Commission dissatisfied with ‘Plaza’ look

The Highlands Plaza face lift hasn’t turned out the way it was presented to the Appearance Commission back in October 2006 and members are concerned.

At the May 7 meeting, members said Al Bolt, who represents his mother who owns the Highlands Plaza property, indicated that the facade of the existing plaza would be upgraded to match the Car Spa.

“He was supposed to use shingles like he did on the Car Spa,” said member Mark Pittman.

Chair of the commission, Rick Siegel, said he heard that Bolt couldn’t get the shingles in the quantity he needed so stucco was substituted.

Members said though the colors are OK, nothing ties the look of the plaza together.

Old metal siding was re-removed.

• See COMMISSION page 12

Citizens voice ideas for Pine Street Park

About 30 people attended the Pine Street Park Public Meeting, May 7, and enthusiastically submitted their opinions for the park.

The crowd broke into four groups and outlined items of importance to them. Out of that came four main points:

• A park that focuses on a pavilion offering restrooms, a kitchen facility, grills, storage, a faucet, expansion via a tent, amplification, electricity and skylights.

• A park that focuses on green space with benches, shade trees, grass, a water faucet, creek, a space for a tent, and picnic tables.

• A park that requires the closing of all of Pine Street, a portion of the street or none of the street.

• And, a park that hosts non-exclusive events – that is, events open to anyone who might wander by versus a Chamber of Commerce event or ticketed events.

The creek, which runs from the Episcopal Church property under Fifth Street, through Village Square and under Pine and Fourth streets before emptying into Mill Creek often backs up, its remediation is a big part of all the Pine Street Park plans.

Two plans involve rerouting it after it leaves Village Square into a meandering format which would add a feature to the park while slowing stormwater flow.

But the plan that would forever fix the stream problem involves bringing the entire stream above ground from where it leaves Village Square to Mill Creek and incorporating it into the park setting in a meandering fashion.

“The problem with the creek is it makes five 90-degree turns from the church property to where it enters Mill Creek and streams don’t like to do that,” said Landscape Architect Hank Ross, who has been designing the park scenario.

Ross’s “A” rendition has a pavilion on green space on the old property under Fifth Street, through Village Square and under Pine and Fourth streets before emptying into Mill Creek. While the “B” rendition has half of Pine Street blocked off and rerouting it after it leaves Village Square into a meandering format which would add a feature to the park while slowing stormwater flow.

The crowd was most pleased with version “C” for the Pine Street Park which entails closing Pine Street completely.

Weekend Weather:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>72-52°F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
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Alcohol permits required of nonprofits

Just as the season is opening in Highlands, a damper of sorts has been put on the bevy of nonprofit functions offering alcohol and wine as part of their venue.

“One-time permits allowing alcohol are required for each function even if the drinks are for free,” said Police Chief Bill Harrell.

Evidently, the N.C. Alcohol Beverage Control Commission put the word out about two weeks ago when representatives learned that alcohol was being offered at nonprofit functions in town.

“Even if drinks are given away, it is construed as a sale,” said a representative from the ABC Commission. “Sometimes the nonprofit is looking for donations, sometimes tickets are purchased for an event they are sponsoring or presenting. Either way, there is an exchange of money one way or the other which is the deciding factor.”

Each permit application costs $50 and must be applied for 14 days prior to each event. There aren’t any umbrella permits for ongoing events that occur over several weekends or days. However, only one permit is required for a “run.”

“For instance, if a function runs Thursday through Sunday of the same week, only one permit is needed,” said the ABC representative. “But if it runs again the next week.”

• See COMMISSION page 12

• See ALCOHOL page 10
I never understood that saying, but now I do. One Sunday afternoon in late October, my daughter Megan and I went to Wal-Mart to stock up on dorm supplies prior to her heading back to Appalachian State University. After we checked out and transferred our bags from the checkout counter to the cart, I noticed a wallet on the counter.

I picked it up, walked back toward the cashier who was already dealing with the next customer in line and said “Someone left their wallet” as I tried to give it to her. I knew the cashier heard me and saw that I was trying to give her the wallet, but she wouldn’t acknowledge my statement or the wallet.

I thought it was odd. Megan was in a hurry to hit the road back to ASU and had no patience for the cashier’s lack of interest or my trying to give the wallet to the appropriate person.

“Just put it down, Mom,” she said. “Let’s go. They obviously don’t care.”

I put the wallet back on the counter, followed Megan as she wheeled the cart out of the store – the cart full of our purchases and my black handbag. All was quickly forgotten.

Then, the week of Thanksgiving, I got a call from a detective from the Macon County Sheriff’s Department. “Would you come down to the department to answer some questions?” he asked.

“What for?” I asked.

“We think you might have some information about a lady’s wallet.”

I didn’t have a clue what he was talking about – and had totally forgotten the Wal-Mart incident.

I had a school board meeting in Nanahala the Monday after Thanksgiving so I stopped at the Sheriff’s Department before heading that way.

I was politely escorted through the lobby doors and into a back room. I took a

Kim Lewicki
Publisher

No good deed goes unpunished

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

Highlands School grad honored

Alia Schultz, center, and five other New College of Florida students and fellow 2007-08 Fulbright Scholars, met with Florida Senate President Ken Pruitt in his Senate office in the Florida capital in Tallahassee on April 26. Schultz, a senior, received a Fulbright Grant to teach English in Germany for a year. She graduates May 25. The New College Fulbrighters were also invited on to the floor of the Florida House of Representatives and were recognized by Florida’s State University System Chancellor Mark Rosenberg and local representatives.

... FORUM continued from page 2

chair opposite the detective aware that if this took too long I would be late for the school board meeting still an hour’s drive away.

“First, I want you to know that there are two exits to the building; one right outside this door and one in the front of the building where you came in.”

“I’m thinking...”Yeah, OK, whatever.”

“I also want you to know that you are not under arrest.”

“Under arrest? Why would I be under arrest?” I asked baffled. “Wait a minute. Is this about me?”

“Were you in Wal-Mart on October 22?” he asked.

“Probably,” I said somewhat disturbed at this point. “I go to Wal-Mart a lot. Why?”

“Because our records show that someone used your debit card that day.”

He then produced a document itemizing all the purchases I made Oct. 22.

I looked it over and recognized the items. “Yes, I made these purchases.”

“Do you remember anything about a wallet?”

Slowly, very slowly, the flicker of a memory about a wallet ignited, but I really couldn’t remember details because I had completely dismissed the incident.

“A wallet?” I instinctively grabbed my bag and realized that was stupid. The only wallet ever in my bag is my own. “I do remember something about a wallet,” I said haltingly.

“We have a video showing you picking up a wallet that was on the counter and putting it in your bag.” he said calmly.

“What? What are you talking about?”

“If you just return the wallet, everything will probably be all right.”

“But I didn’t take a wallet,” I said.

“What is this about?”

Turns out a widow-lady from Florida, saved up all her money — $500 — to come to Western North Carolina for the leaf season. On Sunday, Oct. 22, she shopped in two stores in Franklin, both of which have video surveillance cameras. She left the first store with her wallet and the $500 cash inside but then left it on the Wal-Mart checkout counter after making her purchases there. All she wanted was her money back.

“We have a video showing you picking up the wallet,” he said.

“Wait a minute,” I said. “Hold on, I’m going to call my daughter.”

The detective began running the video. I grabbed the cell phone, hoping Megan would pick up. As part of a course project, she had given up using her cell phone for a month. As expected she didn’t pick up her phone, so I called her sister and luckily she was with her.

“Hey Meg. Do you remember an incident at Wal-Mart that day we were shopping for shelves for your dorm room when I picked up a wallet?”

“Yes, Mom. Don’t you remember? You found...”

“Stop,” I said. “Don’t tell me anymore. I’m with a detective at the sheriff’s department and he thinks I took the wallet. Please tell him what happened.” I handed the phone to the detective and continued watching the video.

It showed Megan and I entering Wal-Mart, taking a cart and walking through the store. Then it cuts to the far side of a checkout line where a lone wallet lies on the counter. Though shot from behind me, after a few minutes, the video clearly shows me picking up the wallet turning back to...
Surely you remember that cute little Walt Disney chicken guy with horn-rimmed glasses who got everyone's shorts in a wad because the sky was falling. Here's a piece of inconvenient truth you may not be ready for. Rumor has it that Mr. Little, or I guess you can call him Chicken, is now working with Al Gore, running around unscrewing light bulbs. As we have learned from Mr. Gore, burning light bulbs helps contribute to global warming. Global warming, loosely translated, means the sky is falling. Therefore, they are a great team.

I am now doing my part by having sex in the dark. Other than that, I am ashamed to tell you I have done little else to keep the Atlantic Ocean out of my Florida bedroom. This is scary because, if my calculations are correct, our simple abode here in Highlands will go under water in 6024. Yikes!

I want to do more than just have sex in the dark. I want to pitch in and make an impact. First, I have to sell all the survival stuff I bought back in the 70s when cone-headed buffoons scared me into thinking the next ice age was starting. Remember that era? Wait a minute, who's the buffoon here? I went out and bought the dumb stuff.

I think my ice age survival gear is stored next to my Y2K survival equipment which I am saving for the Y3K crisis. Once I have sold my triple-padded parkas, insulated snow boots and instructions on how to build and make love in an igloo, I will have enough money to head to Italy where the real global violations are taking place.

Why Italy, you ask? A recent study by IDGAP (don't ask but the first two letters may stand for 'I don't') revealed that Italians, in mass, are having sex with the lights on. Why this occurs, I don't know. Maybe the men are afraid the women will abscond with their wallets. We must put a stop to this. I may even invite ole stinky butt Cheryl Crow to go with me.

Before leaving, and pu-leeeese don't tell Big Al about this, Chicken and I are sneaking over to all of Al's mansions and unscrewing his light bulbs. This may take some time because, at last count, there were 64,249 of them burning away. There's a small cloud of dastardly carbon dioxide over each mansion and heated pool.

In the meantime, here's a statistic you can chew on. If everyone on the planet simultaneously held their breath for one minute, Al could keep his lights on one extra day. Now that's something to strive for.

Here's another fun fact you may not be aware of: burned out fluorescent bulbs are considered hazardous waste material. I am not making this up. Sooo, while you're running around throwing out your perfectly good light bulbs and replacing them with expensive fluorescent bulbs filled with cancerous mercury vapor that produce un-friendly surgical light, India, China, millionaires, oil companies, refineries and Al Gore (oops, I already mentioned millionaires) are busy punching bigger holes in the ozone layer in one day than all us little guys could ever punch in a lifetime. Write that down.

Now, having said that, have you ever noticed whenever there's a crisis, demands are always placed on the little people (that would be us) to take action. When everyone in the world is required to turn off their electricity and not drive their cars, then I'll know the crisis is real.

Does Al Gore have stock in fluorescent lighting? Does he wipe with one sheet of toilet paper? Pray he doesn't. Was he somehow involved in the Y2K crisis? Did he really invent the Internet? Was he the mastermind of 9/11? Maestro, circus music, please!

By my calculations, a nasty stinking city bus belching diesel fumes from its engine can do more damage to our planet and your lungs in one day of operation than all of your light bulbs burning constantly for a year, but where's the outrage to shut them down? If they did away with diesel engines I could have sex with the lights on. Since that isn't going to happen, I will try to keep you informed of my light-burning Italian adventure.

To make sure I get lost in Italy, I'm bringing my Italian wife, the lil missus, who will drag me off the beaten path and into harm's way. Pray she doesn't get gang pinched. Capisce?

L A U G H I N G  AT  L I F E
Who knew?

Until a few days ago, I had never heard of the Orangeburg Massacre, nor had Lizzie Helen, anyone in the operating room, nor any of several folks gathered at Frank Cathey's Valley Pharmacy in Dillard, Georgia. I didn't know if it referred to an Indian attack on settlers, slaughter of civilians during the Revolutionary War, or a lopsided football victory. I learned that it took place in 1968, two years before similar events in Jackson, Mississippi, and Kent, Ohio. The tragedies I will describe bore remarkable similarities, but one major difference.

On February 8, 1968, students of South Carolina State College, now South Carolina State University, gathered to protest a segregated bowling alley in Orangeburg, S.C. Police responded to the demonstration. Students hurled insults and non-lethal objects at the police. One policeman was injured. As one might expect, students and police offered differing explanations of what happened next. Police claimed that they were fired upon. Protesters denied the charge. No conclusive evidence supports either side. Police opened fire. Two students were killed and 27 injured in the ensuing barrage. Charges were filed, trials held, and all the Guards acquitted.

What is fascinating is that everyone I asked was aware of the tragedy at Kent State, often in considerable detail, but not one person had any idea of early similar events in Mississippi and South Carolina. Students gathered in a time of national unrest. Law enforcement officers and/or National Guard were summoned to the scenes. Officers claimed to have come under lethal attack and responded with a prolonged volley into the demonstrators. Surviving students denied that any of them were armed. Charges were filed, trials held, and all the Guards acquitted.

As one might expect, students and police offered differing explanations of what happened next. Police claimed that they were fired upon. Protesters denied the charge. No conclusive evidence supports either side. Police opened fire. Two students were killed and a dozen were wounded in the fusillade. FBI investigators estimate that police fired 460 rounds. Ambulances were called to take the wounded students to the hospital, but not until law enforcement officers policed the area and removed their spent shell casings. No charges were filed nor arrests made.

Everyone knows what happened at Kent State University on May 4, 1970. Students gathered on campus to protest the Vietnam War and expansion of the war into Cambodia. After several days of campus unrest, Ohio's governor called in the National Guard to restore order. Students taunted the Guards who ultimately advanced on and fired into the crowd of students, killing four and injuring nine. As in the cases described above, details of exactly what transpired will never be known. The National Guard claimed that they were taking incoming fire and responded with a prolonged volley into the demonstrators. Surviving students denied that any of them were armed. Charges were filed, trials held, and all the Guards acquitted.

What is fascinating is that everyone I asked was aware of the tragedy at Kent State, often in considerable detail, but not one person had any idea of early similar events in Mississippi and South Carolina. Students gathered in a time of national unrest. Law enforcement officers and/or National Guard were summoned to the scenes. Officers claimed to have come under lethal attack and responded with fatal fire. Outside agitators were implicated but not identified. Charges were brought in two of the cases, but the only convictions obtained were against students for disruptions in the days leading up to the shootings. The only significant difference was the race of the victims. In South Carolina and Mississippi, the victims were African-American, while those in Ohio were white. Two stories were unworthy of extensive coverage, the other was etched forever into the National consciousness. White stories sell. Black stories don't.

Before succumbing to the easy explanation that these events took place 35 years ago, and that things have changed, let's look at more recent history. Remember the little beauty queen from Colorado Springs? How about the teen-aged daughter of a Salt Lake stockbroker? And of course there was the Alabama high school graduate who disappeared in Aruba. All pretty, blond, and white. Surely during recent years little black children have been murdered and kidnapped. These kids find their way onto milk cartons, but not onto CNN. Do the media pander to the insatiable curiosity of the audience, do readers and viewers create the circus? I don't have the answer to that one. Do you?

Dr. Henry Salzarulo
Feedback is encouraged.
Email: hsalzarulo@aol.com
Bryson's Food Store

We want to take this opportunity to wish all Mothers a very happy Mother’s Day!

This is a wonderful time to serve lobster, shrimp and steaks.

We’ve got ‘em. On Sale Now!
How about a wine to match dinner?

Reds for Steaks
Whites for Seafood

We’ve got an extreme variety that no one else has.

Come by and talk to Nan.

Visit our Deli for cakes, cheesecakes, and organic gourmet desserts for Mom.

Check out our flower bouquets for Mother’s Day, too.
We also have special gift bags for Mom containing chocolates and wine.

On Sale Now!

Visit our Produce Section for strawberries and other fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables.

We now offer an extensive variety of organic products from around the world.

At Bryson’s Food Store, you’ll find everything you need for the accompanying recipes.

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**COOKING ON THE PLATEAU**

Consider Wine for to make Mother’s Day Sizzle

In Australia, where good food and great wine are always on the menu, it’s second nature to use quality wine in culinary pursuits. After all, who doesn’t enjoy sipping a glass of their favorite wine while adding a splash to a recipe? Consider these simple and delicious marinades which take the guesswork out of choosing the perfect wine to pair with your meal.

This Mother’s Day, get Mom out of the kitchen! Fire up the grill, grab a bottle of McWilliam’s wine, and enjoy a g’day with good eats.

**Grilled Chardonnay Shrimp**

**Prep time:** 15 minutes  
**Marinate time:** 1 hour  
**Cook time:** 8 to 10 minutes  
**Serves:** 4

- 3/4 cup McWilliam’s Hanwood Estate Chardonnay
- 6 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon ground coriander
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Freshly ground pepper to taste
- 1 to 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/4 pounds large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped macadamia nuts
- 1/2 cup diced red bell pepper (optional)

Whisk together wine, lemon juice, honey, olive oil, coriander, salt, pepper and garlic in medium bowl. Set aside 1/4 cup marinade and add shrimp to remaining marinade. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour. Remove shrimp and discard left over marinade. Thread shrimp onto short skewers and grill over medium heat 4 to 5 minutes on each side or until completely pink. Place skewers on arugula and drizzle with reserved marinade; sprinkle with nuts and bell pepper.

**Blackberry Cabernet Marinated Steaks**

**Prep time:** 15 minutes  
**Marinate time:** Several hours to 2 days  
**Cook time:** 10 minutes  
**Serves:** 4

- 3/4 cup McWilliam’s Hanwood Estate Cabernet Sauvignon
- 1 1/2 cups fresh blackberries, crushed
- 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, Freshly ground pepper to taste
- 4 grilling steaks (such as New York, rib-eye, or tenderloin)

Chopped fresh basil (optional garnish)

Stir together wine, blackberries, balsamic vinegar, olive oil, basil, salt and pepper in resealable plastic bag. Remove 1/2 cup marinade and set aside. Place steaks in bag, seal and refrigerate steaks and reserved marinade for several hours or up to 2 days. Remove steaks from marinade and discard contents of bag. Grill steaks over medium heat 5 minutes on each side or until cooked to your liking. Remove from grill; spoon reserved marinade over top and sprinkle with chopped basil. Pair with same wine used in the marinade.

*All materials courtesy of McWilliam’s Wine & Family Features*
A week ago I received a note from the North Carolina Department of Transportation regarding the availability of funds for “roadway improvements for bicycle safety on state and local designated bike routes.”

The division operations engineer, Reuben Moore, in Sylva wanted to know if we were interested. Of course, we are.

I immediately asked him to consider an extension of our bike route from town down the Dillard Road which is due for repaving this month. He responded that indeed this roadway was eligible for these funds and it would be given consideration.

It is my hope that we will improve pedestrian and bike safety along that very busy stretch of road within the town limits. Hopefully, we will hear from the state soon on this project and it will be included in the construction which will take place in May.

Our 40-year-old pool at the recreation center is showing signs of its age and recent bad weather has resulted in damage to the surface of the pool requiring emergency repairs to get the pool up and running by summer. The cost of these repairs will be $47,000 but the Board of Commissioners felt like they had no choice but to get the pool ready for the season as quickly as possible. It should be ready by early June which is later than usual but at least it will be open for use for the summer.

So, folks should know that the pool will be a little be later opening this year.

On a couple other matters regarding the recreation center, first, it looks like the new porta-cochere at the rec center is almost completed and is looking good. The replacement of the roof led to the necessity of re-doing the porta-cochere.

We also will be putting into the budget for this coming year’s fund to replace the nautilus equipment in our exercise and gym area. This has been requested by many people over this past year and it is time to replace the ancient equipment we have there.

Hopefully, with new equipment, we will be able to increase the membership and use the equipment more than it has been used recently.

The Pine Street Park committee held an important meeting this past Monday afternoon at 5:30 at the community center on 4th Street.

The purpose of that meeting was to get public input and support from the community on not only the appearance and management of the future Pine Street Park but also on the trails that are being purposed through and around town.

Our town needs a green space such as the developing Pine Street park for relaxation and social events and the community needs to have major input in what they want in such a facility. There was a good turnout and some good discussion at that meeting.

Next month there will be another meeting for the same kind of discussion. If you missed this one, try to get to the one in June.

Kudos to Alia Schultz for becoming a Fulbright Scholar. Alia graduated from Highlands School four years ago and soon will graduate from New College in Florida. Alia is the daughter of Allan and Jan Schultz, owners of Fireside restaurant. Because of this honor Alia and several others from her school appeared before the Florida house of representatives to be recognized for their outstanding work. She will be going to Germany to teach English with the Fulbright Grant.

Congratulations again to Alia Schultz.

From my perspective
I have decided to call this the spring that went backwards. I took a photo of my house on April 7 to capture the tulips blooming before they were killed by the freeze. The picture included Fork Mountain and up near the top you could see the red blush of budding leaves. I took a picture of the same scene just a couple of days ago and there is less color on the mountainside in this picture than the one taken a month before.

I have lived here in these mountains almost 20 years now, and I have gotten used to the incredible precision with which the hummingbirds arrive. Every year they are here on April 15th; the latest I ever saw (before this year) was on April 16th. I have been in this house 12 years and if I don’t have the feeders up on the morning of the 15th a male hummingbird will hover outside the kitchen window to remind me.

This year I started to worry as the days passed and still no hummingbirds. I called someone knowledgeable about birds on the 20th, and she thought that with the freeze there weren’t enough flowers to support the hummingbirds so they stayed south a little later. I had a mental image of the birds lounging around a pool in Florida watching the Weather Channel. They arrived the next day.

The resilience of nature has always fascinated me. When I see the rhododendrons growing out of the rock over Bridal Veil Falls blooming, I marvel at the strength of the life force.

Scientists say there have been five major extinction events in the history of life on this planet. The worst was the Permian-Triassic extinction event which occurred approximately 251 million years ago. About 96 percent of all marine species and 70 percent of terrestrial vertebrate species went extinct. Yet even after that catastrophe, life rebounded.

For a long time I believed that between the resilience of nature and the ingenuity of humankind we would find some way to solve our environmental problems. Now I’m not so sanguine.

Have you heard what’s happening to the bees? The beekeepers call it “colony collapse disorder (CCD).” The bees become disoriented and fail to return to their hives. Many theories have been postulated about the disorder’s cause including pesticides, genetically modified crops, cell phone towers and high-voltage transmission lines.

“More than a quarter of the country’s 2.4 million bee colonies have been lost — tens of billions of bees, according to an estimate from the Apriary Inspectors of America, a national group that tracks beekeeping.

“So far, colony collapse disorder has been found in 27 states [North Carolina is one]. A recent survey of 13 states showed that 26 percent of beekeepers had lost half of their bee colonies between September 2006 and March 2007. Honeybees are arguably the insects that are most important to the human food chain. They are the principal pollinators of hundreds of fruits, vegetables, flowers and nuts.

“In the late 1990s, French beekeepers reported large losses of their bees and complained about the use of imidacloprid, sold under the brand name Gaucho. The chemical, while not killing the bees outright, was causing them to be disoriented and stay away from their hives. The beekeepers labeled the syndrome ‘mad bee disease.’” New York Times, “Bees Vanish, and Scientists Race for Reasons,” April 24, 2007

An alarm went off in my head when I read imidacloprid: this is the chemical being used to fight the hemlock wooly adelgid.

I called a friend who has some bees in Otto. He told me that what is so disturbing about CCD is that the bees simply disappear. When pesticides kill bees, you find them dead on the ground around the hive-box. When they have starved you find them dead in the box. My friend had two hives; this winter one of them vanished.

He also steered me to a Franklin Press article published last Friday. “John Henry, a former president of the Macon County Beekeepers Association and a beekeeping
What can you write about your mother that doesn’t sound corny? When the occasion is Mothers’ Day, how do you keep from sounding like a bad greeting card?

Let me tell you a bit about my Mom. She’s in good health, and turning 80 in November. It seems to run in the family. Her mother, Suzanne, made it to 96. My mother was born in Paris, the third of four children. A gifted student, she skipped a grade, and this love of learning and education is a lifelong passion of hers.

Maman was in her early teens when the Germans invaded France, marking her deeply. In spite of this, she never complained about the privations of war. I never knew why my mother had such a terror of water, only to learn from her last year that she was in a train which was bombed, and the carriage she was riding in plunged off a bridge into a river. My brother and I not only learned to swim, we were on a swimming team, and later became lifeguards. Maman made us swear we’d always save her first.

She met my father, an American GI from Schenectady, New York, at the end of the war. He fell head over heels for her; she couldn’t understand why he was interested. In photos from those days, my father looks like Gary Cooper. My mother is stunningly beautiful, in a very elegant, reserved way. The U.S. government sent the soldiers home before they allowed the GI war brides to come to America. It may surprise people to learn that Eleanor Roosevelt, that crusader of human rights, wanted to make it illegal for American soldiers to marry foreign brides. Go figure.

My mother, the daughter of comfortably middle-class parents (my grandfather was an architect), had a rude shock on discovering my father’s family. They did nothing to make my mother feel welcome, yet she never said a word against them when I was growing up.

Maman discovered her calling in life almost by accident. She was asked to fill in as a French teacher for a local military school. That led to her teaching French at Stuart Hall, in Staunton, VA. She discovered that as shy as she was, she blossomed in front of a classroom of students. The only problem came from her lacking certification, and a degree. The father of one of my mother’s students was so impressed with her teaching abilities that he paid for her to go to college. She took classes at the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville, and eventually earned her B.A. from James Madison University (Madison College in those days). And all while juggling a husband, two children, and a teaching job. Later on, she obtained her Master’s Degree from SUNY Fredonia - teaching all day long, driving to night school, and getting home late. She persevered, eventually teaching at the college level. Though she’s been retired for years, she still hears from many of her former students. Interestingly enough, they aren’t all her best students, but ones whose lives she changed for the better.

There isn’t room enough in this article, or even this paper, to tell you how proud I am to be her daughter. I can, however, pass on a little bit of her wit and wisdom.

Some of Maman’s best advice:
- Never go out of the house looking like a mess. You never know who you’re going to run into.
- The only people who think obnoxious children are cute are their parents.
- Never talk during concerts, plays, or movies. Ever.
- At a party, in a restaurant, never have the loudest voice in the room. People aren’t paying to listen to you.
- Buy few things, but buy quality. No one really has enough money to buy junk.
- Don’t give novelty gifts; they are an expensive joke. No one really wants to have a T-shirt with stuff on it they wouldn’t want their grandmother to read.
- Always marry a tall man. They’re easier to find in airports.
- Be kind. People remember kindness, but will never forgive you for humiliating them, especially in front of others.
- Nothing makes a house feel more like a home than a purring cat.
- Once a week, have a lovely, special meal with your family. Use the...
... ALCOHOL continued from page 1

Week, another permit is needed."

Every nonprofit in town — Rotary, the Literacy Council, Bascom-Louise Gallery, the Instant Theater, Highlands Playhouse, Highlands Community Players and others have all — at one time or another — offered alcohol at functions.

“They all fall under the nonprofit cate-
gory and they all need permits,” said Harrell. “I know no one did anything wrong on purpose, but as far as the state is concerned ignorance of the law is no excuse.”

Harrell said once the background check is on file and if the same person requests the one-time permit each time, subsequent checks aren’t necessary.

Notarized signatures are required on each permit and a local law enforcement official must sign it before it can be processed by the ABC Commission. The official can be the magistrate or someone at the police department.

The law reads: A permit may be issued to a nonprofit organization to allow the retail sale of malt beverages, unfortified wine, or fortified wine, or to allow brown-bagging at a single fund-raising event of that organization.

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Have you noticed that there have been an increasing number of natural disasters lately? Reports of earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, tsunamis making occasional appearances, hot streaks, cold streaks, it’s getting downright spooky out there. Religious people will tell you that the increasing frequency of these quirks of nature foretell the end times.

Not to be outdone by such goings on, humans seem to need to create their own personal disasters, mostly, but not exclusively, by mouth. In an effort to be fair and balanced, the first verbal boobo I’ll mention was that by Rush Limbaugh. When given an analyst’s job on Monday Night Football, he led off his comments by telling the world that that the extraordinary favorable press that was given to Donavan McNab was due to his blackness, not his prowess. Big mistake. Gone.

Then there’s Howard Dean, who parlayed a medical career and that of being the Governor of an obscure state (Vermont, I think) into the national spotlight in his quest for the 2004 Democratic nomination. After coming in an embarrassing third in the Iowa caucuses, Dean gave his infamous “I have a scream” speech which pretty much ended his presidential aspirations for the time being. A curious delight of Dean’s background is that he got his medical degree from the Albert Einstein School of Medicine. I’m not sure why, that just struck me as ironic.

The man Dean lost to, John Kerry, could tell you some tales about how your mouth can betray you occasionally. During his recounting of his heroic combat experiences while serving in Viet Nam, he often managed to contradict himself and painted himself in some verbal corners, according to some close to him in the field. My personal favorite Kerryism was “I actually did vote for the $87 billion before I voted against it.” Thanks for sharing.

Now, about Hillary. Hillary has an excellent support staff who deflects her from speaking unscripted. When she speaks, what she says has been well thought out in advance, and verbal errors are rare. However, occasionally, she tends to get over enthused about her own words and scrabbles like a banshee. More frequently these days, Hillary, when speaking in Southern climes, adopts an accent which can only be described as Northern Southern, if I make myself clear.

Even though Gore has uttered a wealth of funnies, I’m going to lay off. A lady responded to a recent column that AI is actually the second coming so, just to play it safe, no comment! (I lean toward the antichrist, myself, but I defer.)

Lately, there has been a spate of celebs embarrassing themselves which provides fodder galore. I didn’t watch Don Imus much, practically never, but when I did, I saw a strange looking duck who seemed to always be rambling on about a ranch which he evidently owned, and invited numerous disadvantaged kids out there to enjoy the wide open spaces. I thought that was nice. Now don’t get me wrong, women’s basketball is way down on my list, but what he said about the Rutgers team was as stupid and he deserved his fate.

Rosie O’Donnell is a complete mystery to me. How on God’s green earth she has achieved star status defies explanation. She is physically unattractive, to say the least. She is vulgar, a loudmouthed bully. I am convinced she is well off center, and an embarrassment to anything in which she is involved. Given the opportunity, she offended a roomful of women and their daughters with her vulgarity and the next day she announced she was leaving the View. No coincidence in my view.

And then there is Alec Baldwin. This creep’s political views have rankled me for years and he seemed bulletproof, protected by the adoring media. However, sooner or later, these types undo themselves and Baldwin undid it right. Not only did he insult his daughter unmercifully, it sounded to me like he threatened her. If being caught on tape isn’t bad enough, predictably, he blamed everyone and everything else for his rant rather than take responsibility for his own misbehavior.

You will note there is no mention of either Ms. Pelosi or Mr. Reid, although they have supplied enough ammo recently to fill several columns. But that is for another day.

I don’t know how to explain these verbal outbursts. Is this what it takes to attract the public to public interest these days? The cable news channels are certainly loving it.
... PINE STREET PARK continued from page 1

Proponents said "lost" Pine Street parking could be gained by configuring spaces differently on adjacent streets or by constructing a parking garage in the vicinity. The project is expected to cost $1.200,000. So far $800,000 has been raised.

The next meeting is June 7 at 5:30 p.m. at the Highlands Community Center on U.S. 64 next to the ballpark. Citizens are encouraged to participate.

... COMMISSION continued from page 1

moved from the façade and stucco put in its place but interim Town Planner Richard Betz and member Pat Taylor said Bolt replaced a nonconforming material with another nonconforming material.

Stucco is considered nonconforming if it covers more than 30 percent of one side of a building. Members believe the percentage of stucco on the Highlands Plaza façade exceeds 30 percent.

"If he was going to change the plan he submitted, he should have come to us," said member Ginger Slaughter.

Betz said he didn't know if anything could be done at this point but members disagreed.

"He's not finished with the job yet," said Slaughter.

Vice Chairman Thomas Craig said Edie Madden, a previous zoning administrator, required him to buy three feet of property from an adjoining neighbor when after his building was built they realized the footprint was in the setback. "Letting this slide sets a bad precedent," he said.

In the end, the commission agreed to have Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward look at the project and report back to the Zoning Board for its opinion.

In other Appearance Commission business, members finalized a letter designed for the Town Board concerning fences and other structures erected in town without Appearance Commission approval. "Anything that affects the look of the town should come before us," said Siegel. The board was referring to a fence erected at Helen's Barn.

Betz said the town ordinance would have to be revised because it reads now no board to consider such items.

After much discussion, the commission decided to leave the ordinance concerning metal buildings in the ETJ as it stands—metal is allowed for the skeleton but the exterior must be covered with something other than metal and conform to town ordinances.

Members also mixed a request for a mural painted on the back of the Performing Arts Center on the grounds that "nature is better."

Several members said that while the idea of murals is great, when they fade and begin to peel, maintenance becomes another issue.

"This request has the potential to open the door to other people who want to paint murals on buildings," said member Dixie Barton. "There is nothing more beautiful than nature. Just plant trees," she said. The commission agreed.

... BRUGGER continued from page 8

hobbyist of 25 years, said that over a period from November 2006 to February 2007 he lost every one of his 20 hives to a combination of factors that he thinks was partially due to CCD. He said CCD probably caused him to lose 30 percent of the bees. It marked the first time he has ever lost anywhere near that many bees.

"Beekeepers stay upbeat despite troubles," By Colin McCandless.

In other兼 exterminator species, as one scientist has characterized humankind. "The Sixth Extinction," Text by Virginia Morell, National Geographic Feb. 1999.

"Someone looking at our planet from afar might perceive humans as just another natural disaster analogous to the comet that killed off the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Life will survive us; it will just be different than we know it.
AFTERWARD SWING BY PEREGRINE

One of the nicest things about Highlands Cove is that you don’t have to live here to enjoy all that goes with it. Our many amenities are open to the public, pay as you use. There are 18 holes of spectacular golf where the views are nothing short of inspiring. A clubhouse with a fully stocked golf pro shop. A practice facility that rivals any in the area. And a PGA professional staff.

Discriminating diners will take delight in the carefully crafted cuisine that flows from Peregrine at the Cove. Located in the clubhouse, the atmosphere is relaxed and casually elegant. The menu is classic continental American and entirely handmade. Our chefs are passionate about serving up an excellent dining experience. And the full-service bar will quench any thirst.

Great golf. Fabulous food. Excellent service. Enjoy Highlands Cove today. We’re located six miles east of Highlands on Highway 64. The course is open daily. Call 828-526-4185 for a tee time. Peregrine dining hours are seasonal. Call 828-787-2465 for our dining schedule, reservations or information on special events.

Tracy Hedden
Highlands

Dear Editor,

Coyotes, yes, coyotes have become a nuisance and threat to our community. Please be aware of this growing problem if you have small pets and children. My parents’ small dog escaped an attack by these animals and we hope that this incident might alert others in our community to take precautions and become aware of these creatures that might be living in your backyard.

Most of the coyote reports are in the Harris Lake vicinity. Harris Drive and Smallwood Avenue appear to be the areas where these creatures are consistently present. As early dusk approaches, children, parents and pet owners living in this area, cringe when the call of the coyotes begins. At first it sounds like a group of children playing loudly and then you begin to hear the eerie reply of one coyote to the next. You feel trapped in between the calls. Sometimes the loud howling will wake you in the middle of the night. It sounds like they are lurking on your front step. My mother has often been awakened in the middle of the night by these menacing creatures.

My parents’ Chihuahua, Peanut was attacked and left for dead by these animals. We are still shocked to believe that he escaped alive barely. He ventured out of my dad’s reach Friday night as the howling began. My dad could hear him barking but could not get him to return. Many hours later after the howling had ceased he made it back barely alive. He had severe puncture bites on his back and abdomen. He couldn’t walk and his eyes were swollen and blood shot. The next evening as the coyote howling began again, Peanut was safely tucked away in his bed but he cried and moved his aching body closer to the main level of the house. We knew without a doubt that the coyotes were responsible for his injuries.

After talking with neighbors in this area, similar stories are emerging. Stories are being told of injured cats, rabbits and a terrifying tale of these animals coming too close to the homes of small children. One neighbor reports several coyotes coming into her yard in plain daylight. She tried to scare them off but they only howled as if laughing at her. These once nocturnal animals are getting too comfortable with humans and are literally living in our backyards. The coyote signs are within a mile of the school and Main Street!

As our days grow longer, more children are playing outside and more folks are walking small dogs. Please become aware of this situation. I encourage any concerned resident to respond if you have any suggestions on how to solve this issue without anyone getting hurt. I plan to research this issue more thoroughly to protect my children and our animals. If we don’t solve this situation soon, we are really going to have an epidemic on our hands as these animals reproduce extremely fast.

Tracy Hedden
Highlands

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Tracy Hedden
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Tracy Hedden
Highlands

See related story page 24

... LETTERS continued from page 2

Concerned about coyotes

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Tracy Hedden
Highlands

See related story page 24
Does your home's front entrance cause people to take notice or drive on by? Is it inviting or just another entrance? Much like a manicured lawn and well-maintained exterior, or add curb appeal to a home, so does the front entrance.

“Ten years ago, homeowners personalized their entry by incorporating decorative glass,” says Jeff Kibler of Peachtree Doors and Windows. “Today, homeowners desire more dramatic entries and an entire entry system.”

If you're considering remodeling your front entry or building a new home, you face many decisions about a door's basic material and performance, complementary windows, accessories and security.

**Basic Materials**
Entry doors are primarily constructed of steel, fiberglass or wood. The material that is right for your home will depend on cost, desired look and, to a limited degree, geography.

Steel is the most economical and popular material and is also sturdy, secure and can be painted to match a home. Steel is susceptible to denting, rusting and corrosion in coastal areas, however.

Wood, the second most popular material, has an inherent richness in texture, provides security and can be painted or stained. Wood requires regular maintenance to prevent rot and keep it looking good.

Fiberglass doors make up the fastest-growing segment of the entry door market. A smooth fiberglass door provides the characteristics of steel but won't dent or corrode in coastal climates. Textured fiberglass looks like a wood door but does not require extensive maintenance.

**Performance**
Energy performance is a growing concern today, and Energy Star ratings indicate more energy-efficient products. Generally steel and fiberglass doors, because of the dense insulation inside, are more energy efficient than wood doors.

Another source of inefficiency can be the frame system. Compo-
**Derby Day** winners

“Derby Day” was held at Jody Read’s home and a large crowd attended. Everyone brought a covered dish and mint juleps were plentiful. Ladies wore fabulous hats and a great time was had by all. Pictured are winners Sue Schulte, Bill Hall and Joy Gunn.

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“Derby Day” winners

“Derby Day” was held at Jody Read’s home and a large crowd attended. Everyone brought a covered dish and mint juleps were plentiful. Ladies wore fabulous hats and a great time was had by all. Pictured are winners Sue Schulte, Bill Hall and Joy Gunn.
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The “Endless Summer Hydrangea” (as seen in Southern Living Magazine)

It’s the ONLY hydrangea to bloom all summer long!

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Don’t forget Mother’s Day! Sunday, May 13!

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- Gardening on the Plateau -

Show your ‘Endless’ Love for Mom

By Carla Gates

It’s that time of year again! We are all shedding our winter hats, gloves and coats for those spring and summer shorts and flip flops. You know the feeling, the smell of spring is in the air. The sun, warm on your face and yes, the sight of all of our beloved plants, trees and shrubs starting to bloom. May brings many things and when you talk to people one of their favorite things about spring is their gardens.

Something else very special occurs in the month of May. Mother’s Day...a time honored celebration of the people that gave us life. We take this day to give thanks for all of the selfless, wonderful (and sometimes thankless) things our dear moms do for us! Personally, I think we should do this every day.

Growing up my Mom always told me that, “You only have one Mom....and that no matter what, she will be your best friend and never turn her back on you.” How true this is! Now that I am a Mom of two beautiful boys myself, I see the unconditional and endless love she has always talked of.

My husband, Phil and I are in our eighth season at Gates Nursery here in Highlands and Mother’s Day week is a buzz with people flocking into the nursery on a mission to find the perfect gift for Mom.

Hanging baskets, custom containers, and many varieties of roses are among the favorites but for those that are looking for that extra special treat for Mom, may I suggest the Endless Summer Hydrangea? With their rocketing popularity, the Endless Summer Hydrangea has taken the garden centers across America by storm.

Hydrangeas have always played a prized role in establishing a classic garden landscape. Over the years, many different selections have become available giving gardeners a wide range of choices. Southern Living called the Endless Summer (Hydrangea macrophylla ‘Bailmer’) “the most exciting hydrangea discovery in years!”

Developed by a Minnesota nursery, this mophead type hydrangea produces large, showy blooms that really make a statement in gardens, vases or potted in a beautiful container. The Endless Summer is a perpetual flowering hydrangea meaning it will bloom all summer and will flower on new wood. After choosing your quality hydrangea, planting it correctly is of the utmost importance. Well drained soil, rich in organic matter will make this shrub very happy. Always use good soil amendments such as Nature’s Helper and Peat Moss. You have a choice whether you want your blooms blue or pink. It’s best to acidify with Aluminum Sulphate to the soil if you desire the blooms to be blue. After planting, continue to use an acidifying fertilizer such as Cottonseed Meal, an organic slow release fertilizer that will maintain the acidity level and keep your blooms blue.

Some people prefer the blooms to be pink and that is just as easy. Adding lime several times a year will raise the pH in your soil and help you achieve these beautiful blooms of pink. Use a fertilizer low in nitrogen and high in phosphorous to encourage blooming.

The ideal growing conditions are partial sun/partial shade. The Endless Summer is hardy for Zones 4-9 (Highlands is a 5A). They require very little pruning and it fact, do best if left alone for the first couple of seasons after being planted. Deadheading the blooms will encourage blooming throughout the summer. Leave your last blooms at the end of the season to insulate the new buds from the cold and remove them in the spring.

Hydrangeas are beautiful for creating borders, backdrops or a focal point in your lawn or garden. Growing to 3-ft. to 5-ft. in height and spreading to about the same size at the time of maturity the Endless Summer really makes a very nice impression in your landscape.

So take a minute to stop by and visit us. You might just find that perfect gift for mom....and show her your “endless love.”
Summary of combined April meeting of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Board of Directors

To keep the news media and the public better informed about Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, we are providing you with a summary of the more significant actions and discussion items coming before the hospital’s board of directors at its most recent meeting on Thursday, April 26.

Foundation director Russell Harris gave a brief report, saying he is in the process of contacting donors who recently completed fulfilling their pledges to the Challenge Campaign (conducted five years ago) to introduce himself and to ask for their continued support for the hospital.

CEO Ken Shull gave a report on utilization of hospital services by area physicians and their patients. He presented a number of graphs covering last year and the first six months of this year that showed that utilization is generally growing.

During the Finance Committee report CFO Mike Daiken told the board the hospital is emerging from the winter months in better financial shape than anticipated. He reported that while the hospital showed a small operational loss in March, it was significantly less than had been budgeted. And through the first six months of this fiscal year (the slowest time of year), Daiken said operational losses were approximately $310,000 less than for the same period the prior year, and more than $200,000 under what had been projected for this year.

He also reported that the average daily acute census in March was up nearly 67 percent, and up by nearly 50 percent for the fiscal year (which began Oct. 31, 2006). ER visits grew by nearly 15 percent over the previous March, and total visits for the first six months of this year are up as well – though not by quite as much. The total number of patient days at the Eckerd Living Center was also increased during the first six months.

The board discussed efforts to recruit additional physicians. A new Physician Recruiting Committee has been formed to help the administration in its efforts to bring in physicians, particularly a general surgeon. The committee reported that their efforts are under way to encourage more of the retired physicians in the area to use their connections to identify potential candidates. Shull reported later in the meeting that the hospital is currently in discussions with seven different general surgeons who have expressed interest in possibly relocating to the area.

Board members also discussed a half-page advertisement that appeared in the previous week’s newspapers criticizing the board and the administration for not solving the hospital’s financial and physician recruiting problems quickly enough. Several board members pointed out that the ad contained a good deal of wrong or out-of-date information, and all agreed that the hospital should respond to set the record straight. Several board members pointed out that continued criticism, even if it may not have wide support in the community at this point, hurts efforts to recruit physicians, and also sabotages the morale of both the current medical staff and hospital employees.

The board unanimously authorized a committee to issue a response in the form of ads in both the Cashiers and Highlands newspapers, and also agreed unanimously with a suggestion from Chief of the Medical Staff and board member Mark Wagner, MD, that board members pay for the ads themselves rather than using hospital funds.

Shull reported that the hospital had conducted an internal disaster drill, simulating what would happen if a fire destroyed the hospital’s business office, as well as the computer system where patient records are stored. He also said hospital staff responded by turning to backup paper systems so that patient care was not interrupted. He said the hospital’s emergency disaster plan for dealing with a major computer crash also checked out. All of the data is backed up at a remote, secure site, maintained by the company that provides software to this and other hospitals around the country. The hospital also stores backup data tapes in a local bank safety deposit box.

The NC Department of Labor recently conducted an unannounced OSHA inspection of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, Shull told the board. Inspectors not only found no significant problems, but also gave the center the sixth highest rating of the 70 nursing facilities surveyed thus far in the state.

Shull reported that the architects hired to design a new medical office building on the Oakmont property in Cashiers have met with a number of groups to assess what their needs might be. The board hired the Greenville, SC, firm of McMillan Smith and Partners, PLLC, last month to come up with a design. So far they have met with Cashiers area physicians including Dr. Toby Lindsay and Drs. Mark Heffington and David Wheeler, as well as representatives of several hospital departments, such as radiology and lab, that will be providing services at the future facility. The architects have been charged with coming up with an exterior design that has an attractive “mountain feel” that is appropriate to the area.

Shull said the hospital’s first community health screening of the season, held on April 21 in Highlands, drew a near record crowd, and a number of enthusiastic comments from those who attended.
Let me introduce the new owner of Don Leon's Cafe, Ms. Donna Leona (a.k.a. Ellen Westnedge)

If you think I'm crazy, wait 'til you meet Ms. Leona!
I'm Don Leon and that's MY opinion.

High Country Cafe

Breakfast & Lunch
6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday through Friday; Saturday, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.
526-0572
Cashiers Road next to the Community Bible Church

Pescado's Burritos

In the middle of 4th St.
Open for lunch Mon-Sat. • 526-9313

Highlands Eateries

Slopeside Sandwich Shoppe

Soup • Salad • Sandwiches
Desserts • Loaded Baked Potatoes
Mon-Fri. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
314 Main Street • 526-3555

SportsPage

Open 7 days a week
Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
$10 minimum with credit card

Buck's Coffee Cafe

Open 7 days a week
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Join us in the heart of the village.

Stop in for slow-cooked BBQ, Ribs, Fried Chicken, Hot Wings and other Southern favorites that'll have you coming back for more.

Buck's Coffee Cafe

Open 7 days a week
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Coffee, tea, wine, pastries, sandwiches
384 Main Street

Highlands Eateries

Stop in for slow-cooked BBQ, Ribs, Fried Chicken, Hot Wings and other Southern favorites that'll have you coming back for more.

Rib Shack

461 Spring Street • 526-2626

Stop in for slow-cooked BBQ, Ribs, Fried Chicken, Hot Wings and other Southern favorites that'll have you coming back for more.

The Main Street Inn adds dinner to venue

The Main Street Inn in Highlands, NC, has been welcoming guests for over 100 years. The new owners of The Main Street Inn, Debbie and Gary Garner, continue this long tradition of good food and gracious hospitality with a 21st century twist. Visitors to Highlands have grown accustomed to the Southern breakfast buffet served at the inn beginning at 8:30 a.m. For only $10.95 you can entertain your house guests with mouth-watering home cooking without ever mussing up your own kitchen.

Also offered is a home-style dinner buffet. Whether dressing for the theatre or casually touring the area, you are invited to enjoy the Main Street Inn's home style dinner buffet. No one is allowed to leave hungry after feasting on a variety of southern salads, meats, vegetables, breads and desserts. The evening buffet changes daily and offers seasonal items, the menu features regional fare with a down-home touch. Many of Gary's favorite recipes originate from the famous Paula Deen of Savannah, GA so don't be surprised if some of her well-known dishes show up on the buffet. Value-priced at only $19.95, the food will please your tummy and soothe your soul. Wine can be purchased with your meal or set-ups are available. (Dress is resort casual and reservations are requested for parties of six or more).

OEI announces 'Champion' Awards

Old Edwards Hospitality Group is pleased to announce Service Champions for April 2007, Department of the Month and Manager of the Quarter. These recognition programs are utilized to reward and recognize associates who go above and beyond the call of duty to meet and exceed the resort guest's expectations.

Throughout the year, associates are nominated for the Service Champion Program. Each month, associates are recognized at an appreciation gathering. Associates with the most qualifying nominations are awarded gold, silver and bronze awards with monetary prize equivalents of $250, $100 and $50 respectively. At the end of the year, three Champions are selected from these recipients and prizes are awarded in the gold ($1,000), silver ($500) and bronze ($250) categories.

At the annual Associates Picnic, the following awards were given. April 2007 Service Champions: Bruce Bun nell, Front Office; Bronze: Tim Hanson, Maintenance; Silver: Daniel Smith, Front Office; Gold: Joe Extine received the award for Manager of the Month for April, and Acorns’ Manager Joe Extine received the award for Manager of the Quarter.

Lodge at OEI receives AAA Four-Diamond Award

The Old Edwards Hospitality Group in Highlands, North Carolina is pleased to announce that The Lodge at Old Edwards Inn has received the Four-Diamond Award from AAA for 2008. According to the prestigious Association, The Lodge is one of only a select group of establishments that has successfully passed a thorough evaluation and is worthy of the coveted mark. The property is one of only two properties in Highlands, NC that have been awarded 4-diamonds (Old Edwards Inn and Spa is the sister property to The Lodge).

AAA Diamond Ratings represent a combination of overall quality, range of facilities, and the level of services offered by a property. These widely recognized and trusted symbols help travelers choose lodging that will meet their needs and expectations.

“This is an incredible honor and...” See BIZ NEWS page 31
... FORUM continued from page 3

ward the cashier and attempting to hand it to her. At that point, my right hand with the wallet go off camera. There was no video showing me putting it in my bag. I noted that fact to the detective.

"I figured your bag was off-camera," he said.

I knew two things. One, I typically carry by bag in my right hand and two Megan had my bag in the cart which she was wheeling toward the exit.

Finally, the detective thanked me for coming in and said he would call if he needed anything else. I left and raced to Nantahala for the school board meeting.

Then the week of Good Friday, I got another call from the detective.

"We'd like you to take a polygraph test," he said. "I didn't take the wallet.

I was absolutely blown away. "This is crazy," I said. "They only put the wallet in after I put it back on the counter," I said.

No good. They all paid cash, so there was no way to find out who they were. Nor was there footage of their transactions.

"But I'm innocent," I said.

"Then the polygraph will show that and we can close this case once and for all," he said.

Since the Wal-Mart security guard told the woman that there was video of a woman putting the wallet in her handbag, she was absolutely sure that all of Macon County was trying to protect me instead of arresting me.

"This woman has been calling everyone in the county all the way up to the DA's office to get to you and if we can tell her you passed the polygraph, she will know we've done everything in our power to solve this crime," said the detective.

I called a couple of lawyers. They said not to take the test. "They obviously think you're guilty. Don't take it," they said.

I talked to my husband, Jim. In a past life, when polygraphs were analog with results somewhat iffy, he took one as part of an employment requirement and subsequently as part of his job as Personnel Manager at Lone Star Industries in Texas, he routinely ordered polygraphs.

He was wary, too, but after much discussion and after learning of the exact procedure I agreed to take it.

So, Friday, May 4, Jim and I drove to the NC State Bureau of Investigation head-
By Senator John Snow

Last week I told you that House budget writers would be waiting on the final revenue figures to come in before they released their budget. On Monday those figures came in and the House released the budget - sort of. The document that House budget writers released was a more of a listing of spending priorities all based on the current budget with all that normally goes with it, including the financing piece.

The House is still probably a week, maybe two, from releasing a full budget which it can vote on and send over to the Senate. Normally, the budget writers hold onto the budget very tightly until they are absolutely ready to release it, not so this year. This year advocacy organizations will be spending the next two weeks preparing arguments for why certain programs need more money and why others do not. Likewise the political pundits across the state are going to have plenty to talk about on radio and write about in their newspapers and blogs.

While an incomplete budget document was released, it does show that House writers have a paradigm with which they are working from. This, I hope, means that they can complete their budget very soon and send it to the Senate for our consideration. We have slightly under sixty days left before the new fiscal year starts and as much time to put a budget in place that will keep State Government functioning.

Budget Details, Smoking, Commissioners, Property Taxes, Expenses, and Bullfrogs

Budget Details

We now have a number of new items that have not been part of any budget released before by the General Assembly. One of the first of these is increased support for Dropout prevention is one of the first things that can be found in the budget documents released by the House. As such, $7 million looks to be put towards a grant fund to support innovative programs that keep kids in school. In addition to this grant funding $3 million will go to providing extra mentors for new principals in our public schools. On the savings side House budget writers have proposed cutting 188 middle management jobs within the UNC system, which is experiencing explosive growth, saving roughly $19 million. House budget writers would like to cut the anticipated inflationary increase for Medicaid by half to save $37 million. This could provide serious funding problems for many health care providers. The House budget writers are proposing a 6.4% tuition increase for community college students.

While nothing is set in stone for state employees or teachers in terms of pay the preliminary documents show teachers receiving a 5% increase and new teachers would receive a $250 bonus. State employees look to receive a 2.5% increase and a one time $400 bonus. Community college faculty might receive a 5% increase.

In addition to these new plans and pay increases early budget documents show about $177 million being spent for new construction and renovation for state buildings. No matter what these early documents show nothing is set in stone. Included in the budget is $60 million being spent for health and human services. Many mental health advocates have been advocating for around $170 million to combat the mental health problems that we have in this state.

The bottom line in all of these early budget figures is that they are not written in stone and we are still a long way off from having even the semblance of a final budget. To those of you who still want to advocate for certain programs you still have plenty of time.

Smoking

Since the idea of a smoking ban first appeared in the House the citizens of the 50th district have done a more than ample job of telling me where you stand on this issue. However, it looks like the Senate will not have to vote on the smoking ban as it failed in front of the full House during a floor vote this week. House members voted 63-55 against the measure. More than a dozen Democrats from counties where tobacco is grown or manufactured opposed the ban. The bill that was voted on by the full House was a watered down version of the earlier bill which prohibited smoking in most every place. The bill voted on this week excluded restaurant-bars that are age-restricted and smoking designated hotel rooms. It also gave local governments the authority to override those exceptions with stricter regulations.

Commissioners

Last week county commissioners from across North Carolina and our district came to Raleigh to lobby about the issues that they would like to see passed during this session of the General Assembly. Their message was clear: stop the bleeding and fund the growth. The bleeding that they are referring to is the Medicaid burden which counties currently shoulder. Over the last few weeks I have talked about some of the plans that are being discussed down here in terms of reforming Medicaid. I feel that the Medicaid issue is going to be taken care of during this session which should relieve the counties of these Medicaid costs. The growth that the county commissioners talked about is something that we know all too well about in our counties. As more people come to North Carolina we need more roads, schools, and sewer capacity amongst other things. The county commissioners would like to see much of this growth funded by a transfer tax.

There is a storm brewing between the county commissioners who want a transfer tax and realtors who are against it. My hope is that by taking the Medicaid burden from the counties we can free up enough money in the county budget to ensure that the infrastructure that we need is able to be purchased.

The week in review

As the winds of this storm begin to howl I will let you know what comes of this debate. See related article, page 7.

Property Taxes

A few weeks ago I wrote about the Property Tax bill that I was going to introduce in the Senate this week. This bill was introduced in the Senate Finance committee. Senate Bill 1442 works like a circuit breaker in your house. If the taxes rise too much in comparison to your income then it activates and you won’t have to pay the full bill. This bill, unlike the current homestead exemption, does not have restrictions about age or disability. This bill considers only a person’s income when it comes to activating the breaker. This bill will help out families with kids and elderly folks who are living on a fixed income. What’s more if a person is able to qualify for the current homestead exemption, and this exemption benefits them more, then they can still elect to use the current exemption.

Expensive Elections

This week the Program on Public Life, a part of the Center for the Study of the American South at UNC Chapel Hill, released a report about the 2006 election cycle. As you might expect the costs for a seat in the General Assembly went up. When adjusted for inflation, overall spending rose moderately from the 2004 election, from $26.4 million to $28.7 million, an increase of 8.4%. This is more than double the increase of only 3.64% from 2002 to 2004. In North Carolina it now costs $168,650 to obtain a seat in the North Carolina General Assembly, nearly a $3,000 increase over 2004. Despite the increase in money spent the voter turnout was down to 37% statewide. This is a new low for voter turnout in North Carolina. However, the 50th Senate District and most of the 11th congressional over performed most other areas of the State. In many ways this is atrocious. Most folks can not afford to stand for public office due to the cost prohibitions that are in place. There are several efforts under way in the General Assembly which will seek to remedy this. However, these remedies will only apply to council of state races and not to the General Assembly.

Bullfrogs

A fourth grade class in Plymouth North Carolina is lobbying us hard about what the State amphibian should be. Their choice: the bullfrog. However, like all things here in Raleigh there is guaranteed to be a battle royal over what the state’s amphibian will be. The State’s Herpetological Society has jumped in suggesting a number other amphibians but they seem to really want the salamander. This could prove to be an especially slimy situa-
tion for more than the obvious reasons. A few years ago it was suggested that the strawberry be named the official state fruit. This did not play well with the blueberry growers or some of the other fruit growers in the State. Needless to say I don’t think the legislature is going to favor taking on a time consuming bill that won’t provide real dividends for its citizens.

At the federal level

By U.S. Congressman Heath Schuler

The House of Representatives passed the first three pieces of legislation in the Innovation Agenda. The Innovation Agenda was put together by the Democrats in Congress to make America is able to compete in the economy of the 21st Century which will be dominated by technology, information, and innovation.

To compete globally we will need to make certain that our students are receiving a superior education, especially in math and science. We cannot allow our students to fall behind other nations in these subjects, but right now that is happening. In fact, a recent report from the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies entitled, Rising Above the Gathering Storm, found that, “the scientific and technological building blocks critical to our economic leadership are eroding at a time when many other nations are gathering strength.”

The first bill of the Innovation Agenda we passed was the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act, HR 362. The bill will improve K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education by recruiting the best and brightest college students to teach by expanding scholarships offered by the National Science Foundation’s Robert Noyce scholarship program. This scholarship program reduces the cost of college for those students in STEM fields who commit to teaching after their graduation.

The bill will also provide for more professional development and continuing education of teachers by establishing many summer institutes, workshops, and graduate programs to help our teachers continue to grow and thrive in their profession. These programs will improve content knowledge, prepare teachers for advanced placement and international baccalaureate programs, and improve support for master’s degree programs.

The second piece of the Innovation Agenda we passed last week was HR 363, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act, which will assist young scientists. HR 363 authorizes the NSF to create a grant program to help researchers pursue innovative or transformative research by young faculty and establishes a National Coordination Office for Research Infrastructure at the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to identify and prioritize research infrastructure needs at universities and national laboratories. Finally, the bill will establish a Presidential Innovation Award for individuals who develop unique scientific or engineering breakthroughs in the national interest.

In the 20th Century America dominated scientific discoveries—from medicine to aviation to engineering. It is imperative that we continue to be at the forefront of scientific discoveries. Doing so will require us to invest in our schools, students, teachers, and young scientists. Our Innovation Agenda does that, and I am extremely pleased we had such bipartisan support on these first two pieces of Agenda — HR 362 passed 389-22 and HR 363 passed 397-20.

The final piece of Innovation Agenda passed last week was HR 1322, the Small Business Lending Improvement Act of 2007.

Opening and operating a small business is not an easy endeavor. Yet, small businesses account for over half of all jobs in the U.S. and create over 60% of all new jobs created. For our small businesses to continue to grow, prosper, and hire more workers, we must make sure they have access to capital. Without access to capital, our small businesses are often forced to turn to much more costly lending alternatives like personal credit cards with extraordinary interest rates and fees.

HR 1332 will grant American entrepreneurs the access they need to capital by updating and streamlining the SBA’s 7(a) and 504 loan programs, which operate as public-private partnerships limiting the cost to the government. These SBA programs have been tremendously successful. Over the past 10 years the SBA has approved over 424,000 loans for over $70 billion dollars. These loan programs have accounted for over 40% of all long-term small business borrowing in America.

But the number of lenders in the 7(a) program has steadily declined in recent years, especially in rural areas like Western North Carolina. The Small Business Lending Improvements Act will address this issue by establishing a rural lender outreach program to reduce the paperwork burden associated with the loans, making it easier for small lenders to assist local small businesses.

Additionally, this bill will eliminate loan fees for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, making it easier for these brave men and women who enter the private sector.

HR 1332 was passed out of the Small Business Committee, on which I sit, with a unanimous voice vote, and then passed the House of Representatives with tremendous bipartisan support, 380-45.
The adventure of life continues for Leon of DonLeon’s

Sometimes you turn a corner in life and see a whole new way to go. That’s what has happened to Leon and Susan of DonLeon’s Deli Café.

The recent loss of his older brother just before Leon’s 65th birthday got Leon thinking about the rest of his life.

“There’s more I want to do,” he said. “Travel, visit the grandchildren, maybe settle somewhere else. And of course, join the circus.”

With the sale of DonLeon’s Deli Café to Ellen Westnedge, a longtime employee, suddenly the sky was the limit and the freedom of the open road was calling. Leon Hanninel, 65 and his wife Susan Cox, 58, are about to embark on another adventure. Fans of RVing, the road will be their home – at least for the foreseeable future. After that, “Who knows?” they say.

Though they’ll be helping out at the restaurant for awhile, their next stop is the circus.

While RVing out west between Christmas and Easter, Leon saw an ad in a local paper looking for people to join the circus.

“We called and they liked that we had our own place to live – the RV – so we signed on,” said Leon.

For four hours a night, Leon will don typical circus attire – top hat, red jacket, white shirt and black pants – and be the greeter at the tent door. Susan will sell tickets. The pay is good, the hours are perfect and it’s a chance for another adventure — but only until the road calls again.

In the fall, they may head down to Big Bend National Park. The two answered an ad for job openings there too, and when the manager heard Leon could speak five languages she wanted him right away. Tourists from around the world visit the park and park personnel have a hard time communicating.

New owner Ellen Westnedge, Annette Gills, and Leon Hanninel and Susan Cox.

But Texas summers are too hot for Leon, so he told her he might come by sometime in the fall or winter.

The road to Highlands was long and winding for Leon. He’s lived a checkered life which included designing jewelry and selling it in at least two of his own well-heeled jewelry stores in Texas.

He moved to Highlands in 2000 and briefly operated a jewelry business in the Village Square where the needlepoint shop is now located. But by mid-April he was ready for something new and bought the sandwich shop behind the Exxon station on N.C. 106 – the now famous DonLeon’s Deli Café.

For the Jewish people, seven is a sacred number and as a Jew, seven is a special number for Leon, too.

“I was born February 7, the seventh child in my family, and I owned the restaurant for exactly seven years to the day,” he said.

Susan joined up with Leon shortly after he started the business, just before he was about to incorporate. She was a bit wary of this strange little man, but felt a strong connection to him. That was May 7.

She consulted a psychic about him and his business plan. “I really like this guy. He’s weird and offbeat. I don’t want to jump too fast, but it feels right,” she told her.

The psychic’s advice. “Do it. What you’re going to be doing day to day isn’t about food. You are creating a place of light. A center of laughter, joy and fun.”

As they drew up the incorporation papers, the two struggled with a name. Finally, Leon suggested Ormakom. In Hebrew it means “place of light.”

Only then did Susan tell Leon of her trip to the psychic and her words of wisdom and light. She also revealed that the psychic said Leon was a “naughty angel” who wants to have a ball being alive and experience absolutely everything. Susan knew she’d never be bored.

Seven years is a good chunk of time, but it didn’t take long for DonLeon’s Deli Café to soar. People poured in for his famous fries, a healthy helping of attitude and a cup or Joe on the house.

Though he’s taking his attitude with him, nothing much else will change. New owner Ellen has all the secret recipes and knows just what it will take to continue to grow DonLeon’s Deli Café.

The future of DonLeon’s Deli Cafe is Bright!

We’re happy to take this opportunity to thank the community for a wonderful seven years of business in Highlands. Through our restaurant we have met many, many good friends and they will always be in our hearts. Also, I would like to encourage you to stop by so I may introduce you to Ms. Ellen Westnedge, the new owner of DonLeon’s Café.

Ellen previously worked for us and I can assure you that she will work hard to maintain the DonLeon’s tradition of excellent homemade food and family atmosphere...using the same menu. We hope you will continue to support the Café.

Susan and I have found this business to be the most exciting, fun and rewarding experience of our entire lives. However, the time has come for us to be free to travel and visit our grandchildren. We will always have a homebase in Highlands. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on our visits to Highlands.

Leon & Susan
**S P I R I T U A L L Y   S P E A K I N G  **

"Lord of the Dance"

Matt 11:16-19

Part One

Rev. Hunter Coleman
First Presbyterian Church

John the Baptist was Essene. A sect of Judaism that believed the way to please God was to reject the world. He lived away from the charms of the world in the wilderness. He wore skins of animals as clothing. He had locust and wild honey as a steady diet. He walked but no one joined him in his moaning ... no great mystery why.

Jesus, on the other hand, believed the way to please God was to embrace the world. Compared to John the Baptist, Jesus was very worldly. He sat at the table and raised a cup of cheer with questionable but entertaining company. He did it in the name of the kingdom of God so often that his adversaries accused him of being "a wine bibber and friend of harlots". He loved children and said that adults needed to be more like them if to enter into the kingdom of God. But few took him up on his offer. He played the flute but no one danced... a mystery, indeed.

One can understand why John the Baptist's lifestyle had very little appeal. Who wants to live in some remote desert with sand and scorpions, dressed in animal skins, eating bugs? But why reject Jesus' way? Why no great appeal in a way of living that invites one to plant her feet firmly on the earth and enjoy it? Shouldn't the Christian life have its moments of sheer joy, times when we sing and dance? Can't we look silly if looking silly is fun?

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**BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

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

Sundays night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

Wednesdays: Midweek prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**

Sky Valley, Georgia

The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding, Pastor

Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor’s residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

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

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd.. (828) 369-8329

Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

**CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**

Office – 526-2320

Sunday: Holy Communion – 11 a.m.

(Interfaith Laguna Center on U.S. 64 next to the ballfield in Highlands)

Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.

Tuesday: Women’s weekly Bible Study at 2 p.m.

Wednesday: Men’s Bible study at 8 a.m.

at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Supper last Sunday of each month.

All are Welcome!

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pastor Everett Brewer

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

Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

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

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)

www.cbchighlands.com  526-4685

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

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

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Students' Dinner (free for kids in 8th grade and younger);

5:30 p.m. Supper; 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 pm Small Groups for kids Pre-K through 8th; 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm Adult Bible Study

6pm-7pm Choir Practice

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

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**
Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968

Monday, May 7: 4 PM - Women’s Cursillo Group

Tuesday, May 8: 8 A.M. - Men’s Cursillo Group; 9:30 A.M - Staff Meeting; 4:30 PM - EFEM Meeting

Wednesday, May 9: 4 PM - Vestry Meeting; 5:30 PM. Dinner; 6 PM. - Program; 6:30 PM - Choir Practice

Thursday, May 10: 10 A.M. - Holy Eucharist in Chapel; 10:30 A.M. - Daughters of the King

Sunday, May 13: HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

8 A.M. - Holy Eucharist (Rite I); Chapel; 9:30 A.M. - Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School; 9:45 A.M. - Choir Practice; 10:30 A.M. - Holy Eucharist (Rite II); 5:30 PM - NO YOUTH Spend time with your mom!

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

**FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN**
Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor 828-369-7977

Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6 p.m. (nursery provided)

First & Senior Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

Sun.: Worship – 8:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.; Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175

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

Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men’s Bible Discussion & Breakfast

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers

Wednesdays: Prayer – noon; Choir – 7

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

Sooth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

**HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: noon – Men’s Emmaus Reunion Group; 4:45 – Children's choir and handbells; 5:30 - Supper; 6 - Adult Handbells; 6:15 - children, youth, & adults studies; 7:15 – Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs:12:30 – Women’s Bible Study (nursery)

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA**

Chaplain Margaret Howell

2152 Didall Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Jamie Pasmore. (706) 782-8130

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

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**
St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968

First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Rev. Tien. Priest

Parish office. 526-2418

Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Clifford Willis

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

**SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD**
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.; 6 P.M – Program; 6:30 P.M – Choir Practice

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.; 6 P.M. - Program; 6:30 P.M - Choir Practice

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

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

**SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Wayne Price

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**
Rev. Raai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

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

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers

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

**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

- See PART TWO in the May 17 issue.

- See PART TWO in the May 17 issue.
Join Us at High Country Café for Mother’s Day

Breakfast Special For Moms
2 eggs any style
Sausage or Bacon
Grits & Toast
$6

Lunch Specials
Chicken Marsala w/Garlic Roasted Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli & a Dinner Roll
$10.95
Pan-Fried Trout w/Rice Pilaf, Broccoli & a Dinner Roll
$12.95
Jumbo Fried Shrimp w/ Crab Cake, Rice Pilaf & Cole Slaw
$12.95

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Coyote in the wild.

Coyotes in our midst

By Susanna Hearn
Reporter

Some residents in Highlands are concerned about a surge in the coyote population in the area with one resident reporting an attack on a small dog.

Coyotes are indeed prevalent throughout the United States. Their habitat ranges from Alaska to Panama, and they can adapt easily to suburban life. With humans and coyotes crossing paths more and more, conflicts are bound to occur.

The last known human death caused by a coyote was in California in 1980, but a recent attack on a small child in the New England area has raised concerns again about how to control coyotes and what has spurred some to turn to humans for food. This loss of fear for people is often caused by humans feeding coyotes — an unsecured trashcan or scraps thrown out near a home encourage coyotes to see humans as a source of food.

Coyotes are carnivorous, and generally prey on small rodents, though they will eat fruit and vegetation if prey is limited. They will also scavenge from carrion and road kill. They live together as pairs, or at times band together like wolves. They also roam alone. The coyote, which means "barking dog," is a close relative of the Gray Wolf.

Coyotes are one of the few mammals that have managed to extend their range and habitat despite the encroachment of human civilization, and coyotes' extensive hunting habits. Coyotes arrived in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park in 1985, and are considered a relatively new addition to the wildlife population there. Their arrival was a natural range expansion, and by 2005 they had expanded into every county in North Carolina.

Coyote attacks on small pets are common. Limited food resources make dogs and cats easy prey for hungry coyotes. During the spring when pups are born coyote mothers will do whatever it takes to find food for their young even if it means coming into people's backyards.

The Audubon Society suggests keeping pets indoors, on a leash, or within a fenced yard to protect them from coyote attacks. Always keep pets indoors from dusk to dawn when coyotes are most active. They also suggest installing a motion-sensitive lighting system or coyote proof fencing, as well as clearing brush away from the house and securing garbage bins.

See ‘Letters’ on page 13
Two author signings at Cyrano’s Bookshop, May 18 & May 19

Two acclaimed authors with regional connections are visiting Cyrano’s Bookshop. On Thursday evening, May 18, from 5 to 7 p.m., Marisha Pessl will autograph her novel “Special Topics in Calamity Physics;” Rob Neufeld will sign copies of his new book “Mountains, Heroes & Hootnoggers: A Popular History of Western North Carolina” on Friday afternoon, May 19, from 1 to 3 p.m.

“Don’t hate her because she’s beautiful!” the New York Times Book Review begged its readers, “her talent and originality would draw wolf whistles if she were an 86-year-old hunchbacked troll.” But Marisha Pessl is in fact a glamorous twenty-something native of Asheville whose first novel the Times declared one of the ten best books published in 2006. “Special Topics in Calamity Physics” is a combination mystery and coming-of-age story heaped with encomiums by publications ranging from People Magazine to The New Yorker. Its heroine, Blue van Meer, attends the St. Gallway School in Stockton, North Carolina, which sounds a lot like Asheville, where Ms. Pessl grew up (she now lives in New York). When, during a hike in the Smoky Mountains, Blue finds the corpse of her favorite teacher hanging from an electric cord, she wonders if it really was a suicide — or murder.

“Special Topics in Calamity Physics” is organized as though it were the syllabus of a great books course, with its 36 chapters named after such literary classics as “Othello,” “Madame Bovary,” “A Moveable Feast,” “Heart of Darkness” and “Paradise Lost.” Unlike the required high-school readings it refers to, Ms. Pessl’s work carries its readers along its rippling intellectual quest without the threat of study hall. “If Vladimir Nabokov had created a female Holden Caulfield, he might have written this delightful fiction debut” said the Dallas Morning News. Funny, smart and subversively informative, “Special Topics in Calamity Physics” is a page-turning treat, and the omni-talented Ms. Pessl has interspersed her tale with illustrations contributed by her character, Blue van Meer.

Rob Neufeld likes to say he grew up in Northern Appalachia (in New York’s Rockland County); he moved to Asheville almost 20 years ago and now writes admired weekly books and local history (“Visiting Our Past”) columns for the Asheville Citizen-Times. “Mountains, Heroes & Hootnoggers: A Popular History of Western North Carolina” is a compilation of his articles from the newspaper which covers subjects ranging from prehistoric Cherokee myths and modern business people to jazz singer Nina Simone, who grew up as Eunice Waymon in Tryon. (Hootnoggers, by the way, were spirits or “little people” that the area’s early settlers believed lived in the woods and aided passers-by.) The author’s visit to the Cashiers Historical Society’s Zachary-Tolbert House provides an opportunity to discuss differences between the local folk and their wealthier summer visitors in the 19th century.

Mr. Neufeld explores how people make sense of their own history through family stories and community memory and confesses that he has “joined the crowd” and “developed an unending interest in the Civil War,” and his pages on the conflict are very, very interesting. Were there as many Union sympathizers in the mountains as people have claimed? Did the last Confederate victory of the conflict take place at Swannanoa Gap? What are the historical foundations for Charles Frazier’s “Cold Mountain”? Mr. Neufeld says the way to understand our past “is through research and empathy — that is, by walking in another’s shoes.” Readers will find that Rob does “walk the walk.”

Cyrano’s Bookshop is located at 390 Main Street in Highlands, North Carolina. Books can be reserved for autographing by calling (828) 526-5488 or sending an e-mail to cyranos@nctv.com; to learn more about our store please visit www.cyranosbookshop.com.

... HIS & HERs continued from page 9

... HIS & HERs continued from page 9

good china. The people you should try to impress are your family, not guests. You don’t make chicken salad out of chickens. (Yes, folks, she really says this.)

The true test of a woman is to remain a lady, even when the men around you are not being gentlemen. M eri, M aman.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She’s been living in Highlands since mid-November 2006, and is a member of the Highlands Writers Group. Michelle has dual nationality – American and French.
**Upcoming Book Signings**

- **May 18**
  - 5-7 p.m.
  - M’riasha Pessi
  - "Special Topics in Calmth Physics"

- **May 19**
  - 1-3 p.m.
  - Rob Nafieff
  - "Hiking the Carolina Mountains"

- **May 27**
  - 2-4:30 p.m.
  - Danni Berrister
  - "Miss Julia Strikes Again"

- **June 9**
  - 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
  - Toni Meyers
  - "I Heard it on the Mountain, I Think I’ll Tell It"

- **June 12**
  - 2-4 p.m.
  - James Costa
  - "The Other Insect Societies"

- **June 16**
  - 1-3 p.m.
  - Barbara Brown Taylor
  - "Leaving Church"

- **June 21**
  - 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
  - Natalie Dupree
  - "Shrimp and Grits"

- **June 30**
  - 1-3 p.m.
  - Don Brown
  - "Treason"

- **July 7**
  - 1-3 p.m.
  - Charles Martin
  - "Somebody is Going to Die if Lilly Beth Doesn’t Catch that Bouquet"

**On-going**

- Beginning Memorial Day Weekend, services at the Church in the Wildwood in Horse Cove. Sunday’s at 7 p.m. through Labor Day. Dress is casual. Old fashioned hymn-sing.

- Registration has begun for this summer’s nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Please call 828-252-2623 or visit the Nature Center webpage at www.wcu.edu/nhcs.

- "NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0385 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 or class and $50 for a monthly pass.

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

- At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, Tuesday and Saturday at 2:30 p.m. Call 828-252-8084 for reservations. The class includes a warm-up, stretching exercises, and toning exercises.

**Every Wednesday**

- Wednesday Noon Prayers noon at First Presbyterian Church. A brief service of 20-30 minutes, led by Don Mullen, for reading of scripture, silence, meditation, prayer and communion in the sanctuary. A midweek time to come in adoration and prayer.

**Every Third Wednesday**

- As part of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin’s “Life-Span Learning Curriculum,” there are “Wednesday Night Chauffaqua” 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 706-746-9664.

**Thursday-Sunday May 10 - May 13**

- HCP’s ‘Enchanted April’ is at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Opening Night reception, Thursday night is being catered by Wolfgang’s On Main. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m. Call 828-252-8084 for reservations. "Enchanted April," a romantic comedy set in England and Italy in 1922. For ticket information and reservations call 828-526-8084. The production is sponsored in part by "The Galleries," Summit One Gallery and Drake’s Diamond Gallery. The box office opens for season subscribers on May 3 and for the public on May 5.

**Saturday, May 12**

- Macon County Rabies Clinics at the Highlands Conference Center from 1-2:30 p.m. and at the Scaly Mountain Post Office from 3-4 p.m., both with Dr. Amy Patterson. The cost is $5 per pet, cash only, no checks. Please keep pets in vehicle, on leashes or in carriers. All dogs, cats and ferrets over 4 months old must be vaccinated.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 8 mile hike from Timber Ridge to Beech Gap in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Plaza (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m. Drive 35 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Bill Van Horn, 369-1983.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy moderate hike to 80-foot high Kings Creek Falls and Spoonauger Falls. The elevation change is moderate. The trail is about 10 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leaders, Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079.

**Every Friday**

- Remind MC Commissioners that Highlands is a big part of Macon County. Attend the MC Commissioner meeting, 6 p.m. in the boardroom of the courthouse in Franklin.

- The Rotary Club of Highlands 19th annual Golf Tournament will be held this year at Trillium, with a shotgun start at noon, followed by a cocktail buffet and awards ceremony. Get together a foursome and sign up for an afternoon of golf and good fun. 100% of the money raised by this annual event is used to fund local projects and community needs. Registration for individual players is $125. Sign up sheets are available from Rotary member Tony Potts at Macon Bank in Highlands. Call this year’s Rotary golf chairman Bill Futral at (828) 526-8645 for further information.

**Wednesday, May 15**

- The Celebrate Women 2007 Spring Event, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Oak Street Café. Use the Main Street entrance. Please $3 at the door to be donated to R.E.A.C.H. – battered women outreach or Kid’s Place. Door prizes will be given at 7 p.m.

- HCP’s ‘Enchanted April’ is at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m. Call 828-252-8084 for reservations. Enchanted April is sponsored in part by "The Galleries," Summit One Gallery and Drake’s Diamond Gallery. The box office opens for season subscribers on May 3 and for the public on May 5.

**Thursday, May 17**

- “Meet the Artists/Movie Night” from 6-8 p.m. at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library in the Carlton-Offiff Meeting Room. At 7 p.m., see Victor Borge performing Liszt’s Hungarian Rhapsody #2 with the London Philharmonic. Light refreshments. Comedy and entertainment guaranteed. For information call Kathie Blozan 743-1765.

**Ruby Cinemas**

**Hwy. 441, Franklin**

- 524-2076

**Playing May 11-17**

- **SPIDER-MAN 3**
  - rated PG-13
  - Fri: (4:30), 7, 9:30
  - Sat & Sun: (2), (4:30), 7, 9:30

- **GEORGIA RULE**
  - rated R
  - Fri: (4:15), 7:05, 9:15
  - Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:15), 7:05, 9:15
  - Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:05

- **THE INVISIBLE**
  - rated PG-13
  - Fri: (4:20), 7:10, 9:20
  - Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20
  - Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:10

- **FRACTURE**
  - rated R
  - Fri: 7:15
  - Sat & Sun: (2:15), 7:15
  - Mon – Thurs: 7:15

- **NEXT**
  - rated PG-13
  - Fri: (4:15), 9:15
  - Sat & Sun: (4:15), 9:15
  - Mon – Thurs: (4:15)
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Friday, May 18
- Book signing at Cyranos's Book Shop, at 390 Main Street from 5:30 p.m. Marsha Pessl “Special Topic in Calmth Physics.” Picked as one of the top 10 books in 2006 by the New Yorker magazine.

Saturday, May 19
- Book signing at Cyranos’s Book Shop, at 390 Main Street from 1-3 p.m. Rob Neufeld “A Popular History of Western North Carolina — Mountains, Heroes & Hootenaggers
  - If you’re from anywhere around this area when you hear the word “Dance” you think Hurricane Creek Band. So start thinking about coming to the Spring Fling Dance with Hurricane Creek at The Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main. For reservations call the box office at 828-342-9197. These dances are very popular, so make your reservations early. The doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the band cranks up at 8 p.m. The Studio is located at 310 Oak Square, Main Street.
  - Highlands-Cashiers Hospital FREE Health Screenings. Re-registration is required for all screenings. People can sign up by calling the hospital at 526-1434, or by completing the registration form on line at www.highlandscashiershospital.org.
  - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile moderate-to-strenuous hike to three little-known waterfalls on Middle Creek (near Scaly Mountain community) — The trail is primitive and steep and can be muddy, but the falls are gorgeous. Meet at the Ski Scalpy parking lot at 10 a.m. Drive 4 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy shoes with good tread. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904.
  - Georgia ForestWatch is holding a large native plant sale, 2-6 p.m. at Tiger Mountain Vineyards, two miles south of Clayton, Georgia, on Old U.S. 441. This benefit includes several concurrent, bonuses: Appearances by noted authors Peter Loewer and Patricia Kyritsi Howell, as well as food and wine for the tasting. Admission, $20. The public is invited. Rain or shine — the event is under a big tent. For further information, call 706-635-8733, or contact info@gfwatch.org.

Sunday, May 20
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5 mile hike with very little elevation change at the Highlands biological station. In Franklin, meet at the Bi-Lo center at 2 p.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. If coming from Highlands or Cashiers, call leader for alternate meeting place. Reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820.

Monday, May 28
- Weigh Down Workshop Information Seminar 6 p.m. at the home of Sarah Chambers on 2199 Flat Mountain Road. Call 200-0366 for directions. Learn to lose extra weight by following God’s perfect will regarding food.

Tuesday, May 29
- Weigh Down Workshop Information Seminar 6 p.m. at the home of Sarah Chambers on 2199 Flat Mountain Road. Call 200-0366 for directions. Learn to lose extra weight by following God’s perfect will regarding food.

Wednesday, May 30
- Special sports physical clinic for school athletic programs are being held at the Macon County Public Health Center in Franklin. The clinics are open to 7th -grade 12th grade students who plan to participate in school athletics any time during the 2007-2008 school year. Appointments are required and may be scheduled at the Macon County Public Health Center by calling 349-2081. There will be a charge of $10 for the physical and all proceeds will go to the Schools Athletic Fund.

Thursday, June 7
- Come share your ideas for the design of the new Pine Street Park at a public meeting held to gather suggestions from the community about what kind of activities it would like to see happen at the park, which is located on the corner of Fifth and Pine Streets. The public meeting is being held at the Highlands Community Center (next to the ball field, on the Cashiers Rd.) at 5:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to come share ideas with members of the Pine Street Park Committee.

Saturday, June 9
- The Highlands Historical Society will hold an Open House from 4-6 p.m. at the Highlands Historical Village located adjacent to the Civic Center on Highway 64 East. Everyone is invited to enjoy the Village, refreshments, and twin dulcimer music by Balsam Gap.
- Three book signings at Cyranos’s Book Shop, at 390 Main Street. From 11-1 it’s Toni Meyers “I Heard it on the Mountain, I Think I’ll Tell It;” from 2-4 it’s James Costa “The Other Insect Societies” & Brad Sanders “Guide to Willman Bartram’s Travels;” and from 1-3 p.m. it’s Barbara Brown Taylor’s “Leaving Church.”
- Paws on Parade — a two-day-fun-filled summer event for the family and the family dog. Paws on Parade will be held Saturday, June 23, in Sapphire Valley Resort. Family lunches will be available at the Four Seasons Grill on the ski slopes. Any organization or business who is dog-related and would like to have a booth may call 743-1883.

Saturday, June 23 & 24
- Paws on Parade — a two-day-fun-filled summer event for the family and the family dog. Paws on Parade will be held Saturday, June 23, in Sapphire Valley Resort. Family lunches will be available at the Four Seasons Grill on the ski slopes. Any organization or business who is dog-related and would like to have a booth may call 743-1883.

June 6 - July 25
- Weigh Down Workshop at Highlands United Methodist Church. Lose your extra weight permanently by following God’s perfect will regarding food. The 8-week course costs $125 for the materials. Classes are 6:15 p.m. Wednesday evenings. Call Sarah Chambers at 200-0366 for more information.

June 7
- Book signing at Cyranos’s Book Shop, at 390 Main Street from 5:30 pm. Everyone is invited to enjoy the Village, refreshments, and twin dulcimer music by Balsam Gap.

Saturday, June 9
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Thursday, June 28
- Lambert Bridge Vineyards Wine dinner at OEI’s The Farm.Each dinner is $169 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Reception begins at 5:30 p.m. and guests will be seated for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited, and advance reservations are required. Call 828-787-2604.
HELP WANTED

LOCAL FINE DINING RESTAURANT seeks full time prepline cook and full time food runner / servers' assistant. Excellent work environment. Competitive wages and benefits. To apply, call Andrew or Marlene at 828-526-0544.

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB is taking applications for female massage therapists for the 2007 season. We offer competitive benefits, employee meals, and flexible schedules. Please fax resume to 828-526-9608 or mail to LEC, P.O. Box 220, Highlands, NC 28741. Applications may also be obtained by calling 828-526-0501, or at the Club Office, 981 Dillard Road, Highlands. 4/12

CENTRALIZED SCHEDULING COORDINATOR AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full-time, Monday through Friday position. Duties include answering phones, maintaining logs, scheduling appointments, register patients, order tests, provide information, etc. Must have good communication and clerical skills. Knowledge of medical terminology preferred. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

NURSE AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full-time, Part-time and PRN positions available. We are now offering shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits available after 60 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.

COOKS AND DIETARY AIDS AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Various shifts and days available. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Salary depends on experience. Full benefits available after 60 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.

CNA OR CNA II at HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. We have available Full, Part-time, and PRN positions at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center for day and night shifts. You will be responsible for assisting patients with their daily needs. Full benefits after 60 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.

FOR RENT


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 at 828-743-0010. For more information call Terry at 828-577-9261 or twalinskis@yahoo.com

NEW SPACE FOR LEASE IN HIGH TRAFFIC LOCATION – For lease now for the 2007 season in Highlands Plaza, 600 sq ft – 8,000 sq ft available in new lower level or 1,200 sq ft on main level near Bryson’s. Call 864-630-0808 today to lease your space in “The Most Visited Location in Highlands.”

BEDROOMS, 2 BATH DREAM CABIN! 5 minutes from Highlands in Scaly Mt. New appliances, new carpet, amazing view! StoneWood Cabin with carport and separate workshop and wonderful landscaped property! $825 per month. Annual Lease. Call 423-894-9566

VACATION RENTAL – The Lodge on Mirror Lake, fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, 3-4 day min. Call 828-342-2302.

CHALET FOR YOU in downtown Highlands. Two blocks off downtown Main St. Wonderful wide porch for entertaining on Highlands Creek. Beautiful new tongue-n-groove in kitchen and bath. 2 bd/1full bath. 1500 sq ft with additional 900 sq ft deck. Rent possible. Wonderful mountain view. $700/month. Call Kelsey 404-788-1304.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOTS – exclusive Rivertowne, 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 (760) 831-0082 owner/agent.

LAND FOR SALE – 2.18 acres $40,000. Firm. Serious inquiries only 828-262-2874. 5/18

FOR LEASE OR SALE, Brand new 2,300+- sq ft unit/NC 106. This is #19 Freeman Center. Unit has 1,600+-sq ft on the main level with Red Oak hardwood floors. Loft space is 700+-sq ft. Unit has separate meter, heat pump and 3 ton AC. Please call Jim Tate (828) 371-0773. Owner/rentier, Daniel Gilchrist. $1,750 monthly with option to purchase.

NEW HOME ON DENDY ORCHARD ROAD minutes from town just past Bintl Veil and Dry Falls. Nice paved accessed. 2-bedroom, 1 bath, chalet, with 1,177 sq ft, loft, fireplace, vaulted great room, some view. $109,000. For more information call Ty at 828-577-9261 or twalinskis@yahoo.com

FIX ‘R’ UPPER – 2.50 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 371-3669.


ADORABLE 3 BR/2 BA COTTAGE with wonderful mountain view. One mile from Main Street. Highlands. $275,000. By Owner. For Appt. 828-526-1085.

PETS FOR SALE

AKC REGISTERED GREAT DANE PUPPIES – Grand size and superb temperament. Harlequins, Merles and Black. Taking deposits now. Ready June 2. Call Spencer Chambers at 828-200-0360. 5/10

YARD SALE

MOVING SALE SATURDAY, MAY 19, 9-3 at 229 Raoul Road. Furniture—tables, chairs, king mattress, bed spreads, sheets, lamps, accessories. From stop light at Franklin Road and Dillard Road intersection, go .6 miles to Rocky Hill Road. Follow signs to 229 Raoul. Call 536-0991.

THREE-FAMILY YARD SALE – Saturday, May 12, starts 8 a.m. at 196 Cherokee Drive, Highlands. Toys, children’s items, household goods, linens, books, bikes, sporting goods, tools.

THE HIGHLANDS PLAYHOUSE YARD SALE – Friday & Saturday, May 25 & May 26 and Tuesday, May 28. There will be a “Preview Sale Party” on Friday night, May 25. A donation of $15 will entitle anyone to purchase items the night before the sale on Saturday — along with complimentary wine and hors d’oeuvres. The yard sale and preview party will be held at the Highlands Playhouse. Please call 828-743-5625 (Dianne Ray) for more information or to make a donation.

ITEMS FOR SALE

ANTIQUE HAND-CARVED MAHOGANY TWIN BEDS with pineapple finial circ. 1860s. Will not separate. $1,000 for both. Call 787-1871.

RANGE, DISHWASHER AND REFRIGERATOR – white, Kenmore, like new. Call 828-342-6383.

OAK DINING ROOM TABLE – 66-inches by 44 inches with two 15-inch leaves. Six upholstered chairs. $500. Call 526-3897 before 8 p.m.

LOG CABIN KIT – 32” x 24’ 1/2 inch yellow Pine logs. Walls only. $9,999. Call 526-0241.

KING BR SET (includes mattress/box spring, frame, dresser, mirror, night stand, headboard) $450; 4 Firestone tires (LT225/75R16) good tread
### Classifieds

$125: Ethan Allen Hutch $125; Queen mattress set (w/frame) $175. Call: 526-2571.

**TIME CLOCK** Acroprint Model 125, and time cards. See Bob at SweeTreats 526-9822.

**BISTRO TABLES**, 21" round (black and white), 2 black chairs. (4 sets @ $125 per set). See Bob at SweeTreats 526-9822.

**DINING ROOM FURNITURE**, Very nice. Rectangular with two leaves 6 chairs, 2 with arms. Maple with upholstered seats. $326 all inclusive. 864-972-8525 or call 864-723-4101.

**SPA (Flores 6-3 SERIES)** From Rec Warehouse, 6-8 seats with 38 jets including a waterface and 4 shoulder jets. The size is 93" x 93" x 41.25". Brand new, still in container. Original price $6,500, will sell for $5,000. Can be seen at Long Transfer Company. Call Mariette at 770-503-4433.


**JENNY LIND BABY BED** – light stain, excellent condition, mattress, all linens, originally $375 asking $225. Call 526-0498.


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

**SOLID DARK OAK DINETTE CABINET** – 19"x64"x84".3 glass panels, 4 feet of matching chain. 22-inch diameter. $975. Call 526-1773.

### Vehicles for Sale

- **1999 CAMARO** – New tires, low mileage, 5-speed, 6-cylinder, excellent condition. Call 828-369-3619.
- **2001 JAGUAR S-TYPE 4.0** – Excellent condition. 98K miles. Still under warranty. $15,000. Call 828-243-6447.
- **1999 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 4X4** – Red exterior, gray interior, 30,000 miles, AM/FM cassette, A.C. PW, PS, PB, clean. $8,000 D.O.B 828-526-3257.

### Services

**PERSONAL COMPANION/CAREGIVER** Whatever your needs may be we can help. References available (828)421-5940, (828)347-5051.


**PERSONAL CATERER** – Run errands, clean house, buy groceries, Transport to appointments. References available. Call Cheryl 828-421-6685.

**FIVE STAR CLEANING & MAINTENANCE** – Light and detail cleaning, concierge services, openings and closings, grocery shopping, personal shopping, personal chef and table service, house repairs, improvements: lighting, plumbing, fixtures, tile, drywall repairs and more. Call 828-322-7201.


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### New Carolina Carpet

Specializing in Carpet, Vinyl and Hardwood
(828) 524-5933
369 Wells Grove Rd. | Anthony Sessock
Franklin, NC 28734  | Owner
(Next to Franklin Glass)

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### Runaround Sue Pet Sitting

- Healthy Homemade Treats
- Birthday Parties
- Pet Photos
- Hand-crocheted Dog Clothing

Sue Laferty
P.O. Box 1991
Highlands, NC 28741
(828) 526-0844
slaferty@aol.com

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### Classifieds

- **H & D HOUSE CLEANERS** – We’re the team for minor cleans. Dishes, beds, floors, 2 baths. Give us a call “cause we are the Best” 706-982-1994 or 706-782-0376.
- **SCOTT CONSTRUCTION “ME FIX IT”** – Decks, roofs, pressure washing, painting, lawn service, small electrical, floors, carpet cleaning, house cleaning! No job too small. 30 yrs. exp. Call David at 828-369-5886 or 828-347-5051.

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### C&C Contracting

– WE GET IT DONE — SMALL OR LARGE – Remodeling, decks, doors, windows or the whole house! Call Art Doughty at 828-508-1360 Workmen’s Comp, General Liability. References.

**HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE** – Atlanta Airport Shuttle. Drive – Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.
‘Enchanted April’ is HCP’s play for the month of May

Excitement is running high for cast, director, and production team. It’s opening night for the Highlands Community Players production of “Enchanted April,” which begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. The opening night audience, as usual, is invited after the performance to a reception catered by Wolfgang’s on Main.

Performances continue this weekend, Friday and Saturday, May 11 and 12, 7:30 p.m. The Sunday matinee, at 2:30 p.m., on May 13, Mother’s Day, is perfect for an outing with your mother to celebrate the day. Performances continue through next weekend, Thursday, May 17 — Sunday, May 20.

The play lives up to its name — it’s enchanting! It begins in England during a rainy winter month shortly after the end of World War I when Lotty Wilton, a London housewife, notices an “advert” offering a small castle for rent in Italy, complete with “sunshine and wisteria.” Knowing that her husband will not approve of such a venture and aware that she cannot afford the rent using her own resources, Lotty recruits three other women willing to share the expenses.

The scene shifts to Italy; the month is now April. The four women, of different ages, backgrounds and temperaments, take up residence in the charming old castle, soon encountering difficulties adjusting to each other’s personalities and habits. But amid San Salvatore’s flowers and sunshine, spirits are refreshed; unexpected romances and friendships flourish along with the wisteria.

Several of HCP’s most accomplished actors are cast in play, as well as two newcomers. Madeleine Davis, Becky Schilling, Jody Read, Shirley Williams, Stuart Armor, and Jim Gordon are well known to HCP audiences for their excellent performances. Gina Pauratore, new to HCP but with a long list of theatrical credits from New Orleans and elsewhere, is a welcome addition; while Jim Loring, a Londoner himself, is on stage for the first time and doing a most creditable job.

Tickets for HCP may be reserved or picked up at the HCP box office in the Performing Arts Center, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Tickets for the Sunday matinees can be purchased at the box office starting at 1 p.m. before the 2:30 matinee. Tickets for adults are $15; for students, $8; and for groups of 10 or more, $12. Pay by cash or check. Call 526-8084 for reservations or to leave a number for a call back.

“Enchanted April” is suitable for young people, but young children will probably not find it of interest.

MC Public Library to host award-winning author

Charles Frazier, winner of the National Book Award for his novel “Cold Mountain,” will be a guest speaker at the new Macon County Public Library on Saturday, May 12.

Frazier will lead a book discussion about his latest novel, “Thirteen Moons,” at 1 p.m. in the library’s meeting room.

This historical novel is set in the Southern Appalachians during the early nineteenth century.

Although it is based on factual events and people, Frazier reminds us in his Author’s Note that this is a work of fiction, anyone seeking historical or geographical fact should look elsewhere.

The audience is encouraged to participate with comments and questions about the novel. The book discussion is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Macon County Public Library at 524-3600. Or visit the library in its new location at 819, Siler Road, Franklin.
Forums from page 19

quarters in Asheville.

The interrogator, whose main function is administrating polygraphs, explained the process step by step. I was nervous, obviously, but he explained that the machine – $20,000 worth of computer equipment and peripherals that could fit in a modest attached case – could decipher nervousness from lies.

For about 20 minutes he talked to me about the case and my family and asked various questions including: “In the last 15 months have you taken any illegal drugs?” and “Have you ever stolen anything from an employer?”

I looked at him like he was a little crazy for asking me the drug question. He said it’s just a way to determine a baseline and that the week before, he had asked a 74-year-old woman that same question.

“First she said no. But I looked at her and said, ‘I know you’re not telling the truth.’ Then she admitted that the week before she had smoked a joint with her grandson.”

The investigator said he’s been doing this so long and has been credited and reaccredited at so many institutions for the administration of polygraphs, that he can pretty much tell, even without the machine, when someone is lying.

So, the answer to the first question was easy, but since I have taken pens home from various places of employment, I said “Yes” to the second question. He looked at me oddly. “I mean money, equipment – big stuff.”

“Oh, well in that case, no,” I said.

Based on the baseline 20-minute interview, he formulated 10 questions to ask during the polygraph. Only four of them were about the crime, the other six were general and never varied from the questions previously asked.

In fact, one of the questions was, “Do you believe that I will not ask you any questions other than the ones discussed, said “Yes” and he was true to his word.

He asked me the same set of 10 questions four times; once prior to strapping the equipment on me and three times after.

A blood pressure type cuff was affixed to my right bicep. Two finger monitors were attached to fingers on my left hand. A strap was put around my upper chest and another around my abdomen. Then the questions were asked three times with a break between each session.

I was paranoid that breathing heavily or clearing my throat would affect the outcome. It did, but only indicating that there were times when I breathed heavily or cleared my throat.

Two algorithms were used to decipher the results. One was based on a scale of 1 to 10 and one was based on a percentage scale of 1 to 100.

In both cases, the higher the number the better the chances the person is “not being deceptive.”

I scored a 96 and a 99.7 percent. He said it was the highest score he’d ever seen.

“I told you I was innocent,” I said.

Thanks to the results, the Macon County Sheriff’s Department can close the case of the stolen wallet knowing it did everything to exhaust all leads and as a result exonerated me.

The moral of the story? That’s a hard one.

Do not assume the law is out to get you. If you are innocent, playing the game can exonerate you of any and all charges. Polygraph testing can’t be used in a court of law, but it can help law enforcement officials solve, dismiss and close cases. Like it or not, law enforcement officials do believe that people who refuse to take a polygraph test have something to hide – if only concerning the case.

Finally, think twice before being a Good Samaritan in Wal-Mart. Everything you do there can and will be used against you even if some of the surveillance cameras don’t work and especially when the security guards “play cop.”

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**THE CHALLENGE:**

Start with the three center numbers for each layer and two other numbers. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other 22 numbers belong. Good Luck!

The first correct solution emailed earns a coupon for a FREE cup of coffee from Buck’s Coffee Cafe on Main Street.

**Email:** pseudocube8@aol.com

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**THE SETUP:**

The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern. For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through the center number of the middle layer. Each diagonal contains 3 numbers equaling the total of the three center numbers. One of the diagonals is shown with circles.

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### Highlands' Fire & Rescue Dept.

#### log entries for the weeks of May 3-7

**May 1**

- At 9:35 a.m., officers responded to a call of a parked vehicle on Mt. Lori obstructing traffic.

**May 2**

- At 9 a.m., a suspicious call to High Country Photo by a person requesting a large number of Canon products prompted a call to the police station.

**May 3**

- At 11:10 a.m., officers received a call from Ann Jacobs Gallery asking for help in escorting a person from the shop.

**May 4**

- At 5 p.m., a motorist on 28 South was cited for speeding 51 mph in a 35 zone.

**May 5**

- At 8:20 p.m., a motorist at Main and Third streets was cited for speeding 36 mph in a 20 zone.

**May 6**

- At 8:50 p.m., a motorist at 28 South and Shelby Place Road was cited for driving without the proper documentation.

**May 7**

- At 12:30 p.m., officers were called to The Pizza Place to help with an employee dispute.

#### The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept.

log entries for the week of May 1-7

**May 1**

- The dept. responded to an alarm activation at Old Edwards Inn & Spa which was accidently set off by workers.

**May 2**

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Scary Fire & Rescue concerning a wreck but the call was cancelled en route.

**May 3**

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Joe Pye Trail.

**May 4**

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Ravenel Ridge where a man had shot himself in the knee with a nail gun. He was transported to the hospital.

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### Police & Fire

#### Highlands area transactions April 21-May 8

| Parcel Id, Grantee Name, Address, Property Description, Date, Acreage, Stamps, Land Val, Build Val, Grantor Name |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|-----------|-----------------|----------|-------|-----------------|
| 0500638, EAGER, CAROLYN H TRUSTEE, 902 MOSS WAY, VALDOSTA, GA, 31602, 14 LOT 147 MOOR WOOD RD., 04-23-07, 1.4000, $0.00, $393,120., $411,580., EAGER, CAROLYN H TRUSTEE & EAGER, WILLIAM GRANT TRUSTEE |
| 0511661, ARBRA, EDWARD, PO BOX 403, HIGHLANDS, NC, 28741, 14 UNIT 103 HIGHLANDS MANOR II, 04-27-07, 0.0400, $606.00, $25,000., $318,790., CALLON, SIM C SR & CALLON, VERA D |
| 0504356, PARKER, HAROLD TRAVIS, 89 NETSI PLACE, HIGHLANDS, NC, 28741, 14 LOT 8 DOBSON RIDGE, 04-27-07, 0.2400, $850.00, $250,000., $188,800., PRIBUS, RICHARD S & PRIBUS, JANICE L |
| 0504257, R L JORDAN OIL COMPANY OF NC, PO BOX 2527, SPARTANBURG, SC, 29304, 14 LOTS 102,104 & 106 MAIN & 2ND HILDS SUITE HOTEL, 04-30-07, 0.3300, $0.00, $1,965,600., $2,499,870., JORDAN, R L |
| 0516324, R L JORDAN OIL COMPANY OF NC, PO BOX 2527, SPARTANBURG, SC, 29304, 14 LOTS 7,8,9,11 1ST HILDS HOTEL, 04-30-07, 0.6700, $0.00, $1,301,740., $0.00, JORDAN, R L |
| 0504137, R L JORDAN OIL COMPANY OF NC, PO BOX 2527, SPARTANBURG, SC, 29304, 14 LOT 104-505 4TH & SPRUCE ST, 04-30-07, 0.0200, $0.00, $10,000., $0.00, JORDAN, R L |
| 0500141, EVANS, KATHERINE E, PO BOX 453, HIGHLANDS, NC, 28741, 45 RD 1610, 04-24-07, 1.2300, $0.00, $61,480., $176,520., EVANS, JAMES F & EVANS, KATHERINE E |
| 0504011, LARMON, W CURTIS & LARMON, BEVERLY L, 4410 CLEAR AVENUE, TAMPA, FL, 33609, 05 LOT 4 SEC B LAT MTN, 04-27-07, 1.8700, $0.00, $370,290., $848,780., LARMON, W CURTIS & LARMON, BEVERLY L |

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**Solution to CZ1F in the May 3 paper**

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**BIZ NEWS continued from page 18**

achievement for the Old Edwards Hospitality Group,” said CEO Mario Gomes. “This accreditation and affiliation reaffirms all of the hard work we have put into making the Old Edwards experience one to treasure.”

The overall rating by AAA is determined by averaging the individual ratings for six key areas including management and staff, housekeeping and maintenance, exterior, grounds and public areas, room decor, ambiance and amenities, bathroom and guest services.

The Association says, “A Four-Diamond establishment is upscale in all areas. Accommodations are progressively more refined and stylish. The physical attributes reflect an obvious enhanced level of quality throughout. The fundamental hallmarks at this level include an extensive array of amenities combined with a high degree of hospitality, service, and attention to detail.”

Gomes went on to say, “A high level of guest services is indicative of the Four Diamond Rating, and that is what we offer here at The Lodge. We are delighted to be recognized for that effort.”

AAA Publishing will include content about The Lodge in all of its publications and on its Web site.