PB snagged on ‘outdoor merchandise’

The definition of “outdoor merchandise” and the problem of what to do about it is still uncertain.

As charged by the Town Board, at its Monday, Aug. 27 meeting the Planning Board tried to define and regulate it but ran into the same problems as town commissioners.

After years of turning a blind eye and with Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward now on staff, the town has decided to take on the issue of outdoor merchandise. Currently the ordinance reads: “It shall be unlawful for any commercial business to display goods, wares, or merchandise outside the building in which said business is conducted, except for merchandise which “is of such a nature that it ordinarily” remains...

See OUTDOOR page 43

School system stands poised for future

Most of Macon County Schools hit targets set by the state concerning Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2006-2007 school year.

The ABCs of Public Education began in the 1996-1997 school year as part of North Carolina’s school improvement program. The ABCs model measures Performance Composite, Growth and AYP status. Results are derived by end-of-grade and end-of-course tests. Performance composite is the percentage of the test scores in a school at or above Achievement Level III. Growth is an indication of the rate at which the students learned over the past year. The standard is equivalent to a year’s worth of growth for a year of instruction.

In addition, the major goal of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 is to ensure that all public school children perform at grade level in reading and mathematics by the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

At the Aug. 27 Macon County School Board meeting, Pat Davis presented results of the schools’ 2007 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) where only 100%....

See SCHOOL SYSTEM page 2

Weekend Weather:

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New diplomas to address graduation & dropout rates

With a single unanimous motion, Macon County School Board may have figured out a way to increase its cohort graduation rate and decrease, if not eliminate, its dropout rate.

At the Aug. 27 school board meeting, board members approved two new diploma programs at Franklin High School – one for students at risk of dropping out or not graduating due to a lack of credits and one for students who are enrolled with the traditional high school course offerings and are ready for more.

As per the N.C. General Statute 115C-12 (Powers and Duties of a State Board of Education) schools were supposed to develop a program whereby ninth-graders are adequately informed of accelerated programs open to them by 2005-2006 and those programs are supposed to be implemented in some form by 2007-2008.

Macon County has been doing that with its dual-enrollment program with Southwestern Community College for some time and more recently with its Early College High School, but now it’s gone a step further.

Effective immediately, Macon County Schools has adopted the FastTrak 24 program and the FastTrak 21 program. Each program targets a different type of student...

See DIPLOMAS page 18

‘Children’s play in local garden’

Betty Ingrish on Whiteside Road was wondering why the daisies she planted around her waterfall and pond were showing signs of wear. Now she knows! The area has become a playground for a mama bear and her three cubs.

Last Wednesday during the heat of the day from 1:30-3 p.m. Ingrish watched them bathe in the pool and play in the garden around the waterfall. "The Mama bear let the cubs take turns bathing and when they were finished, she went in," said Ingrish. 'I watched them for hours - playing and batting the flowers back and forth - not harming them - just playing like children. It was absolutely fascinating.”

Photos by Betty Ingrish
...SCHOOL SYSTEM
continued from page 1

counts and all goals must be attained.

“These are preliminary results and subject to verification and approval by the State Board of Education, but they give us an idea of where we are,” she said.

The county’s 10 schools have a specific number of targets they must hit based on school size. For most it’s 13 targets, but for Macon Middle it’s 21; for Nantahala it’s 11 and for South Macon Elementary it’s 15 target goals.

Out of the county’s 10 schools (not including the Early College High School), only two didn’t make AYP – East Franklin Elementary which made 12 of the 13 targets and Macon Middle which met 15 of its 21 targets. The other eight schools hit all 13 targets required.

“We have already started staff development to help each school to see as a school district how we can improve,” said Davis.

“Just because a school met all of its targets and its AYP is 100%, doesn’t mean there still isn’t room for improvement somewhere.”

Superintendent Dan Brigman said these mileposts set at the state and federal levels are moving targets.

“Bench marks increase from year to year so this gets harder and harder,” he said.

“Since we are required by law to teach certain standard courses of study, we will be looking at extra curricular activities and all that will be re-evaluated and scrutinized because government requirements are changing the way we do business every day.”

Hesaid with new strategies implemented and focus groups organized in all the schools he believes there will be drastic improvement in Macon County Schools concerning AYP and other mileposts.

Davis said the purpose of the focus groups isn’t to assign blame, but to see how everyone can work together for the betterment of the school district. “We’re having honest conversations with principals and the teachers to determine what needs to be done,” she said.

Board member Roberta Swank said it’s interesting that the most crowded schools had the hardest time hitting their targets.

“You can’t blame the teachers or students when they don’t have comfortable or adequate facilities. This is another reason why the bond issue is so important and a good reason to vote ‘yes’,” she said.

Monday night the school board OK’d the proposed work schedule for Phase I of East Franklin renovations which will be funded through $2 million QZAB bonds. The work is ready to go to bid so the bid can be awarded by Oct. 4. Work is set to begin at the school mid-December to take advantage of the Christmas holidays when the school will be empty.

Phase 2 will involve expansion for a

See SCHOOL SYSTEM page 6

THE PLATEAU’S POSITION

HAWK’S EYE VIEW

LETTERS

Highlands invites engagement

Dear Editor,

Over the weekend not only did I get engaged to the man that I love but I also got to experience the most beautiful place I have ever been, Highlands, NC. I was speechless almost the entire weekend trip with all of Highlands’ natural beauty – the waterfalls, the trees, the butterflies and life to top it all off a surprise engagement.

Because of how amazing our time was Friday and Saturday, my then boyfriend proposed on a whim at a local auction. He placed a bid on a 100-year-old engagement ring and won!

As I stood there in disbelief he asked “So… you think you might want to get married or something?” and I looked over at him, my eyes filing up with tears and said “uh-huh.” It was so romantic.

Thank you for maintaining all of the town’s beauty, I was truly touched and all of your hard work has definitely paid off. Highlands will always have a place in my heart.

Miranda Sissine

Life expectancy doesn’t always point to health care

Dear Editor:

There are several exclamations in the Salzarulo column of 23 August with which I disagree. I shall address the first one in which he writes that he “wasn’t surprised to read that there are 41 countries in the world with greater life expectancies than ours. You may be shocked, and you may still believe that we have the best health care system in the world. We don’t.”

Life expectancy is a poor metric for measuring the quality of health care. Many things that cause premature death have nothing to do with health care. For example, our homicide and traffic death rates are higher than other countries, but these have nothing to do with quality of medical care.

Many surveys of this nature engage in subjective judgments when ranking countries. For example, if a country does not have socialistic, broadly distributed health care they are judged to have poor quality health care. These are two very different considerations. The quality of

Our Community Service - A Free Local Newspaper

Member N.C. Press Association
FREE every Thursday; circulation 7,500; 100+ distribution points
Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 526-0782
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Thanks for reading the Highlands’ Newspaper. Please email letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.
By Sally Hansen

For Highlands resident Patce Thornton, making the weekly drive to Asheville to visit Mission Children’s Center is much more pleasant thanks to the Lewis Rathbun Center. Thornton’s grandson Seth Satterwhite has Hunter’s Syndrome, and receives a weekly infusion treatment at the Fullerton Genetic Center.

The Rathbun Center is a facility that provides “home-like” lodging for families who have to travel to Asheville for specialized medical treatment. Founded in 1994 by Adelaide Daniels Key, the Center offers guests a place to stay at no charge for up to 30 consecutive days per hospitalization. “We usually stay for two to three nights as long as there is a room available,” said Thornton.

The Center has a total of 25 rooms and four kitchens, including some basic food items so families can prepare meals and feel more at home. Each of the three floors is also equipped with a laundry room, with an iron and laundry supplies to be used by guests as needed. “It is a life saver for us and so many people (over 17,000 individual families in western NC),” said Thornton.

A shuttle is also provided to Mission Hospitals, as the Rathbun Center is located a few miles from the medical centers. All of these services are provided for free. Guests need only to have a referral from a physician, a clergy member, or a hospital social worker, and they can’t be residents of Buncombe County.

Seth’s disease prevents his body from producing an enzyme needed to break down and recycle complex sugars. It is a rare inherited disorder that is estimated to affect around 500 people in the United States. Because the waste products from the sugars aren’t eliminated, they build up in the body’s tissues and organs and can cause a myriad of problems in most body systems.

Physical manifestations for some people with Hunter syndrome include distinct facial features, a large head, and an enlarged abdomen. People with Hunter syndrome may also experience hearing loss, thickening of the heart valves leading to a decline in cardiac function, obstructive airway disease, sleep apnea, and enlargement of the liver and spleen.

Range of motion and mobility may also be affected. In some cases of Hunter syndrome, central nervous system involvement leads to developmental delays and nervous system problems. Not all people with Hunter syndrome are affected by the disease in exactly the same way, and the rate of symptom progression varies widely. However, Hunter syndrome is always severe, progressive, and life-limiting.

But spend a little time with Seth, and you’ll quickly see that he takes the weekly trips to the hospital and the endless doctor visits all in stride -- a smile forever on his face.

Thornton not only has to take Seth to Asheville for his weekly enzyme infusion therapy, but also for “all of his other appointments, including ENT, audiology, heart, orthopedic, neurologist, OT, PT, speech and so on,” she said. With so many

• See RATHBUN CENTER page 24
If you’re a regular reader then you already know about the lucky sperm club, those born into wealth who never worked a day in their lives. Unfortunately there are lots of folks born from the unlucky sperm club and Fish Mary fell into the low end of that category. My story is true.

Shortly after becoming a policeman in 1961 I met Fish Mary. She stuck her head into our squad car window and asked my training officer, “Who’s the new kid…..kinda cute, except for his nose! What’s your name, kid? Since she was just inches from my nose, the smell of dead fish, bad breath and body odor overwhelmed me. I was too green to do anything about it so I just held my breath.

Mary lived by her wits in a rundown section of South Beach near the old dog track. Her office was the Playhouse bar and her workplace was the South Beach pier. She never made enough money to afford a place to rent but she was usually clever enough to get someone to take her in on a temporary basis.

Each morning, just before dawn, Mary would cast her nets off the pier and drag for fish bait. Most mornings she would pull in enough to sell to the fishermen who would arrive at the pier to fish. She couldn’t afford ice, so her catch had to be sold by mid-morning, then it was off to the Playhouse bar, a short distance from the pier, for a day of sipping booze and kibitzing with the customers. She could usually con someone into buying her drinks and food, promising them sexual favors later in the evening that, in most cases, never happened. The Playhouse bar was a wretched old dark barn-styled building with no air conditioning and disgusting bathrooms. It stunk of stale beer and vomit so Mary fit right in.

Once night fell, Mary would start her second job, running bets for bar customers to the dog track. Time was of the essence and many times Mary would have to literally run the 100 yards to her connection at the track. When she was sure her customer had picked a loser, she would chance pocketing the money and hope the dog didn’t come in. I once got a call to the bar and found Mary flat on her back on the floor with a customer sitting on top of her threatening her with an empty beer bottle. His dog had won and Mary couldn’t cover the bet. You would be astounded at Mary’s rap sheet. Wrapped around a string of minor violations for petty theft and disorderly conduct was a charge of unlawfully living with a person of a different race…a negro. (Politically correct for that era.) Unless they were live-in servants, Afro Americans were not allowed on Miami Beach after dark. There were special “jitneys” that would transport them to and from the city and grabbing a jitney at dusk was their last hope of getting out of town before dark to avoid arrest. I am not making this up. If a white person was caught cohabitating with a person of a different race, both were headed for the slammer. That was only 46 years ago.

Mary hoped for the day a lucky spermer would find her, fall in love and carry her away to a life of wealth and leisure. That never happened because she was just too nasty and wretched for that to occur.

The best thing that ever happened to Mary was her mother died, leaving her a paid-off condo and a small, but steady trust fund. Mary cleaned herself up, dumped her past life, stopped drinking and bought new clothes. I hardly recognized her the first time I saw her at the pier where she had gone to visit some of her old fishing customers. She quietly died in the late seventies.

If you’re a person who had a better life than Fish Mary and I will assume that’s most of you reading this paper, then get on your knees and thank God you were not born into such a life as Mary’s. Totally without skills and not very smart, she used what little God afforded her to get by. Like all of us, she was a product of her genes, upbringing and environment. It was ironic that it took her mother’s death to afford her an opportunity to live differently. Are you on your knees?

Have you read Fred’s book, I’m Moving Back to Mars?
What it means to be ‘neighborly’

EMERGENCY!
WATER SHORTAGE!
CONSERVE! That was the sign at the front gate. Up the hill a neighbor was squandering literally thousands of gallons of water a week to keep her grass green and her flowers vibrant. She explained that she was having a party. She is a neighbor only in the narrowest definition of the term; one who lives nearby. I like to think of neighbors as members of a community. She wouldn't qualify. During this severe drought, her neighbors need our dwindling supply of water to drink, cook, brush their teeth, do our laundry, and flush our toilets. She doesn't care. She's having a party.

Years ago a friend told me that the guiding principle of his life was this: "When there's a lot, take a lot. When there's a little, take it all." I think he was kidding. Nothing in his life has suggested otherwise. It is interesting though that his brother was indicted by the federal government for attempting to corrupt foreign officials in connection with an attempt by a small group of enterprising businessmen to buy the oil reserves of the central Asian nation of Azerbaijan. Ricky and two buddies hatched an audacious plan to purchase the state oil company. When the plan floundered, they attempted to bribe Azerbaijani officials to achieve their goal. Had the plan succeeded, it would have been quite a pay day. Ricky had invested in an earlier scheme to privatize the human genome, and even before that, during the Arab oil embargo, responded to calls for conservation by burying several fuel tanks around his estate. He couldn’t imagine limiting his driving or living without a heated pool. He’s not much of a neighbor, either.

In “Wall Street,” Gordon Gekko, Michael Douglas’ character says, “The point is, ladies and gentlemen, that greed, for lack of a better word, is good. Greed is right, greed works. Greed clarifies, cuts through, and captures the essence of the evolutionary spirit. Greed, in all of its forms: greed for life, for money, for love, knowledge has marked the upward surge of mankind.” Maybe you agree and maybe you don’t. Personally I don’t think old Gordo was much of a neighbor.

American industry is in the hands of managers who make millions, sometimes 10s or even 100s of millions of dollars. The Economic Policy Institute estimates that in 2005, CEOs made 821 times as much as their employees. They increase profits largely by eliminating American jobs, exporting them to sweat shops in Asia and the Caribbean. They don’t do it to improve the lives of Asians and Islanders. They are not interested in better or cheaper products for the consumer, and they don’t care about the disruption to the lives of American workers and their families. Higher profits mean more for them. They look the other way, while Chinese contractors paint little toy trains with lead based paint, add anti-freeze to tooth paste, and lace pet food with toxic melamine. How’s that for neighborly?

We are involved in wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Actually, we are not. Our military and their families are the only Americans carrying this burden. There are no ration cards. There is no draft, no mobilization to a wartime economy. There has been no disruption in our daily lives, no sense of shared mission or communal suffering. There are politicians who feign involvement but they are heroes who have sniffed the wind and decided that their re-election demands that they declare love for the warrior and hate the war.

There is a smaller group which criticize President Bush, not so much because they think he is wrong, but because they want his job. It is time to stop analyzing and criticizing past mistakes and decide what do now. It is a terrible war, one which I opposed at the outset, but which I am no longer confident should be left to Iraqis, Iranians, Syrians, Saudis, and Turks to sort out. Colin Powell may have spoken the truer words when he said, “if you break it, you own it,” or some variation of the Pottery Barn rule of foreign policy. Maybe we could become a better neighbor in the area, bake up a batch of chocolate chip cookies (assuming that there is no Islamic prohibition on chocolate chips), invite the combatants to our tent and agree on some rules for our Middle East neighborhood. It might just work, and couldn’t possibly be less successful than our neighborhood water restrictions.
A short disclaimer before you read this article (hopefully): I have never liked Kobe. Bryant. I often trumpet the guy as everything that is wrong with the NBA—from him ushering Shaquille O’Neal out of Los Angeles to his troubles in Colorado with the police and a young woman that allegedly did not want his “company” at a resort lodge. Kobe has always been seen as an aloof, selfish, me-first type of player caused by a burning desire to be like his hero Michael Jordan. Unfortunately for Kobe, he has never been able to measure up to Jordan’s legacy, both on the court and off of the court.

With that disclaimer out of the way that brings us to the FIBA World Championships and Team USA’s (version 2007) attempt to right the universe again by capturing the Tournament of the Americas and gaining a birth in the 2008 Olympics. As recently as last year, and dating back to the 2004 Olympic games, the United States has been beaten and embarrassed at the game it was supposed to dominate. Team USA has looked more like a collection of overbearing and overmatched prima donnas, unable to overcome the slick international style of teamwork and heady play that has allowed teams like Argentina and Greece to become the new powers of global basketball. After the recent debacles, USA basketball decided enough was enough and attempted to make the necessary changes to compete on the national level. In addition to having tryouts to ensure that the best team would take the floor for the US, USA basketball also hired Coach Mike Krzyzewski to try and regain a sense of teamwork amongst a group that had been fractured. Last year this group, led by Coach K was supposed to take back the gold medal at the World Championships.

While Team USA did look much better than in past years, they were still embarrassed in a championship game loss to a Greek team that featured no NBA players.

Fast forward to August of 2007, where a new face has emerged to help Team USA in its attempt to regain world dominance. Up until this year Kobe Bryant has never played for the United States in international play, and yet his presence on this particular US team has been felt from the opening tip of the tournament. I tuned in to the game against Canada expecting to see Kobe trying to dominate the ball on offense and be the hero that he so desperately wants to be. Yet, as I watched, I saw a totally different Kobe Bryant. I saw a guy deferring to his teammates on offense. I saw a guy cutting without the basketball (often a foreign concept to NBA players) and most importantly I saw a leader who was leading by example—especially on the defensive end. In Sunday night’s game against Brazil, Bryant harassed Brazilian star (and the tournament’s leading scorer) Leandro Barbosa into 4 points. At one moment in the game Bryant put so much pressure on the ball that Barbosa simply dribbled the ball off of his foot, at which point Kobe dove to the floor and saved the ball to a streaking teammate. This drew an immense cheer from the crowd, who then began chanting Bryant’s name.

That moment will pale in comparison to the reaction that Bryant will receive should the United States bring home a gold medal in next year’s Olympic Games. While it is hard to imagine years of Kobe hatred on the national scene, Bryant could find himself on the receiving end of one of the best aspects of American culture. As a society we want our villains to find redemption—which is why we ultimately want Kobe Bryant to lead us to victory in 2008—so that we love that which was once unlovable.
As I remember pretty clearly regarding the recession of the early 2000s and the following recovery, George Bush took office in January, 2001, and was immediately blamed for the poor economic condition of the country. Anyone with an ounce of sense and a calendar understood that the recession started at least two quarters in Clinton’s last term, however, the brilliant Bush PR machine took forever to point out to the public that fact.

By the time it was understood that Bush inherited the miseries, the economy was in recovery mode. Rather than enjoy the improvement, the Dems complained that it was a recovery without a pickup in employment. Anyone who got through Econ 101 knows that employment is a lagging indicator and, predictably, a dramatic pick up in job creation ensued which has continued pretty much to today.

Not content to cut their losses and drop the attacks, they now complained that maybe there was an improvement in the employment numbers, but they were low paying service industry jobs. Again, they always precede the higher-level positions in a recovery, and did. As a matter of fact, the high end job need became so acute that recruiting in India and the Orient was initiated and is still going on.

Evidently, the Dems felt that it was better to complain about something, even though they had to eat their words, than to let the opportunity pass. The problem is, I think, that few folks understood the erroneous message being sent and the highly successful smear campaign to discredit the President was launched. It, too, continues to this day.

But the real story, while not as straightforward, seems to point out the Dems tortured trail of public discourse. In 2005 and 2006, the Iraq War had degenerated, public support had sunk and “quagmire” was appearing in more and more commentaries. The results of the 2006 election evidently shook up the Republicans and sensing that a dramatic shift had occurred, for the first time since 2002, they began to have second thoughts about the military effort in Iraq.

In late 2006, before the Republicans turned over leadership of Congress to the Dems, there was a flurry of activity. On December 18, 2006, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, the architect of the Iraq War, was replaced by Robert Gates. Robert Negroponte resigned as U. S. National Intelligence Director and was appointed Deputy Secretary of State. Retired Admiral John M. McConnell replaced Negroponte. General John Abizaid was replaced by Navy Admiral William Fallon as CENTCOM Commander.

The White House was the scene of daily high-level meetings, digesting the Iraq Study Group report, meeting with State Department advisors, meeting with Iraqi experts, meeting with the Joint Chiefs. All this was being processed in preparation for President Bush’s major policy speech ultimately delivered on January 10, 2007. The idea of a “troop surge” was introduced and here is where the story becomes somewhat weird.

While all of this was going on, one more change in personnel was in process. Gen. George Casey was going out as commander of Multi-National Force-Iraq and Gen. David Petraeus was the administration’s candidate as his replacement. Petraeus visited the individual Senators, building support for his confirmation vote. In doing so, he became the poster boy for the “troop surge” plan and his nomination to the post was directly connected to the new strategy.

On January 26, 2007, the Democratic Senate confirmed Petraeus’ appointment, 81-0. They hired a man to lead a plan they were dead-set against. I still don’t get it. Even before Petraeus took over his new job on Feb. 10, Dem Senate Leader Harry Reid declared the “troop surge” a failure. Practically no troops were even en route before many Dems declared it’s time to bring them home.

While the military began carrying out their mission, Dem. Rep. Jack Murtha set about to craft a plan to gradually starve the military of resources and force a withdrawal of troops. It was known as the “slow bleed strategy.” Other Congressional efforts were being made to legislate a withdrawal schedule.

Meanwhile, the negative media drumbeat continued to knock the troop surge effort. And then, as Petraeus’ report on progress due in September loomed, mysteriously, Democrats started coming back from Iraq saying that the surge is showing progress. Reporters, too. Overnight, military progress was no longer the issue, but rather al-Maliki’s ability to lead. While this may be true, my guess is the Dems spinsters took a look at congressional job approval ratings at 18% and decided their anti-U.S. rhetoric just wasn’t working. Perhaps playing on our side would improve their popularity.
### Reflections from Turtle Pond

#### Staying Young

This has been a great blackberry year. Since Aug. 3, I have picked over four gallons of berries. I pick blackberries every year, and I learned something new about them this year. In prior years I picked any berry that was black and didn’t understand why there was a lot of variation in sweetness. This year I tried picking only berries that looked like tiny clusters of grapes because every nodule was swollen. I hated using the word “nodule” but didn’t know how else to describe it. I went to wikipedia.com and found that the “blackberry fruit, in botanical terminology, is not a berry, but an aggregate fruit of numerous drupelets ripening to a black or dark purple fruit, the ‘blackberry.’”

So I discovered the secret to blackberries — just because the berry is black doesn’t mean it is ripe. Every drupelet making up the berry needs to be ripe. This year I picked selectively and returned to the same patch every few days and there would be another batch of juicy ripe berries waiting for me.

I have learned two other things about blackberries over the years. First, they love disturbed areas. This year I picked along a logging road that had been cut two years ago and the berries were thick and easy to pick. Second, the best berries are in areas that are shaded in the morning and get afternoon sun. These will be the biggest, most luscious berries of all.

Unfortunately, I learned something else this year: I’m getting old! After an hour of stooping and bending and reaching I would begin to ache all over. And I have been doing yoga every morning for 23 years now. I can’t imagine how stiff I would feel without it!

Those of us in the Baby Boom Generation believed that anyone over 30 was old. Our 30th birthday may have been traumatic but later we were surprised to find that we still felt pretty young. So as the years went by and we still felt pretty good it was easy to believe that maybe we were going to escape the horrors of aging. Then 40 came along and it wasn’t so bad either.

But once you get into your late 40s you start to realize that yes, “old age is coming to me, too. Drats, I didn’t beat it after all!”

At the health fair the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital gave earlier this summer, two of the doctors addressed the issue of staying young. Their advice was to exercise regularly, eat a healthy diet, and exercise the brain.

I loved what one of them said: Everything declines as we get older except the quality of our judgments. The one thing that increases is wisdom.

Richard Pryor once said, “People say old folks are fools. You don’t get old by being no fool.”

I love what my husband says about aging: “Losing our eyesight is nature’s way of shielding us from the truth about what aging is doing to our bodies — when we look in the mirror everything is in soft focus.”

In last weekend’s New York Times, there was an article about software you can buy to keep your mind nimble: “Recent research in neuroplasticity — the brain’s ability to change in response to information and new activities — shows that brain cells and new pathways continue to develop throughout life. A 2003 study found that people older than 75 who danced, read, or played board games or musical instruments faced a lower risk of dementia. (‘Calisthenics for the Older Mind, on the Home Computer’). Our local doctor said that learning a new language was actually the best stimulation for the mind. The Literacy Council has Rosetta Stone software loaded on 10 computers, free for anyone to use to learn Spanish.

I have two great models for keeping the mind active in my family. I have written before about my mother, who moved to Nicaragua when she retired and began an education foundation. Only in the past year, now that she’s 75, has she begun to pull back and let her staff do the work.

My dad is a child psychiatrist and at age 80 is still seeing children at a clinic three days a week. I think only death will stop him. He is currently putting the finishing touches on his theory of personality he has been working on for decades.

I think maybe there is another secret to staying youthful. Beavers have built an incredible dam on the stream behind our house and created a nice size pond. I bought a small inflatable kayak and love paddling around it. One day a couple of weeks ago as I was pulling the boat out of the water I thought, “This is how you stay young, by doing youthful things.”

Maybe the reason we get old is we stop playing!
When one of the highlights of a year is the giving away of money, it says something very positive for a community. Last Friday night the Highlands Cashiers Relay for Life celebrated with both survivors of cancer and contributors to the American Cancer Society for a cure in the dreaded disease for all who suffer now and in the future. The theme this year was “Imagine There Is No Cancer.” During my many years of doing Thoracic Surgery, I operated on thousands of patients with cancer and know first hand not only the horrors this disease can bring but the joys of a cure. We must continue to fight it with all we have. It is a tribute to this community that we always finish first in per capita giving above every other organization in the country.

It was a great evening last Friday afternoon and all Friday night as we celebrated with the survivors and walked the walk as we all celebrated the tremendous generosity of this great community. I even got dunked at the water dunking station! Congratulations to all those who worked with Relay for Life to make all this possible. And a particular thanks to Coach Butch Smart who has contributed greatly to this effort with his timely and well organized comments on his own survival story and to Steve Day from WHLC who did a great job as Master of Ceremonies for the night.

Just an additional caution signal to everybody regarding the statewide burning ban. All private citizens and developers must not burn trash until further notice because of the extreme drought conditions we have in western North Carolina. Our hills and valleys are very dry and at risk for an extensive forest fire. This burning ban will be strictly enforced in our area and I plead with everyone to abide by this ban until further notice. We must protect not only our own property but the magnificent forest which surrounds us.

We had an extremely good meeting with our architects from Asheville regarding plans for a new Town Hall last week. The next step will be refining the directions the Commissioners have given them as we move along in the schematic planning process of future expansion. Location within the new Town Hall of Administration, Police facilities, a Kiosk and Information Center along with a pleasant outside greenspace and parking facilities were all discussed with Mitchel Sorin and John Fisher, our Asheville architects. We hope to have more complete plans developed at least by the end of the year and possibly sooner. As always, we look for public input.

The Public Works Committee has met with Department of Transportation western NC engineer Wesley Grindstaff regarding the paving of Hickory Hill, Chowan and Cullasaja on state roads within our town. A public forum on Hickory Hill will be held at the Recreation Center on September 17 to discuss what right-of-way plans the DOT will have, and I encourage all residents of that road to be present for open discussion. Stakes will be placed on all Hickory Hill properties indicating what right of way will be required.

The last request from the Chowan property owners failed to get anywhere close to the required 75% percentage approval, so the state will be unable to pave that road. They will turn Chowan Road over to the town and we will seek funds from the state to pave it using our own guidelines. Chowan Road will be paved and made safer in a manner the town sees fit and necessary right of ways will be taken to achieve this. The same is true of Cullasaja, Wyano and Azalea are all private roads and will be paid for privately. It is my hope that all gravel roads in Highlands will be eventually paved.

Mayor Don Mullen
**A Streetcar Named Goats on the Roof**

My readers are well read folks. So, y'all know that there really was a streetcar named Desire that ran to a down-at-the-heels neighborhood in New Orleans, where Tennessee Williams set his play. So, even though most streetcars have, alas, gone the way of the Dodo, you might have surmised that Goats on the Roof is real.

Ding. Ding. Ding. No more calls please. There is a place called Goats on the Roof.

At the time that "Flashdance" came out, it came a phrase "high concept." What that meant was the whole idea - remember charades, when you'd make a global gesture with your hands to tell the audience you were going for the whole idea? - the whole idea could be expressed in a very few words.

The story behind "Flashdance" was well beyond absurd. A petite, very attractive young woman was working her way through a dancing career by working as a welder by day. And at night she'd do nearly erotic chair dances in a club that ended with a pail of water being dumped on her? Tell me you don't have a vivid memory of the water-dumping dance finale.

Anyway, the idea of "high concept" has nothing whatever to do with the quality of the product. In fact, the relation might be inverse. The lower the quality of the product, the more likely it will be reduced to a high concept. The top award for doing that has to be the B-movie, "Snakes on a Plane." It's self-evident that the producer was sitting by the highway. She said, "Oh look, Goats on the Roof." Right in the middle was a goat shelter, containing goats. They weren't old ones, teenagers, I surmised.

What kind of establishment would have goats on its roof, and use that as its name? It was a kind of establishment that is common in North Georgia and Western Carolina. A produce stand that also sold some prepared and packaged foods, plus, of course, assorted nicknacks. The produce was seasonal. The jams and jellies were local, with a house brand. Right on each label it said, "Goats on the Roof."

You cannot have young goats around without some way for young children to interact with them, and even the dimmest attorney or insurance agent would put the kabosh on a concept that included "children on the roof." So, there wasn't any way for children to climb up to visit with the goats. On the other hand, there was a hand-crank device which had a cup into which a child could place some goat food from a dispenser. (25 cents to dispense a handful. Being still, in part, a child, I got some.)

Crank the handle and the cup goes up to the roof, down a track, and empties into a bowl. As soon as the crank starts moving, the goats saunter over to the business end of the contraption to snarf down the food on arrival. These goats were veterans. The lady behind the counter said that the shop had been open for "one month and five days."

Why go on and on about high concept? Business is about competition. When you are in a business that's the same as a few hundred other people, something has to distinguish you from the crowd. Location is critical. Matching quality with price is critical. But how about a masterstroke which guarantees that everyone in your market area knows that you have opened, and has a unique incentive to come see your store? What if that method has a special appeal to every vehicle containing one or more children, that travel on a major highway all summer, plus late spring and early fall?

In this area, travel drops off to almost nothing in the winter time. But I don't.

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Highlands School lost its first home game to Rabun Gap Nacoochee, 8-1, Tuesday, Aug. 28 at Zachary Field on Buck Creek Road. The next game is away at Franklin at 5 p.m. The next home game is Thursday, Sept. 6 against Franklin at 5 p.m.

Right, a Rabun Gap player and a Highlander in the midst of it on Tuesday.

Highlands School senior Danielle Puchaz serves up against Rabun Gap Nacoochee Monday, Aug. 27 at home. Highlands beat Rabun Gap 3 of 4 matches. They played away at Cherokee Tuesday night. The next home game is Tuesday, Sept. 4 at home against Rosman. Home games are in the new gym at Highlands School at 6 p.m.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

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... HIS & HER'S continued from page 10

think the goats are going to be real happy about staying on the roof, either. I’ve gone this far without making a serious comment about politics. So here ’tis, at the end. Is there any high concept about any of the candidates for President in 2008? To paraphrase the late, great Clara Peller, “Where are the goats on the roof?”

• About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu He lives in the 11th District of North Carolina.

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**COOKING ON THE PLATEAU**

Labor Day - The perfect time to bring families together

Labor Day weekend signifies the end of summer but not the end of great outdoor weather! As the summer heat cools into the fall, it’s nice to know there is still time to squeeze in a few more family get-togethers and reunions by the grill. The sunshine and warm summer nights complement a backyard setting and provide you with the perfect atmosphere to entertain friends and build lasting memories with family.

Whether small and spontaneous or large and organized months in advance, family reunions are fun! Celebrating our common history and heritage is good reason to gather, but most of all I appreciate the good food and catching up on the latest family gossip.

Everyone appreciates having a role to play:

- Create a family cookbook of cherished family recipes; use self-publishing cookbook software or tap your local office copy center for ideas.
- Have an artsy family teen design a family “crest” that represents your heritage.
- Ask the amateur photo bug in the family to be the reunion’s official photographer and share photos by e-mail or snail mail after the party.
- Choose an enthusiastic family member to arrange activities—games, skits, sports, or a slide show of the family; ask another to plan decorations.

For your next backyard party, get the most out of the occasion with these helpful tips:

- Don’t Spoil Your Dinner – Prepare foods that can withstand several hours outdoors with reliable ingredients such as barbecue sauce, and steer clear of mayonnaise and other perishable foods.
- Get the Whole Family Involved – Create quality family moments by involving everyone in the cooking and preparation. Kids can set the table, relatives can make side dishes and friends can craft icy drinks to ease the heat.
- Think Outside the Grill – Outdoor entertaining doesn’t mean that all the cooking needs to happen on the grill. Try incorporating favorite grilling ingredients, such KC Masterpiece BBQ sauce, into conventional, kitchen-made recipes for a flavorful twist.
- Plan Ahead – Cook savory, flavorful recipes that can be served cold and made in advance, like Legendary Chinese Chicken Salad. When your guests arrive you can devote more time enjoying their company instead of on last-minute preparations.

### Legendary Chinese Chicken Salad

**Preparation Time:** 25 minutes

**Cooking Time:** 45 minutes

**Serves:** 6

2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (about 2 pounds)
3/4 cup KC Masterpiece Ginger & Garlic or Honey Teriyaki Marinade
1/4 cup soy sauce
1 head iceberg lettuce (or one 10 ounce bag shredded lettuce)
1/2 cup snow or sugar snap peas
1 cup cucumber, diced
1/2 cup carrots, shredded
3 green onions, sliced
1 cup crispy chow mein noodles
1/2 cup chopped cilantro (optional)

For easy clean-up, line an 8x8-inch baking pan with heavy foil. Place chicken breasts in pan. Mix KC Masterpiece Ginger & Garlic Marinade with soy sauce and pour over chicken; allow to stand at room temperature while oven preheats.

Preheat oven to 350° F. Bake chicken 45 minutes, bast frequently, or until chicken is cooked through and nicely browned. Pour off juices from pan into a small container; skim all fat that rises to the top and reserve for use as salad dressing.

When chicken is cool enough to handle, cut into chunks. (Chicken and sauce may be prepared in advance to this point; cover and refrigerate until serving time.)

At serving time, arrange lettuce in a large bowl or platter. Scatter snow peas, cucumber, carrots, green onion, chow mein noodles and chicken over lettuce. Spoon reserved dressing over chicken and sprinkle with cilantro, if desired.
By Sally Hansen

The Tuesday, Aug. 21 meeting of the Macon County Planning Board slowly moved forward with some important issues, but it was clear that it would take more time and a another meeting Aug. 28 to come to agreements on everything that needed to be done before the final draft of the subdivision ordinance is submitted to the commissioners for review.

During last week’s two-hour meeting there was much discussion about how to regulate the construction of roads inside subdivisions. The impact that steep roads and driveways can have on erosion due to runoff has prompted talk, but even defining the difference between a main subdivision road and an access road proved to be difficult.

While trying to set the maximum grades and the required widths of different types of roads, it was discussed who would be responsible for adhering to the ordinances: the subdivision owner or the eventual landowner.

In the past, many developers have put in temporary roads so prospective buyers could drive to the property and see if they want to purchase it. These temporary roads often become the subdivision roads and “spur” roads (roads leading from the main subdivision road to the driveways of more than one different lot), and no additional work is done to them to make them wider or less steep.

Planning Board member Karl Gillespie said “The roughed-in area would end up being the permanent driveway, which is the problem,” because they are narrow and can pose problems for emergency service crews.

“The kinds of driveways are contributing to the erosion problem which the county has spent so much money and manhours on to enforce,” said County Planner Stacy Guffey. “We’re looking for ways to prevent these problems.”

After much debate, it was decided that a spur road would be defined as any road that comes off a major subdivision road and leads to two individual driveways. If a road leads to more than two properties it is a subdivision road, and roads leading to less than two (i.e., one) driveways will be called “driveway” and are not to be maintained by the subdivision but by the homeowner instead.

A motion was made by Lamar Sprinkle to leave personal driveways out of the subdivision ordinance, but to keep them under the provisions laid out in the erosion control plan. It was seconded and added to the list of updates to the ordinance.

At its continuation meeting Tuesday, Aug. 28, the Planning Board wrapped up several topics discussed at the Tuesday, Aug. 21 meeting.

High on the list were what land and adjacent property set for subdivision development is currently used for; subdivision roads, driveway and spur, lighting issues, and property set aside for conservation.

Concerning the current use of property, a motion was made by Jimmy Goodman to remove the word “existing” and the phrase “the existing uses of land adjoining it” from item E under the Sketch Plan for Major Subdivisions heading. The item now requires that the sketch plan for a proposed subdivision contain only “The proposed uses of the land within the subdivision.” The motion was seconded by Mark West and passed unanimously.

Regarding the design standards for driveways in subdivisions, the Board decided to put in a clause stipulating that any driveway built by the developer must conform to the standards set forth in the Soil and Erosion Control Ordinance. This decision was reached following discussion similar to that heard last week. Lamar Sprinkle reiterated that “You don’t know what the grade of the driveway will be until the house is put in,” while Susan Ervin suggested that all subdivision plats be required to show that there was at least one place for each lot where an acceptable driveway could be placed. “If you built a temporary access to a pad, you’d have to notify the buyer that it didn’t conform to the ordinance and you would have to be relocated.”

Chairman Lewis Penland Jr. suggested that any grade could be allowed for certain lengths, but once the acceptable length is exceeded then the developer or homeowner would have to meet the grade requirements.

One-way roads were also discussed. Sprinkle said “If a road can be divided into two one-way roads to better fit the terrain, in that case the road can be lowered to the specifications of spur roads.” According to the working draft of the subdivision ordinance, standard subdivision roads with two-way traffic must have a minimum width of 14 feet.

Penland added that one-way roads are a good alternative to two-way roads if they fit the landscape and don’t disturb as much land. Ervin made a motion that “one-way roads should meet the same standards of spur roads, with a minimum of nine feet of driving surface and one and a half feet of shoulder on each side.” West seconded and the motion passed.

The topic then moved on to lighting regulations in subdivisions.

Penland introduced the subject saying it should be required that those living in a subdivision keep their lights on their own property. Member Sue Irvin agreed saying neighbors’ lighting can be a nuisance. “Shielding is so easy,” she said.

Guffey said to be incorporated into the ordinance, lighting regulations would have to be in the homeowners association section of the ordinance because they have to be enforced by the homeowners association of the subdivision.

Macon County Commissioner liaison Ronnie Beale suggested that the subdivision’s elevation could be factored into the ordinance, as the lighting of communities at higher elevations has the potential to be more observable than that of subdivisions down in the valleys. Penland agreed.

Larry Stenger said “The night sky is a selling point for a lot of second home buyers and vacation renters and it’s part of the heritage of the mountains that we need to protect. He suggested requiring motion-activated outdoor lighting instead of floodlights that stay on all night.

Sprinkle said that type of regulation requires much more than just a subdivision ordinance. “She plans might be a better way to control a lot of these problems.” Goodman agreed that it needed to be handled somewhere other than the subdivision ordinance, and Penland added that most communities have the contention that homeowners keep their light on their own property.

Ervin said “people expect lighting downtown, but they don’t expect it outside of town. It also has a tremendous effect on wildlife.” West thought that the lighting issue needs to be dealt with exclusively by the individual’s homeowner associations and Sprinkle suggested that developers could put lighting regulations in deed restrictions.

After a vote, it was unanimously decided to leave the regulation of lighting up to the homeowners associations and not in
Left: Walk to downtown Highlands from this new log home with lots of charm. Three bedrooms, 3 baths, hand-hewn logs, two-story rock fireplace. Fine floors, professional landscaping, outdoor fire pit. Can have additional privacy or build additional homes on adjoining 3 acres. Offered for $849,000 with additional land also available.

Right: Great 3 bedroom, 2 bath home remodeled in July of 2006. This home features two tiled bathrooms and brand new living space with walk-in closet on the lower level and two decks. It’s close to town and features separate living space with its own access from 2nd deck. $269,900

Highlands School kicks off first day Aug. 27

Left, Asst. Principal Jim Draheim greets children as they get off the bus.

Students are greeting with a deskful of books.
For some it was about jitters, for others it was pure joy and for those who’ve “been there done that” it was all about being back with their friends. The first day there were 401 students. Official figures are tallied on the 20th day of school. The new school slogan is:

“Highlander Pride: Priceless!” As in “Back to School clothes: $250; Backpack: $75; Highlander Pride: Priceless!”

Two sets of twins populate Mrs. McClellan’s kindergartent class. Some kindergarteners got right down to business, others quietly took it all in.

Far right, if there’s no time for breakfast, no problem. Highlands School has it all.

“Highlander Pride: Priceless!” – As in “Back to School clothes: $250; Backpack: $75; Highlander Pride: Priceless!”
... PLANNING BOARD continued from page 13

dude it in the subdivision ordinance. The board then moved on to discuss conservation concerns as they apply to subdivisions. Stacy Guffey talked about why this topic is important: “What we are trying to do is encourage something that creates value for the county,” he said. “We know that conserved land creates value and demands less services.” It was also emphasized that becoming a conservation community is entirely voluntary: subdivisions are not required to set aside any amount of land for this purpose. However, in areas such as floodplains, it is often a good idea to designate the land for another use because it isn’t the best candidate for construction.

Since land earmarked for conservation does create value, certain incentives can be offered to the landowners in return. Sometimes permits can be approved much faster than average, and tax incentives are provided as well.

These guidelines were the topic of debate, and Guffey asked if there should be

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Growing a Drought-Proof Landscape

By Charlie Nardozzi

I love warm, sunny, dry summer days. But, too many of those days in a row can spell disaster for my plants. Drought has become a common occurrence for many gardeners. While in my area droughts may only last a few weeks, in some regions they can go on for years. Whether your droughts are short or long-lived, there are steps you can take to create a landscape that can resist the vagaries of the weather and still look great.

Choose the Right Plant

Selecting the right plant for your location and growing it properly can go a long way toward having it survive rainless periods. The wrong plant growing in the wrong location will struggle and be more susceptible to dying from drought and disease or insect attacks.

Plant trees and shrubs in full or part sun, depending on the variety. Consider the location of overhead power lines, windows and doors when planting, so you won’t have to stress the plant by drastically pruning it when it grows too large.

Choose native plants that are more tolerant of drought, insects and diseases. Listings of native and drought-tolerant plants should be available through your state university’s Cooperative Extension Service.

Plant Correctly

An old garden adage goes, “Never put a $10 tree in a $2 hole.” Get your plant off to a great start by digging a hole three times the width of the rootball and as deep as the ball. Be sure the soil is well-drained. Fill the planting hole with water. If it takes longer than a few hours to drain, consider another site.

Amend the soil with compost, fertilizer and lime only if the soil is poor quality, such as heavy clay or mostly sand. Heavily amending the planting hole encourages roots to stay in the hole and not grow into the native soil where they belong. Keep the plant well-watered by placing irrigation bags around trees and mulching with a 3-to 4-inch-thick layer of bark mulch. Keep the mulch at least 6 inches away from trunks to avoid crown rot.

Grow Lawns Properly

Be selective about where you grow lawn grass. Most grasses thrive in full sun and struggle in part or full shade, especially under trees where they have to compete with tree roots for water and nutrients. Select grass varieties tolerant of diseases, insects and drought. In shady areas, try growing ground covers such as vinca, pachysandra and violets instead. For deep shade areas, such as under pine trees, skip ground covers and grass and spread mulch.

Water and Fertilize Wisely

Install drip irrigation lines around trees, shrubs and flower beds. Use a timer to water in the early morning. Fertilize with a slow-release or organic fertilizer at the appropriate time for your plants: trees and shrubs in early spring and after a fall frost; lawns in spring and early fall; and vegetables and annual flowers in spring.

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HS music program growing, thanks to Bel Canto proceeds

Since the Bel Canto Encore program in fall of 2004, Highlands School music programs has been the beneficiary of almost $30,000 for the purchase of much needed instruments and sheet music. This money has been dedicated to the music program and can only be spent at the discretion of the school music teacher.

John Gorecki, who joins the Highlands School staff this year as the school music teacher, has many years of experience in school band and music programs. "It is my goal to get the band program back on track through fostering a love of music and musical competence in the elementary grades, trying out students on band instruments in the 5th grade at the end of this year, and providing a more structured band experience that will result in a lower drop out rate," he said. "Due to Bel Canto funds there has been a great deal of improvement in terms of band instruments that students cannot be expected to purchase to continue the band program. If we recover we will need bass clarinets, additional Euphoniums and additional tubas."

Gorecki recently attended a two-week Orff-Schulwerk level one certification class at Connecticut State University. "The Orff approach to music education uses rudimentary forms of everyday activities in the purpose of music creation by young individuals. This includes singing in groups and performing voice instrumental music, rhymes and playing instruments such as the metallophone, xylophone, glockenspiel, and other percussion instruments."

"The music generated is largely improvisational and original tonal constructions which builds a sense of confidence and interest in the process of creative thinking. Children also make music together in a group. It also involves the participation of other adults and parents in music making. It brings the role of parent in child education to a central position. When interesting original music has been generated by the groups or individual child, then a desire to record it in written format arises. With this technique, the learning to write a score emerges by itself and the child is motivated to learn formal music," said Gorecki.

Each K-5 class will have two 30-minute music classes per week and every sixth-grader will take band as part of the "Wheel" course plan.

FasTrak 24 is a step outside the traditional approach for high school students. Students who are already a year behind who will be placed in the 11th grade and 12th grade who are a year behind in credits so they won't be able to graduate with the traditional diploma. If you approve the FasTrak program, they will need to complete high school requirements early and move on to higher education or careers.” Shields and the board were most excited about the FastTrak 21 program. Called a “rescue” diploma, it’s aimed at giving students at risk of not graduating - even those who have already dropped out - a chance to graduate with a high school diploma while still satisfying state requirements for graduation. It was developed to increase attendance as well as the cohort graduation rate and decrease the dropout rate.

Once these kids get behind, they get more behind until the option of graduation is impossible," said Shields. "Right now, today, I have 24 students in the 11th and 12th grade who are a year behind in credits so they won’t be able to graduate with the traditional diploma. If you approve this track tonight, they have agreed to stay and go on because they can see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

Shields said he has 15-20 ninth-graders who are already a year behind who will now have a chance to graduate by the time...
... DIPLOMAS continued from page 18
they are in the 12th grade. "I have one who was born November 1988 who would only need 15 credits to graduate on FasTrak 21 but if he had to have a total of 28 he would drop out," said Shields. "I have a fifth-year senior whose birthday is in 1988 who couldn’t graduate last year because he lacked credits. With this new program he can."

Most interesting is the ramifications for those who have already dropped out. "I have three who are coming back to earn enough credits to earn the FasTrak 21 diploma," said Shields. "They’ve been out there and they are getting door shut in their faces because they don’t have a high school diploma. For some it’s because they made bad choices, some had no support at home, some are homeless, some got pregnant and are raising babies — there are various reasons, but now they see the end of the tunnel and their eyes just light up," he said.

Shields said obviously psychologically it will be hard for them to come back, but not impossible. "At least the door is back open to them," he said. "It’s a way to rescue them and let them know that someone cares."

To qualify for the FasTrak 21 diploma, students must meet one of the following qualifications: enter 9th grade at age 16 with no high school credits; or have a minimum of eight credits in default by grades 10 or 11; or be certified 504; or be an exceptional child with an IEP.

Three math units are required including Fundamentals I, Fundamentals II and Algebra I; four English units are required including English 9, 10, 11 and 12; three social study units including Survey of World History, civics, and U.S. History; three science units including Earth Science, Biology and Physical Science, one Health/Physical Education unit and seven electives, four of which must meet pathway requirements.

"Expanded services for high school students at Union Academy and moving forward with the FasTrak 21 approach will assist students who have special circumstances or needs that otherwise may give up on graduating high school with a regular diploma," said Brigman.

The board said it will clearly affect the cohort graduation rate and the dropout rate in Macon County. According to recent statistics, 66.5% of students who entered school in ninth grade in 2000 graduated in 2004. The state average is 68%.

The newly figured cohort graduation rate, which was initiated by the "No Child Left Behind" act, followed students for the first time who entered 9th grade and graduated in four years as 12th graders.

School Board Chairman Donnie Edwards said the two new programs at Franklin High School are a way to reach the entire student population — those considered at the top, in the middle and at the bottom.

Since dropouts at Highlands and Nantahala schools are negligible compared to Franklin High School, administrators are only reviewing applications of students who dropped out from Franklin High School last year. "Most of our energy is going into getting our on-site ‘high risk’ students in classes so they can be successful in the FasTrak 21 program," said Shields. "Due to the number of students we have enrolled, I could not recommend that we pick up more students out of district since our classes are at capacity level."

Shields said the FasTrak diploma was designed only for Franklin High School students in mind due to the history of its dropout rate.

- Kim Lewicki

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William Bathurst
Macon County
• See LETTERS page 26
Sushi Bar now open at Golden China Restaurant
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Relay for Life brings in $150,000

Though less than the target of $220,000, the folks at the American Cancer Society are very happy and pleased with the proceeds raised by the MountainTop Relay for Life this year. Per capita, the funds still represent far more than other communities. Buck Trott said the count is ongoing through August and that’s when the final tally will be called. Friday night folks enjoyed the festival-like atmosphere at the Highlands Rec Park even though the reason for the affair was surviving cancer.

Photo by Jim Lewicki
Highlands’ Oriental Rug Gallery
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Highlands’ Newspaper - Thursday, Aug. 30, 2007 - Page 23
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Rathbun residents enjoy free room and board in the home-like atmosphere of the center while they or family members undergo treatments in nearby medical facilities.

Trips out of town, it is easy to see how the Rathbun Center makes a great impact on the families who use it.

But the generosity doesn’t end with the simple amenities of home. “Seth’s favorite event when we go to Asheville is the “Asheville Tourist” ball games,” Thornton said. “They provide free tickets to all the Rathbun residents. It amazes me how supportive the Asheville community is considering they do not use the facility.”

The Rathbun Center also has a library with internet access as well as books and magazines. There is a playroom on the first floor, and also a playground outside. Seth, a third grader at Highlands’ School, “loves to go and would rather stay there than any hotel, even the Grove Park Inn!” said Thornton. Sitting areas and the day room provide rediners, TVs, movies and games. Volunteers are also available to help everyone feel at home.

The Rathbun Center runs entirely on donations. In addition to monetary contributions, they welcome gifts such as laundry detergent, fabric softener, disposable cups, copy paper, toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissue, and trash can liners to stock their facility.

Coffee, coffee creamer and sugar are also needed. The pantries in the kitchens at the center can always use donations of breakfast cereal, prepackaged snacks, canned meats, canned fruits, canned vegetables and canned soup, and cooking oil. Any gift card to purchase any of these supplies is also graciously accepted. Updated “wish” lists can be found at its website www.lewisrathbuncenter.org.

Thornton has volunteered to collect donations from the Highlands community at her store, Wholesale Down Comforters, next to the Farmer’s Market.

“To be clear, we do not want any donations for Seth, just the Rathbun Center,” she said. Donations can be dropped off from 10-5 Monday through Saturday. “I just want to be able to give a little back to the place that makes life so much easier for us and so many other residents of western NC. It is indeed the most wonderful place on earth.”

Thornton hopes area churches, Sunday school classes, school class rooms or grades, and any other organization will consider adopting the Rathbun Center and raise money or donate “wish list” items to the organization.

The center is located at 121 Sherwood Road in Asheville. The telephone number is 828-251-0595.
Dear Editor,

Northland Cable, in their town of Highlands monopoly, has decided to remove the Asheville TV station from their cable lineup. Asheville is the only Western North Carolina news, weather and entertainment station I get up here. Actually, Jeopardy is the main program I watch for over $50 a month and it is gone.

Where are the alternatives? Northland can do what they want with no explanation and I have no choice because I live in town.

Highlands Cable Group has been unsuccessfully trying to give us their superior service for years, but has met with a stone wall with the town board. I cannot imagine why this would be. Everyone I have spoken with outside of town is more than pleased with Nin Bond’s service, response and quality. Why can’t we have it?

Glenda Bell
Highlands

... LETTERS continued from page 21

What has happened to Channel 13?

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Kenneth Henry Moye

Kenneth Muye, 92, died peacefully on August 12, 2007, in Highlands, N.C. where his family summers. He lived with his wife, who preceded him in death this past July, and has called Lake Worth, FL, home since 1953. Ken started his career in metropolitan Chicago where he served as a City Councilman at Large, Water Board Trustee for a community of 105,000 and rose to the highest position in the Mid West Region's 6,800 CIO, Atomic and Chemical Workers Union. He was president of numerous civic clubs in Hammond, Indiana.

When the family moved to Lake Worth he continued public service. As a fine journeyman carpenter he joined Lake Worth Local 1308 and finished his union career as President, Florida Council of Carpenters. He continued active service as Chairman & Trustee of the Palm Beach County Carpenters Pension/Annuity Trust Fund for many years after his retirement from daily duties. Ken took a keen interest in local affairs. He served on the Lake Worth Utilities Advisory Board, ran for public office, and was a Trustee of the Lake Worth Employee Retirement System. Mr. Moye was active in a number of political, business and community organizations. He was a past Rotarian President with 60 years of perfect attendance and a Paul Harris Fellow. He and his wife supported a number of philanthropic interests. He was also an enthusiastic traveler and enjoyed golf.

Mr. Moye was born August 24, 1914 in Posey County, Illinois and was the son of Larkin Henry Moye and Mildred Stallings Moye. He graduated from Lawrenceville High School in 1932 and married Ruth B. Seed in 1935. They celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary this past June. They commented as to having a full and satisfying life.

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Come be my light

By Chaplain Margaret Howell

Holy Family Lutheran Church

It has recently been revealed that Mother Teresa, long considered one of the most faithful women in history, a model of humility and service to God, the church, suffered from a feeling of total spiritual silence, isolation and the absence of God’s presence for nearly 50 years.

Letters she wrote to her confessors over the years have been compiled into a book, “Come Be My Light,” that detail her struggle. Mother had asked that the letters be destroyed upon her death, for fear that “It might diminish Mother’s isolation and the absence of God’s presence for nearly 50 years. Why then did the church publish letters that, on the offset, appear so damning? Rev. James Martin (Jesus magazine America) puts it well. “Every time she’s experiencing “is what a normal believer experience in their spiritual life, writes Warren.” I have now faced scores of people who have felt abandoned by God and had doubts about God’s existence. And this book expresses that in such a stunning way but shows how full of complete trust at the same time. Who would have thought the person who was considered the most faithful woman in the world struggled with that feeling of abandonment and loneliness? And who would have thought that the one who was the most ardent of believers could be a saint to the skeptics?”

Martin has long used Teresa as an example to parishioners of self-emptying love. Now, she says, he will use her extraordinary faith in the face of overwhelming silence to illustrate how doubt is a natural part of everyone’s life, be it an average believer’s or a world-famous saint.

In the 1950s, one of her advisors, Rev. Joseph Neuner, a well-known theologian, seemed to have told her three things that she needed to hear. (Indeed, they are words for us as well).

In regards to the silence and isolation from God she was feeling: First, there was no human remedy for it (that is, she should not feel responsible for affecting it); Second, that feeling Jesus is not the only proof of his being there;

Third, that her very craving for God was a “sure sign” of his “hidden presence” in her life, and that the absence was in fact part of the “spiritual side” of her work for Jesus.

In her desire to suffer Christ in distorting disguise, Mother also expected to suffer as Christ suffered — such is the lot of Christians everywhere. It was only through years of pain and inner struggle that she came to accept the silence and darkness as her part of suffering what Christ must have suffered on the cross when he died, “My God, My God! Why have you forsaken me?”

Mother Teresa eventually learned that the darkness that she considered her “shameful secret” turned out to be a gift abetting her calling. If her worries about publishing it also turn out to ease the spiritual road of thousands of fellow believers, there would be no shame in having been wrong — but happily, even wonderfully wrong — twice.

A personal prayer from Chaplain Margaret. Thank you, dear Jesus, for sending M other to us. M other, thank you for giving everything to Jesus, even that which you felt ashamed of, so that by your faith and trust even in silence, we can have hope. You continue to give gifts of love to all of us who are poor, injured and hungry in whatever form that may take. Well done, good and faithful servant. Amen.
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Two signings this Saturday at Cyrano’s Bookshop

At Cyrano’s Bookshop, two signings Saturday, Sept. 1. Lauch Magruder will sign copies of his new legal thriller “Without Regard” at Cyrano’s Bookshop from 1-3 p.m. Saturday. And Mary E. Mabson Furnald autographs “The Inheritance,” a historical memoir set in Alabama, from 3-5 p.m. that afternoon.

“Without Regard: The Day the Government Nuked Louisiana” tells the story of attorney Sam Laurins, who, in arguing what looks like a simple property-tax case dealing with timberland, discovers Project Apex. Years earlier the Atomic Energy Commission had exploded nuclear bombs underground on the contested land, despite warnings from its chief engineer that the radiation could not be contained. Now, in a federal courtroom in Shreveport, Sam’s expert witnesses testify that in the town nearest the nuclear site, almost every household has had someone with cancer since the blasts.

One part John Grisham, one part Erin Brockovich, “Without Regard” manages to infuse complicated legal maneuvers and geology with tensions and excitement; the short chapters propel the plot and Mr. Magruder’s story also includes some romance and a visit to the Scottish Highlands. And like his ancestor Rob Roy MacGregor, Sam Laurins is determined to defend his family and community from an unfair government. “Without Regard” is based on actual events.

Before Mr. Magruder and his wife, Jane, came to Highlands to live year round, he practiced law in Mississippi; since retirement he has played an active role here in church and civic affairs. Paying homage to Robert Burns and North Carolina, Mr. Magruder admits that “My heart’s in Highlands.”

There’s a touch of mystery and miracle in even the most prosaic of lives. Mary E. Mabson Furnald’s ancestors hailed from Pickens and Greene County in west Alabama. After many years of genealogical and historical research she wrote “The Inheritance” so that her grandchildren and great grandchildren would know what life was like for their forebears in the rural south in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Based on the life of her grandfather, Samuel Stuckey, Mary Elizabeth Furnald’s family saga captures the seasonal rhythms of life on the farm as experienced by the vast majority of white and black Alabamians of the era. There are no grand mansions here, just plain farmhouses, hard work, good southern virtues and the tribulations of weather and sickness. But there is always that old-time religion which comforts the afflicted, especially the week-long camp revivals that provided socializing as well as salvation. Along the way the family and their neighbors are affected by the War Between the States, Reconstruction and the Great Depression, but perhaps the Stuckeys’ most intriguing brush with history involved Eutaw’s famous healer and negro seer—Aunt Nancy Vaughan, made famous in Carl Carmer’s “Stars Fell on Alabama” and the state’s WPA Guide. But Aunt Nancy’s intervention is only one of numerous instances where the Stuckeys’ believed they received heavenly help in a time of need. “The Inheritance” includes old photos, as well as numerous delicious family recipes, and is perfect for both grown readers and young adults and brings back—if only while you read its pages—a lost era that is close to us yet so remote.

Mrs. Furnald is a resident and native of Montgomery, Ala., but spent many years in Atlanta, where she was president of the Georgia state chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Her husband Don is a former Highlander.

Cyrano’s Bookshop is located at 390 Main Street in Highlands, North Carolina. Books can be reserved for autographing by calling (828) 526-5488.

... PLANNING BOARD continued from page 16

any minimum acreage on property that can be designated a conservation area. Current regulations dictate that at least 40% of the piece of property has to be set aside for conservation, but Guffey said “If you have two acres and you’re conserving 40% of it, should you really be considered a conservation community?”

He proposed that 10 acres be the minimum size for a piece of land to be considered for conservation. Penland said that would close the loophole for preferential treatment for landowners who are simply looking for a way to get expedited services and tax breaks. Everyone else agreed.

Guffey also noted that some definitions still need to be worked into the subdivision ordinance, including the terms “common space,” “conservancy easement,” “conservation subdivision,” and “nonprofit organization.”

“There also needs to be a way to identify those people or organizations that will be allowed to hold the titles to these common areas,” said Guffey.

Stacy Guffey concluded the meeting saying there are still some topics and language that need to be reviewed before the ordinance is finalized to make sure it reflects what is intended.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 5 p.m. at the Environmental Resource Center in Franklin.
History came alive last Saturday. On Aug. 20, a historical marker was placed at the homeplace of David Rogers by the U.S. Daughters of 1812 Society. David Rogers was a veteran of the War of 1812.

His homeplace, up Cold Mountain Road off Buck Creek Road in the Sugarfork Township, was the birthplace of many Highlands descendants including the Rogers, Picklesimers, James, Crunkletons, McCoys, Keeners, McCallis and others.

Claire Morelli, past president of the Oregon Chapter of the Daughters of 1812 and herself a descendant of David Rogers, came to honor the memory of David "whose valor we will never forget," she said.

David Rogers, son of Hugh and Nancy Thornton Rogers, was born Aug. 27, 1790 in Washington County, TN. Preoccupation with the Cherokee Indians, who occupied area mountains at the time, posed more of a threat than the distant British, so not many locals signed up for the War of 1812. But David volunteered and joined the 16th Company of the Haywood Regiment under Captain Joseph Hughey. He was later mustered into service as a private Nov. 13, 1814 in Nashville, TN. There he served under Captain Bird S. Hunt in the Company of Infantry, 1st Regiment of the West Tennessee Militia.

The company payroll shows David's term of service was six months. His pay was $8 a month. He was honorably discharged May 13, 1915.

On Sept. 28, 1815, 25-year-old David married Martha Young in Washington County, TN. In 1820 he and Martha settled on Cold Mountain Road and built a cabin of chestnut logs. They had 10 children – five sons and five daughters.

Martha died Nov. 10, 1873. David died nine years later on Feb. 28, 1882 at the age of 91.

Thomas Newton "Newt" Rogers, married Martha Young in Washington County, TN. In 1820 he and Martha settled on Cold Mountain Road and built a cabin of chestnut logs. They had 10 children – five sons and five daughters.

Mildred Rogers Woods, 92, descendant, holds the plaque honoring David Rogers and presents Candy Rushing, current owner and daughter of Burton Talbot, with a plaque of appreciation for preserving the Rogers’ homeplace.

Above, Frances Crunkleton Wright, sits among her descendants after the ceremony honoring David Rogers. Photographs taken by Burton Talbot, who preserved the Rogers cabin, bring the past alive. The upright photo is of Cora Rogers Picklesimer. Below, are photos of menfolk in the family. Ed Picklesimer, Irene James' father is on the far left.
youngest son of David and Martha who was born March 20, 1838 made the cabin on Cold Mountain his home, too.

“As you look at the mountains, the sky, the landscape, he looked at the same as he raised his family here,” said Doyle Woods, a descendant. “He cleared the fields, planted the corn, cultivated apples, honey bees and raised most, if not all, the food the family lived on.”

Newton married twice – first to Edith Holland who died at 29 of “milk fever” while Newton was away fighting in the Civil War. They had three children – Sarah Jane Rogers, James M. Rogers and Martha L. Rogers. Martha and her mother Edith died while Newton was away.

Newton’s second wife was Margaret Elizabeth Keener from the Brush Creek-Gold Mine area. They had seven children – Cora Matilda Rogers, Mary T. Rogers, Will-

See ROGERS page 32
The cabin is meticulously preserved, decorated with era pieces and bedding. Immediately off the porch is the front room with a staircase to the loft above. The kitchen and a living area are at the back of the cabin.

I am Thomas Rogers, Isaac Benjamin Rogers, Docia A. Rogers and Dock Manson Rogers.

Their first-born – Cora Matilda married Ed Picklesimer of Clear Creek, parents of Irene Picklesimer James who is 102 years old.

Cora went to Asheville to become a teacher and returned to teach at the Clear Creek School house. There she met her husband Ed who was one of her students.

Second in line was Mary, who married a Zachary and moved to Cashiers Valley. Irene and her sister “Aunt Met,” who died at 97 several years ago, would walk from the Picklesimer homeplace in Clear Creek, down what is now Rich Gap Road to Horse Cove, onto Whiteside Cove Road and into Cashiers to stay with their Aunt Mary sometimes. Once they stayed there a year to attend school.

Frances Crunkleton Wright, a descendant and wife of Barak Wright, helped organize the dedication both to Thomas Rogers as a veteran of the War of 1812 and to Candy and Fred Rushing, descendants of Burton Talbot who restored and preserved the cabin. Its timing coincided with the Rogers family reunion which took place at the Buck Creek Baptist Church. Newton Rogers helped build the first church on Buck Creek.

The cabin remained in the Rogers family until 1957 when photographer Burton Talbot and his family became owners. Rushing took scores of photographs of locals while he was living on Cold Mountain. They pepper the rooms and walls of the cabin, rekindling the past, keeping faces and memories alive.

After the ceremony Frances settled on a chair at a table littered with photographs of her ancestors. “It’s good just to sit here and listen,” she said. “The walls talk.”

– Kim Lewicki

The whitewashed loft houses two twin beds and is accessed from the front room.
Stillmont - Handy to both Highlands and Cashiers in the Stillmont community is this traditional 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath. 3 acres and has a recirculating water feature with view potential with some tree trimming. Cathedral ceilings, fireplace, wet bar, and a 2 car garage. Offered at $1,295,000.

This Adorable Home on over half an acre is surrounded on three sides by a creek and looks out over a lovely yard and park like setting beyond. This gentle property is a very rare find within the city limits and has plenty of room to expand. Close to Main St $295,000.  Broker/Owner mls #59838

This great home near Mirror Lake and town of Highlands with lots of room for a large family. Stillmont is a small community of nice homes and easy to get to town. Home is completely furnished. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Offered at $495,000. mls #62740

GREAT MOUNTAIN GETAWAY - Over an acre of land with nice trees and circle drive. Three bedrooms and three baths with a separate bedroom and bath in the basement. Near Mirror Lake. Offered at $469,000. mls #60337

COLD SPRINGS 3 bed, 3 bath, pleasant setting, pastoral view, short stroll to the private lake. Greatroom w/ vaulted ceiling, stone fireplace, with sliding doors that open onto a glass porch. There are 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, carpet & lower level family room w/ guest bed & bath. $465,000.

Mount Laurel - Almost new 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath features quality construction and a very private setting amidst the Rhododendrons and Laurels. Main floor living with 2 car garage, 2 guest rooms above, each with baths. Full unfinished basement. Offered at $750,000.

Cullasaja Club 15th Green & pond, mountain vista, 4 bed, 4 1/2 baths plus a studio above the garage and workshop/storage below. Cullasaja equity membership is available upon club approval. Offered at $1,495,000.

SHELBY PLACE Carefree in town living. Great family room overlooks the woods, gas log fireplace in living room, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths make this brick and frame home a must see. Offered at $415,000.

Cullasaja Club - 4th Green, pond, mountain vista, 4 bed, 4 1/2 baths plus an additional bedroom and bath on lower level. Zoned B-3. Sewer is available. Offered at $855,000.

Highlands City Limits. 4 bed, 3.5 baths, large master. French doors from bath & bedroom to private porch. Hardwood floors Central heat & air. Stone fireplace, large front porch, deck off kitchen, all appliances, large garage, well landscaped. Cherry wet bar $750,000. mls #62650

Mirror Lake area. - Completely upgraded for year round living. 2 bed, 1 bath with spacious outdoor living on deck and large covered porch. Expansion possibilities in a full basement and on .54+/acre. Offered at $395,000.

UNDER $300,000 CHALET NESTLED IN THE WOODS.  Updated 3 bedroom, 2 bath fully furnished.  Master bath has jacuzzi tub, 2 sided fireplace in living room and master.  Offered at $299,000.  mls #62606

Stillmont with a VIEW! 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, plus a guest quarters and a 2 car garage! Great grounds and large open rooms are the attributes of this lovely home with a great location between Highlands and Cashiers. Redecorate to your taste with a renovation allowance from the Sellers. Offered at $995,000.
What is 4118? It's the title of the exhibition opening September 1st at Summit One Gallery with an artists' opening reception from 5-7pm. It's also the elevation of Highlands. 4118 is an exhibition of the Highlands' plateau landscapes. Landscapes by four very different artists; four very different genres. Libby Mathews, now an impressionist painter, has studied modern dance and printmaking. This combination of interests gives her work its rhythm and visual strength. Traveling to learn, instruct, and paint on location, Mathews infuses her paintings with her active spirit, knowledge and awareness of the intention in her mind in the face of nature. Her landscapes with their reflections, illuminations and shadows show the spirit of a place. In the fall of 2006 she conducted a two week en plein air workshop in France.

Susan Stubbs Robert, abstract artist, craves questions, not answers, and seeing subjects in new ways is essential to her work as an artist. "Inquiry is everything. One must look closely at a subject to know it, and only in taking something apart and putting it back together do you get to know something intimately." After graduating from Emory with a B.A. in political science, and J.D. at Woodrow Wilson College of Law she went to work as a corporate attorney. She enjoyed six years of law practice, and then turned to painting full time because it stirred a great passion in her. She enrolled in the Atlanta College of Art, earning a B.F.A. with an additional degree in painting.

Carole Stribling is known for her compositional strength, use of vibrant color, and interesting technique. She likes to create a rough textured surface to diffuse the light and lend an abstract, sculptural quality to her paintings. She has traveled widely to seek a variety of subject matter and light intensity in her paintings. Her works are included in many fine collections across the country. Stribling's education includes studies at Smith College, Emory University and the Atlanta College of Art.

4118 continues through October 9. A portion of all exhibition sales will be donated to the Highlands Fine Art Center Capital Campaign. Summit One Gallery is located in “The Galleries” on South 2nd Street in Highlands.

For more information, call 526-2673, summitonegallery@verizon.net.
Caribbean Studio Dinner to be held at Erickson/Gifford home

Erickson, Gifford and Summit One Gallery will host the last Studio Dinner of the season on Thursday, September 6. “Lively Up,” a Caribbean celebration will be held in the creative surroundings of Shari Erickson and Doug Gifford in Cashiers.

The Caribbean has inspired Erickson and Gifford but their hearts are in Cashiers. They have explored the Windward & Leeward Islands for over 25 years, but not for vacation, for “business”. Their love of, and relationship with The Caribbean islands is more about color and the independent people than anything else. As artists, their exploration of color found inspiration in the vibrant islands and flavored their work, their attitude, and their garden.

But they also love the four seasons, nature, and the country life, so they knew they had to make Cashiers their home. Their cabin reveals a double life, combining Appalachian style with Caribbean collectibles. In their studios you will see colorful subjects from both “worlds”. “Lively Up” means party – dance – celebrate….. “which we take as a sacred responsibility” they said. In addition to a fun filled evening, Doug’s 250 rose bushes will be in bloom. A gardener’s delight!

Erickson gained early recognition as a figurative muralist in Atlanta after she graduated with honors from The Ringling School of Art. Among others, US Air and Liat Sir have published her images to promote their island destinations. The US Department of the Interior chose Erickson’s work for its Virgin Island Park service publications. She has designed book covers for Macmillan-Caribbean publishers.

Gifford began painting in 1967 at which time he transferred from Bucknell University to The Ringling School of Art. After graduating, cumulative awards and commissions led to solo exhibitions in New York, Palm Beach, Nantucket and Naples. A representational painter of architecture (an early influence was Edward Hopper). Then Gifford’s constructionist concept of space led to his invention of a three dimensional technique called Sterro Schema Realism. It is his alone. Doug has created his own place in the world of contemporary art, just as he created his own style and technique.

The “Lively Up” celebration will be catered by Tim Lundy of Rosewood Market. A portion of all “Lively Up” art sales will benefit the Cashiers Fire Department. Call Summit One Gallery: 526.2673 for reservations. Erickson, Gifford and Summit One Gallery will host the last Studio Dinner of the season on Thursday, September 6. "Lively Up," a Caribbean celebration will be held in the creative surroundings of Shari Erickson and Doug Gifford in Cashiers. The Caribbean has inspired Erickson and Gifford but their hearts are in Cashiers. They have explored the Windward & Leeward Islands for over 25 years, but not for vacation, for "business". Their love of, and relationship with The Caribbean islands is more about color and the independent people than anything else. As artists, their exploration of color found inspiration in the vibrant islands and flavored their work, their attitude, and their garden. But they also love the four seasons, nature, and the country life, so they knew they had to make Cashiers their home. Their cabin reveals a double life, combining Appalachian style with Caribbean collectibles. In their studios you will see colorful subjects from both "worlds". "Lively Up" means party – dance – celebrate….. "which we take as a sacred responsibility" they said. In addition to a fun filled evening, Doug’s 250 rose bushes will be in bloom. A gardener’s delight!

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Dance to ‘Hurricane Creek’ at ITC Saturday night

Hurricane Creek at The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. The category 5 band will touch down for one night, Saturday, at 8 p.m. just in time to kick off your holiday weekend. Call 828-342-9197 for reservations or information.

On-going
• Live music every night at 7:30 p.m. and during brunch on Sunday at ...on the Verandah restaurant.
• Nantahala Tennis Association: Meets Mon-day-Saturday, 9 a.m. -noon for Round Robin at Highlands Recreation Park. All levels of play welcome.
• Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn with Cy Timmons Wed-Sat 6 p.m. until.
• Hal Phillips at the piano at Skyline Lodge and Restaurant on Flat Mountain Road Fri. & Sat. at 6 p.m.
• Register for summer’s nature day camps at the Nature Center. Please call 526-2623 or visit the Nature Center webpage at www.ncmana.org.
• NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satelite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365 or go to the website: www.ncmana.org.
• Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. $5 per class.
• Yoga Classes at the Rec Park. Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. Bring your mat. $7 per person per class or $50 for a monthly pass. Call 526-4940.
• 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, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1PIT.
• “The Circle of Life” support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodward room 201. It is designed for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. The group meets 10 a.m. until noon. For more information, call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

First Mondays
• Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.
• Every Monday
  • Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park, $3 per person.
• Every Tuesday
  • Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.
  • Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.
  • Women’s Bible Study at 10 a.m. at Community Bible Church. Summer series on 1 & 2 Peter. All women are invited.
  • Open Studio Night Figure Drawing: Informal instruction available for beginners. Bring your sketch pad or paint box for a leisurely session of figure drawing/painting. Cost is $12, $10 for “Friends” of the Gallery.

Tuesdays and Thursdays
• Classical Yoga Beginner Level Class 8:15-9:30 a.m., 464 Carolina Way. Other classes available. Mats and blankets provided. $14 per single/$12 package rate.
• Every Wednesday
  • Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club meets at the Highlands Conference Center at 7:30 a.m.
• Every Third Wednesday
  • As part of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin's “Life-Span Learning Curriculum,” there are “Wednesday Night Chautauqua” which are media enhanced study sessions at the UU Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A $5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Every Thursday
• At Main Street Inn, Lisa Price piano and vocals in the wine bar 6-9 p.m.
• Al-Anon Meetings, noon in the First Presbyterian Church basement at Fifth & Main Street.

Every Saturday
• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. $10 cover.
• Children’s classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery – cost is $5 per student.
• Through Thursday, Aug. 30
  • Caring for the Heart Conference at CBC. The first day its from 10:45 a.m. and 6:30-9 p.m. Every other day it’s 6:30-9 p.m. You must regist-er for child care, call 526-4685.
  • Through Sunday, Sept. 2
    • 2007 Cashiers Designer Showhouse, two-weekend event at The Lodges at Millstone, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, except Sunday, when the House is open noon to 4 p.m. There will be a shuttle from the Cashiers Community Center to the Lodges. Tickets can be purchased before you board a van or at the showhouse for $25.
    • Through Thursday, Sept. 13
      • “Art to Wear,” the latest exhibit at Bascom-Louise Gallery, will feature an array of marvel-ous clothing, jewelry, and other wearable art and adornments. Fiber and jewelry artists from all over the southeast will be participating. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. For more information, call 526-4949.

Thursday, Aug. 30
• The American Red Cross blood drive at First Presbyterian Church of Franklin, located at 26 Church Street in Franklin, NC. Please call 369-9559 to make an appointment today! Walk-ins are welcome! All presenting donors at the Franklin Community Blood Drive can enter a drawing for a $50 gift card! Anyone who is at least 17 years of age, weighs a minimum of 110 pounds and is in general good health is eligible to donate. Donors of all blood types are needed.

Friday-Saturday, Aug. 31-Sept. 1
• A trunk show at Bungalow Boutique featuring Gail Molzahn’s custom semi-precious stones and pearl jewelry from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 1
• At Cyrano’s Bookshop on Main Street, Lauch Magruder will sign copies of his new legal thriller “Without Regard” from 1-3 p.m. Saturday and Mary E. Matson Furnald will sign copies of The Inheritance, a historical memoir set in Alabama, from 3-5 p.m.
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6-mile hike (with car shuttle) on a van or at the showhouse for $25.

The Village Square Art and Craft Show is Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 1-2, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Exhibitors include: Larry Brannan — photography; Mary Brennan — toad houses; Joy Whitney — jewelry; Cathy Christy — pottery; Donald Krebs — turned wood; Marge Rohrer — woven clothing; Karen Kaleta & David Knott — pencil photos; Tim & Karen Chambers — folk art; Annelle Metsker — photographic portraiture; V. M. Ferguson — pencil drawings, giclees; Kristine Cooke — Goldwire-wrapped jewelry; Patrick Taylor — pottery; Clyde & Maranee Bowen — welding/garden art; Byrdell & Ron Spade — pottery; Janet Dee — Juice Plus; Andrew & Sharon Keene — gourds and baskets; Paul Poole — wood turning; Pamela Haddock — paintings; Maddy Buckhannan — paintings; Claudine Michaud — jewelry; Madeleine Watt & Donna Tew — jewelry; Gene Tovvy — acrylic paintings; Jan Smith, M.J. Sabbath — clay art; Carol Parsons & Mark Hard- dy — Clay buttons; Lee & Dee Weisz — wood work

Photo and rendition by Jim Lewicki
The hospital auxiliary will have its annual luncheon meeting at Chestnut Hill on Monday at 12:30. There will be election of officers for the coming year. New members are encouraged to join and participate in this important arm of the hospital and to learn more about the many functions and importance of the hospital.

The Highlands Community Christian Chorale rehearsals begin Monday at 7 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.

At Cyranos Bookshop, author Ron Rash signing “Chemistry and Other Stories” 1-3 p.m.

“Missed Highlands, 2007” All Male Beauty

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**8th annual Native Plant Conference set for Sept. 7-8**

Native plant landscaping and gardening conference Visit www.wcu.edu/hbs/ or call 828-526-2602, to get details and register for the 8th Annual Conference on Landscaping and Gardening with Native Plants, Sept. 7-8, at the Performing Arts Center, Highlands, N.C. Sponsored by the Highlands Biological Foundation, the cost is $100 per person for the two-day event and $150 per couple. Best act now, as space is limited. Proceeds go to support the Highlands Botanical Garden.

**Tuesday, Sept. 4**

Free film at PAC – “A Walk in the Clouds.” Refreshments at 7 p.m., film at 7:30. Free but donations accepted.

**Wednesday, Sept. 5-8**

• At Instant Theatre “Copenhagen” featuring David Milford as Werner Heisenberg, Ellen Greenwald as Margrete and Ralph Stevens as Niels Bohr. Performances are at 8 p.m. Call the Instant Theatre at 828-342-9197 for tickets.

**Thursday, Sept. 6**

• 2007 Studio Dinner Series in artists’ creative environments. Theme: Caribbean Lively-Up at Artists Shari Erickson’s & Doug Gifford’s at 6 p.m. Caribbean cuisine and wines by Tim Lundy of Rosewood Market, part of art sales to benefit Cashiers Fire & Rescue Department. Call 526-2673.

**Friday-Saturday, Sept. 7-8**

• Native plant landscaping and gardening conference Visit www.wcu.edu/hbs/ or call 828-526-2602, to get details and register for the 8th Annual Conference on Landscaping and Gardening with Native Plants at the Performing Arts Center, Highlands, N.C. Sponsored by the Highlands Biological Foundation, the cost is $100 per person for the two-day event and $150 per couple. Best act now, as space is limited. Proceeds go to support the Highlands Botanical Garden.

• At Acom’s Coralia Leets Trunk Show. Distinctive jewelry with precious and semi-precious stones, gems and pearls set in 14k and 18k gold. At Cyranos Bookshop, authors George Ellison and Thomas Rain Crowe.

**Saturday, Sept. 7**

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will hold Rabies Vaccination Clinics throughout Macon County on Saturday from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center and from 3-4 p.m. at the Scaly Mountain Post Office. Area veterinarians will vaccinate dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months of age, as required by NC state law. The cost is $5 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes or in carriers.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3.5 mile moderate hike with a 600 foot elevation change up Big Scaly Mtn. for great views to the south and west. Meet at the Osage Mtn. Overlook on NC Hwy. 106 at 10 a.m. Drive 3 miles round trip with car shuttle. Hikes are limited to 20; call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

**Sunday, Sept. 9**

• Bel Canto Recital’s 15th Anniversary Celebration, 4 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb-Performing Arts Center with festive buffet following at the Highlands Falls Country Club. Proceeds benefit the Bascom-Louise Fine Art Center and the Highlands School music program. For tickets call 828-526-5252 Monday, Sept. 10

**Advance registration required**

The art of paper cutting has been used around the world for thousands of years, and there are many fabulous cultural examples of intricate and precise cutting. As decorations for the home, they are both symbolic and decorative works of art – a fascinating example of what can be accomplished with very little.

Next month, the Bascom-Louise Gallery will offer a class on paper cutting “Cut Paper Designs” by Robin Mittner. The class is scheduled for Sept. 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Students will experiment with some of the most famous types of paper cutting, including delicate Chinese tissue paper; colorful Polish Wycinaniki cut work; precise-symmetry German/Swiss Scherenschnitte; figurative Japanese Kirigami; and playful Mexican Papel Picado. These are complicated names for simple, beautiful lacy works of art/decors. Students can take their creations home to frame or press under glass on a table or tray.

All that is needed are a pair or two of sharp mini-scissors and a good glue stick. Most other materials and patterns will be supplied.

All levels of expertise are welcome. The cost for a Bascom-Louise member is $40; the cost is $75 for the general public.

“This is a wonderful late-summer activity and a great way to experiment with a new art form,” said Donna Rhodes, the gallery’s education director.

Registration is going on now. For more information or to register, call the gallery at (828) 526-4949, ext. 4. The gallery is located inside the Hudson Library in Highlands.

**Sunday, Sept. 16**

**Monday, Sept. 17**

**Wednesday, Sept. 19**

**Thursday, Sept. 20**

**Friday, Sept. 21**

**Saturday, Sept. 22**

**Sunday, Sept. 23**

**Monday, Sept. 24**

**Tuesday, Sept. 25**

**Friday, Sept. 28**

**Monday, Sept. 30**

**Wednesday, Oct. 2**

**Thursday, Oct. 3**

**Saturday, Oct. 5**

**Sunday, Oct. 6**

**Monday, Oct. 7**

**Tuesday, Oct. 8**

**Wednesday, Oct. 9**

**Thursday, Oct. 10**

**Friday, Oct. 11**

**Saturday, Oct. 12**

**Sunday, Oct. 13**

**Monday, Oct. 14**

**Tuesday, Oct. 15**

**Wednesday, Oct. 16**

**Thursday, Oct. 17**

**Friday, Oct. 18**

**Saturday, Oct. 19**

**Sunday, Oct. 20**

**Monday, Oct. 21**

**Tuesday, Oct. 22**

**Wednesday, Oct. 23**

**Thursday, Oct. 24**

**Friday, Oct. 25**

**Saturday, Oct. 26**

**Sunday, Oct. 27**

**Monday, Oct. 28**

**Tuesday, Oct. 29**

**Wednesday, Oct. 30**

**Thursday, Oct. 31**

**Friday, Nov. 1**

**Saturday, Nov. 2**

**Sunday, Nov. 3**

**Monday, Nov. 4**

**Tuesday, Nov. 5**

**Wednesday, Nov. 6**

**Thursday, Nov. 7**

**Friday, Nov. 8**

**Saturday, Nov. 9**

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**Monday, Nov. 25**

**Tuesday, Nov. 26**

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**Thursday, Nov. 28**

**Friday, Nov. 29**

**Saturday, Nov. 30**

**Sunday, Dec. 1**

**Monday, Dec. 2**

**Tuesday, Dec. 3**

**Wednesday, Dec. 4**

**Thursday, Dec. 5**

**Friday, Dec. 6**

**Saturday, Dec. 7**

**Sunday, Dec. 8**
The play features David Milford as Werner Heisenberg, Ellen Greenwald as Margrethe and Ralph Stevens as Niels Bohr.

The Tony award-winning play that soars at the intersection of science and art, “Copenhagen” is an explosive imagining of the mysterious wartime meeting between two Nobel Laureates to discuss the atomic bomb.

In 1941, the German physicist Werner Heisenberg made a strange trip to Copenhagen to see his Danish counterpart, Niels Bohr. They were old friends and close colleagues and had revolutionized atomic physics in the 1920s with their work together on quantum mechanics and the uncertainty principle. But now the world had changed and the two men were on opposite sides in a world war. The meeting was fraught with danger and embarrassment; it ended in disaster.

Why Heisenberg went to Copenhagen and what he wanted to say to Bohr are questions that have exercised historians ever since. In Michael Frayn’s new play, an ambitious, fiercely intelligent and daring dramatic sensation, Heisenberg meets Bohr and his wife Margrethe once again to look for the answers to work out “how we can ever know why we do what we do.”

A quantum drama of sorts, “Copenhagen” has been hailed by London’s “Sunday Times” as “a piece of history, an intellectual thriller, a psychological investigation and a moral tribunal in full session.”

Performances begin at 8 p.m. For reservations and tickets, call The Instant Theatre at 828-342-9197.
Bel Canto to feature quartet of performers Sept. 9

The Bel Canto audience on Saturday, Sept. 9, will hear for the first time Phyllis Pancella, a dynamic mezzo-soprano who was praised by the Seattle Times for her "lustrous and expressive voice.

Pancella is one of the renowned American opera singers who will comprise the Anniversary Quartet celebrating Bel Canto's 15th year of bringing to Highlands a vocal recital that again benefits the music program in the Highlands School and the permanent art collection in the Bascom-Louise Gallery. A limited number of benefactor tickets are available by calling 526-5252.

Phyllis Pancella receives continuous critical acclaim for her artistic versatility, superlative musicianship and powerful stage presence. The Times of London said, "In the American mezzo, English National Opera has found one of its very best Carmens. Her voice is beautifully warm and rounded, and never loses quality. More importantly, you hear every word she sings."

A truly accomplished artist, Pancella has appeared on many of the finest international operatic, symphony and recital stages in repertoire ranging from the Baroque era to that of the present century.

Her Bel Canto roles include the work of Bellini, Rossini and Donizetti from which she has chosen selections for her Highlands appearance. A favorite in Boston, San Francisco and St. Louis, Pancella has sung in recent seasons at the New York City Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, New Israeli Opera and the opera companies of Bastille and Toulouse in France.

As a member of Bel Canto's Anniversary Quartet, Pancella will join three old friends, Stella Zambalis, soprano; Mark Thomsen, tenor; and Kelly Anderson, baritone, in a program of solos, duets, and quartets from the world's most famous operas.

They will be accompanied by Stephen Dubberly, master pianist and operatic conductor.

Mezzo-Soprano Phyllis Pancella, a world-class Carmen, has won acclaim from audiences in New York, Chicago and San Francisco, as well as in England, France and Israel. The distinguished American artist will sing in Highlands with Bel Canto's 15th Anniversary Quartette on Sunday, Sept. 9 at PAC at 4 p.m.

COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

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

Home and property on Apple Lake!

By Harris Lake

This is a wonderful house, remodeled recently, near Harris Lake. Walk to the nature center and downtown. 4 bedrooms; guest rooms, children's room has bunk beds! Great room, kitchen, dining on one level, bedrooms up and down, but only a few steps. Outside room with living, dining areas and fireplace. Easy to show. MLS# 59837 Offered at: $899,000.

Bear's Den

This former lodge has a beautiful view of the mountains and Whiteside with 7 bedrooms and baths, it can be a great retreat or family compound. Offering a huge great room with stone fireplace and commercial-sized kitchen. The nearly 9-acres backs up to forest service property and is private and secluded. It also has a tennis court. $1.2 million. MLS#60752

A creek runs through it!

Gorgeous 4.12 acres +/- off Shortoff Road and Norton Ridge, with Norton Creek running through it and an island picnic area! 5 bedroom septic permit and well in place — this property is ready for you to build your dream mountain home on 0 nly 6 estate parcels in Norton Ridge, with 2 luxury homes already built and occupied.
Free Classified Ads for items FOR SALE less than $1,000. All other terms: 20 words for $5; $2 for each 10-word increment. Email copy to: highlandseditor@aol.com or FAX to 1-866-212-8913. Send check to: Highlands’ Newspaper P.O. Box 2703 Highlands, NC 28741 828-526-0782

HELP WANTED

HIGHLANDS FALLS COMMUNITY ASOCIATION MANAGER – Position involves overseeing office administrative activities, operation and maintenance of water and sewer systems, roads, landscaping, security, and new and renovation home construction. Submit resume and three references to hfcasearch@yahoo.com or by mail to HFCA Search Committee, PO Box 128, Highlands NC 28741.

MORNING SERVER AND HOUSEKEEPING STAFF NEEDED. Good wages, friendly work environment. Apply in person at Skyline Lodge & Restaurant or call 828 526-2121.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH is currently accepting resumes for a full-time office position. Computer skills, people skills and creative abilities are needed. Call for more info 526-4685.

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY’s programs in elementary education, special education, birth-kindergarten, psychology and educational leadership are developing adjunct professor pools for teaching in the region. Master’s degree in the discipline area is required, doctorate preferred. Send vita to Amelia Schlotz, 220 Killian, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723. Western Carolina University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

POLICE OFFICER — Successful candidate must be 21 years of age: BLET-certified; and submit to an extensive background investigation, drug screening, and psychological evaluation. Applicant must possess a valid North Carolina, South Carolina, or Georgia driver’s license, for the state which they reside in as a permanent resident. Salary: $26,847. DOQ Applicant must successfully complete the Highlands Police Department application process. Highlands Police Department, Capt. R.L. Forrester or Capt. T. Ensley, 310 Oak Street, Highlands, NC 28741. (828) 526-8734.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT — needed for Fine Art Center/Bascom-Louise Gallery in Highlands. Email resumes to: jconmor_bascomlouise@verizon.net.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT — needed for Fine Art Center/Bascom-Louise Gallery in Highlands. Email resumes to: jconmor_bascomlouise@verizon.net.

EVENT PLANNER — needed for Fine Art Center/Bascom-Louise Gallery in Highlands. Email resumes to: jconmor_bascomlouise@verizon.net.

FURNITURE DELIVERY — mostly in Highlands-Cashiers areas. Professional appearing individual experienced in dealing with the public. Non-smoker. Good driving record. Attention to detail. Monday through Friday, some Saturdays. Call the Summer House at 526-5577.

CHESTNUT HILL — is currently hiring for a cook, dishwasher, waitstaff and courtesy officers. Apply in person at 64 Clubhouse Trail or call 828-526-5251 for an appointment.

SALES AND MARKETING PROFESSIONAL NEEDED FOR CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS — a premier retirement community of cottages, apartments and assisted-living. Must be positive, dependable and organized. Mail resume to Administrator, Chestnut Hill, 64 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC 28741 or FAX to 828-526-5240.

CHESTNUT HILL — is currently hiring for a medication assistant/resident assistant in a 26-bed assisted living area. Please apply in person at 64 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC, or call for an appointment at (828) 526-5251.

SALES — FULL OR PART TIME — Seasonal, weekends required. Previous sales or customer service experience preferred. Must be professional. Non-smoking environment. Call the Summer House at 828-526-5577.

WE ARE CURRENTLY HIRING FOR A PART-TIME TELLER AT OUR HIGHLANDS OFFICE! A high school diploma or GED is required, in addition to a minimum of 6 months of experience in a Teller or other cash handling, sales position. Candidates must have effective written and verbal communication skills, good computer skills, and a friendly, courteous and professional demeanor. First Citizens Bank offers excellent salaries and a comprehensive benefits program. Apply online at: www.firstcitizens.com/careers. Refer to the Job ID # when applying. OE/AA RN WITH A PHYSICIAN’S OFFICE AGAINST HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time, Monday-Friday position. Requires experience working in a clinic or physician’s office. Cardiology background preferred. Good communication, organizational, and computer skills a must. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RN’S AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKE LD LIVING CENTER. Full, Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

LOOKING FOR A HOUSEKEEPER? Call: Manuela at 526-9586 (Highlands) Raquel Dugan at 524-4052 (Franklin) also, Experienced Truck Driver Seeks Full Time Employment: Please call 828-526-4052, or call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

TEMPORARY RENTAL IN HIGHLANDS for designer professional. Write P.O. Box 484, 2351 College Station, Athens, GA.

FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT WITH RENT TO BUYN OPTION – In town, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 decks. $975/month. Sale Price: $259,000. Ownership arrangement negotiable. Call Jimmy at 970-819-3615.

COMMERCIAL – Warehouse, 1,000 sq. ft. Cashiers Road. Call 526-4154.

WAREHOUSE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR RENT: 1,100 – 1,800 sq. ft. with large overhead rolling doors. Rent is $500-$600 a month. Located one mile from the crossroads in Cashiers off 107 S. For more information please call Josh Barber 828-743-0077.

VACATION RENTAL


HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB – Sorry, golf and club privileges not available. $2,495 a week. Call 912-230-7202.

CUT 3 BED/2 BATH Mirror lake home $1,350-$1,550 + utilities a month, less than mile from Main Street. Call 770-977-5692.

THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE – Fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, 3-day min. Call 828-342-2302.

ON LAKE SEQUOYAH – Three master suites with jetted tubs and showers, sleeping nook with private bath, 4 fireplaces, 2 living areas, newly renovated. Private dock with canoe and firepit. Call 828-342-2302.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE FOR SALE (ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA) – Two bedroom, one and ½ bath conch house for sale at Mile Marker 86, near Founders Park on Oceanside. House sits on a 8,520 square foot lot in a great subdivision with a public boat ramp on the next street over. Founders Park, which is across the street, has a park with a boat ramp, marina, pool, beach, tennis courts, etc. Great deal — owner moving out of state. $475,000. 305-852-4369 for more info.


LAKEFRONT ACRE IN SCALY – $25,000 OBO. Details. P.O. Box 26789, Pembroke Pines, FL, 33026.

COMMERICAL FOR SALE – Log cabin at crossroads in Cashiers for sale or lease. Call 526-4154.

COMMERICAL FOR SALE – 3 acres. U.S. 64 frontage, cashiers Road. 2 acres, 3 warehouses, good income. Call 526-4154.

HOUSE FOR SALE – HFCC 2 story split, 3/2, large lot, lake, golf course, mountain views, membership available but optional. $795,000. Call 526-4154.


OCEANFRONT LOT KEY LARGO, FLORIDA – Cleared, buildable with all services. Last unimproved lot in Silver Shores subdivision. $595,000. For information and photos call Frank (954) 964-7649 or email ft442@bellsouth.net.

NC. OTTO, 30 ACRES 10 miles from Georgia State line, high elevation, big views, driveway and homesite cleared call owner, 770-952-
NEW HOME/CHALET – 10 minutes from town off Turtle Pond Road, 2½ with loft, 897 acres, 1,177 sq. ft. $189,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

IN TOWN – 32½ log home. The cottages lakeside at Harris Lake. Less than 2 years old. $329,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.


LOTS – Exclusive RiverRock, Tuckasegee Village: 2.1 acre Lot 48, great building site, adjoins horse farm, $364,900, and THE premier view Lot 34, best view lot development. $799,900 Call HUTCH (706) 831-0892 or 828-862-3363.

FIX 'R' UPP – 2,500 sq. ft. home, 2-3 decks. 2-3 bed/baths. New furnace. Walk to hospital. Interior unfinished...must have imagination. Make offer. Call 828-200-9333.


BY BUILDER – 4/3, new construction. Executive home. 1.5 acres, bordered by 2 creeks and a pond in a new upscale subdivision less than 5 minutes from downtown Franklin. $485K. Call 526-1597.

ANTIQUE SLOT MACHINES – 25c 1933 mills “war eagle” $2,800; 10c mills 777 “special award” $2,400. Mint condition. $828-862-3363.

GREAT MANHATTAN WARDROBE – 2-door coupe. $12,000.


SERVICES

Cutting Edge Tree Service – “Let us go out on a Limb for You.” We specialize in tree removal, trimming, LotView clearing, under brushing and stump grinding. Quality work and fully insured. For Free Estimate call 524-1309 or 421-2905.

Spic and Span Cleaners – looking for part-time cleaners to clean banks in Highlands and Cashiers. Call 828-691-6535.

Tree Service – From view clearing to the most complicated tree removal, under brushing, stump removal, grinding/brush/chipping/hauling and storm clean-up. For good quality, dependable services, fully insured, give us a call at 828-526-2251.


J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES – complete lawn and landscaping services, spring cleanup, gutter cleaning, underbrushing, tree removal, lot clearing, storm cleanup, rockwork, retaining walls, flowerbeds, firewood. 828-526-2251.

Clock Repair & Restoration – Antique or modern. Call to discuss your repair needs. Visit my website at www.oldclockrepair.com or call Joseph McGhee at 706-754-9631 or email to mcgahoecklockshop@yahoo.com – 9/13.


Tuckaway Bed & Breakfast – 5 rooms above the club house. (828) 862-3363.


H & D House Cleaners – We’re the team for minor cleans. Dishes, bed, floors, & baths. Give us a call ‘cause we are the Best!” 706-982-1994 or 706-782-0376.

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Highlands Shuttle Service – Atlanta Airport Shuttle. Drive - Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.

Mark’s Sedan Driving Service – All airports – Atlanta $150, Asheville: $110, scenic tours, parks, special occasions, restaurant trips. Town Car. Call 828-524-0424 or cell (239)-292-3623.
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SUNSET MOUNTAIN ESTATES

Represented exclusively by The Men on a Mission Team/Exit Realty
out of doors after business hours, such as produce, firewood, fertilizers, or garden plants; such merchandise shall in no way obstruct a public walkway required by the North Carolina State Building Code. Basically, any merchandise that can’t be left out all night can’t be displayed outside even though that may be a problem.

Given the number of merchants who display merchandise, commissioners say the practice must either be disallowed or the ordinance amended to be less restrictive.

At the Aug. 2 Town Board meeting, Commissioners Dennis DeWolfe and Hank Ross both said they didn’t mind the display of merchandise outside shops. “I don’t have a particular objection to people having elements of their business outside,” said DeWolfe.

Ross said he researched eight towns including Asheville and Waynesville and couldn’t find any ordinance prohibiting the display of merchandise outside. “I think merchants should be able to leave it out on their own property,” he said. “It adds to the festive nature of the town.”

Mayor Don Mullen agreed saying as long as it didn’t obstruct pedestrian traffic he didn’t mind either.

Lloyd Wagner, owner of The Bird Barn, who has displayed birdhouses and garden art in front of his shop at Falls on Main, said not allowing merchants to display merchandise “cripples the ability for merchants to be creative.”

“Many merchants would be better served by an ordinance that would allow or the ordinance amended to be less restrictive,” said Commissioner Ginger Slaughter.

Member Linda Clark suggested the display of outdoor merchandise should affect businesses’ parking formulæ.

“The display of merchandise outside like at Twigs increases the shop space,” she said. “I think that every bit of outdoor merchandise should count towards parking.”

However, only stores outside the B3 zoning district have to supply parking.

Ward said the ordinance is very hard to enforce right now especially if just one merchant is allowed to leave merchandise out all night.

Chairman Griffin Bell said he thought it was OK as long as the merchandise isn’t on public right-of-way. But Clark said she thought the town was making a big mistake allowing people to display anything.

As with the Town Board, the Planning Board was unable to reach a consensus so no recommendation was sent to the Town Board. It took the subject under advisement and will discuss it further at the Sept. 24 Planning Board meeting.

**Big Boxes**

Though the image of a “Big Box” store is bigger than anything currently in Highlands, the prospect of big boxes coming to the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) and the possibility of current stores like Bryson’s Food Store, Mountain Fresh Foods and Furniture South expanding concerns the Planning Board.

After discussing it over the span of several meetings, the board voted unanimously to limit new construction of commercial buildings to 15,000 sq. feet and to require owners of existing commercial buildings who want to expand beyond 15,000 sq. ft. to apply for a Special Use Permit (SUP) from the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The amended ordinance will apply to all zoning districts in town and in the ETJ area.

Initially, the ordinance was meant only for ETJ, but member Pat Taylor suggested it apply to all zoning districts.

In previous discussion the board discussed limiting expansion of stores “to maintain the Mom and Pop business atmosphere,” said Ginger Slaughter.

But in the end, expansion exceeding 15,000 sq. ft. will be allowed with an SUP and the recommendation was sent to the Town Board.

**Rezoning**

Also discussed at Monday’s meeting was a request to rezone Thomas E. Young’s property at 369 Franklin Road from R2 to B4 on the grounds that surrounding properties are zoned commercial.

“There are already five businesses surround our property that are commercial – TLC Realty, Bryant Art Glass, a computer store on Oak Street, RBC Centura Bank and the Bascom-Louise Gallery,” wrote Young in a letter to the board.

Young said once the gallery is completed his property will be very hard to rent as a residence. “There will be too many cars coming and going, too much noise and too many people. The gallery is utilizing all the property up to the creek which we own so there will be very little privacy,” reads the letter.

In the end the board ruled 5-2 against the request to rezone on the grounds that it goes against the Land Use Plan and that no site plan was provided suggesting what the property would be used for if rezoned commercial.

Both Mike Bryson and Ricky Bryson voted against the motion.

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**POLICE & FIRE**

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Aug 22-29. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

- **Aug 22**
  - At 7:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at N.C. 28 and 3rd Street.

- **Aug 27**
  - At 10:48 p.m. officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at N.C. 106 and Buttermilk where a driver was cited for failing to decrease speed to avoid colliding with another vehicle.
  - During the week officers issued 2 warning tickets.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Aug 22-29

- **Aug 22**
  - The dept. responded to a vehicle fire at third and N.C. 28 where a late-model van had caught on fire. It was extinguished.

- **Aug 23**
  - The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Main Street where a person had suffered a seizure. The victim was transported to the hospital.
  - The dept. helped search for an elderly man in the vicinity of Spruce and Fifth streets who had wandered away but he found his way home.

- **Aug 25**
  - The dept. responded to carbon monoxide alarm at a residence on Many Road. It was unfound.

- **Aug 26**
  - The dept. responded to a vehicle fire at Highlands Storage but it was just steam rising off the parking lot.

- **Aug 27**
  - The dept. responded to a call of a brush fire at Highlands Storage but it was just steam rising off the parking lot.
  - The dept. responded to a call of a brush fire at a residence on Split Rail Row. The fire was due to a bee nest that had been burned earlier and reignited.
  - The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence at the Cullasaja Club. The victim was transported to the hospital.