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 effort 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 daily 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 personally 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-

The hummingbirds are back

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 have his ruby throat.

Planning board offers final word on clustering

By Kim Lewicki

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 be 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.
**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 that 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
Do You Like to SPEED?
High Speed Internet Service
As low as $29.95 per month
Now available in certain areas
526-5675

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Movie brings in bucks for scouts

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.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

... 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 hassled. 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
Remember Best of the Bunch for all your special occasions. Floral arrangements, plants, custom-designed gift and gourmet baskets.

Let us help lift your spirits with fresh flowers, plants and greenery all year long.

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16th ANNUAL ROTARY GOLF TOURNAMENT
Trillium Golf Links

Monday May 24, 2004
12:30 shotgun start

Player/Sponsor combination $200
Player name-------------------------------
Sponsor name-----------------------------
Player only $125
Player name-------------------------------
Sponsor ----------------------------- $100
Hole Sponsor---------------------------- $250
- Players receive: Dinner, tee gift, golf, beverages on course, prizes and door prizes, group photos, on course events, hole-in-one, longest drive, closest to the pin.
- Sponsors receive: Dinner, recognition in program, name on sponsor board, press recognition, door prizes.

Make checks payable to Rotary Club of Highlands

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Trust

True mastery can be gained by letting things go their own way. –Lao Tzu

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 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?

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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

You 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.

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.

In life, we all have the desire for our home to be an extension of who we are. Extravagant and adventurous, or peaceful and pleasant. Each individual has unique taste.

We at Warth Construction have worked on the most impressive homes in the area but we have not forgotten our roots in economical building and efficiency.

Our homes are custom-tailored to fit your individual needs. Consider a gourmet kitchen, a glass-walled shower with a view, or a timber framed porch with an outside fireplace.

We are driven to produce a final product that is exactly as our clients envision. When we complete a home we find satisfaction in leaving a legacy of quality and dependability.

Warth Construction has working relationships with many of the Architects and Realtors on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. We also frequently enjoy working directly with clients.

At Warth Construction we believe an educated customer is a satisfied customer. We encourage our clients to ask questions about the building process and we enjoy explaining the secrets of creating a quality product.

We are proud to have a reliable project management team. It ensures consistency in our work and that your concerns will always be addressed.

“My commitment as a dependable partner to each of my clients throughout every project establishes an ease in communication which I feel is crucial so that each client receives the home they desire. The most rewarding aspect of my experience as a licensed contractor has been building relationships with my customers that extend beyond the completed home.”

-DW
Pseudoscyminus Tsugae vs. Woolly Adelgids vs. Kudzu

Stare at the words “Pseudoscyminus 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 Pseudoscyminus 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?

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Aren’t scientists amazing people?
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 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.
Video Guy Presents: Indian in the Cupboard

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.

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Highlands-Cashiers Gynecology

Willis Sherrer, MD
General Gynecology & Gynecological Surgery

A Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Dr. Sherrer is the former head of GYN services at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta.

He now provides complete general and surgical gynecology care to area women (excluding management of pregnancy issues) on a full-time basis.

 Offices in Highlands and Clayton
For appointments:
Call 828-526-2817
Now welcoming new patients

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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.
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.
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.

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.
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.

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.
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.
Blue Valley Baptist Church
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
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 a.m.
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
Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3376
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.; Women’s & Men’s Org. – noon
Tues: Women’s Org. – 6:30 p.m.; Library – 6:30 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 a.m.
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 a.m.
Wed: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study – 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Guys Sr. High Discipleship – 6:30 p.m.

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 a.m.
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.

Highlands Assembly of God
Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7 p.m.
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 a.m.
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 a.m.
Macedonia Baptist Church
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 in Satolah
Pastor Rusty Wolfrey, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.; Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.
Mountain Synagogue
St. Cyriac’s Episcopal Church, Franklin
369-6871
Friday: Sept. 12 Sabbath Eve Services at 7:30 p.m.
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 Simemore
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 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7 p.m.
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 Church
Sundays: Fellowship & Worship – 11 a.m.
Whiteside Presbyterian Church
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.

Does Your Home Need an Extreme Makeover?
Start the 2004 season with a renovation from Highlands Custom Coverings!
Highlands Custom Coverings offers such high quality products as: Shaw and Mohawk Carpets, the complete line of Hunter Douglas blinds, shades and shutters
Lafayette shutters Castec indoor and outdoor solar shades Indoor and outdoor carpet by Grass Tex Hartco prefinished wood floors Laminated Wood Floors by Witex
Owner Mark Harris, originally a native of Madison, Ga., opened Custom Coverings in September 2003. Mark offers eight years of experience in flooring, blinds, shutters and installation. He is also proud to work with David Frazier, a native of Franklin with more than 20 years of experience in flooring installation.
Stop by our new showroom on Spring Street behind Reeves Hardware and see how beautiful your home can be!
We’re open Mon. through Fri. 9 a.m.- 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
**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 Sheltet 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 non-tropical 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
- 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
- Scholarship Night at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at 5 p.m.

May 19
- Highlands School senior and parents supper at Highlands United Methodist 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.