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# Highlands' Newspaper

# FREE

Volume 2, Number 8

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Feb. 27, 2004

## The week of Feb. 26-March 6

### • **HARD SUITCASES NEEDED** –

Please donate old, hard suitcases for use during this year's Bolivia mission trip, March 10. They will be used to transport supplies to Montero. Drop them off at the Highlands United Methodist Church by Feb. 29.

### ▪ **SCOREBOARD SPONSORS** –

The HS Booster Club needs sponsors for the Buck Creek Fields scoreboard. Business sponsors are \$500 and logos will be displayed permanently on the board. Call Mary Dotson at 526-5868.

### Feb. 26

▪ **TACO DINNER** – The Bolivia Mission Trips's annual Taco Dinner is at 5:30 at Highlands United Methodist Church. It's \$5 person. All proceeds will benefit this year's mission trip to Bolivia.

### Feb. 27

▪ **FREE MUSIC** – Arhur & Katie will be singing and strumming the night away at Buck's Coffee Cafe from 8-11 p.m. Stop by and enjoy wine, coffee and goodies while you listen to live music.

### Feb. 27

• **LUNCH AT REC PARK** – Senior Luncheon at the Rec Park at noon. It's free, donations accepted.

### Feb. 28

▪ **HIKING** – The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 5-mile, easy-to-moderate, hike from Park Creek to the Park Ridge Trail, in the Standing Indian area. Call hike leader Bud Colcord, 524-9952, for more information.

### Feb. 29

▪ **OEI TOUR** – Community Hard Hat Tour of Old Edwards Inn & Spa set for 2-4 p.m.. Call 526-8008 to make reservations. Refreshments will be served.

### March 2

▪ **MOVIE TIME** – The movie Hoosiers at PAC at 7 p.m. An aging basketball coach with a mysterious past finds a job coaching a small town high school team. Stars Gene Hackman, Barbara Hershey and Dennis Hopper. The movies are free but donations are accepted.

### March 4-7

▪ **LIVE PERFORMANCE** – HCP presents "The Importance of Being Earnest" at PAC, 8 p.m. nightly and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$10. Call 526-8084.

## Clustering & multi-family regulations may change

By Kim Lewicki

Setback stipulations and zoning regulations have stymied cluster and multi-family development in Highlands over the years – but there's a chance that could change.

Inquiries by developer Scott Cole of Satulah Park on N.C. 28 south got the ball rolling. He asked commissioners if he could cluster-develop the 1.96-acre lot instead of erecting a motel or 12 single-family homes as currently permitted in the B3 zone.

"I feel a cluster community would be much more pleasing and more friendly to the land," said Cole.

Though clusters are allowed in the B3 zone, stipulations for clustering curtail their development, says Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein.

"By the time you take into account the two-acre minimum lot size and the 100-ft. setback from the road required for clustering there is no land left to cluster on," said Gantenbein.

A common misconception is that

cluster developments are only allowed in the R3 (multi-family) district. But Gantenbein said clusters are allowed in all districts. "They're just not doable because of cluster setback requirements," he said.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said she preferred the cluster option on the Satulah Park lot to 12-single family homes. Commissioner Dennis DeWolf said clustering would respect the land more. "It's using a residential solution

▪ See **CHANGE** pg 12

## Subdivision on N.C. 28 south passes muster

By Kim Lewicki

A 30-lot subdivision on about 95 acres off N.C. 28 south and Brushy Face Road has some Brushy Face residents concerned, but it meets all the guidelines, and then some, say officials.

At the Feb. 23 planning board meeting, board members approved the preliminary subdivision plat as long as it ultimately meets engineering regulations as outlined by Town Engineer Lamar Nix. But Nix said the project has a major hurdle to overcome before it can move forward.

"The developer wants to put the entire electrical system underground, including power to the existing homes beyond the subdivision, but he has to get permission from existing homeowners to do that," said Nix.

Though more expensive for the developer who has offered to pay to move the existing power system underground, officials said the underground scenario would be visually pleasing. "It would save vegetation and would make the system less susceptible to power outages, too," they said.

Griffin Bell, who owns property

▪ See **SUBDIVISION** page 15



Photo by Jim Lewicki

**The Farm events facility on Arnold Road will be constructed in two phases. Phase one is underway and will open June 2004. Phase two, The Lakes Cottages will open Fall of 2004.**

## 'The Farm' is OEI's next project

By Kim Lewicki

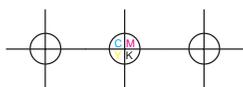
During an orchestrated presentation sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, Old Edwards Inn & Spa representatives tried to put to rest rumors and misconceptions about the on-going project on S. Fourth Street and beyond.

At Tuesday night's meeting at the Highlands Conference Center, OEI Executive Director Manuel de Juan talked to a packed house about the hospitality group's overall plans saying the idea is to offer "the highest level of hospitality possible which will add to this wonderful town."

The only new information to come out of the hour-long talk was that local builders and contractors will be encouraged to bid on upcoming projects – renovations to the Kelsey-Hutchinson property, the Dunfergot, Gem Shop and Highland Hiker buildings on Fourth and Church streets.

The biggest news was that a 30-acre, special-events facility on Arnold Road off N.C. 106 called "The Farm," which will host up to 200 people, will open in two phases beginning this summer.

▪ See **THE FARM** page 16



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### New Home Close to Town



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### Historical Society fundraiser



The Highlands Historical Society has pewter plates for sale to raise funds to help complete the Highlands Historical Village on Fourth Street. The society hopes to open the Village to the public this year. Paving the driveway and sidewalks will lead to landscaping and final finishing touches. Plates are \$75 and are available by contacting any Highlands Historical Society board member.

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## • LETTER TO THE EDITOR •

### Chamber's OEI forum a sham

Dear Editor,

On Tuesday night the Chamber of Commerce hosted a charade that was listed as a "Forum" on the Old Edwards Inn project.

A forum is described in the dictionary as "An assembly for discussion of public affairs."

The meeting called by the Chamber was a programmed act of propaganda by the underlings of Old Edwards Inn & Spa. The questions had to be submitted beforehand and were vetted to the desires of the sponsors and fed to the meeting with no response allowed, and no diversion by the participants.

I firmly believe that the entire program was an insult to the intelligence of the Chamber of Commerce and the people of Highlands. This was furthered by the conspicuous absence of Mr. and Mrs. Williams, the financial power behind this steamroller through Highlands. The profession of love for the community is ludicrous in light of the mess that has been created as well as the treatment of the population.

The principle question of when the Old Edwards Inn and Spa will open is still nebulous. We are now told that it "might" be May, but we will still have to endure further massive construction on Main Street through 2005.

The obvious total disregard for the people of Highlands by the Old Edwards Inn management and construction crews is completely unacceptable. Who gave this group the right to use our public sidewalks and streets for the parking of construction trailers, and stacking of construction materials? Streets are closed at will in a manner that would never be allowed elsewhere. It is nice to know that they have purchased red jackets to warn us of impending collision with heavy equipment and trucks. In any other community this would be controlled by the police not private entrepreneurs.

It was nice to know that the developers were planning on the construction of an employee compound. The question remains as to whether the security is to keep the public out or the employees in. Such a compound is not in keeping with our Highlands tradition. The statement that this would be the safest place in Highlands is a poor comment on our previously crime-free environment.

In conclusion, it is a disaster that this group has been allowed to "buy" Highlands. It is an unfortunate fact that this situation cannot be turned around at this point, but the people of Highlands can and should prevent further expansion of this amoeba and immediately demand normal controls on the present project as well as demand specific completion dates. In addition, the streets and parking areas must be cleaned and free of construction mess for the upcoming season.

Richard Lawrence  
Scaly Mountain



**Highlands Varsity  
Boys played Maiden  
in the first round of  
state playoffs Tues-  
day, Feb. 24 at  
Highlands School.  
The Highlanders lost  
57-78, but at least  
they made it to the  
playoffs.**

Photo by Jim Lewicki

## ● OBITUARIES ●

### Genevieve Amanda Speed

Genevieve Amanda Speed, age 71, of Franklin died Wednesday, February 18, 2004 at a local care center. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late William Allen and Lela Jane Bolick Houston. She was a homemaker and a member of Buck Creek Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, William B. Speed of Highlands, NC; three daughters, Shirley Henry of Sparta, GA, Anne Mae Ramos of Philadelphia, PN, and Mary Sue Byruth of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; two sons, Berkley Speed and Benny Speed both of Highlands, NC; one brother, Michael Houston of Highlands, NC. Thirteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by her children, Rose Rogers, Lowell and JC Moss.

Funeral services were Sunday, February 22 at 2 p.m. at Buck Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Bobby Cloer officiating. Burial was in the Buck Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. Daniel Houston, Patrick Henry, Wayne Henry, Larry Houston, Bill Houston, and Dwayne Kennedy served as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Buck Creek Cemetery Fund, c/o Jo Ann Ammons, 4870 Buck Creek Road, Highlands, NC 28741.

The family received friends Saturday from 6-8 p.m. at Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### Nathan Christopher Dryman

Nathan Christopher Dryman, age 21, of Scaly Mountain, N.C., died Monday, February 23, 2004 in Highlands, N.C. He was born in Stephens County, Ga, the son of Norman Luther Dryman of Clayton, Ga and Frances Mae Williams Dryman of Scaly Mountain. He worked with his father in construction. He was a member of Scaly Mountain Church of God.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by two sisters, Jennifer Nicole Dryman Talley and her husband Tatum of Otto, NC and Shannon Renee Dryman of Franklin, NC; step-mother, Lisa Dryman; maternal grandparents, Richard E. Martin of Dundee, Fla., and the late Blanche Martin; paternal grandparents, Rev. Robert and Lucille Dryman of Franklin, N.C.; one niece, Kelsey Ashton Woodard of Otto, N.C.; two nephews, Tatum Talley, Jr of Otto, N.C. and Christian Matthew DeShane of Franklin, N.C.

Funeral services were held Thursday, February 26 at 2 p.m. at Scaly Mountain Church of God with Rev. Roy Barnwell officiating. Burial was in the Scaly Mountain Methodist Church Cemetery.

Joseph Raulston, Jeff Gibson, John Carpenter, Tatum Talley, Shane Wood, John Billingsley, Brad Branum, Shawn Flowers, Chris Flowers, Chris DeShane, and Chad James served as pallbearers.

The family received friends Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. at Bryant Funeral Home in Franklin where the body remained until placed in the Church 30 minutes prior to the service.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### LETTER-TO-THE-EDITOR POLICY

**We welcome letters from our readers. All letters are subject to editing. We reserve the right to reject letters. Anonymous letters will not be accepted. Letters bearing identification and phone numbers can arrive by post or email. Published letters do not necessarily represent opinions of Highlands' Newspaper. Letter deadline: Monday prior to publication.**



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Since completing his residency in 1996, Dr. Cabiran has practiced at the Ochsner Clinic Foundation, in Baton Rouge, LA. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Dermatology.



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Can you stand up for what you really believe in?

What is authenticity anyway?

Character takes a long time to build. And quite possibly few will even notice that you have it, but you'll probably sleep better at night.

Character and authenticity seem to work together. I am writing about this because I am looking for it.

Authenticity, that is. Well, I know what it is and hope I have it most of the time but I'm striving to practice it all the time.

As a good friend of mine, KG, just told me over the phone while I was writing this article, "I gave up being real a long time ago, and I just started being me."

That's it! Being you. If you get her statement, then you probably will understand this article, if you don't get the above quote, don't read this; it will only confuse you.

Phil McGraw, the Phil who got famous being on the Oprah show, describes the authentic self in his book *Self Matters*, as the YOU that can be found at your absolute core.

It's a composite of all your unique gifts, skills, abilities, interests, talents, insights, and wisdom.

Part of learning to be authentic is to stop dealing with opinions about yourself and instead get in touch with the facts about yourself.

Part of learning to be authentic is to stop dealing with opinions about yourself and instead get in touch with the facts about yourself.

Part of learning to be authentic is to stop dealing with opinions about yourself and instead get in touch with the facts about yourself.



Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

It means testing your thoughts, feelings and reactions.

"Trust yourself and then you will know how to live." Johann Wolfgang van Goethe

Character is defined in the dictionary as:

1. The combination of

qualities or features that distinguishes one person, group, or thing from another.

2. Moral or ethical strength.

3. A description of a person's attributes traits, or abilities.

There are six core ethical values that form the foundation of the CHARACTER COUNTS, which is a youth-ethics initiative.

They include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

I wonder how we measure up to the above values.

Below are a few things to think about if authenticity interests you.

1. Examine your past life experiences, so as to control rather than be controlled by them.

2. Identify your purpose for being in the world.

3. Get out of your comfort zone and venture into the fear of the unknown.

One of my favorite quotes is from "unknown." *Character is what you are in the dark.*

Or as I like to ask, how do you act when no one is watching?

Hope I did not burden you with a topic that was a tad heavy. Blame it on winter and staying indoors too much. Don't worry; I'll lighten up in the spring.

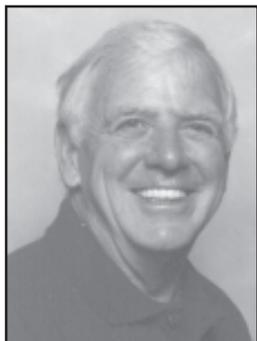
Have you picked up your copy of *Life Under Construction*? Stop by Chapter 2 in Cashiers or Cyrano's Bookshop in Highlands or email [melspeaks@aol.com](mailto:melspeaks@aol.com). Dr. Maryellen Lipinski is a psychologist by profession and an international professional speaker by design. Currently, she coaches individuals to obtain their goals in life and works as a Realtor at Village Realty of Sapphire Valley. [www.ilovemountainrealestate.com](http://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](http://www.maryellenlipinski.com)

# • ASK FRED •

## Cart Wars

Dear Fred:

You recently called yourself a "winter wimp" and it dawned on me you are not living in Highlands during the winter. It is so beautiful here now. I am perplexed as to why would you ever leave this place and go to Florida?



Fred Wooldridge

me the groin shot last week," I muttered to my wife. As usual, the little missus ignored me. I maneuvered my cart in position to get a good glancing blow. Wham; over went her milk and a large pink bottle of Pepto-Bismol. I rolled by, pretending not to notice. Revenge is so sweet when it's a week old.

### A Winter Angel, Suddenly Perplexed

Dear WASP:

My definition of a winter wimp. "A person whose nose stops up in mid November and doesn't drain until late April." Breathing is something I have grown quite fond of and I don't want to give it up until I have to, so I leave for warmer climes. But that is only part of the reason I leave. I go for the cart wars. Let me fill you in.

Each winter, thousands of tiny little women, wearing Reebok sneakers, descend on South Florida supermarkets for the cart wars. Some of these old gals have reputations for being the toughest and most skilled cart fighters in the land. They come here to duel with the best. The cane is their weapon of choice. If you choose not to participate, peek through the window and you will see some of the best "cart rage" you will find anywhere.

As a skilled cart fighter, you never take your hands off your cart to get food. If you do, your opponent will opt to either ram your cart, sending it flying up the isle, knocking over the large display of cockroach poison, or she will take your cart two isles over and put 64 cans of Ensure in it.

I spotted a cart fighter in aisle four. "That's the old gal who gave

But that's amateur stuff. To be a really good cart fighter, you must be subtle with your moves, like placing your cart in the aisle so no one can get by. Then, jam chocks in your cart wheels so it won't move. Now, step back and watch. Warriors will appear out of nowhere to take advantage of your carelessness. Ramming your cart, locked in position, will send shock waves up your opponent's arms, rattling their upper plates and knocking the tease out of their hair.

Here's another great move I have mastered. You must pretend to be totally absorbed with looking at something on the food shelf. Then, without looking at your opponent, slowly push your cart forward, crushing her between your cart and the tomato juice display. To score a point, you must push until she knocks over several cans of tomato juice.

I have fought with the best. Last week I knew I was in trouble when I felt a hand push against my shoulder. "Excuse me, but I need to be here," she commanded as she pushed me away from cottage cheese. That is when I noticed the cane protruding out the front of her cart, like a giant lance, just the right height for groin shots. Not only

•See ASK FRED pg 14

Want to have some fun this winter? Our very own Contributor/Columnist Fred Wooldridge is ready to answer your questions about Highlands with tongue in cheek - in ASK FRED. The sky's the limit. All published questions are anonymous and, of course, don't expect a straight answer. E-mail us at askfredanything@aol.com. Put "Dear Fred" in memo line. We reserve the right to edit questions.

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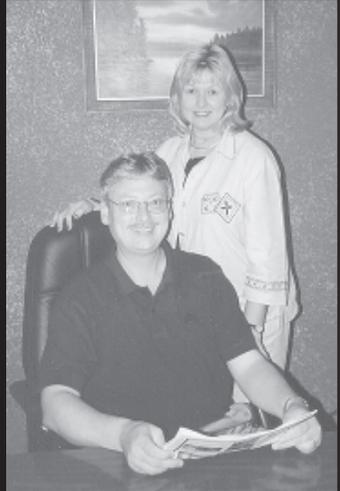


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## Mountain Lakes 5-K Run set for May 1

The Fifth Annual Mountain Lakes 5-K Run has been scheduled for May 1 in Highlands.

The event is the main fundraiser for the Highlands Roadrunners Club, and Race Director Richard Betz says the Club is hoping this year's race will attract even more runners than in the past.

"A small regional race like this grows each year by advertizing in various outdoor event calendars, by contacts with other running clubs, but mostly by word-of-mouth among other runners," Betz said. "There are some area races, such as the Maggie Valley Moonlight Race, that I travel to year after year, and wouldn't miss for anything. They have become traditions."

The area is a popular one for running events. The Asheville Track Club sponsors and helps support several races in Western North Carolina each year, and there are many races in the Atlanta metro area. "A devoted runner can find a race within a two-hour drive nearly any weekend out of the year."

The Highlands Roadrunners Club, through its website and newsletter, provides information, training, and carpooling to area races throughout the year. Betz just completed the Tybee Marathon near Savannah, and last year's President, Brian McClellan, Chief Broker at Edwards Jones Investments, is currently training for the Boston Marathon in April.

In addition to big, prestigious races like the Boston Marathon, the Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta, and Cooper River, Club members compete in smaller 5-K's and trail runs much closer to home. "There is a great little race coming up in

Murphy on March 13, and I'm planning on running the Dupont Forest Trail Run over in Brevard on March 20," Betz said.

Why do runners compete in races? "Most of us began running for various reasons," Betz said. "For fun and camaraderie, for health and fitness, for weight loss, for stress relief. I 'jogged' for years before finally being persuaded to enter the PTO Run here in Highlands 10 years ago, taking third place in my age group. That got me started. As Dr. George Sheehan once said, pinning that race number on my shirt turned me from a jogger into a runner."

Betz runs 10 to 15 races a year, often with his daughter Katy. Like other runners in the Club, he feels that it provides a focus for his training, keeps him sharp, and gives him the opportunity to run in interesting places, often with elite runners.

"You don't have to be a Kenyan to experience the rewards of running well in a race," Betz said. "My wife likes to walk, and had a great time completing the 5-K race at Tybee Island recently, and a race in Charleston last Thanksgiving. It's fun, its good exercise, it's a good family event, and it often goes to support worthwhile charities."

Runners, as well as joggers and walkers, won't have far to go on May 1. The race begins at 9 a.m. in front of the Rec Park. Interested participants can sign up at the Town Hall or the Civic Center. Proceeds from the race will go to support athletic scholarships and fitness-related programs in Highlands. For more information, contact Richard Betz at 526-5266.

## Financial sponsors needed

• The Afterschool VIP program at Highlands School has families who want their children to attend, but can't afford to send them. To see how you can help, call Brenda Owens at 526-1961, 2-6 p.m.

• Highlands School junior Matthew Keener is playing in the World Soccer League in Sweden this July. The trip will cost about \$2,600 and he's looking for sponsors. If you'd

like to help, send checks made out to the Sports Tours USA, to Matthew Keener, P.O. Box 1746, Highlands, N.C. 29741.

• The Green's dog Bingo has undergone an operation for paralysis and the family needs help paying the vet bills. If you can help, please send checks to the Highlands-Cashiers Humane Society, Bingo Fund, P.O. Box 638, Cashiers, N.C. 28717,

# BOOK REVIEW

● BY **KATIE BRUGGER** ●

*The Chain Gang: One Newspaper versus the Gannett Empire*, by Richard McCord (1996, University of Missouri Press)

My earliest training in capitalism was playing the board game Monopoly. I remember epic battles for supremacy with the kids in my neighborhood. The game teaches that the building of a monopoly is the way to win the game of capitalism. Everyone "knows" that competition is good, but it seems that capitalism naturally tends toward monopoly.

This book is the true story of an independent newspaper owner's fight against the trend towards monopoly in the media, arguably one of the most important issues of our time.

*The Chain Gang* was written by the founder and publisher of a weekly newspaper in Santa Fe, New Mexico, which competed with a daily paper owned by the Gannett chain. Mr. McCord realized that Gannett was about to destroy his paper and he decided to fight for his paper's life. He traveled to Salem, Oregon, where a weekly paper had filed suit against Gannett for using illegal tricks to drive them out of business.

One of the people he interviewed in Salem told Mr. McCord: "Our mistake was that we were too polite. We didn't let the people of Salem know what was going on."

Mr. McCord applied the lesson to his situation: he wrote a report that he published on the front page of his paper describing what had happened in Salem, his suspicions that Gannett was about to try those tricks in Santa Fe, and a list of tactics that Gannett might use in Santa Fe. By educating the people to the benefits of competitive media Mr. McCord saved his paper.

Years later, the owner of one of the few daily papers competing with a Gannett paper asked Mr. McCord for his help. The description of the effort to save the Green Bay (Wisconsin) *News Chronicle* takes up the bulk of the book. Mr. McCord shares his frustrations, his anger, and his

confusion while he struggles to build a case, and this humanizes his story. He is refreshingly honest in confessing his errors in perception about other people. The book reads like a detective novel. It draws you into an adventure in investigative reporting and you cheer for the intrepid reporter against the big bad old corporation.

Mr. McCord gives a little history lesson in monopolies. Not long after corporations were first created, in the mid-1800s, the great monopolies and trusts of the Gilded Age were formed. "As demonstrated by Standard Oil, U.S. Steel, American Tobacco Company, du Pont, United Fruit Company, the railroads, and other gargantuan organizations in the decades before crusading 'trust-busters' broke them up, huge companies have the means, the power, and the will to crush small competitors standing between them and absolute control of a market.

"America's legendary fortunes were built in the era of the trusts, at the bitter expense of ordinary citizens. Eventually Congress heeded the cries of the populace. Over strident protests from the monopolies it passed reform legislation. First came the Sherman Antitrust Act in 1890, followed by the Clayton Antitrust Act in 1914 and other laws.

"The antitrust laws were not meant to prevent large companies from competing fiercely – just to ensure that they did so fairly."

Gannett's campaign to eliminate competition in Salem Oregon was decidedly not fair. To

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**Tuesdays through Saturdays**  
**10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

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**YEAR-ROUND**

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**352 Main Street**  
**828-526-4111**

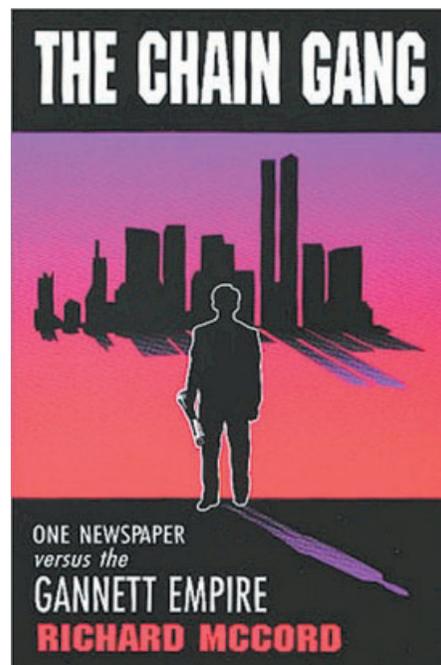
begin with, it was called "Operation Demolition." The Gannett advertising salespeople were called Dobermans, and they were given cash incentives to eliminate all advertising in the rival *Community Press* (not related to the parent company of *The Highlander Newspaper*.) When a retailer who advertised in the *Community Press* was convinced by a Doberman to only advertise in the Gannett paper, that account was "demolished" and the ad rep got a bonus for every week that account stayed demolished. Of course it was the *Community Press* that was being demolished.

Other corporate tactics

included spreading false rumors about the *Community Press's* imminent demise, switching the dates of special supplements to coincide with the weekly's release, offering free ads, offering discounts to certain selected advertisers, blanketing a competitive geographic area with free copies of the newspaper and threatening not to accept ads from anyone who advertised in the rival paper.

The horrible irony was the *Community Press* existed because a large number of Salem retailers had banded together and asked the publisher, Richard Dickey, to start a paper in Salem to bring competition in advertising rates, because Gannett had been charging a fortune. As soon as the *Community Press* started, ad rates dropped at the Gannett *Oregon Statesman-Journal*. What's hard to believe (because it was so shortsighted) was that the advertisers were then willing to abandon the *Community Press* for the short-term benefit of Gannett's lower rates and fraudulent offers,

■ See **BOOK REVIEW** page 10



## Instant Theater seeking performers for 'Cabin Fever Variety Show'

If you have a talent you would like to perform for the enjoyment of the community, and to take a chance on winning a \$500 Cash Prize, The Instant Theatre Company wants you!

The ITC is seeking to promote artistic potential in Western North Carolina by presenting The 1st Annual Cabin Fever Variety Show. The performance will one night only on March 20, 7:30 p.m., at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center.

All types of performers and entertainers, professionals, amateurs, young and old, are encouraged to call the Instant Theatre office at 828-526-1687 or e-mail info@InstantTheatre.org to sign up for the auditions being held on

March 13 at The Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street.

Performers wishing to audition for The 1st Annual Cabin Fever Variety Show need to call the ITC office by March 6 to insure reserving an audition time on March 13.

There will be a maximum of 15 acts booked for the performance. There is no charge for performers entering the show. All musical performances must be acoustic.

The winner, voted on by the audience, of The 1st Annual Cabin Fever Variety Show will receive both the \$500 Cash Prize, and a DVD of the winner's performance will be sent to a major talent agency in North Carolina.

## OEI Hard Hat Tours Feb. 29

The management of the Old Edwards Inn and Spa invites the Highlands community to preview the new property Sunday, February 29, from 2-4 p.m. Guests will be shown the renovations, in progress, to the historic inn and the new world-class, European-style spa.

Staff members will conduct the "hard hat" tours and be available for questions and comments from residents. Refreshments will be served.

The Old Edwards Hospitality Group, LLC, founded in 2003, includes the Old Edwards Inn and Spa, Madison's Restaurant, The Farm special events facility, Acorns retail shop, Kelsey & Hutchinson Lodge, and the Highlands Diner.

For more information, call 828-526-8008 or toll free at 866-526-8008.

## H-C Hospital water line work to begin

The last piece of red tape was pulled tight around the hospital water line project. Construction will start anytime now and will continue for the next 120 days. "Please, be patient," said Mayor Buck Trott.

### • AT RUBY CINEMA •

in Franklin, N.C.

**Beginning Wed, Feb. 25**

Evening Shows (After 5 p.m.)

Adult - \$6; Child - \$4

Matinee (Before 5 p.m.)

Adult - \$5; Child - \$4

Seniors get \$1 off all regular evening shows

**THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**  
rated R

**Advance Tickets Are On Sale**

**Group Rates Available**

**7 & 9:30 Nightly**

**4:30 Tuesday & Thursday**

**Matinee**

**2 & 4:30 Saturday & Sunday**

**Matinees**

**WELCOME TO MOOSEPORT**  
rated PG-13

**7:05 & 9:10 Nightly**

**4:10 Tuesday & Thursday**

**Matinee**

**2:05 & 4:10 Saturday &**

**Sunday Matinees**

**50 FIRST DATES** rated PG-13

**7:15 & 9:15 Nightly**

**4:15 Tuesday & Thursday**

**Matinee**

**2:15 & 4:15 Saturday &**

**Sunday Matinees**

**MIRACLE** rated PG

**7 & 9:30 Nightly**

**4:30 Tuesday & Thursday**

**Matinee**

**2 & 4:30 Saturday & Sunday**

**Matinees**

## • MOVIE PIX •

### Video Guy Presents: Rollerball

The 1975 action/thriller, starring James Caan and John Houseman, written by William Harrison, directed by Norman Jewison.

Norman Jewison has had a long and varied directing career, including Thomas Crown Affair, A Soldiers Story, Moonstruck, The Hurricane, and Dinner With Friends, but Rollerball is without a doubt one of his weirdest and darkest, and a really neat bit of work it is.

Grim and futuristic, this action/sci-fi/thriller has elements of intrigue, plots, football, roller derby (a sport I am proud to say originated in my home town of Baltimore).

In the year 2018, The Corporations control everything, even sports and friendships. Jonathan E (Played by Caan) is the worlds leading Rollerball player, a game of fast action and violence. But he may have become too good and to popular for the Corporation's liking. Creepy Corporate Executive Bartholomew (Played perfectly by John Houseman) wants Jonathan to retire at the peak of his career, but why? I'm not giving away any plot twists by telling you bad things will happen in the rollerdome before this season is out, you figure that part out on your own



Stuart Armor

by the music and the tone.

The storyline is admittedly a little weak, but the filming technique, the sound, and the speed of the action really make this an edge of your seat film. It's

not so much scary as

creepy. In addition

to the whole

corporate

control

theme, it

also is

supposed

to show the

evolution of

sports and our

obsession with

them (although

the reality today is

the NFL has to go

to people like Janet

Jackson for a few

pointers on how to

attract an audience).

Fans of this will want

to see Soylent Green,

Running Man (starring the

governor of California),

Blade Runner, Colony,

Clockwork Orange, and Mad Max.

The movie was redone in 2002,

with the same title, cooler special

effects, but no improvement on

the storyline.

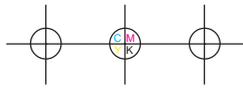
These and about 5,000 titles

on VHS and DVD are available at

Movie Stop Video, stop on by and

give us a look.





# MC School Board meeting short, sweet but full of meat

**By Sally Hanson**  
Contributor

The Feb. 23 Macon County Board of Education meeting was short, but in the half hour of discussion several important decisions were made.

Macon County Sheriff Robbie Holland mentioned a proposal advocated by the School Health Advisory Council and Healthy Carolinians which would bring more programs of substance abuse awareness into Macon County schools.

This program would specifically target children of middle and high school age, and includes having a health fair during school hours. Holland described an event that took place at Highlands School two years ago in which an inmate was brought to the school to talk with students about substance abuse and its consequences.

The inmate was about to be sent to prison for life, and was allowed to have a question and answer period with the students. According to Holland, "It was very successful. We got a lot of good feedback, and it was a positive experience."

The proposed program is still in the works, and of course permission slips will be required before any inmates will be brought into your child's classroom. Holland emphasized that there will be plenty of security, and he would personally hand-pick a female and male inmate to participate in this program. Other plans included a community health fair which parents could attend as well. This motion was passed.

Currently, there are no vacancies in the school system, according to Kevin Corbin. The only positions which are being added are in substitute teacher programs and nutrition positions.

Summer "Adventure" Camp was discussed next. The school system is currently in the process of advertising and interviewing for a program coordinator. This may be completed by the next meeting of the Board.

The Adventure Camp is a program which is offered to parents who work during the summer. It runs for seven weeks, from 7 am to 5:30 pm, and the total cost is \$550 dollars for all seven

weeks. This includes breakfast, lunch and a snack. There is also a registration fee of \$25.

Employees can place a child in the program for a reduced fee of \$300. Also, several grants have been applied for to pay for other costs. There are expected to be 150-160 available openings for children, and already 70 have been signed up.

The Camp is requesting from the Board the use of two activity buses for the duration of the summer session, as well as salaries for employees. This motion was approved.

Following this discussion, a contract was proposed between the Red Cross and Macon County Schools concerning Cartoogechaye and South Macon Elementary Schools. This would designate them as mass care shelters in the event of an emergency such as the Blizzard of '93.

These schools have generators and are better suited for these purposes than the community facilities buildings. Warren Cabe stated that they don't take the opening of such a shelter lightly, and often it is more economical to put a few people up in a hotel than it is to open a shelter.

Since 1995, such a shelter has only been opened once, and this was only for an hour and a half. It isn't estimated that the shelters would need to be used much, but permission is being requested just in case. This motion was approved.

Macon County Schools recently had an environmental scan done of all the schools. The report "came out great" and currently underground oil tanks for heating are being removed and replaced above ground when possible.

Dr. Shotwell said there is still talk about Macon County schools starting after Labor Day. "But doing so would mean the school year would end around late June," said Shotwell. "If there are many snow days, this could infringe upon the July 4 holiday and interfere with family vacation plans. "The school year has to be 10 months whether it starts in August or September," he said.

In closing, Dr. Shotwell thanked the county commissioners for passing the resolution to give a salary supplement to the county's teachers.

## HIGHLANDS EATERIES

### Brick Oven Pizza

526-4121

Mtn. Brook Center next to Movie Stop  
Made-to-order pizza, calzones & salads  
Open for lunch & dinner year-round

### Buck's Coffee Cafe

384 Main Street

Coffee, grilled sandwiches, desserts & wine  
Open 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun.- Wed.  
Until 11 p.m., Thurs., Fri. & Sat.  
Live Entertainment Thurs., Fri. & Sat. evenings

### Hilltop Grill

Fourth & Spring "on the Hill"

"Quick Service Not Fast Food" - 526-5916  
Hamburgers, fries, sandwiches & salads  
Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### Don Leon's

526-1600

Dillard Road next to Farmer's Market  
Cajun & European specialties  
Sandwiches & more  
Thurs. - Sun. 11 - 4

### Highlands Hill Deli

526-9632

4th Street across from Old Edwards Inn  
Made-to-order sandwiches,  
green & fruit salads, ice cream  
Open 7 days a week 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. MTW  
and 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Th., Fri., Sat. Sun.

### Pescado's

526-9313

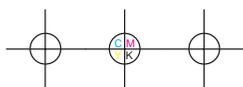
Fourth Street "on the Hill"  
Fresh Mexican  
"The fastest food in town"  
Lunch 7 days: 11-3; Dinner: Tues.-Sat. 5-8:30

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The PDF version of the paper is on line at [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com).

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# Highlands' Newspaper

Online PDF version at

[www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com)

It's the way to keep up with what's happening in Highlands wherever you are – and people are doing just that.



## ADVERTISERS:

When you advertise in Highlands' Newspaper, not only is your advertising dollar **far-reaching**, it's **long-lasting**.

Viewers are reading the newspaper on-line each week from all over the country.

What's more, statistics prove viewers are reading PAST issues July through January in their entirety – ads and all – RIGHT NOW.

Advertising in Highlands' Newspaper is a sound way to spend your advertising dollars.

Highlands' Newspaper is posted on a directory that **consistently** gets traffic.

- In 2003, more than 1/4-million visitors averaging 5 minutes per view visited the directory
- In 2003, more than 5,000 foreign viewers visited Highlands' Newspaper Internet Directory at [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com)

It has everything you want to know about news, dining, lodging, shopping, events, hiking, waterfalls and real estate in Highlands.

To advertise in Highlands' Newspaper

call: 526-0782 or email at:

[highlandseditor@aol.com](mailto:highlandseditor@aol.com)

Earthlink statistics are posted on the directory for verification.

## ... BOOK REVIEW continued from page 7

knowing that as soon as the *Community Press* disappeared (due to the lack of advertising) their rates would go back up.

In his research Mr. McCord found that the elimination of competition was the normal operating procedure for Gannett. The chain's founder, Frank Gannett, bought the *Gazette* newspaper in Elmira NY in 1906. Then even though the competitor paper, *Evening Star*, was

not as profitable as the *Gazette*, Gannett bought it. *Dun's Review*, a business journal wrote, "Gannett reasoned that he could make even more money if there were only one paper in town. So he bought the *Star* and merged it into his own. Working exactly as monopolies are supposed to, the paper generated so much cash that Gannett decided

to use the same strategy in other cities." Mr. McCord goes on to say, "Thus was born a philosophy that now rules journalism in America, where 98 percent of cities have no daily competition."

At the time of *The Chain Gang's* publication (1996), "Gannett owned 84 dailies in 36 states and two U.S. territories, with a total circulation of 6.4 million, *USA Today*, 40 weeklies, 10 television stations, 16 radio stations, the largest billboard advertising company in North America, and the Louis Harris polling firm...Gannett Outdoor, a wholly owned subsidiary, is the nation's largest roadside advertising company, with 45,000 billboards in almost 300 markets covering 85% of the population."

The problem with the Gannett empire is that it sees the newspaper as a commodity. For Gannett, the paper exists for one reason only; to make money. But a newspaper is not a widget. It is the conduit for the flow of information in a

community. When Gannett took over a newspaper the amount of local news diminished and national and international news were nothing more than wire service reports.

In *Media Monopoly*, Ben Bagdikian, Pulitzer Prize winner and dean of the graduate school of journalism at the University of California-Berkley writes, "In 1966, before Gannett began its drive to

"Other corporate tactics included spreading false rumors about the *Community Press's* imminent demise, switching the dates of special supplements to coincide with the weekly's release, offering free ads, offering discounts to certain selected advertisers, blanketing a competitive geographic area with free copies of the newspaper and threatening not to accept ads from anyone who advertised in the rival paper."

create its international empire, its 26 daily and six Sunday papers averaged approximately 45 news employees [reporters] per paper. By 1980, when it had 81 daily, 53 Sunday, and 23 less-than-daily papers (and had added Saturday editions to acquired papers that previously had none) it averaged 26 news employees per paper."

I am not alone in thinking that media consolidation is a major issue of our time. In June of 2003 the FCC was swamped with letters from citizens protesting the agency's imminent decision to allow a company to own a greater percentage of television/radio/newspapers.

The conservative columnist William Safire wrote about the proposed Comcast purchase of Disney in the February 16, 2004 *New York Times*, "The Five Sisters":

"The media giant known as Viacom-CBS-MTV just showed us how it controls both content and communication of the sexiest Super Bowl. The five other big sisters that now bestride the world are (1) Murdoch-FoxTV-HarperCollins-WeeklyStandard-NewYorkPost-LondonTimes-DirecTV; (2) G.E.-NBC-Universal-Vivendi; (3) Time-Warner-CNN-AOL; (4) Disney-ABC-ESPN; and (5) the biggest cable company, Comcast.

"The benumbing euphemism

▪ See REVIEW page 15

## The diversity of the Body of Christ

A couple of weeks ago, I made my first trip to New York City. It was only for the day but it was and wasn't what I expected.



**Rev. Kim Ingram  
Highlands United  
Methodist Church**

I took one of those on and off bus tours and had gotten off near the World Trade Center site (the new "official" name). From there, my sister and I walked down to the pier and a shopping district and when finished, we waited to get back on the bus. We waited for at least 45 minutes and during the wait, struck up conversation with others waiting near us.

We visited with a young couple from England who had gotten engaged in NYC a year ago and returned to celebrate; and, we met a young couple from Turkey who had won the trip from a radio station contest in Turkey. We also got acquainted with a woman from Australia who was traveling alone and had been first to Vail, CO to visit a friend. Finally, a group of four young women from Spain were ahead of us in line, but they didn't speak much English so we only had a brief conversation with them.

I was annoyed at having to wait such a long time on a tour bus, but wouldn't have

traded the time spent with these new friends for the world. It was the best part of the day. I learned a bit about their culture, their homes, and their lifestyles. When the

young man from Turkey asked what I did for a living, I told him I was a minister. He looked at me blankly and though he spoke very good English, I thought he hadn't understood. So, I said, "you know, pastor, preacher." He said, "I know what it is, you just don't look like one." I laughed. So much for stereotypes.

In reflecting on the experience later, it struck me that our conversation, our living together for a brief time, our diversity and yet shared experience for the moment was a bit like the Body of Christ. Sometimes I forget how expansive and varied the Body of Christ is throughout the world. In this smallish town of Highlands, where my experience is fairly consistent and my contact with people who are much different than me limited, I tend to put Christians in a "box" like we sometimes want to limit God to a "box." I tend to consider that all Christians fall into a couple of camps of theology and practice

■ See SPIRITUALLY pg 12

## • PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU •

### 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  
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  
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: Tuesdays at 5 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  
Thursdays: Guys Sr. High Discipleship – 6 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.  
Mondays: Women's Cursillo Group (Library) – 4 p.m.;  
Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Supper & Program in Jones Hall – 6 p.m.  
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.  
The Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14

### First Baptist Church

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

### First Presbyterian Church

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175  
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m. (child care at 11 a.m.);  
School – 9:30 & 9:45.  
Wednesdays: Children's Devotions – 9:30 a.m.; Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.  
Thursdays: Bible Study – 10 a.m.  
Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m. & 5

### Highlands Assembly of God

Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7 p.m.

### Highlands Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study  
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

### Highlands United Methodist Church

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376  
Sundays: School – 9:30 & 9:45 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Wednesdays: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study & activities – 6 p.m.

### Lutheran Church of the Holy Family – ELCA Rev. Pam Mitcham, Pastor,

**2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741**  
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30 a.m.

### 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 a.m.;  
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 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 – 12 noon  
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. Baker Crane  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7 p.m.

### Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin 526-9769

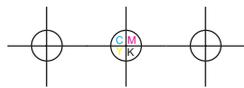
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time)  
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

### Westside Baptist Church

Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon  
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby  
Sundays: Fellowship & Worship – 11 a.m.;

### Whiteside Presbyterian Church in America

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



### ... SPIRITUALLY continued from page 11

of our faith. But the Body of Christ is like a rainbow of persons, reflecting the light in different and beautiful ways, who all share the same oneness of faith in Jesus Christ.

I experienced the diversity of the Body of Christ on Sunday as the Highlands community worshiped together during the ecumenical

service held at Community Bible Church. Many local churches came together to worship. Even as our experiences of daily life are fairly similar living up here on the top of the mountain, our experiences of worship are different. I was reminded that the central focus in worship for some is preaching while for others it is the sacrament

of Holy Communion. Music varies – the amount and style. The way we respond to the Word is different in different churches. But the opportunity to join together as the Body of Christ in the community was a great experience! As we blended together different traditions, we experienced the grace of God and a love for Jesus Christ that we all share in common.

I will remember and respect that the next time I find myself

putting Christians in a "box". Christians come from different places, we have different experiences, we practice our faith differently, we even believe different things. But, where it matters, we have a central experience and belief in the love of God revealed through the life and death of Jesus Christ. Perhaps we can be a little more gracious and a little less judgmental where the other things fall. Thanks be to God!

## • BUILDERS & ARCHITECTS •

### Team Approach to Craftsmanship and Values in Building

For years, Koenig Homebuilders has been setting the standards of craftsmanship and values that many area Builders are envious of. Koenig's product speaks for itself, but the company's level of expertise is what makes it so desirable.

When asked what sets Koenig Homebuilders apart from the competition, company President, John Koenig was quick to reply, "value in craftsmanship. Unlike most Builders that sub-contract much of their framing, siding, trim and specialty work (such as timber framing), we do it all in-house. With almost 50 folks on our payroll, we have a better handle on schedules, budget, and most importantly, craftsmanship levels. Our whole team's proud of the capabilities within our company, and this shows in the finished home."

Koenig seems to shy away from using the word "Quality" when describing his company's product. "The Q word seems to be the most mis-used word in home building today," John says. "Almost every Builder in the country will tell you that quality sets them apart from the rest, but often that just isn't the case!"

Koenig Homebuilders obviously uses a team approach to custom building, and Production Manager Zac Koenig

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is the person coordinating that team. Zac describes it in just one sentence. "We're a very process oriented company, with a strong commitment to both the client and the project."

From land selection and conceptual design right through punch list and warranty, Koenig tries to make your process as painless and

seamless as possible. Their belief is that building a home should be fun, not drudgery.

If you're considering building in the Highlands-Cashiers area, you owe it to yourself to check out Koenig Homebuilders. They would like the opportunity to be your "Custom Builder of Choice."

### ... CHANGE from pg 1

as a buffer," he said. A single-family home is on one side of Satulah Park and Nick's Restaurant in on the other side.

Commissioners sent the idea to the planning board and asked it to re-look at both multi-family and clustering in the B3 district.

In January the planning board worked on amending the cluster portion of the subdivision ordinance and in February members tackled the multi-family portion.

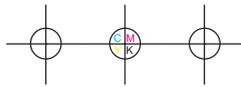
Board members suggested tweaking the clustering guidelines by requiring a standard setback of 25 feet from the road right-of-way, a 10-foot setback from adjoining property and a five-foot setback between each home in the "cluster."

The number of clustered lots on a piece of property in the B3 zone can't exceed the number of lots allowed for single-family detached homes in the zoning district. In the B3 zone, 6,000 sq. ft. is required for each single-family unit. "In other words, density requirements will stay the same," said Gantenbein.

At the February planning board meeting, board members suggested tweaking the multi-family guidelines by requiring the standard 25-foot setback from the road right-of-way, a 10-foot setback from adjoining property unless the adjoining property is a single-family home and then the setback would be 20 feet to include a 10-foot dense vegetative buffer, and a 10-foot setback between multi-family buildings.

Both in clustering and multi-family scenarios, 50 percent of the property must be left as green space unless the lot is in the critical watershed and then 70 percent must be left green. Commissioners will hear the amendments at the March 3 Town Board meeting. If they vote to accept the amendments a public hearing will be set.





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# • BY OWNER •

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**Apartment For Rent.** In Town. Fully furnished, 2-bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, garage, indoor hot tub. Call (404) 226-5415.

**Green plaid** sleeper sofa, glass/wood coffee table, separately, BEST OFFER for both. Free chair (needs reupholstering) with purchase. 526-5558.

**For Sale by Owner.** Commercial and residential building 4,200 sq. ft In-town. Call (404) 226-5415.

**For Lease.** Retail space on Main Street in Town Square. 800 sq. ft. Available March 1. Call Harry Bears at 828-526-4777 (day) or (828) 506-2616

(night).

**Log cabin**, new, reassembled on your site, 31'x26', 1-1/2 story, hand-hewn white pine logs and timberframe, half-dovetail notches, covered front porch. Asking \$49,500. 828-526-1301 or 526-5834.

**For Sale.** 1996 Nissan Pathfinder LE, 4WD automatic, leather, power sun-roof, accent stripes, bug shield, fog lamps, rear defrost, towing hitch. Excellent condition. 77,600 miles. \$9,200. Call 526-8111.

**Retail spaces** for rent on 4th Street and also in Highlands Plaza. Call 864-630-0808 for information.

# • HELP WANTED •

**Medical Records Manager - Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (EOE):** Graduate of health information technology program or equivalent education/experience preferred. Previous management experience desired. Coding skills, use of computer, transcription, and medical terminology are essential. Competitive pay and an excellent benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. For details call: Mary Osmar, Human Resources, 828-526-1301.

**Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (EOE):** Staff Physical Therapist; temporary Housekeeper, Cooks,

CNAs. Competitive pay. Excellent benefit package for full-time positions. Pre-employment substance screening. For details call: Mary Osmar, Human Resources, 828-526-1301.

**R.N.s - Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (EOE)**  
Three positions open for nights; 36 hours per week. Prefer ACLS, TNCC, ENPC, or PALS with E.R. and cardiac background. Full-time R.N. in the O.R. Hospice Nurse. Competitive pay and an excellent benefit package included. Pre-employment substance screening. For details call: Mary Osmar, Human Resources, 828-526-1301.

**Executive Director needed for the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance**, a nonprofit organization based in Highlands. Part time \$1,000/month. Apply by March 1 to Cynthia Strain, Chair, JMCA, 348 S. Fifth St., Highlands, NC 28741; 828-526-9227 or JMCA@dnet.net for more info.

**Hilltop Grill looking for two people.** Kitchen & counter positions available. Busy restaurant. Must be dependable and energetic. Call 526-5916 or come by. Corner of Fourth & Spring streets in Highlands.



.. ASK FRED from pg 5

had she pushed me out of cottage cheese but her cart had me pinned in chicken livers. She was good, real good.

Later, I watched her nail an old geezer with her lance that left him doubled up in pain. She worked her way through the aisles, taking out one opponent after the next. She was awesome. I waited for just the right moment. Then, it happened. She took her eyes off her cart to reach for food. It was one of my more subtle moves. I rolled by her, careful not to have our carts touch. Then, I followed her to the check out counter where the cashier looked on in disbelief as she rang up the oversized drum of high energy, muscle building protein drink and two boxes of Lucky Boy chewing tobacco I had snuck into her cart. That's a two pointer.

So Miss Perplexed Winter Angel, Highlands' grocery stores may have courteous and friendly employees, where even the customers are considerate and polite, but they don't have cart wars. When Spring rolls around, I will be pretty banged up and be in need of some healing time at Mountain Fresh and Bryson's, where even the slightest cart touching is considered obscene.

### Chamber appoints new officers to board

Wick Ashburn of Coldwell Banker Ashburn Real Estate has been elected president-elect of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. He follows Allan Schultz of Fireside Inn as president on July 1. Schultz will continue on the board as past-president. Stan Cochran of Mirror Lake Antiques will continue to serve as treasurer and chairman of the finance committee.

The new Board of Directors for 2004-2005 is Michelle Hubbell of The Toy Store, Jim Mullen of Regions Bank, Bill Aaron of Southern Hands, Rick Siegel of 4 1/2 Street Inn, Debbie Putney of *The Highlander*, Nancy Plate' of OEI's Kelsey & Hutchinson Inn, and Jan Zehr of Main Street Inn.

Retiring from the board are Barbara Werder and Tom Korreck.

## ● ARMCHAIR TRAVELER ●

# The mighty redwoods of California

**Phyllis Pickelsimer**  
Contributor

**M**y rented white Mustang swept up the ascending road, not like the wild-eyed, charging beast of its name-sake, nor quite like the old gray mare. More serviceable than skittish, it took the twisted road at a lope rather than a gallop.

The roadway snaked past eucalyptus trees with their reddish trunks and their leaves changing from green to gray as they danced in the persistent breeze. Houses along the way are angled to catch and hold the view, appearing scattered helter-skelter amongst the clumps of tall grass and bracken. They hang from the hill, strewn into seemingly random settings. At one turn, a sweeping vista of distant San Francisco, overhung with a pancake of white cloud, appears suddenly and is lost behind the next hill.

The guidebook had recommended caution on this narrow, contorted byway that was distancing me from the frenzied traffic of California Highway 101, toward the imagined tranquility of the National Monument, Muir Woods, an ancient redwood grove.

Having journeyed early, and also on a weekday, (highly recommended for this popular park located so close to San Francisco), the tourist buses had not yet arrived to disgorge their cargo when I drove into the parking lot.

Happy that I had brought a light jacket, I stepped to the beginning of the paved trail that shepherds one through the forest.

Two Steller's jays strutted beneath the entrance sign, raucously scolding those who passed them by without producing a handout. Their cerulean feathers appeared iridescent when they swaggered from the shade into the sunlight.

Upon entering the towering redwood forest, a peaceful silence

wood." The children touch a young sapling, sprouting from a nodule on the root of the parent plant. I, too, have touched the top of a redwood.

Where the light slips past the dense foliage, fern (swordfern, ladyfern, California polypody, and bracken ferns), have staked their

claim to the forest floor.

Muted voices swirl around me as I stroll along, voices speaking German, French, Japanese, and Spanish. Even though the language is unintelligible to me, the tone is clear. All marvel.

The

oldest tree in the grove is over 1,200 years old. I think of the fact that our lives are but a dollop on their tree rings. The rings tell a story of floods, droughts, and fires. These trees were old when humans first bravely trekked across the Siberian land bridge or when Columbus voyaged across an unknown sea. They stand straight and serene to give us pause in our daily frantic rushing to reflect upon the empires which have come and gone while still they thrive.

As I step from the shrouded woods, the glare of sunlight and the blare of everyday noise returns, but I have tread beneath these graceful giants, and I am soothed. My white steed and I trot out of the parking lot, and we head toward the sun.

**Phyllis and her husband are seasonal residents of Highlands. Her husband's family are long-time Highlanders.**

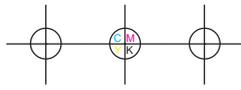


descended, as if a velvet curtain had been drawn between the outside world of the visitor's center and this primordial forest. The shade produced by these gargantuans prevents the growth of much other plant life, thus limiting the animal life. The quiet adds to the sense of awe as one's neck is hyperextended. Where the filtered sunlight strikes the gnarled trunks, the red that has named them glows, but there are other colors visible in the light: ochre, darkest purple, and black patches from a previous forest fire. There are hundreds of these lofty colossi. Many stretch up over 200 feet, thrusting their way toward the sun.

As one meanders through this serene woodland, the path follows Redwood Creek as it trickles across the stoney riverbed.

"Cone here Sally," a brother calls. "Touch this and you can say you touched the top of a red-





## • POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of Feb. 19-25. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

### Feb. 19

- At 6:20 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 51 mph in a 35 zone.
- At 7:15 a.m., a police officer driving on N.C. 28 near Sassafras Gap Campground had an accident with a deer.
- At 7:30 a.m., officers responded to an accident the Mountain Club. There were no injuries.
- At 12:10 p.m., officers responded to a dispute between two men in the Post Office parking lot.

### Feb. 20

- At 2 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a business on Main Street. All was secure.
- At 8:30 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Big Bear Pen Road. All was secure.
- At 7:45 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at the Old Edwards Inn. All was secure.

### Feb. 21

- At 10 a.m., officers responded to a report of a stolen car from a residence on Mirror Lake Road. It is under investigation.

### Feb. 22

- At 10:30 p.m., officers responded to a noise complaint from a resident on U.S. 64 west.

### Feb. 23

- At 2:08 p.m., officers responded to a DOA at a residence on Upper Lake Road. The subject had died some hours before. Autopsy results will be released at a later date.

### Feb. 24

- At 2:20 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Many Road. All was secure.
- At 4 p.m., officers checked on a resident on Mt. Lori Road. All was secure.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the week of Feb. 18-25

### Feb. 18

- The dept. was first responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Dog Mountain Road. The victim was transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

## Girls' Clubhouse cleans up Oak Street

On Friday, Feb. 20, The Girls' Clubhouse picked up five bags of trash while walking Oak Street from Third to U.S. 64 west and back up First Street.



## ... BOOK REVIEW continued from page 10

for the newly permitted top-to-bottom information and entertainment control is 'vertical integration.' In Philadelphia, Comcast not only owns the hometown basketball team, but owns its stadium, owns the cable sports channel televising the games as well as owning the line that brings the signal into Philadelphians' houses. Soon: ESPN, too. Go compete against, or argue with, that head-to-toe control - and then apply that chilling form of integration to cultural events and ultimately to news coverage.

"The reason given by giants to merge with other giants is to compete more efficiently with other enlarging conglomerates."

This last sentence makes me think of *Soul of Capitalism* (reviewed

12/19/03). In that review I wrote, "In business efficiency trumps everything. Social and family values, nature, loyalty, and community have no value to business because they can't be put into dollars and cents terms." You could ask, what is the value of a newspaper that is created in and by the community and reflects the community's interests and needs? Is efficiency really the most important factor in a media operation?

One of the characteristics of a totalitarian state is that all media outlets are owned by one entity. To be healthy, a democracy needs many voices. Multiple points of view may make a democracy "messy," but they are also what give it life.

## ... SUBDIVISION continued from page 1

beyond the proposed subdivision, is concerned about the environment of the area and wants to make sure every effort is made to protect what is there.

Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein said development in the subdivision is low density. The lots are one to three acres and because the subdivision is in the Chattooga watershed, development guidelines are strict.

"Since it's beyond the continental divide it's not in our watershed which means all the water flows south," he said. "If it was in our watershed, it would be in the balance of the watershed, anyway, not the critical area, and the built-upon requirements would be more lenient."

As it happens, the subdivision is in the critical area of the Chattooga Watershed so lots have to be a minimum of one acre and only a 12 percent built-upon is allowed.

"There are twice the constraints on this area of the watershed than if it was up the road in our watershed," he said. "It's in the R1 district where lots can be three-quarters of an acre, but we're trumped by the Chattooga Watershed situation which is more strict."

Though Gantenbein will oversee soil erosion controls like silt fences, Kevin Barnett with DENR in Raleigh will police the built-upon percentag-

es.

Gantenbein told Bell to feel free to check on the development as it progresses and if he sees anything amiss to contact his office.

Bell also voiced concerns about protecting an old homestead and cemetery on the property. But representatives from the architect Seamon, Whiteside and Assoc. said those areas would be protected in a common area which would remain undeveloped.

Bell also wondered why area homeowners weren't notified by mail about the subdivision. "That's what you have to do in Florida," he said.

Gantenbein said a notice was posted in the newspaper, which is all his office has to do by law. Realtor for the project, Mark Meadows with John Cleaveland Realty, said as a matter of courtesy he personally visited about 15 homeowners to notify them of the plan.

With the planning board revisiting the land use plan, Bell said he had hoped it could levy more environmental control over subdivisions. But board member Lewis Doggett said the land use plan was a "general" plan. "The land use plan would never be involved with specific projects," he said.

The town board ultimately approves all subdivisions.



## ● UPCOMING EVENTS ●

### On-Going

- The Junior GirlScouts are collecting aluminum cans to raise money for their trip to Savannah. Please deposit cans in can on Church Street behind the Highlands United Methodist Church.. Will be collected cans until the end of March.

- The Green's dog Bingo has undergone an operation for paralysis and the family needs help paying the vet bills. If you can help, please send checks to the Highlands-Cashiers Humane Society, Bingo Fund, P.O. Box 638, Cashiers, N.C. 28717,

- Hard suitcases needed. Please donate old, hard suitcases for use during this year's Bolivia mission trip, March 10. They will be used to transport supplies to Montero. Drop them off at the Highlands United Methodist Church by Feb. 29.

- Daisys, Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts meet 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Highlands United Methodist Church. Come join them.

- Every Friday and Saturday night, Cy Timmons sings and plays his guitar at Highlands Wine & Cheese from 7-11

p.m. It's free.

- Every Saturday night there is live music at Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street.

- The Mountain View group of Alcoholics Anonymous now meets in the remodeled basement meeting room of the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary, in Highlands. Meeting times remain the same: Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wednesdays and Fridays at noon. For more info, call (800) 524-0465.

### Feb. 26

- The Bolivia Mission Trips's annual Taco Dinner is at 5:30 at Highlands United Methodist Church. It's \$5 person. All proceeds will benefit this year's mission trip to Bolivia.

- Artploration continues on Thursdays from 10:30 - 2:30. An exciting new exploration in art is introduced each week. The cost is \$5 and all materials are furnished. Contact the gallery for more information 526-4949 or bascomlouise@earthlink.net.

### Feb. 27

- Senior Luncheon at the Rec Park at noon. It's free but donations are ac-

cepted.

- Mountain Top Rotary breakfast meetings at 7:30 a.m. in the back of the Baptist Church. Robin King Austin will represent the Rotary Foundation for a local presentation.

### Feb. 28

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 5-mile, easy-to- moderate, hike from Park Creek to the Park Ridge Trail, in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9:30 a.m. Call hike leader Bud Colcord, 524-9952, for reservations, information, or weather info.

### Feb. 29

- Community Hard Hat Tour of Old Edwards Inn & Spa set for 2-4 p.m.. Call 526-8008 make reservations. Refreshments will be served.

### March 1

- Deadline to register for Red Cross Adult CPR and AED and Infant/Child CPR course set for 8:30, March 3 at the Macon County Public Health Center. For more information call 349-2439.

### March 2

- The movie Hoosiers at PAC at 7 p.m. An aging basketball coach with a

mysterious past find a job coaching a small town high school team. Stars Gene Hackman, Barbara Hershey and Dennis Hopper. The movies are free but donations are accepted.

### March 4-7

- The Highlands Community Players presents "The Importance of Being Earnest" at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center 8 p.m. nightly and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$10. Call 526-8084 for reservations and information.

### March 6

- Chili Cookoff & Salsa Contest at the Highlands Conference Center at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Music by Hurricane Creek. Come for chili, salsa, beer and fun! Tickets available at the Highlands Visitor Center.

- Hot Dog Benefit for Bessie and Lynn Zachary at Highlands Rec Park at 5 p.m. Hot Dog Plate includes hot dog, baked beans, chili, cole slaw, chips, drink and dessert. There will be a raffle and a cake auction.

- email events to highlandseditor@aol.com

## ... THE FARM continued from page 1

The first phase will open in June and will feature an events barn, two landscaped and tented event lawns, a farmhouse and cottages for lodging, walking trails and fishing. "There will be something going on there every weekend," said de Juan.

The second stage called the "Lake Cottages" will open in the fall of 2004 and will offer one-bedroom and two-bedroom cottages dotted across the acreage. Also included in the plan is a lakeside pavilion and dock on Lake Sequoyah. Golf carts will be the mode of travel on The Farm.

De Juan broke the Old Edwards Inn and Spa project into nine sections - each called an integral part of the whole - and outlined when each part will be completed.

Acorns, which houses antiques, gifts, and the Lilly Pulitzer Signature Shop, opened May 2003.

The Kelsey-Hutchinson Lodge is now an extension of the inn but it's being remodeled and upgraded to include more suites, an exercise/fitness cottage, and a 130-seat amphitheater on the property. Renovations

will be finished in April.

The employees' Sassafra Village, 4 1/2 miles from Highlands, will be a gated employee-community with strict guidelines. Twelve homes will be ready in March but ultimately it will include 35 pre-fab homes, a recreation area, gardens and landscaping. Employees on three shifts will be encouraged to use the company's shuttle to get to and from work, which de Juan said will eliminate traffic on N.C. 28 and parking problems associated with the 150-200 employees the inn will ultimately employ.

Right now OEI employs 40 people and since OEI retained Kelsey-Hutchinson and Rib Country employees when it bought those establishments, "about 80 percent of our employees are local," he said. De Juan said employees will be solicited from elsewhere, too, "because there just aren't enough employees in Highlands to go around," he said.

De Juan's announcement that the Highlands Diner - a three-meal-a-day, 365 days a year, value-priced establishment - will open in April was

greeted with a round of applause. He said Highlanders will recognize the employees at the Highlands Diner because they worked for The Rib Country Restaurant. Rib Country is being remodeled and renamed and will include a full-service laundry mat and dry cleaner downstairs which will be open to the public.

The 18-room Old Edwards Inn which is set to open in May will feature a library, rooftop terrace, board room, lounge and five luxury suites. Two three-bedroom cottages across the street on Spring will open in June as part of the inn.

The Spa, an 11,000 sq. ft. European-style affair, will offer a complete menu of services and treatments in an "elegant ambiance" including four luxurious spa suites for guests and a private spa terrace. It too, will open in May.

Though construction on Fourth Street will continue for some months, de Juan said employees and construction personnel and vehicles will now have OEI stickers and badges so they can be easily identified. The company has also hired three full-time people who will expedite loading and

unloading of construction vehicles. They will wear red vests and erect signs to notify citizens when streets will be temporarily closed.

Madison's Restaurant and Wine Garden, which will be housed in the old Central House Restaurant, will also open in May. It will feature contemporary cuisine three meals a day in a refined mountain setting inside and an alfresco garden setting outside.

De Juan said the entire facility will be open year-round and he expects it to attract patrons to Highlands all year which will ultimately benefit Highlands' businesses, he said.

Only 15 of the questions submitted to the Chamber of Commerce prior to the forum were addressed at the presentation. "Because most of them asked the same thing," said Bill Bassham director of membership services - "What is the completion date?"

Questions were not solicited from the floor. Instead Bassham suggested people write their questions down and "the chamber will get the answer for you," he said.