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Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 2, Number 3

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Jan. 23, 2004

The week of Jan. 23-29

ON-GOING

▪ **CLOSED SATURDAYS** – Fibber Magee's Closet will be closed on Saturdays until the first of May. It will remain open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

▪ **CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP** – Leave your tree outside near the road and Alan Marsh with Highlands Rotary will pick it up. Call him at 526-5130.

▪ **AEROBICS CLASS** – New After-Work Aerobics Class at the Highlands Rec Park with Sandy Trevathan, certified in AFAA and ACE training. Classes are at 5:15 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Call 526-5852.

▪ **GIRL SCOUTING** – Daisys, Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts meet 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Highlands United Methodist Church.

▪ **FREE MUSIC** – Every Friday and Saturday night, Cy Timmons sings and plays his guitar at Highlands Wine & Cheese from 7-11 p.m. It's free.

• **FREE MUSIC** – Every Saturday night there is live music at Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street.

Jan 23 & 24

▪ **FINE FOOD & WINE** – Kelsey & Hutchinson Lodge along with Wolfgang's on Main restaurant, Silver Oak Cellars and Arcadian Winery will host a fourth annual winter wine weekend that includes a fireside wine tasting at the lodge and a reception and dinner at Wolfgang's on Main. A fireside tasting at the lodge is Friday, Jan. 23, at 6:30 p.m. for \$25 a person. The following evening, Saturday, Jan. 24, Wolfgang's On Main will offer a champagne and hors d'oeuvres reception beginning at 6 p.m. followed by a six-course dinner with wine pairings at 6:30 p.m. for \$195 a person, plus tax and gratuity.

Jan. 24

▪ **FOOD & MUSIC** – Benefit for Steve & Lisa (Owens) Chapman at the Satolah Fire Dept. at 5 p.m. There will be music provided by Oliver Rice and Narrow Way & The Frazzled Edge Group. A hot-dog supper will be served. For more information, call Audrey Owens at (706) 782-2813. Steve is in the hospital undergoing back surgery.

F&R Dept. recounts a year of service - 2003

By Kim Lewicki

It's hard to appreciate how much the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department does for the people of the Highlands Township until you see it on paper.

The volunteer members of the 30-man department respond to everything from fires to injuries day and night, rain or snow and they've been doing it for 50 years.

In 2003 the department responded to a total of 320 calls – an increase of 32 incidents over 2002.

Of that 320 figure, 157 were fire related – 23 more than 2002.

Fire-related calls include fire alarms (59); wrecks with hazardous conditions (35); investigations involving smoke (23); structure fires including chimney fires (15); mutual aid to other departments where Highlands stands by their station while they attend to the call (13); brush/woods fires (7); vehicle fires (4); and one control burn.

Of those calls, 57 were within the town limits and 100 were outside the



Photo by Jim Lewicki

Highlands Fire & Rescue Chief James Manley presented Carl Zoellner with the "Fireman of the Year" award at the annual awards dinner Saturday, Jan. 17 at the Highlands Conference Center.

▪ See FIRE & Rescue pg 9

Hospital water line could start in two weeks

By Kim Lewicki

It is several months behind schedule, but work could start on the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital water line in about two weeks.

Only two bids were submitted,

one from Stillwell Enterprises Inc. for \$1,018,657 and one from Buncombe Construction Co. Inc. for \$1,086,300. Construction costs for the project were estimated at \$1,080,200.

At the Jan. 21 Town Board meet-

ing, commissioners agreed to award the bid to Stillwell Enterprises contingent upon the receipt and proper execution of all funding contracts be-

▪ See WATER LINE pg 16

Consistent compliance requested of cable companies

By Kim Lewicki

At the Jan. 21 Town Board meeting, commissioners learned that Northland Cable and Verizon were still out of compliance on several poles in town and they want that fixed.

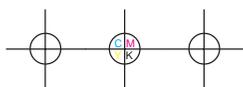
Over the past several months,

Northland Cable and Verizon alleged that Highlands Cable removed their lines to make room for its own. Once Highlands Cable's franchise was revoked, Northland and Verizon put their lines back on the poles, but not always per the required clearance, say officials.

"I believe they understood from our consultant Dave Harris that they could put the lines back exactly where they had been," said Town Administrator Richard Betz.

But Town Engineer Lamar Nix

▪ See CABLE page 15



Located between Highlands and Cashiers



This newly constructed, two-bedroom, two-bath modular home sits on a level, fenced lot with a small stream in "The Meadows" development. Wood floors, a rock fireplace and a covered porch are just a few of the great features of this lovely home. Offered at \$279,000. MLS# 52101



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P.O. Box 2703,
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email: highlandseditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor - Kim Lewicki
Copy Editor/Proofreader
Tom Merchant
Advertising - Carol Werner
Production - Darlene Melcher

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• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Unsung Heroes

Dear Editor,

Driving along the Whiteside Cove Road yesterday, I noticed an "Adopt A Highway" sign and thought about the family that volunteered to clean up three miles of road messed up by those they may not have met.

How classy can you get? Just because these people have pride in seeing the roadside clean, they adopt a street; then reach down over and over again to make the place a better place for all of us. The people who clean up the roads around here have their hands full - literally, and they do it for free. If you do this, then you are everybody's hero, whether you know it or not. Human nature dictates that we notice when roads are littered, but we give little thought to actually cleaning them.

While on the subject of adopting, there are some kind-hearted and loving people who adopt pets from the animal shelter. If it weren't for the goodness of these people we would be overrun by unloved and purposeless animals and maybe even unloved and purposeless people. There is so much need out there. These adopters are going to have food bills, vet bills, responsibility for neutering; and the list goes on... somehow, though, these animals give the adopters purpose in life and a happy home - so they take in a needy animal. What a great service you do for society and the animals themselves.

Of course, the most long-lasting and enduring adoptions are those of children. What a commitment to make. But, of course, love takes over in this case. I have heard many of my friends claim that they made the decision to take in a baby or child for the child's sake - then suddenly it is for the sake of the adopters themselves. This adoption process starts as a responsibility and ends up as a treasure beyond belief. You are all heroes.

Adopting highways, animals, and even children... the sense of contentment and satisfaction are stronger than any anti-depressant. The urge to stay within one's own world is strong; but getting outside of yourself and adopting seems pleasurable to all. Those who adopt change the world around them and make it a better place. God bless them all.

Glenda Bell
Highlands

Fruit cake and other obsessions

Dear Editor,

Sure do enjoy humor in my life furnished by Fred Wooldridge.

Here are some things he might want to write about.

We need to form a society for those who do love fruitcake. I was in WWII and received by share of fruitcake and I still love it.

On the program "Sunday Morning," Bill Geitz threw fruit cake over his shoulder to get rid of it. There are those of us who do love it.

Also, maybe you're a tailgater. If not, why do people do it? I thought locals would only tailgate old people in Lincolns, Cadillacs and Lexuses, but I see pickups tailgating each other. I'm threatening to make a bumper sticker "Only my proctologist gets to examine my rear. Please back off."

Keep up the super articles.

Bob Hults
Highlands

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.

• OBITUARY •

Antonia Alstaetter Rhodes

Antonia Alstaetter Rhodes, age 88, of Highlands, N.C. and Augusta, Ga., died Thursday, January 15, 2004 at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center in Highlands.

Memorial services will be held at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands at 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 17 with Rev. Alan Hetzel officiating.

Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on December 11, 1915, Tonie was the daughter of Col. Frederick William and Rebecca Raoul Alstaetter and grew up in Savannah, GA and Highlands, NC. She graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, England.

In 1942, in a service performed by Rev. Rufus Morgan, she married Robert Lewis Rhodes, a native of Roanoke, VA, who had grown up in Augusta, Ga. At Bob's death in 2001 they had been married for almost 60 years.

In Augusta she was active with Girl Scouts, the Junior League of Augusta, and the Widows Home Board of Directors. In Highlands she was a member of the board of the Highlands Land Trust, the Highlands-Cashiers Garden Club, and the Volunteer Ladies Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was a faithful member of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands.

Surviving are her two daughters, Rebecca Raoul Rhodes Thomas of Augusta, Ga., and Margaret Farmer Rhodes Shaffner of Highlands, N.C., a son, Robert Lewis Rhodes III of Athens, Ga., and four grandchildren, David Romulus Thomas IV and Robert William Thomas of August and Thomas Matthew Shaffner and Jackson Rhodes Shaffner of Highlands.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Highlands Land Trust, 348 S. Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 28741-1703.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

'Highlands Diner' to replace 'Rib County'

By Kim Lewicki

When news that A.L. Williams bought the Rib Country lot hit the streets, the first question on everyone's mind was, "Now where can we get good barbecue at a price regular people can afford?"

Well, the Rib Country has moved out, but Highlands Diner – a three-meal-a-day, affordable family restaurant has moved in.

Turns out people will recognize some of the fare on the Highlands Diner menu – barbecue and ribs for one thing – and they'll recognize some faces, too.

When Highlands Diner opens this spring, patrons will recognize Robin and Martin Chavez, previously with the Rib Country, and several members of the wait staff who will be returning in the spring.

Chavez said Highlands Diner will feature baby back ribs and bar-

becue but "Highlands Diner style."

"The ribs will have a different sauce – our own sauce – and the barbecue will be shredded instead of sliced," she said. "But prices will remain affordable."

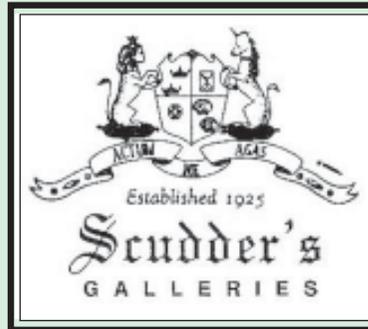
Breakfast will begin at 7 a.m. so folks who need to get to work can get a good breakfast before they go, said Chavez. Lunch will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner will begin at 5 p.m.

Catering will continue to be a big part of what Robin and Martin Chavez are all about.

"We're ready to start booking parties," she said.

Overall the menu will feature "southern cooking" with signature specials featured daily.

The Highlands Diner joined the Old Edwards Inn Hospitality Group Jan. 10.



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– ALONG CAME POLLY rated PG-13 –

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• **LIFE UNDER CONSTRUCTION** •

Don't let 'should've's' get in the way

What direction are your thoughts heading this year?

I am keeping in mind my goal to moving forward in my life. Doing what I have to do but also making sure that I am doing something that I want to do.

During my private practice days in psychology, I chatted with too many people that had too many regrets in life. It's seems that the secret of being truly miserable about the past lies in being able to regret everything you ever did and everything you ever failed to do, from the moment you were born right to up to five minutes ago. Maybe you are even regretting that you are reading this column?

Now, what I write below may be a bit of an exaggeration, but I want you to challenge any negative thinking that is staying with you in your life.

Here are just a few ways to make yourself miserable about the past and if I may be so bold, the future. Suggestions to get you started on your own list of regrets:

1. I should have gotten married when I had the chance.
2. I shouldn't have gotten married when I had the chance.
3. I shouldn't have let them put whipped cream on my Jello.
4. I shouldn't have dragged along an umbrella today.
5. I should have dragged along an umbrella today.
6. I shouldn't be living in the mountains. I should be in Holly-

wood!

7. I should be famous.
8. I should be rich and famous.

9. I should be better looking and younger.

Here's my favorite.
10. It shouldn't be so cold. (Remember that I use to live in California.)

Watch those SHOULD'S! Saying something should or shouldn't be so when it already is, at the very least, is counterproductive.

OK. I am sure you get the idea. Whether or not you can manage to remain miserable in the future is going to depend upon your ability to master two vital concepts.

1. It's up to you to refuse to accept what cannot be changed.
 2. Establish unrealistic goals.
- Don't ever accept your age, your weight, your height, your looks, your income, where you live, and your spouse. Need I go on?

This is a bit of a different column for me. Must be that cool winter air. Actually, I did have the flu and spent some time with my negative thoughts. Five days to be exact. Here's a tip to remember when you are not feeling well - don't think too much! Negativity can sneak in. Now that it is behind me, I have renewed energy and I am getting my mind back on track.

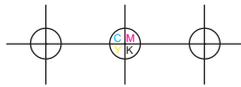
Sometimes we need to renovate our mind.

PS. The other best time of the week for negative thinking and inactivity is usually Sunday afternoon. What will you be doing this Sunday?



Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

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. Dr. Maryellen Lipinski is a psychologist by profession and an international professional speaker by design. Currently, she coaches individuals to obtain their goals in life and works as a Realtor at Village Realty of Sapphire Valley. www.ilovemountainrealestate.com. Her first book, Random Thoughts and Mine Always Are. Conscious Detours to Creative Power will make you laugh, cry, and think! www.maryellenlipinski.com



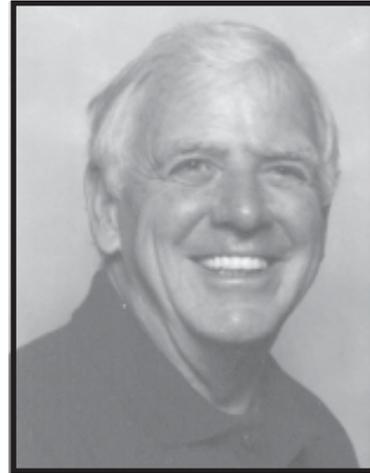
• ASK FRED •

The Toilet Game

Dear Fred:

I am a frequent visitor to Highlands and I notice that everyone here seems to be preoccupied with toilets. I am totally unaware of the dynamics at work here and are hoping you can explain.

Confused In Atlanta



Fred Wooldridge

Dear CIA:

Before I write one word on this issue, allow me to give a great big thank you to John Crapper for coming up with his gravity fed, awesome invention. Because of him, we no longer have to stumble to the outhouse at three in the morning with a foot of snow on the ground.

The issue of toilets does seem to keep rearing it's ugly head around here and to be honest with you, I am pooped out from writing about it. OK, just one more time.

You bring up a tricky, complicated issue but allow me take a crack at this difficult question. First, let me introduce you to the players in the Highlands' toilet game.

Most Highlands' merchants guard their throne's as though they were the Crown Jewels, which eliminates them as real players. They really should be in the fray, but they're not. So let's dump them from the equation for now.

Next set of toilet players are the politicians. Talk about being caught between the lid and the seat, these guys (and lady) get heat from everyone, including the merchants and tourists who want more public toilets. But where does the money come from? The town is operating on a budget

tighter than Richard Betz's running shoes.

TA DA! Enter the Highlands' Chamber of Commerce, who is seemingly rolling in dough with gobs of tourists' tax money from visitors sleeping around Highlands. But the Chamber has announced, "We don't do toilets." They think that the building and maintaining of restrooms is what the town should be doing. So there we are. Bottom line; nobody really wants to be in the toilet business.

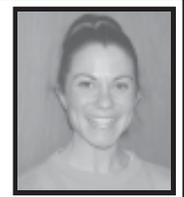
Maybe this should be a new challenge for old "A.L." who could use some good press about now and seems to really like this town. After all, he has more money than even the Bowery Road developers. From what I hear, lots of folks are not too happy about him coming in here and buying up everything, which, of course, is what all rich people like to do when they come to town.

Since everything Mr. Williams commits himself to is first rate, can you imagine what this man could create in the toilet game? Picture top of the line, pastel,

▪ See DEAR FRED page 12

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. 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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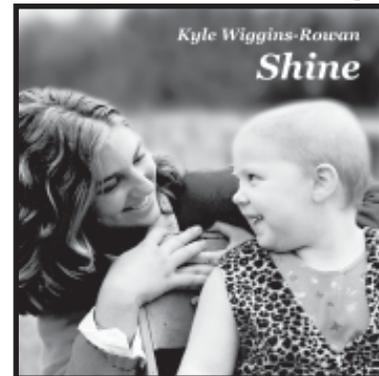
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Songs for Madison



Kyle Wiggins-Rowan, a junior at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School, initiated a fundraising effort to benefit Madison Schandolph, a four-year-old girl who has Leukemia. She has produced a CD of songs which can be purchased by sending an email request to pwiggins_rowan@yahoo.com.

Additional contributions may be sent to: The Madison Fund c/o Marlene Alvarez, 1536 Franklin Road, Highlands, NC 28741.

Sassafras Gap Campground now 'Old Edwards Employee Village'

The Old Edwards Hospitality Group, LLC, has announced plans for a \$3 million employee village, complete with recreational facilities and gated security, on 32 acres five miles south of Highlands on U.S. Highway 28, formerly Sassafras Gap Campground.

When complete, the Sassafras residential project will provide housing for 30 employees and their families of the Old Edwards Inn and Spa.

"Our vision for Sassafras Village is for it to be a home for the Old Edwards management and staff where they can live and relax in a comfortable, secure environment," said Manuel de Juan, general manager of the Old Edwards Inn and Spa. "These will be permanent, furnished, two and three bedroom homes on stone and stucco foundations with porches, cable TV, Internet service,

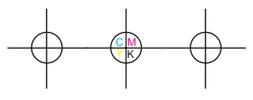
and private gardens."

The community will include a recreational area, playground, pet area, two stocked fishing lakes, volleyball court, and picnic pavilion for residents to use. Access will only be available to residents with an electronic key card through an automatic, lighted gate.

Plans are for approximately 15 homes to be completed and ready for occupancy by March 1. "Sassafras will reflect our commitment to the community and our employees to provide quality homes and a quality standard of living," he said.

Other components of The Old Edwards Hospitality Group, LLC, include the Old Edwards Inn and Spa, Madison's restaurant, Acorns retail shop, Kelsey & Hutchinson Lodge, and The Farm special events facility.





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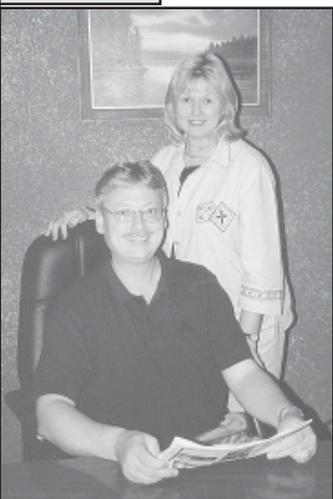
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• **HEALTHY LIVING** •

The power of food for prevention

The Cruciferous family is one group of vegetables that has received a great deal of attention from researchers for its role in disease prevention. Some of them seem to stimulate the release of anticancer enzymes, while antioxidant nutrients, such as carotenoids and vitamin C help to sweep up cancer-promoting unstable oxygen molecules known as free radicals.



Bonnie Powell
HealthTracks

Named after the Latin word for "cross" because they bear cross-shaped flowers, cruciferous vegetables include cabbages (red, green, napa and savoy), broccoli, cauliflowers, brussel sprouts, bok choy, kale, collards, mustard greens, rutabagas, and turnips. All are part of a botanical genus known as *Brassica*.

Studies of cruciferous vegetables have shown that they contain nitrogen compounds called *indoles*, which appear to be effective in protecting against certain forms of cancer, particularly cancers of the stomach and large intestine. More recent research has revealed other promising anticancer compounds in these vegetables. One of those compounds is Sulforaphane which makes cabbage a particularly prized fighter in the battle against colon cancer because it stimulates levels of an enzyme called glutathione in the colon.

Glutathione peroxidase is an enzyme that takes out the free radicals through chemical reactions that support the cleansing of the colon and both are powerful antioxidants.

Researchers believe that this compound sweeps toxins out of the body before they have a chance to damage the delicate cells lining the intestinal wall. This compound is also the strong odor smelled while cooking/steaming these vegetables.

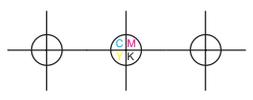
To neutralize the powerful odor when cooking, just add a celery stalk or whole English walnut (yes, in the shell) to the pot. Of course, using a microwave or wok rather than a slow-cooking pot (lose a lot of vitamins with this method) or a steamer (quick, retains the benefits) decreases

the odor. The longer these family members cook, the stronger the sulfur compounds become as more are released. Heating it a little or gently cooking broccoli helps release more of its protective compounds, while overheating it can destroy them. Eating it raw will bypass the odor and you internally get the maximum benefit of the cancer fighting compounds.

In addition, most cruciferous vegetables are good sources of dietary fiber. A cup of boiled broccoli contains about 4.5 grams of fiber. A few, chiefly kale, collard greens, and turnip greens also supply calcium, while others such as brussel sprouts provide iron. This whole family can protect against prostate, breast and colon cancer with their powerful compounds of 13C (Indole-3-carbinol, reduces harmful hormones that promote tumor growth) and sulforaphane (which boosts production of cancer-blocking enzymes).

In one pioneering study, Dr. Kensler and his colleagues at Johns Hopkins University's department of environmental health sciences, exposed 145 laboratory animals to a powerful cancer-causing agent. Twenty-five of the animals had not received any special treatment, while the rest were fed high doses of sulforaphane. After 50 days, 68 percent of the unprotected animals had breast tumors, compared with only 26 percent of those given the sulforaphane. It is no wonder that researchers put broccoli at the top of their lists of nutritional superstars. "We know that people who eat lots of cruciferous vegetables, like broccoli, are protected from every kind of cancer," says Jon Michnovicz, M.D., Ph. D., president of the Foundation for Preventive Oncology and the Institute for Hormone Research, both in New York City.*

Featured today is the broccoli, the most popular anti-cancer food. It is mostly grown in California and available fresh year-round, though most abundant (and least expensive) October through May.



● ARMCHAIR TRAVELER ●

'Florence the Devine' and the 'Birthplace of the Renaissance'

By Phyllis Picklesimer

Contributor

Florence is a fascinating gem of a city, honed by the lapidary of art and time. Often referred to as Florence the Devine and as the Birthplace of the Renaissance, it is a city that requires the traveler return again and again to extract the full measure of its riches.

Although Florence proper is a large city of over 500,000, its heart is a rather small area whose streets and alleyways beckon you to return to the 15th century and the time of the Medicis. It was Cosmos the Elder and, after him, Lorenzo the Magnificent who gathered about them the artists who made Florence one of the most important centers of art, music, and literature in Europe. Their legacy remains today. Florence's churches, museums, and palaces are a repository for some of the most beautiful art in all the world.

The relatively compact size of the old city lends itself easily to walking. It is by walking that one absorbs the atmosphere and refinement of its culture.

If arriving by car, a first stop should be the Pizzale Michelangelo, situated on a hill overlooking the town. From the Pizzale, a breathtaking panorama of the red-tiled roofs, spires, and domes unfolds below you.

An excellent starting place for your jaunt through Florence is the Piazza della Signoria with its Loggia della Signora, an open-air sculpture gallery forming one side and the venerable Palazzo Vecchio with its towering spire forming another. The Palazzo began life as a priory, but soon became an ornately decorated palace to the glory of the Medicis. Its rather severe exterior belies the elegance of its interior.

The Piazza is also home to the Neptune Fountain, whose name-

sake is surrounded by gamboling nymphs and satyrs. Also, seeming dropped by some giant hand, are an equestrian statue of Cosmos the Younger and several monumental statues and bronzes, as well as a copy of Michelangelo's "David."

Just off the Piazza della Signoria is the Uffizi Gallery. More than a museum, it is a storehouse of some of the most magnificent creations of art ever produced by man. Most famous for its works of the 13th to 18th centuries, a visit is a visual banquet as masterpiece follows masterpiece. It is

here that one can marvel at the delicacy and nuance of Michelangelo, da Vinci, Raphael, Botticelli, del Sarto, Carreggio, and many others.

A short walk from the Uffizi is the Ponte Vecchio, one of the most beautiful bridges in the world, spanning the Arno River. Built in 1345, it was lined then, as now, by small gold and jewelry shops. Today, it is also the quintessential street scene where sellers hawk their wares that are piled in boxes or spread on the street for the tourists caught up in the hurly burly.

After crossing the Ponte Vecchio, the land slopes upward until one arrives at the Pitti Palace, probably the largest and grandest of all the Renaissance palaces. With its Boboli Gardens sweeping up the hill behind it, its impressive facade evokes the grandeur of the past. The palace's many lavish chambers contain still more masterworks of Renaissance art, including Raphael's "Madonna of the Chair" and several superb

Titans.

Wandering through the palace's Boboli Gardens offers a respite from the sensory overload of Florence. A premier example of Italian garden design, it is both lush and restrained. It is a terraced park of classical statues, effervescent fountains, secret grottoes, and hidden bowers where young Italians today plan their assignations, just like their 16th century ancestors. At the top of the garden, a belvedere allows a resplendent vista of the city.

Florence is a city of churches. The most famous is the Duomo, with

its nearby Campanile and Baptistery. The fourth largest Christian cathedral in the world, the Duomo is most

famous for the architectural feat of its dome by Brunelleschi. Its accompanying Campanile is one of Italy's most beautiful, but the most famous of the triplex is the Baptistery, known for its magnificent bronze doors and the delicacy of the mosaics within its dome. All three sets of doors are exquisite, but it is the East Door, designed by Ghiberti, with its scenes from the Old Testament that Michelangelo called "The Gates of Paradise." Visiting the churches of Florence is a rewarding experience. Their frescoes, mosaics, statues, and paintings, excuted by artists of the highest caliber, overwhelm the senses, while strolling in their quiet cloisters brings serenity. Among the most beautiful are: Santa Croce with its moving frescoes and Pazzi Chapel containing della Robbia decorations, Santa Maria Novella whose intricate Spanish

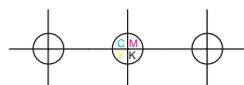
Chapel frescoes date from 1367, the Convent of San Marco known for the perfect beauty of its paintings by Fra Angelico, and, just perhaps, my favorite...San Lorenzo.

San Lorenzo was designed by Brunelleschi, but it contains much work by Michelangelo. More austere than some of the other churches, its grace is derived through its balance and symmetry. Donetello's bronze and marble pulpits and Michelangelo's marvelous staircase for the Laurentian Library, as well as his New Sacristy with its brooding statues adorning the Medici tombs are but a few of its treasures.

No visit to Florence would be complete without a pilgrimage to the Academia to view Michelangelo's famous "David." Less known, but more disturbing, are his four "Slaves", also located there. Essentially unfinished, the bodies seem to be attempting to free themselves as they press against the confines of their stones.

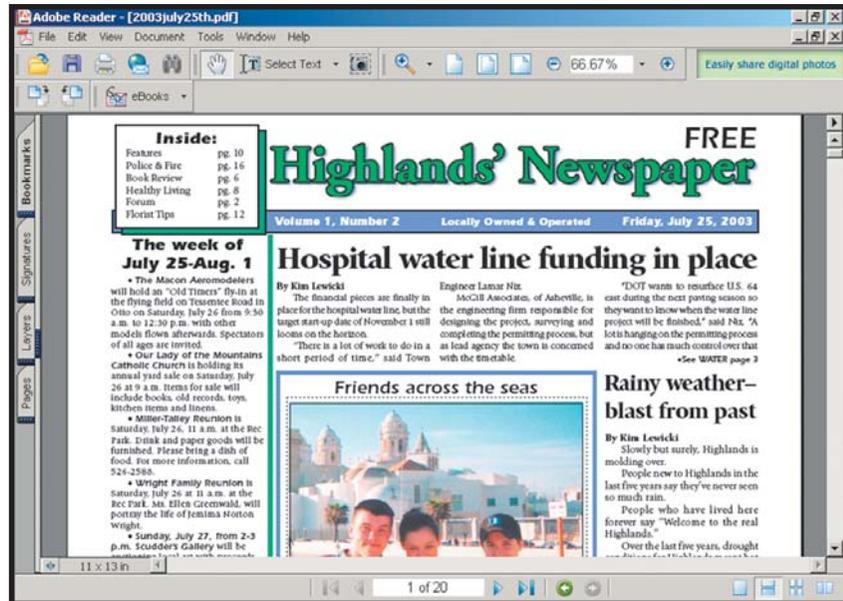
For a town that is itself a museum, there is an intimacy about Florence. It is as if it speaks to you alone. To wander the streets is to achieve a oneness with the city and its past. One can easily imagine the immense talents and petty jealousies, as each tried to surpass a rival that culminated in the glory that is Florence. Shelly considered it the most beautiful city he had ever seen. Who could disagree with him?

Phyllis Picklesimer and her husband Fred are summer residents of Highlands. She is associated with Starr Travel in Greensboro, North Carolina and leads groups to many far-flung areas of the world several times a year. Fred's family has lived in the Highlands area since 1853. Once a month she will write a travel column for Highlands' Newspaper.



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• MOVIE PIX •

Video Guy Presents: 'Bat 21'



Stuart Armor

The 1988 military drama, directed by Peter Markle, written by Marc Norman and William C. Anderson, starring a really good supporting cast, but the movie is made by the performances of Danny Glover and Gene Hackman.

Based on the true events involving Lieutenant Colonel Icael Hambleton (played well by Hackman) and pilot Captain Bartholomew "Bird Dog" Clark (solid performance by Glover). Hambleton, a logistical expert with no combat experience, is downed behind enemy lines without any direct way to be extricated, just days before a major bombing offensive.

Using his wits, a code based on his knowledge of golf courses (yes, golf courses, not a misprint) and intermittent radio contact with Bird Dog, that both know is being monitored, he walks and is talked through dangerous terrain, while doing some on the spot reconnaissance.

It really is some on the edge of your seat stuff, with some excellent work between Glover and Hackman as they form a bond via radio. While it is a war movie, it's only partly an action movie,

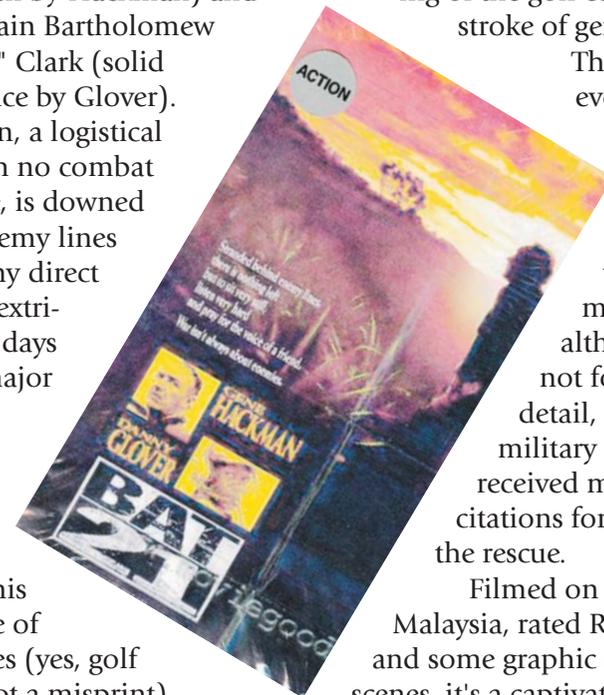
much more drama and suspense than battle scenes. A must see for pilots and avid golfers, the forming of the golf code was a stroke of genius.

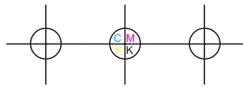
The actual events must have been much more complex than the movie portrays, although I have not found much detail, but some 243 military personnel received medals or citations for their work in the rescue.

Filmed on location in Malaysia, rated R for language and some graphic combat scenes, it's a captivating story worth seeing.

Some similarly themed movies are Big Red One, Saving Private Ryan, Full Metal Jacket, for the Boys, and a much lighter and funny film, also a true story, Operation Dumbo Drop.

These and about 5,000 other titles are available at Movie Stop Video, stop on over and give them a look.





... FIRE & RESCUE continued from page 1

town limits within the six-mile fire district which encompasses most of the Highlands Township.

Estimated fire loss in town was valued at \$55,000. Estimated fire loss outside the town limits was \$1,045,000.

The "rescue" component of the department was busier this year, too. There were 163 call, up by 9 over 2002.

First-responder calls where Highlands Fire & Rescue assists Macon County EMS totaled 131; wrecks, other than fire calls (19); search for missing persons (6); falls and injuries related to hikers and waterfalls (4); standby and animal calls (2); and water search by the dive team (1).

There were 70 calls inside the town limits and 98 outside.

Not including travel time, the department spent 2,186 man-hours responding to fire, rescue and first-responder calls during 2003.

Besides responding to calls 24 hours a day seven days a week, the volunteers are required to log formal and local training hours each year.

Thirteen firemen attended 22 fire & rescue schools at various community colleges for a total of 862 hours of formal training.

Another 1,740 man-hours were logged for local training and meetings.

Due to the rigorous training requirements and the time involved responding to an increasing number of calls, it's hard to recruit qualified applicants, said Bobby Houston, retired chief and administrative assistant.

There are three openings in the department.

Each year the department recognizes its own. At an awards ceremony at Highlands Conference Center Saturday, Jan. 17, EMT Carl Zoellner was named "Outstanding Fireman of the Year."

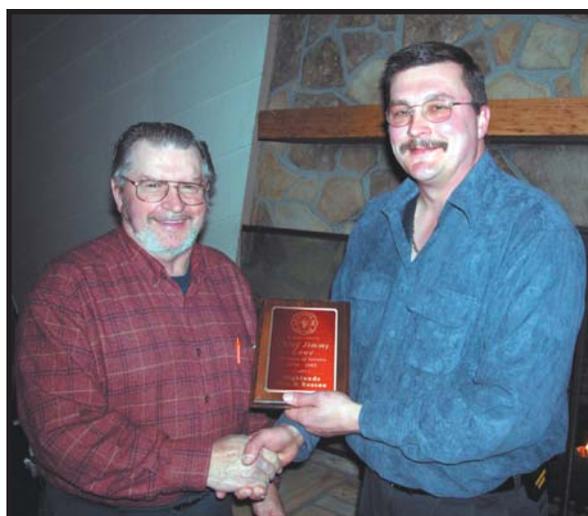
Officers for 2004 were also recognized - James Manley (chief); Ricky Bryson (Asst. Chief); Wayne Henry (Captain); Jody Zachary (1st Lt.); Ryan Gearhart (2nd Lt.); Jimmy Tate (Rescue Captain); Eric Pierson (Rescue Lt.); Terry Watson (Treasurer); and Lenny Metrick (secretary).

Lenny Metrick, James Ramey and Roger Lee Wilson were recognized for perfect attendance. Wilson hasn't missed a meeting in 11 years. Wayne



Photo by Anna Wilson

Dept. officers front from left are: Asst. Chief Ricky Bryson, Treasurer, Terry Watson; Secretary Lenny Metrick; Rescue Lt. Eric Pierson; Second row from left are: Chief James Manley; 2nd Lt. Ryan Gearhart; Captain Wayne Henry. Third row from left: Rescue Captain Jimmy Tate and 1st Lt. Jody Zachary.



Former Chief Jimmy Lowe who retired June 2003, was presented a plaque commemorating his service by Chief Manley.



James Ramey, Roger Lee Wilson and Lenny Metrick were presented Drill Attendance Certificates for perfect attendance. Roger Lee Wilson has had perfect attendance for 11 years.

Henry and Matthew Wilson only missed one meeting.

The department meets every Tuesday evening at the station.

During Saturday night's ceremony, retired fireman Ron Sanders was remembered. He died this past August.

The Chef and His Wife of Franklin catered the banquet and music was provided by the Clearwater Country Band.

Photos by Jim Lewicki



• SPORTS PICKS •

Sometimes things just don't mix, oil and water – David Gest and Liza Minelli, and certainly Duke and North Carolina. That last one is a real doozy if you live here in the state, and I am finding out just how deep the rivalry between the two schools runs.

You see, I am part of the growing number of mixed relationships here in NC. Now I know what you are thinking, the South should have progressed to the point where mixed relationships are acceptable, but I have to confess, the Sports Babe is a UNC

fan. (Yes, I stole the cute nickname concept from Bill Simmons, but it isn't plagiarizing if you use your own words...right?)

One of the first things people have to realize about Duke-Carolina is that there is definite basis for the hatred between the two schools. UNC fans hate Duke for their private school affluence, supposed higher standards, recent



Ryan Potts

domination of the ACC, and Coach K, who holds more NCAA titles than the great Dean Smith. However, UNC fans hate the Cameron Craziest the most – mainly due to such clever exploits as humorous signs, chants and even a full-page blank newspa-

per article dedicated to the white waste of space that was Eric Montross.

Duke fans hate UNC for their NBA success, their years of ACC domination, the way they see the ACC title as their birthright, and their ability to make a 20,000+ seat stadium sound like a library. We also hate UNC because of Dean Smith, who was able to be one of, if not the greatest coach in NCAA history with nary a curse word or recruiting violation. As a Duke fan, one thing that makes me happy with glee is the fact that UNC fans now whine about Duke getting favorable treatment from officials and the media, Duke players being punks, etc... which is exactly what I used to whine about when UNC was on top!

The rivalry is an amazing part of North Carolina history. There is no such thing as fence-sitting when it comes to Duke-Carolina. Children at a young age adopt a team, whether it be from their parents, friends, family, or Dick Vitale's incessant brownnosing. I chose Duke because my family loved UNC and I wanted to be different. The Sports Babe chose UNC because all of her family loves UNC and that was the first basketball team that she followed on a regular basis. It is through this introduction that the rivalry is born, and classic games, sneers of opposing fans, and the ups and downs of success manifest it.

Back to mixed couples. Me and the Sports Babe watched the UNC vs. Maryland game the other night, and it was fun to watch two of my

most hated teams in action. Between Tears of Roy and the Sultan of Sweat, I couldn't choose who to root for. It was like picking between Rosie O'Donnell and Roseanne in an eating contest. Rooting for either one makes you feel disgusting, but you watch out of sheer morbid curiosity.

Now Maryland is a totally different animal than UNC because their fans and coach have an inferiority complex. I personally like Gary Williams and his "me against the world attitude," and he has done a great job at UMD, but Maryland is still a step behind in the conference pecking order, and no amount of whining is going to change that.

Back to UNC-Maryland. It was a great game full of athletic plays and hi-octane basketball. The Sports Babe was up in arms because "Charlie could play better defense than McCants." (Charlie being the Sports Cat) and because Maryland was "killing them down low." She also commented on the fact that Roy wasn't subbing enough and gave a detailed explanation on how Felton's dribble penetration would open up the off-ball screen and roll game for Melvin Scott. (Ok, I made that last sentence up, but a guy can dream can't he?)

I also discovered that reaching for the remote during a UNC game can result in an all expense-paid trip to the doghouse complete with divorce papers and complimentary hardtack and swill. All in all, watching hoops as a mixed couple was a good experience. Just don't expect it to be good on February 5 when Duke goes to play UNC at the Valium Dome.

Please pray for this writer, because if Duke wins, then I may need hospitalization, and if UNC wins then I will need earplugs and Excedrin. (that cha-ching sound you just heard was endorsement money rolling my way) Alas, c'est la vie if you live in the Old North State, because if you can't stand the rivalry, you could always settle and root for State or Wake...right?

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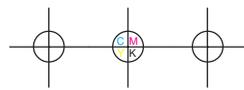
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■ SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING ■

"Let God Fix It"

Read John 2:1-11

The most unforgettable weddings I have officiated have been those when something unpredictable occurs. We all remember weddings when a bride faints, a bridesmaid falls in the mud just before the ceremony, or a bridesmaid forgets the bride's name. The table ceremony was my own. On our way out of the reception "getaway car" I mistakenly ran over the toe of my new grandmother-in-law. Fortunately, the tire caught the end of her high heel shoe and her foot was spared. I was not spared the endless teasing by my groomsmen, who made such comments as, "Eddie really knows how to get his marriage off on the right foot."



Rev. Eddie

Jesus was asked by his mother Mary to fix the social disaster at a wedding reception. There was no more wine. Typically, the best wine was served at the beginning of the wedding reception, and the lesser quality was saved until the palate couldn't tell the difference between good and bad wine. But it brought great embarrassment to a wedding host if the wine ran empty. Mary, the mother of Jesus, offered assistance and asked Jesus to help avoid the disaster. Jesus, at first hesitant to intervene in the situation, listened to his mother, and instructed the servants to fill huge water jars with water. And just like that, the water was turned to wine. And not just any old wine - the very best wine.

What do we make of this miracle? If we want to avoid disaster, we need to make sure Jesus is present. It reminds me of the familiar story of the boy who appeared on a variety show and was asked by the host, "Do you go to Sunday School?" "Yes" the boy replied. "And what are you learning in Sunday School?" the host asked. After a short pause the boy replied, "Last Sunday we heard the story about how Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding." "And what did you learn from that story?" the host asked. After thinking a bit, the boy said, "Well, if you're going to have a wedding, make sure Jesus is there."

Not only with our weddings, but with all of life, we need to make sure Jesus is there. Typically, what we get our hands on turns out to be a disaster if we go it alone. For many of us, our lives are defined by crisis. Whether it is a circumstance beyond our control, or self-induced suffering, the crisis has defined our life by sorrow and pain and robbed us of joy and abundant life that Christ offers. It points to a life that has tried to go it alone. Broken marriages, estranged families, addiction, abuse and depression are defining characteristics of our life. We learn the hard way that only Christ can fix us.

Let us pray for the faith to trust Jesus enough to do as Mary did at the wedding crisis. Mary had confidence that her son could fix things, and she instructs the servants at the wedding to "do whatever he tells you." Their obedience opened the door for a miracle to occur. May we not only have faith that expects God to fix us, but the trust to do whatever he tells us to do, even when it is frightening. This is faith.

● 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.

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 Classes - 9:15 a.m.; Holy Eucharist - 10:30 a.m.;
Children's - 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 and Program in Jones Hall - 6 p.m.
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist - 10 a.m.
The Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14 every week.

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.; Student & Adult 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

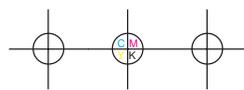
526-9769
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time)
Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.

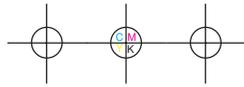
Westside Baptist Church

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

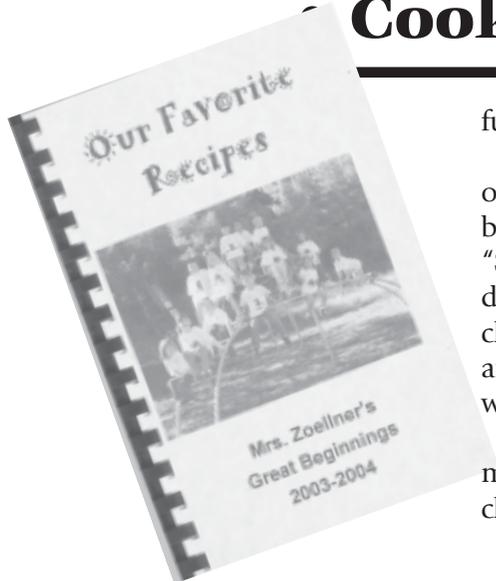
Whiteside Presbyterian Church in America

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





Cooking on the Plateau •



funds for a special field trip.

Ms. Jodie Zoellner says the project was the brainchild of her assistant Kim Chenoweth who produced the cookbook through a software program called "Easy Books." "She collected all the recipes, typed them on the computer, designed the book in "Easy Books," printed it on our classroom printer, copied it on the school copy machine and bound them on the school binder," said Zoellner. "It was a real homemade project.

Copies are available in the school office for \$5 and it's money well-spent. It's 95 pages of quick and easy recipes children like to make and best of all EAT!

If you're like most Moms, figuring out what your kids will eat is a real brain-teaser. But thanks to a special cookbook produced by Mrs. Zoellner's Great Beginnings class, there's no more guessing.

"Our Favorite Recipes" started out as a Christmas gift for parents of GB students and ended up as a Christmas gift for the bus drivers and lunch ladies, too. It's gone over so well in fact, the GB class has opted to sell the book to raise

White Pizza Dip

Andriann McCall

- 1 envelope of Lipton Savory Herb with Garlic soup mix
- 1 8-oz. container of sour cream
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 jar sliced mushrooms
- 1/4 cup chopped pepperoni
- 1 loaf Italian bread

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine all dip ingredients, saving 1/4 cup of mozzarella to sprinkle on top. Bake 30 minutes. Slice bread and serve with pizza dip.

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Brick Oven Pizza

526-4121
Mtn. Brook Center next to Movie Stop
Made-to-order pizza, calzones & salads
Open for lunch & dinner year-round

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.

Buck's Coffee Cafe

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Local art teacher in juried show in Virginia

Sallie Taylor, the art teacher at the Highlands School, has had a painting accepted into a major exhibition in Richmond, Virginia. Juror Peter Schjeldahl, the art critic for the "New Yorker," juried Taylor's painting into the forthcoming exhibition entitled "Critical Mass: A Mid Atlantic Juried Exhibition."

Sponsored by 1708 Gallery and the Art Department of Virginia Commonwealth University, "Critical Mass" features the work of 42 artists from the mid-Atlantic region. More than 300 artists submitted work. Schjeldahl selected Taylor's oil painting called Sapelo Island Light House for inclusion in the exhibition that will open on Jan. 23 and run through Feb. 25.

According to the exhibition press release, Mr. Schjeldahl's selected works for Critical Mass reflect the self-conscious and the hidden aspects of the mind. The work Taylor has in the exhibition is a close up view of the open door leading into the recently restored Sapelo Island Lighthouse.

On Saturday, Jan. 24, critic Schjeldahl will conduct a private critique with the artists in the exhibition, followed by a public lecture entitled, "What Art Is For Now," at Virginia Commonwealth. Hours for the exhibition are 11a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday or by appointment. 1708 Gallery is located at 319 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia.

... DEAR FRED from page 5

designer styled, odorless commodes at each end of town. Five star restrooms, complete with valet service and linens to dry your hands. People would come from afar to just be seen at our facilities. And hey, how can you stay mad at a guy who builds toilets.

So, Mr. Atlanta/Buckheader type, I hope I have cleared the air for you in the toilet game. I can see that from an outsider's perspective it seems we do get worked up over the silliest things.

Finally, there is one other very important reason why toilets are such a prime issue to us. It is what we are not involved in that really counts around here. We are not worried about runaway crime, horrendous traffic jams, rude people and suffocating heat. We have no winos sleeping on our streets and people don't abandon their newborns by throwing them in garbage dumpsters. So we worry a lot about our toilets. It's a Highlands' thing. Be nice to us.



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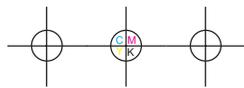
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Executive Director needed for the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, a nonprofit organization based in Highlands. Part time \$1,000/month. Apply by March 1 to Cynthia Strain, Chair, JMCA, 348 S. Fifth St., Highlands, NC 28741; 828-526-9227 or JMCA@dnet.net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

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● HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL ●

– Varsity Girls Round-up –

By Kathryn Coppage
Contributor

Lady Highlanders have won a few games, but have unfortunately lost too many. Their season record is 6-14.

Rosman Tigers – Jan. 2

Lady Highlanders lost 53-72 to the Rosman Tigers on Jan. 2.

The Lady Highlanders kept it close, only down by four at half time, but they lost their groove in the third quarter of the game. The Tigers continually sank shots with their strong offensive line, giving the Highlanders' defense a work out. Even with freshman Toni Schmitt's outstanding 20 points against Rosman, the Lady Highlanders never had the chance to catch up once they dropped behind.

Swain Maroon Devils – Jan. 6

Lady Highlanders had an awesome, though unfortunate game against the Swain Maroon Devils on Jan. 6. Both teams were ready for the game, the intensity, and the victory, but Swain ended up rising to the top with a final score of 47-36.

The Devils and the Highlanders were both aggressive in the act to win, causing several fouls, and allow-

ing Highlands more an opportunity for a comeback. The Devils continued to push harder in the fourth quarter, leaving Highlands at a loss.

Kayla McCall with 14 points and Toni Schmitt with 12, scored half the points for the Lady Highlanders.

Tamassee-Salem Eagles – Jan. 10

Lady Highlanders played an outstanding game Jan. 10, but lost 32-37 to the Tamassee-Salem Eagles.

Stepping in with steals, sinking free throws, and making every shot count, gave them hope for the win. Unfortunately, hope was not what they needed.

The Highlanders were in the lead through the entire game, until the last four minutes, when the Eagles edged their way to the top.

Lady Highlanders represented the school well with their excellent game. They gave the Highlanders a reason to have pride, even without the victory when the Eagles edged their way to the top.

Hiawasee Dam – Jan. 9

The Lady Highlanders won their game 34-30 against the Hiawasee Dam Eagles Jan. 9 breaking the recent losing trend. They won using every skilled tactic they could to overcome the other team.

Both teams persevered, making it difficult for either team to surpass the other. The game left fans biting their nails, waiting to see what would happen next. Even in the last minute of the game, the winner was still undetermined.

With 55 seconds on the clock, the score was 31-30. As a result of clever maneuvering, Kayla McCall sank the final shot with seven seconds running.

The Highlanders sent the Eagles home crying, and left the blue and gold fans pumped. It was a record for the Lady Highlanders who haven't beaten Hiawasee Dam in the last 30 years.

McCall lit the court on fire with the leading 12 points, followed by Rebecca Wyatt with eight.

Cashiers Blue Ridge – Jan. 13

Lady Highlanders obliterated the Blue Ridge Bobcats Jan. 13 in a 58-19 game. The Bobcats probably don't want to see the likes of the Highlanders for some time.

The Highlanders took an 18-0 lead during first quarter and held it throughout the game.

Keri Raby's scoring streak wound up the fans with her grand total of 16 points.

– Varsity Boys Round-up –

Highlanders have continued to play well so far this season, but have come short in the majority of their games. Their season record is 5-15.

Rosman Tigers Jan. 2

According to Captain Nathan Heffington, the Highlanders were weakened in the first game of the New Year, Jan. 2, against the Rosman Tigers because of their Christmas break and a diluted bench. The final score was 41-89.

Captains Heffington and Trent Reese were the leading scorers against Rosman with 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Walhalla Razorbacks – Jan. 3

Highlanders lost to the Walhalla Razorbacks on Jan. 3. The final score was 49-65.

In the first half the Highlanders were down 25 points with a halftime score 15-40. They tried to make a recovery in the second half, but the Razorbacks were too sharp to let the Highlanders override their lead. In the fourth quarter, Highlanders sank 23 points. Walhalla only had seven, but victory was still theirs.

Players Nathan Heffington and Trent Reese both gave the Highlanders 12 points each to add to the scoreboard in their fight to conquer.

Swain's Maroon Devils – Jan. 6

Highlanders lost a rough game Jan. 6 against Swain's Maroon Devils. The entire game was aggressive and kept up its beat until the end. Although the Highlanders played hard, the final score ended 53-65.

The Highlanders hit the peak of their plays during the second half. The referees had controversial calls throughout the game giving the Devils a great advantage. The Highlander fans in the stands were going crazy,

as the crowd from Swain rose in their pride.

"I don't understand why our boys don't put in all they've got until we're 35 down. The game started rough, but the boys backed down from intimidation versus stepping up and fighting back. Sure, the refs were bad the last two games, but we should have been able to defeat both teams," said Coach Butch Smart.

The Highlanders lost their momentum from the middle of the first quarter through the end of the third quarter. Once into the fourth quarter, they played a remarkable game, but it was too late to win.

At half time, the score was 13-34. Highlanders scored 30 points during the fourth while Swain only scored five. Nathan Heffington led the Highlanders with 14 points under his belt.

Hiawasee Dam Eagles – Jan. 9

Highlanders went into the game against the Hiawasee Dam Eagles Jan. 9 with their strongest effort yet this season. Every player was on fire, but so were Hiawasee's.

Both teams stayed just within five points of each other all the way through the third quarter, but into the fourth things went downhill for the Highlanders.

In the fourth quarter, the Highlanders fell into some serious foul trouble. With every poor call made by the refs, the Highlander's lead began to slip from their grasp.

Several varsity players were plagued with fouls including Nathan Heffington and Matthew Keener who were both benched with five fouls. Andrew Kerhoulas and Matt Chenoweth each had four fouls. This created an advantage for the Eagles, and a weakness for the Highlands team.

It was a great fight with a disappointing ending.

Tamassee-Salem Eagles – Jan. 10

The Highlanders lost again to the Tamassee-Salem Eagles Jan. 10.

With strong potential to beat Tamassee, Highlanders played a hardcore game, but they were unable to pull through with a win.

They stayed neck and neck, but as in the previous game against the Hiawasee Dam Eagles, they lost their shot in the fourth quarter.

Tamassee Salem had a quick offense, and a beastly player who scored every chance he could. He hardly failed to miss a shot, whether it was a lay-up, jump shot, or dunk. Stopping his plays was more of the overall challenge for the Highlanders.

Foul trouble was once again an issue for the Highlanders near the end of the game, losing them the final opportunity to defeat the Eagles.

Blue Ridge Bobcats – Jan. 13

Highlanders destroyed the Blue Ridge Bobcats on Jan. 13 in a 79-21 game. There wasn't a prayer's chance that the Bobcats could have beaten the Highlanders.

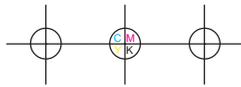
Even with their ballooning score, the Highlanders continued to flail their arms, grab, and reach, resulting in numerous fouls.

The whole team was recognized, as every player stepped foot onto the court. Not one player left Blue Ridge without scoring.

It was too bad for the Bobcats when Nathan Heffington showed his mad skill, dunking against the opponent's trailing defense.

The impressive Jason Aspinwall sent the crowds screaming as he continually sank treys and ended the leading streak with 19 points for the team.





• POLICE REPORT •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of Jan. 14-21, 2004. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

Jan. 14

- At noon, a Samsung camera and purse were found and turned in at Town Hall.
- At 10:45 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Many Road. All was secure.

Jan. 15

- At 1:37 a.m., a motorist on U.S. 64 was issued a warning citation for driving without a seatbelt.

Jan. 16

- At 6:42 a.m., a motorist on Main and Third streets was cited for speeding 37 mph in a 20 zone.
- At 9:48 a.m., a motorist was cited for driving without insurance at N.C. 106 and Main Street.
- At 2:20 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Sagee Woods Drive. All was secure.
- At 5:40 p.m., a motorist was cited for driving without insurance or current tags at N.C. 106 and Helen's Barn.

Jan. 17

- At 3 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Many Road. All was secure.
- At 7 a.m., a motorist was issued a warning citation on U.S. 64 for driving without a seatbelt.
- At 7:22 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 53 mph in a 35 zone at U.S. 64 east and Hickory Street.

Jan. 18

- At 11:20 a.m., officers investigated a noise complaint at the Old Edwards Inn construction site.
- At 12:20 p.m., a motorist was cited for driving with an expired registration at Main and Second streets.
- At 9:40 p.m., officers responded to a domestic dispute at a residence on Wahoo Trail Road. The residents were told to stay away from each other.

Jan. 19

- At 6:56 a.m., a motorist was issued a warning citation for driving without a seatbelt on U.S. 64.
- At 7:50 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 53 mph in a 35 zone and for driving without insurance or registration at N.C. 28 and Sassy Lane.

Jan. 20

- At 6:25 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 49 mph in a 35 zone at N.C. 106 and Cobb Rd.
- At 12:35 p.m., officers investigated a traffic complaint near the Old Edward construction site on Fourth Street where equipment was blocking traffic. Officers instructed the construction crew to reroute traffic until equipment was moved.
- At 5:30 p.m., officers responded to a parking complaint on S. Fourth Street.

Highlands' Newspaper Internet Directory

In 2003, more than 1/4-million visitors averaging 5 minutes per view visited the directory at www.highlandsinfo.com

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

Earthlink statistics are posted on the directory for verification.

... CABLE continued from page 1

said that wasn't the case — they were supposed to restring in compliance with the national electric safety code which is 40 inches from any other cable plus proper road clearance, he said.

Commissioner Alan Marsh suggested the town agree to either a 40-inch or 52-inch clearance because confusion exists as to which is legal.

But Nix said the national safety code is 40 inches. "If you require them to go to 52 inches they would probably request compensation for any expenses incurred," he said.

Nix said there are many places in town where Northland is out of compliance on the poles, but when he's brought it to Northland's attention lines are adjusted.

"They just recently changed out two poles at the cost of \$4,500," said Nix. "If you write them a letter and ask them in good faith to move their lines, I'm sure they'll do that."

Nix said Northland is waiting for the town to tell them exactly which lines on which poles need to be moved. "I believe they will comply,

if we give them specific directions," he said.

"I don't want to have to baby sit them about this," said Commissioner Amy Patterson. "I just want them to put their lines where they are supposed to be."

But Nix said this will be a slow, painstaking process. "This is much more than just one pole and it can't be fixed overnight," said Nix.

Commissioner Hank Ross suggested the town adopt a 52-inch clearance rule. "We have the opportunity now to request this. Not if it adds cost but if there's room on the pole and it's just a matter of where they're going to string it, I think we should require 52 inches."

Board members instructed Betz to write Northland and Verizon and require them to come into compliance on all poles as soon as possible and if no extra costs are involved to make the clearance 52 inches.

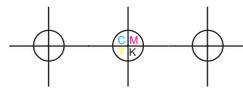
"I think it's important for us to create a placeholder for future franchises," said Commissioner Dennis DeWolf.

Girls' Clubhouse at Rotary



Members of The Girls' Clubhouse had lunch with Highlands Rotary Jan 20. The girls introduced themselves and said what they like about The Girls' Clubhouse. The group of middle school girls does community service one day a week after school each week school is in session. The club is seven years old.





● UPCOMING EVENTS ●

On-Going

- New After-Work Aerobics Class at the Highlands Rec Park with Sandy Trevathan, certified in AFAA and ACE training. Classes are at 5:15 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Call 526-5852.

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

- Highlands School is still collecting used ink cartridges. The staff just sent in 150 and they're ready for more. Please take used ink cartridges to the main office at Highlands School. It means money to the school.

- 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. It's accessible from both Main and Church streets. Meeting times remain the same: Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

(women only); Wednesdays and Fridays at noon. For further information, call (800) 524-0465.

Jan 23 & 24

- Kelsey & Hutchinson Lodge along with Wolfgang's on Main restaurant, Silver Oak Cellars and Arcadian Winery will host a fourth annual winter wine weekend that includes a fireside wine tasting at the lodge and a reception and dinner at Wolfgang's on Main. A fireside tasting at the lodge is Friday, January 23, at 6:30 p.m. for \$25 a person. The following evening, Saturday, January 24, Wolfgang's On Main will offer a champagne and hors d'oeuvres reception beginning at 6 p.m. followed by a six-course dinner with wine pairings at 6:30 p.m. for \$195 a person, plus tax and gratuity. The featured dinner wines will be from Arcadian Winery and Silver Oak Cellars in Napa and Alexander Valleys. Distinguished Atlanta-based painter of wine, Thomas Arvid will also be present to capture the evening on canvas.

Jan. 24

- Benefit for Steve & Lisa (Owens) Chapman at the Satolah Fire Dept. at 5 p.m. There will be music provided by Oliver Rice an Narrow Way &

The Frazzled Edge Group. A hot-dog supper will be served. For more information, call Audrey Ownes at (706) 782-2813. Steve is in the hospital undergoing back surgery.

Jan. 29

- The Highlands Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the law firm of Edwards, Ballard, Bishop, Sturm, Clark and Klein will host a seminar on changes in U.S. immigration laws that can impact local businesses. The business immigration law update will be held on Wednesday at the Highlands Conference Center from 9:30 until noon. Cost of the seminar is \$10 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members. To register, please call Ruth Buchanan at 526.5841.

Jan 30 & 31

- Cowboy Envy – an exciting evening of old-time cowboy song and stories will be presented by Highlands' Instant Theatre Company Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. at The Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chesnut St. in Highlands. \$5 Children, \$15 Adults for tickets call (828) 342-9197.

Feb. 2

- The February regular meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners will be at 9 a.m. instead of 6 p.m. for presentation of employee service awards.

... WATER LINE from page 1

tween the town and the respective funding agencies.

"We're still waiting on the final paperwork from the EPA and the Rural Center," said Town Administrator Richard Betz. "We also need the \$20,000 bond in place before we begin."

Before the town can award the contract, all funding must be officially secured. Paperwork is still needed from the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center and the EPA's STAG grant program. Officials said they have verbal confirmation that the funds are forthcoming but not official notification. "We expect to have everything we need within the next two weeks," said Betz.

To fund the water line, about \$850,000 is expected through the grants, \$300,000 from the county and \$200,000 from the hospital.

The encroachment permit from NC DOT arrived Wednesday afternoon.

The contract consists of the construction of about 12,000 linear feet of 12-inch water line from the Town of Highlands to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital; one water booster pump station and all necessary accessories.

Commissioners hope they'll start at Little Bear Pen, but Town Engineer Lamar Nix said "they didn't comment on which end they would start on."

The original plan had the work completed by the spring of 2004.

All eyes were on the basket and then it happened – 600 wins to his credit



Coach Butch Smart, center, with his loyal assistants, from left, Josh Bryson, Casey Bradstreet, Jeremy Dooley and Brett Lamb in a congratulatory hug at the win.



Photos by Judy Smart

Highlands School Varsity Boys Basketball Coach Butch Smart racked up the 600th win of his career when Highlands beat Nantahala 71-58, Tuesday, Jan. 20 at Nantahala. "Right now the 600th win isn't that important to me. What's important is that this win enables us to play in the Conference Championship games," said Smart. "One day I will look back and remember the 600th win, but right now this was a game we needed to win. The Highlanders' season tally is five wins and 15 losses. The next home game is Jan. 23 against Cherokee.

