The old chlorine and sulfur building is now a storage building. The old digestion tank is now a sludge thickener tank and the computer system in the office building has been upgraded.

Nix said the expansion was designed to last 20 years, but it all depends on growth. "There is plenty of room at the site to expand but it depends on how much money the town has to expand the plant," he said.

Every citizen should take the time to visit the wastewater treatment plant on Arnold Road. It may not be the normal tourist attraction in the mountains; however, you will be impressed with the facility your tax dollars have provided.

Moreover, we all can be proud that the plant has been in operation for four months now and has a record of removing essentially 100 percent of all pollutants in the town's sanitary sewer waste since it started. The wastewater product looks clean, smells clean, and is cleaner than the water flowing past the plant in the Cullasaja River. Buck Trott can really afford to drink the effluent output now (Mayor Don Mullen told me that he would, but he doesn't want to deprive Buck of his bragging rights). Just think, Buck survived swallowing the previous plant's effluent and two terms as mayor!

The plant tour is educational, but the most impressive thing about my visit was the motivation and enthusiasm of Mike Houston, the chief operator of the town wastewater treatment facilities since 1996.

We "small town folks" are blessed with numerous outstanding town employees like Mike.

A business can simply not pay enough to achieve the motivation I saw Friday. This plant is Mike's baby, and we all derive the very real benefit of his technical knowledge and his personal 24/7 commitment to producing the cleanest water anywhere. I urge you to go and meet Mike and his small staff. He would love to show you his pride and joy.

... LETTERS from page 8

Café) will now have a problem with parking. All of these businesses, including Wild Thyme, have jumped through hoops to accommodate the town requirements for parking, but circumstances are changing and these people are beginning to lose off-premises parking due to the ever increasing value of land in town. Soon there will be no where for people who work or visit the

• See LETTERS page 11

Bluegrass lovers turn out for Pine Street Concert



Rocks strategically placed on the bank lawn make for perfect sitting areas with a clear vantage of the park across Pine Street.

The Wild Hog Band entertained folks who ventured out between rain drops Monday in support of the soon-to-be Pine Street Park. Set against the backdrop of the Macon Bank's landscaped grounds, the group behind the projects hopes the park will become a gathering place for all kinds of events. About \$100,000 is needed to pay off the \$800,000 loan and then restoration and development of the park can begin. That will likely cost \$100,000 to \$200,000 more. Donations are tax deductible and may be sent to the Highlands Land Trust, Inc., P.O. Box 1703, Highlands, NC, 29741. On Monday, \$7,384.75 was collected in cash and checks; \$1,100 was pledged.

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These late summer days, it's hard to miss the webworm tents in dissiduous trees in Western North Carolina.

Webworms feasting on deciduous trees in Highlands and Cashiers

By **Susanna Forrester**
Reporter

Residents of the Highlands-Cashiers area may have noticed an increase in the unsightly white webs clinging to branches along the roadside this summer. It's not some new invasive invader, just one that has proliferated more than in recent years.

The culprit is called a webworm, a small caterpillar which feeds on the foliage of certain trees. The increase in the webworm population has concerned some area residents, but Jim Costa, director of the Highlands Biological Station says fluctuations in insect populations such as the webworm are common.

"The fluctuation is largely due to climatic factors," said Costa. "If I had to hazard a guess as to why the local fall webworm population is on the rise this year, the single biggest factor is probably the mild winter we had last year."

Whether you are talking about webworms or tent caterpillars, the egg-laying adult is a moth. The webworm makes nests over the ends of branches, as witnessed on the highways and byways of Western North Carolina right now. While the tent caterpillar makes their nests at tree crotches.

The webworm lives through the winter as pupae in cocoons in the soil or other sheltered places like piles of dead leaves, said Costa. During mid- to late spring when the adult moths emerge to mate and lay their eggs, winter has usually reduced the population. "Very wet and severe winters take a heavy toll on the

overwintering pupae, but more get through in mild winters like the ones we've had in recent years," said Costa.

Though they look terribly debilitating, Costa said webworms are not as damaging to trees as one might think. Though they cause defoliation where they build their nests, the defoliation usually occurs during a time when trees are already defoliating.

"These are called "fall" webworms not because they are only found in the fall, but because that's when their nests get big enough for people to start taking notice," said Costa.

"Webworms will slowly defoliate the branches on which they build their nests or tents but it's unlikely they do any serious or lasting harm," said Costa. "However, colonies of worms on small, young trees can end up defoliating the entire tree, enshrouding it in silk, and I'm sure the trees are somewhat weakened by that."

Webworms feed on deciduous trees such as the elm, maple, walnut, persimmon, cottonwood, sourwood and most types of fruit trees. They appear to dislike evergreens. They are difficult to destroy, but since they rarely cause any lasting damage, many experts recommend letting nature run its course.

Typically predators keep them in check, specifically - the ichneumon wasp and the braconid wasp. Important also is the leaf litter clean up in the fall, as that is where the overwintering pupation takes place.

Macon County Schools budget up slightly for 2006-2007

For the first time in years, the Macon County School Board finalized and accepted its annual budget in August.

At the Aug. 29 meeting, the \$36.3 million budget — with the bulk of the money coming from the state — was accepted. "This is the first year I can recall having the final budget before the first payroll," said Betty Waldroop, finance director.

The 2006-2007 budget is about \$800,000 more than the 2005-2006 budget.

About \$23.1 million came from the state and pays for regular and special instructional programs, student services, staff and administrative support services; business and central office support services. The state's contribution is about \$1.5 million more this year than last.

About \$2.3 million came from the federal government and pays for regular and special instructional programs; remediation and student services; pupil, instructional staff and business support

programs. Macon County received \$200,000 less this year than last. But Waldroop said the federal fiscal year ends Sept. 30, so she suspects federal funding to increase Oct. 1, but she doesn't know by how much.

About \$7.6 million came from the county — down about \$400,000 from last year — but the county came through for the school system twice last year when state and federal funding fell short in part when regulations involving teacher assistant allocations extended further into the fiscal year than expected.

Dr. Frank Yeager said Macon County is short on federal funding compared to other school districts due to population figures and it's short on state money because the county doesn't meet the state's low wealth or small county guidelines.

"The opinion is we are capable of paying our own way," said Yeager. "When in reality, our resources are on the line. We get less than half of what surrounding areas get."

Highlands will see capital improvements in the way of roofing over the kitchen area and the hallway leading to the vocational wing which should begin sometime in September. Money for new

flooring in the middle school wing was also allocated.

The county has 10 schools, two of which are K-12 and services about 4,000 students. — **Kim Lewicki**

... LETTERS continued from page 9

CLE hits the mark

Dear Editor,

I want to say a great big 'thank you to CLE! I have just attended two superb "happenings," too interesting and enjoyable to be called lectures.

Fletcher Wolfe's "Around the World in 70 Years" was incredibly delightful. He showed films of the Atlanta Boy Choir's performances around the world, invariably hosted by mayors and heads of state. These photos were accompanied by amusing anecdotes about the people and places they visited

Edna Foster
Highlands

town to get a quick lunch. Notice that I said quick not cheap lunch! Is this what you are trying to accomplish?

Surely some compromise can be reached before all of these restaurants are forced to close their doors. It hardly seems fair that those located on main Street don not have to comply with these rules because they are grandfathered in or able to use Main Street parking because it is a public road. The parking problems are a lot worse on Main Street than at some of these other locations. Perhaps it is time to resurvey the town's parking situation.

Myrna Monroe
Highlands

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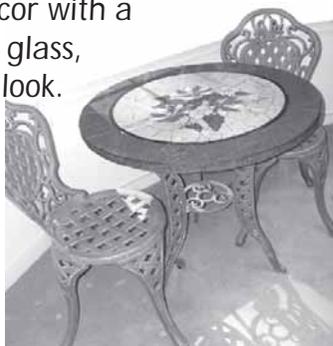
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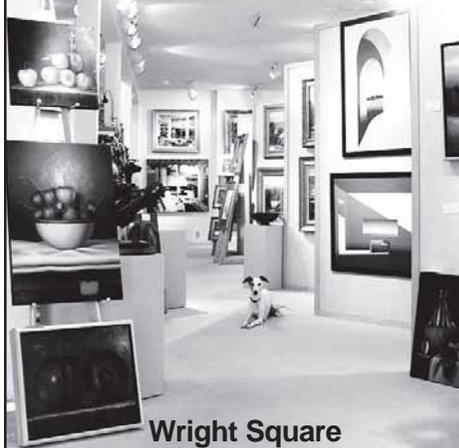
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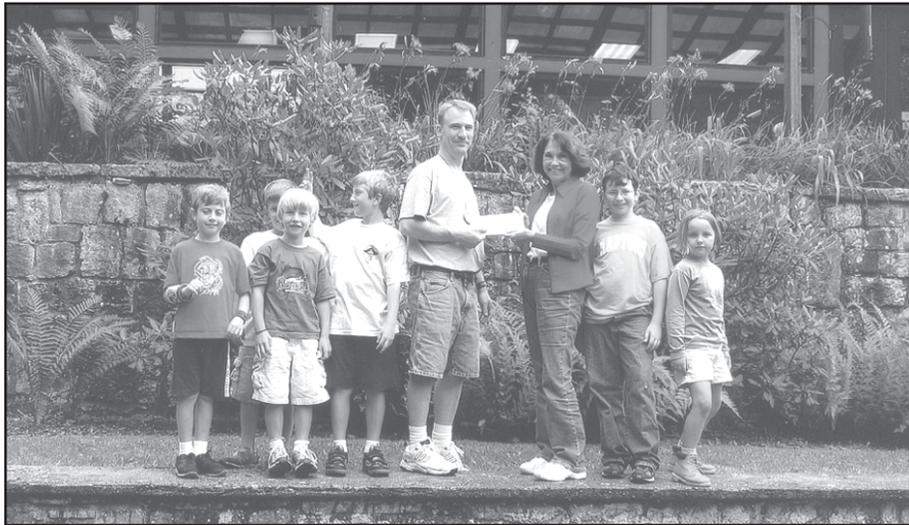
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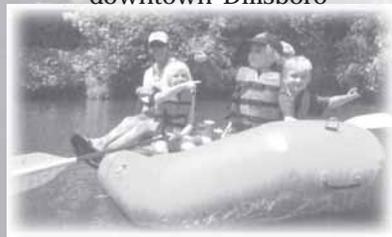
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... RIVERWALK continued from page 1

Walk developers another \$1,000 when rains early in the week caused another series of silt fences to blow out sending silt into the Cullasaja River. All tolled that makes seven citations at \$500 each, or \$3,500. However, RiverWalk is appealing the citations so none of them have been paid.

Gantenbein said the recent blowout near where Cullasaja and Heatherwood drives intersect was a duplicate of what happened a week ago. "Stormwater runs down Cullasaja Drive and when it hits the new road (Heatherwood) it just keeps going all the way to the river," he said. "Plus water comes down across an upper road on down to that same point adding to the problem."

Gantenbein said it's likely Cullasaja Drive has always been a stormwater conduit, but it wasn't until the vegetation was removed on the RiverWalk property that it mattered. "Before they opened up the roads, the stormwater was likely absorbed by the vegetation and undergrowth," he said. "The trouble is, they opened too many roads at one time."

Because of the climate – that of a temperate rain forest – and the steep geography, mountain developers traditionally open as few roads as possible at one time. At RiverWalk just about all the roads were opened at once and then the rains came.

At the Sept. 6 Town Board meeting, Commissioner Amy Patterson said Highlands needs excavators and developers who know how to work in Highlands. "There's a big difference developing in the coastal plain and developing up here," she said.

Commissioner Herb James agreed.

"RiverWalk should have been phased in," he said. "They never should have been allowed to open up the whole thing."

Dr. Robert O'Neil, a summer resident attending at the Town Board meeting, said the town needed developers who are good stewards of the land. "You need to make future developers slow it down, especially when they don't know about the weather around here. Make people step up and do what's right before it's too late," he said.

At Gantenbein's suggestion, the board agreed to immediately raise the penalty for violating the town's erosion stormwater control regulations from \$500 to \$5,000. "We should raise the bar to a full \$5,000 to match the state," he said. "\$500 a citation for RiverWalk is like lunch money."

Under the town's erosion stormwater control regulations, if a developer is issued a notice of violation he is given 10 days to come into compliance. If he does, he doesn't pay anything. With the new fee in place, the next time he is cited for a violation, he pays \$5,000 per day until it is fixed.

Gantenbein asked the board to scale the penalty fee so that it's \$500 for the first offense, \$1,000 for the second, \$2,000 for the third, \$3,000 for the fourth and \$5,000 for each thereafter. Commissioners agreed to consider his request but to raise the penalty to \$5,000 in the meantime.

Commissioner James asked if Gantenbein could stop a project. He said he could and has on a dozen occasions over the past year, but to stop a job developers have to have impeded public health and safety and

•See RIVERWALK page 16

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... SEPTIC continued from page 1

anywhere from \$700-\$2,500 to do the work, but can usually get it done a lot faster than the health department, said County Manager Sam Greenwood.

"They usually have more people on the payroll and can come in and do a subdivision in a week's time," he said.

Greenwood said there are three companies lined up to do septic inspections, but suggested the county reduce the fast-track fee to entice people to use it.

"Perhaps lowering the fee to \$50-\$65 as a symbolic gesture -- that should cover the health department's minimal costs and could reduce if not eliminate the backlog," he said. "The private sector charges more and a reduction in the fast-track fee could mean more people opting for the option. This way, when speed is of the essence, there's a choice."

Commissioner Charlie Leatherwood said the fast-track isn't a cure-all but for those in the construction, development and building business it may be the answer.

At the August 7 commission meeting, Ring reported a backlog of 425 septic permit applications which represented a 14-15 week delay.

"But after working through the slug of 249 June applications that came in prior to the July 1 fee increase, we have reduced the backlog to 300," said Ring Monday night.

That represents a 10-12 week delay.

"With current staffing levels, I'm confident this trend will continue and we will finally be in a position to provide timely service to the public," he said.

He said there are still 67 completed applications on file -- some on file since January -- whose applicants haven't come back to sign-off on the reports.

"Obviously, these 67 weren't the priority people claimed they were when they came in for the septic permit," said Ring.

The department now has five full-time authorized environmental health specialists on staff for the first time since October 2005. "Two more hires made in August brings us to seven on staff, but due to the state's training and authorization requirements they can't perform inspections until February 2007," said Ring.

The state requires a six- to nine-month training and authorization period for environmental health specialist interns.

Commissioner Jim Davis, who is on the county's health committee, said the committee will meet to discuss a possible reduction in the fast-track fee.

"But I want to make sure the county recovers enough money to offset the time it takes the environmental health inspector to make the final inspection and to verify the soil samples," he said.

— **Kim Lewicki**



Judy Iliff
High School Math



Eugene Borino
Middle School Science



Christine Murphy
3rd Grade

New teachers in each 'school' at Highlands

By **Susanna Forrester**
Reporter

Three new teachers at Highlands School are determined to help students learn and have fun while in the process.

Judy Iliff, Gene Borino and Christine Murphy have joined the Highlands School staff for the 2006-07 school year and it promises to be an exciting year for them and their students.

Iliff has had a home in the Highlands area for a year, and hails from Florida. She had worked for a large corporation called UNIISYS as an engineer in voice data communications. She graduated from Wayne State University with a Masters in Fine Arts and a teaching certificate in art and math. She is teaching high school math.

"I love math, and I love algebra," said Iliff. "Everyone seems to be afraid

of it. Students seem to be wary of math, but there's no reason for them to be. I want to make math enjoyable, so that students will do well."

Borino, who hails from Palm Beach, Fla., and graduated from Western Carolina University in 2004, spent three years in Highlands a couple of years ago, and was eager to come back to the area. "I wanted to be part of a small community, and I wanted to raise my family in a small community. I love the mountains." He did his student-teaching stint at Highlands School. He is the middle school science teacher.

Borino's teaching style is "constructivist at heart." "My students will be learning through active participation -- small group work with an open forum for discussion. I want them to enjoy being in class so it will be

fun and interesting."

Murphy lived in Atlanta before she came to Highlands School, but she "grew up all over because my dad was in the military," she said. She graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va. She has three children who attend Highlands School. "We decided we wanted to be in a small town," said Murphy. "We wanted to get away from Atlanta."

Murphy plans to "do a lot of special, extra projects" in her classroom this year. "I try to challenge them as much as I can."

Murphy said she loves to teach because she knows she's helping shape a young life. She loves to see "the light bulb come on" when they have an "aha" moment. "It's a lot of fun when they get it." She teaches third grade.

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A final word from King William's Town, South Africa – part 8

On leaving one world; returning to another

By Sara Bates

Highlands Rotary Exchange Student

Just a few days before I left South Africa, my father sent an e-mail with the lyrics of a song he had heard on the CD of a local musician, Lee Knight. The words go something like this, with lots of repeats:

I'm going back to North Carolina.
Never expect to see you anymore.
How can I keep from cryin'?
I'll be home next Monday morning.
My home's across the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The words were all too true for me. My home is in North Carolina, I did return on a Monday, I'm not sure when I'll see my South African friends again, and I could not keep from crying.

This is the last article you will read about my South African adventures of this past year. I have been home for almost two months now, and have reconnected with family, friends, church, and now, my senior year at Highlands High School! I am happy to say that after almost two months back in the mountains, I have readjusted to my surroundings, but my eyes and heart will never be the same again, and the incredible memories of this past year will never be forgotten.

Until the moment of my departure on July 1st from the East London airport along the Eastern Cape, every last moment was packed full. For the final month of my stay in King William's Town, I lived with the Newman family, whose entire extended family had become some of my closest friends throughout the year. My last few weeks were filled with classes



Sara Bates homeward bound.

and end-of-semester exams, and with special opportunities that I count as amazing blessings. I took art lessons where I learned different techniques of the beautiful fabric painting skills that are proudly South African. I played numerous field hockey games with the first girls hockey team at Kingsridge High School. I continued to coach my little boys' soccer teams in town, visited AIDS clinics that changed my perspective on life forever, and learned to hunt in the bush "South African style." Yes, the same kid who cried over "Bambi" is now an experienced hunter.

I cannot count the number of "goodbyes" I shared with so many groups: the school, the churches that took me under their wing, the Rotary clubs, the Rotary Ann's club, my soccer teams, the girls hockey teams, the Wednesday night Bible study, the children at the AIDS clinic, the folks at the old-age retirement home, the host families and friends that I had fallen in love with, and even the greeter at the local grocery store who made it a part of his daily routine to give me a smile and a hug as I entered the store. What I would give right now to just walk up to the grocery store and see that smile and receive that hug again! Not a day goes by when I don't think of my connection to that beautiful country.

In my last month I learned much about myself and how quickly a year, and life for that matter, flies by. It hit me as I said my last good-byes and broke down in tears as I walked across the runway to the plane that would take me back home to the States, that I was not ready to leave! Now I know how quickly life rushes past, and how the people and places God leads us to are there to bless us for the memories we will have on this earth, but saying goodbye caused the most mixed emotions I will ever feel.

Entering the United States again was a serious culture shock! Simply hearing the nasal "American accent" sent me into another round of tears as I



Sara the "Safari Queen" with game-farm owner Mark, host brother Richard, and host father David Newman with ill-fated blesbok.

waited for my third connecting flight to Charlotte, North Carolina. By the time I reached my anxious parents, I had been traveling for over 40 hours...and I definitely looked like it! My South African accent caused lots of confusion as other Americans tried to shuffle me to the international lines and repeatedly asked me how long I would be *visiting* the states. It was hard for me to accept the fact that I am an American, and that my home is in North Carolina. Please don't misunderstand, I absolutely love my home and community.... but I am still in awe at how deeply I became attached to another country during my year abroad.

I would like to thank the Rotary Club of Highlands for making this past year so memorable for me as I had the opportunity to see a whole new side to life, and to help King William's Town in some small ways, too. With the generous support of friends and families here in Highlands and Cashiers, I was able to make donations to soccer teams, churches, schools, Rotary clubs and AIDS centers near my home. To see the love and excitement on their faces as they heard about my home town and the financial support we were offering was priceless.

Somehow I had the mistaken idea that I could only help address the poverty that I saw in Africa if I was living there. But while attending a youth conference in Florida this summer, a group of students from Highlands and Cashiers was inspired to

raise funds and awareness for a Child Survival Program in a developing country. The project is sponsored by Compassion International, and we have committed to raise \$30,000 to fund a program for a full year. Our goal is huge, and our approach is not traditional.

Rather than seeking support directly from local businesses and adults (though we will gladly accept donations from adults too, in a separate fund) we as youth will learn to sacrifice of ourselves, to raise funds for and awareness of world poverty, to change the patterns of our lives, and to make a lasting difference in the lives of hundreds of needy families. Thirty thousand dollars sounds like a lot of money, but if 300 students give \$2.50 a week for this school year, we will have reached our goal. That's the cost of candy bar and a soft drink, or a gallon of gas, or the amount of spare change under the seat of my car.

We are calling our local effort "Change for Change." The point is that the change in our pockets can positively change the lives of others. And hopefully our lives will also be changed along the way. We are planning nine months worth of creative activities and ways to reach our goal, so watch for updates coming soon.

Thank you again for your prayers and support over this past year. I miss South Africa, but it is good to be home again. And as they say in South Africa.....cheers, love!

Bel Canto Recital full of surprises

The operatic recital, which celebrates fine music for the sake of fine art and music education, featured pianist Dr. Stephen Dubberly, Metropolitan Opera tenor Roy Cornelious Smith and mezzo-soprano Megan Roth. Proceeds from the event benefit the permanent art collection at the Bascom-Louise Gallery and the Highlands School music program.

At the culmination of the Sept. 3 performance, Highlands School music teacher Kristina Kirchner presented Roth with a bouquet of roses.



Pianist Dubberly, on the Bel Canto stage for the 14th year in a row, Roth and Smith finished the incredible recital to a standing ovation. New talent Roth wowed the audience with her flawless, varied repertoire, her dramatic flair and her musical talent as an accomplished violinist. Acclaimed tenor Smith filled the hall with his humor and voice.

Dubberly, Smith and Roth with Bel Canto visionary and founder Richard Joel, who personally solicits the talent, helps orchestrate the venue and promotes the recital each year. Ticket holders joined the cast at the Highlands Falls Country Club for a banquet celebration after the show.



Sara played numerous field hockey games with the first girls' hockey team at Kingsridge High School.



Highlands Falls Country Club set the stage for a sumptuous four-station buffet including a cold station of shrimp, cheeses, crab cakes, meats and bread; a beef tenderloin carvery, a tri-colored tortellini and sea scallop station and the finale dessert station featuring chocolates, strawberries, petite fours and more.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 21

teach a bunch of Protestant seminarians about the Lord's Supper. And so he decided to ask the advice of a prominent Catholic liturgical scholar. And the scholar said, with a wink, "You should start by teaching cooking classes." Willimon asked why and the scholar said, "because they will never lead the sacrament with conviction until they first learn the joy of giving food to hungry people!" Just like those persecuted Christians all over the world, even today!

Many years ago, in my other life, when I was doing cardiac surgery in Charlotte, I used to drop by my widowed Aunt Alda's house for brief visits between surgeries. One

morning after a few minutes in her living room, she said, "You'll be staying for lunch, Don," which sounded more like a command than a question. I protested but she insisted and directed me to what once had been Uncle Clyde's chair as she prepared lunch as I rested from a tough case that morning. I was hungry and it smelled great. She asked me to pray and we ate.

Conversation and fellowship followed as we recalled earlier good times with the family. She finally added, "I never feel alone in my house, except at mealtime. The Good Lord never intended for us to eat alone."

That meal, as good as it was, was obviously not the Lord's Supper. *But it was a sacramental meal.* It had meaning far beyond the food and the small talk. It was a time of intimacy and sharing and good humor that I will never forget.

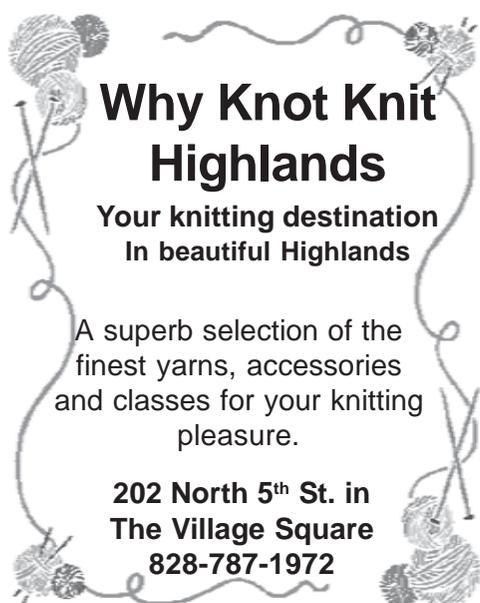
The sad thing is, most of our celebrations of the Eucharist do not have a fraction of the meaning for us that my Aunt Alda and I found in that meal. Part of it, of course, is the way we do it, with all of the traditions and rituals we have wrapped around it, but an even bigger part of it is what we understand the meal to be.

As we eat and drink together today, I hope you will put out of your minds all of

the mental images we have of Maundy Thursday. And instead, I hope you will remember that our host at this meal is the risen Christ . . . the Jesus who appeared to his disciples on the road to Emmaus and on the beach and dined with them.

Words are not enough. We need something more. We need the sure and certain feeling that the risen Christ is here, with us, as available to us as he was to a bunch of broken and lonely disciples on a beach long ago.

Someone we know well is calling to us, and saying, "Come and have breakfast!"



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... OEI continued from page 1

"We had meeting after meeting and I voted for your plan," said Planning Board member Pat Taylor. "And we asked you multiple times to reduce the number of houses and you said you couldn't. I want to know why you're asking for this now."

Pesterfield said after walking the site, owners Art and Angela Williams asked that they reduce the number of houses to preserve the trees, particularly on the back slope.

"We've left the houses on the plan where the trees were already gone but want to remove two from the back part of the lot," he said.

Board members asked if OEI might also consider reducing the number of homes on the Satulah West site as well. Currently about 30 homes are expected to be built on the site – the present Old Creek Lodge property.

Pesterfield said he didn't know about that. OEI CEO Mario Gomes presented the idea to the Town Board at the Sept. 6 meeting.

"We think this is a better use of the land," he said. "After we did the underbrushing we could see the lay of the land better."

Mayor Don Mullen reminded Gomes that he had suggested the reduction for the same reason months before.

Gomes said the Mayor had been right. "We wasted a lot of everyone's time and we realize that," he said.

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf said reducing the density in the steepest areas was a good thing. "Preserving growth in the upper levels will be appreciated from a distance, too," he said.

He also asked if OEI still planned on paying for the redesign of the NC 28, Fourth Street and Satulah Road intersections. "We are working with DOT on that, and we are definitely going to do it," said Gomes.

Not surprisingly the Town Board agreed with the Planning Board's recommendation to allow the reduction in the number of homes on the site.

– Kim Lewicki

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... RIVERWALK continued from page 12

there has to be a goal attached to the order. "Like if silt washes across a road or into someone's driveway, that would impede public health and safety," he said. The goal would be to do what's necessary to keep it from happening again.

To add to matters, the town's new noise ordinance kept RiverWalk developers from repairing breaches in silt fences over the recent weekend and holiday.

The evening of Labor Day, about two inches of rain caused triple wire-lined silt fences to blow out at the Cullasaja-Heatherwood intersection sending silt-laden water straight into the Cullasaja River.

Considering it an emergency, RiverWalk cranked up its backhoe to bolster the breach but was soon shut down by the Highlands Police Department for breaking the "no construction noise on federal holidays" ordinance.

"Because of the breach, the site basically bled silt into the river all night," said Gantenbein.

With September typically a wet month in Highlands, officials on all sides are bracing for the worst. Stacked-boulder retain-

ing walls, hydroseeding, bigger silt ponds and road-grade adjustments have been suggested as deterrents at RiverWalk by McGill Associates, the firm RiverWalk developers has hired to oversee its stormwater plan.

"Wheatstraw and plantings just wash away with surface water runoff," said Gantenbein.

Meanwhile, the Mirror Lake Improvement Association is documenting every infraction at RiverWalk as well as the number of inches of rainfall daily. "I have a rain gauge at my house so I know exactly how much rain falls," he said at the Town Board meeting," said Buck Trott.

On Monday, Sept. 11, state officials are visiting the RiverWalk site to see if developers are breaking state environmental laws beginning with opening up too much land, including roads, at one time. If they have exceeded the limit, the state can impose penalties as high as \$5,000 per incident.

At Wednesday night's meeting, commissioners also discussed requiring post-construction stormwater control measures like other areas in the state not just pre-development controls.

– Kim Lewicki



Photo by Susanna Forrester

Relay for Life proceeds tallied

The grand total raised for the 2006 Mountain Top Relay for Life was \$246,375.49 — a new one-year record! The previous published one-year high was \$238,000, set in 2003.

...

The winners of RBC Centura's Relay For Life fundraiser drawing were as follows: \$50 U.S. Savings Bond - Taylor Schmitt; \$100 Toy Store gift certificate - Dwight Bryant; \$50 in gas from Farmer's Market Exxon - Joy Johnson; bowl from Bryant Art Glass - Linda David; Wholesale Down comforter sheet set - Lisa James; handmade afghan - Mary Ann Creswell.

The bank thanks all the merchants and raffle ticket purchasers for supporting this year's Relay for Life.

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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Why Not Knit Highlands opened Sept. 2 in Village Square.



Co-owner Beki Ledford cards a skein of wool for onlookers.

Macon Bank donates \$1,000 to Congressional Medal of Honor Book Program

Macon Bank has donated \$1,000 to the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation to fund the placement of Medal of Honor books in middle and junior/senior high schools across the state of North Carolina.

In presenting the check to George Mayer with the Medal of Honor Foundation, Macon Bank branch manager Tony Potts expressed appreciation for the foundation's commitment to North



Tony Potts and George Mayer

Carolina youth. According to Mayer, the books will be used by teachers and students to promote the values of courage, sacrifice and patriotism in the youth of North Carolina.

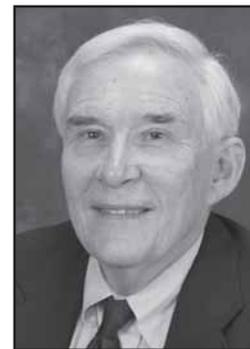
For more information on the "Medal of Honor Books in Schools Across America" program or to make a donation,

phone Nicholas Kehoe at 703-849-8473.

New face at Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles -- Highlands

CENTURY 21 Mountain Lifestyles is pleased to announce that Bob Shipp has joined the Highlands office as a sales associate, specializing in residential sales

Bob has lived the last 12 summers in Highlands, the last nine of which he and his wife resided in a home they built in the Cullasaja Club. A former attorney who specialized in real estate closings and property tax



Bob Shipp

negotiations for more than 35 years, Bob has built several homes in the Highlands area and is familiar with the challenges associated with building homes here.

He is a graduate of the Walter F. George School of Law, of Mercer University (Macon, Ga.), and The University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Penn.).

OEI announces Fall packages

Old Edwards Hospitality Group is pleased to announce 2006 Fall Packages available at Old Edwards Inn and Spa and The Lodge at Old Edwards Inn.

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Included is a Leaf Looker Package Oct. 1-Nov. 15; a Hiking Package and Golf Packages. Call reservations at 866-526-8008 for more information or to book your package.

PAC fundraiser fun for all



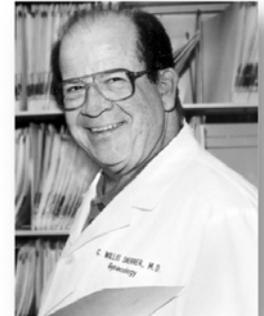
Photo by Kim Lewicki

Only about \$300 was raised for PAC Saturday night, but the 100 guests danced to the sounds of Hurricane Creek until 10 p.m. Several door prizes and raffle items valued at more than \$500 from The Fireside Restaurant; The Kelsey Place Restaurant; Paoletti's; Bed, Bath & Design; Holly's The Kitchen; Fresser's Eatery; Highlands Wine & Cheese; High Country Photo; Goodyear Performance Center; Movie Stop Video; Brick Oven Pizza; Bryson' Food Store; and SweetTreats. Don Leon's Cafe supplied a complete BBQ dinner and wine and beer was available for sale.

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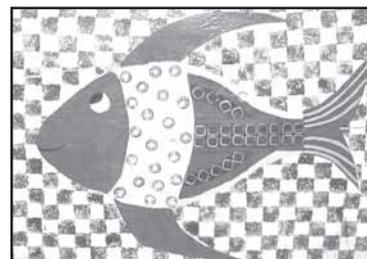
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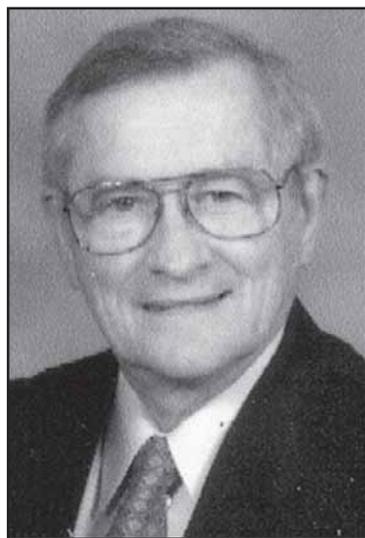
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

On the beach



Dr. Don Mullen
First Presbyterian Church

I have been to Greece many times over the past 10 years as we are preparing to build a Christian hospital in Athens and I have led worship several times in various protestant churches there. For many years these protestants in Greece have been severely persecuted for separating from the Greek Orthodox church (98 percent of the people in Greece are Orthodox).

These protestants are considered heretics. A few years ago I was given the opportunity to preach in the largest protestant church in Athens. After the music, prayer, scripture and preaching, they took a 15-minute break and reconvened at noon for a 45-minute celebration of the Lord's Supper.

They repeated this moving, joyful and deeply spiritual service of the Eucharist every Sunday at noon. I have felt this deep spirituality in other severely persecuted churches around the world -- in Baptist churches in Russia, in the Assyrian Church of the East in Northern Iraq, in house churches in China, and all over Africa -- places where for many years all they were allowed to do was celebrate in liturgy and communion and many times preaching was not allowed.

It was the Eucharist and the liturgy that kept them alive as people of God. All these persecuted churches celebrated communion every chance they got.

You know, some protestants in our country have more trouble with one single commandment in the Bible than we do with all the others combined. And that commandment, of course, is, "Do this in remembrance of me." We have some problems with a few of the other commandments, too, I know, but this is one that we are not quite sure what to do with.

Communion is not, for very many of us, anyway, a time of sheer delight and joy and celebration. Most of us do not come to the Lord's Table expecting to be thrilled and delighted and renewed. For most of us, our experience of the Lord's Supper is all wrapped up in Maundy Thursday. In other words, what springs to our minds is a mental picture of the Last Supper. It is night. The mood is somber. Betrayal and death are in the air. And it's not just any death, either, but an ugly, painful sort of death. To be perfectly honest about it, this is a meal to which we come without much of an appetite.

• See SPIRITUALLY page 21

• PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.
July 30 – 5th Sunday Singer and Dinner featuring Tommy
Brown Family Singers. Followed by worship service and
dinner.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

CHRIST CHURCH

(Anglican)

The Rev. Thomas "Tommy" Allen- 526-2320

Sunday: Holy Communion: 4:30

(Community Bible Church)

Tuesday: Bible Study in Cashiers at noon

Wednesday:

Mens Bible Study at 8 a.m.

(Highlands First Baptist); Christianity Explored in the 21st
Century, 7-8 p.m., Bank of America Building 2nd floor.

Thursday: Morning Prayer at 10:30

(Peggy Crosby Center Rm. 203)

All are Welcome!

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer

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

Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday -- 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)

Steven E. Kerhoulas, Senior Pastor

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

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

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Womens Bible Study

Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Students' Dinner (free for kids in 8th
grade and younger);

5:30 p.m. Supper; 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 pm Small Groups for kids

Pre-K through 8th; 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm Adult Bible Study

6pm-7pm Choir Practice

• Small Groups are offered for all ages throughtout the week,
see our website or call for more info.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968

Sunday: 8 a.m. – Holy Eucharist-Rite 1; 8:30 a.m. -

Breakfast; 9 a.m.. - Sunday School; 9:45 a.m. - Choir Practice;

10:30 a.m. - Childrens Chapel; 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist -

Rite II

Monday:4 p.m. - Womens cursillo Group; 5:30 p.m. -

Womens Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 a.m. - Mens Cursillo Group; 9:30 a.m. - Staff

Meeting

Wednesday: 2 p.m. – Interlude; 6:30 p.m – Choir

Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - Mens Cursillo Group Meeting; 10

a.m. - Holy Eucharist with healing; 10:30 a.m. - Daughters

of the King Meeting; 10:30 a.m. – Bible Study

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

Sun.: Worship – 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School –
9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.;

Choir – 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.; Prayer

– 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175

Sun.: Worship – 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Sun.School – 9:30 & 9:45.

Mondays: 8 a.m. – Mens Bible Discussion & Breakfast

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers

Wednesdays: Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.

Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m.& 5

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 8:30 & 11 a.m.;

5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: noon – Mens Emmaus Reunion Group; 4:45 –

Childrens choir and handbells; 5:30 – Supper; 6 – Adult

Handbells; 6:15 – children, youth, & adults studies;

7:15 – Adult choir

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

Thurs:12:30 – Womens Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

LITTLE CHURCH OF THE WILD WOOD

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MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130

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

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871

Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Tien, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Evening

Worship – 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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

Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 20

Do we come away from this meal convinced that we have been joined to each other and to Jesus Christ at a deep and transforming level? Do we get the feeling from that little thimble-full of juice that God can be trusted beyond a shadow of a doubt to quench the thirst in our parched lives?

Real worship for many of us and most Protestants is singing the hymns, hearing the Bible read, and preaching. It's been that way since the Reformation almost 500 years ago. We've even changed the name from Eucharist which literally means joyful thanksgiving to the Lord's Supper denoting that last somber supper the disciples had with our Lord. And as for our Lord's Supper, most of us are willing to say that yes, it's special but should be reserved for special occasions and it's best not to overdo it. We wouldn't want it to become ordinary or routine now, would we?

It's funny, though, that in the months and years and decades following Jesus' death and resurrection no one worried much about having their sacramental meals become routine. In those first years of the

early church which was so severely persecuted, no one worried that over doing the Eucharist would rob it of its special character. They celebrated this sacrament every time they got together — not just every week, but every day at mealtime as they met in each other's homes . . . in joyful remembrance of the risen Christ!

They heard the stories of Jesus' miraculous healings. They remembered the exact words of the parables he told. They called to mind the names of the unlikely people Jesus chose to befriend. But that was not enough. Only in the meals they shared together, only in the breaking of the bread and in the sharing of the cup, did they feel his presence. Joyfully and excitedly, they would say to each other, "He's here. Do you feel him? There it is — that unmistakable presence!"

After the resurrection when two disciples were on the road to Emmaus, they listened to this stranger teaching them, and the story says, "their hearts burned within them." But that was only the beginning. Later, when this stranger, the resurrected Jesus, shared a meal with them, they

recognized him. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, and it says in Luke, "their eyes were opened." Hearing the words only does so much for us. Feeling his presence changes us.

When we celebrate the Lord's Supper together, we are not reenacting the Last Supper, some sad and somber prelude to the cross. We are joyfully celebrating a meal with the risen Christ. We have good food here for hungry people.

In today's scripture the disciples had returned to their old way of life in Galilee, far away from Jerusalem and the cross. They are as sad and dejected as can be. You can feel the heaviness of their despair in the short dialogue in the story. Peter says, "I am going fishing." And the rest of the disciples say, "We will go with you." That is not the way inspired and energized people talk, people who are ready to take the world by storm. This was between the resurrection and Pentecost which was the birth of the church . . . a waiting period when they were trying to figure out what this Jesus was all about ... and what we are now hearing is the language of defeat, depression and discouragement.

This was a low point, and the person who wrote this story wants us to sense in it a low point. Because it is precisely at that point that Jesus appears to them. And he appears to them unmistakably, wonderfully, reassuringly — not in words, not in a sermon preached by the side of the lake, not in a scripture reading, not even in the singing of a few hymns, but in a meal, cooked over a little charcoal fire on a beach.

The best words the disciples could have heard that morning were, "Come and have breakfast." In sharing that meal together, the resurrected Jesus lifted them up out of the depths of their depression. What an incredible experience it must have been to have been there. He must have recalled for them meals, wonderful meals, they had shared in the past. And he prepared them for their new life as his disciples. A lot happened in that little post-resurrection meal — and much of it without words even being spoken.

A few years ago, when Will Willimon began to teach worship at the Duke Divinity School, he wondered how in the world to

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 16

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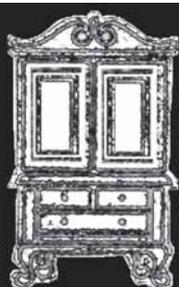
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

• Thursdays at the Barn: If you would like a walking tour of the new property on which will sit our new Fine Art Center, join us any Thursday at 5 p.m. for a personal tour. Meet us at the Crane Stable Barn on Oak Street.

• FREE improv classes at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call the ITC office at 828.526.1687. A new class is forming now. You may also email us at instanttheatre@instanttheatre.org. Come play with us!

• Mountain Findings will be open until 6 p.m. each Friday. The normal hours of operation have always been 10 am to 4 pm, Monday through Saturday.

• Angie Jenkins on the piano at the Old Clayton Inn in Clayton on Fridays and Saturdays for dinner.

• Shakespeare & Co. bookstore in Highlands Village Square is hosting readings by members of the Highlands Writers Group at a literary happening 3-5 p.m. the last Sunday afternoon in each month during the summer and fall. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited. Call 526-3777.

• Al-Anon meets every Wednesday at 10:45 a.m. in the community room of the First Presbyterian Church.

• The Scaly Mountain Women's Club's pancake breakfasts the fourth Saturday of each month through October from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

• The "Zachary-Tolbert House" in Cashiers will be open for tours Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. through October 14. The house is located at 1940 Highway 107 S., two miles south of the Cashiers Crossroads. Special tours and events may be arranged by calling the Cashiers Historical Society, 828-743-7710.

• Highlands Historic Village is open for tours Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through the end of October. The House-Trapier-Wright Home and the Museum and Archives are located at 524 N. 4th Street, across from the Funeral Home. Special tours or access to the archives may be arranged by calling the Highlands Historical Society at 828-787-1050 or by e-mailing highlandshistory@nctv.com.

• 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.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will have Osteoporosis prevention exercise classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free with HealthTracks Membership or \$8 per class for non-members. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

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

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is holding Pilates classes on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Cost of the class is \$10 per session or \$8 (each) for 10 sessions. Contact Health Tracks at 828-526-1FIT.

• A Grief Support Group is held every Friday from 10-12 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for anyone who has lost a loved one through death or is dealing with a progressive illness with a loved one. If interested in at-

AD Pi Reunion!



Recently, five University of Florida AD Pi alumni met to make preliminary plans for the '2007 Alumni Luncheon' at Highlands Falls Country Club. Pictured are seasonal residents Emily Buskirk (Bradenton, Fla.), Nancy Anderson (Jacksonville, Fla.), Pat Fay (Melbourne Fla.), Beverly Howell (Dothan, Ala.) and Peggy Kirkpatrick (Gainesville, Fla.). The reunion luncheon will be in August 2007. Invitations will be mailed next summer.

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tending, please contact Helen Moore (Hospice) 526-0727 or Martha Porter (Chaplain at HCH) at 787-1463.

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

• Every Tuesday evening, Spiritual Cinema Circle at The Instant Theatre Company brought to you by Star-Pony Productions at 7 pm. Visionary, inspiring movies showcased at film festivals around the world are viewed. Suggested donation: \$5, Beverages and snacks available for purchase.

• Live music nightly at ...on the Verandah at 7 p.m. Chad Reed plays Wednesday - Sunday night and Sunday Brunch; Angie Jenkins plays Mondays; Paul Scott plays every Tuesday.

• Live piano music with Hal Phillips at Skyline Lodge & Restaurant every Friday and Saturday night and Sunday brunch.

• Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn. featuring Cy Timmons Wed. through Sat., 6 p.m. until.

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

• Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Saturday from 4:30-6:30.

• Live music at Wolfgang's Bistro every Sun. and Mon. it's Momo on Piano; every Wed. it's Paul Scotts Trio; and every Thurs. & Fri it's Rickey Dean on piano.

Through Sept. 14

• At Bascom-Louise Gallery and Fine Art Center on exhibit: The Potters of Seagrove, Sid Luck is back by popular demand... along with Ben Owen and other distinguished potters from Seagrove, North Carolina, mecca of thrown pots since the 1700s. The gallery will be filled with dozens of turned pieces in all kinds of shapes, contours, colors, glazes, and textures. Opening is from 5-7 p.m., Aug 12. Free.

Through Sept. 30

• Trunk Show at Acorn's. Juliska.

Sept. 7 & 8

• Fabulous Watercolor Workshop. Sapphire Valley Community Center. Conducted by Herbie Rose,

internationally collected and inspiring teacher. This Jamaican born artist teaches at Ringling School of Art and Design. He is a graduate of N. Y. Phoenix School of Design with post-grad studies at Pratt Institute. For info call Bonnie Adams 743-5552

Sept. 7

• At the Bascom-Louise Gallery Fine Art Center: Mohair Teddy Bears: make a gorgeous Teddy bear out of real mohair. Perfect holiday gift for a special child or for yourself. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; \$185. (\$150. FRIENDS)

• At the Bascom-Louise Gallery Fine Art Center: Fearless Acrylic Painting with Laurence Holden: six-week class which meets every Thursday 2-4 p.m.

• At the Bascom-Louise Gallery Open Studio: Live model for figure drawing 5-7 p.m.

Sept. 8-10

• The Annual Native Plant Conference at the Performing Arts Center. Experts will discuss and then show attendees examples of residents' and nature's gardens in the area. For more information call 526-2602 or stop by the Highlands Biological Station on Sixth Street to register for the Conference.

Sept. 9

• Free Health Screening at Highlands Cashiers Hospital for residents of Highlands and Scaly Mountain, Saturday, beginning at 7:15 a.m., at the new Jane Woodruff Clinic on the campus of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. To pre-register, participants can use the hospital's website at www.hchospital.org, by clicking on the screening menu, and completing the registration form. Or they can call the hospital's Foundation office at 828 526-1435.

• At the Bascom-Louise Gallery Fine Art Center: Tea with the fiber artist: Donna Rhodes. She will discuss fiber arts and answer questions about the medium and her upcoming class: Beaded Woven Pouch.

Sept. 10-13

• Relationship conference: Discover and apply Biblical solutions for resolving marital and personal conflicts at a seminar with John Regier. This free conference will be held each evening 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m., September 10-13 at Community Bible Church. Contact Community Bi-

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

ble Church for more information or to register, 828-526-4685.

Sept. 10-14

• Women's Wellness Retreat at Old Edwards Inn & Spa presented by The Cleveland Clinic. Call 787-2610 for package details.

Sept. 11

• There will be a study of Beth Moore's newest Bible study on the Book of Daniel at Highlands School beginning Monday at 3:45 p.m. Anyone who is interested in joining this group can call Carol Bowen, the facilitator, at 526-5168 for further information. The only charge is the cost of the accompanying workbook, approximately \$18, and scholarships are available. Everyone is welcome!

• The annual luncheon of the Highlands/Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary will be on Monday at 12:30 p.m. at Chestnut Hill. Please call 526-3837 for your reservation for this important and enjoyable event.

Sept. 12

• "A Year in the Life of a Black Bear," Audubon Program, presented by Kathy Sherrard and Anne Allison of Appalachian Bear Center in Townsend, TN; 7 p.m. Highlands Civic Center.

• The film "Serendipity" at PAC at 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 14

• At the Bascom-Louise Gallery Fine Art Center: Fearless Acrylic Painting with Laurence Holden.

• At ...on the Verandah, a French Creole Dinner with McKinnon's Louisiana. Call 828-526-2338 for tickets and reservations.

Sept. 15

• At the Bascom-Louise Gallery Fine Art Center: Beaded Woven Pouch, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Pin-loom weaving. Create a woven pouch with novelty threads first day. Bead it second day. \$120. (\$85, FRIENDS)

Sept. 16

• Mountain Song Festival at the Brevard Music Center featuring Doc Watson, David Holt, 111rd Tyme Out, Steep Canyon Rangers, and Biscuit Burners. Tickets are \$35. Call 800-514-3849 or 828-243-3496 for tickets

and information.

Sept. 13-17

• The 53rd Macon County Fair will take place in Franklin. The theme for 2006 is "Agriculture: Macon" It Happen at the Macon County Fair." Pack up your projects of art work, garden vegetables, baking, canning,

photography, sewing, flowers, or other hobbies you may have, and enter them at the fair. ATTENTION! Youth that participated in the Summer Relief Programs, special interest programs, club activities...please locate your projects and enter them in the fair. For more information, call the Macon County Fair at 369-3523.

Sept. 17



People lined up outside Cyrano's this past Saturday to get author Pat Conroy's signature. Photo by Kim Lewicki

Clason Kyle to sign at Cyrano's

Sept. 9, 1-3 p.m.

Former journalist and long-time Highlands summer resident F. Clason Kyle will sign copies of his new book "In Order of Appearance: Chronicling 135 Years on America's Most Celebrated Stage", a lush, fascinating history of the Springer Opera House in Columbus, Georgia. Opened in 1871 and still drawing crowds (including, recently, for Garrison Keillor), the Springer is the State Theater of Georgia and has hosted everyone from John Philip Sousa and "Ma" Rainey to Martha Graham, Oscar Wilde and F.D.R.

But more than just an account of the Springer — fascinating as that grand, ornate building is — "In Order of Appearance" is in effect a history of popular entertainment in the 19th and 20th centuries, before television kept us willing prisoners in our living room. Here are the people our parents, grand

parents and great-grandparents wanted to see including whether it was the African-American piano prodigy "Blind" Tom Bethune or the actress Lillie Langtry, notorious mistress of the Prince of Wales. Sharply drawn biographical portraits and colorful anecdotes proved fun reading cover-to-cover and reward the casual reader who wants to dip in and learn about particular celebrities and historical figures. Mr. Kyle also includes contemporary performance reviews from the Columbus newspaper.

Mr. Kyle's 1986 book, "Images: A Pictorial History of Columbus, Georgia" has become one of the standard reference works on the city.

Lavishly illustrated and beautifully produced, "In Order of Appearance" makes a great gift for friends—or for yourself.

• At ...on the Verandah, a special 25th anniversary celebration from noon-6 p.m. It's free!

Sept. 18

• At the Bascom-Louise Gallery Fine Art Center: Beaded Woven Pouch, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sept. 19

• Audubon Field Trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway for view fall migrants. Meet at 7 a.m. in the Parking Lot next to the Highlands Town Hall to carpool.

Sept. 21

• Six Course Gourmet Wine Dinner at The Farm at OEI, 6 p.m. Featuring Steele Winery from the Napa Valley. \$149 per person inclusive. Call 828-787-2610 for reservations.

• At the Bascom-Louise Gallery Fine Art Center: Fearless Acrylic Painting with Laurence Holden

• At the Bascom-Louise Gallery Fine Art Center: Open Studio, 5 a.m.-7 p.m.

• The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will feature guide Dave Duffy at its meeting to be held at Grace Community Church. Dave's presentation features a slide show describing water types, locations, flies and methods to fish different flies The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and features a raffle for a selection of Dave's flies and the Brookings guided trip. Call 743-2078 for additional information.

Sept. 23

• At the Bascom-Louise Gallery Fine Art Center: Art and Wine Display: regional artists will have their work on exhibit in the gallery prior to the auction (free)

• An evening of "Mountain Folk Tales" Saturday at 7 p.m. with playwright and regional folklorist Gary Carden at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall at 85 Sierra Drive in Franklin. A "pie dinner" will be served starting at 6 pm. A \$20 donation is requested. You may purchase tickets by calling (706) 746-9984. They can also be obtained at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce or from UU members.

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Sept. 8-14

STEP UP rated PG-13

Mon - Fri: (4:05), 7:05, 9:05
Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:05), 7:05, 9:05

WICKERMAN rated PG-13

Mon - Fri: (4:20), 7:15, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:20), 7:15, 9:20

INVINCIBLE rated PG

Mon - Fri: (4:10), 7, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:10), 7, 9:10

MATERIAL GIRLS rated PG

Mon - Fri: (4:15)

Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:15)

TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY

rated PG-13

Mon - Fri: 7:10, 9:15

Sat & Sun: 7:10, 9:15

At Cyrano's Book Shop Book Signings • 1-3 p.m.

September 9

F Clason Kyle – *In Order of Appearance*

September 16

Dennis Ackison – *Murder at Fontana Dam*

September 23

Paul Gerhardt – *Feline Four*

September 28

Tom Smoot – *The Edisons of Ft. Myers*

October 7

William Rawlings – *Crossword*

October 8

Fred Wooldridge – *I'm Moving Back To Mars*

October 12 • 6-7:30 p.m.

Susan Mason – *Silver Service*

October 14

Joan Medlicott • 11-1, *The Covington Series*

Celia Miles • 11-1, *Mattie's Girl*

Gayden Metcalfe • 3-5, *Being Dead is No Excuse*

October 21

Gerry Soud – *Life As I Slice It*

October 28 • 10 a.m. -noon

George Ellison – *A Blue Ridge Nature Journal*

December 16

Carl Smith – *Louisiana Burn*

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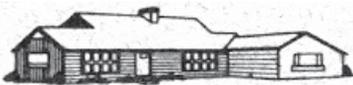
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HELP WANTED

HCC PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

- Accepting applications for administration position at local country club. Seasonal, flexible position (9-10 months) with good benefits. Duties include answering phones, regular interaction with members and vendors and performing general secretarial and clerical duties. Minimum five years experience, good interpersonal and communication abilities with PC skills, including Word and Excel required. Graphics and/or some bookkeeping background a plus. Send resume by fax to 828-526-1951 or mail to General Manager, P.O. Box 707, Highlands, NC 28741 9/14

THE CHRISTMAS TREE – Needs weekend help. Call Trish at 526-3687.

BUCK'S COFFEE CAFE - Full and part time Counter Help needed for year round employment Please stop by 384 Main Street for a application or call 526-4646 for more information.

SECRETARY-RECEPTIONIST - Accepting applications for a full-time, year round experienced Secretary-Receptionist. Seeking a reliable individual with a pleasant personality to answer phones, and perform general secretarial and clerical duties. Must possess good computer knowledge, and typing skills. Excellent benefits. Send resume by fax to 828-526-9608 or mail to P.O. Box 220 Highlands, NC 28741. Deadline for applications September 15th.

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MANICURIST/PEDICURIST & AESTHETICIANS – Needed for exclusive private health club in Cashiers. Must be team player. NC license required. Send resume to: P.O. Box 405, Cashiers, NC 28717. 8/31

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB – is looking for a starter, and bag room and driving range personnel. Retirees welcome. Competitive wages, flexible hours, and employee meals. Apply in person 981 Dillard Road, Highlands or call 828-526-2181 for application.

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BARTENDERS, COCKTAIL SERVERS, AND FOOD SERVERS – needed for the evening shifts at Highlands Country Club. Experience is a plus, positive attitude a must. Please apply at 981 Dillard Road, Highlands or call for application (828) 526-2181.

SWEETREATS IN HIGHLANDS – needs Kitchen Prep, Dishwasher, Servers and Counter Help. Come by or call Beth or Bob. 526-9822.

PIZZA PLACE OF HIGHLANDS – seeking mature adults for full time, year round help. Competitive wages. Please apply in person. Must speak and read English.

PIZZA PLACE OF HIGHLANDS – looking for a qualified full time, year round night time manager. Pay based on experience. Please apply in person. Must speak and read English.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BP AND GENERAL STORE – needs part-time cashier 2nd shift 3-7pm Monday thru Friday, Saturday or Sunday 7am - 6pm. Starting \$9 per hour. Some benefits. Apply in person. No calls please.

FULL OR PART-TIME RETAIL SALES – Weekends required, no exceptions. Must be responsible, professional appearing, enthusiastic and have retail sales experience. Call The Summer House in Highlands at 828-526-5577.

HIGH COUNTRY CAFE – now hiring for all positions, on the floor and in the kitchen. EOE employer. Call 526-0572.

CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECHNICIAN AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Previous experience in purchasing and inventory control preferred. Seeking a mature, self-directed, motivated applicant with good organizational skills, effective verbal and written communication skills, and basic computer skills. Able to work Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301 or apply online through website, www.hchospital.org.

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

COOK AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time, year-round employment; 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., various days of the week. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and

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

CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. This full-time position is for 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday, nights. Must have completed two years of college from an approved program in Medical Technology and possess a credential as an M.L.T. from either ASCP or HEW. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1303 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

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#2) Small three bedroom/two bath older mountain cottage- close to town. Some furnishings. \$1,000 per month, plus utilities/maintenance. \$1,000 Security Deposit. All homes require interview, rental application, credit and/or background check. Please come by The Chambers Agency, 401 N. Fifth St. or call 828-526-3717

VACATION RENTAL – in Sky Valley. 10 miles from Highlands. \$500/week, 2/2, Newer, completely furnished. No smoking, no pets. Call 772-321-9620. 10/5

HOME FOR RENT IN HIGHLANDS. 3-bedroom, 2-bath chalet on six acres. Great for kids. \$1,100 per month annually. Call 772-215-5896 or email twalinski@aol.com

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WILL TRADE ST. SIMONS ISLAND 3 BED, 3 BATH CONDO, oceanfront for mountain house, lake view. \$1,500,000. Broker, pictures@www.rogerbudd.com, juliebudd@bellsouth.net, 229-630-7200. 9/8

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 26

• CLASSIFIEDS •

or 421-3161

QUAINT – Newly remodeled farm-style home. 1 acre, 2 stories, 3 bed, 1 bath, hardwood & carpet floors. Close to Cashiers area golf courses and Lake Glenville. Quiet neighborhood. Asking \$180,000. Call Linda. Day: 828-743-2948. Evenings: 828-743-2654.

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VACUUM CLEANER – Sears late model with power head. Very good condition. Originally sold for \$295. Will sell for \$149. 828-526-4077.

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ETHAN ALLEN HUTCH – Nutmeg color. Two sections. Top, bullnose glass & wood frame doors with two open side shelves on side. Bottom, center 3 drawers with 2 side doors on each side. Enclosed shelves. Top and bottom 6 feet long, 56-inches high and 18-inches wide. Excellent condition. \$998. Call 828-526-4077.

ETHAN ALLEN ROCKING CHAIR – Antique White. \$125.

PIANO BENCH – with storage in seat. Walnut color. \$75. Call 828-526-4077.

NEW SET OF 18" VENT-FREE GAS FIRE-PLACE LOGS. New – still in the box. \$295. 828-526-4077.

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RAINBOW E-SERIES VACUUM CLEANER, excellent condition with all accessories, \$925 call Dee @ 828-369-8928.

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

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1992 FORD 150 PICK-UP TRUCK – Extended cab, with covered top, 100,000 miles. Cherry condition. \$3,500. Call 526-0539.

1993 CADILLAC 60 SPECIAL – 4-door, DeVille chassis, 4.7 V/8, 16 city/24Hwy. Beautiful Artic white with flawless red leather, ABS Brakes, Air bags, sun roof, Bose CD sound system, new Michelin tires. Two owners, Florida car. Like new. Non smoker. \$4,750. Call 828-787-1563 or cell: 828-200-1563.

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

1995 GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO, loaded, V-8, 4WD, new tires, new brakes, leather, PW, PL, 168K, priced to sell, \$3,900. Cell: 200-0013.

1991 SUBURBAN 3/4 TON, 130K miles, 20K on Tranny, 350 V8, lift w/wheels & tires, good condition, never off-road, white/blue \$4350. 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

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DAHLIAS FOR TRADE – Have a dozen deep purple/burgandy dahlia plants to trade for other colors. Call 787-1310 now to make plans to exchange next spring.

STACKABLE WASHER/DRYER – Call 421-7922.

SOMEONE TO PULL A TRAILER – from Highlands (Carolina Court) to Maggy Valley, NC. Call 828-526-3859.

HOUSEKEEPER – We are looking for a dependable, weekly housekeeper who can work year round. We do not have any children or pets. Our home is located half way between Highlands and Cashiers. We visit our home during the summer months. Please contact us at 526-4301.

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

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PAINTING, PRESSURE WASHING – "It's All We Do" Free Next Day estimates. References. Gary miller. Call 526-0722.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

DISCOVER ARBONNE – pure Swiss skin care, nutrition and aromatherapy. Learn about the incredible products. Call Darlene Melcher at 526-4685

POLICE & FIRE REPORT

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Aug 31-Sept. 5. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

Aug. 31

- At 8:30 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 43 mph in a 25 zone at Hickory & U.S. 64 east..

- At 10 a.m., a resident of Flat Mountain Road reported illegal use of a credit card in the amount of \$53.76..

Sept. 1

- At 6:15 a.m., James Nagel, 52, of Highlands, was arrested for assault during a domestic dispute.

- At 8 a.m., resident on N. 5th Street reported items taken from a home.

- At 11:30 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 36 mph in a 20 zone at Second and Main streets.

- At 11:51 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 51 mph in a 35 zone at Cobb and NC 106.

- At 9:56 p.m., officers investigated a noise complaint at a resident on Trillium Circle..

Sept. 2

- At 6 a.m., a motorist was cited for driving without a license at Webbmont and U.S. 64 west.

- At 6:15 p.m., Escamilla Silva Carmelo, 35, of Franklin, was arrested for driving without a license or insurance.

Sept. 3

- At 11 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 40 mph in a 25 zone at Hickory and U.S. 64 west.

- At 9:14 p.m., a man working at Highlands Inn who was mistakenly identified as a subject on "America's Most Wanted," was taken to the police department for questioning. He was released after officers verified his identity..

Sept. 4

- At 12:07 p.m., officers heard from residents complaining of noise at the RiverWalk construction site..

Sept. 5

- At 9:30 a.m., Beverly Gale Knorr, 60, of Highlands was arrested for driving without insurance or registration. She was released on a \$500 secured bond.

- At 9:15 a.m., a motorist at Maple and Block Oak Street, was cited for driving without registration.

During the week, officers issued three warning citations and responded to one alarm activation.

