Town budget reflects growing needs

At this preliminary review stage, mandated by the state to take place by June 1 of each year, the town’s 2007-2008 budget stands somewhere between $10-$12 million. After a final work session set for June 14, the budget will be adopted June 27.

At the May 30 special called Town Board meeting, Town Administrator and Treasurer Richard Betz presented the budget message.

The most significant effect on the town’s revenues was the Macon County revaluation. The tax base inside the town increased from $1.110 billion to $1.735 billion – at 56% increase. Valuation for the Highlands Fire District increased from $2.5 billion to $3.8 billion – a 53% increase.

Both state sales tax and obviously ad valorem, property tax revenues were healthy this year and are projected to exceed budgeted.

Booster Club encourages ‘HS Pride’

As part of this year’s “Highlander Pride – Get It! theme,” the Highlands School Booster Club contributed $100 toward school jackets for the high school athletes. To be eligible for a jacket, athletes had to have lettered twice or participated in a sport for two or more years. “It’s been a long time since Highlands School teams have worn jackets like they do in other schools, so we thought we’d help the kids get back that pride through a jacket,” said Booster Club President Tina Rogers. The jackets cost $145 – students contributed $45. Forty athletes in grades 9-12 were eligible for the jackets, more than half participated in the offer. At the May 22 Athletic Banquet Alec Schmitt, Jason Aspinwall, Nick Kerhoulas, Kelli Baer, Toni Schmitt, Allison Winn, Katelyn Bryson, Vicky Smith, Kaylie Buras, Adam Hedden, Danielle Puchaez, Greg Porter, Andrew Watson, Billy Ray Converse, Jake Heffington, J.T. Schandolph, Hunter Leffler, Ezra Herz, Danielle Reese, Luke McClellan, Katie Marie Parks, and Brie Schmitt received their jackets. Photo by Barbie Aspinwall.

HS asst. principal named principal of E. Franklin

Several job moves were approved immediately following the closed executive session at the May 29 Macon County School Board meeting.

All appointees will assume their new responsibilities on July 1, 2007.

Terry Bradley has been named principal at East Franklin Elementary School. Bradley currently serves as assistant principal at Highlands School. He served in that capacity for the 2006-2007 school year. He will assume his new responsibilities on July 1, 2007.

Superintendent Dan Brigman said no one has been appointed in his place yet.

“We will be setting up interviews for that and other positions currently open among our administrative ranks very soon,” he said.

Bradley is married with two children. He has a Bachelor's in art degree in physical education from the University of South Carolina and a masters in education administration and supervision.

Recent accident raises concern about traffic

A flurry of vehicular and pedestrian traffic this past Memorial Day weekend, has brought attention to Highlands’ busy Main Street.

On May 26 at 2 p.m., a motorist hit a stroller being pushed by pedestrians across the Third and Main streets crosswalk. Though no one was seriously injured and the youngsters were released from Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

RE agents have until June 8 to adjust signs

Many area realtors may be affected in coming weeks by enforcement of regulations for real estate signs.

The Town’s Zoning Ordinance requires that real estate signs be located no closer than 10 feet from the pavement of the road, and that they actually be located on the property they advertise.

A survey of signs last week, new Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward noted several violations. “We’re not sure if new real estate agents are aware of the regulations,” Ward said. “So we wanted to give them time to comply with the ordinance.”

Ward said that a deadline of June 8 has been set for compliance for such signs. After that date, they will be removed and taken to the Town Hall.
**LETTERS**

**LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY**

We reserve the right to edit submissions. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please email letters by Monday at 5 p.m.

There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

**LETTERS**

**Search for fellow crew member**

Dear Editor,

I am searching for one of the Air Force crew I flew with in a B-24 in 1944 from England. The man would be age 80+ now. His name was Charles Bryson from Cashiers, N.C. Perhaps some of your readers would know if he is still alive. In the crew picture he is on second row on the right (without a cap). The other picture was taken on leave in Edinburgh, Scotland. Charles is between the two women. We flew 30 missions from May to August in 1944. We were searching for fellow crew member based at Horsham Saint Faith field at Norwich, England. If anyone knows where he is, please contact me. Thanks for your help.

Wayne Gamble
432 Scofield Road,
Charlotte, NC 28209,
phone: 704-525-7843
wgamble@carolina.rr.com.

**Charles Bryson and Wayne Gamble with their crew.**

**Searching for fellow crew member**

**Birth**

Carson Lee Keener

Christian and Caleb Keener are proud to announce the birth of their brother, Carson Lee Keener. He was born on Wednesday, April 4th at 8:50 p.m. in Zurich, Switzerland. He weighed 9 lbs, 10 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Michael and Stephanie Keener are the proud parents. Paternal grandparents are Mary Keener and the late Jamie Keener of Highlands. Maternal grandparents are Mary Jane Campbell and the late Robert D. Campbell of Jackson, MS.
Brittany Potts and Eric Fielding were united in marriage in a garden ceremony at the bride's home on Saturday, May 26 at 2 p.m. Pastor Kim Ingram of the Highlands United Methodist Church officiated. Brittany is the daughter of Karin and Terry Potts of Highlands. Eric is the son of Guy and Marjorie Fielding and Janet and Thomas Cummings, of Clayton, Ga. A reception followed at the Highlands Fall Country Club. Both are graduates of Highlands School, class of 2004.

Richard “Dick” Earl Strain

Richard “Dick” Earl Strain, age 82, died peacefully in his sleep, on May 24, 2007 after a lengthy illness. Born in Alliance, Ohio on December 20, 1924, the son of the late Eugene and Charlotte Stanley Strain, he has been a Highlands resident since 1975. He was a WWII Veteran of the Army Air Corps, serving as a lieutenant. He was predeceased in 1986 by his wife of 39 years, Barbara Jane Cool Strain.

For many years he owned the original Bird Barn and was famous for his home-made chocolates. He was an avid gardener. He enjoyed playing cards, loved his cats, his friends and his family. His kind, generous nature and his community spirit have helped and inspired many people over the years. Dick was a much loved member of the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands where he served as an elder and sang in the choir for over 30 years. He was a past member of the Lions, Moose and Elks clubs and was a member of the American Legion. He will be missed by many. He is survived by three daughters, Tracey Strain and Cynthia Strain of Highlands, NC and Deborah Harp of Loveland, OH as well as many “adopted” daughters; two grandchildren, Matthew and Kelli Harp; two great-grandchildren, Lilly and Ava Harp.

Memorial services were held Tuesday, May 29 at 4 p.m. at Highlands Presbyterian Church with Rev. Hunter Coleman and Rev. Don Mullen officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Highlands Community Child Development Center, PO Box 546, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences can be made by visiting www.bryantfuneralhomes.com or www.MeM.com.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

Highlands Newspaper provides the best local news coverage

Dear Editor,

First I want congratulate you on your newspaper. You have made Highlands’ Newspaper into a first-rate source of information. I really enjoy reading it; in fact, I believe you provide the best local news coverage available in Highlands. And as Pat Griffen said in her letter in the May 24 issue, “Don’t ever lose Fred Woolridge” he is a jewel! I don’t care for Dr. Salzarulo, but like Fox News you’re being fair and balanced. Keep up the good work.

Walter Stumpff
Highlands

See LETTERS page 11
Fish from your dock at this nostalgic Mirror Lake Highlands cottage. Located in-town and offers a one car carport, open living room, covered and screened sleeping porch, water front dock and much more. Newly painted and in the city limits. This one beats all its competition!! $485,000

The Cottages at Bearfoot. Developed By Nellis Communities of Village Walk & Cottages @ the Cove are these 6 new homes with the same finishes & quality. Poplar bark, stone pillars, mountain views, carport or garage available. Granite tops throughout, hardwood floors, covered decks. Only 2 remain! $725,000

Wonderful well maintained 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in the city limits. Community swimming pool, mountain view, very private location. Recent upgrades have been made like central heat and AC, hardwood floors, fresh interior paint, new kitchen countertops, state of art washer and dryer. $320,000

Newly remodeled open and airy home on the 4th tee at Highlands Falls Country Club. Vaulted and beamed greatroom, Kitchen-Aid kitchen w/ skylight and light cabinets & countertops, private dining room, 2 BR & 2 BA upstairs, family room, bed & bath downstairs. 1 car garage and lots of storage. $695,000

Best of the bunch! Sitting at the very top of Highlands Cove offering huge views, great privacy, audio and video upgrades! Granite throughout kitchen and baths, European styled vessel sink in powder room, deck with fireplace. One car carport with a storage room. Golfing & dining on site. $1,100,000

Stunning home with amazing Blue Valley mountain views. 4 BR, 4.5 BA, chef’s kitchen, beautiful finishes, great deck to enjoy the awesome view and entertain your friends. Plenty of room on the lower level for family with separate kitchen and family room. Plus a stone’s throw from Main Street. $2,295,000

Not only does our entire back yard smell like a funeral home, but the house as well. Nobody actually died here, except for maybe a few lizards not working for GEICO. Our gardenia bush is in full bloom so we have fresh cut flowers in the house every day. Not only that, the drone from hundreds of air conditioners fills the neighborhood and no one is walking outside anymore. I just looked at my electric meter and it’s spinning off the wall. These are the signals that it is time for us to clear out of Palm Beach.

Leaving South Florida is getting easier and easier for me. I know a lot of Highlanders complain about the leadership in our town and hate the expansion, but if they could see what’s going on down here, they would be more appreciative of what they have. After what I have seen this winter, I am ready to arrive in town, hug every commissioner and kiss Father Tien on the lips….well, maybe on the cheek so he doesn’t slug me.

This past winter, there were more public officials in the slammer or about to go to the slammer than any Florida county. The tourism director was caught inappropriately spending loads of bed tax money and they still haven’t figured out where all the money went. Commissioner after commissioner has taken a fall, accused of taking bribes from big shot developers and a host of other scoundrel type shenanigans. Money is flowing under the table like never before. The probe continues and most Palm Beach County politicians not in jail are now hiding in their foxholes….or should I say rat holes.

There’s more! Wouldn’t you think by now Palm Beach County would have the voting thing down pat, considering they continuously make a national embarrassment of themselves every single time they vote? Nope, they’ve done it again. Champagne bottles were only half empty during a recent election celebration when the winners found they were the losers because of a “voting glitch.” More circus music, please, only louder this time.

While politicians are shoving money into their pockets, the Catholic Church, for reasons that go far, far beyond my intellect, evidently decided to ship every scoundrel priest in the country to Palm Beach County, at least it seems that way. I guess because the people are so liberal-thinking down there, it is expected they will be tolerant. Hardly a month goes by without learning of another priest being caught doing something. Why they don’t put them all in jail is beyond me.

By packing my car to the hilt and heading north to Highlands, I can forget about corruption and the anger with my church. Here, I don’t have to hide the women and children. Being a Catholic in Highlands is soooo easy and I would trust our beloved Father Tien with any of my family and I certainly don’t think our commissioners are thieves. Highlands is such a great place to be. Do Highlanders really know how good they have it?

There is more than just the beauty of Highlands in summer. This place is my escape from all I detest; the corruption, the lying, the wheeling and dealing are now 713 miles away. If it wasn’t for the awesome, perfect weather in winter and half my family living down there, I could care less if I ever went back, but I will.

So bring on the growth, ETJ, higher property taxes, traffic jams, Riverwalk violations, liquor bars right in our faces, construction noise, two-hour parking and everything else that’s troublesome. After a strong dose of South Florida, none of that seems urgent.

P.S. – There is no truth to the rumor that Amy Patterson is hiding from me so I won’t hug her.
I love the movie “Groundhog Day.” In the film the weathercaster of a TV station, Phil, is sent to Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to report the events of Groundhog Day. He hates the assignment and is very cynical about everything and everyone. A snowstorm prevents the TV crew from returning home so Phil is condemned to spend another night in the hated little town.

When he wakes up the next morning, it slowly dawns on him that it is Groundhog Day again. He lives the same day over and over again, seemingly forever. His first reaction is to indulge—eat whatever he wants, rob a bank and buy whatever he wants, seduce women, etc. As the pleasures of the flesh get old he tries to kill himself in countless ways, but he keeps waking up on that same old day.

Eventually he becomes resigned to his fate and begins to learn — he reads books and learns to play the piano and carve ice sculptures.

Then he begins to serve: he spends his recurring day rushing from one small crisis to another all across Punxsutawney. The day he achieves total selfless service, he goes to sleep and when he awakes it is finally the day after Groundhog Day.

He has escaped through transformation. Many people see this as a metaphor for reincarnation. I’ve seen a documentary about the making of this film and the screenwriter claims he never thought about reincarnation, just thought the idea of living a day over and over again would make a good story. But after the film was released he heard from many people of various spiritual beliefs that it was very meaningful for them.

Recently I saw a Japanese film that has a similar message: “Ikiru,” directed by Akira Kurosawa (1952). A bureaucrat stuck in a dead-end job (he’s the head of Public Affairs in City Hall where the main job is to do nothing!) finds out he has stomach cancer and only a few months to live.

As the bureaucrat returns to work and pulls a project out of his endless files. Women had petitioned the city government to reclaim a swampy place near their homes that was a health hazard and turn it into a park but they had been continuously rebuffed.

As the bureaucrat proclaimed his intention to take action on this project, his astonished colleagues, the melody to “happy birthday” played in the soundtrack. This was his birthday; after a lifetime of sleepwalking he was finally alive. Ikiru means “to live” in English.

In the next few months he persevered against enormous odds and shortly before his death the park was completed.

Perhaps in the big scheme of things a small park in a Japanese city doesn’t mean much. But it made a huge difference in the lives of some people. And I think this is what gives this movie its power.

I think everyone wants to make a difference in their lives. Yet we all think that we have to do something big, something worthy of the history books, for it to mean anything. So we do nothing.

But this man had no time to waste. He started where he was and took what he had and made something meaningful. That same opportunity is there for all of us right under our noses if we just looked.

That is why “Ikiru” has supplanted “Groundhog Day” as my personal favorite. The events that happened in “Groundhog Day” were far-fetched and outside anyone’s personal experience so it’s easy to dismiss it as an inspiring idea but impossible to implement in life.

All of us are going to die though. All of us will face what the bureaucrat faced. Did I really live my life? What did I do with my life? Did I make the world a better place?

Don Juan, the Yaqui Indian made famous in Carlos Castaneda’s books, taught that in order to be truly alive we must keep our death close to us. Paradoxically, the more we deny death the less we live, but when we embrace our mortality we cherish every moment of life given to us.

At one point during the struggle to break through the bureaucratic inertia, one of the bureaucrat’s colleagues asked him how he avoided hating the man who was the chief obstacle to the park’s completion. The bureaucrat replied, “I can’t afford to hate anyone. I don’t have that kind of time.”
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His & Hers
Dick Strain cashes in his chips
For 300 weeks, give or take a few, I’ve played poker every Tuesday with the Coots. That’s a group here in Highlands, organized by Dick Strain and usually gathered around his round dining room table for these “probability seminars.”

Last week, at the age of 82, Dick Strain cashed in his chips. No longer will this gentle man face us across a poker table, and relieve us of our ready cash. You can learn a great deal about a man by playing poker with him. Here’s what I learned about Dick.

He was a very smart man. Anyone who occasionally puts the columns of Dr. Thomas Sowell on his refrigerator, takes his politics and social studies seriously. Mind you, we weren’t in the habit of discussing the differences between Aristotle’s Politics and Machiavelli’s The Prince in between hands of seven-card, high-low poker.

Still, we got into serious matters both local and national from time to time, and Dick was always a thoughtful participant.

Dick was a manager who came to Highlands in 1975. A few years later, he opened his own business, that’s alive and well today. He wasn’t a native, but opened his own business, that’s alive and well today. He wasn’t a native, but opened his own business, that’s alive and well today.

On the subject of age, here’s why the poker group was referred to as the Coots. Dick was the oldest of the group. He and Harold served in WW II. Dick was in the Army Air Corps. Harold was in the Navy, and served in the Pacific.

Even the youngest of us have our aches and pains, except for Ted. He was once a professional dealer in Las Vegas. Now he’s settled down, married, and works as a goldsmith in his own jewelry store. He’s too young to be a real Coot, but he manages the game and maintains the bank. So, we keep him while he ages.

Near the end, Dick’s legs started to fail, so he got one of those scooters which he didn’t like and preferred not to use. He also got an oxygen tank, and didn’t like that, either. Instead, he preferred to come to the table on his own steam, pick up his cards, put on his poker face, and defy us to know what he was holding.

Dick was good at lurking in the bushes. He’d let other people raise, and he’d just stay in the game. Finally, on the last round he’d raise, and smile his patented smile, and wait for us to fold in fear, or stay and lose.

Sometimes he whipped us bad, but there was no ill will. Not a bit. Everywhere he went, folks naturally liked him. At the Health Tracks Program at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, they do cardio-rehabilitation and general health care. They miss Dick. All the ladies asked after him, from the silver-haired veterans to the young whippets who are the guides and trainers.

Dick’s Memorial Service was this week, at the First Presbyterian Church where he’d sung in the choir for decades. He leaves behind three daughters, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a whole community that loved him, and seven Coots who have this to say, “Walk with strength, travel light and far, and may you fill your inside straights forever.”

About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@yale.edu He lives in the 11th District of North Carolina.
The beginning of summer in Highlands occurred this past Memorial Day weekend, and I welcome all our visitors and second home owners who have returned to our little paradise. We all look forward to a busy summer with many activities in Highlands.

This past Monday we honored all those veterans who have sacrificed their time and their lives that we may continue to be a great and free country. The freedom we so proudly have in our country means the freedom to work together so that all may benefit from the advantages of a free society, not just a privileged few. Sacrifices for the common good gives us all freedom. We are blessed in our country when we look at eighty percent of the world living in poverty and misery. We must keep that in mind as we appreciate what we have due to those sacrifices of many but always trying to work toward helping those both here and abroad who are less fortunate than we are. We must not be tempted to control these people abroad who we sometimes understand so poorly nor must we be selfish with the desire for unreasonable personal freedom to the detriment of the community.

The twelve counties of western North Carolina have been determined to be in a severe drought condition, and NC Governor Easley has directed state agencies in this area to stop non-essential water use. He is urging also state and local governments and the public to conserve water statewide. The lack of rainfall this spring is already having an impact on stream flow and ground water levels which makes it prudent to begin voluntary conservation measures in the event that the summer remains dry.

Memorial Day is typically when demand for water increases so the governor is urging voluntary limit to all non-essential uses of water. The following voluntary conservation measures have been recommended and I urge all citizens of our area to do their part. Take shorter showers, don’t leave water running unnecessarily, limit car washing and hose use. Water lawns early or late and not in the heat of day to prevent evaporation.

Macon County is rated as suffering a “severe drought” condition while three other nearby counties are experiencing “extreme hydrological drought,” which is the 4th of a five stage system.

Many reservoirs in the southern mountains are operating at below normal water levels. We are also very close to having a moratorium on burning trash on the Highlands plateau. I urge all citizens to proceed with extreme caution.

Last Saturday I attended the ground breaking of the new Fine Arts Center on Oak Street.

This $9 million facility will be one of the prides of Highlands and is due to open in 2008. There will be a covered bridge entering the property off the Franklin Road, a pottery studio and kiln barn at the site of the old Crane barn along with an 18,000 square foot main art center with studios, exhibition spaces and class rooms on the almost six acres of beautiful property. This will be a structure which brings many visitors to Highlands and will be a source of art education for all ages for our local people. We are all privileged to have this incredible art studio amongst us and congratulate both the board, the administration and the architects for the vision they have had in developing such a magnificent plan.

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Mayor Don Mullen
The question should have been small, even inconsequential. Choose the relatively easy hike to Sun Gate at Machu Picchu or select the more challenging climb to the top of Wayna Picchu.

Machu Picchu was the Old Mountain of ancient Incas. Wayna Picchu meant New Mountain. Our company-appointed escort had hinted that Wayna Picchu was a tougher task, but glancing around the room, I judged myself to be as fit as almost any of our party. When I asked Ernesto, our Peruvian guide, a single question, “If this was the only time in your life that you would be in this place, which hike would you choose?” I had intended only to ask only which hike was the lovelier, the more memorable, the more satisfying. His unexpected answer hit me like a sledge. “The answer would be easy for me, given my age and condition. There is no doubt that I would select Wayna Picchu. For you,” he said as he eyed me critically, “I think Sun Gate would be a better choice.”

I had asked and he had answered. Take the easy tour, old man, he had said. He had expanded his answer. One is a hike, the other a climb, with technical portions. He had added, “I don’t think that your escort should even have mentioned the option to this group, given your age and condition.” Nothing subtle about Ernesto, our personal Inca.

It is true that Ernesto, a keen observer and experienced mountain guide, had watched me hike and struggle for two days. Then I had been weakened by a severe case of Montezuma’s revenge, but now had recovered completely. Earlier in the day I had gazed across the valley and into the clouds to see climbers at the peak of Wayna Picchu, some 1,300 nearly vertical feet above us. I realized then that a climb to the summit was possible, at least for the bold. The mountain sat behind the ruins of Machu Picchu and looked like a loaf of French bread standing on end. Little sprinkles of hikers were barely visible at the top.

Perhaps I would be unable to join them. At dinner, I told Jim Stevens, who had already announced his intention to challenge Wayna Picchu, that Ernesto did not believe that I was capable of the climb. I said it in a louder voice than necessary, with bravado that I did not feel. Ernesto responded and modified his position ever so slightly. He believed that given enough time I could reach the summit, but feared that I would slow the climbing group so much that they and I would miss the last bus out of Machu Picchu, or cost the others the chance to reach the goal. If I wished to try, he would take me.

Over dinner, Tom White announced his intention to join Jim. “Henry is going, too,” Jim said. I answered that I had not yet decided and added dishonestly that it depended on what Bull and Lizzie wanted to do. I was hiding behind wife and son. I was buying time. I would have to carefully weigh the cost of failing to try against loss of failing to succeed. I would decide the following morning. I needed more time.

The night was a long one. Did I trust my strength and perseverance or would I defer to a guide who barely knew me, but who knew the mountain above and had watched me struggle below? I slept little.

The question had become a defining one. If I started the climb, would I cower and turn back at some windswept point over a sheer cliff with only a narrow path above me and humiliation below. Tom White had told the story of his first attempt to climb Half Dome at Yosemite. He had been young and fit, just out of college. But he had been paralyzed with fear and had turned back. He had finished the climb on his second try.

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Looking over the edge was not so terrifying, but I spent most of my time looking ahead, focused on the next step. After some time, our guide announced the half-way point. We stopped frequently, resting, and repaying our oxygen debt. Finally an Inca stone wall loomed ahead and I knew that the summit was near. A nearly vertical climb over stone steps, a brief trip through a tunnel in the rock, a scramble up a rickety wooden ladder, and we were there. The summit consisted of boulders resting in crazy and steep angles. There was little room for us and for the strangers whom we met there. We celebrated briefly, took pictures, and began our descent. On the trip back to the valley we encouraged those on the way up. I smiled as I remembered that we had been told that going down was easier than going up. I told Greg that anyone who believed that nonsense had had heard the labored breathing and seen the heaving chests of those who passed us as we descended.

We all made it to the top and we all returned safely to the ancient city below. Each of us felt a tremendous sense of accomplishment, although, in fact, the climb had not been that difficult. For each of us felt that the climb had been the high point, literally and figuratively of the two-week trip. The view of the ancient city below was spectacular, and more precious because of the effort taken to see it.

For me, believing in myself had been the tough part and succeeding the real reward. I suspect that it might have been the same for my companions. Ernesto neither congratulated me, nor admitted that he had underestimated me. It didn’t matter. We climbed on Wednesday. As I write this story on Sunday, the sense of accomplishment remains fresh. I smile easily as I recall the triumph, not so much of the mountain, but of my fears.
Believe or not, for the first seven decades of my life, I had an extremely optimistic outlook on today, tomorrow and the future in general. Perhaps I was just too busy to notice the generally declining state of the world. Now that I no longer have the urgency of the business of the day, I’m noticing more and more that perhaps the rose-colored glasses through which I viewed the goings-on blinded me from reality.

But enough about me. Personally, polls have never meant much, especially preceding an election. However, sometimes they come in handy. I keep on hearing job performance statistics concerning President Bush and, less frequently, on Congress, so I decided to check out the current readings. The results are interesting. Averaging the top polling organizations who do these things, President Bush has a job approval rating of 34.8%. Averaging the top seven which do Congress, the outcome is 34.7%. Who is doing the worse job, according to the people. Too close to call.

What has created the serious negativity among the electorate? There is no great mystery as to Bush’s unpopularity, right? It’s the WAR. Mostly. His lack of enthusiasm in closing our borders and his willingness to grant amnesty to the illegals doesn’t help his standing. Further, the perceived disdain shown for the U.S. by most of the world is not a plus. Plenty of reasons for dissatisfaction.

As for Congress, the reasons for their sinking fortune are numerous. In my earliest columns, I warned about the dismal outlook that would ensue if the election went the way it went. With the leadership and I use the term with tongue-in-cheek) of Ms. Pelosi and Harry Reid, the results are even worse that I had imagined.

Let’s analyze the Speaker’s performance to date. After she got over the “I was just elected Homecoming Queen (of the 8th grade)” phase she launched into her widely ballyhooed first 100 hours, which produced practically nothing other than “Wow, I’m the first woman Speaker ever and I’m dang proud of it.” So proud, she felt that the tiny margin of her party in the House gave her the mandate to take over the duties of the Secretary of State.

She visited several mid-east countries, concluding in Syria, fabricating Israeli diplomatic messages and generally demonstrating her ignorance. Incurred the wrath of the administration and right-thinking people, Pelosi’s gaffe brought an immense amount of cover from her party, reflecting the seriousness of her errors.

She has been strangely silent and out of the public eye since I knew there was a blessing in them somewhere.

Then there is Harry Reid. The man is pathetic. Aside from all the dubious relationships and past associations with Jack Abramoff, the Nevada Athletic Commission, profitable land schemes, misuse of campaign funds, my personal favorite is the Nevada Colorado bridge deal. Harry owns 160 acres of property in Arizona, just across the border from Nevada. In 2005, Harry put a pork project in a spending bill to fund the building of a bridge across the Colorado River that would route traffic near his otherwise seemingly worthless land. The man’s arrogance knows no bounds. His recent political screw-up is his statement that the war in Iraq has been lost. Again, party members rushed to his defense claiming he was misquoted (on tape), misunderstood (hard to do), misheard, misinterpreted. Again, he has been mostly quiet lately. We hope this blessing continues.

So, how is it that these two elements of our government are so unappreciated? The mystery to me is why the poll results are so close. Let’s face it, the Bush administration’s public relations effort has been dismal from the start. His original choice in press secretaries was misguided by loyalty, and while his choice of replacements was excellent, Snow’s been sick much of the time. The effort to communicate his message has been dismal and shows up in the polls.

On the other hand, not only do the Dems stick to their talking points long and loud, but also as we all know, they enjoy a wildly favorable media, while Bush suffers the opposite treatment. Their spin machine is in full gear and is very effective. Which brings us to the real point here.

Hasn’t the public discussion been reduced to name-calling, finger-pointing gotchas instead of working together to solve the immense problems facing our society.

The practice of government has turned into non-stop campaigning. I’m sick of it and evidently 65% of the populous are too.
Chamber of Commerce is misrepresenting Pine Street Park

Dear Editor,

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce has recently polled its members about Pine Street Park. The Pine Street Park Committee thinks the Chamber has unfairly simplified many issues into one question about parking.

The Chamber email asks: “Do you support the removal of parking on Pine Street for the Pine Street Park? Yes / No.” These are the only two options offered.

The Pine Street Park Committee in the May 7 public meeting outlined these options:

1. No closure, street improvement or parking loss;
2. Closing the east end of Pine Street only during events – temporary parking displacement of 31 spaces – create a hardscape plaza that would double as parking;
3. Permanently closing the east end of Pine Street – a permanent parking displacement of 31 spaces;
4. Closing the portion of Pine Street from 5th Street to the Oak Lane alley – 38 permanent parking space displacement;
5. Closing all of Pine Street – 50 permanent parking space displacement.

The Chamber does not address any of the advantages gained by the street closure – a green space in the middle of Highlands; a place for art, cultural, civic events in the heart of town; stormwater improvement, etc. – and the Chamber has not addressed the potential for the addition of parking in the immediate vicinity of Pine Street Park.

Highlands has a very traditional, pedestrian-oriented downtown, but is lacking a heart of a traditional town used for community gatherings. The Land Use Plan for the Town of Highlands includes such an area. Further, not just Highlands, but all the surrounding area would derive benefits from the park.

The Pine Street Park Committee believes that the parking in town is important and sincerely wishes to fully inform the Chamber members and others of all the relevant issues. We urge everyone interested in Pine Street Park (Chamber members included) to attend our second public meeting on June 7 at the Community Center (next to the ball park on Hwy 64) at 5:30 p.m.

Hilrie Quinn
Pine Street Park Committee

War, Peace and Memorials

Dear Editor,

I'm not big on Memorial Day, as I believe that belongs to each person and how they choose to reflect and honor the loss of their kindred. War is for the elite to unleash and the middle and lower class to “dutifully” fulfill the commander’s wishes. It becomes perpetual when it is used in the name of peace or religion. It has been this way for thousands of years. So for me this Memorial Day was full of learning and questioning.

I watched the movie “Troy” (the most recent one) based on the Iliad and the core of the conflict depicted was so much like today’s war waged. Myth or not, it sure looks like the usual battle Greed ($$), Resources ($$) and more land (more servitude/free labour $$) was its true purpose. (Yes, Mr. Swanson you are correct in one aspect, follow the money and you will understand why we love to wage war).

However, other viewpoints came up for me that have nothing to do with the military but “We the People” Ms. Brugger hit on part of it, but I will take the point to another level.

Here lie the other patriots who have few memorials: The dissenters. Our country was built on dissension from King George III and hammering out the Constitution was no picnic for some dissenting voices. By those voices however this nation created an...
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... FORUM continued from page 2

Do we have Imari? Oh, yes!

Commissioner Simpson entered the
original motion at the meeting to propose
the moratorium, but in his motion changed
our request from three stories to four sto-
ries (48 feet). When the county attorney
brought a simple two-paged draft ordinance
for review, Mr. Simpson delayed the pro-
cess further by asking that all residential
construction be excluded from the height
restriction. Claiming that he is “concerned
about the citizens of Highlands” where
“some homes on steep slopes have cathe-
dral ceilings that reach 100 feet.”

Commissioner Simpson stated that he
felt the 48-foot height limit will slow con-
struction in Highlands and on the steep
slopes elsewhere in Macon County. We feel
that Commissioner Simpson does not un-
derstand the original intent of the broad-
based citizens request to keep all buildings
below the tree line, nor the proposed height
measurement method.

Personally, I have not been able to find
a 100-foot high home (nine to ten stories)
in the Highlands area, even with some of
the largest residential buildings I can find. 
Perhaps you have and can inform me be-
fore we argue for a fixed limit.

There is a legitimate concern for new
homes being built on incredibly steep
slopes. The downhill foundation supports
& columns can, indeed, exceed 50-60 feet.
The question is, do the citizens of High-
lands and Macon County want this kind of
home to continue to be built on steeper
and steeper slopes, and then to put a four-
story residential structure on top of the 50-
60 foot foundation?

If you do, then you need to speak
FOR the draft ordinance as written. The
Macon County Chief Building Inspector
does favor this approach and believes it
is fair to all owners and developers. The re-
sult will be that a building on a flat site will
be limited to 48 feet above the top of found-
dation, whereas, one on a steep slope the
building will be 48 feet above the top of
the foundation with the full height de-
pending upon where the “top of the foun-
dation” is measured.

Recommendation:
My personal recommendation for your
consideration is that the fairest measure-
ment method for all parties (flat land or
steep slopes) is the following: change the
current wording of paragraph 158.06 of the
draft ordinance to read as follows:

“158.06 MAXIMUM HEIGHT:
The maximum building height on any
building, structure, or unit within the ju-
risdiction of Macon County shall not ex-
ceed 48 feet or four stories, whichever
is less. For the purposes of this section, build-
ing height shall mean the vertical distance
measured from the natural finished grade
elevation directly and immediately outside
the front door or primary entrance of the
building or structure. This vertical mea-
surement shall be made within a horizon-
tal distance of no more than 1 foot from
the primary entrance and shall include the
full extent of foundation and any other oc-
cupied or unoccupied space that is above
ground level at the measurement location.

The reason for the term “any other oc-
cupied or unoccupied space that is above
ground level...” is to prevent the developer
from claiming that a parking garage or stor-
age beneath the living quarters or occupied
space is part of “the foundation.”

Please plan to attend and speak up at
the public hearing on June 18 at 5 p.m. If
you also agree with the above recommen-
dation to change the current ordinance
wording, say so and please be as specific as
possible when you speak. Read the revised
wording if possible, so that the commis-
sioner are left with no wiggle room to mis-
derstand. If you prefer a different version,
please state your recommendations to the
commissioners.

Expect the developers and building
contractors to be out in force to speak
against the building height limit. We ci-
tizens can only be heard IF you come out and
also speak to the commissioners at the pub-
lic hearing.
Memorial Day has come and gone with little more than some local, poorly attended ceremonies at monuments to every war since the Civil War (aka the “War Between the States” or the “War of Northern Aggression,” depending upon your true southernness).

When I was young, we called it “Decoration Day.” Since my father died in 1942 when I was six years old and an only child, I visited the cemetery often. My mother and I helped put small American flags on the ever increasing number of graves that marked the fallen heroes of World War II. It didn’t take long after the war’s end for this to become a lost ritual of maintaining their graves, and it was my Sunday school’s mission to go and make it a day’s labor of love, placing the flags and having a short service.

Attendance was always excellent for children so young, but it was far from a feeling of great patriotism that brought us out on those hot days. The dedication was to the barbecue that followed back at the church: franks and hamburgers, potato salad and coleslaw, and the eagerly-anticipated arrival of the Good Humor Ice Cream truck. We could choose any flavor we wanted, as long as it was vanilla or chocolate! But the flags were on the graves of our heroes, and all was right with the world.

Wars and threats of war have come and gone since those Sunday school days of more than 60 years ago. Patriotism has ebbed and flowed with each new conflict. Sadly, when it comes to the flag, there seems to be more ebb than flow.

Memorial Day is a day off, an excuse to start up the grill, go fishing, or sit under a tree with the family, but no flag will be in sight unless you’re near a public building or some other official place.

Here’s a silly question, but one which needs to be asked. Do we remember September 11? The World Trade Center? The Pentagon? That hallowed field in Pennsylvania?

As a chaplain for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I was on call for that disaster just four hours after it happened. In the days that followed, something amazing happened. The trip from South Florida to F.B.I. headquarters in Quantico, VA, became what seemed to be a planting ground for our American flag. Few cars passed without having a flag tied to their antenna. Pick-up trucks had full-size flags flowing from their sides. Magnetic flags were stuck to every conceivable mode of transportation, from three-wheel bikes to golf carts.

Where are the flags?

---

**Blue Valley Baptist Church**  
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7  
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting - 7 p.m.

**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

**Chisholm's Assembly of God**  
Saxth Street  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Wednesdays: Worship & Bible Study - 7

**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.  
(Highlands Community 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 Lunch last Sunday of each month.

**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. Highlands Women’s Study  
Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Students’ Dinner (free for kids in 8th grade and younger);  
5:30 p.m. Supper; 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 pm Small Groups for kids Pre-K through 8th; 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm Adult Bible Study  
6pm-7pm Choir Practice  
• Small Groups are offered for all ages throughout the week, see our website or call for more info.

**Episcopal Church of the Incarnation**  
Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968  
Monday, May 7: 4 PM. - Women’s Cursillo Group  
Tuesday, May 8: 8 AM. - Men’s Cursillo Group; 9:30 A.M.-Staff Meeting; 4:30 PM.-EFM Meeting  
Wednesday, May 9: 4 PM.-Vestry Meeting; 5:30 PM.-Dinner; 6 PM. - Program; 6:30 PM.-Choir Practice  
Thursday, May 10: 10 AM.-Holy Eucharist in Chapel; 10:30 A.M.-Daughters of the King  
Sunday, May 13: HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY  
8 AM.-Holy Eucharist (Rite II) Chapel; 8:30 AM.-Breakfast; 9 AM.-Sunday School; 9:45 A.M.-Choir Practice; 10:30 A.M.-Holy Eucharist (Rite II); 5 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. Mark Schultz, Pastor • 828-589-7977  
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m. (nursery provided)  
Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.

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

**First Presbyterian Church**  
Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175  
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. School – 9:30 & 9:45  
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men’s Bible Discussion & Breakfast  
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers  
Wednesdays: Prayer – noon; Choir – 7

**Highlands United Methodist Church**  
Rev. John Halkin, Pastor  
www.highlandsmethodist.com  
128 E. 4th Street  
Sundays: Worship – 10 a.m.; 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 Dillard Road – 526-9741  
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

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

**Mountain Synagogue**  
St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871  
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.  
For more information, call (706) 745-1842.

**Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church**  
Rev. Tien, Priest  
Parish office, 526-2418  
Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

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

**Scaly Mountain Church of God**  
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Szemore  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

**Whiteside Presbyterian Church**  
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122  
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Summary of Combined May 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, May 17.

The May meeting of the board took place a week earlier than usual, following a one-day planning retreat held at The Mountain Retreat and Conference Center in Highlands. During the morning session, board members heard an overview of current national trends in health care from nationally-recognized consultant Nathan Kaufman of Kaufman Advisors, LLC, of San Diego, CA. Kaufman was hired by the board this past spring to help update the hospital’s strategic plan. Sandwiched in between the retreat sessions and the actual board meeting was a joint Finance Committee meeting.

• During the finance session, hospital CFO Mike Daiken told board members that hospital utilization, which has been on the upswing, was up in April. The average daily census at the hospital more than doubled over the previous April, up from 4.8 to 9.93 patients per day. The number of radiology procedures performed increased 20 percent as well, and respiratory services nearly doubled. Laboratory procedures were also higher. While monthly bottom line figures comparing this April to last year were skewed by large adjustment in Medicare reimbursements under the critical access system, Daiken said hospital operations are ahead of budget projections for the year by more than $200,000.

• At the actual board meeting, directors heard several updates, including on the progress of installing a new nuclear medicine camera. The good news is that both the bids for the equipment itself and the necessary remodeling came in under projections. The state’s Division of Facility Services is currently reviewing the construction designs. Those designs and specifications must be approved before the project can begin. In the meantime, the hospital continues to utilize the services of a mobile nuclear scanning unit. The hospital wants to install its own equipment, not only because it will be more convenient for area patients, but also because it will generate more revenue directly to the hospital.

• Board members also discussed plans for a new medical office building in Cashiers to be located on a portion of the old Oakmont Lodge property. An architect has been developing preliminary plans for a 23,300 square-foot building, but the project has not been given the go ahead yet.

• CEO Ken Shull reported that the new cardiac monitoring system for the emergency department and the acute hospital has been ordered from the manufacturer and is expected to be installed and operational by the end of June. The hospital is spending $161,000 to replace its existing monitoring system that has reached the effective end of its life.

• Shull gave the board a full rundown on recent efforts to recruit a general surgeon. The hospital has looked at 17 different candidates over the past 30 days, he said. Some were clearly not the right fit for a small hospital in a resort area. Others were not pursued because of poor malpractice records or other background issues. Shull said six candidates are still under serious consideration and the search to identify other prospects is continuing. Finding a general surgeon continues to be the top physician recruiting priority.

• The board also heard about recent activities to honor hospital employees during National Hospital Week earlier this month, which included special lunches, an ice cream social, a luncheon recognizing those employees who reached milestones, and a number of other fun events.

Relay for Life 2007 Kick-off June 3 at Drake’s Diamond Gallery

The American Cancer Society is proud to announce the Relay for Life Kick off for the Mountain Top Communities on June 3, 2007 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The event will be held in the Courtyard of Drake’s Diamond Gallery located at 152 South Second Street in Highlands.

Food and Wine will be provided by Nick’s Find Foods, Oak Street Cafe, Ristomate Paoletti and the Sportspace. Music provided by Hot Acts.

“We are very proud of our volunteers in Cashiers, Glenville Highlands, Sylva and Sapphire Valley,” said Curt Crowhurst, Asheville Area Manager for the American Cancer Society. “Everyone worked extremely hard to make this Relay For Life event successful, and these high national rankings are proof that their work continues to pay off. This was the sixth year in a row that Mountain Top was ranked #1.”

Last year $246,350 was raised; 80 survivors participated; there were 40 team captains and a 12 event committees and 230 participants. The goal for this year: $220,000 and the goal for Kickoff Party — to engage as many people as the possible for Relay.

Relay For Life is a fun-filled, overnight event that mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate survivors, remember loved ones and raise money for the fight against cancer. Teams of eight to 15 members gather with tents and sleeping bags to participate in the largest fundraising walk in the nation.

“The funds raised through our Relay For Life events enable us to continue our investment in the fight against cancer through research, education, advocacy and patient services,” Crowhurst added. “Thanks to the generosity of our volunteers and donors, the money raised by Relay For Life participants goes directly to the American Cancer Society’s life-saving programs.”

The Mountain Top community has embraced the idea of volunteerism and of donations and have taken the torch to new heights. The small communities of Highlands, Cashiers and surrounding areas and Franklin have been designated as #1 per capita in the nation for the past six years raising over $1,000,000. This year the group will attempt to hold that honor once again. The Relay For Life Kick Off is Sunday, June 3rd at Drake’s Diamond Gallery on South Second Street between 2:30-5:30 p.m. Drop in for an afternoon of refreshments and entertainment. For more information please call 526-5858. Imagine... There is no cancer.

The Mountain Top Relay For Life 2007 will be held at the Highlands Recreation Center on Friday, Aug. 24 starting with the Survivor Lap at 6 p.m. through Saturday, Aug. 25, 8 a.m.

• See DEALING WITH BEAST part 2 pg 16
**Bring on the poison, bring on the cure**

By Nancy Welch

Chemotherapy. The very word frightened me. The first serious mention I heard of it was from my newest doctor, an oncologist, in the dark of a hospital room. He sat by my bedside, his white coat reflecting the shadows cast by the television which hung on a nearby wall.

I wondered later why chemo scared me more than the word cancer. I suppose, looking back, I had learned to live with the many symptoms of my disease. I wasn’t slowed down. My life continued. I think I was in denial. But chemo, I knew, would take its toll and I would not be able to deny that.

All my life I had heard and read of the side effects of having poison pumped into one’s veins for the purpose of curing or controlling cancer. On one hand, I was glad the doctor hadn’t said, “There’s no hope. Go home and die. We’ll try to keep you comfortable.”

Still, it all sounded so awful.

My doctor didn’t mention any of the possible side effects. Instead, he set up an appointment for me to see him and discuss my treatment. Discuss. Hmmm. What discussion? What say could I have? Perhaps I should have chosen medical school instead of art school.

The doctor’s office was less than threatening. As a matter of fact, the doc scared me more than the large empty chairs in a nearby empty room. He was SO serious. I wanted to hear a joke. I wanted to hear that I was going to be fine without chemo. No chance.

He quietly told me what pharmaceuticals he would be using in my particular case. He didn’t tell me how many weeks I would be in treatment. I had already a list of my own fears and that was pretty bad. I really wasn’t ready for too much information.

He gave me a prescription for nausea pills. I happened while they dozed.

The doctor’s office was less than threatening. As a matter of fact, the doc scared me more than the large empty chairs in a nearby empty room. He was SO serious. I wanted to hear a joke. I wanted to hear that I was going to be fine without chemo. No chance.

He quietly told me what pharmaceuticals he would be using in my particular case. He didn’t tell me how many weeks I would be in treatment. I had already a list of my own fears and that was pretty bad. I really wasn’t ready for too much information.

My first trip to the “chemo cave,” as I now call it, was not too eventful. The cave was a large, bright room. There were a number of comfortable recliners, each flanked by an IV pump, used to administer the drugs. The wall across from the chairs was one-third plate glass windows. The view was spectacular...mountains, sky, trees. It was calming. A nurse escorted me to a chair, administered an IV and the treatment began. I was sleepy, but not about to sleep.

Who knew what would happen if I wasn’t aware of what was happening? I sat there for two hours, bags of liquid dripping into my IV? From time to time the pump would beep and a very kind nurse would switch bags of poison.

So far, so good. Around me other patients slept, unperturbed by what might happen while they dozed.

At the end of my treatment, the doctor gave me a prescription for nausea pills.

*See DEALING page 17*
had chemo on Thursday and felt tired, but
fine — until Sunday. Then I needed the
pills. To my surprise, they worked. I slept
most of the day, but I was comfortable. I
kept waiting for the awful nausea I had
heard so much about. By Monday, I was
tired, but felt fine. Maybe I could do this
after all.

I was two weeks into my treatments. I
woke up one morning and took a shower.
I then blew my hair dry and applied my
makeup. When I turned around, I saw the
tiles on the wall were plastered with hair. I
was surprised at my reaction. I laughed. So
much for the emotion and drama portrayed
in movies and on television. It was just hair
and now I had to clean the stupid bath-
room wall. A woman’s work is never done.

I eventually had my head shaved. Got tired
of cleaning that wall. I looked forward to
I had tried a wig. It looked just like my hair and I
never had curls. Everyone tells you when you have chemo, you
will grow curls. Hah! Not me. Skip ahead a
bit. I grew straight SILVER hair!!! Just my
luck.

Now, on with the hair loss. Friends gave
me a wig. It looked just like my hair and I
felt quite complete. Even better, I didn’t have
to pluck my eyebrows or shave my legs. I
did miss my eyelashes, though. I had tried
fake eyelashes in college. Hated them. For-
got them. Somehow I always missed with the
glue and ended up with fringes hanging just
below my eyebrows. Estee Lauder only
wants me as a customer ... and I need lots
of training.

“Chemo brain” was the worst side ef-
fect. Suddenly, not only could I not write,
which had been my career; but I couldn’t
even properly execute my signature. Years
of training in penmanship (the Palmer
method) down the drain. I forgot things,
names and even where I was headed when
I left the house. Some would say old age.

Nope, this was different. I couldn’t even
read a book or magazine and found this
very frustrating. After all, I had made a liv-
ing using words, sentences and paragraphs.
I would stare at the many writing awards
on my wall. I could no longer even read
them.

The doc told me this was normal. I
found that hard to digest and I wouldn’t
leave him alone about this particular side
effect. When I continued to complain that
I couldn’t write, he said, “Go home and
practice.” I did. It worked. Or I think it did.

At least I can type and use spell check. I’m
not sure I get my ideas across so well. But I
will continue to practice. I hope you will
give me a chance and continue to read my
efforts.

Then my feet and hands began to hurt.
“Neuropathy,” the doc said. Nothing
seemed too abnormal to him. He said the
cure could hurt worse than the pain. I gave
in and decided to deal with it. I had several
nights of discomfort, but I managed. That
was the important lesson of chemo. I could
manage. So many do.

So, now I had an excuse. Any problem
must be caused by chemo. Hangnail? Chemo,
no doubt. Oh yes, there was the
nausea, but I suffered through it. Fever blis-
ter? Must be that last chemo treatment.
Sleepless nights? Chemo. Seems that was
true. Last week I asked my fellow chemo
crew members what side effects they had
felt. All complained of sleeplessness. Do you
know how many times HGTV shows the
same shows on one night? Did you know
they go off the air at 4 a.m.? Hey, you’re
never too old to learn.

So, the journey continues. I head for
the chemo cave tomorrow. Yuck. But, you
do what you gotta do!

... DEALING continued from page 16
OLD CLAYTON INN

Why do so many Highlands people drive down the mountain to the Old Clayton Inn for dinner Friday and Saturday evenings? For a great country Prime Rib buffet dinner with everything from soup to ice cream, and to hear Angie Jenkins play wonderful piano, $15.95, with Karaoke later on Saturday. And they also come for our special Sunday Buffet and Carvery on Sundays 11 to 2 p.m. with all the trimmings, $11.50.

Why don’t you come too?

Hope to see you soon
30 guest rooms with free hot breakfast and wireless Internet.
706-782-7722 or
www.oldclaytoninn.com for info.

HS students honored at annual Academic Award Ceremony

This year’s banquet, sponsored by Highlands Rotary, was held at the Performing Arts Center. About 74 students in grades 4-12 were recognized for being on the A or A-B Honor Roll all year. Also recognized were the three superintendent representatives from the elementary, middle and high school. They were Emily Gabbard from the elementary school, Marlee McCall from the middle school and Michael Grabe from the high school. Bitsey Calloway was the honored speaker. Principal Brian Jetter, Episcopal minister Reverand Brian Sullivan and Rotary President Brian McClellan were in attendance as were parents and family.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 13

Shopping mall parking lots looked like Arlington National Cemetery. Flags of every size flew everywhere. We blew our car horns at each other and waved and pointed to the flags on our cars. What happened to the flag since then has been a steady decline of exposure. The flag factories that worked around the clock are now down to normal shifts and less frantic production.

What has our nation done to deserve such a lack of attention to Old Glory? We still place it on the casket of a fallen hero, fold it with much ceremony at the graveside, and present it with great emotion to the family member, but is that all there is left of our feelings? I asked the question, “Where have all the flags gone?” to a number of people in the last week; each had a different answer. Some were as simple as, “We lost our pride,” to, “I don’t fly it because I want to be politically correct.” Shame on everyone of them. They were part of the crowd that filled every church in this nation the Sunday after 9/11 and prayed for God and country. Sadly, the latter has gone the way of the former. No time for God, and now no time for country.

My challenge to you who read my column is this: Regain your pride in your country’s flag. Start to fly your nation’s banner this week. Let’s make this once again the land of the free and the home of the brave and be proud of our grand old flag.
... LETTERS continued from page 11

unprecedented balanced system of
governing for its time. It would evolve as
more dissenting voices saw some flaws.
Throughout history we often don’t
recognize those who also endured torture,
jail time, death threats and death itself. The
ordinary people that stood in defiance of
the status quo of the time and paid a very
high price. I don’t mean just the African
Americans; I refer to women and men of
all backgrounds, Chinese, Japanese, and
most assuredly Native Americans. I could
not as a woman even begin to write this
without the suffrage movement and the
many women who worked in the factories
and formed “reading circles” to fight for
their rights and gain knowledge.
Chief Joseph from the Nez Pierz tribe
after many attempts of compromise with
the government then said, “Good words
(promises) do not pay for my people”
{Howard Zinn, “Voices of a Peoples
History.”} He was tired of the white man’s
war and occupation, filled with broken
promises. He was an unsung hero.
“Patriotism is the last resort of
scoundrels,” says Mark Twain, one of our
true heroes, who in humour, understood
that dissent was the founding of our nation.
The millions of “unknown soldiers”
(citizens) who walk in peace marches to
protest a nation gone awry, whether it is in
Mexico, India, France, or here in the U.S.,
are to be honored too. In my opinion, every
war has a cause ($$), but every dissenter
protects our liberty.

Macon County tax
goldmine,
Highlands

Dear Editor,
When I received my real property as-
sement, I was shocked at the 280% in-
crease from four years ago. I was certain that
the millage rate would come down and de-
crease my taxes slightly. WRONG. My taxes
for 2007 will increase by 88% – assessed
value times .00245 equals the taxes.

County Manager Sam Greenwood
seems to be making dire predictions on loss
of funding sources from the state. That may
or may not come true. In the meantime
with the increased tax rate Macon County
will be awash with new tax revenue mainly
from the Highlands Township. The mill-
age rate must be cut further.

Jerome Ingate
Highlands

... ACCIDENT from pg 1

Hospital unharmed, it does bring issues to
the forefront.

“With an increasing volume of people
on foot and vehicular traffic, everyone must
be very cognitive of their surroundings,”
said Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell.
“People must keep their eyes wide open and
use good common sense as well as the
Golden Rule and yield the right-of-way.”

State law mandates that motorists yield
the right-of-way to pedestrians in cross-
walks. Harrell said if a motorist hits or hurts
a pedestrian whether legally in a crosswalk
or even if a pedestrian darts into traffic as
people often do mid-block on Main Street,
the motorist is still responsible.

“If someone is injured or killed by a
motorist, the motorist can be charged with
assault with a deadly weapon or with ve-
hicular manslaughter,” he said.

The motorist who hit the stroller was
cited for “failing to yield the right-of-way
to a pedestrian in a crosswalk when the
crosswalk was clearly marked as such.”

Mayor Don Mullen said he drives
through the intersection of Main and 3rd
streets almost everyday and considers it
dangerous.

“Because of lack of visibility coming
onto Main Street from 3rd Street from ei-
ther direction, one has to edge into Main
to see in both directions. The accident there
this past weekend was unfortunate and oth-
ers in the future must be avoided,” he said.

Mullen said a possible solution would
be to put a traffic light at the intersection.
“I will recommend that we study this care-
fully over the next few months and decide
if a traffic light is necessary,” he said.
Middle School science students gather in the butterfly garden in front of the school for the butterfly release.

**HS science class preps school butterfly garden for new arrivals**

At 2:05 p.m. on April 24, Mr. Gene Borino and his 6th grade science students came to the butterfly garden in front of the school.

By 2:25 p.m., the students had distributed 225 bags of mulch around the garden.

"Mulch helps keep the soil moist," explained Lindsey Wagner, 6th grade science student. "During times of no rain, that's especially important for root development." Mr. Borino's students also deadheaded the pansies, learning that pansies can withstand colder temperatures than most flowers and that pinching back dead blooms encourages pansies to make more flowers instead of making seeds. The students also removed daylily leaves killed by subfreezing temperatures in mid-April.

Fourteen members of the Mountain Garden Club were on hand to assist. David Sims, owner of Highlands Lawn & Garden, provided the mulch at a generous discount.

"The kids did a super job," said Dr. Becky Schilling of the Mountain Garden Club. "Thanks to them, the garden is in good shape for the butterflies they're raising in their classroom."

Each spring the Mountain Garden Club buys painted lady butterfly larvae (caterpillars) for the 6th grade science students at Highlands School. Students get to watch the larvae feed, grow, form chrysalises, and emerge as adult butterflies. The process takes 14 to 20 days. Students then release the adult butterflies in the butterfly garden.

As Schilling showed the students, mulching the areas around the butterfly garden helps control weeds. "With fewer weeds, there will be fewer weed seeds blowing into the garden," she said.

The butterfly garden at Highlands School is an ongoing project of the Mountain Garden Club.

"Money from the Mountain Garden Club plant sale pays for everything we do in and around this garden," Schilling explained. "In April alone we've spent over $800 on the garden and materials for students."

The 25th annual Mountain Garden Club plant sale will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 26, at the baseball park on the corner of Highway 64 East (North 4th Street) and Hickory Street, Highlunds, NC.

Proceeds from the plant sale also support the Wertzler Memorial Garden at Town Hall and scholarships for college-level studies of horticulture or related fields.
Village Square Art Show colorful affair

The second annual Village Square Arts & Crafts Show was full of craftsmen, artists and visitors to Highlands over the Memorial Day weekend. Photo and watercolor effects by Jim Lewicki

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Three authors sign at Cyrano’s on Saturday, June 2

On Saturday morning and afternoon June 2, Cyrano’s Bookshop will host three authors as they sign copies of their books. “I Heard It On the Mountain (Think I’ll Tell It)” by Toni Myers (autographing from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.) is an inspirational work that combines original poetry and philosophical meditations with scripture and quotations. James T. Costa’s “The Other Insect Societies” examines the social organization of beetles, caterpillars and spiders, and Brad Sanders’s “Guideto William Bartram’s Travels: Following the Trail of America’s First Great Naturalist” provides a thorough background and itinerary for the Quaker botanist who explored the southeast—including the Highlands area—in the 1770s. Both Mr. Costa and Mr. Sanders will sign their books from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Toni (Antoinette) Myers and her husband Happy are long-time Highlands seasonal residents from Mobile, Ala. Toni’s new book “I Heard It On the Mountain (Think I’ll Tell It)” is full of her hard-won but gently imparted advice on faith, adversity and seeing the best in others. Mixed in with her light, teaching couplets are some very funny anecdotes reminiscent of Gayden Metcalfe’s “Being Dead is No Excuse.”

For instance, there is the story of Jane Harris, who used her diagnosis of terminal cancer to finally set a friend straight about that white slip showing every time she knelt at the communion rail of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Montgomery. Jane phoned to say she was leaving her dark-colored slips to her in her will. In another section, Toni realizes how lucky she is to have a refuge in Highlands—which complete with generator—after Hurricane Katrina had done so much damage along the Gulf coast. But, generator aside, are we really ready for whatever God might send our way? If today is our last, are we “good to go” at any given moment? As Hebrews 11:16 has it, “Let not your heart be troubled.”

Come meet the warm and gregarious Toni on Saturday morning, June 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Whether your property is on top of a cliff or lakeside, we have the experience to make your home a reality.

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or visit our website at:
www.schmittbuilders.com

Three authors sign at Cyrano’s on Saturday, June 2
**Upcoming Events**

- Yoga Classes at the Rec Park. Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. Bring your mat. $7 per person or class or $30 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, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1171.
- A Grief Support Group is held every Friday from 10-12 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for anyone who has lost a loved one through death or is dealing with a progressive illness with a loved one. If interested in attending, please contact Helen Moore (Hospice) 526-0727 or Martha Porter ( Chaplain at HCH) at 787-1463.

**Every Saturday**
- Live music at Fressers in Helen’s Barn with Cy Timmons 6 p.m. until.
- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. $10 cover.
- Children’s classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery – cost is $5 per student. Mondays: For home-schoolers, classes are from 1-3 p.m. For 2nd to 5th graders, classes are from 3:15-4:15 p.m. Tuesdays: classes for pre-school are 11-11:30 a.m.; for kindergarten 1st grade, classes are 3:15-4:15 p.m. and for young adult independent study, classes are from 1-2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays classes are for middle school students from 3:15-4:15 p.m.

**First Mondays**
- More information and participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

**Every Monday**
- Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. $3 per person.

**Every Tuesday**
- Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.
- Open Studio Night Figure Drawing Informal instruction available for beginners. Bring your sketch pad or photo for a less fors challenging session of figure drawing/painting. Cost is $12, $10 for “Friends” of the Gallery.

**Every Wednesday**
- Wednesday Noon Prayers noon at First Presbyterian Church. A brief session of 20-30 minutes, led by Don Mullen, for reading of scripture, silence, meditation, prayer and communion in the sanctuary. Amid-week 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 Chautauquas” which are media enhanced study sessions at the UU Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A $5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

**Tuesdays and Thursdays**
- Classical Yoga Beginner Level Class 8:15-9:30 a.m. 464 Carolina Way. Other classes available. Mats and blankets provided. $14 per single/$12 package rate.

**Thursday, May 31**
- 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.
- Thomas Rain Crowe (Author, Southern Environmental Law Center’s Philip Reed Book of the Year Award 2006) “My Life in the Appalachian Woods: A Modern Day Walden” as part of the Zahner Lecture Series.
- Zahner Conservation Lectures 2007, 7 p.m. at The Highlands Nature Center: 930 Horse Cove Road. A reception will follow this lecture My Life in the Appalachian Highlands: A Modern Day Walden. Thomas Rain Crowe (Author, Southern Environmental Law Center’s Philip Reed Book of the Year Award 2006).

**Friday & Saturday, June 1 & 2**
- “The Life and Times of William Bartram” at the Highlands Biological Station and High Hampton Inn, in Cashiers. For more information about the Bartram Symposium call the Cashiers Historical Society at 828-743-7711.
- The Appalachian High Folk Concert Series kicks off its second season on Saturday with Cosy Sheridan who has been described as “one of the era’s finest and most thoughtful singer/songwriters.” Cosy will also be teaching a two-day song-writing workshop Cost of the workshop is only $50. Both concert and workshop take place at the Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main located at 310 Main Street. Concert Tickets are $25 and reservations are strongly suggested. Call 828-342-9197 for reservations and information.

**Friday, June 1**
- Highlands Duplicate Bridge at the Civic Center, 1 p.m. Call Duane or Marge Meeter 787-2174 for more info.
- At Cypress Restaurant, Zorki playing acoustic favorites beginning at 9:30 p.m. $10 cover.
- Three book signings at Cyrano’s Book Shop on Main Street, “I Heard It On the Mountain (Think I’ll Tell It)” by Toni Myers from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; James T. Costas’s “The Other Insect Societies” and Brad Sanders’ “Guide to William Bartram’s Travels: Following the Trail of America’s First Naturalist” from 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- Appalachian High kicks off its concert series this Saturday with Cosy Sheridan at the Instant Theatre Co. Studio on Main in Highlands. Tickets are $25 and reservations are strongly suggested. For more information or reservations call 828-920-3928.

**Saturday, June 2**
- Appalachian High kicks off its concert series this Saturday with Cosy Sheridan at the Instant Theatre Co. Studio on Main in Highlands. Tickets are $25 and reservations are strongly suggested. For more information or reservations call 828-920-3928.

**Sunday, June 3**
- Appalachian High kicks off its concert series this Saturday with Cosy Sheridan at the Instant Theatre Co. Studio on Main in Highlands. Tickets are $25 and reservations are strongly suggested. For more information or reservations call 828-920-3928.

- At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, we will be offering a 2-mile hike on the Jack Rabbit Mountain trail at Lake Chatuge in GA. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. The car pool will drive 50 miles round trip. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leader Kay Correll, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- “The Other Insect Societies” presented by James Costa of the Highlands Biological Station. At the Performing Arts Center, from 10 a.m. to noon. $20 for members, $20 for non-members. Call 526-8811.

- “The Life and Times of William Bartram” at the Highlands Biological Station and High Hampton Inn, in Cashiers. For more information about the Bartram Symposium call the Cashiers Historical Society at 828-743-7711.
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**Saturday at ITC**

Appalachian High kicks off its concert series this Saturday, June 2 with Cosy Sheridan at the Instant Theatre Co. Studio on Main in Highlands. Sheridan and her wryly insightful songs have been shown cased every-where from Carnegie Hall to The Dr Demento Show. She has been called “one of the era's finest and most thoughtful singer/songwriters.” Tickets are $25 and reservations are strongly suggested. For more information about the show or for reservations call 828-342-9197. Cosy is also presenting a songwriting workshop on Friday evening and Saturday day before her concert.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Three book signings at Cyanro’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 p.m. it’s James Costa “The Other Insect Societies” & Brad Sanders “Guide to William Bartram’s Travels.” and from James Costa “The Other Insect Societies” & Brad Sanders “Guide to William Bartram’s Travels.” and from
- Smoky Mountain Beekeepers will hold an advanced beekeeping school from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring Robin Mountain, president of the Kentucky Beekeepers Association. Basic bee biology and queen rearing will be covered, and the session will include a hands-on grafting session in the main gymnasium at SCC’s Swain County Center, 60 Almond Road, off U.S. 19/74 west of Bryson City. Lunch will be provided. The charge is $10, payable by cash or check. Call the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service by noon on June 14 at 586-4009 or go to the website.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will offer two hikes on the Georgia Bartram Trail near Clayton GA. The first hike is a moderate 4-miles to Martin Creek Falls. The second hike, for those who wish to continue, is an 8-mile strenuous hike, with a side trail up Pinnacle Mountain for an outstanding view, with an elevation change of 1800 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m. or call leader for an alternate meeting place. Drive 3 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 8-mile hike to Windy Falls on the Horsepasture River, an awesome, rarely visited waterfall, with the option of exploring a small cave, 40 – 50 feet long, near the falls. The elevation change is 600-700 feet; parts of the trail are rough and unmaintained, definitely not for those with health problems. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:30 a.m. Drive 3 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles at 828-4904, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets.
- The Nantahala Hiking will take a strenuous 8-9 mile hike to Windy Falls on the Horsepasture River, an awesome, rarely visited waterfall, with the option of exploring a small cave, 40 – 50 feet long, near the falls. The elevation change is 600-700 feet; parts of the trail are rough and unmaintained, definitely not for those with health problems. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:30 a.m. Drive 3 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles at 704-1079, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6-mile hike to the lower falls of Mid-dicreek. Hikers should bring along shoes (and a small towel) to wade across the creek. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the first overlook on GA highway 246, about 5 miles coming up from Dillard toward Highlands. Drive 3-miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4504, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.
- An Innocent Consequence*, a virtual journey to Africa with Beth Moore as she shares her visit to the Orphans of Kenya. Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church, North Fifth Street, Highlands. If you like, bring a dish to share at 5:30 p.m. Slide presentation begins at 6:15 p.m.
- Owl Prowl at the Highlands Nature Center. 7:30 p.m. all ages. In collaboration with the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Come to our amphitheater for a presentation by the Carolina Raptor Center featuring live owls, then stay for a night hike to look for owls in the wild. Bring your flashlight, Free, but contributions to CRC are appreciated. Call 526-2623.
- Shrek 3 playing June 1-7 (New Extended Hours)

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**SHREK 3 rated PG**

Mon - Fri: (4), 5, 7, 9
Sat & Sun: (1), (2), (4), 5, 7, 8

**PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD’S END**

rated PG-13

Mon - Fri: (4), 5, 7, 8
Sat & Sun: (1), (2), (4), 5, 7, 8

**SPIDER-MAN 3**

rated PG-13

Mon - Fri: (4), 6, 30, 9
Sat & Sun: (1), (3), (4), 6, 30, 9
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED –
Stephen L. Lucas CPA, PA has an opening for an Administrative Assistant to support our growing public accounting and business consulting practice based in Highlands, N.C. Position responsibilities would include receptorist and secretarial duties. Qualified person would have good people skills, practical computer experience including Microsoft Word, Excel, Microsoft Outlook. For more information and to schedule an interview, please call 828-526-2399 or send an email to: P.O. Box 1357, Highlands, NC, 28741, bob.starkey@lucaspca.com

WE ARE CURRENTLY HIRING FOR A PART-TIME TELLER AT OUR HIGHLANDS OFFICE! – A high school diploma or GED is required, in addition to a minimum of 6 months of experience in a Teller or other cash handling, sales position. Candidates must have effective written and verbal communication skills, good computer skills, and a friendly, courteous and professional demeanor. First Citizens Bank offers excellent salaries and a comprehensive benefits program. Apply online at: www.firstcitizens.com/careers. Refer to the Job ID # when applying. EOE/AA

THE PRECINCT OWNERS’ ASSOCIATION OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY CLUB is looking for a utility/handyman to assist in maintaining the roads including culvert cleaning, weed-eating, and trash removal. General handyman skills are also required for minor home repairs. Seasonal/ part-time position with flexible hours. Great for semi-retired person. Call Sylvia at 526-8286 to schedule an interview.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FOREMAN – for Highlands area company. Duties include overseeing and maintenance for high-end properties. Chance to grow with company including bonuses and retirement. (828) 526-9593.

LOCAL FINE DINING RESTAURANT seeks full time prepline, prep cook and full time food runner. Excellent work environment, Competitive wages and benefits. To apply, call Andrew or Marlene at 828-526-0354.

NICK’S RESTAURANT – Now open at new location on Main Street, Waking applications for wait-staff lunch and dinner. Also lunch line cooks. Experience only. Call 526-2706.

SOCIAL WORKER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER – Full-time position, various days.

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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 cell 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.

**HILTI TE 805 DEMOLITION HAMMER** – New. Case & 4 bits. $500. 828-526-2700 or 828-421-7886

**1958 ALBATO ROSETRAILER WITH COVER AND PORCH** – Maple interior. Good condition. $1,000. Can be seen on a Carolina Court. 526-5939.

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


**HEAVY BRASS ELECTRIC FIXTURE HINGE** – 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 windows on top. 3 drawers on bottom. 2 bottom doors with keys. Imported from Belgium. Excellent condition. $1,500. Call 369-3250.

**VEHICLES FOR SALE**


1999 **CAMARO** – New tires, low mileage, 5-speed, 6-cylinder, excellent condition. Call 828-369-3619.


**ANTIQUE 1926 MODEL T FORD TOURING CAR** – Fully restored. Needs a new starter. Selling for health reasons. $15,000 but will discount cost of starter and ignition work. Great car and lots of fun. Call Horace Duncan at 526-3760.


**SERVICES**

**NEED YOUR HOME CLEANED?** Call Charlotte at Letson Enterprise for a free estimate. 828-369-9127 or Bill at 828-421-0971.

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY – THE REAL ESTATE BOOK** – North America’s largest and most successful “Homes For Sale” magazine, is offering the chance to be an Independent Distributor of the Cashiers-Highlands area. This market meets the criteria of our 400 successful territories. Comprehensive training, on-going support help ensure success. Candidate should possess strong sales skills, customer support and follow-up. No franchise fees or royalties. Initial startup and working capital required. Contact Tar Truitt at 770-962-7220, ext. 24608 or email truitt@trcb.com for more information.

**PERSONAL COMPANION/CAREGIVER** – Whatever your needs may be we can help. References available (828)421-5940,(828) 399-1749.

**PERSONAL CARGTAKER** – Run errands, clean house, buy groceries, Transport to appointments. References available. Call Cheryl 828-421-6665.

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


**YARD WORK & PRESSURE WASHING** – Yard and property maintenance. Pressure Washing and odd jobs. Call Bruce at 828-369-3168 or 828 371-2766. 8119

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

**SCOTT’S 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.

**C&C CONTRACTING – WE GET IT DONE — SMALL OR LARGE** – Remodeling, decks, doors, windows or the whole house! Call Art Dougherty 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.

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**Timeless Timber Frame Co.**

is taking orders for vintage timber frame barns to be used in residential home construction, complete original or one of a kind custom cut frames. phone 1-877-328-6531 or visit us on the web at www.timelesstimberframe.com

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**Edwards Electrical Service**

Franklin Road
828-526-5147

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**Highlands’ Newspaper - Thursday, May 31, 2007 - Page 25**
INTRODUCING

Sims Valley

FORMAL OPENING, JUNE 2007

You Can Now Come Live at Your Ideal Mountain Retreat

Spending quality time with loved ones is what it’s all about at Sims Valley. This distinctive high valley mountain community of only 67 homes on more than 240 acres offers gated security, enhanced views and unique investment protection. It’s the perfect family retreat.

We’re completely private, yet ideally located in the exclusive Cashiers/Highlands region of Western North Carolina and only minutes from beautiful 1,500 acre Lake Glenville. Here you can live either full time or just for your favorite seasons – fully enjoying the pristine forests, lakes and fabulous waterfalls of the surrounding area.

Sims Valley is an old fashioned homestead, restored to a new level of excellence. It’s a place where you can spend treasured time with the people who you care most about.

Homesite prices start at $200,000. Sims Valley is one place you must see if you are considering a mountain home in the Cashiers/Highlands area. Call for a visit.

SimsValleyNC.com
888-376-8364 • 828-743-2288
The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of May 22-30. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

May 22
- At 3:30 p.m., a motorist at Cobb and N.C. 106 was cited for driving without a license.
- At 11:30 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 and Webbmont Road was cited for driving without a license.
- At 11:45 a.m., officers responded to a two-car accident on U.S. 64.

May 23
- A motorist at N. 4th and Church streets was cited for speeding 41 mph in a 25 zone.
- A motorist at Hicks and Billy Cabin roads was cited for speeding 45 mph in a 25 zone.

May 26
- At 6:16 a.m., a motorist at 4th and Main streets was cited for speeding 37 mph in a 20 zone.
- At 9:10 a.m., a motorist at Cobb Road and N.C. 106 was cited for driving with an expired registration.
- At 11 a.m., a resident reported the unauthorized use of a credit card.
- At 2 p.m., a motorist at a 3rd and Main streets was cited for failing to yield the right of way to a pedestrian in a crosswalk which was clearly marked as such.

May 27
- At 1:05 p.m., Seth Carnes, 26, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI at Cherokee and N.C. 106 when he was stopped for driving with an expired registration.
- At 12:15 p.m., a wooden bear valued at $1,329 was reported stolen from in front of The Bird Barn.
- At 11:15 a.m., two drivers at N.C. 106 and Buttermilk Road were cited for driving with expired registrations.
- At 11 a.m., a motorist was cited for driving with an expired registration at Laurel and U.S. 64 east.

May 28
- At 7:23 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 106 and Buttermilk Road was cited for speeding.

May 29
- At 11 a.m., a motorist was cited for driving with an expired registration at Laurel and U.S. 64 east.

May 30
- At 11 a.m., a motorist was cited for driving without a license.
- At 6:16 p.m., a motorist was cited for driving with an expired registration at Laurel and U.S. 64.

May 31
- At 11 a.m., a resident reported the unauthorized use of a credit card.

May 22-30
- The department responded to a fire at a residence on Shadow Creek Lane, where a gas grill caught on fire and burned the deck and part of the house.
- The department responded to an alarm on Spring Street. It was false.
- The department responded to an alarm at The Rib Shack which was set off by workers.
- The department responded to an alarm on Pine Point. There was no transfer.
- The department was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Dillard Road. The patient was taken to the hospital.
- The department responded to an alarm at Overlook Villas. It was false.
- The department responded to an alarm at Sunset Hills. The patient was transported to the hospital.
- The department responded to an alarm at a residence on Shadow Creek Lane where a gas grill caught on fire and burned the deck and part of the house.

Solution to #AN4D in the May 17 paper

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 the 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.

**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

Solution to #AN4E in the May 17 paper

... PseudoCube©

**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 the 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.
- 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!
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... PRINCIPAL from page 1

was a teacher and coach in South Carolina from 1985-1999; assistant principal at Newberry Middle School in Newberry, S.C. from 2001-2004 and a biology teacher at Newberry High School from 2004-2006. He also taught at Walhalla, S.C.

Pat Davis has been named Director of Testing & Accountability. She currently serves as assistant principal at Macon Middle School.

Carol Waldroop will be returning to the district level as K-5 Curriculum Director effective July 1, 2007. Waldroop currently serves as principal of Cartoogehaye Elementary School. Both will assume their new responsibilities July 1, 2007.

In related news, Highlands School second grade teacher Melanie Miller has been named “Teacher of the Year” by her peers. She is one of 11 Macon County teachers who will be considered for the coveted “Macon County Teacher of the Year” later this month.

... BUDGET from page 1

ents. Interest on investments in all funds are also expected to exceed budget due to improved local rates on Certificates of Deposit – the average rate is just over 5.25%.

The revenue neutral property tax rate would be 12.5%. This rate would generate $2.2 million in revenue, the same amount projected to be generated from last year’s 19% rate.

Betz said each year utility rates are analyzed to see if revenues will meet or exceed expenses. The town’s two enterprise funds – the water/sewer fund and the electric fund are considered business enterprises where the cost of providing services is financed through user charges. Betz said those funds are healthy and a rate increase is not expected for electricity or water/sewer.

Upcoming capital projects include removing silt from the Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah estimated at $300,000; the first phase of the Harris Lake Drainage Basin project which will extend sewer to about 100 homes in the Harris Lake, Sunset Hills, and Satulah Mountain areas to eliminate suspected leaking of inadequate septic systems; budget requests from nonprofits of $52,695; $100,000 for the Greenway Project; $100,000 for utility pole changeouts; and those funds are healthy and a rate increase is not expected for electricity or water/sewer.

Like Dr. Costa, Brad Sanders will give a talk this weekend at the Cachers Historical Society’s William Bartram Symposium in late spring/summer, when Bartram journeyed through what is now Macon County, he noted that the ridges “veiled in blue mists, sublimely mount aloft, [while others] with yet greater majesty lift up their pompous crests and overlook vast regions.” Mr. Sanders spent eight years compiling his “Guide to William Bartram’s Travels,” which he described as “a delightful compliment to Bartram’s own book, with maps, a detailed itinerary and enchanting local history” that trace Bartram’s routes to Bartram’s own book, with maps, a detailed itinerary and enchanting local history.” Bartram’s routes to Bartram’s own book, with maps, a detailed itinerary and enchanting local history.”

... CYRANO’S from page 21

plex social behavior. The esteemed science journal Nature called Dr. Costa’s writing “scholarly enough to appeal to professionals, yet it is accessible enough to enlighten any interested reader. His book gives the ‘other insect societies’ well-deserved time in the spotlight.” Nature also praised the book’s “stunning color photographs,” and the distinguished specialist Edmund O. Wilson—whose commentaries appear in “The Other Insect Societies”—says it is a “marvelously researched and comprehensive work.”

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