

FREE

Highlands' Newspaper

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Volume 2, Number 31

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Aug. 6, 2004

The week of Aug. 5-12 On Going

▪ **LIVE MUSIC** – The musical talents of Regis at the Piano at Cafe of the Arts, until 9 p.m. every night.

▪ **ABOUT WINE** – At Highlands Wine & Cheese at Falls on Main – THURS-SAT 4:30-6:30 p.m. – the white wines of Germany, special guests on SAT-URDAY. This Saturday, Uta Bracy. WED.-SUN, cheese plates and wine by the glass.

▪ **WINE & FOOD** – At Wolfgang's on Main – Get Uncorked THURS-SUN. 4-6:30 p.m.: Wine and Appetizer Pairings, Flights of Wine, Wine by the glass or bottle/Appetizers; SUNDAYS: Dinner and Jazz 6:30-9:30 p.m. Call 526-3807 for reservations. MONDAYS: Fine Art, Fine Wine and Fine Dining, 6 pm – Passed Appetizers. 6:30 pm – Dinner.

Aug. 5

▪ **LECTURE** – Zahner Conservation Lecture Series at the Highlands Nature Center. Jim Warren, Professor of English, Washington & Lee University: The Two Johnnies in Georgia: Muir and Burnoughs Visit the South. 7 p.m. Free.

Aug. 6

▪ **LIVE MUSIC** – Highlands singer-songwriters Thea & the Green Man at Buck's on Main Street at 8 p.m.

Aug. 7

▪ **BATS** – Learn about bats at the Nature Center. Come for a presentation and see some live bats, then stay to try to detect bats outdoors. 8– 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person. Pre-registration is required. Call 526-2623.

▪ **YARD SALE** – The Catholic Church's annual yard sale at 8:30. Items include furniture, old records, toys, books, knick knacks, and kitchen items. Proceeds benefit the youth of the church.

▪ **ART SHOW** – Macon County Art Assoc. art show at the Catholic Church.

▪ **BREAKFAST** – Bolivian Mission Breakfast & Bake Sale, 8-11 a.m. at the Methodist Church on Main Street.

▪ **FREE RIDES** – Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free hotdogs, drinks and rides on a firetruck.

▪ **HELP NEEDED** – There is a bone marrow and platelet drive for Irene Sanchez at the Peggy Crosby Center from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Town Board says 'no' to Old Edwards

By Kim Lewicki

Part of Old Edward Inn's beautiful rock wall on Spring Street must come down.

At the Aug. 4 Town Board meeting, commissioners ruled that the west end of the wall which juts into the prescribed sidewalk area must be taken down and rebuilt as per the

original plans.

Bronce Pesterfield, engineer/architect on the Old Edwards Inn project, said the grade of the embankment forced them to bring the end of the wall out rather than following a straight line along Spring Street as originally planned.

"We ran into an extreme grade

change," said Pesterfield. By turning the wall he said they saved trees and didn't have to encroach on anyone's property.

But since the wall juts out, 10 feet of the sidewalk in front of the wall is only four feet wide, not six-feet as the town requires.

▪See OLD EDWARDS page 12

Oak Street lot now zoned GI

By Kim Lewicki

If the Bascom-Louise Gallery can raise the million dollars needed to purchase the property, it can build its new home on Oak Street.

At the Aug. 4 Town Board meeting, commissioners heard opinions from the public during the public hearing part of the meeting and then after much discussion, agreed to re-zone the R2 five-acre lot to GI (government/institutional)

Residents in the area wondered what would happen to the property if the gallery couldn't raise the funds to purchase the property.

"If they don't raise the money,

▪See ZONED page 13

County hazard plan in place

By Kim Lewicki

As one of the first counties in the state to adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan, Macon County is in line for federal grant money for disaster aid and more.

At the Aug. 2 Macon County Commissioners meeting, Warren Cabe, Macon County Emergency Management Coordinator, told the board that if the county doesn't have a plan in place by Nov. 1, 2004, it won't get money from the state or federal government for di-

▪See HAZARD page 12

Blessing of Highlands School



Photo by Jim Lewicki

The 2004-2005 school year started off with a "Blessing of the School Year" during an ecumenical service at Highlands United Methodist Church, 6 p.m. Aug. 3. Ministers, school board members, county and town commissioners, the mayor and several law enforcement officers attended the service. Above Principal Monica Bomengen spoke with several Highlands School students asking them "What would Jesus bring to school in his knapsack?"

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**Officials talk about drugs in
Macon County at "Blessing
of the School Year" Tuesday**

By Kim Lewicki

At the Blessing of the School ceremony, Tuesday night, parents, teachers, town officials and students heard what many have already come to know – Macon County isn't immune to drug problems.

Ken Razza, Assistant Supervisor for the Western District Office of the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation spoke to the community as part of the "Let's Talk About It," program sponsored by the county.

Last fall, Razza spoke to the Franklin community. Tuesday night it spoke to Highlands.

He explained how today's "hottest" drug, methamphetamine is manufactured and how it gets into the hands of the county's students and citizens.

"It's not the same as the meth of the 70s," he said. "It's called D-Meth and it's much more potent and much more addictive." He said once a person is addicted, which can take as little as three months of steady use, there is only a 16 percent chance of kicking the habit.

He said there are four drugs used in Macon County today – marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine and Oxycotin, a prescription drug,

considered to be a "clean" high by heroin addicts.

He told of warning signs of meth use – anxious, agitated behavior and deep, coma-like sleep.

Though law enforcement officials haven't found any meth labs in Highlands, they have found them in Franklin, Macon County and other counties in Western North Carolina. "As of this morning, 198," said Razza.

The labs can be set up in a kitchen, bathroom or garage. Supplies which are available in any drug store can be stored under the kitchen sink or in a closet. The mixture and the vessels used to produce it are considered toxic waste and are handled as such, complete with "moon suit" protection.

A bill to punish producers of meth as harshly as those who sell it was signed by the governor this week. But the problem of holding criminals once apprehended still falls apart at the court level, said officials.

"Users and producers have the same constitutional rights we all have," said Macon County Sheriff Robbie Holland.

Razza said it takes three or four arrests before he can truly get producers and users off the streets.

The show will go on regardless

Despite disparaging allegations flying around town concerning the recent resignation of Highlands Playhouse Artistic Director David Kleist, the show must and will go on.

That's the word from the Playhouse board who can't give particulars as to why they accepted Kleist's resignation. "Just that things weren't working out," they said.

Both sides have issues with each other – issues which may have been put to rest if lines of communication were left open.

Following Kleist's resignation, his wife, Leslie was fired, "because of a lot of little things that added up," said President of the Board Dwight Bryant.

Except for their daughter, Jamie, who played the lead in "Honk" no other actor or member of this year's cast or crew has left.

After long-standing Artistic Director Gus Staub left for health reasons five years ago, the Playhouse has had a new Artistic Director each year since.

Board members say none of them were fired -- they all chose not to return or their contracts weren't renewed for various reasons.

Adrian Roberts will direct the final show "6 Rms Riv Vu," and Colin Wilcox Paxton of Highlands Instant Theater will serve with him.

"Everything is in place and under control," said Bryant.

• OBITUARY •

Scotty Monroe Wilson

Scotty Monroe Wilson, age 53, Asheville, N.C. died Sunday, August 1, 2004 at his residence. He was a native of Macon County, the son of Lela Johnson Wilson of Highlands, and the late Warren W. Wilson. He was a Radiologic Technologist supervisor at Mission-St. Joseph's and was a clinical instructor of Radiology at A.B. Tech and V.A. Oteen. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Highlands and a member of N R A. Scotty was a devoted son, father, brother and friend.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by three sons, Michael Robert Wilson and Darin S. Wilson of Asheville, NC and Bradley Evan Wilson of Radcliff, KY; two sisters, Barbara Rice of Clayton, GA and Betty Morgan of Anderson, SC; five brothers, Woodrow Wilson of Highlands, NC, Jack A. Wilson and Kenneth J. Wilson both of Easley, SC, Leroy Wilson of Clarksville, GA. and Oscar Clyde Wilson of Cashiers, NC. Two grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, August 4 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral in Highlands with Rev. John Rogers officiating. Burial will be in the Highlands Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 1-2 p.m., one hour prior to service at Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands, NC.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

• LETTER TO THE EDITOR •

Joining the fight against cancer

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Relay for Life First Presbyterian Church JOY Team, I could not let the day pass without thanking all those who made our "Evening at the Cabaret" such a lovely and successful event.

Thanks to the 200 of you who purchased tickets. A special thanks to Kate Watson, Sandra Bash, Lee Metcalfe, and Perry Hines for providing such beautiful music. And, a chorus of thanks to the business establishments who so generously contributed to the reception following the performance: Bryson's Food Store, Café of the Arts, Cosper Flowers, Fireside Restaurant, Fressers Eatery, Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop, Lakeside Restaurant, Let Holly Do the Cooking, Main Street Inn, Mountain Fresh Fine Foods, Ristorante Paoletti, Rosewood Market, and Wild Thyme Gourmet.

If the sign of a good evening is people lingering, talking, enjoying delicious food and fine wine - then this evening was a GREAT success.

Relay for Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day, cancer will be eliminated.

Again, thanks to each of you who share this hope.

Trisha Roellke
Highlands

Safety on Church Street

Dear Editor,

Re: the recent article on Church Street.

To quote an OEI representative in the article, "The travelway isn't safe."

And why not? It couldn't be the mounds of flagstones, a score of workers, trucks, derricks and the like and belonging to whom?

Bob Tietze
Highlands

Highlands Historical Society

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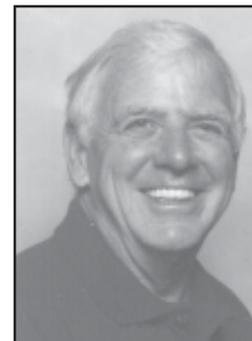
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• **LAUGHING AT LIFE** •

How to cheat at bridge

(From the Haitian Bridge Club of Miami)



Fred Wooldridge

Last year I informed our readers of a method of cheating at the card game "Bridge" that was perfect. Well, almost perfect. I learned the system from a good buddy of mine named Jon Baptiste. (Not to be confused with John, the Baptist) Mr. Baptiste (I call him JB) is Bridge Director of the Haitian Bridge Club of Miami.

JB is also a master carver of wooden dolls. I had him whittle out a bunch of tiny replicas of all our bridge players here in Highlands. On Bridge day, I would simply stick pins in the various dolls and my opponents would show up feeling lousy, allowing me to win. I dropped the practice after the local churches banned together and sent an exorcist to my house.

Currently, the little missus and I are going through a major crisis in our lives. She is getting better at playing Bridge and I am not. She wants to send me to a finishing school for uppity players but I refused. I tried to explain to her that I am not interested in doing any more thinking than I am currently doing.

I have spent my entire life thinking. Sometimes it was intense and overwhelming. After 28 years of carrying a gun and 13 more on the cliffs of Highlands, I am not only done shootin' and done rappellin', I am done thinkin'. She was not impressed.

Next, I tried trickery. I told her my heart medicine (red wine) was affecting my game. I explained that while my heart was getting stronger each day, the heart medicine (mostly Merlot) was killing off major bridge brain cells. "What do you want," I asked, "a healthy husband with lousy scores or a puny guy whose name is always in the winner's circle?"

With an ever diminishing attention span, a love of good red wines and a convoluted mind that can conjure up foolishness in a

flash, I had to act fast or I could be forced to join other husbands who have been exiled to golf courses where they have to dress funny and hit little balls into the lake while their wives play bridge.

In a panic, I called JB and told him of my dilemma. He sent me a

secret set of Haitian signals to be used during the bidding process. It took awhile to persuade the little missus to go along, but once she realized that finding a new bridge partner who could drive at night would be difficult, she conceded.

Since most savvy bridge directors are aware of cheating practices, we had to be creative. In Haiti, they use goat jerky sandwiches as their tool of deceit. Since we both hate goat jerky, we substituted PB and J.

Here is how it works, so take notes. During the game, the unwrapping of the sandwich signals the cheating will begin. Raise the sandwich to your lips but don't take a bite. This means that you are in a dilemma and don't know what to do. I use this signal a lot.

The next signal is to take a bite but don't chew. This means one of two things. You have either accidentally put brown roofing cement on your sandwich instead of peanut butter or you have so many points in your hand, you need a calculator. Our guy, JB, says never whip out a calculator at bridge as this might tip off your opponents you have many points. Is he clever, or what? So I use the calculator when I have lousy points, just to confuse my opponents....and usually the little missus. I do find it difficult to hold the cards, my cheat sheet, the calculator and the sandwich.

I don't want to give away all our signals, just in case some of our

Dealing with cancer – an insider's story

Editor's note: This article is one of a series written by a man whose wife has cancer. Other articles will appear as the story develops.

It has been only 10 days since we learned that Cynthia has bladder cancer. So many things have happened in such a short period of time. And yet, it seems like a year ago.

I think it would be easier to deal with if I were the one who had cancer. It's an evil thing, and it does all kinds of things to your life.

It rearranges your priorities.

It makes you forget things you need to remember. It makes you remember things you'd like to forget.

It gives life a whole new meaning.

It messes with your mind.

It saps your energy, eating away at your power to fight back.

It warps time.

It takes the form of a very evil being.

And it will wipe away your smile in a heartbeat.

All these thoughts came to me last night as we prepared for today's surgery.

So far, it seems that we have been hit over the head at every stopping point along the road to the operation. Every turn has brought more bad news.

It began a week ago Tuesday. Cynthia had gone to see Dr. C. Willis Sherrer, a gynecologist at Highlands Cashiers Hospital because of a light discharge. After an ultrasound exam showed some irregularities, Dr. Sherrer recommended a D and C — an examination of the uterus and a cystoscopic examination of the bladder.

Cynthia's daughter Margaret came up from Atlanta to share the waiting with me. As we waited, we purchased raffle tickets for a number of picnic baskets being sold by hospital staff. Proceeds

would go to the Mountain Top Relay for Life, an event that will be held on Aug. 27 for Highlands and Cashiers. The campaign is collecting money for the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Sherrer came out and told us that he had found nothing during the D and C, but Franklin urologist Dr. David DeHoll, Jr., had a disturbing report for us.

Dr. DeHoll announced to us and to everyone else in the waiting room that Cynthia had four

malignant tumors that probably could be removed. The bad news was that a fifth tumor looked dangerous. He recommended immediate action.

The next day, Cynthia called Dr. Sherrer and asked him to recommend a doctor in Atlanta who could take her case. The doctor said he knew just the man. "Give me 20 minutes," he said. "I'll call him."

Sure enough, Dr. Sherrer called back in 20 minutes. He

had arranged for us to see Dr. William Scaljon, a noted urologist at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta, on Thursday — the very next day.

Dr. Scaljon did a cystoscopy and emerged with more bad news. There were more than five tumors, but he wasn't sure how many. He was pretty sure he could get most of them, but that bad one was still a menace. He wanted to operate as soon as possible.

So here we are at the hospital, waiting for the results of the surgery. Today is Friday, 10 days after the first exam at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Margaret is with me, and two close friends, Gene and Sandra, are here as well. Margaret lives in Atlanta, so we spent last night at her home.

Yesterday, we were busy all day. We had to prepare for the trip, taking enough clothes to stay a few days if necessary. We had several errands to run before we left, and then there was the 140 mile trip to Atlanta. So we were tired when we finally got to bed about 11 p.m. I felt like I could sleep a week, but we had to get up at 5:30 to make it to the hospital for the surgery.

I awoke shortly after 3 a.m., and instantly I was wide awake. I realized that I had been thinking about the day ahead, even in my sleep.

I spent the next two hours thinking about cancer. Things that had seemed important before had disappeared from the radar scope. I experienced what I'm sure many other cancer patients and caregivers have felt. Cancer was no longer a disease or an abstract thing. It became a person: a brutal, sinister being who found pleasure in destroying lives. Things that had seemed important before had disappeared from the radar scope.

The small garden that had occupied my time was left to the weeds and insects. The herbs I

*Are you a cancer survivor or
do you know someone who is?*

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Stuart Armor

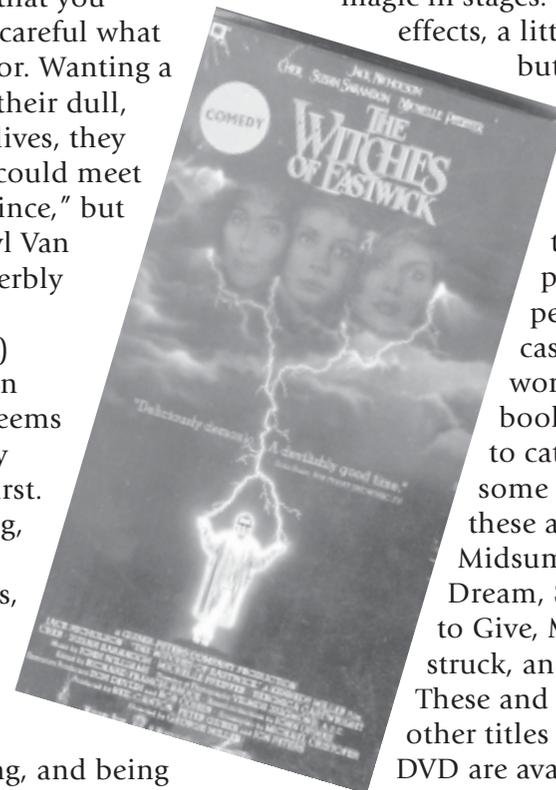
all too well, guessing all of their fears and desires. As he forms relationships with all three women (Sarandon, Cher and Pfeiffer are flawless in these roles), things get both creepier and funnier.

Nicholson plays this over the top, the only way the role

The Storyline: Three lonely women in a small, sleepy New England town learn first hand that you should be careful what you wish for. Wanting a change in their dull, workaday lives, they wish they could meet a "Dark Prince," but when Daryl Van Horn (superbly played by Nicholson) shows up in town, he seems an unlikely prince at first. Fat, balding, obnoxious to extremes, he is nonetheless charming, entertaining, and being Jack Nicholos, creepy. He seems to know all three of the women

could be done, and the ladies, three of my favorite actresses, are brilliant, going from mousy to magic in stages. Very neat special effects, a little gross at times,

but the vomit bits are tastefully done. The music, by John Williams, adds to the tension perfectly. A perfect ensemble cast does great work with Updike's book. This ones hard to categorize, but some that feature these actors are Wolf, Midsummernight's Dream, Something's Got to Give, Mask, Moonstruck, and Unfaithful. These and about 5,000 other titles on VHS and DVD are available at Movie Stop, give them a look.



New face at Wayah Insurance



Jeremy Dooley

Jeremy Dooley has joined the staff at Wayah Insurance Group as a licensed Property and Casualty Agent. A 1999 graduate of Highlands School, Jeremy attended Appalachian State University and is currently enrolled at Western Carolina University where he will complete his BS in History and Political Science degree in June.

... **LAUGHING** from pg 4

bridge buddies are reading this, but just let me say that if you ever see the little missus and I unwrap our sandwiches together and go into an eating frenzy, we have either missed breakfast or we have a Grand Slam, which, for Bridge players, is better than sex.

Oh, one last thing. If we ever have to play opponents who have so many master points they will surely trounce us, we actually bring goat jerky sandwiches, only we add Limburger cheese. This knocks them off their game and has them reeling in disgust.

So look for our names in the winner's circle and if you want the list of secrets, call Miami and ask for JB. Do not call him Jerky Jon or he'll carve a doll that looks like you.

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2 & 4:20 Sat & Sun Matinees

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● LIFE UNDER CONSTRUCTION ●

Building new categories in your head

This particular morning, I need to create a WHOA category. What's that you might ask? Well, according to an author colleague of mine, it stands for

When Hurry Overtakes Awe
Lately I have been hurrying too much. Today I am facing my column deadline again and I am taking time to say WHOA! Oh, I am up plenty early. What time is it you might ask? Well, I've been up for over an hour and still no sight of daylight.

This morning, I am reflecting on life beyond my To -do list. In order to do that, I am taking this column from a chapter in my book, *Random Thoughts and Mine Always Are!* It's about making categories in your head and today, my new category is the WHOA factor.

Sometimes when things happen in your life for the first time or when they become unmanageable and hard to grasp on the spot, it is easy to become overwhelmed. I learned from a friend that at those times we need to develop new categories in our head. By categories, I am referring to a place or compartment in our brain where we store information for later use. We might even need to come back to that place to seek a deeper understanding.

I found this to be true when I had a rather unpleasant occurrence, one that I might say I never want to repeat again. My



Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

usual tendency would be to handle the situation by compartmentalizing the information by association, and connecting it with a previous experience so it becomes familiar to me. This occurrence, however, was unlike any other and it required a new space

in my head to dwell for later review.

What a challenge it became to see how many new categories I could create. Of course, that meant letting go of that which was not working. This means your resistance meter may rise because it feels disrupted and unsafe, but remember that new categories can increase your growth potential and expand your possibilities for ways of handling both fastidious and gratifying situations.

The same friend that taught me this lesson needed to create a huge classification that very week, when she delivered a baby three months early. It was unlike any category we both had ever imagined, but since she had practiced this concept, she was able to handle this very frightening experience with grace. And Skylar just turned four last month.

How far can you stretch your mind when you really need to? Is there room for a new category? Create one today. How do you go about doing that? I have no idea because it is your category, not mine.

Need a cup of delicious coffee and one of Maryellen's books? STOP by the Schoolhouse in Cashiers! Email me for further information. 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! www.maryellenlipinski.com

... RELAY from 5

had planted were unwatered. The hummingbird feeders went unfilled. The book I had been reading was untouched. I had failed to keep up with the Braves, my favorite baseball team.

All of my time and energy were concentrated on that one little word – cancer.

I knew that our faith was strong. We had the support of hundreds of well-wishing friends. It was not Cynthia's battle; it was our battle. Still, I knew that I could never understand the depth of Cynthia's fears and mental agonies.

As the sun began to rise, I left our bedroom and went to the living room. I went down on my knees, asking for God's help. I asked for the strength that I would need, and I asked for the strength Cynthia would need as we fought this mortal battle. But even as I did so, I remembered the words of Jesus on the eve of his crucifixion — Thy will, not mine, be done.

I glanced at the clock as I slipped back into bed. The alarm would go off in half an hour. Cynthia stirred beside me, and I found her hand and touched it gently, and she held onto it. We spent the next 30 minutes that way, both awake but not speaking. We were both thinking about the day before us.

At the hospital, a nurse explained that Dr. Scaljon would probably finish his work in about two and a half hours. The time crept by. We started looking for the doctor at the appropriate time, but he didn't show up. In fact, it was almost three and a half hours before we saw him.

Dr. Scaljon told us that he had removed eight tumors, all malignant. The ninth — the one we had feared — may have actually penetrated the outer wall of the bladder. If so, cancer cells could have spread to other parts of her body. He would not be able to remove it surgically.

"This is very serious," he said. He has scheduled a CT scan for Monday morning.

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Mayor Buck Trott, Avary Doubleday, Town Commissioners Hank Ross and Dennis DeWolf, Peggy Crosby Center Executive Director Christy Kelly, Commissioner Alan Marsh and Gerry Doubleday.

'Litter Perfect' a win-win for Highlands and area youth

The ever-present litter problem in Highlands may soon be a thing of the past. Late last spring, Gerry and Avary Doubleday came up with a win-win situation by funding clean-up efforts in Highlands.

"Litter Perfect," a nonprofit organization administered by the Peggy Crosby Center, is dedicated to organizing youth efforts to regularly clean up Highlands. The Doubledays have donated \$7,000 in start-up funds which will be used to pay youth groups to pick up litter. "The program is designed to work with youth organizations who are seeking avenues for community service and need funds for their own activities," said Kelly.

Safety training as well as bags and safety vests will be provided for teens prior to clean-up. Eight sections of the Highlands Township have been identified for clean-up and depending on team size the work should take from two to four hours.

Some sections, such as the downtown business district, will be scheduled for monthly clean-up and others will be scheduled quarterly.

The program is designed to enhance the efforts already in place through the Adopt-a-Highway program. At completion of each clean-up, a donation will be made to the group responsible.

Any youth group (minimum age 14) with adult supervision is eligible to participate with one adult for every four youths required. For more information, training and scheduling, call Christy Kelly at the Peggy Crosby Center, 526-9938, ext. 110.

• SHOPS 'ON 4TH ST. ...ON THE HILL' •

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Highlands Whole Life Supply, a small but powerful health food store boasts a history of over 20 years in the same location. With only 650 sq. ft. of floorspace customers are often surprised at the wide selection of products available. Organic foods, breads, juices, gifts, body care products, natural pet products, books and nutritional supplements await your purchase.

Highlands Whole Life Supply specializes in meeting the nutritional needs of people with special dietary concerns. If you're looking for organic choices, you'll be surprised at just how many of these products are offered on the grocery shelves. If you have a taste for tea, they carry Tazo, Traditional Medicinals, Yogi and Celestial Seasonings in a variety of flavors.

Highlands Whole Life Supply carries Burt's Bees, Kiss My Face, and JR Liggett products. If you're looking for cosmetics, you can sample the Gabriel Cosmetics line and discover for yourself the luxury of using make-up made by nature. Located at 223 South 4th Street in the prime shopping area of Highlands on "the hill" the store offers easy access parking, and friendly helpful staff for a pleasant, peaceful shopping experience.

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• ARMCHAIR TRAVELER •

Galapagos is enchanting bouillabaisse

Take one aging biology major, add volcanic islands, mix with brilliant turquoise seas and glistening white and black sand beaches, season with an assortment of exotic birds and land and sea animals and you have the recipe for the bouillabaisse of the enchanting Galapagos Islands off the coast of Ecuador.

The islands are famous as the place where Charles Darwin visited in 1835 and where he began to deduce his theory of natural selection. His book that detailed this process, *The Origin of the Species*, was an instant best seller. In it he told of his study of finches on several of the islands. Today they are called Darwin finches of which there are now over thirteen species.

The archipelago lies isolated approximately 600 miles west of Ecuador. Some of the islands are composed of smooth basalt while others are cindery, very rough and in places very difficult to walk upon. Even though the equator bisects them, their climate and temperatures are the result of their ocean currents. This helps to mediate their temperatures.

Mostly desert with low scrub and stunted trees, except during the warm, moist season when they become more green, the islands have become home to a very interesting assortment of birds, aquatic animals, and some land animals. Most of the land's animals were introduced to the islands with the coming of man. Goats and pigs escaped and began to multiply. They have become a great problem today. With no natural predators, they are challenging the indigenous species for food.

There are several different habitats on the islands, even on a single island. Contributing factors are amount of rainfall received, altitude, and whether it is the south or north side of the island. Due to this not all animals are found on all the islands.

Because of the lack of predators for most of the species, visitors get to experience one of the special attributes of a visit to the Galapagos Islands. The birds and animals are unafraid and unfazed by man. This allows visitors to approach them closely, often within a foot.

The first stop after arrival

island, in the morning and another in the afternoon. The cruise ships are of various sizes and luxury. My cruise boat had a capacity of 95 people. The food was good, the cabins comfortable, and the staff pleasant and accommodating. The guides who give the island tours were also fresh-faced and very

episode of *The Bachelorette*.

The marine iguanas with their green and red scales seemed to enjoy just lying in heaps on the sand. Occasionally they would sleepily lift their heads to blow the moisture and sand out of their nostrils. There were others lying somnolently about totally ignoring the visitors with their clicking cameras.

The Galapagos tortoise is a truly remarkable animal. On Isabella Island, they live mostly on the sides of the volcanoes. When the time comes for them to lay their eggs, they begin their very slow and tedious journey down the mountains to the softer sand below. They travel along "turtle highways" to ease their lumbering journey. The males remain mostly on the higher ground. The warmth of the sand assists in the incubation of the eggs. From the 1500's to the 1800's, their numbers greatly decreased because the crews of the various ships stopping in the islands hunted them as food. The Charles Darwin Center's breeding program has helped to re-establish these gentle giants once again.

The sea lions with their new pups were delightful. Some babies nuzzled their mothers while others cried piteously for a mother gone to sea in search of food. Each mother also knew exactly which was her pup and reacted with a nip and glare for any other baby attempting to nurse. The babies with their large, luminous eyes and gentle faces were a guaranteed tourist draw. There were many "Oh, how sweets" and "Aren't they darlings" wafting through the air.

You don't have to be an aging biologist, or even a biologist, to enjoy visiting the Galapagos Islands. All that is required is a curiosity about nature, a desire to see unusual birds and animals in their natural habitat, and a sense of awe with the closeness of your encounters. Consider creating your own bouillabaisse with a visit.

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should be The Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz Island. Here you can visit the Galapagos tortoise and land iguana breeding centers. This is the only place in the islands where you are allowed to touch the animals.

Cruises from three days to three weeks are available for visiting the various islands. The most popular are the 5- and 7-days tours. They visit an island, or a portion of an

knowledgeable.

Of course, the most important part of any Galapagos Island trip is the birds and animals. I visited in September when the sea lions were giving birth. The blue-footed boobies, flightless cormorants, and albatrosses were performing their courtship rituals. Their twining necks, beak pecks, and raucous sounds make one feel as if they have stepped into an animal

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... OLD EDWARDS from page 1

"We thought the main purpose was to save parking spots and we've been able to do that," he said.

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf said he was willing to accept the encroachment if it saved trees, but other commissioners disagreed.

"It doesn't make any sense for us to approve construction plans if they aren't followed," said Commissioner Herb James. "I think they should be required to put the wall in like originally planned."

Commissioner Patterson said the

board is constantly saying 'let it go,' 'let it go.' "How many more times are we going to let it go? she asked. "I hate that every time you build something you have to come back with a change because it didn't work the way you thought," she said. "I don't think it's unreasonable for us to expect that when you bring us a plan that's the way it will be built."

Pesterfield said it was going to be very costly to take the wall down and it's a beautiful wall.

"It is a beautiful wall," said Commissioner James. "It's too bad it's in the wrong place."

... HAZARD from 1

saster relief should a disaster arise.

Since June of 2001, when the General Assembly passed the bill ordering local governments to formulate a Hazard Mitigation Plan, he has been working with officials in Highlands and Franklin to develop a multi-jurisdictional plan.

"The thing is, once we adopt a plan the county could be eligible for funds for projects unrelated to a specific disaster," he said. "If the funds are available, and if a municipality requests funding, it is automatically in the pool for the money."

Subsequently, Cabe has written into the plan \$8 million to upgrade water treatment plants and help with expected disaster-related costs like the elimination of storm debris, the purchasing of a tub grinder and other items. Also to study, survey, map and identify floodplain or flood-related erosion areas.

"If approved, regardless of where a disaster takes place in the state, a municipality with a plan can still request funding for projects in its area," he said.

With the county adopting a resolution for its Hazard Mitigation Plan, the town of Highlands followed suite.

At the Aug. 4 Town Board meeting, commissioners agreed to adopt the county's multi-jurisdiction plan by resolution.

"The mayor and I have thoroughly reviewed the Hazard Mitigation Plan developed for Macon County," said Town Administrator Richard Betz. "The purpose is to provide a blueprint to follow to reduce the damage and loss of life that may result from natural hazard occurrences in the area."

He said it also makes the county eligible for future hazard mitigation grant funds from FEMA and other agencies.

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... ZONED from pg 1

will it go back to R2 or will it stay GI," asked Peggy Foss.

Zoning Administrator, Larry Gantenbein said once rezoned GI the property had to stay GI for one year. At that point the owners or prospective buyers could petition the Town Board to re-zone it back to R2.

The wording of the ordinance change is so stringent that the only structure that can be built on the lot, now zoned GI, is a non-profit, visual arts gallery with primary road and pedestrian access from U.S. 64.

Commissioner Amy Patterson was concerned that the zoning was "contractual" which is illegal in North Carolina. But Gantenbein said it was "conditional" which is legal.

"The condition is that whatever is built there must be a visual arts gallery, not the Bascom-Louise Gallery," said Gantenbein. "The condition is that it's a visual arts gallery."

Commissioner Herb James and others suggested the re-zoning be contingent upon clear title to the property or a specific date.

"Can't we make this change effective the day they get clear title?" he asked.

Gantenbein said there was nothing in the ordinance prohibiting adoption upon clear title but it would probably have to be "date specific," he said.

The lawyer for the Bascom-Louise Gallery board said setting a specific time would hinder the gallery's plans.

"You would be tying the hands of the gallery to negotiate for an extension if funds were about to come in," he said. "There needs to be enough latitude so the buyer and seller can work it out without worrying about a time table."

The gallery board has until Oct. 15, 2004 to purchase the property. Residents appear pleased with the park-like design of the gallery and the iron-clad ordinance that will orchestrate its construction.

"I don't know of anything that could go on the property that would serve the community better," said Lynn DeVille.

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Glenda Bell – a lady on the run

By Nancy Jenkins Welch
Contributor

Glenda Bell stays on the run. She is involved with the Methodist Church where she teaches Sunday School and is involved with the children's programs. She is a member of the Laurel Garden Club where she serves as recording secretary and is active in Land Stewards.

"That's my real love," the slender blond said, her smile lighting up her face. "We want to keep our mountains from overdeveloping."

Now she is off for the run of her life, literally. On Nov. 13 Bell will join 3,500 runners to run her first marathon in Richmond, Va., a 26.2 mile race.

For some this wouldn't seem unusual, but

Bell has not traditionally been an athletic person.

"I participated in no athletics in high school," she said. "and in college I took only the required PE courses."

In 1975 she and a group in her neighborhood in Savannah, Ga., decided to try running.

"At first we just ran one block," she said. "Then two and then three. We were surprised when we finally got up to one mile."

She has participated in fun runs since then, but never anything overly challenging. So why take on a marathon?



Photo by Jim Lewicki

Saturday, Oct. 24, was the annual Highlands 5K Race and Fun Run. Glenda ran that race crossing the finish line with a smile.

"For one thing, I like expediency," she said. "I got a notice in the mail and saw the marathon was to support organ and tissue organ transplants."

She explained a friend recently lost a three-year-old and she felt this was an excellent cause and a tribute to her friend's great loss.

So, Bell began training.

"Richard Betz has given me so much advice and encouragement," she said. "He told me how to keep a journal and gave me a book on running marathons. He also referred me to some websites on marathons."

She said Betz often runs with her.

"He's very kind, he slows his pace for me," she said.

"I'm just really proud of Glenda," Betz said. "If she wants it, I know she can do it. She's just amazing. She's run several times with

the Road Runners here and she's run a 5K more than once. This marathon is a real commitment and involves quite a process to build up to such a long run."

Betz said 20 miles is the magic number.

"For some reason, when you reach that, you can do it. There's something psychological about that number," he said. "I have no doubt she'll be able to reach that. Then she will know better how to pace herself."

Bell said many of her friends have been amazed that she would undertake such a strenuous task.

"They'll say, 'Are you crazy?'" she said.

Bell said her husband, Griffin, sometimes runs with her, but will not run a marathon because he has flat feet.

"But he will be there to support me," she said.

Lila Howland, who serves on the Land Stewards with Bell said she was surprised to hear Bell's plans.

"I knew she had run with some groups around here but I didn't know about the marathon. How about that! But I'm not really too surprised," Howland said. "If she wants to do it, she'll do it! I think it's great."

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Year in Chile leaves lasting impression

By Kara Karcher

Contributor

I recently got back from spending a whole year in Chile as a Rotary Youth Exchange student.

Choosing to go on this trip was by far the best decision I've made in my life. Not only was I able to learn Spanish and make many new friends, I learned a lot about myself and grew up a lot in the process.

Chile is a small country in South America on the borders of Argentina, Bolivia and Peru. I lived in northern Chile in a city called Antofagasta. It is a coastal city with beautiful beaches and dry weather.

I had one host family all year – the Aragon-Palma family. I became really close to my host parents, Carlos and Judith and my little brother Nicolas. Now I know whenever I go back to Chile I'll always have a place to stay.

I enjoyed spending time in the kitchen with the family house-keeper, Ruth. She taught me how to make Chilean dishes like empanadas which are fried bread with cheese stuffed inside. I spent a lot of time in school participating in classes. I went to the Antofagasta British School where I was able to

meet many new people and enjoy activities like the school dance team.

It was very easy for me to meet people and make friends because the people in Chile are very welcoming and friendly. They were willing to help me and correct me as I gradually learned Spanish. Learning Spanish was one of the more difficult challenges of the year. I went there knowing next to nothing and came back almost fluent.

It was an amazing challenge and I'm so glad I was able to go and learn so much in just that year. Besides learning Spanish, I also grew a lot as a person as a whole. I'm so thankful for the opportunity I was given and living in Chile for that year was one of the greatest years of my life.

Being back in the U.S. I realize how much I miss the close friends and my family back in South America. I fell in love with the Chilean culture and I'm anxious for an opportunity to go back. Rotary has made a wonderful program that has opened many doors for many students and I am so glad to be one of them.



Kara with Judith and Carlos Aragon-Palma



Kara had one host family all year – the Aragon-Palma family. She became really close to her host parents, Carlos and Judith and to her little brother Nicolas. She lived in Antofagasta, Chile – a coastal city with beautiful beaches and dry weather.

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Theology student's experiences 'real life'

By Nancy Welch
Contributor

David Peeler is proof preachers are getting younger every year. Actually, Peeler isn't a full-fledged preacher yet, but he has spent the last 12 weeks as an intern at Highlands First United Methodist Church. The program is part of the field education process used by Duke Divinity School to give their students on-the-job experience.

Peeler said he has been very well prepared in the classroom and this aspect of his education and the field experience has been

"Of course us well theological classroom," he said. "But the comparison is no to actually sitting in a room with a sick had an opportunity to practice been learning in room."



David Peeler
Duke Divinity
Student

Peeler said he will have preached three times to the parish by the time he leaves next Sunday.

"It went well," he said. "Of course I had preached before, but never to such a large group. It's always a little nerve-racking, but it went well."

Peeler's wife, Julie, is also in Duke Divinity School's field education program this summer. She is serving at the Cashiers Methodist Church. Both will graduate next year and hope to find church homes in the Western Carolina Conference.

"She is from South Carolina, so she wouldn't be far from her parents," Peeler said. "I was an army brat ('Once and Army brat, always an Army brat,' he comments.) And my parents have now moved back to North Carolina, so this would be great geographically."

Peeler said one of the more important aspects of his experience here has been the time he spent with Highlands United Methodist Church Pastor Eddie Ingram.

"We have a history of internships here," Ingram said. "Each intern brings a unique aspect and David has been exceptional."

"He has really served as my mentor and his help has been invaluable," Peeler said of Ingram. "It gives the student a chance to get to know the minds of pastors and how they work."

Peeler said Ingram had challenged him to go out and find a short-term mission, something that could be done in a day or so.

"Julie and I were walking in Cashiers and saw a small Hispanic Church and over a period of Wednesday nights I began going there after I finished here (in Highlands)," Peeler said. "By the end of the summer, we will have had 11 of our church members go there and build shelves and bring toys for the children."

But, his biggest thrill, he said, was when the two churches took communion together.

"I will never forget that," he said.

invaluable. they prepare classically in a hospital parishioner. I duty to actually what I have the classroom.

he will have times to the time he

• 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

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Christian Scientist Church

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Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

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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;
Youth "The Rock" meeting.

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

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.

Women's Cursillo Group (Library) – 4

Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.

The Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14

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.; 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 – 8:30
& 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

Macedonia Baptist Church

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S 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
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Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

Rev. William M Evans, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Wednesdays & Fridays: Mass – 9 a.m.
Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m.
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 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

● HIKING THE HIGHLANDS PLATEAU ●

Hidden hikes tucked away in Blue Valley...

By Leah Ferree
Contributor

Blue Valley is a great destination spot for all lovers of the outdoors. You can camp, backpack, hunt, hike, bike, swim, and fish. One of my favorite places in Blue Valley is the Picklesiemer Rock House (or simply Rock House).

Rock House is a natural rock covering that is perfect for camping or just enjoying a beautiful day. The trail to get there is only seven-tenths of a mile so carrying camping equipment doesn't even require a pack. The rock indentation behind the water allows ample space for setting up a tent and there is already a fire pit there. With the waterfall right in front of you, you even have a natural shower; as long as you don't mind taking an exhilaratingly cold one.

To get to Rock House, travel 5.7 miles down Hwy 28 south to the Blue Valley Road. (It will be right before the Georgia state line). Shortly after you turn right onto this road, it will turn to gravel. Continue on the Blue Valley Rd. for 4.2 miles. Eventually, you will come to a fork. There will be an information sign in front of you. Take the road that curves up to the left. At this point, it will only be another six tenths of a mile. The next road on your right is where you will want to turn. It will be at a slight incline. If you park your car on this road, be sure not to block the gate. (You can't see the gate once you first pull in).

Walk down this trail past the gate for six tenths of a mile until you reach a wildlife clearing. Follow around the right side of the clearing until you see another trail. You will be able to faintly hear a stream by this point. Once this trail narrows, follow it up to the right. The trail will become fainter as it twists through the rhododendrons.

When you reach the Rock House, you will find that the water flowing over the rock is not very powerful. There will be plenty of room to walk

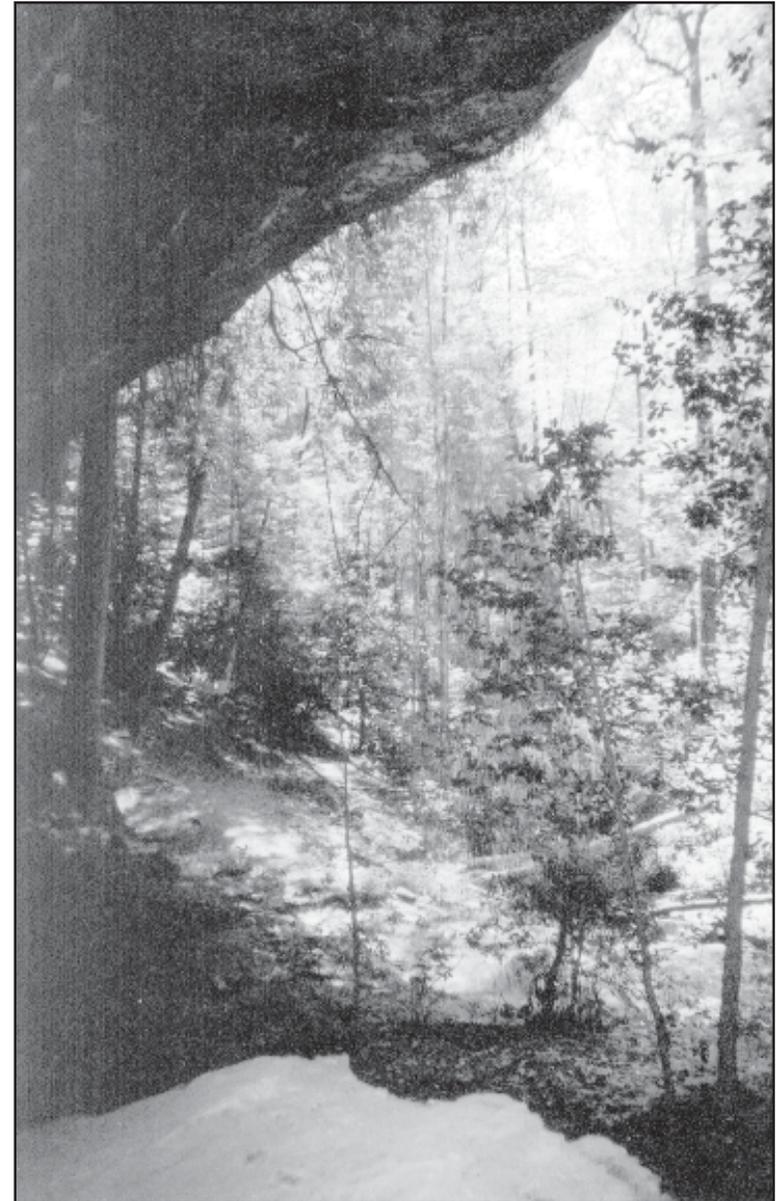
behind it without having to worry about getting wet. This will be the end of the trail and your destination. It is kind of like a cave with a very large opening. You can imagine the early settlers or the Indians using this structure for shelter or even a hiding place from enemies.

Once you have spent a sufficient amount of time at Picklesiemer Rock House, if you still have some left, you should make a trip to Wilson Lakes. To get to Wilson Lakes from Rock House, travel back down the Blue Valley Rd. the way that you came in. Take a left on Copper Dr. a little ways before the road turns into pavement. Go about four tenths of a mile down this road and turn right. (The road will go down a little bit.) You will come to an old picnic area with gravel around it. Park your vehicle here.

Walk towards the way that you just pulled in past a T gate. Follow the trail until you come to a wooden bridge with the lake on the left. This is the first one of the Wilson Lakes. Continue past the bridge to the next lake where you will come to a little bench, perfect for taking in the view.

The lakes are definitely fit for swimming and there used to be a rope swing hanging over the second lake. However, the tree it was attached to has since fallen down and the rope swing is no more. The lakes still offer scenic beauty with the peacefulness of the mountains all around you. The Wilson Lakes would also be a great place for a quiet picnic.

Picklesiemer Rock House and Wilson Lakes are



The Rockhouse in Blue Valley

just a few suggestions of things to do while in the Blue Valley area. Both of these trails are less than a mile one-way, making it very easy for setting up camp at the Rock House or having a picnic by the lakes.

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MC Planning Board wants input from community

Susan Ervin
MC Planning Board

It's not too late – you can still participate in the Community High Impact Discussions. This summer, there has been a series of community meetings held all around the county in fire departments and community centers, sponsored by the Macon County Planning Board and County Commission. These meetings are intended to gather input from community residents on “high impact” land uses – things like asphalt plants, chipmills, junkyards, mines, and incinerators. The Planning Board is working on an ordinance to regulate high impact uses and wants to find out what people think. If one of these

operations was to locate next door to you, what kind of controls would you want in place?

At the meetings held so far, opinions have been wide ranging, but overall, most people have agreed that most of the high impact uses being considered need some kind of regulation. And people have expressed many additional concerns, from free ranging dogs to sprawling development, from derelict mobile homes to loss of rural land, from noisy neighbors to flood plain development. Not everything that has been brought up can fit in a single ordinance, but this is a chance for us to look at and talk about what's happening in our county and what we'd like to happen.

There are many important things to decide and you need to be a part of it. Should any regulations apply to existing operations or only new ones? Are setbacks, hours of operation, screening, and other mitigations sufficient for all high impact uses or not? What do you think should be included in this ordinance and what shouldn't? What should the Planning Board take on next?

There will be a total of 10 community meetings plus several civic group meetings. The meetings so far have all been good, but attendance could be better. If you didn't go to the meeting in your own community, you are certainly welcome at any of the remaining sites.

Every one of us, from people whose families have lived here for generations to those who have just moved here by choice, has a future here. What is it that we value? What matters to us in this place we live? We can easily recognize the value of family, friends, and home, work and play, but we tend to take our surroundings for granted. The mountains, forests, rivers and streams, the neighborhoods and communities, streets and roads, the places we do business and go to school and seek entertainment, our feeling of security or lack of it – all these things are an integral part of our lives, and they're changing; they're

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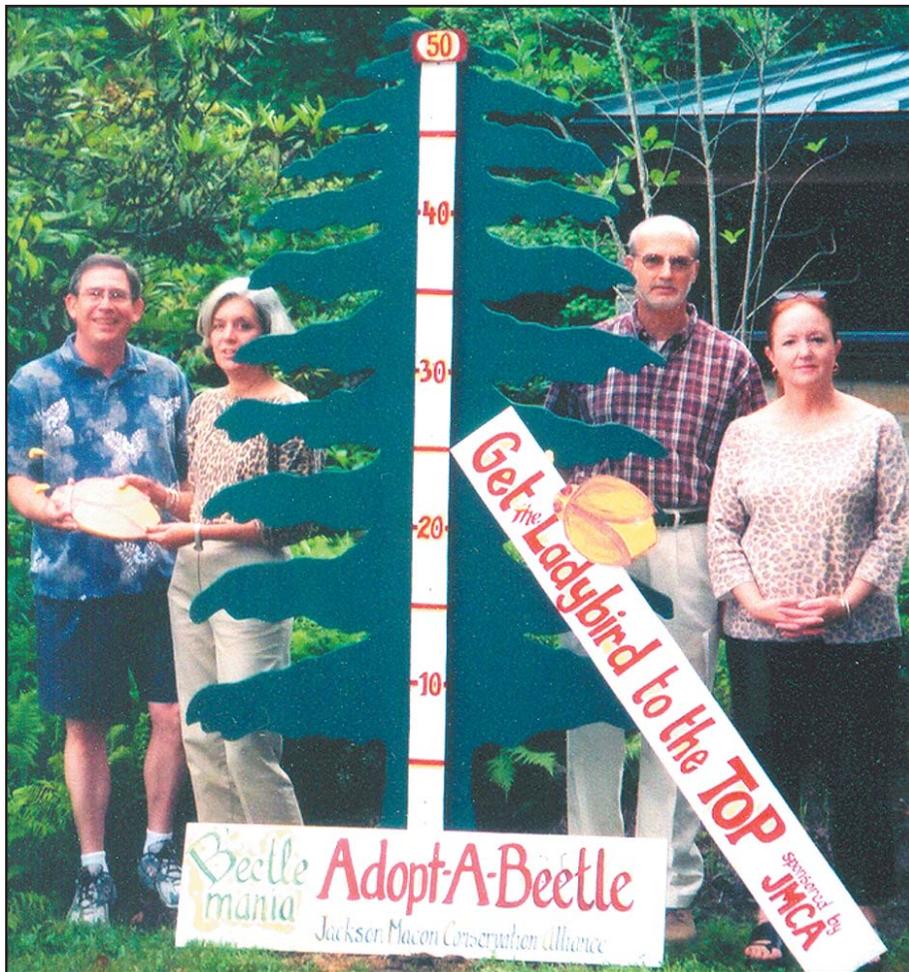
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From left, Robert Wyatt, director of the Highlands Nature Center, Karen Hawk, co-chairman of Beetlemania, David Bates, Executive Director of JMCA and Bonnie Earman, Co-Chairman of Beetlemania.

Beetlemania fundraiser tree erected at the Nature Center

People might be wondering what the funny-looking hemlock tree has been doing in front of the Highlands Nature Center.

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance has begun this year's fund drive to raise \$50,000 to support Clemson University's beetle rearing lab to combat the Woolly Adelgid which threatens hemlock forests.

With the infestation having devastating consequences on area forests, JMCA has erected this tree with the monetary goal at the top and an integral line monitoring the progress toward the total.

To raise money and awareness,

JMCA has placed brochures and donation forms around Highlands at the following locations: Mill Creek Gallery in Village Square, Peggy Crosby Center, Christmas Tree on the Hill, and the Highlands Visitor Center.

In Cashiers, the form and brochures are located in the Cashiers library and the Cashiers Happy Hiker.

Donations of \$2.50 and up are welcome! The beetle that Clemson University is breeding are expensive and it takes thousands for a release to be effective in area forests.

For more information, call JMCA at 526-9938, ext. 320.

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Outbound Rotary Exchange Student



Megan Lewicki, 11th grader at Highlands School, is Rotary Club of Highlands' outbound exchange student this year. On Aug. 23 she heads to Chambéry, France where she will live and learn for a year. With her is Jeff Weller, Rotary exchange student liaison.

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Joe Webb House on Historic Homes Tour



One of the historic homes featured on the tour sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society is that of Jim Green. The house was built in 1930 by Joe Webb for Leroy M. Brown, a lumberman from West Union, S.C. Its lovely stony chimney and pleasing architectural lines create an unusually sophisticated appearance. The Bown/Green house is one of the four historic homes in the Satulah Mountain Historic District on tour Saturday, August 14. Shuttles leave from the Civic Center 9:30 a.m. -3 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person available at Cyrano's Book Shop and at the Chambers Real Estate Agency.

• POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of Aug. 1-4. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

Aug. 1

- A little past midnight, officers responded to a call of a hit and run of a vehicle at Hickory and U.S. 64 east.
- At 2:40 a.m., officers responded to a call of an impaired person outside Mountain Fresh Food Store.
- At 7:20 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at Great Things on N.C. 106. All was secure.
- At 7:30 p.m., officers responded to a call of damage to property at a residence on Stonebrook Lane.
- At 9:40 p.m., a motorist was cited for driving 52 mph in a 35 zone at U.S. 64 west and Webbmont.
- At 8:40 p.m., officers responded to an open door at Highlands School. All was secure.
- At 4 p.m., a resident reported receiving an obscene phone call.
- At 5:30 p.m., a motorist was cited for driving without a license or a tag at Main Street and N.C. 106.
- At 8:30 p.m., a motorist was cited for driving without a license and failing to reduce speed at Oak and N.C. 106.
- At 10:30 p.m., Gustavo Hernandez, 24, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI, possession of a schedule IV substance and driving without a license at U.S. 64 west and Holt Knob Road.

Aug. 2

- At 11:18 a.m., officers responded to an accident at U.S. 64 east and Little Bear Pen. There were no injuries.

At 1 p.m., officers responded to an accident at Main and Fourth streets. There were no injuries.

At 11:18 a.m., a motorist was cited for failing to reduce speed at U.S. 64 east and Little Bearpen.

At 1:45 p.m., officers assisted a stranded motorist.

Aug. 3

At 4 p.m., officers responded to a call of someone camping on private property on Horse Cove Road. The campers were told to move on.

At 2:25 p.m. officers responded to a call of a hit and run in the ABC store parking lot.

Aug. 4

At 9:15 a.m., officers responded to a 911 hang-up at Old Edwards Inn. It was unfounded.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue log entries for the week of July 28-Aug. 4:

July 28

The dept. responded to an alarm at the First Presbyterian Church. It was false.

July 29

The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Johnwood Road. It was false.

July 30

The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on N.C. 106. A pot on the stove caught fire.

• See POLICE & FIRE page 24

• SHOPS AT VILLAGE SQUARE •

Fifth & Oak Streets

Needlepoint of Highlands' owner Barbara Cusachs thinks needlepoint is pretty wonderful. She bought the shop in June of 1993 and has enlarged the selections of hand-painted canvases and fibers every year since.

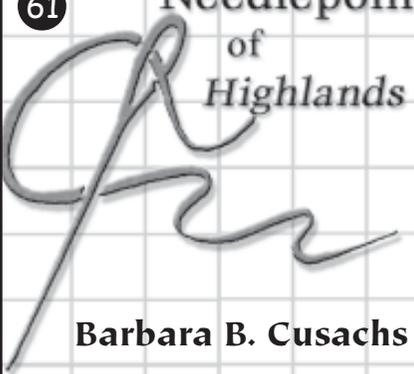
The shop originated in Cashiers in the early 70s. Many of the customers have followed the shop's many moves. Each piece of canvas is not only the creation of a talented artist, but takes on the artistic creation of the stitcher. It takes at least an hour to make fiber and color choices. Then it takes many hours to stitch.

Besides the large selection of hand-painted canvases the shop is known for, there are some pre-stitched canvases, cross-stitched kits and crewel kits.

Needlepoint can be used for pillows, chair seats, rugs, belts, ornaments, Christmas stockings, luggage rack straps, leather purse inserts, pictures, etc.

The shop is open year round, Monday through Saturday. Call ahead in the winter for exact hours.

61 Needlepoint of Highlands



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● UPCOMING EVENTS ●

On-Going

- New Pool Schedule: Mon-Fri 3-5 p.m.; Sat & Sun 1-5 p.m. After Aug. 13 weekends only Sat & Sun 1-5 p.m. Lap Swim daily until Labor Day, Sept. 6.

- Heart Healthy Exercise Group Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8-9 a.m. at the Civic Center. Each session is divided into two parts – a brief warmup for 30 minutes of walking and cooldown exercises and mat exercise for 25 minutes. Cost is \$15 per month. Call Nancy Freese at 743-0135 or sign up at the Civic Center.

- The musical talents of Regis at the Piano at Cafe of the Arts, until 9 p.m. every night.

- Round Robin Tennis with the Nantahala Tennis Association at the Rec Park every day at 9 a.m. and Mondays at 6 p.m. Meet at the Memorial Bench and allow 15 minutes for other players to arrive. Sometimes we're slow at the beginning of the season.

- The Mountain View group of Alcoholics Anonymous now meets in the remodeled basement meeting room of the Presbyterian Church sanctuary, in Highlands. Meeting times are Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wednesdays and Fridays at noon. Call 524-7395.

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese at Falls on Main – THURS-SAT 4:30-6:30 p.m. – the white wines of Germany, special guests on SATURDAY. This Saturday, Uta Bracy. WED.-SUN, cheese plates and wine by the glass.

- At Wolfgang's on Main – Get Uncorked THURS-SUN. 4-6:30 p.m.: Wine and Appetizer Pairings, Flights of Wine, Wine by the glass or bottle/Appetizers; SUNDAYS: Dinner and Jazz 6:30-9:30 p.m. Call 526-3807 for reservations. MONDAYS: Fine Art, Fine Wine and Fine Dining, 6 pm – Passed Appetizers. 6:30 pm – Dinner. Reservations needed.

Aug. 5

- Zahner Conservation Lecture Series at the Highlands Nature Center. Jim Warren, Professor of English, Washington & Lee University: The Two Johnnies in Georgia: Muir and Burnoughs Visit the South. 7 p.m. Free.

Aug. 6

- Highlands singer-songwriters Thea & the Green Man at Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street at 8 p.m.

Aug. 7

- Learn about bats at the Highlands Nature Center. Come for a presentation and see some live bats, then stay to try to detect bats outdoors. 8- 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person. Pre-registration

is required. For reservations, call 526-2623.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate, five mile hike from Park Gap along the Park Ridge Trail to Park Creek. Drive 40 miles, returning 3-4 p.m. Meet at 9 a.m. at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King. Bring a drink, lunch, wear clothing appropriate to the weather and sturdy, comfortable shoes. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for more information.



Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House
Aug. 7, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Enjoy free hotdogs, drinks and rides on a firetruck.

- Lady of Mountains Catholic Church annual yard sale at 8:30. Items include furniture, old records, toys, books, knick knacks, and kitchen items. All proceeds benefit the youth of the church.

- Macon County Art Assoc. art show on the lawn of the Catholic Church all day.

- Bolivian Mission Breakfast & Bake Sale, Saturday from 8-11 a.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.

- Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy free hotdogs, drinks and rides on a firetruck.

- There is a bone marrow and platelet drive for Irene Sanchez at the Peggy Crosby Center from 11-2. Also, a fund in her name has been set up at First Citizens Bank to help pay for her mounting medical bills.

Through Aug 8

- "Honk" at the Highlands Playhouse. Performances are Tuesday-Saturday at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Adult tickets, \$22; Children 12 and under, \$9. Call 526-2695 for tickets or visit the box office on Oak Street.

Aug 9

- Dr. August W. Staub, Professor of

Drama Emeritus, University of Georgia, will present the Highlands Institute's seventh Summer Lecture on Monday at 7:30 p.m. PAC. His lecture topic is entitled "Nothing Private in Contemporary Theatre."

- Highlands Playhouse Annual Golf Tournament 2004 at Highlands Cove 12 noon Shotgun Start; \$125 per golfer includes box lunch & dinner at Peregrine Restaurant. 2 Hole-in-One Prizes: 2004 Chevrolet Corvette and an Appalachian Golf Cart Tournament format: Captain's

Highlands Historical Society, 9:30 to 3. Call 787-1050 for reservations. Shuttle departure from the Civic Center on the half hour.

Aug 15

- Annual Audubon picnic at the Highlands Civic Center south shelter. Cost is \$5 per person for hamburgers. Bring a covered dish. Call 787-1387.

Aug. 21-22

- A cast of five directed by Dean Zuch will present Neil Simon's witty and biting comedy, "The Sunshine Boys," as a Readers' Theater production, Saturday, Aug. 21, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 22, at 2:30 p.m., at PAC. Reservations for the play will be taken during the week of Aug. 16 at the PAC or by phone, 526-8084.

Aug 12-22

- "6 Rms Riv Vu" at the Highlands Playhouse. Performances are Tuesday-Saturday at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Adult tickets, \$20; Children 12 and under, \$9. Call 526-2695 for tickets.

Aug. 20-Sept. 5

- The 7th annual Cashiers Designer Showhouse will feature small private enclave overlooking wildflower meadows, long mountain views and beautiful Lake Glenville. The Showhouse kicks off Friday, Aug. 20 with the Picnic at the Point Patron Party catered by Lee Epting. The Showhouse will be open Aug. 21-Sept. 5, 10 - 4 daily and noon - 4 on Sundays. Tickets can be purchased by calling 828-743-7710. Beneficiaries for the seventh annual Showhouse are the Cashiers Historical Society and the Cashiers Valley Community Council.

August 21

- Library events — The Cashiers Library is having a celebration for children from 10 a.m. to noon, with music and storytelling by Bobbie Pell at 10:30, a visit from the Reading Rover bookmobile at 11 a.m., door prizes, and refreshments. The Hudson Library in Highlands will hold an event from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. the same day, with musical entertainment by Katie Brugger and Arthur Hancock, a visit from the Reading Rover bookmobile at 2 p.m., door prizes and refreshments. For more information call the Hudson Library at 526-3031 or Cashiers Community Library at 743-0215.

Aug. 24

- Audubon cleanup of the Greenway Trail. Meet at the Rec Park North Pavilion at 9 a.m. For information call Brock Hutchins (787-1387) or Edwin Poole (526-2775).

Choice. For more info call Tim Greene at 526-4450 or the Highlands Playhouse at 526-2695.

Aug. 10

- A seminar/discussion of his lecture will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, in the Lower Hall of the PAC. The public is cordially invited to attend the lecture on Monday evening and the seminar/discussion on Tuesday morning.

Aug. 12

- Zahner Conservation Lecture Series at the Highlands Nature Center. Susan Cerulean of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission will give a talk entitled "Tracking Desire and the Swallow-tailed Kite: Habitats and Species Conservation." 7 p.m. Free to the public.

- Library events — Sharyn McCrumb, award-winning Appalachian novelist, will speak at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library at 2 p.m. Proceeds from books sold at the event will benefit the Fontana Regional Library Endowment, courtesy of City Lights Bookstore.

Aug 14

- Historic Home Tour, sponsored by

HIGHLANDS SCHOOL NEWS

New rules for 2004-2005

By Monica Bomengen
Principal

There are 2 significant changes in the Student Handbook.

1. Each unexcused absence will result in 2 points being deducted from the student's average grade at the end of the marking period.

2. We have some additions to the Dress Code.

- Students are permitted freedom of expression to a more limited extent in school than in other public venues. Clothing that causes a significant disruption of the academic environment is subject to restriction, a policy confirmed by the United States Supreme Court. If a teacher deems a student's clothing to be questionable enough to refer the student to administration, the presumption is that the clothing has caused an academic disruption and will be restricted.

- All students at Highlands

School are expected to dress appropriately for the academic environment.

- Clothing that may be appropriate for the beach, the mall, or other weekend or vacation activities may not be sufficiently modest for school. Students (male and female) must observe the following guidelines:

- Shorts and skirts must be worn at an appropriate length. When students stand with their hands by their sides, shorts or skirts must be at or below their fingertips.

- Tank tops, tube tops, halter tops, see-through shirts, mesh shirts, and clothing that exposes the midriff or chest are not appropriate. The bottom of one's shirt must cover the top of one's pants, shorts, or skirt when sitting and standing.

- Undergarments are to be worn and are not to be visible outside other clothing, e.g., bra straps, boxer shorts.

- T-shirts or other clothing that make references to controlled substances, alcohol, tobacco, gang affiliations, sex, or that are insensitive to the culture of students/staff members is prohibited. No clothing will be permitted that may be offensive to any race, gender, or religion.

- Pants must be fastened properly around the waist. When belts are worn, they are to remain buckled.

- Shoes must be worn at all times.

- No sun/shade glasses are to be worn in the building unless it is medically prescribed that they be worn indoors.

- No head gear (hats, caps, hoods, bandannas, kerchiefs, curlers, etc.) is to be worn inside the building.

- Students who are in violation of the dress code will not be permitted to attend classes until they have changed into appropriate clothing. Students who refuse to change clothes will incur unexcused absences for any classes missed as a result of the refusal.

- IN QUESTIONABLE CASES, ADMINISTRATION IS THE FINAL ARBITER OF CLOTHING.

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Health Dept. urges mosquito precautions

Macon County Health Director Kenneth Ring today urged all Macon County residents to take precautions against mosquito bites. Last week N.C. public health officials announced the first two cases of LaCrosse encephalitis. One patient was infected in Buncombe County, the other in Jackson County. The patients – both teenagers – were hospitalized but are now improving.

La Crosse Encephalitis is the most common mosquito-borne illness in the state. In 2003, North Carolina had 23 cases of LaCrosse encephalitis. It is found predominantly in the western part of the state. Symptoms occur from a few days to a couple of weeks after being bitten by an infected mosquito. These symptoms include fever, headache, nausea and vomiting. In more severe cases, convulsions, tremors and coma can occur. Children under 16 years of age and the elderly are the most susceptible to the disease. La Crosse is rarely fatal, although a Transylvania County girls died from the disease in 2001. There are, on average, 70 cases of La Crosse virus annually in America. It is named for the city of La Crosse, Wisconsin, where it was first identified in 1963.

"With all of the attention that has been focused on West Nile virus in the past few years, some people overlook the fact that there are other mosquito-borne illnesses," said State Health Director Dr. Leah Devlin. "People need to protect themselves from mosquito bites. That means properly applying a mosquito repellent that contains DEET and mosquito-proofing your environment."

The best defense against La Crosse infection is to avoid mosquito bites. "These simple precautions have proven very effective at preventing mosquito bites and the diseases they transmit, including La Crosse encephalitis and West Nile virus," said Ring.

1. Apply insect repellent sparingly to exposed skin according to the age guidelines below. After returning indoors, wash treated skin with soap and water. Whenever you use an insecticide or insect repellent, be sure to read and follow the manufacturer's DIRECTIONS FOR USE, as printed on the product

- Children under 6 months of age: DO NOT use personal insect repellents on babies under 6 months of age. Use other methods of protection like dressing infants in long-sleeved shirts and pants and placing mesh covers over strollers.

- Children aged 6 months to 2 years: Use only one application per day of a DEET product made for children (10% DEET or less) and only in situations where there is a risk of getting insect bites. Do not apply to child's face and hands. Avoid prolonged use.

- Children 3 years to 12 years of age: Use a DEET product made for children containing 10 percent DEET or less. Do not apply more than three times per day. Do not apply to child's face and hands.

- Children 13 Years of Age or Older and Adults: Use products containing 30% DEET or less. To apply to face, spray on hands first and then rub on face. Do not spray directly onto face.

2. Spray clothing with repellents containing permethrin or DEET since mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing. Do not apply repellents containing permethrin directly to exposed skin.

3. When possible, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are outdoors.

4. Consider staying indoors at dawn and in the early evening, which are peak mosquito biting times.

5. Install or repair window and door screens so that mosquitoes cannot get indoors.

6. Help reduce the number of mosquitoes in areas outdoors where you work or play, by draining sources of standing water. At least once or twice a week, empty water from flower pots, pet food and water dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, buckets, barrels, and cans.

7. Check for clogged rain gutters and clean them out.

8. Remove discarded tires, and other items that could collect water.

9. Be sure to check for containers or trash in places that may be hard to see, such as under bushes or under your home.

In addition, mosquito breeding areas around ponds or other bodies of shallow standing water can effectively be treated by using "mosquito dunks". These dunks are available at home improvement and most farm and garden centers.

In this area, mosquito bites may transmit LaCrosse encephalitis and West Nile virus to humans after the mosquito bites an infected bird. Birds cannot transmit the viruses directly to humans. Questions regarding mosquito transmitted diseases may be directed to the Macon County Public Health Center at 349-2081.

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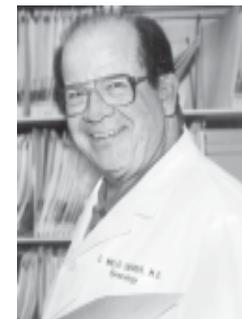
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... POLICE & FIRE from page 20

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Satulah Mountain Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. responded to a medical call at Oak Square. There was no transport.

- The dept. responded to a medical call at a residence on Buck Creek Road. There was no transport.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on N. 5th Street. There was no transport.

Aug. 1

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call when someone fell on Main Street. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Aug. 2

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Hicks Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Aug. 3

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Chestnut Street. The victim was transported to the hospital.

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... **PLANNING** continued from pg 18

being impacted by so many forces. We need to be aware and to look ahead.
 The remaining meetings will be held at:
 Clarks Chapel Fire Department-August 9, 7.

Burningtown/Iotla Fire Department-August 16, 7 p.m.
 Cowee Fire Department-August 23, 7 p.m.
 Macon County Courthouse-August 30, 7 p.m.

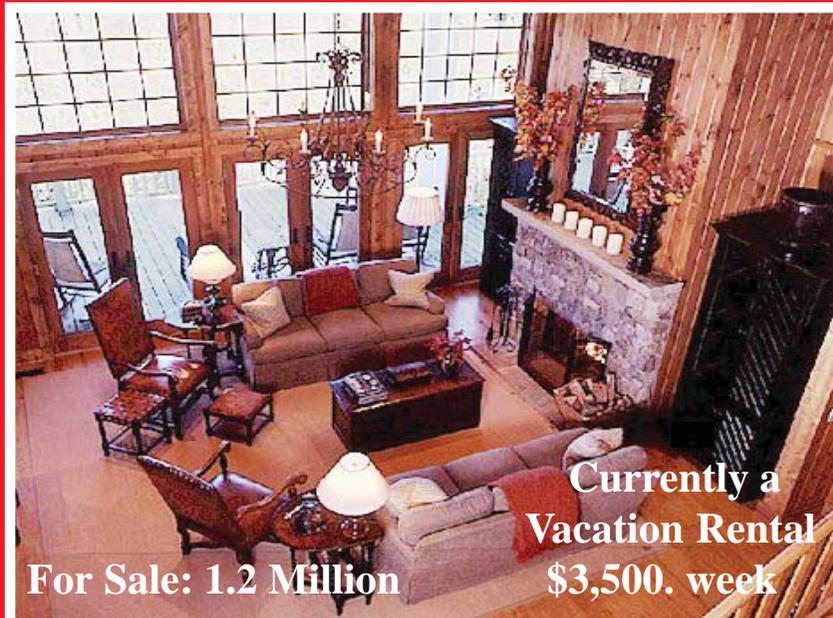
There is information about the High Impact Ordinance and these meetings, plus an on-line questionnaire you can fill out and mail in at the county website, maconncc.org.



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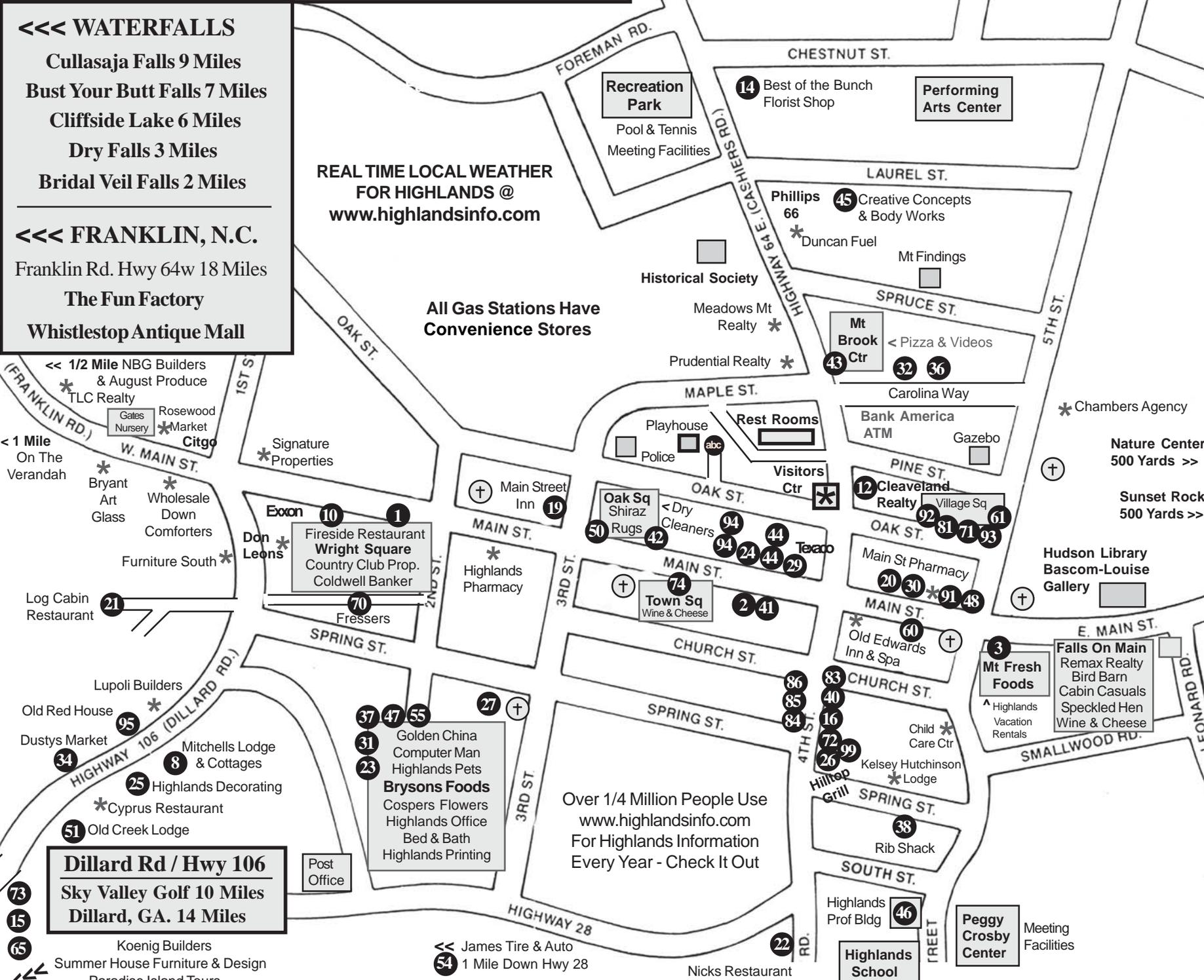
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