

FREE

# Highlands' Newspaper

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Volume 2, Number 17

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, April 30, 2004

## The week of April 30-May 6

### April 29

▪ **HIKES** – The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 5-mile hike along the Greenway trail in Franklin. Meet at the Tasse Shelter parking lot on Wayah street at 11 a.m. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call Jack Blake, 369-1108, or Larry Jelley, 524-4200, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

### April 30

▪ **Live Music** – Bo does Top 40 at Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street at 8 p.m.

### May 1

▪ **LIVE MUSIC** – Zorki on acoustic guitar with vocals at Buck's Coffee Cafe at 8 p.m.

▪ **BIRD WATCHERS** – Join the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society for its first field trip of the season. Meet at 6 a.m. at the Town Hall Parking Lot to carpool to Stecoah Gap for nontropical migrants. For more info, call Brock Hutchins, 787-1387, or Edwin Poole at 526-2775.

▪ **YARD SALE** – The Macon County Board of Education Relay For Life team is having a yard sale in the Board of Education parking lot in Franklin, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday.

### May 2

▪ **LIVE MUSIC** – Zorki on acoustic guitar with vocals at Town Square at 1 p.m.

### May 3

▪ **PHOTOS** – HS Senior Cap & Gown pictures (re-scheduled).

### May 4

• **MOVIE TIME** – **Bascom-Louise Gallery** presents: My Brilliant Career, 7:30 at PAC. Donations appreciated.

### May 6

▪ **DAY OF PRAYER** – Everyone is invited to meet at the Gaxebo on Pine Street at 12:15 p.m. to celebrate National Day of Prayer.

▪ **WINE TASTINGS** – Weekly wine tastings at ...on the Verandah, Thursdays at 4:30 p.m.

▪ **BANQUET** – Highlands School Academic Banquet 6 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center.

## Dissatisfied parents confront school board

By Sally Hanson  
Contributor

At Monday's School Board Meeting, the front two rows of the board room in the Macon County School Administration Building were filled with Highlanders who voiced concerns over the on-going principal selection process – and the state of affairs at Highlands School as they see them.

"Highlands School is in a bad state;" "Rabun Gap will be sending a bus to Highlands next year because so many students are going there from Highlands;" "We are losing students to Rabun Gap due to problems with teachers and administrators;" "There is a lot of unrest in Highlands."

In a clear ef-

fort to knock certain candidates out of the principal race, people complained about the way the current administrators run the school and deal with students.

Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell said he was well aware of what goes on at the school on a dai-

ly basis — he said people inform him, whether he asks or not.

"I've gotten lots of anonymous emails," said Shotwell. "I'm going to listen, but I will do my own investigating and come up with my own conclusions," he said.

When accusations became per-

sonally directed to both Principal Jack Brooks and Vice Principal Dr. Melissa Porter, Chairman of the Board Kevin Corbin stopped the speakers.

"I don't think these personnel matters should be discussed in an open session," he said. "Those are issues we discuss in closed session."

"If things are so bad, why haven't we heard anything about all this in the last five years?" asked board member Tommy Cabe.

Brooks said ev-

▪ See PARENTS page 3

## The Hummingbirds are back

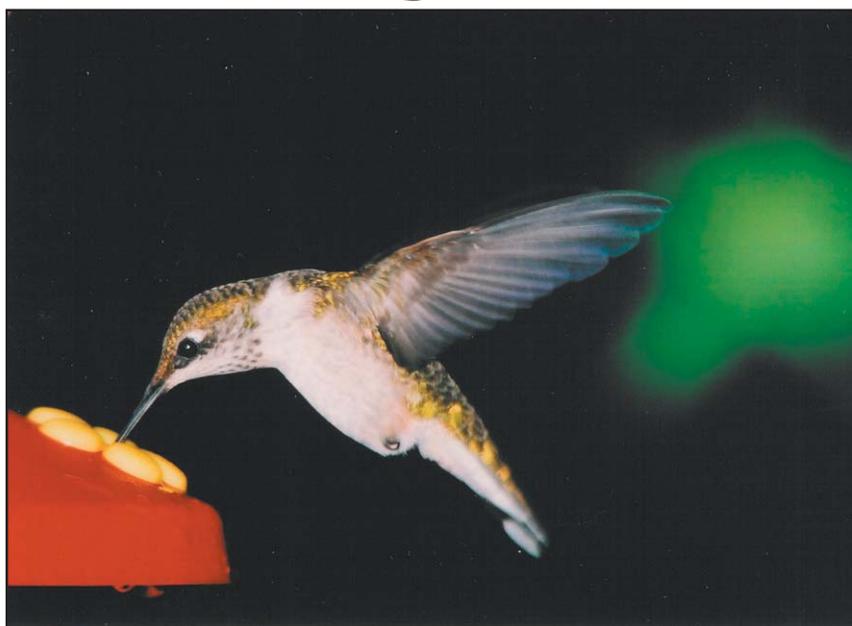


Photo by Cynthia Strain

The ruby-throated hummingbirds are out and about now – they returned from their winter digs about two weeks ago. Cynthia snapped a shot of this immature male as he was migrating out of town last fall bound for central South America. When you see him back in town this year, he'll hae his ruby throat.

## Planning board offers final word on clustering

By Kim Lewicki

If three's the charm, clustering in B3 zones might see the light of day.

As requested by the Town Board, at the April 26 Planning Board meeting, members discussed at length the pros and cons of making clustering doable in the B3 zone.

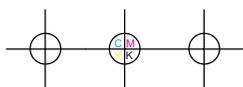
In the end, they agreed to make the same recommendations on clustering they made a month ago.

Clustering is allowed in several zoning districts in town, but setback requirements make it difficult on small lots. So, the planning board suggested a 25-foot setback from the road instead of 100 feet; setbacks from adjoining property at 10 feet and 10 feet between each clustered building.

Housing density in the zone is based on the current density for single-family homes in the B3 zone – 6,000

sq. ft per unit. The watershed built upon will remain the same – 12 percent in the critical area and 24 percent in the balance of the watershed.

Town and planning board members agreed that clustering is more pleasing because it preserves more green space, but wanted to be sure a change to the clustering ordinance would be good for the town as a whole and not just one developer.



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# Highlands' Newspaper

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Highlands, N.C. , 28741

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Circulation & Distribution –

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Printed by the Asheville Citizen-Times, Asheville, N.C.

## • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

### Picking up litter appreciated

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, I want to thank all those who celebrated Earth Day on April 22 by picking up litter.

Twenty-five shining faces appeared to help. The Rev. Don Mullen and Dr. Robert Wyatt inspired us with reminders of the sacredness of our earth and how we must reserve it.

The volunteers then set out on nine different routes to make our village shine.

We are grateful to the mayor who supplied signs and vests and orange bags as well as providing for their pick up. Thanks also to Sue Barrett, Karen Hawk and Glenda Bell who served as planners for the celebration and to all the folks who assisted in the clean-up.

We sincerely hope that all our citizens and visitors will help keep it that way!

Edna Foster

JMCA Earth Day Chairperson

### Scraps of Thought from the Earth Day Highlands Trash Pick-Up

Dear Editor,

Where are our manners?

Messiest place: along the school route just past the Peggy Crosby Center — down the hill along the sidewalk was more trash than the bags could hold. Other messy areas: Around dumpsters. (Does this garbage get left by the dumpster trucks themselves, or don't we bother to bend over and re-throw when something does not make the dumpster?)

Amazing finding: Clothing in the woods around library. Anyone missing a navy hooded sweatshirt or a pair of gray sweatpants? They were filthy. Also, a lot of groceries had been consumed in there and no effort made to dispose of wrappers, bottles and unmentionables.

Is there an unwritten law somewhere that states that cigarette butts are not litter? We picked up thousands of them. They look awful on the roadways and sidewalks.

There are laws in some places that declare a hefty fine if construction sites are not cleaned every day before the crews leave. I hope the inhabitants of the "Rabbit Hole" have not seen their property lately...Trash has blown all over those nice woods from construction areas, dumpsters, and just careless throwing.

Would we be more careful if we thought it would cost us?

Let's spend just an extra few seconds using that ashtray, trash receptacle or garbage can, and stop using the public byways. It's unsightly, ya'll. We don't want the visitors to our town thinking we don't have any couth, now do we?

Glenda Bell  
Highlands

### Mountain Findings to open Saturday

Mountain Findings, Highlands' ultimate thrift shop, is opening for the season May 1.

It needs donations of furniture and other household items but doesn't accept large appliances, building materials or computers. Mountain Findings gives tax receipts for donations valued at \$25 or more.

Proceeds from the sale of these items go to deserving organizations in Highlands. The shop is located at 432 Spruce Street and is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Shop volunteers are always needed. To help, call 526-9929.

## Movie brings in bucks for scouts

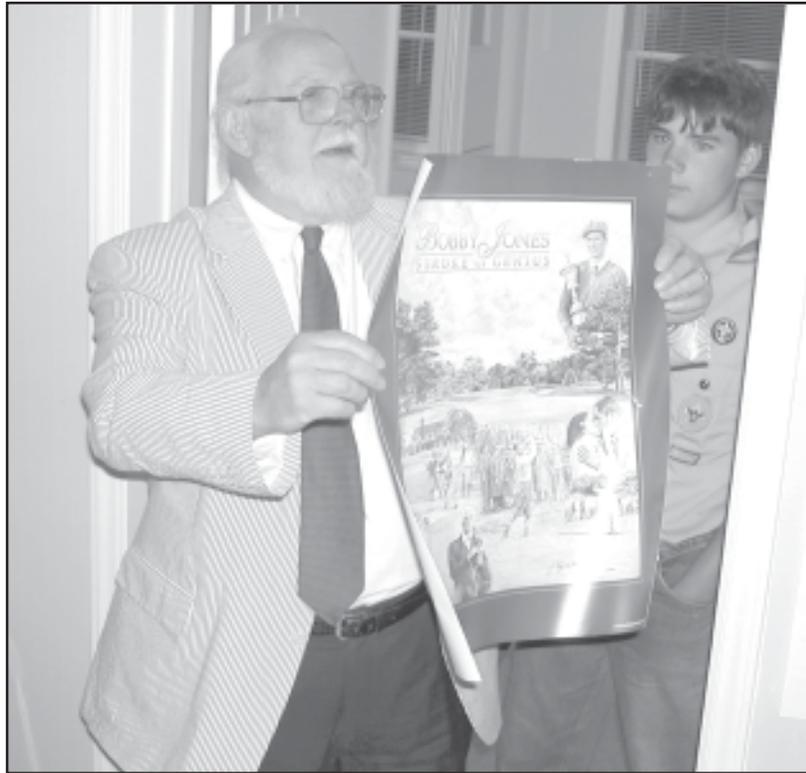


Photo by Jim Lewicki

Between ticket prices and the sale of auction items at the affair, about \$3,900 was raised for the local Boy Scout Troop 207 at the pre-screening of the movie "Bobby Jones - A Stroke of Genius" on Sat., April 24.

## ... PARENTS from page 1

Everybody can choose what school is best for their children. "They are entitled to that," said Brooks. "Whether they choose the Charter School, a school in another county or Rabun Gap, it's their choice. People chose other schools before I was principal and they have done it since. It's nothing new."

He said the numbers of students leaving Highlands School has not increased. "In fact, for every child that leaves Highlands School, we have two or three coming in," he said.

Dr. Shotwell said advertisements for the principal position have been running in newspapers in North Carolina, and brochures were sent to Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia. Currently, there are at least 15 applicants, but the deadline for applications ends Friday, April 30.

Shotwell will select the top five applicants based on interviews, and a list of attributes for the candidates given to him by the president of

Highlands PTO.

Two-hour interviews with the five remaining applicants will be held the week of May 17. The interview committee will consist of Shotwell, the PTO president, one teacher assistant, one elementary teacher, one middle school teacher, and one high school teacher from Highlands School.

The representatives will be announced a few days before the interviews to keep the teachers from being harassed. The recommendation for the new principal will go before the board on May 24 at the Nantahala meeting.

Shotwell said the candidates have many years of experience as principals of schools. The least experienced has 12 years, while the most has 35. A few have even worked in the K-12 configuration for many years, which is ideal for a Highlands school principal.

"We want this principal to fit the

▪ See PARENTS page 13

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• **LIFE UNDER CONSTRUCTION** •

**Trust**

**T**rust is the vehicle out of which the qualities of wisdom grow. Wisdom is at work when we are open to all options.

Trust is the vehicle out of which the qualities of wisdom grow. Wisdom is at work when we are open to all options.

Mother Teresa demonstrated trust when she said: "I feel like a pencil in God's hands...."

Less eloquently stated, I am constantly striving to trust the universe more. For me that involves letting go more and controlling less.

I've been reading about detachment lately. I am not talking about "not caring"; I am more accurately describing "a capacity to care deeply from an objective place." I'm told that this also helps us keep our sense of humor and remain flexible.

Detachment also helps us become less emotional which can empower an objective decision.

The majority of spiritual traditions address the theme of detachment. One principle that I have been practicing the last five years goes something like this. Whoever is present are the people that are intended to be there. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened. When it's over, it's over. Once again, put less eloquently, get over it. It has to do with accepting what is and not always hoping for

something more. That can be a source of serious frustration.

Once you accept a situation it affords you the opportunity to

become more creative with it. Often when problems arise, our outlook becomes narrow. This can lead to self-absorption and certainly increases the intensity of the situation. How could you widen the



Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

perspective and look for other resolutions? Looking at only one event magnifies the situation and increases the feeling of a lack of control. Get some distance.

As I continue to strive to be just a little bit wiser, I understand that I am striving for the quality of wisdom. The wisdom to judge and control less. When I really stop to think about this, the times that I am tempted to judge and push for more control are usually fear-based.

The opposite of wisdom is fear and ignorance. Fear zaps your energy and the result is that we usually flee and accomplish very little.

The bottom line regarding attachment is our need to control. It's like traveling down a dark tunnel and not looking for the light on either side. We get "tunnel vision" and stop looking for other ways to resolve situations.

Not trusting usually comes down to not trusting myself. How is your trust level?

**I'm starting coaching sessions again at the Schoolhouse in Cashiers. Stop by Chapter 2 in Cashiers or Cyrano's Bookshop in Highlands to purchase Life Under Construction...a work in progress? or email melspeaks@aol.com. Dr. Maryellen Lipinski is a psychologist by profession and an international professional speaker by design. Currently, she coaches individuals to obtain their goals in life and works as a Realtor at Village Realty of Sapphire Valley. www.ilovemountainrealestate.com. Her first book, Random Thoughts and Mine Always Are. Conscious Detours to Creative Power will make you laugh, cry, and think! www.maryellenlipinski.com**

## A hero remembered

**Y**ou know, I was laying in bed the other morning (ok, it was more like mid-morning) watching CMT (I know, I can hardly believe it myself) and the video for Toby Keith's "American Soldier" came on.

Now I actually like Toby. I don't think he is Elvis or anything, but he is a guilty pleasure of mine. (Insert schlock n' y'all joke clever pun here)

But back to the video. As I was watching it, all I could think about was Pat Tillman. Now unless you have been playing Eric Rudolph as of late, you know that Pat Tillman was the Arizona football player who left behind his wife and a three million dollar contract to join the Army Rangers.

Tillman was killed last week during a skirmish in Afghanistan. Obviously the irony in this story would make even Ambrose Bierce proud, but the heroism of Tillman cannot be denied.

Unfortunately, there have been some who have criticized the media's coverage of Tillman, publicly wondering why other fallen soldiers have not received the same amount of airtime. Others have speculated (and are probably correct) that Tillman would not have wanted this publicity and would have rather been anonymous.

However, I think that Tillman's story is larger than these concepts. I think that Tillman's legacy as an American Hero is solidified by his choices. Our entire life is based upon our right to choose certain things. From a young age we are taught in school to make good choices. We are encouraged to make choices that are not selfish, we are shown examples of great men and women who made honorable decisions and are remembered for it. And most importantly, as we grow older we learn that there are some things in which we have no choice. Death is one of those.

Tillman proved that his values were more important than money and not just for his patriotism either — Tillman signed for a lot less money to stay in his home state.



**Ryan Potts**

Tillman also proved that there is no shame in dying while doing what you want to do. All too often we worry about what our peers tell us we should do rather than what we want to do. We worry about what society thinks, or what our friends think, or what we may be afraid of. However, thanks to men and women like Pat Tillman, we know that if our convictions are strong and our choices are sound we too can be heroes. Maybe not national heroes, or even regional heroes but we can be a hero to someone, and that is what is truly important.

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• **LAUGHING AT LIFE** •

**Pseudoscymnus Tsugae vs. Woolly Adelgids vs. Kudzu**

Stare at the words "Pseudoscymnus Tsugae" for a full two minutes. Now, look away and say these words three times real fast. If you can do this, call me and I will come over and take pictures of your awesome tongue and actually ask our Editor to put it on the front page of this paper.

Everyone who is anyone around here now knows, thanks to Cynthia Strain's article in Highlands' Newspaper, that Pseudoscymnus Tsugae, sometimes called the Pt beetle by people who don't have the ability to make their lips form those other words, is an Asian Beetle that likes to chow down on Asian Woolly

Adelgids, who are currently wolfing down all our American hemlock trees. Thank you, Asia.

The main reason this program will be so effective is that scientists know that Woolly Adelgids, like all Asian food, won't stay with those beetles very long and they will be hungry in an hour. Just how many Woollys a Pt beetle can scarf down in one day is still a mystery. We need a person, like the woman who counts germs on toilet seats, to do the research on this. I am yearning for this information, aren't you?

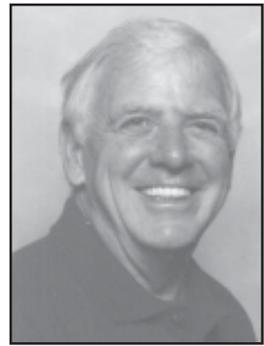
Here's a side note. Rumor has it that scientists, working in a secret lab in

Clayton, are attempting to train Pt beetles to eat kudzu, a wild, out of control weed plant from (Guess where?) Asia. Again, thank you very much.

Kudzu was brought here to control erosion. It has done that and is now controlling the entire state of Georgia. So far, two whole towns have vanished under a sea of kudzu. The scientists are placing Woollys on the kudzu leaf to entice the Pt to eat it. Kinda like their version of the Caesar Chicken Salad. So far, it is not working and reports are that two Pt beetles have, over night, been engulfed by the kudzu.

Aren't scientists amazing people?

They live in their own little world. Here's living proof. An



Fred Wooldridge

Asian guy is doing research, a fancy word for digging in the dirt, when he happens across a new species of beetle. "Ah ha," he announces to the world as he holds the find over his head with a pair of tweezers, "I think I will call this little guy Pseudoscymnus Tsugae." If it had been found here in the mountains, we would call it something like "stink bug." Or better still, "Bowery Beetle."

Just like Kudzu, scientists don't have an exit strategy for the Pt once all the Woollys are beetle poop. How do we round them up? We don't. What scientists have not told us is that Pt beetles, not having any Woolly's around, eat cell phone towers. While some might think this is a good thing, people like me, who have a cell phone permanently implanted in my inner ear, find this aspect disastrous.

What is the solution? We flood the area with the Asian bird, Marcaratorieous Sallousterious (A descendant of the ever famous Kookamonga.) who regularly dines on Pts. The problem is that the MS (Marcaratorieous Sallousterious) bird cannot withstand our harsh mountain winters and will have to spend that time inside Cynthia Stain's house to stay warm. Even bird-lover Cynthia may be chagrined on this one.

This is OK with us because we are going to blame her for all of this anyway because she wrote the article. I know, I know, she had nothing to do with any of this, but since when does that matter around here? Besides, we always like to kill the messenger.

Eventually the MS bird will mate with the mighty Peregrine Falcon and its offspring will want to eat mice and fly out of here for the winter. We will call this offspring the "PMS bird." When the little missus is having a bad day, you can say the PMS bird must have flown over our house. Nah, on second thought, don't do that.

Anyway, they all live happily ever after. The Pt beetle ate the Woollys, the PMS bird ate the Pts (Hi ho the dairy o) and the cell phone towers are saved forever. This story leaves me teary.

• **FINE DINING & DINING WITH A VIEW** •



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## Routine traffic stop leads to arrest

On Sunday April 25, Macon County Sheriff deputies arrested two men, formerly of Highlands, on drug related charges.

Robert Warren Munger, age 64 and his son Robert Dewalt Munger age 33, both currently living in Young-Harris, Ga., were stopped driving a 1994 Ford Explorer on 64 west during a routine traffic stop.

After discovering a small amount of marijuana on one of the men, deputies were granted permission to search the vehicle.

Sheriff Robert Holland states, "During the search of the vehicle deputies seized several items including a duffle bag which contained a large amount of marijuana," said Sheriff Robert Holland. "During the consent search approximately 11 pounds of marijuana, a package containing powder cocaine and a package containing crystal methamphetamine were seized."

After arresting the subjects officers also seized the Ford Explorer the men were driving and several thousand dollars in cash they had in their possession.

"Our detectives assigned to handle drug investigations contacted agents with the Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI) and spoke with agents regarding the Macon County arrest. Macon County Detectives then went to Young-Harris Georgia and assisted in the execution of a search warrant of the residence which both suspect's currently live," said

Holland. "Officers with the Macon County Sheriff's Office, Towns County Sheriff's Office and the Georgia Bureau of Investigations seized approximately 70 additional pounds of marijuana during the search of the Munger residence."

Charges for Robert Dewalt Munger are three counts of Felony Trafficking in Marijuana, one count of possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana one count of possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine; one count of possession with intent to sell and deliver methamphetamine and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Charges for Robert Warren Munger are three counts of felony trafficking in marijuana; one count of possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Both men remain in the Macon County Detention Center where a local magistrate has set each of their bonds at \$ 35,000. They are scheduled to appear in District Court on June 24, 2004.

"I know it's an inconvenience to get stopped by a deputy once in a while who might be working traffic enforcement but this arrest is one of many reasons we have started working traffic in our community," said Holland. "It's doing our part in being a more proactive agency."

The investigation continues and additional charges are expected in North Carolina and also in Georgia.

## Kirkland found alive and well in Georgia

It wasn't until Jackson County Sheriff deputies heard his voice and Georgia law enforcement officials verified his whereabouts that Sheriff Jimmy Ashe closed the case on Nigel Kirkland.

After declared missing for 16 days, Kirkland, 23, was found alive and well at a home in Dekalb County, Ga. by the Dekalb County Sheriff's Dept.

On April 23, Kirkland's, mother Joy Barge declared him "alive and well," the sheriff's dept. considered the news "rumor" until the information was verified mid-day April 27.

Kirkland disappeared after a Cyprus Restaurant employee party on Lake Glenville on April 7.

Jackson and Macon county law enforcement officials and the U.S. Forest Service searched the lake, and the roadways both by helicopter and patrol cars in both Macon and Jackson counties most of last week, but found nothing.

Meanwhile, Kirkland allegedly left the area immediately after the party and headed for a friend's house in Atlanta where he's been ever since.



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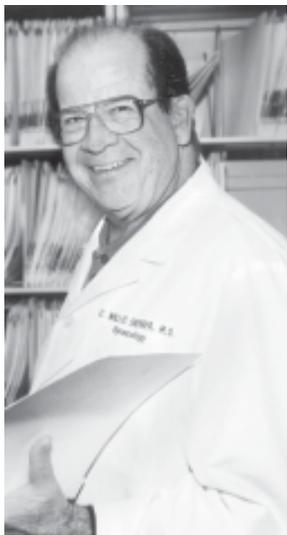
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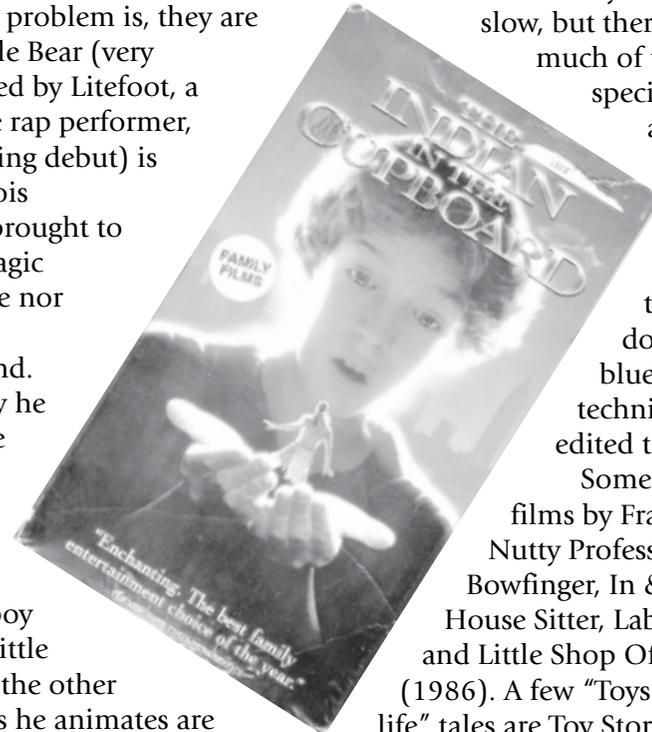


**Stuart Armor**

The 1995, PG rated, family film, based on the children's book by Lynne Reid Banks, directed by Frank Oz, starring, well no one you've ever heard of.

Very well done childrens/ family fare, some comedy, some drama, some magic, a lesson or two, a neat story for little kids as well as great big adult kids. Director Frank Oz works well with fantasy themes (see Labyrinth and Little Shop Of Horrors)

The storyline: Nine year old Omri stumbles across a way to bring his toys to life, which is way cool. The problem is, they are alive. Little Bear (very well played by Litefoot, a Cherokee rap performer, in his acting debut) is an Iroquois warrior, brought to life by magic neither he nor Omri understand. Gradually he learns the boy is not a god or magician, and the boy realizes Little Bear and the other characters he animates are not toys, but people. Drama, danger and bloodshed ensue (not enough to make this a scary film for the younger set, but enough to add some depth to the story).



Some tension and suspense make it a good tale for nearly any one of any age.

The child actors are not that great, but come across as believable, imaginative, selfish, but decent. The toys, which include Little Bear, a Texas cowboy, and a World War I field medic, really give great performances. The scenes

without the toys are a little slow, but there isn't much of them. The special effects

are simple but well done, I think they were done with blue screen technique and edited together. Some other

films by Frank Oz are Nutty Professor (2002), Bowfinger, In & Out, House Sitter, Labyrinth, and Little Shop Of Horrors (1986). A few "Toys come to life" tales are Toy Story, James and the Giant Peach, and Last Action Hero. These and about 5000 other titles are available on VHS and DVD at Movie Stop Video, stop on in sometime.

**Spring Clean-up set**

Town Spring Clean Up -The week of May 24 will be for "white goods" pick up. Call Town Hall at 526-2118 for white goods pick up - appliances, furniture, debris.



Photo by Barbara Lawrence

Highlands School seniors, Pablo Cebrera and Eric Fielding with Macon County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Rodney Shotwell.

## New Century Scholars honored

By Barbara Lawrence  
Contributor

Senior New Century Scholars were celebrated with a banquet at Mill Creek Country Club, on Thursday April 22.

Jennifer Jones, co-coordinator of the program welcomed everyone present and the seventeen scholars were presented with certificates.

Macon County School Superintendent, Dr. Rodney Shotwell congratulated the students on their achievement, and he

recognized parents and teachers who helped the students achieve their success. "You have helped them take off, now it's time for them to find their destination," said Shotwell. He thanked the community donors, and asked, "Where is there a better place to put your money, than in their future?"

Special thanks were given to the banquet sponsors, Rotary Club of Franklin-Daybreak and Rotary Club of Highlands-Mountaintop.

## Chinese Auction raises \$4,800 for Academic Foundation

The annual Macon County Academic Foundation Chinese Auction raised almost \$4,800 for grants for teachers with special projects and supplemental learning opportunities for students in Macon County.

The mission of the Macon County Academic Foundation is to provide funding for programs that supplement and enrich the existing school curriculum. Through individual grants, educators are assisted in initiating or continuing

innovative educational programs in their classrooms.

Funds are provided for special events, pilot programs, and creative classroom teaching initiatives. The Foundation does not fund grant requests for supplies and equipment that are funded, or should be funded, in the regular school system budget.

For more information about the Macon County Academic Foundation, call Shelly Bell at 524-2845.

## Proctors needed for end-of-grade tests

Macon County Schools are recruiting volunteer proctors for the End-Of-Grade testing at all elementary schools and Macon Middle School, Tuesday-Thursday, May 11-13, from 8 a.m. until 12 noon. Please contact Jennifer Jones at 524-4414 x 324 or jennifer.jones@mcsk-12.org for more information or to volunteer.

## • HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

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Ingredients inside a 12: grilled tortilla topped with salsa fresca, sour cream and black olives.

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- Highlands
- Veggie
- Spinach
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#### PESCADO'S TACOS

Served on hard corn or steamed flour tortilla with fresh lettuce, spinach, cheddar-jack cheese mix, black olives housemade salsa fresca and jalapenos.

- Chilean Fish
- Taco Deluxe
- Highland Taco
- Bean Taco

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## MC Conservation poster winner



Shelby Houston's poster entry was chosen Honorable Mention in the Macon County Conservation's Poster Contest. Shelby is in Mrs. West's 4th grade.

## Little garden club wins big

Highlands own Mountain Garden Club, literally a small David in a state of Goliaths, showed up as a Goliath to be recognized at the North Carolina Garden Club Convention in Wilmington, N.C., April 18-20.

The club earned several awards, notably in the club of the year -- second in the state. The club also won numerous other first-place awards including for the Public School Beautification Award (Highlands School), as well as the Mrs. O.

Elwood Mixon Program Award which was for the Land Stewards

Video.

In second place, was the Hannah McMillon Memorial Garden at the Town Hall and the Viola Kiker Award for Civic Beautification (the Visitor Center behind Town Hall).

In third place was the Pat Rodgers Landscape Award for the Butterfly Garden also at Highlands School.

Attending and receiving these awards was the garden club president, Ginny Harris. The Mountain Garden Club is well known for its Spring

Plant Sale -- this year set for May 29 -- and its work in the Land Stewards.



Sarah Sloan and Ginny Harris at the Visitor Center

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## Homeland Security plan set for county and area towns

By Warren Cabe

MC Emergency Management

Macon County and the towns of Highlands and Franklin have developed a continuity of operations plan as part of their Homeland Security initiatives.

The plan was funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency through North Carolina Dept. of Crime Control and Public Safety.

The goal of the continuity plan includes an all-hazards approach, the identification of alternate facilities and the ability to operate

within 12 hours of activations as well as sustain operations for up to 30 days. It addresses the continuous performances of local government's essential functions during an emergency, protection of essential facilities, equipment and records and a timely and orderly recovery from an emergency and resumption of full service to citizens.

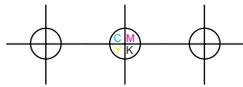
Macon County is one of the first counties in the state to complete such a plan and one of a few to include both county government and local municipalities within the same study.

## Old Edwards Inn and Spa to now open July 2004

The opening date for the Old Edwards Inn and Spa including Madison's Restaurant and Wine Garden has been rescheduled for July 2004. Reservations for the luxury inn, spa and restaurant may be made by calling 828-526-8008.

Advertisers get placement on weekly in-paper map.

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# Highlands Community Theater's spring play 'Proof' begins next week

The actors know their lines, the set is on stage, the box office is open and the Highlands Community Theatre is ready to welcome its audience to see the drama "Proof," at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center next week.

"Proof" is the 2001 winner of the theatrical world's "triple crown" for best play--the Pulitzer, the Tony, and the NY Drama Critics Circle Award.

It concerns a young woman, Catherine, who has given up her college plans to care for her mentally ill father, once a brilliant mathematician. Into her life comes an unlikely suitor, a manipulative sister and a startling discovery in one of her father's notebooks which causes an unexpected resolution to the drama.

Opening night is Thursday, May 6, at 8:00 p.m. and is celebrated with a catered reception for audience, cast, and crew after the performance. Don Leon's Deli Cafe is doing the honors this time and play goers are urged to make their reservations early if they

wish to attend the first night.

Performances will continue on Friday and Saturday, May 7 and 8, at 8 p.m. and a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. The box office is open now through

Saturday, May 8, (except for Sundays) 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. For the Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. on May 9, the box office will open at 1 p.m.

At other times, reservation requests may be left on the HCP answering machine, 526-8084. Tickets, \$10 each, may be picked up at the

Performing Arts Center during box office hours or at the door before the performance. Audiences are advised that there is some strong language in the play.

An outstanding cast will portray the four characters of the drama.

Catherine will be played by Madeleine Davis; the father, by Ralph Stevens, Claire (the sister) by Mary Adair Leslie, and Hal, by Ian Holloway, a newcomer to the HCP stage. Virginia Talbot is the director.



Priscilla flowers and Julie Hilliard, stage manager, unload vintage porch chairs lent by the Mountain Moss Shop in Dillard to the Highlands Community Players for their production of "Proof," May 6 - 9 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands NC.

## All about acting classes & more

Spring into theatre by participating in Act Now. It's an HCP sponsored workshop with partial funding from the Macon County Arts Council, designed to train adults (ages 18 plus) in acting and production.

There will be six classes, two per week, with scene performance by participants on a seventh night from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. The fee is \$20.

The dates are May 12-13, May 19-20, June 1-2 and performance night is June 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Workshop Topics are Auditioning; Stage Movement-Blocking-Line Memorizing Techniques; Creating a Character-Using a Dialect-Playing the Part; Directing; Costumes-Make-Up; Lights-Sound-Set; and Production Responsibilities.

To register, contact Ronnie Spilton by telephone (526-0306) or e-mail: rspilton@earthlink.net

This project is supported by a Grassroots Arts Program grant from the Arts Council of Macon County and the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the state and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## • HIGHLANDS LODGING •

Originally built in 1946 under the name Kalmia Court, the Old Creek Lodge has since achieved a level of class and sophistication that can be attributed to a motivated and professional staff with a fresh perspective.

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Now, the Old Creek Lodge is being completely renovated again — this time combining the perfect harmony of luxury and comfort. Replacing everything from the mattresses and pillows to the bathroom tiles and sinks, the rooms are now unrecognizable to former guests. All new fabrics in rich colors and patterns fill the rooms exuding adjectives such as sophisticated and posh.

Outside the cabins, a new waterfall empties into the rock-lined pond situated next to the gazebo-covered hot tub. Despite the innovative décor, one thing has remained a constant at the Old Creek Lodge; southern hospitality at reasonable rates. Always a good sign..

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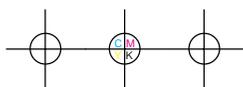


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## ● POLICE REPORT ●

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of April 22.-28 The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

#### April 22

- At 7:05 a.m., officers responded to a 9-1-1 hang-up at Mountain High Lodge. Everything was OK.
- At 10:25 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 28 and Third Street was cited for driving without a license.
- At 8:55 a.m., a motorist at Fourth and Spring streets was cited for driving without an inspection sticker.

#### April 23

- At 10:20 a.m., residents reported damage to their vehicle.
- At 1:44 p.m., officers responded to an accident at Main and Fourth. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- At 1:44 p.m., a motorist Main and Fourth was cited for reckless driving, causing an accident and injuring a pedestrian.

#### April 25

- At noon, officers helped clean up glass in the road at N.C. 28 and Many Road.

#### April 28

- At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Kenridge Road. All was secure.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the weeks of April 22-28.

#### April 22

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Mt. Laurel Drive. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers.

#### April 23

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call and an accident at Main and Fourth streets where two cars were involved in an accident and a pedestrian was hit. The victim was transported to the hospital.

#### April 24

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call when a person fell out of a truck on Cherokee Drive. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers while that dept. fought a brush fire but the call was cancelled en route.

#### April 26

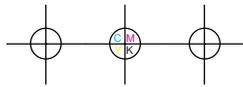
- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Happoldt Drive. It was a false alarm.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers.

### Pedestrian injured in Main St. accident



Photo by Kim Lewicki

At 1:45 p.m., April 23, motorist Kirsten McGillivray hit pedestrian John Bell Jr., as he was about to leave his parked car near the intersection of Main and Fourth streets. McGillivray was travelling east on Main approaching Fourth Street when she allegedly had a seizure lost control of her car and veered into Bell's parked car. The impact moved Bell's car 10-feet and sent Bell 10-feet into the air. Bell was transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital where he was treated and released.



### ... PARENTS continued from page 3

school and the students of Highlands," Shotwell said. "It is in the best interest of the board to get a good principal for the school."

He said the board wants to do what's best for the students, but doesn't want to get calls and complaints from parents. "If we always make good decisions for kids, they will be good decisions for the parents too," Shotwell said.

Several parents asked where they could direct their complaints, and also if they could come to the next board meeting at Nantahala to hear

the recommendation for the new principal.

As the discussion came to a close, attending parents gave Shotwell about 10 letters from other dissatisfied parents. "Most of them were anonymous," he said.

Shotwell announced that the Macon County School District had earned the recognition of being certified by the Southern Associates of College and Secondary Schools - this can only be achieved if all the schools in the district are accredited by the organization, he said.

Some parents voiced concern over the school's standing. Shotwell said Highlands School had nothing to worry about. "It is an excellent school and will continue to be accredited."

Brooks, too, said Highlands School is an outstanding school. "Our students get extremely good test scores on both state and SAT tests. There is nothing to indicate our accreditation is in jeopardy."

The next Macon County School Board meeting is at Nantahala School at 6 p.m. and it is open to the public.

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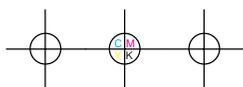
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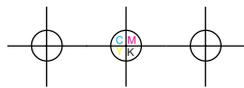
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## • PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU •

### Blue Valley Baptist Church

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m., Worship - 11  
Sunday night services every second and  
fourth Sunday at 7 p.m.  
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.

### 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

Sundays: Worship - 10 a.m.; school &  
primary classes - 11 a.m.; Women's &  
Men's Org. - noon

Tues: Women's Org. - 6:30 p.m.; Library -  
6-8 p.m.

Wednesdays: Boy Scouts of America mtg.  
- 6:30 p.m.; Young women's activities -

6:30 p.m.

### Christ Anglican Church 743-3319

**"A Bible-based liturgical church"**  
Services: Sundays at 4 p.m. at the  
Community Bible Church in Highlands  
Holy Communion at most services.

### Clear Creek Baptist Church

Pastor Everett Wilson, (828) 743-3379  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Prayer - 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service - 7 p.m.

### Community Bible Church

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
Steven E. Kerhoulas, Pastor, 526-4685  
3645 U.S. 64 east

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

Tuesdays: Women's Bible Study - 9:45  
Wed: Supper - 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study -  
6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Guys Sr. High Discipleship - 6  
**Episcopal Church of the Incarnation**

Interim Priest: Stephen Hines, 526-2968

Sundays: Choir - 9 a.m.; Bible Study &  
Book Study

classes - 9:15 a.m.; Holy Eucharist -  
10:30 a.m.;

Children's Chapel - 10:30 a.m.

Mondays: Daughter's of the King - 10:30  
a.m.; Women's Cursillo Group (Library) - 4

Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall - 8

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist - 10 a.m.; Maundy  
Service - 6 p.m.

The Sunday Service is telecast on cable  
channel 14

### First Baptist Church

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153  
Sundays: 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

Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m. (child care at  
11 a.m.); School - 9:30 & 9:45.

Wednesdays: Children's Devotions - 9:30  
a.m.; Supper - 6 p.m.; Choir - 7 p.m.

Thursdays: Bible Study - 10 a.m.

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

### Highlands Assembly of God

Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

**Highlands 7th-Day Adventist Church**  
Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study  
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

**Highlands United Methodist Church**  
Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376

Sundays: School - 9:30 & 9:45 a.m.;  
Worship - 11

Wednesdays: Supper - 5:30 p.m.; Bible  
Study & activities - 6 p.m.

**Lutheran Church of the Holy Family -  
ELCA**

**Rev. Pam Mitcham, Pastor,  
2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741**

Sundays: Worship/Communion - 10:30  
**Macedonia Baptist Church**

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in Satolah

Pastor Rusty Wolfrey, (706) 782-8130  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Choir - 6 p.m.

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

**Mountain Synagogue**  
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin  
369-6871

Friday: Sept. 12 Sabbath Eve Services at 7  
For more information, call  
(706)-745-1842.

**Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic  
Church**

Rev. William M Evans, Priest  
Parish office, 526-2418

Wednesdays & Fridays: Mass - 9 a.m.  
Sundays: Mass - 11 a.m.

**Scaly Mountain Baptist Church**  
Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

**Scaly Mountain Church of God**  
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred  
Sizemore

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

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth - 7 p.m.  
For more information call 526-3212.

**Shortoff Baptist Church**  
Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7  
**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
526-9769

Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time)  
Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.

**Westside Baptist Church**  
Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon

Services in the basement of the Peggy  
Crosby

Sundays: Fellowship & Worship - 11  
**Whiteside Presbyterian Church**

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

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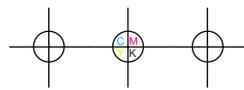


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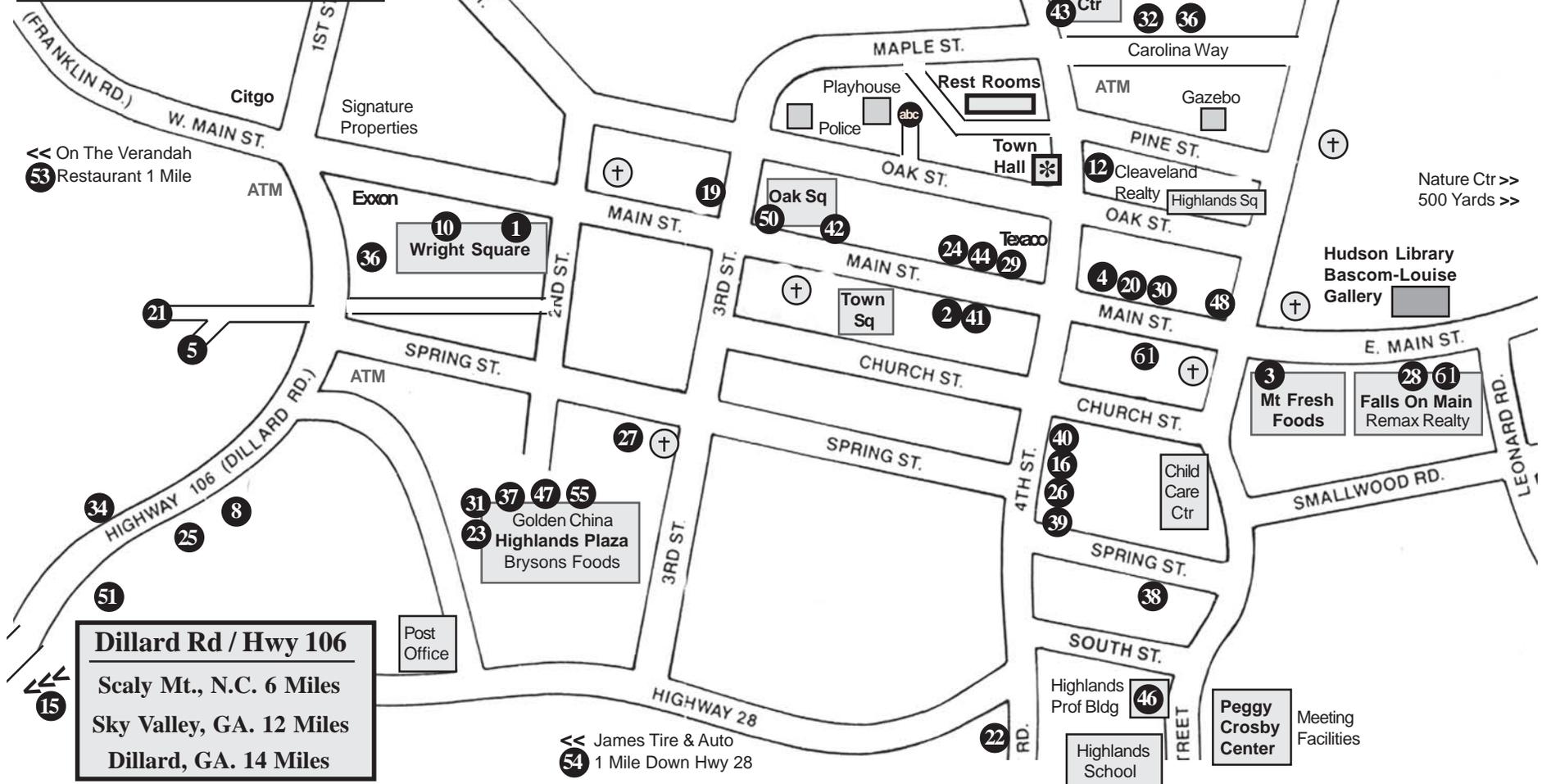
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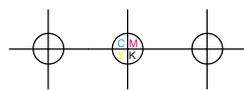
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# ● UPCOMING EVENTS ●

**April 29**

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 5-mile hike along the Greenway trail in Franklin. Meet at the Tasse Shelter parking lot on Wayah street at 11 a.m. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call Jack Blake, 369- 1108, or Larry Jelley, 524-4200, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

**May 1**

• Join the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society for its first field trip of the season. Meet at 6 a.m. at the Town Hall Parking Lot to carpool to Stecoah Gap for nontropical migrants. If you have questions, please call Brock Hutchins, 787-1387, or Edwin Poole at 526-2775.

• The Macon County Board of Education Relay For Life team will be having a yard sale in the Board of Education parking lot in Franklin from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday.

**May 3**

• HS Senior Cap & Gown pictures (re-scheduled).

**May 5**

• The High Mountain Squares will square-dance at the Big Bear shelter on the Greenway. Ace McGee, the club caller, will call Plus & Mainstream. Info: 828-349-3571

**May 6**

• Weekly wine tastings at ...on the Verandah, Thursdays at 4:30 p.m.

**May 7**

• Awards & Yearbook Assembly at the Highlands Civic Center at 10 a.m.

**May 11**

• Wine dinner featuring Flora Springs Winery. at ...on the Verandah.

• The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society hosts its first program of the season. Join us at 7:30 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center for a program on Birds of Southeastern Arizona, presented by Sandy Anderson, Sierra Vista, Arizona. Refreshments will be served prior to the meeting at 7 p.m.

**May 12**

• The High Mountain Squares will square-dance at the Macon County facilities bldg. Ray Mauney, Kennesaw, GA., will call ALL SQUARES Plus & Mainstream. Info: 828-349-3571

**May 13**

• Scholarship Night at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at 5 p.m.

**May 19**

• Highlands School senior and parents supper at Highlands United Meth-

odist Church at 5:30.

**May 22**

• The Literacy Council of Highlands invites you to attend Monte Carlo on May 22. This annual event includes

fun, games, food, beverages and auctions. Please call 526-9938, ext 280 for more information

**May 23**

• Baccalaureate at Highlands

United Methodist Church at 3 p.m. Seniors will be in the fellowship hall no later than 2:30 p.m. Wear caps and gown and dress code applies.

## ● HOME DECOR & FIXTURES ●



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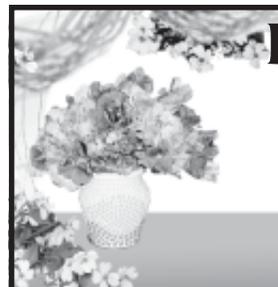
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