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Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 2, Number 19

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, May 14, 2004

The week of May 13-20

May 13

▪ **SCHOLARSHIPS** – HS Senior Scholarship Night at PAC at 5 p.m.

May 14

▪ **SCOUTS** – Old Scouter's Round-up on Walden Way Road between Dry and Bridal Veil falls on U.S. 64 west at 6:30 p.m. Come enjoy an old-fashion dutch oven meal prepared by Troop 207, and view a 1910 campsite. For reservations, call 526-4645.

May 15

• **BENEFIT** – Barbeque & hotdog benefit at Blue Valley Church Building Fundraiser at 5 p.m. at the Satolah Fire Dept. Live music begins at 7 p.m. featuring the Dixie Bluegrass Boys and The Blue Ridge Mountain Band. Raffle, doorprizes and a cake auction, too.

• **RECEPTION** – At the Bascom-Louise Gallery, Folk and Outsider Art from the collection of Jonathan Williams. This museum quality collection will be on exhibit May 15 – June 17. The opening reception will take place on May 15 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

May 16

• **SOCCER SIGNUPS** – County League Fall Soccer sign up for 5-15 year olds, 1-3 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Park.

• **HIKING** – The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 1.5 mile hike on the Rufus Morgan Trail with wildflowers along the way and a lovely waterfall at the end. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for more information.

May 17

• **MILA** – Mirror Lake Improvement Association will have its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center.

May 18

• **MOVIE TIME** – The movie "Strictly Ballroom" sponsored by the Bascom-Louise Gallery at the Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Donations appreciated.

May 19

• **SENIOR SUPPERT** – Highlands School senior and parents supper at HUMC at 5:30 p.m.

County funding Rec Park not about ownership

By Kim Lewicki

The very idea of the county funding operations at the Highlands Rec Park facility has town officials worrying about the county "taking over" Highlands.

But County Commissioner Allan Bryson says that wasn't the intent of his suggestion at all.

"The county is already funding the recreational facilities in the rest of the county, and I just thought it was time

to talk about doing it in Highlands, too."

Ex-mayor John Cleaveland said the town of Franklin doesn't even have a line in its budget for recreational facilities. "The county has been funding recreation down there for years. What's wrong with them funding ours, too?"

Bryson said ownership became the issue when really it's about finances.

"It's budget time and I thought I'd find out if the town would be interest-

ed. If so, I knew I needed to push for county funds to be earmarked for that purpose," he said.

All along Bryson has said that if the county takes over operational expenses at the Rec Park, the town could funnel the money it uses to maintain and operate the facility somewhere else.

The town has budgeted \$540,000 for Rec Park operations for 2004-2005

▪ See REC PARK page 6

Literacy Council recipient of service award



Photo by Kim Lewicki

At the Highlands School yearbook and award ceremony, Friday, May 7, Mary Heffington, past chair and current vice-chair of the Literacy Council of Highlands, accepted the school's Highlander Service Award on behalf of current and past directors, board members and volunteer tutors with the Literacy Council. At the end of each school year, the Highlander Service Award is awarded to the community individual, club or organization that has consistently been supportive of Highlands School throughout the years. Pictured with her are Principal Jack Brooks and Vice Principal Dr. Melissa Porter. See more photos, on page 13.

Clubs thinking about future water sources

By Kim Lewicki

Three country clubs at the headwaters of the Highlands watershed are concerned about their future water supply and have started researching alternatives to well water.

A \$40,000 state grant will be used to gather data on the availability of water in the watershed, where and how much water is used and what alternative water supplies might be utilized in the future.

The county acted as the lead agency in procuring the grant, "but we have no dog in this fight," said County Manager Sam Greenwood. "We're just interested in the clubs getting accurate data in determining their needs and the capacity of the watershed," he said.

McGill Associates, an Asheville-based firm is conducting the study whose basis revolves around the absence of a public water system to serve the region beyond the Town of Highlands' corporate jurisdiction.

Initially, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital was in on the scenario, but its needs have been met by hooking onto the Highlands municipal water supply.

Infrastructure, funded by county, state and federal grants is in the midst

▪ See WATER page 5

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• LETTER TO THE EDITOR •

In support of Highlands School

Dear Editor,

First of all, I would like to formally apologize to the Macon County Board of Education, Dr. Rodney Shotwell, Mr. Jack Brooks, Dr. Melissa Porter and others who were present at the Board of Education meeting (April 26, 2004) for the lack of respect exhibited by some attendees.

I recognize that our elected officials deserve the utmost respect, and acknowledge deference to the public process made available by the Board of Education. After hearing what took place, I felt the need to express to the Board, how sorry I am that a few members of such a fine community found it necessary to disrupt the forum of business designed for the betterment of our children.

Most people understand that open Board meetings allow the public an insight to discussions about educational issues, and provide a platform for people to reserve time to present ideas or subjects they would like the Board to consider. When people abuse the process and neglect responsibility for their actions, it creates an atmosphere of trepidation. I felt a strong necessity to let the Board Members know that this small group in no way represents nor speaks for my family, and me, and does not reflect the attitudes or perceptions of all parents, students, faculty or staff at Highlands School.

Most importantly, this letter is intended to hopefully help restore the reputations of two people from Highlands School who have been unjustly attacked by disgruntled "Highlanders," and to rebuke the comments that "There is a lot of unrest at Highlands School."

After four years of daily personal contact with Mr. Brooks and Dr. Porter, I can attest to their character and the great achievements made at Highlands School since we have been here. Mr. Brooks and Dr. Porter are role models everyone can find something to emulate. They are both true Christians and maintain equivalent private and professional lives. They are intelligent, caring individuals with tremendous patience and restraint. Mr. Brooks and Dr. Porter are truly committed to each and every student at Highlands School. They have bent over backwards to help many students for many reasons, and strive to support all the employees at

the school. I have personal knowledge that Mr. Brooks and Dr. Porter spend numerous hours helping students and teachers succeed.

These two administrators expect quality education and they do whatever is humanly possible to utilize any available resources so the teachers have what they need to accomplish this goal. The school's best interest and student achievement are always their top priority.

It is a difficult task to run a K-12 school and even more problematical to appease each and every parent, teacher, and student. While not everyone is perfect, all decisions made by both Mr. Brooks and Dr. Porter that I have seen are motivated by what is best for the children, whether or not the parents agree. I have never witnessed Dr. Porter or Mr. Brooks treat anyone with a lack of respect. I can however, attest to verbal abuse of both Mr. Brooks and Dr. Porter by parents on many occasions, and I have always observed their professional and compassionate response. Even under these circumstances, they remained focused on the best interest of the student or situation, and did not allow the inappropriate parental demeanor to influence their decisions.

Finally, it is not my intent to single out a particular person or group, I am asking for individual reflection. We as adults have the responsibility to teach our children a proper and healthy way to make inquiries and to handle disputes. We have the obligation to be an example. As a parent of three children at Highlands School, I certainly understand how parents can be emotionally driven to protect their children. Nevertheless, parents must be more cautious and constantly aware of actions and behaviors we exhibit since children imitate their parents. An accountable parent is able to balance concerns and emotions, especially in public.

Constructive criticism is healthy, but personally directed accusations to both Mr. Brooks and Dr. Porter in any public forum, is damaging and hard to repair. I was shocked to read that personal comments were made about Mr. Brooks and Dr. Porter in an open meeting with reporters present, and I cringed when the reality of what took

● **OBITUARIES** ●

Beatrice Sealy Myers

Beatrice Sealy Myers, born March 4, 1921, passed away peacefully on May 6, 2004 in Tampa, Florida.

Beatrice was the widow of Earle T. Myers, who died in 1991. Both were life-long Tampa residents and also maintained a summer home in Highlands, North Carolina since the 1940s.

Beatrice is survived by two daughters both from Tampa but who have relocated: Barbara Tecza of Greenville, SC and Earlene Hayes of Franklin, NC; her grandson Earle Hayes originally from Tampa, whom she helped through medical school and is now a medical resident at Yale University, New Haven, CT; two granddaughters Ronda Tecza Reynolds originally from Tampa now Greenville, SC and Dorian Hayes Sheppard also from Tampa who now resides in Lakeland, FL; a nephew Tony Franklin of Tampa, FL, two nieces, and four great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Myers was a member of the First Baptist Church in Highlands and was a deeply spiritual person. Bea had a zest for life and was truly committed to her personal and spiritual growth.

She was quite active in her community both in Tampa and in Highlands.

Beatrice traveled extensively helping her husband, who was a numismatist, with coin shows throughout the country. One of her favorite yearly coin shows was in Honolulu, Hawaii where she and her husband would spend several weeks a year. In her early years, Mrs. Myers traveled extensively to Europe and Cuba (1940's and 50's) with her husband, and they also maintained an apartment in New York City where Beatrice attended finishing school.

Beatrice also enjoyed a beach house they owned in Indian Rocks Beach, FL for several years.

She was one of the original members of Highlands Falls Country Club where she played golf and she enjoyed many of the social functions.

She was also active for many years with the garden club, involved in arts and crafts attending many craft shows, and various benefits in the Highlands and Tampa areas.

One of Mrs. Myers' fondest memories was her reign as Queen of the Krewe of Naiads in New Orleans for Mardi Gras three separate years, 1971, 1973, and 1976.

Services were held at the First Baptist Church in Highlands, NC, arranged by Bryant Funeral Home, and then graveside at Highlands Cemetery on Monday May 10, 2004, at 11 a.m.

Roberta McCall

Roberta McCall, age 49, of McCall Road, Highlands, NC died Monday, May 10, 2004 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late Cletis McCall and Betty Norris McCall of Highlands, NC. She had worked for Whitley Products and was a member of Highlands Assembly of God Church.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by a daughter, Rebecca McClure and her husband Steven of Franklin, NC and a son, Matthew McCall and wife, Rebecca of Cherokee, NC; two sisters, Linda McCall of the home and Mary Ellen McCall Cooper and her husband Gary of Highlands, NC; three brothers, Daniel "Jabo" McCall and his wife, Linda Jean of Scaly Mtn., NC, Doyle Wayne McCall and Teresa of Goldmine, NC and "Spud" LeRoy McCall of Highlands, NC; a grandson, Ty Bradley and a granddaughter, Sara Songer.

Funeral services were held Thursday, May 13, at 11 a.m. at Highlands Assembly of God Church with Rev. Scott Holland and Rev. Alton Dendy officiating. Burial will be in Miller Cemetery. Bud Lamb, Lester Norris, Michael Norris, Shannon McCall, Chris McCall and Kenny Talley will serve as pallbearers. Harry Norris, Bill Norris, MacArthur McCall, Jack McCall and Jamie Holt will serve as honorary pallbearers.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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• LIFE UNDER CONSTRUCTION •

Are you putting first things first?

If you think time doesn't fly, try being responsible for writing a weekly column. It seems I just catch my breath from writing and it's time to attempt to come up with something worthwhile to say. Now don't get me wrong, I have a lot to say, but saying it in a manner that others might glean a little insight from, it is another story.



Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

use it brings me to note several questions that I read in the book by Stephen R. Covey, *First Things First*. They go like this.

What is the one activity that you KNOW if you did superbly well and consistently would

have significant positive results in your personal life?

What is the one activity that you KNOW if you did superbly well and consistently would have significant possible results in your professional or work life?

If you KNOW these things would make such a significant difference, why are you not doing them now

Does your answer reveal that you are using your time wisely?

This is my plan of attack for this season. It may help you as well.

1. Keep track of priorities.
2. Keep your goals in front of you.
3. Organize tasks.
4. Organize and quickly access frequently used information.

Now if that doesn't sound left brain, I don't know what would. The above strengths helped me build my house several years ago. The right tools can make a powerful difference. A little discipline can go a long way.

After all, why dig with a spoon when you could use a backhoe?

"You will never 'find' time for anything. If you want time, you must make it." —Charles Burton

Tonight I have been sitting for the last hour just trying to think of something to write. Not even something great or good, just something. I try to write in what I call a current state of living. What this means is that I try to write from the place my life is while I'm writing rather than writing many columns ahead and just pulling one from a stack waiting to get a voice. From the difficulty I am having tonight, that may not be a bad idea for the future, especially since "season" is upon the Highlands/Cashiers area. So once again, I write about treasuring time. Again?

It's coming upon the "busy" time of the year for real estate and that means long hours. I may have mentioned before that I moved to the mountains to enjoy their beauty and I am determined to do just that. It's true that I left the office at 7pm tonight but I managed to sneak in a walk around Lake Fairfield with a friend for an afternoon break.

Thinking of time and how we

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

• SPORTS PICKS •

Writers Block (To the tune of O Christmas Tree)

O Writers Block, O
Writers Block, you fill my
head with splendor

O Writers Block, O
Writers Block, My brain
helpless you render

Because of you, my
column's dead, The
cheers they ring, inside
my head

O Writers Block, O
Writers Block, How do I
tell the editor?

Hey, that turned out pretty good.
Let's try another one. This time
remember that it isn't Christmas.

The Rocket's pitching well, the
Rocket's pitching well

Do you think he'll choke again?
Time will never tell.

Barry stands alone, yes Barry
Stands alone

If he breaks the mark of Ted, then
leave the man alone

Hmmm...not so good. Maybe we
need a different form rather than
nursery rhymes...

Kobe sometimes played with the
team

This concept Philled Jackson's
dreams

But when it was time
Kobe said "I'll get mine"

He's selfish and a jerk like
Kareem.

Wow, this is dying faster than
Ricky Martin's career. I did haiku last
week and I am running out of

... WATER continued from page 1

of construction along U.S. 64 east from
the hospital to Little Bear Pen Road.
At little Bear Pen, the infrastructure will
hook into the town's water supply. The
town didn't annex the hospital, but
justified allowing the hospital on line
because it represents the area's health
and welfare.

By using the town's water supply,
the hospital won't have to depend on
the three wells on its campus, one of
which went dry a couple of years ago.

Meanwhile, Highlands Falls Coun-
try Club still depends on the hospital's
well water. In 1992, it entered into a
20-year well-water lease agreement
with hospital but it runs out Dec. 31,
2014.

The research grant from the N.C.
Department of Environmental and



Ryan Potts

options. Hmmmm, what
would Harry Caray do?
(Besides drink beer and
scream random
comments about Vince
Coleman?) OK, maybe
Harry wasn't a good
choice. What is another
literary device I can try?
How about a cinquain?...

For Sale:

Pirate Players:

Pitchers, Bats and the like
We don't ask for much except
no Yankees

OR

Playoffs

Last way too long

Hockey and NBA

Over when I'm gumming Jello

Concise

Now that, my friends, was a
shining example of sucktitude. There
are probably three people out there
that know what a cinquain is and
Mrs. Vanhook may or may not be one
of them. What now? I must look like
Bunghole Kim facing the Yankees. I
need something to salvage this
column, I need a beacon of hope, I
need...rap lyrics. That's it! But not
this week - writer's block still
bothering me - but next week. Oh
yes...next week.

Until then, remember, friends
don't let friends watch the NBA
playoffs.

Natural Resources will also pay for a
20-year capital improvement plan for
the area's water system.

"We're concerned about the conti-
nuity of water supplies," said County
Manager Sam Greenwood. "How
much well water is taken out of the
watershed before the town gets it?"

He said if large entities at the head
of the watershed stop using wells, there
will be obvious benefits for the water-
shed and aquifer system.

An alternative to well-water use at
the country clubs would be a public
water supply - namely the Town of
Highlands municipal water system.

"Of course that would mean annexation," said Greenwood. McGill
Associates expects to make its recom-
mendations by year's end.

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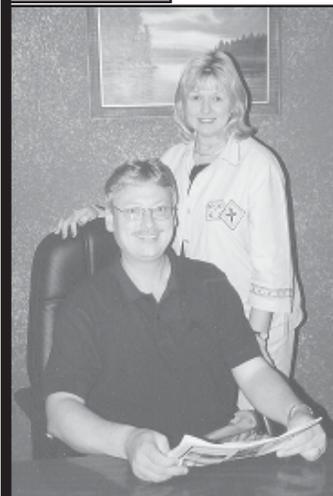
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... REC PARK continued from page 1

and has asked the county for \$270,000 towards that bill. "Lots of people who live outside the town use the facility," said Town Administrator Richard Betz.

For several years, the county has been giving the town \$150,000 toward Rec Park operations - half of a \$300,000 Rec Park budget from years ago. Betz said this year the town is requesting half the current Rec Park budget.

Mayor Buck Trott is worried about the county "owning" part of High-

lands. He said he's talked to state officials who said the town couldn't lease the property to the county, as first suggested by Bryson, the county would have to buy it.

But Bryson said he's not sure about that. "The legal questions still have to be looked at," said Bryson. "If the county funds the facility, everything would stay the same - the current employees would just work for the county and be on the county's insur-

ance policy," he said.

At this point, it's not clear if the county would have to purchase the property, he said.

He said 60 percent of the money in the county's coffers comes from the tax base in Highlands Township not just the Town of Highlands. "This would be one way to get some more money up the mountain," he said.

In any case, whether the town is interested is a Town Board decision, said Bryson. The item will be on the May 19 Town Board agenda.

Zoning board OKs OEI bakery

With the appearance commission's recommendation and the zoning board's approval, OEI can move ahead with its plans for a bakery/cafe across the street from the inn at 137 Fourth Street.

Bids for construction of the 16-seat cafe with OEI administrative offices upstairs go out in August. Construction is set to begin in September with a target opening date of March 2005.

The building will be re-sided with a stone base, rough-hewn siding, stucco and timber. The flower boxes along Church Street will remain to "give color to Church Street," said officials.

The board issued a special use permit contingent upon county fire and building inspection approval.

- Kim Lewicki

• FINE DINING & DINING WITH A VIEW •



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1 & 4 Sat. & Sun. Matinees

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4:20 Tuesday & Thursday Matinee

2:05 & 4:20 Sat. & Sun. Matinees

NEW YORK MINUTE rated PG

7 & 9 Nightly

4 Tuesday & Thursday Matinee

2 & 4 Sat. & Sun. Matinees

MAN ON FIRE rated R

9:10 Nightly

2:10 Sat. & Sun. Matinees

13 GOING ON 30 rated PG-13

7:10 Nightly

4:30 Tuesday & Thursday Matinee

4:30 Saturday & Sunday Matinees

STARTING WEDNESDAY MAY 19

SHREK 2 rated PG

7 & 9 Nightly

4 Tuesday & Thursday Matinee

2 & 4 Sat. & Sun. Matinees

• BOOK REVIEW WITH KATIE BRUGGER •

Back to the Land

In the spring I just have to get my hands in the soil. In January I start dreaming about what vegetables I'm going to plant and I usually have my garden planned out in February and the seeds bought in March. I had my first vegetable garden – organic – when I was 15, on a plot I dug in our suburban lawn. I hated peas all of my life yet I planted peas in that first garden and I'll never forget the moment I plucked a pea pod from the vine and ate it right there, sitting in the dirt in my little plot, and the revelation of what a pea *really* tastes like.

Because I love gardening so much, I have been attracted to the idea of living "off the grid," so the new book, *The Self-Sufficient Life and How To Live It: The Complete Back-to-Basics Guide*, by John Seymour (630S) caught my eye. Mr. Seymour writes from his own experience – he has been living the lifestyle he advocates since well before 1975, when he published *The Complete Book of Self-Sufficiency*. (This new book is an update.)

Mr. Seymour's enthusiasm for the self-sufficient life is so strong and infectious that midway through the book I strongly wanted to get a cow and I was considering where to put the fish pond. Reading this book ushers you into an idyllic world governed by the seasons but not the clock and it is very attractive. The book covers a wide range of necessary knowledge and skills, from milking a cow to slaughtering a pig, from building a composting toilet to weaving your own clothes.

I may dream of living the life Mr. Seymour advocates, but when I think about the work required I wonder if the sustainable life is really the answer that it advocates think it is. Is it even practical: if everyone got a 5- or 10-acre plot would the Earth really be in better shape? And it seems to me that all

that work would leave little time for intellectual pursuits: literature, science, philosophy, art. Maybe these thoughts just show my ignorance about life off of the grid, since I've never tried it and don't know anyone who has.

While browsing the gardening section after reading Mr. Seymour's book I came across *Country Life Reader: The Best of North America's Award-Winning Journal of Country Living* (630H). This is a collection of articles from Harrowsmith Country Life magazine, and interestingly it starts with accounts of 13 people who live(d) the self-sufficient life. Reading through these stories was fascinating; it

really lets you see the complexity of the human experience. There were as many reasons as people to "go back to the land," and just as many reasons to either stay or go back to the city. Those who left had some of the same doubts as I.

Others had come to a compromise where they lived in the country with a much simpler way of life than the city but had electricity and running water. I imagine that most everyone who has moved to Highlands can relate to the desire for a simpler life. But just moving to the country doesn't mean life is simpler! The other day I tried to download a Windows update for my computer and my internet connection cut off midway through. As a result my modem quit working. In the day before I remembered the "system restore" function I was unhappy at the prospect of hours on tech support. This happened while I was right in the middle of reading

these accounts of self-sufficiency which highlighted the fact that I have no idea how most of my possessions work or what to do if they break.

The back-to-the-landers were mostly motivated by the desire for security and safety, and they felt that could be achieved via control over the basics of life – food, shelter and fuel, and via the ability to make and fix everything you need. If you build your home,

raise your food, cut your fuel, and make your own clothes, you have a deep sense of mastery over the events of your life (of course, this is before the locusts destroy all of your crops or the new barn wall collapses

and breaks your leg). Certainly you feel that you will be able to fix any problem that arises. Part of the reason modern life is stressful is we have so little mastery over so many elements of our life. I have used computers for 15 years now but I have almost no idea what to do if my modem isn't working. Not only are modern products hard to fix, they are hard to learn to use: how many people's VCR clocks have been blinking since the day the machine was plugged in?

Another motive for getting off the grid is to live more in harmony with the Earth. Living in the country has made me much more aware of the consequences of my actions on the planet. During the drought that just ended I became hyper aware of every drop of water I used because I knew my water was coming out of the ground that I could see was drying up, whereas in the city it's hard to see

the connection between what comes out of the tap and the sky. Also, every time I put something down the drain I think about it because that chemical is not getting whisked off to some remote processing plant but it's going into the ground around my house via my septic tank. Do I really want to put the caustic chemicals that make up Liquid Plumber into the land?

I ask the same question about my garden: do I want to load the soil that grows my food with toxic chemicals? The answer is easy because there is such a great alternative: organic. Organic food tastes superior to food grown with pesticides and chemical fertilizers and it's good for the environment. The most basic principle of organic gardening is: healthy soil produces healthy plants. If you are poisoning your soil with chemicals you cannot raise healthy plants. Healthy plants are much less susceptible to insect damage or diseases, and an organic garden is a haven for birds and beneficial insects who will be happy to devour any insect pests you may have. An organic gardener seeks to be part of the natural system of soil, water, plants, wildlife, and insects, not to fight it.

There are lots of guides to organic gardening in the library; any book by Rodale will be full of useful information. For years I have depended on *Growing Fruits & Vegetables Organically*, by Jean Nick (635 G) – a Rodale guide to organic gardening that has general organic gardening information and detailed planting guidelines for every vegetable. *Rodale Organic Gardening Solutions*, by Cheryl Long (635 L) is a collection of columns from Rodale's "Organic Gardening" magazine. It doesn't try to be comprehensive but it is an excellent place to start looking

... I hated peas all of my life yet I planted peas in that first garden and I'll never forget the moment I plucked a pea pod from the vine and ate it right there, sitting in the dirt in my little plot, and the revelation of what a pea *really* tastes like.

– Katie Brugger

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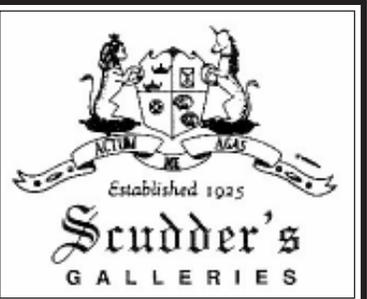


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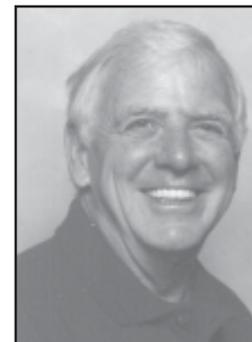
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Random Thoughts



Fred Wooldridge

• I have taken a liking to no-fat potato chips and eat them all the time. Actually, they do have fat but it is called Olean which is like motor oil and not digestible. The label on the bag warns of possible lower intestinal disruptions (ha) which, I will admit, does occur sometimes. But like any well oiled, precision machine, my "geezer" body does occasionally need an oil change and the chips provide a fun way to get all tuned up. Also, I have found a food store that will deliver the chips straight to my bathroom.

• Speaking of bathrooms, I have just read a very important statistic revealing there are 400 times more germs and bacteria growing on your computer mouse, keyboard and telephone than on your toilet seat. My first instincts make me want to move my office into the bathroom and leave the toilet seat up all the time. It needs more thought. I would also like to meet the person that did all that counting. Gotta be a woman.

• Want to see something scary? Get a flashlight, lie down on the kitchen floor and shine it under your refrigerator. Do this while the little missus isn't home, otherwise you will be involved in a major project which I have labeled "Getting caught looking under the refrigerator and having to drag it away from the wall with one hand while holding a gallon spray can of 'Kills Anything' in the other hand project." How do I know this? Yep, I just got caught, flashlight in hand, trying to identify a weird shaped thing all the way back against the wall.

The term, "Oh good, I have been wanting to clean under there" really means I will drag the refrigerator away from the wall while she waits with her hand on the front door knob just in case something other than the

refrigerator moves. Then I sweep up the chunky stuff because she can't bear to see it and finally, I mop up. That completed, she approaches cautiously and says, "I am so glad I finally got to clean under there. But before you push it back in place, let me clean the top" Then she hands me a wet rag and smiles, "I'm too short."

Later, I checked the contents of my sweepings and must admit it was a lot scarier under the refrigerator than lying in the dustpan. Here's my inventory: A crispy moth with a three inch wing span that, last fall, sent my wife leaping from the couch to the bedroom, only touching the floor once. The power bill from last October which we accused each other of losing. Three petrified pieces of finely diced green pepper and finally, the object back against the wall, one whole Olean potato chip, a little stale, but possibly still edible.

• From the twilight zone. This spring, I am the most courteous driver in Highlands. Even though I have the right-of-way, I invite others to pull in front of me or, if they wish, just cut me off. If they accidentally bump my car, I apologize for being in their way.

When others blow their horn because my courtesy is delaying them, I pull over, giving them a big wave and smile. On my way to Franklin, even though I am late for a very important appointment, I smile and gladly pull over so everyone can pass. On my return trip, I feel sorry for the loaded down dump truck driver who is moving at crawl speed. When we get to town, I offer to buy him coffee, even though it took me an extra hour to get home, causing me to miss The Sopranos. Then, I wake up from my nightmare,

Club prepares for banquet



Last Thursday, members of The Girls' Clubhouse, with the help of Carpe Diem Farms' Sue Blair, decorated the Conference Center for the annual Highlands School Academic Banquet sponsored by Highlands Rotary.

... BOOK REVIEW from page 7

for solutions if you are encountering a problem in your garden. The *Country Life Reader* has a useful chapter on organic insect management – in it I found out that fireflies feed on snails and slugs so now I have another reason to love fireflies! *The Self-Sufficient Life* of course advocates organic gardening and there is all the information you need to get started gardening organically in a very compact form.

A fascinating component of organic gardening is companion planting: certain plants repel insects that prey on other plants so by planting two complementary species together you keep the

bugs away naturally. I saw this demonstrated vividly one year with marigolds, one of the most well-known plants for natural insect control. I planted marigolds around a square patch of potatoes. A row of beans was planted down the other side of the path from the potatoes and marigolds and stretched twenty feet beyond. The bean plants by the marigolds had no insects at all, but as you moved away from the potato patch the bean bugs grew in number.

If you are going to have a vegetable garden this year, check out some of these books and experience the wonders of organic!

... WOOLDRIDGE from page 8

realize it was all pretend. Relieved, I dawn my helmet and head for Franklin.

• Finally, after living on this planet for well over sixty years, I just learned that turtles can

breathe through their rectums, giving new meaning to the term "bad breath." I would liked to have gone to my grave without that knowledge. But then again, there just might be a story there.

Proctors needed for end-of-grade tests at area middle & high schools

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

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• **MOVIE PIX** •

Widows Peak

The 1994, PG rated comic mystery, written by Hugh Leonard, directed by John Irving and starring a perfect cast including Mia Farrow, Joan Plowright, Natasha Richardson and Adrian Dunbar.



Stuart Armor

A wonderful, funny, mysterious story, lots of twists and turns, and few things are exactly what they seem in the small Irish town of Kilshannon.

Some of the storyline (and only some): It's 1920, and things don't change much in Kilshannon, nor are things allowed to, thanks to the lace covered iron fist of Mrs. Doyle-Counihan (Plowright is perfect as the stuffy matron, no one could do better). She and the rest of the widowed plutocracy run the town's mores and morals from the lofty heights of Widows Peak, running the parties, teas, and festivals, and keeping the town's secrets. And one thing is clear, there are secrets aplenty, but here, we don't talk about things that we don't talk about. All will probably remain the same if Mrs. DC has her way.

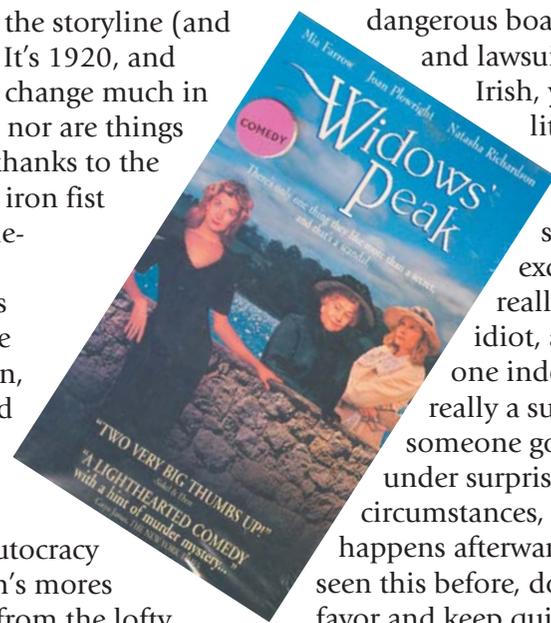
And she does until the Beautiful War Widow, Mrs. Edwin Broom (Richardson), who clearly has a few secrets of her own, comes to town. Mrs. Broom turns the heads of the men, including Mrs. DC's browbeaten son Godfrey (Dunbar does a great job as a bumbling idiot love interest), but she also ruffles the feathers of the women, even the usually mousy spinster Katherine

O'Hara (Farrow). Gossip, romance, insults, intrigue, dangerous boat races, scandal, and lawsuits abound (the Irish, you know, are a litigious people). No one is what they seem, well except Godfrey, he really is a bumbling idiot, and a very good one indeed. It is not really a surprise when someone goes missing under surprising circumstances, but what happens afterward is. If you've seen this before, do your friends a favor and keep quiet, if you haven't, do yourself a favor and don't let anyone tell you the really cool ending.

Beautiful scenery from several Irish towns and rivers adds to the fun, Farrow's Irish accent sounds good, as does Richardson's American accent. Everyone comes across as they should.

If you like this one, try Waking Ned Divine (a real gem), Matchmaker, Cold Comfort Farm, Shirley Valentine, and Saving Grace, and one of my favorite unknown films, The Big Tease. These and about 5000 other titles on VHS and DVD are available at Movie Stop Video, come on by and give us a look.

Would you like to serve on a Town committee or board? There are several openings on several boards. Call Town Administrator, Richard Betz for details at 526-2118.



Monte Carlo Night now May 28

Monte Carlo Night is an opportunity for area residents and visitors to support the important work of the Highlands Literacy Council while having a great time. The council's free services include after-school and summer tutoring for school students, adult education, including GED preparation and English as a Second Language.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the date of the annual Monte Carlo night has been changed to Friday, May 28 at 5:30 p.m. This is a very enjoyable and important fundraiser for the work

of the Literacy Council. There will be food, fun, silent and live auctions and gaming tables.

Tickets are available now for \$35 each. This includes playing chips worth \$15 along with food and drinks. Chips earned at the gaming tables are redeemable for wonderful donated items at the silent or live auction.

Donations of auction items and food are now being accepted. For tickets and more information, call Angie at the Literacy Council at the Peggy Crosby Center at 526-9938, ext. 240.

Historical Society fundraiser – Swinging on Satulah, June 5

The Highlands Historical Society will hold its third annual dinner dance, June 5 at the Elliot House.

This year's "Swinging on Satulah" will be held on Satulah Mountain at the Elliot House owned by Sabrina and Billy Hawkins.

A shuttle will leave from the gazebo on Pine Street at 6 p.m.

Dinner will be prepared by "Let Holly Do The Cooking." Tickets are \$125 per person and will be sold in advance.

For reservations, call Wiley Sloan at 526-5938 or email him at

Chamber of Commerce Business Series continues

Friday, May 21 – "What you need to know about wage and hour laws," by George May of Edwards Ballard from 10 a.m. to noon at the Conference Center. Cost is \$10.

Friday, May 21 – "What you need to know about employee benefit laws," by Penny Wofford of Edwards Ballard from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Conference Center. Cost is \$10 or both seminars for \$15.

WileyandSarahNCTV.com

Music will be by The Grass Roots Revue, a local blue grass band.

Two-for-one opening

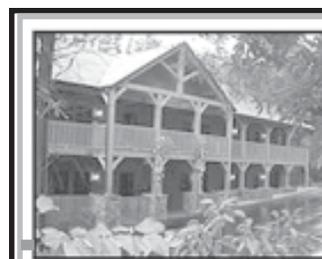


On May 5, Star Pony Electronic's Radio Shack officially opened with a \$250 chance at a shopping spree and a fiesta party next door at Highlands Wine & Cheese that evening. Radio Shack's Grand Opening Grand Prize Winners were Janet Wilson, who won a bottle of fine wine from the Wine and Cheese Shop, and Barbara Greene, of All Season's Salon, who won the \$250 Radio Shack Shopping Spree.

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with the Mitchell's on your next visit to Highlands. See you soon!

From Highlands to the Sea

Part Two

Cindy Oliver picked up Bruce and Worth at Tybee Island, Ga., near Savannah on April 25. They had been gone 27 days, traveled 390 miles and Cindy said the last time she'd seen Bruce that skinny was on her wedding day. Bruce and Worth embarked on their month-long

trip on March 25. They portaged four dams, rough-camped on islands and abandoned campgrounds, survived thunder storms and met some incredible people. Part one of their journey ran in the April 23 edition of Highlands' Newspaper.

By Bruce Oliver
Contributor

There is something about seeing a 14-foot alligator that makes you forget that they are shy, fish-eating reptiles. About the only way to get an alligator to bite you is to jump on it. You would probably get the same reaction from most folks I know. Still, we found it rather unsettling when an alligator splashed into the water, and slowly submerged. We have seen quite a few alligators, and looking for camping spots takes on a new dimension.

We have been rushing the spring season. The trees in Highlands are just budding. Below Augusta, the dogwoods are in full pride, the oaks are bright green, the birds are nesting and the mosquitoes have developed quite an appetite for Oliver.

Worth's hands have healed and calloused up. They were cracked and blistered pretty bad on the lakes. I didn't realize what a naturalist he is. He identified several birds of prey: the Red tail hawk, Coopers hawk, Osprey, and Kite. Then one evening he correctly identified a Corn Snake. (Non-venomous, but it was climbing into my boat and I was concerned.) He has learned how and why to hang food in the trees at night, how to locate and identify animal signs, and why two cups of evening tea are the best animal deterrent.

Things began to get remote as we passed the Savannah River Plant. Along with providing our nation with energy and defense needs, it also serves as a game preserve. Several bird species are being repopulated by selective trapping and releasing from SRP into wildlife management areas. Even without the Savannah River Plant Security, it

would be foolish to enter there from the river. SRP has a healthy cotton mouth, copperhead, rattle snake and alligator population.

The engineers of the gorge road must have studied the Savannah River and tried to replicate it. On a map, the Augusta to Savannah run looks shorter than Augusta to the mountains, but it is 80-plus miles longer. Thank God for the current! You can travel 35 river miles and yet only move 10 miles as the crow flies.

When fishermen said that Savannah was only 90 miles away, they meant 150 river miles. However, when they said that there was a great campground only 2 bends down the river you could count on it. George Rhodes, a fisherman, told us of a place, called "Little Hell." Years ago, the barge masters considered the bend the most difficult place on the river:

thus the name. The river has been channeled around it leaving a dead-end ox-bow with some back-lakes, great fishing, nice flat camping spots and an artesian well. What a luxury to have an abundant supply of fresh water.

What did we learn? That America is an incredible country.

In America, you can drink clean water from a garden spigot, (do not try this in any other country), you can drive to any of thousands of stores and purchase food.

In America, people are still willing to assist strangers. That honesty and integrity still count (contrary to what the nightly news feeds you). That life is not about where you are, but about how you got there - (there will be a test). "Better a little with peace, than a house full of feasting, with strife." The world would be a lot better if more folks kept this in mind.

The river turned out to be the vehicle. . .the people were the journey. From start to finish, we have encountered terrific folks and one Angel.

Thanks to Michael Smith, from Highlands Hiker, for the expedition kayaks and gear; Jenny King, from Highlands Whole Life for the "Emergen-C" energy powder and "Burt's Bee's" lip balm; and David Latta for the stove and gear.

This could never have happened without my wife Cindy, I am proud to be her husband. She makes this life journey worth while. But please, no more rice and beans.

The people Worth and I have met on this river, are too numerous to name. I hope they will always remember a crazy mountain man and his son for as long as I will remember them and if one of them is reading this - we made it!

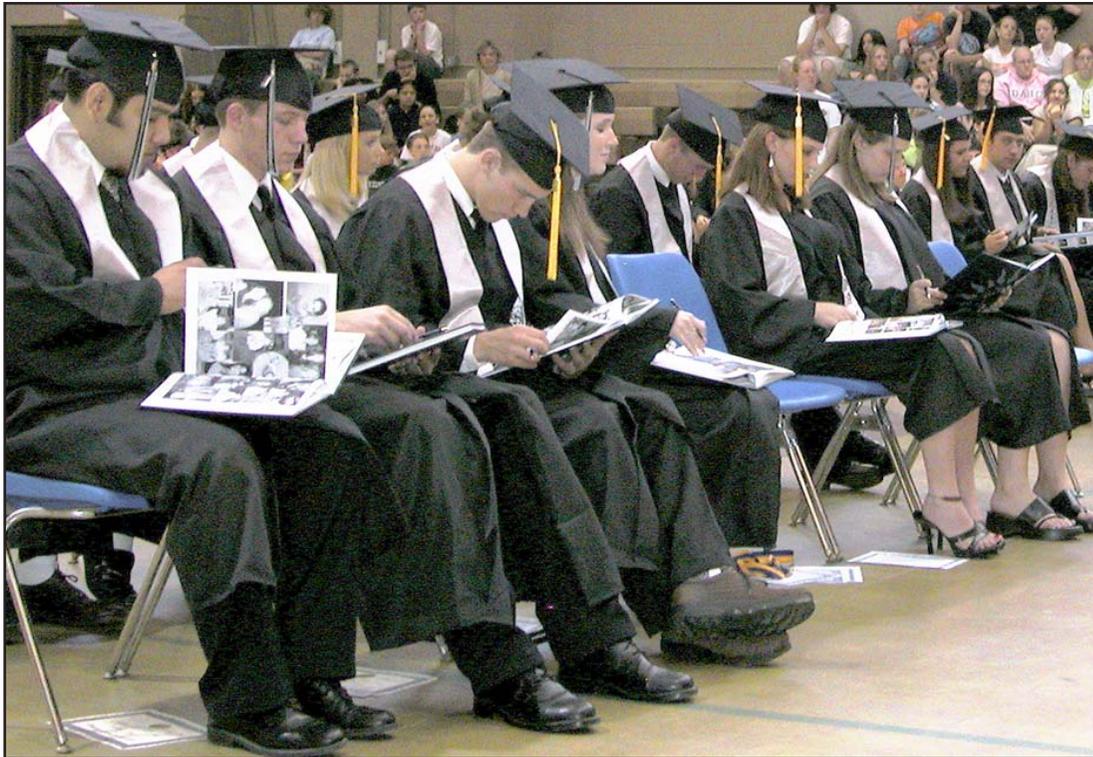
It's good to be home.



Bruce and Worth maneuvered their way through the Savannah River port on their way to Tybee Island.

From here on out, it's all about end-of-year exams, awards, presentations & scholarships

Next up: the Athletic Banquet, May 17, 6 p.m. at the Rec Park; the Band Concert, May 18, 6 p.m. at Highlands School; and Senior Graduation Day, May 29, 7 p.m. at the Rec Park

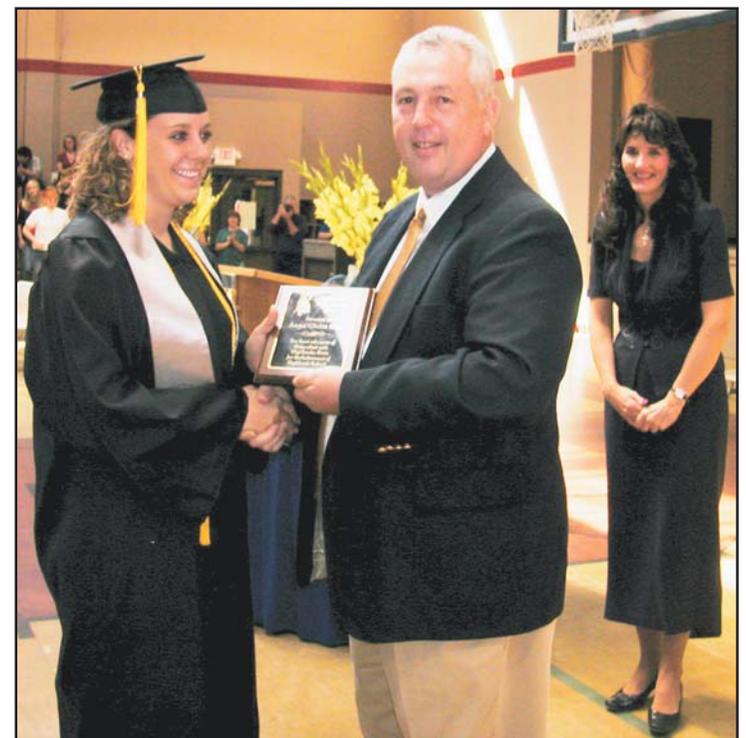


(Left) On May 7, highschoolers participated in the annual Yearbook and Awards ceremony, this year at the Rec Park. Though the ceremony wasn't quite over, once seniors were presented their yearbooks they became engrossed in the annual. (Above) After all the awards and yearbooks were distributed and the seniors vacated their seats, the juniors made their annual rite of passage into the empty senior seats. Onlookers applauded during the transition. Once the 11th grade class was situated, the ninth- and tenth-grade students moved up into "next" year's seats.

Photos by Kim Lewicki



Thirty-six students in grades 4-12 with A or AB averages for the first three semesters of school were honored at the 2003-2004 Academic Banquet, Thursday, May 6 at the Conference Center.



Principal Jack Brooks & VP Dr. Melissa Porter presented senior Anna Claire Sims with the school's annual Highlander Pride Award. Recipients exemplify school spirit and a willingness to "do" for the school and administration.

Mtn. Top Rotary helps fund camp program



Mike Cavender (left), Mountaintop Rotary Club community service chairman, gives a \$1,000 scholarship check to Robert Wyatt, Highlands Biological Station executive director, and Patrick Brannon, education specialist of the Highlands Nature Center. The scholarship money should provide enough funds to send 10-12 students to camp this summer at the nature center. Jack Brooks (right), Highlands School principal, and Assistant Principal Melissa Porter will screen the applicants. Students interested in the summer program should contact Dr. Porter at the school. The scholarship support is part of the Mountaintop Rotary Club's environmental education effort in Highlands.

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May blood drive at H-C Hospital

One out of every three persons will need a blood transfusion some time in his or her life. With that said, there is a good chance that you or someone you love may one day need someone else's blood to stay alive.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and AnMed Regional Blood Center will conduct their joint blood drive May 25 and 26, and officials say area donors can play an important role in this summer's blood supply. The AnMed bloodmobile will be at the Highlands Civic Center on Tuesday, May 25 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. On Wednesday, May 26, it will be at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. and at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers from 2-5 p.m.

"Blood we get now will last up to 42 days. So blood donated during your drive will help us during a time when collections are normally minimal," says Greg Johnson of the AnMed center, which has supplied the hospital's needs for blood products for nearly 30 years. "That blood will last past the July Fourth holi-

day, one of the most critical times when blood is needed."

Each unit of blood donated goes a long way, says Johnson. Each unit can serve the needs of up to four different patients. Red cells are separated out and used to help accident victims and those who need transfusions as a result of surgery. Platelets are used to treat those undergoing chemotherapy and who suffer from other types of illness. The plasma stock derived from each unit is used for burn victims, while other elements are removed and given to hemophiliacs and other patients with clotting deficiencies.

Anyone 17 years or older can give blood. If you are taking medication, it won't usually prevent you from giving blood, however, you may want to bring the name of the medication with you.

Those who would like to give blood but are uncertain whether or not they can, should come to the blood drive and let the AnMed officials determine their eligibility through the donor screening process.

Highlanders earn 'undefeated' title

By Kathryn Coppage
Mountain Trail

Lady Highlanders have earned the proud title of undefeated Smoky Mountain Conference Champions. They won their final conference game 7-0 on May 4 against the Cherokee Braves. The four schools that participated in the Smoky Mountain Conference this year include Highlands, Cherokee, Murphy and Andrews. The Highlanders played the three opposing teams in six matches and dominated all of them.

"I am very happy that we qualified for the playoffs in such a convincing manner," Coach Roger Mueller stated. "Our defense only gave up two goals in conference. If we can play solid defensively in the second round, I am sure we will give our opponent's a difficult time."

Cherokee posed a challenge as the Highlanders' toughest opponent at the beginning of the season. The Highlanders won an early season game against the Braves 3-1 and

annihilated the Cherokee team in their second meeting, which was the final conference match. From the start of the game, the Highlanders left no doubt that they would take the victory.

At halftime, the score was already 5-0. Callie Rawlins was the incredible leading Lady Highlander making three goals during the game, tying Jenna Greene for the highest scoring record in a game this season. Melissa Warren followed Rawlins' outstanding performance with two great goals of her own. Defensive players Amy Crook and Alana Wilson also made goals, contributing to the sky-high score of 7-0 against the unfortunate Braves.

The Lady Highlanders' conference record gives them an exemption from the first round of state playoffs and earns them an automatic place in the second round. Highlands will host the second round of state playoffs on the Buck Creek home field May 14. Kickoff is at 6:00p.m.

Open for business



Photo by Kim Lewicki

Mark Meadows and Melisa McKim with Meadows Mountain Realty have set up shop in the old Mill Creek Store and they've given the building a whole new look. The company officially opened Friday, May 7 with a Chamber of Commerce sponsored ribbon-cutting.

Free health screening is next week

Residents of Highlands who wish to take advantage of the upcoming free health screening being sponsored by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital still have an opportunity to sign up for next week's event. And now they can even register on line through a secure link on the hospital's website.

The screening will be held Saturday, May 22 from 7:15 to 11 a.m. at the Highlands Conference Center on US 64 East (next to the ball field). Participants will be checked for blood pressure, blood sugar levels, cholesterol levels, height, weight, bone density and body composition. Men over 50 will also be given a prostate specific antigen test (PSA) to screen for prostate cancer. And new this year for everyone will be a hearing test provided by WNC Hearing Associates.

Those who take advantage of the screening will also have the opportunity to talk with various physicians, as well as a variety of other

health experts.

Participation is limited and participants must pre-register by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 20. You can register by calling 526-1435 Monday-Friday during regular business hours, or by going to the hospital's website at www.hchospital.org, clicking on the "Screenings" drop-down menu at the top of the home page, and following the link to a secure electronic registration form.

In order to provide the most accurate test results possible, participants are asked not to eat or drink anything but water after midnight the evening prior to the screening. Test results are reviewed by the individual's own family physician (or another local physician if no family doctor is specified) before being mailed to each participant. All information is kept confidential.

Other screenings are scheduled in the Glenville-Cashiers and Sapphire-Whitewater communities later this summer and fall.

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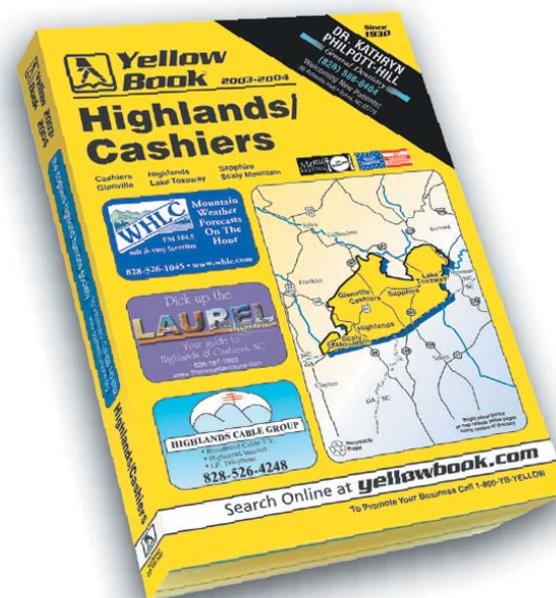
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• **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** •

Breathing Lessons



Rev. Hunter Coleman
First Presbyterian Church

Psalm 31 was one of the many scriptures Jesus learned growing up in the synagogue. He quoted from it as his very last word, the last of the so called "last words" from the cross. "Father into your hands I commit my spirit." It's a word of submission, yielding, letting go...entrusting God with whatever lay beyond his last breath. Traditionally, it's been interpreted as a lesson on how to die. Over the years, I have come to hear it differently. I hear it as a lesson on how to live. A word on how we should take all our breaths. Entrust God with whatever lies beyond our next breath.

In yielding to God whatever lies beyond the next breath, we will experience, breath by breath, how trustworthy God is with whatever lies beyond our next breath. We will find the strength to take in deeper breaths and the courage to let those breaths out. St. Paul's prayer will be answered. We will know the width, the length, the height and the depth of the love of Christ. We will be filled with the fullness of God, a fullness that yielding and letting go cannot deplete.

Surely, this is how Jesus was able to breathe his very last breath the way he did. Throughout his life, he entrusted God with whatever lay beyond his next breath. When the time came that his next was his last, he breathed in and let it out. It took a heap of trusting to yield that way, but he managed because he had learned it, not all at once at the very end, but over time. God could be trusted with whatever lay beyond...even death.

Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. The last of the last words, a lesson not on dying, but on living.

The person who offered this insight was a much admired colleague serving just around the corner from where I served. This was during the late 70s when cities were burning and churches were being confronted by the civil rights movement. His style and his particular congregation did not fit his denomination. He was anything but straight-laced and conservative. He was bold. A risk-taker. Full of the zest of life. Undeterred by

▪ See **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** page 18

• **PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU** •

Blue Valley Baptist Church

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

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

Buck Creek Baptist Church

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627
Sundays: Worship – 10 a.m.; school & primary
classes – 11 a.m.; Women's & Men's Org. – noon
Tues: Women's Org. – 6:30 p.m.; Library – 6-8 p.m.
Wednesdays: Boy Scouts of America mtg. – 6:30
p.m.; Young women's activities – 6:30 p.m.

Christ Anglican Church

743-3319

"A Bible-based liturgical church"

Services: Sundays at 4 p.m. at the
Community Bible Church in Highlands
Holy Communion at most services.

Clear Creek Baptist Church

Pastor Everett Wilson, (828) 743-3379
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service – 7 p.m.

Community Bible Church

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Steven E. Kerhoulas, Pastor, 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east
Sundays: School – 9:30 a.m.; Worship – 10:45
Tuesdays: Women's Bible Study – 9:45
Wed: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study – 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Guys Sr. High Discipleship – 6

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Interim Priest: Stephen Hines, 526-2968
Sundays: Choir – 9 a.m.; Bible Study & Book Study
classes – 9:15 a.m.; Holy Eucharist – 10:30 a.m.;
Children's Chapel – 10:30 a.m.
Mondays: Daughter's of the King – 10:30 a.m.;
Women's Cursillo Group (Library) – 4
Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.; Maundy
Service – 6 p.m.

The Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14

First Baptist Church

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

First Presbyterian Church

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m. (child care at 11 a.m.);
School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Wednesdays: Children's Devotions – 9:30 a.m.;
Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.

Thursdays: Bible Study – 10 a.m.

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

Highlands Assembly of God

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

Highlands 7th-Day Adventist Church

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

Highlands United Methodist Church

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

Lutheran Church of the Holy Family – ELCA

Rev. Pam Mitcham, Pastor,

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

Macedonia Baptist Church

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Rusty Wolfrey, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.

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

Mountain Synagogue

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Friday: Sept. 12 Sabbath Eve Services at 7
For more information, call
(706)-745-1842.

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

Rev. William M Evans, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Wednesdays & Fridays: Mass – 9 a.m.
Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

Scaly Mountain Baptist Church

Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7
p.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

Scaly Mountain Church of God

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

Shortoff Baptist Church

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

526-9769

Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time)

Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

Westside Baptist Church

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

Whiteside Presbyterian Church

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

● UPCOMING EVENTS ●

On-Going

• Fibber Magee's Closet is open now with their summer hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They have some wonderful buys on all fashions for ladies, gentlemen and children with all monies earned going back into the Town of Highlands to other non-profit organizations. Fibber's is located on the Cashiers Road across the highway from Little Bear Pen Mountain, (.08 miles from Main Street). Their phone number is 526-2591. Come by and take advantage of their great prices.

• It's time to pre-register for summer camps and other programs at the Highlands Nature Center. Four different camps are being offered this year: "Amazing Animals," "NatureWorks," "Junior Ecologists," and "Mountain Explorers." Descriptions and dates for each camp are available at www.wcu.edu/hibio/ncschedule.html, or by calling the nature center. A different camp will run each week (Tuesday - Friday), in June (session 1), and will be repeated in July (session 2). Space is limited. To sign up, please call 828-526-2623. When calling, please indicate the title and session of the camp you want your child to attend.

• 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 are Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wednesdays and Fridays at noon.

For more info, call 524-7395.

May 13

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

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

May 14

• Old Scouter's Round-up on Walden Way Road between Dry and Bridal Veil falls on U.S. 64 west at 6:30 p.m. Come enjoy an old-fashion dutch oven meal prepared by Troop 207, and view a 1910 campsite. For reservations, call 526-4645 and ask for Buck.

May 15

• Barbeque & hotdog Blue Valley Church Building Fundraiser at 5 p.m. at the Satolah Fire Dept. Live music begins at 7 p.m. featuring the Dixie Bluegrass Boys and The Blue Ridge Mountain Band. Raffle, doorprizes and a cake auction, too.

• At the Bascom-Louise Gallery, Folk and Outsider Art from the collection of Jonathan Williams. This museum quality collection will be on exhibit May 15 - June 17. The exhibit includes work by artists from California to Virginia. The opening reception will take place on May 15 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

May 16

• County League Fall Soccer sign up for 5-15 year olds, 1-3 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Park.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 1.5 mile hike on the Rufus Morgan Trail with

wildflowers along the way and a lovely waterfall at the end. There is a short, steep section and some stream-hopping to be done. Meet at the Westgate Shopping Center in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Drive 31 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for more information.

May 17

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association will have its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center.

May 18

• The movie "Strictly Ballroom" sponsored by the Bascom-Louise Gallery at the Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Donations appreciated.

May 19

• Highlands School senior and parents supper at Highlands United Methodist Church at 5:30.

May 21

• County League Fall Soccer sign up for 5-15 year olds, 6-8 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Park.

May 22

• The Macon County Baptist Association is hosting a "Mission Fair" on Saturday, from 12-4 p.m. until at the Macon County Fairgrounds. The Fair spotlights mission activities in Macon County as well as around the world. Those attending will see first-hand how Macon County benefits from missions. Local volunteer agencies and churches will display services and ministries that reach out to those hurting and in need. For more

information call Melissa Leatherman at 524-7092.

• Bel Canto Children's Choir's Benefit Gala is at the Franklin Fine Arts Center 7:30 pm. Bel Canto will be performing a variety of sacred and secular classical music as well as Broadway, pop and show tunes, complete costumes and sets. Bel Canto's 28 girls and boys, ages seven to 14 will be presenting selections from Oklahoma, Beauty and the Beast, Les Miserables, and Newsies, to name a few. Tickets to the Benefit Gala are available at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, Corbin Agency, Dalton's Christian Bookstore, and Smoky Mountain Video. For more information, call 369-3699 or 371-0480.

• Mirror Lake Improvement will have a workday (litter pick up) 9 a.m. Meet at Thorn Park.

• The Literacy Council of Highlands invites you to attend Monte Carlo on May 22. This annual event includes fun, games, food, beverages and auctions. Please call 526-9938, ext 280 for more information.

• The Scaly Mountain Women's Club is serving a complete seated breakfast of homemade pancakes, meat, coffee and juice from 7-11 a.m at the Scaly mtn. Ski Lodge. Proceeds go to area agencies and local scholarships.

May 23

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

... LETTER continued from page 2

place materialized. I am gravely concerned about the statements made and the printed record in the Highlands Newspaper (April 30, 2004).

The small number of "dissatisfied parents" publicizing anonymous accusations and complaints is bound to result in 'unrest' and assuredly offers the suggestion that 'Highlands School is in a bad state.'

Conversely, academic statistics, accreditation, high SAT and ACT scores, and many other positive factors solidly negate the "bad state" image and proffer the dubious motives of anonymity. I remind you that last year Mr. Brooks and Dr. Porter received recognition from Governor Easley where they were honored as excellent educators.

Board member, Tommy Cabe, questioned 'If things are so bad, why

haven't we heard anything about all this in the last five years?' Many of us who read the article asked the same question Mr. Cabe.

'There is a lot of unrest in Highlands' is only now an accurate quote because it pertains to the new atmosphere created during the board meeting, and now continues with damage control. The negative perception inflamed in public affects every one of us, as I immediately found myself in a position to defend Highlands School, and especially Mr. Brooks and Dr. Porter. Teachers were labeled as one of the reasons for the possibility of students wanting to attend another school. Every teacher at Highlands School is now left to focus on their reputation and the character of Highlands School in addition to educating

our children. Each parent has a right to choose a private school over a public school for whatever reasons. Choices to attend Rabun Gap will not hurt Highlands School because Highlands School stands on its own merits.

The success of any other institution, organization or business is not dependent solely on contentment. While strides are made to satisfy as many as possible, it is inevitable some people will not be totally satisfied with products or services they receive in any field. Highlands School is no different. The administration and faculty understand their roles and the importance of their duties educating the role models of tomorrow. The board experienced first hand that policies, rules and laws could not be disregarded, nor could regulations be bent in several different

directions to pacify a small number of parents, and still maintain order.

I was saddened to hear that Mr. Brooks was leaving Highlands School and I am sure many of you had the same reaction. We are losing a member of our family from this small community. I can only imagine the emotional pain and stress Mr. Brooks must have experienced while he sat there listening to personal attacks on him and Dr. Porter by people he considered neighbors, with no authority in the forum for a defense. I pray for strength for Mr. Brooks, Dr. Porter and their families. Public, personal attacks run deep and do not stop at board meetings.

James A. Jenkins
Detective/Master Police Officer,
Ret., Custodian, Highlands School

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 16

what might lie ahead for him and his ministry.

As I faced the stress and strain, took short breaths and held my breath, I could only marvel at how he managed to be so unruffled by

the storms that rattled the windows and doors. He was always breathing in deeply and letting out ever so easily.

Father into thy hands I commit my spirit. A word on how to

breathe. It's a skill you can acquire because you won't be breathing on your own. Breath by breath, you will be filled with the fullness of God, the spirit of God, the very breath of God. God will breathe with you. The breath that is never short, never out, can be trusted with

whatever lies beyond your next breath.

Breathe deeply and let it out. It will leave you calm enough to listen, notice, care, inquire, laugh, plan and dream. When the time comes that your next breath is your last, you will be able to take it in and let it go.

Along the way, breath by breath, you will be what others badly need....a breath of fresh air.

"Come and sit by my side.

If you love me,

Do not hasten to bid me adieu.

Just remember the Red River

Valley

And the cowboy who loved you so true."

• HOME DECOR & FIXTURES •

Berkley's is new to the Highlands/Cashiers area, having opened in October of 2003.

Welcomed by the changing of the leaves and the beginning of the holiday season, Berkley's is now looking forward to the warmer weather and the exciting times that lie ahead. Owners, Donna DeLuca and Greg Prey, have furnished their warm and inviting boutique with fine furniture, beautiful accessories and unique gifts. "We are excited to have opened Berkley's in this magnificent area. We have furnished it with what we feel tastefully blends in with the uniqueness of Highlands and Cashiers" says Donna.

Donna has been a professional interior designer over 20 years, half of which she has spent as owner and principal of Design Environments, Inc. DEI is an Atlanta- based interior design firm working with many of the nations' leading builders and developers. An award winning design firm, DEI specializes in the merchandising and marketing of model homes and clubhouses throughout the United States.

There are two subsidiaries of Design Environments, Designer's Extras and Designer Suites, both of which are managed by Greg. Designer's Extras is a warehouse showroom drawing its inventory directly from the overstocked furnishings of Design Environments. Designer Suites is Donna and Greg's newest endeavor, providing office space and resources to independent interior designers.

Berkley's is Donna and Greg's third high-end retail establishment. Sydney's was their first store, opened in 2001 on Amelia Island, Fla. While the original Sydney's is located in the historic Fernandina Beach district, it now enjoys a second location on the island. "Donna and I have been fortunate in introducing our flair in furnishings to the residents of Amelia Island. We look forward to the opportunity here at Berkley's."



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Meridith's Custom

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Arts Alliance Calendars feature area art events

Recently the Arts Alliance of Highlands published its Spring and Summer Calendar of arts events taking place in Highlands from May through August.

It covers the full range of art events including exhibits, lectures, concerts, classic film screenings, workshops etc. To find out what is going on in the arts in Highlands, pick up one of these free calendars at the Peggy Crosby Center, the Bascom Louise Gallery, the Summit One Gallery, the Visitors Center, the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center and other locations in Highlands.

The next edition of the calendar will cover the fall and winter months, September through December. If you would like for your arts organization, visual, performing or literary, - nonprofit or retail, - to be included, submit your calendar to the Arts Alliance of Highlands by June 15.

The Arts Alliance of Highlands is a non-profit organization working to enhance the quality of life in our community by promoting, supporting and sustaining the development and diversity of the literary, visual and performing arts, and to promote Highlands as an artistic community.

For more information write to the Arts Alliance of Highlands at 348 South Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 28741 or call 828- 526-9938, extension 570.

A Hosta garden in memory of Dorothy Wertzler



Photo by Jim Lewicki

Dorothy's husband Dick, chats with Rev. Hunter Coleman who read a poem during the dedication ceremony.

On Tuesday, May 11, members of Dorothy's beloved Mountain Garden Club dedicated a hosta garden beside Town Hall in her memory. While she was alive, Dorothy was known as Highlands "Hosta Lady." She constantly thinned her hosta garden by donating them to various organizations – Hudson Library, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and more. "Most of the hostas around town are related to her in some way," said co-club member Anita Williams. Over the years, the sale of her hostas at the club's annual plant sale helped fund the club scholarship to deserving high school seniors. The dedication was made on her birthday.

Dr. Kit Barker
L.A.C., F.D., Ph.D.



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Used cooking oil accepted at county landfills

Macon County Solid waste management has begun a new recycling project offering FREE cooking oil recycling for Macon County homeowners at the landfill in Franklin.

Anyone with used cooking oil (one quart or greater) may now dispose of the used cooking oil by pouring it into the designated cooking oil receptacle now available at the landfill convenience center. The oil will be recycled into animal feed stock.

Customers with used cooking oil to dispose of are asked to have the attendant on duty empty the oil containers. This is necessary to help avoid accidentally mixing used motor oil into the cooking oil. Any improper mixing of the oils will make both unsuitable for recycling.

Used motor oil and antifreeze will still be collected at the landfill convenience center, the Otto convenience center and the Scaly Mountain Center. Please continue to place used motor oil and anti-freeze into the correct designated containers.

• BUILDERS & ARCHITECTS •

Rand Soellner's home designs feature beautiful Mountain timber elevations with wide, open plans with tall ceilings and the most value-engineered systems available.

"I am just completing a knoll top design for a client in Glenville, NC that has 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, Great Room-Kitchen-Dining, Family Room, Loft-Study, and attached 2- car garage with driveway and sitework. The builder has quoted a price of \$275,000. This is about half to one-third of normal prices for nice mountain homes on the Highlands-Cashiers-Toxaway Plateau," said Soellner.

The key to this kind of success is in designing a plan that meets the client's needs and orients to mountain views, keeping foundation costs low, using/creating value-oriented systems that are solid, then working with local Realtors and appraisers to have the look and features that will appreciate in value when people want to resell the home.

Rand Soellner Architect

RAND SOELLNER ARCHITECT

Phone: 828.743.6010
Cell: 828.269.9046

Mountain Architecture



17

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15



shares office space in Wright Square, in Downtown Highlands, next to Nantahala Realty. Rand works with many of the builders, Realtors, private land owners and speculative developers

in the Highlands-Scaly Mountain-Cashiers, Toxaway and Brevard area. Rand Soellner's homes are under construction all over Western North Carolina.

● CLASSIFIEDS ●

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Or call: Mary Osmar, Human
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828-526-1301

• Pre-employment substance screening •

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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Full-Time; M-F, Assists administrator
and CFO

UNIT COORDINATOR (2)

One is full-time, 10-hours/day, every
other weekend. One is part-time, two
12-hour days, Fri. & Sat.

FLOOR TECH

Full-time, Sunday-Thursday, high-
school graduate or GED

C.N.A

Acute - Three 12-hour shifts; Friday,
Saturday, Sunday.

C.N.A.S - L.P.N

Fidelia Eckerd Living Center Various
shifts. Days/nights available

MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/HVAC

Full time; 8+ hours/day, various days.
General maintenance with an empha-
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HOSPICE NURSES

Two full or part-time, 2-6 hours per day.
Visit hospice patients. Take calls.

R.N.S

• Three positions open for nights: 36
hours per week. Prefer ACLS, TNCC,
ENPA, or PALS with E.R. and cardiac
background.

• Acute care and ER Caring for the
medical-surgical patients and swing
bed patients.

• OR Nurse. Duties include pre-op.
PACU and circulating. Scrubs skills not
necessary, but desirable. Call required.

DIETARY AIDE

Full, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; fluctuating days.

STAFF PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Active inpatient and outpatient
caseload. Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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cil. For more information, call 526-
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LIVE-IN CARETAKER for sweet eld-
erly gent with dementia. Low mainte-
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law firm needs legal secretary. Send re-
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ferred. Call 526-2968. Ask for Treasurer
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FOR RENT IN SCALY MTN. Large
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Includes water/electricity/gas/premium
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Newly remodeled two-bedroom, two bath
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\$249,000. 524-4350.

● POLICE REPORT ●

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week
of May 5-12 The only names are of public officials and/or people who were
arrested.

May 5

• At 7:35 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 28 and Sassy Lane was cited for speeding 59 in
a 35 zone.

May 6

• At 6:40 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 28 and Sassy Lane was cited for speeding 53 in
a 35 zone.

• At 6:55 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 28 and Sassy Lane was cited for speeding 50 in
a 35 zone.

• At 7:05 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 28 and Sassy Lane was cited for speeding 53 in
a 35 zone.

• At 8:50 a.m., a motorist at Mirror Lake and U.S 64 west was cited for driving
without an inspection sticker.

• At 11:30 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Many Road. All
was secure.

• At 5:15 p.m., officers were called to Wachovia Bank about a unruly patron.

May 7

• At 10:30 a.m., shutters, doors and a refrigerator were reported stolen from the
Old Edwards Inn storage unit on Fourth Street.

• At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at the ABC Store. All was secure.

• At 1:15 a.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles in the
Quick Mart parking lot. There were no injuries.

• At 2 p.m., officers heard a complaint about dogs on Harris Drive.

• At 2:15 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at Wright Square. All was secure.

May 8

• At 1:43 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at the ABC Store. All was secure.

• At 7:35 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 28 and Sassy Lane was cited for speeding 51
mph in a 35 zone.

May 11

• At 10:05 a.m., an employee was cited for parking illegally.

• At 10:20 a.m., an employee was cited for parking illegally.

• At 9:06 p.m., a resident on Laurel Street reported her dog stolen.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for
the week of May 5-12

May 5

• The dept. responded to a rescue call when worker at OEI collapsed on the roof
He was transported to the hospital.

The dept. responded to an accident on U.S. 64 east. There were no injuries.

May 7

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

May 9

• The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fire Dept. while it fought a structure
fire.

• The dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly Fire Dept. while it fought a structure fire.

With a newly constructed driving range, remodeled clubhouse, and a refurbished pool, Franklin Golf Course is set to host the 3rd Annual Macon County Youth Endowment Golf Tournament on Sat., May 29. Call Steve at 524-2288 to enter your team.



Youth endowment tournament

Steve Wyatt, Manager of Franklin Golf Course, announced this week that Franklin Golf Course will host the 3rd Annual Macon County Youth Endowment Golf Tournament on Saturday, May 29. Four person teams will play select shot format, also known as Captain's Choice, with tee times beginning at 9 a.m. Over \$1500 in cash and prizes will be awarded. Entry fee is \$200 per team/

\$50 per individual. Teams can sign up at Franklin Golf Course by calling Steve at 524-2288.

Individuals, businesses, and corporations are encouraged to help sponsor the event. Sponsorships start at \$25 (Bronze), \$50 (Silver), and \$75 (Gold) plus. Please contact Ashley Cunningham at 524-0691 to be a Youth Endowment Sponsor.

The Youth Endowment Golf Tournament was started three years ago by the Macon County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council to raise funds to establish the Macon County Youth Endowment. Today the Youth Endowment has over \$7,000 in its account with the North Carolina Community Foundation and is part of the Macon County Community Foundation. One hundred and forty dollars of the \$200 entry fee is tax deductible and participants will get receipts for their contribution from the JCPC.

Beginning next year Macon County youth and youth services agencies will be able to apply for Youth Endowment grants. These grants are intended to provide direct services to youth and their families to help prevent youth from becoming involved in the juvenile court system. No part of the funds may be used for capital improvements, purchase program equipment, or to pay salaries for staff. Examples of how the funds may be used include sending youth to camp, leadership retreats, or junior golf programs.

To talk with a representative of the Macon County JCPC about how you can help, please contact the Macon County Manager's Office at 349-2025 or Crystal Altman, Vice Chair, Macon County JCPC at 349-2551. Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders.

CPR course offered

An American Red Cross Adult CPR with AED and Infant/Child CPR course is set for Wednesday, May 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Public Health Center on Lakeside Drive. Pre-register by Monday, May 24. Call 349-2439.

• REMODELING & DESIGN •



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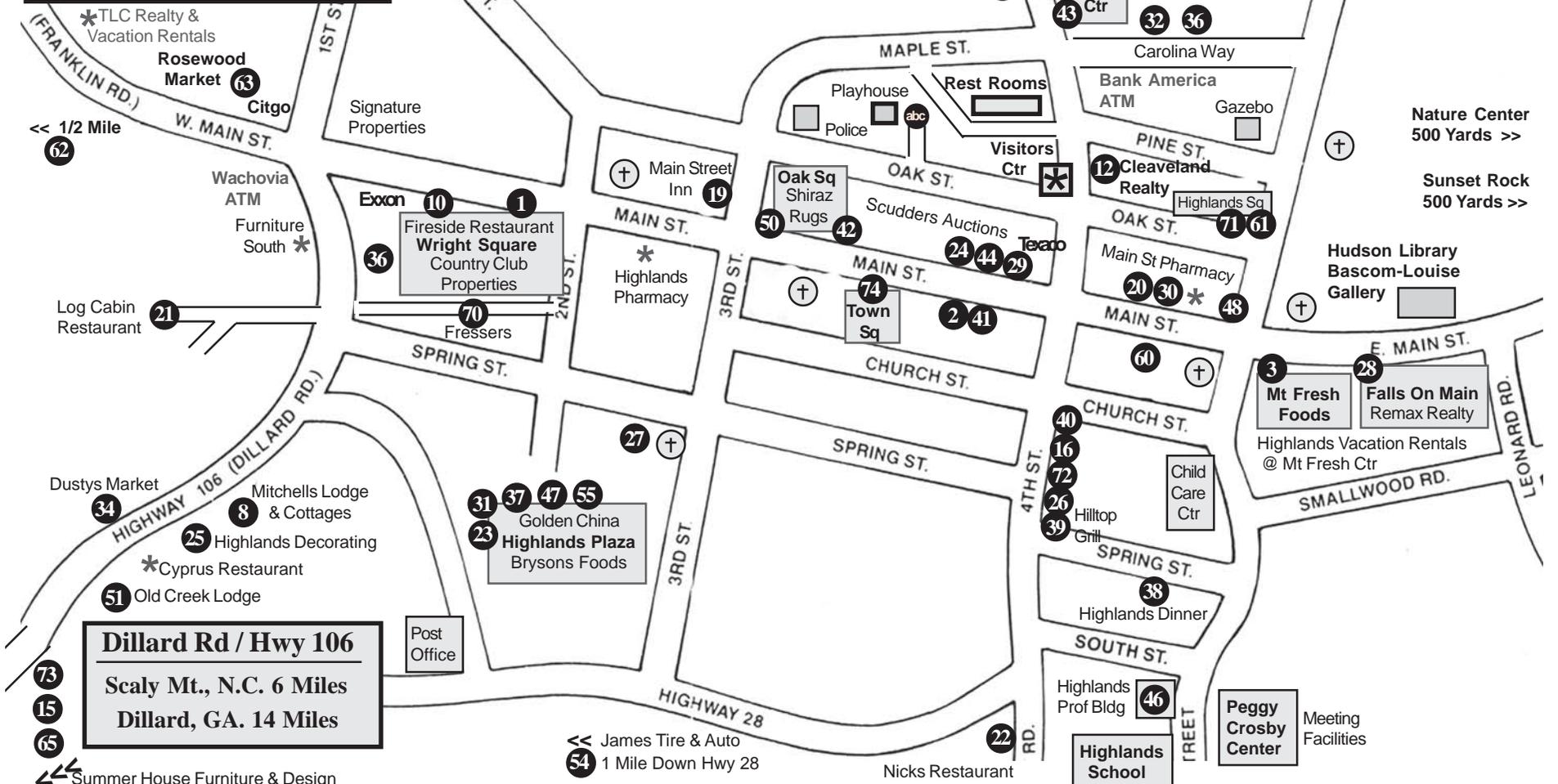
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