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Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 2, Number 21

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, May 28, 2004

The week of May 27-June 4

May 27

▪ **LIVE MUSIC** – There is a Songwriter's Circle at Buck's Coffee Cafe at 8:30 p.m.

▪ **WINE TASTING** – Happy hour at ...on the Verandah at 4:30. Cost is \$20.

May 27, 28 & 29

▪ **WINE TASTINGS** – Highlands' Wine & Cheese at Falls on Main Happy Hour from 4:30-6:30 p.m. each afternoon. This weekend it's "An Eclectic Connection," featuring the Burgandies on Thursday, Penfolds on Friday and Renwood on Saturday.

May 28

▪ **LIVE MUSIC** – Thea & the Green Man with guest fiddler will perform at Buck's Coffee Cafe at 8:30 p.m.

▪ **NIGHT OF FUN** – Monte Carlo Night at the Conference Center at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and include gaming chips worth \$15. For more information, call 526-9938, ext. 240.

▪ **WINE TASTING** – Wine tasting at Buck's Coffee Cafe from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Taste zinfandels and other style wines. Cost is \$10 per person including appetizers.

May 29

▪ **PLANT SALE** – Mountain Garden Club's annual plant sale at the Gazebo on Pine Street from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

▪ **GRADUATION** – Highlands School graduation practice is at 9 a.m. The real thing is at, 7 p.m. at Highlands Civic Center.

▪ **ARTS & CRAFTS** – Mountain Makings Springfest Art & Craft Show at Dillard City Hall grounds. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy arts and crafts, live music and food.

May 30

▪ **LIVE MUSIC** – Zorki will perform at Buck's Coffee Cafe at 8:30 p.m.

▪ **ARTS & CRAFTS** – Mountain Makings Springfest Art & Craft Show at Dillard City Hall grounds. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy arts and crafts, live music and food.

June 1

▪ **MOVIE** – It's movie time at PAC featuring The Man From Snowy River sponsored by the Bascom-Louise Gallery at 7:30 p.m. Donations appreciated.

Budget message: Highlands is healthy

By Kim Lewicki

Highlands' \$10 million 2004-2005 budget message is in and it looks pretty good.

The only proposed rate increases for the coming year is for residential garbage pick up from \$10 per month to \$15. Commissioners need to make up a \$100,000 shortfall in the Gen-

eral Fund due to the sanitation department expenses.

At the special May 26 Town Board meeting, the annual budget message was presented but particulars won't be decided until June 2.

At the June 2 Town Board meeting, commissioners will divvy out \$50,000 to seven nonprofits; decide

whether to raise property taxes by one cent to offset sanitation costs, or to raise residential or commercial garbage pick-up rates instead, and decide on pay increases.

Raising 1,905 residential users' garbage rates by \$5 will generate \$114,000. Raising 267 commercial

▪See BUDGET page 2

Board picks principal for Highlands

By Kim Lewicki

Either way one camp will think it won; the other will think it lost, but it's only about the children.

So announced Dr. Rodney Shotwell, Macon County Schools superintendent at the school board meeting May 24 at Nantahala School.

"I took all that mess away and did what is best for the children of Highlands School," he said. "I took the top three candidates and made my decision the morning of Monday, May 24."

The board voted unanimously for Shotwell's recommendation that Monica Bomengen be Highlands School's next principal.

Bomengen has been in the education business for 20 years. Currently she is assistant principal at Woodstock Academy in Woodstock, Conn. She hails from Hayesville and has been trying to get back home to the mountains of Western North Carolina, said Shotwell.

She holds National Board Certification in English as well as full professional certification in history. She has been a high school English department chair, state testing specialist and director of new teacher induction and professional development.

▪See PRINCIPAL page 3

HS annual rite of passage



Photo by Jim Lewicki

Highlands School seniors made their annual "honking" trek around the streets of Highlands, Tuesday, May 25 to let everyone know they are ready for the next chapter in their lives. Shown here are Margie Potts and behind her, Nathan Heffington. See more on seniors on page 10.

Three crimes under investigation

By Kim Lewicki

Warrants have been issued for the arrest of a couple who police believe were responsible for at least one of two breaking and enterings in Highlands last week.

Kevin Daniel Kelly, 19, of Toccoa, Ga., and Nancy Elizabeth Gillian, 18,

of Liberty, S.C., are suspected of breaking into numerous vehicles parked at Tom James Tire & Auto on N.C. 28 south. Police are investigating whether they are also responsible for breaking into Elite Threads on Main Street where cash was stolen.

▪See CRIMES page 2



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... CRIMES continued from page 1

"We suspect they broke into several vehicles parked at Tommy James and removed various items," said Highlands Police Chief Jerry Cook. "We're waiting for latent finger print results to come back to determine if they were also responsible for the breaking and entering with larceny at Elite Threads."

Nine stereo equipment components worth about \$1,500 were stolen from the parked vehicles on the James lot. About \$400 worth of cash was taken from the Elite Threads cash register at exactly 6:45 a.m. Theives entered the store through a window in the alley.

At about 1:30 a.m., May 20, an officer on patrol came across the couple parked in a white Ford Ranger in the James Tire & Auto lot. They told police they heard something was going on at the lot so they came to check it out. The officer noticed some stereo speakers in the truck, but Kelly said the equipment was his. With no probable cause to hold them, the officer sent them on their way. After further investigation, he found several

vehicles on the lot with their doors and glove boxes left wide open.

Later that morning, an EMS employee on his way to work passed the Ford Ranger wrecked on the Horse Cove Road. No one was in the truck, but he did see the speakers, which he identified as his own. "He knew they were his because he made the casing around them," said Chief Cook.

Later that morning, officers on patrol saw a couple matching Kelly's and Gillian's description sitting on the curb outside Elite Threads, apparently waiting for a ride, said Cook.

Officers are also investigating an unrelated robbery at a home on Potter Lane where about \$31,000 worth of jewelry was reported missing.

The owner of the home told police she left her maid and a workman doing pressure cleaning at the home while she went out. She claims she found the gold, diamond, and pearl jewelry missing upon her return about 1 p.m., May 21.

The case is under investigation.

... BUDGET continued from page 1

users' rates \$3 will generate \$15,000. Raising property taxes one cent will generated between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

Since most of the landfill garbage is commercial garbage and landfill tipping rates are partially responsible for the shortfall in the sanitation department commissioners are suggesting businesses shoulder the cost.

"Most of the garbage is commercial and that's what we're paying for," said Commissioner Herb James. "But I think it might be better to raise property taxes one penny, instead."

Four capital projects slated for 2004-2005 include the wastewater treatment plant for which the town has been putting money aside for years; Holt Knob water system improvements estimated to cost \$150,000; the Poplar Street sewer line estimated at \$280,000; and the water remediation and preservation project to clean up area lakes. That money is expected to come through grants.

The wastewater treatment plant will be funded primarily by the town with money it has been allocating for years and possibly by the county.

Commissioners also plan on asking the county for help in funding Holt Knob water improvements and the Poplar Street sewer line.

The \$300,000 the town has been getting from the county for water and sewer improvements for the past 13 years is over, but for 2004-2005, the county has a set aside \$450,000 for water and sewer improvements in Highlands and Franklin. The stipulation is the projects must benefit residents outside the town, said Betz.

The county has allocated its traditional \$150,000 for the Highlands Civic Center. But commissioners still want to discuss other options with the county.

All in all the economic outlook of Highlands continues to be good. Highlands fund balance, recommended to be eight percent of total expenditures ranges from 28 percent to 95 percent in various funds.

"We need a high fund balance in a town this size," said Mayor Buck Trott. "What if we had another Opal, for instance, we would need to use that money." He said emergency funds from organizations like FEMA take years to get.

Call goes out to help Sanchez

About three years ago, Irene Sanchez was diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

After fighting the disease with the classic medical procedures, an optimistic attitude and a lot of prayers, she is in remission.

Doctors have said it's possible a stem cell transplant will beat the disease or at least keep it in remission.

Waiting her turn for the needed blood components will take a long time so friends, family and friends decided to start the necessary blood drive on their own.

The American Red Cross has set up a special blood drive to benefit Irene from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Franklin Baptist Church on Iotla Street in Franklin.

Irene specifically needs stem cells that match hers for a stem cell transplant.

All blood types are eligible. Donors may have to pay \$35 for the test



Irene Sanchez with her daughter Angela

if only stem cells are retrieved, but blood platelets are also needed and those donating blood platelets may do so for free.

If a match is found for Irene, the donor would have to travel to Duke University to provide blood for Irene's transplant.

Chances of a match are greater if the donor is of Greek origin.

Call 369-9559 to set up an appointment. Make sure you mention Irene's name.

... PRINCIPAL continued from page 1

She expects to receive her doctoral degree (Ed.D.) in educational leadership in January 2005.

Shotwell said she has a strong background in curriculum and instruction, professional development, mentoring, and grant writing.

"I think she will do a good job," said board member Tommy Cabe. "I think she is one of the top candidates we interviewed."

Since March when the community learned Principal Jack Brooks was leaving, teachers, staff and parents were divided as to promoting within the system and hiring from the outside.

Shotwell and his panel of teach-



Monica Bomengen

ers and PTO members poured over 20 applications, discarded two immediately and ended up with nine serious contenders.

After four final days of intensive interviews, the candidates were ranked one to nine. Shotwell talked to the top three candidates before making his final decision.

Board member Donny Edwards said he talked to Bomengen on the phone for 45 minutes the night before the board meeting and thought she would be a good choice, should Shotwell recommend her. "I think she will do a good job. She has the experience," he said.

Bomengen will arrive sometime in June.

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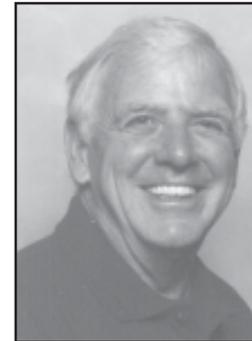


• **LAUGHING AT LIFE** •

Highlands Theme Park

Note: Most old-timers in Highlands will know Charlie Johnson. He was born in Horse Cove and was my neighbor for over 20 years. He died about 5 years ago. He was so much fun to talk to and I miss him. I could tell Charlie Johnson stories for a week and never repeat myself.

Are you sick and tired of being sick and tired over all the growth and changes taking place in Highlands? Do you long for the "good old days" when life was more simple and quiet?



Fred Wooldridge

Can you believe Highlands has a bypass? Or worse, walk/don't walk lights, just like New York City. How about timed parking that requires everyone to wear a watch so they will know when to move their car to another timed spot?

There is hammering and sawing all over town. Uppity people are everywhere. Smiling, waving and saying "hey" to a stranger is fading rapidly.

Everyone seems to be busy making money. (Mountain man Charlie Johnson would be outraged and threaten never to go to town again. But then again, Charlie said that when they put the first traffic light in town.)

Well, I have a plan. Myself and several of my friends are pooling our money and plan to open a nearby "Old Highlands Theme Park." We are going to use the sixties era as our theme. Sound exciting?

Here is how it works. If you are having one of those exasperating days when wall to wall tourists and jammed traffic on Main Street are getting you down, head for the "Old Highlands Theme Park."

Visit the five and ten cent store on the hill, where you can buy most anything but a crocheted soup ladle. Then gas up at the Gulf station but don't try to use a credit card because they'll give you a weird look. Instead, write an out of town check without showing ID.

Feel free to park your car for as long as you want, wherever you want. Leave the doors unlocked and the keys in the ignition if you want. Sit on the bench and pick up some hot Highlands' gossip. Today's rumor: There's another Catholic family moving to

Highlands. Everyone's worried. Wander down to Highlands' only grocery, Pott's Market and see if any of the local musicians are having a Sunday afternoon jam session in the parking lot. Tell Mr. Potts you want to open a charge account for groceries. He'll smile and say, "Give the girl your name and address." That's it, you have your account.

Head over to Lee's Inn and just sit and rock. The only thing the folks over there will ask you is if you're having a nice day and would you like a glass of iced tea.

For dinner, sink your teeth into one of the best sirloins you will find anywhere at Big John's restaurant, back in the alley behind Main Street, where it's OK to sneak in a jug of your favorite booze and everyone promises to look the other way. You know it's OK because the police chief is sitting at the next table. And if you stand in front of the Galax Theater long enough, someone will come over and try to sell you some of the best "white lightning" you will ever sip. All in whisper tones, of course.

After dark, you will want to see and be seen at Helen's barn, where lots of smooching and other interesting things are going on in the parking lot. Inside, the place is jumping with some of the

• SPORTS PICKS •

Rapping about b-ball

Well, before I hit y'all up with my foray into the rap world, I would just like to make a few notes. First of all, I have to say that I love play-off hockey. Regular season hockey is slow, boring and worst of all, not important enough in the standings to matter. Playoff hockey is fast



Ryan Potts

paced, exciting, and every second counts. For the record, I am going with Calgary and Tampa Bay in the Stanley Cup Finals with Calgary and my boy Jerome Iginla taking home the Cup. Secondly, Barry Bonds is the best hitter in baseball, Roger Clemens is 7-0 with the top ERA in the NL, and Randy Johnson throws a perfect game. Dad-are you sure you have given up on your baseball career?

Now, for this week's main event. As I was contemplating this concept, I thought about using an older rap song, maybe one that everyone has heard at least once so that they could hear the tune in their brain. Alas, "Ice Ice Baby" just didn't have enough potential for what I wanted to do.

However, one of the top songs on the charts right now is the song "Yeah" by Usher. Now Usher is not exactly a rapper, seeing as his claim to fame was singing smooth R&B songs with no shirt on, ever. Let's just say he would have had a problem going into the Lil' Cricket down in Walhalla — no shirt, no shoes, no service. (And as Josh Bryson would tell you, they don't take kindly to Santa Claus, either) But while Usher isn't a rapper, the rage these days is to increase your credibility by collaborating with rappers — in this case Ludacris and Lil' Jon (not to be confused with Lil' Cricket, one has platinum teeth, the other has...space). I personally recommend everyone listen to this song not only because it has a great beat (and you can dance to it) but also for the sheer comedy of Lil' Jon randomly screaming OOOOKKKKAAAAAY and YYYYYYYYYEEEEEEAAAHHH.

So I had my song, but then I needed a concept with which to work with, and I thought about something that has been a part of my life for a long time now. Since I was about 14, I have played basketball at the Rec Park on Monday nights and

have immensely enjoyed playing up there. And in honor of that, I present to you my ode to the Monday Night Wars engaged on the (NFL films voice) Dusty Floor of the Highlands Civic Center.

Yeah! Yeah!

I'm on the court with my homies, trying to play some help D
Cause when you play with Dooley, you gotta cover his rear
But now Lucas was postin up on me - had to watch the out for the lefty
Gotta stay up in his grill

Conversation got heavy, the pick up game was getting ready to blow (watch it, watch it)

Jay was saying "Can't guard me, can't guard me"
Then he drove and got knocked down to the floor, I said sorry but no
Then they said

Yeah, Dyer said as he hi-fived me
Yeah, I got so caught up I forgot and next time

Yeah, Jay crossed his man and drove up on me
Yeah, I got beat and he dunked on me

Saying Yeah, Yeah!
Is it all up in my head now, got me thinking that it might be a good idea

To take it on me, Maybe I need to leave

But I see Bryson's tough D-and on a one to ten it's about a twenty, and that's Rosman D.

Cause I don't know if I take that shot now, just where is it gonna lead?

But what I do know is that if I

▪See SPORTS page 7

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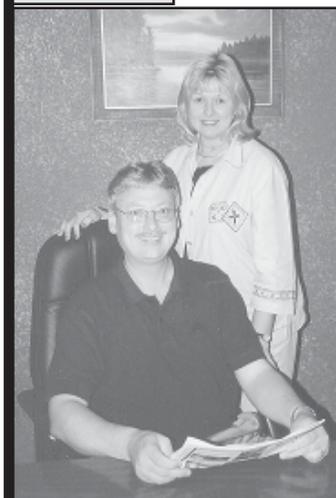
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... **LAUGHING** continued from page 4

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Finally, are you sitting down? There is not even one public toilet in our theme park but don't panic as most of the merchants will let you use theirs.

Well, that's just a taste of what to expect in our new Highlands' Theme Park. Doesn't it sound exciting?

(Monday morning) Ah ... well ... ah ... there has been a slight adjustment in our plans. Well, I didn't give in right away but when "they" offered me three times what the park was worth, what could I do?

Actually, I did it for the good of everyone. Highlands needs a triple deck parking garage with pay toilets on every floor a lot more than a theme park. Besides, I could use the money.

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 7:00 Nightly
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 1:00 & 4:00 Sat. & Sun. Matinees
MEAN GIRLS rated PG-13
 7:10 Nightly
 4:15 Daily Matinee
 4:15 Saturday & Sunday Matinees
VAN HELSING rated PG-13
 9:15 Nightly
 2:10 Saturday & Sunday Matinees

... SPORTS continued from page 5

don't, it's gonna be Dooley
 And there is no one down low
 I'm like, just pass it to Jesse
 If only one more pass and I'm
 like yeah, you can find Casey for
 three
 And I said:

Yeah, we said as Tater shot and
 hit for three
 Yeah, I got so caught up I forgot
 to get back
 Yeah, We did not get back and
 play good D
 Yeah, Next thing I know
 Marshall's picking cherries
 Saying Yeah!

Watch Out
 Our game is superfluous our
 skill is ridiculous
 And now, when Drew is on the
 prowl, you know you'll hit the floor
 It'll make you say "ow"
 Forget about the score I'm a tell
 the truth, Beware the park our guys
 can be uncouth

But gimme the rec park and it
 will cure all my woes, we'll play all
 night till there's cramps in my toes
 We each got our skills and we
 each know our role, if you don't
 play the game you get bleacher
 patrol
 It's different now, Jeff's got kids
 and making more than a few
 thousand
 Steve's got to preach to please,
 Jonny's spending lots of time at D's

**Swinging on Satulah
 set for June 5**

This year, the Highlands
 Historical Society's annual
 fundraiser is called "Swinging on
 Satulah" because it's at the Elliot
 House on Satulah Mountain.

A shuttle will leave from the
 gazebo on Pine Street at 6 p.m.
 Dinner will be prepared by "Let
 Holly Do The Cooking."

The is the society's major
 fundraiser and all proceeds will go
 toward the completion of the
 historical village on Fourth Street.

Tickets are \$125 per person and
 will be sold in advance.

For reservations, call Wiley Sloan
 at 526-5938

But we'll play on more till we're
 almost dead, I can't wait till I play
 for real and it's not in my head- -
 so I can say:

Yeah, I had hoped that this song
 would not be
 Yeah, So sad and lame and
 cheesy
 Yeah, But then I thought real
 carefully
 Yeah, It's cheesy so just like my

homies.

Yeah, I'm gonna take some
 flack, My boys bring the heat and
 tell me this is crap

Yeah, I've been talking smack,
 But I know that I'm crap for trying
 to rap.
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Weekly Highlands TV show to air soon on channel 14

Katie Brugger, who writes the book reviews for The Highlands Newspaper, and her husband Arthur Hancock are creating a new TV show about Highlands and the surrounding area. "Heart of the High Country" will begin airing in June on Northland Cable's Channel 14.

"We feel that a local TV show is something Highlands has needed for a long time," Katie said. "Our one-hour show will feature 'welcome to Highlands/here's what to do in the area' segments coupled with programming that changes weekly: interviews with interesting people, special event coverage, music, community participation, and more. Northland Cable has been very enthusiastic and supportive of our idea. We're making a real TV show here, with a minimum of thirty minutes of fresh content every week."

Brugger and Hancock began their video production company Time Capsule Video eight years ago. Their "North Carolina Mountain" videos have sold many thousands of copies. "We're interested in people," Arthur says, "and we believe every person has something interesting to say. When we got our first video camera nine years ago we immediately went out and started interviewing people."

"Heart of the High Country" will air four times a day — 8 am, 5 pm, 9 pm, and 10 pm — seven days a week. The first show is officially scheduled to air on Monday June 14, although broadcasting may begin earlier.

People interested in participating or being a sponsor should call Time Capsule Video at 526-2954 or write for a brochure: Time Capsule Video P.O. Box 2485 Highlands NC 28741

Gantenbein a certified administrator



On April 15 Highlands Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein, passed the N.C. State Zoning Official Certification Examination. He is now a N.C. Certified Zoning Official. The program is administered by the UNC School of Law through the Institute of Government at Chapel Hill. To be eligible to take the certification examination, Gantenbein had to complete more than 80 hours of classroom instruction at the Institute of Government, have a minimum of two years experience as a local government zoning official and be currently employed as a zoning official. "Very few municipalities have certified zoning administrators," said Mayor Buck Trott. The program is only offered every two years and class size is limited to 40 students who are drawn from a statewide pool.

Monte Carlo Night on May 28

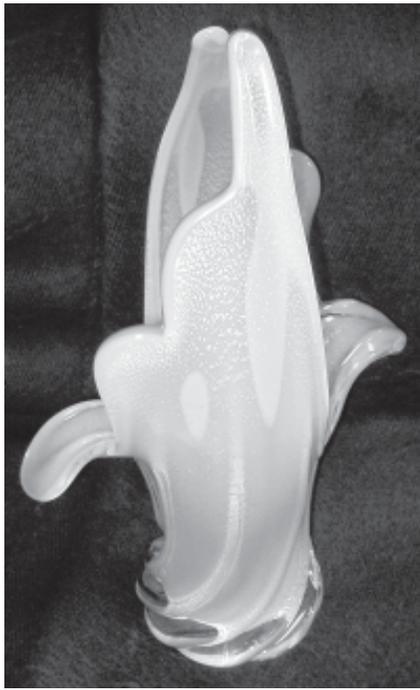
The excitement of a casino and the drama of an auction house come together under one roof for "A Night in Monte Carlo," sponsored by the Literacy Council of Highlands next Friday, May 28, at Highlands Conference Center.

Dozens of local merchants and dining establishments have donated a treasure-trove of gifts and services for the live and silent auctions. Items include jewelry, hand-blown glass, paintings, sporting goods, gift certificates to many of the area's finest restaurants, golf packages from some of Highlands' distinguished golf courses, and much more.

Several of Highlands' most talented chefs have created a menu of heavy hors d'oeuvres for the evening, which features roulette, blackjack and other games of chance operated by members and friends of Highlands Rotary Club.

Proceeds from the gala go to the Literacy Council of Highlands, which

has seen remarkable growth in recent months. Adult Literacy, English as a Second Language (ESL), and General Education Development (GED) are three programs offered to the adult community while After School Tutoring and Summer Tutoring are available for school-age students.



Up for Auction – A hand-blown glass vase is among the many valuable items up for auction at "A Night in Monte Carlo," sponsored by the Literacy Council of Highlands, Friday, May 28 at the Highlands Conference Center.

Founded in 1991, the Literacy Council of Highlands provides residents with free and confidential instruction in reading, writing, math, and oral expression (basic through advanced). The non-profit organization also offers training programs to prepare volunteers for all programs.

Tickets for Monte Carlo Night are \$35 in advance or at the door, subject to availability.

For more information about Monte Carlo Night, or to learn more about the Literacy Council and its programs, call Angie Jones at (828) 526-9938, ext 240.

Mother/daughter team join professional staff at Body Works Salon & Spa

Pat Barnes and her daughter Caprita Barnes have joined the staff at the Body Works Salon & Spa, formerly known as Creative Concepts.



Pat Barnes



Caprita Barnes

ter Cosmetologists.

Pat was the Visitor Center Director for the Highlands Chamber of Commerce for eight years. Caprita attended High-

lands School and Rabun County High School. Both Pat and Caprita are native Highlands residents and bring to their new careers a vibrant and friendly spirit that is a hallmark of our town.

lands School and Rabun County High School. Both Pat and Caprita are native Highlands residents and bring to their new careers a vibrant and friendly spirit that is a hallmark of our town.

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- Smoked Salmon with cream cheese, red onions and capers on a Ciabatta roll.

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- Assorted red & white wines by the bottle or glass.
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Cole Alexander plans to attend WCU and is undecided on his major.



Rosalind Ashburn plans to attend Clemson University to major in Architecture.



Cole Berg plans to attend WCU to major in engineering technology



Valedictorian
Katy Betz plans to attend the UNC at Chapel Hill and major in environmental science.



Kay Billingsley plans to attend Mars Hill and major in business administration



Lauren Carnes will attend UNC at Asheville and major in International Comm.



Heather Dalton plans to attend SCC and major in cosmetology



Miranda Dotson plans to attend Wake Forest and major in journalism or corporate law



Pablo Escandon plans to attend SCC and major in culinary technology.



Eric Fielding plans to attend WCU and major in technology.



Paul Frederick plans to attend the UNC at Asheville and major in environmental science.



Maegan Gallira plans to attend WCU and major in nursing.



Nathan Heffington plans to attend the UNC at Chapel Hill and major in elementary education.



Rachel Lewicki plans to attend Pfeiffer University and major in communications & political science.



Amber Manley plans to attend SCC. Her major is undecided



Chelsea Moses will study business at SCC



Steven Owens will major in business at Young Harris College



Jessica Potts will attend WCU with undeclared major



Brittany Potts plans to major in sociology at Lees-McCrae College



Margie Potts will study interior design at WCU



Christopher Raby will seek full-time employment after high school



Travis Ramey will attend SCC. His major is undecided



Salutatorian
Caitlin Rawlins will attend Columbia College and study pre-med



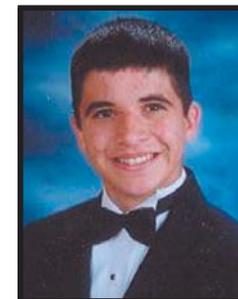
Trent Reese will study computer science at Gardner-Webb College



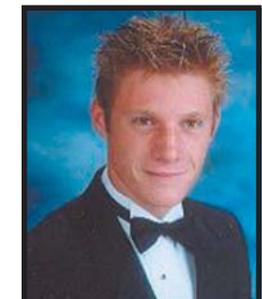
Brittany Shook will enter pre-law at the University of Tennessee



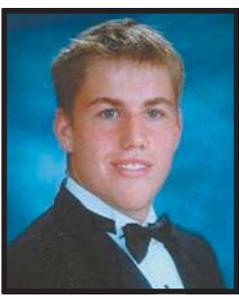
Anna Claire Sims will study nursing at WCU



Danny Thomas will major in computer graphic design at WCU



Raymond Varn plans on attending SCC and major in computers



James View has joined the United States Marine Corps



Melissa Warren plans to major in public relations at the University of Tenn.



Steven Warren will study computer science at WCU



Alana Wilson will study photography at Brevard College



Zack Woodcox will study engineering at CO-Boulder



A parting glance from a departing bus on the last day of school.

Photo by Karen Lynn Hasbrouck

Faith, Fear, & Fun

My best columns seem to happen when I begin thinking about what to write early in the week and let my thoughts incubate in my mind. Or maybe they just seem that way to me?

Faith – Find it! • Fear – Lose it! • Fun – Have it!

Faith. I start my day with a little faith. I prepare my mind with coffee and a daily devotion. Always one of my favorites...Daily Word (Silent Unity's Magazine) or Living Faith, (Daily Catholic Devotions) and on a good day, which means I have a little more time, I take a glimpse into Simple Abundance (a Daybook of Comfort and Joy). The value of praying daily helps me make the most out of opportunities to draw closer to God. I still have a lot of work to do when it comes to my faith but one thing I make sure of is that it is part of my daily life. I'm not very good at this faith thing or math for that matter. So, I go to an expert and for me, I listen to Fr. Bill. This morning at church I asked him what faith was. He replied, "A gift from God. You either got it or you don't. I have it and you have it." I smiled. It's because of Father Bill that I attend church every Sunday. I was very lucky to find him in the mountains. I always said I was going to find a great man when I moved to the mountains. What do you know, I did. Thanks, Father Bill. You might know him, he writes a column once in awhile for this newspaper called Spiritually Speaking.

Fear. Face it and then keep on going. Eleanor Roosevelt's quote about fear makes it just a little easier. She said, "You gain strength, experience and confidence by every experience where you really stop to look fear in the face...You must do the things you think you cannot do". If you don't look fear in the face, you may spend your life running from it. Fear always runs as fast as you do. When you let fear rule your choices, you are not choosing your own path. You can outdistance that which is running after you, but not that which is running inside you. Never let fear of failure put limits on you! Easier said than done, of course. But somebody has to at least say it.

Fun. I like it and I practice it. When I was building my home, I would rush into Jennings Builders Supply & Hardware with a magic wand expressing to all that I needed a little "magic" and I needed it NOW. This simply meant I was undergoing one of my many home building panic



Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

moments. Or I love wearing my burnt orange square toe shoes that I bought in Florence, Italy. Often I take my magic wand and wizard hat when I fly. It usually assures an empty seat next to me. Last week, after a photo appeared of me in one of the local newspapers or should I say a photo of everything but my face, I decided to give up feeling embarrassed forever. I just made the decision to accept that

some uneasiness happens in life, especially if you are having fun. Life's too short not to laugh.

Everybody dies, but not everybody lives. How is your building project going so far this year?



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The inn includes three barn-sided buildings gathered around a brick courtyard. Porches with swings and rocking chairs, hanging baskets and bird feeders create that relaxing mood that can only be found in such a unique property.

Each of the 15 rooms is distinctively decorated. Brass headboards, eyelit sheets and comforters, country wall paper and motives have been used throughout. All have private baths and color televisions. The rooms with fireplaces are especially cozy and romantic.

When in the mood, the staff will help guests arrange golf, tennis, hiking and whitewater rafting.

For more information, or to book a reservation, call 888-378-6300 or visit us on the web at www.thechandlerinn.com.

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The 'Red Hat' ladies (in purple & red attire) are alive and well in Highlands

By Sally Hanson

Contributor

Be on the lookout for ladies dressed in the now fashionably correct attire of deep purple coupled with bright red. The Red Hat Society is alive and well in Highlands, and throughout the season its colorful birds will be seen, for sure, gracing the streets of Highlands on their way to or from some frivolous affair meant solely for fun.

The Red Hat Society came to life in 1988, started by Sue Ellen Cooper. "It began as a result of a few women deciding to greet middle age with verve, humor and élan. We believe silliness is the comedy relief of life, and since we are all in it together, we might as well join red-gloved hands and go for the gusto together. Underneath the frivolity, we share a bond of affection, forged by common life experiences and a genuine enthusiasm for wherever life takes us next," said Cooper. Today the "red hat ladies" are in 61 countries, and there are more than 20,000 individual groups around the world.

But what exactly is the Red Hat Society? Social groups of women who wear purple and red when they go out together to just have fun.

Junior members who are younger than 50-years-old wear lavender and pink, as they are in training, say society members..

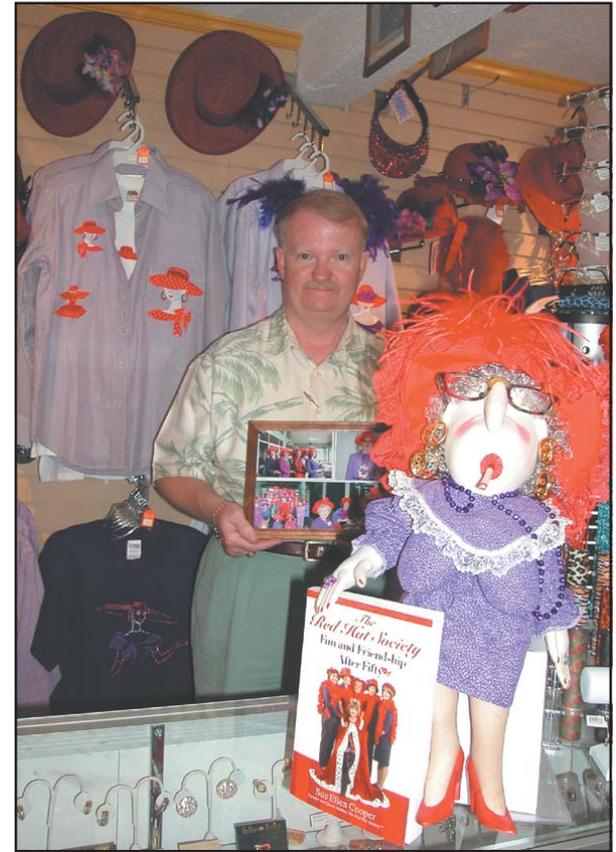
Members play golf, go to tea parties or go out to eat, attend shows, movies and plays, and anything else that requires the ladies to get together and have a good time.

Highlands has its own chapter of the Red Hat Society, with 53 local members. There are also 27 women on a waiting list. According to Richard Taylor, owner of the Mountainique and local retailer of Red Hat Society merchandise, the local group is going to be divided into two or three other groups because demand is so high. "They'll be limited to 15 or 20 members, as restaurants don't want groups of more than 20," he said.

In fact, the Society is becoming so popular "dress-up" items are becoming available in stores like Mountainique. "We have jewelry, boas, gloves, shirts, t-shirts, visors, hair clips, skirt and pants suits, sunglasses, shoes,

pocketbooks, and over 50 different hats" Taylor said.

For more about the Red Hat Society, contact Richard Taylor at Mountainique.



Richard Taylor, owner of Mountainique in Town Square, has made his store the "one stop shop" for Red Hat Society paraphernalia. If you don't notice the abundance of red and purple accessories, Eloise, the Red Hat Society mascot, let's you know you're in the right place.

New management at Mountain Fresh



Charlene Bryson, who worked as the store's bookkeeper for 14 years has returned as manager of Mountain Fresh Fine Foods. Charlene and the staff are excited and eager to begin a new season and welcome old and new friends. The staff invites everyone to stop in and share their ideas, their thoughts, or at least a cup of coffee!

The Red Hat Society creed

"Warning"

by Jenny Joseph

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer
gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens . . .
But maybe I ought to practice a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and
surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.



Photo by Jim Lewicki

The rappelling drop will be harder to get to and longer than last year.

Officials blaze trails for SOAR race set for June 26

By Luke Osteen
Contributor

Adventurers from across the country are invited to participate in the Special Operations Adventure Race in Highlands, NC, at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, June 26.

The grueling course will challenge racers' running, mountain biking, rappelling and paddling skills. Participants are expected to make their way through the course with only a map and compass – no GPS devices are allowed.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, which provides scholarship grants to the children of Special Forces personnel killed in an operation or training.

The first SOAR race in Highlands was last year and \$35,000 was raised. Officials are hoping for more this year.

Since 1980 the Special Operations community has lost more than 370 members, leaving behind more than 400 children – and that figure is quickly climbing.

New this year is a silent auction, "A Night to Honor Our Fallen Heroes," at 7 p.m., Thursday, June 24 at the Highlands Conference Center.

Cost for the event is \$15 and will feature hors d'oeuvres and refreshments and rollicking entertainment by Curtis Blackwell and the Bluegrass Boys.

Highlighting the evening will be an auction featuring donations by local businesses. Among the treasures up for auction are golf packages, vacation rental home packages, art, fine wines, bed and breakfast packages, manicures and pedicures, spa treatments, art glass, fishing tackle, meals at local restaurants, adventure tours and more.

Tickets will be available at the door. For more information, call Nancy Horwitz at 526-0224.

Other ways to support SOAR's efforts is through the purchase of raffle tickets for leather jackets from Jolie's and rugs from Shiraz. Tables are set up in front of Shiraz on the weekends and at two grocery stores at various times.

Another way to support the cause is by sponsoring a scholarship at the Warrior Level (\$5,000), Patriot Level (\$2,500), Eagle Level (\$1,000), Freedom Level (\$500) and Liberty Level (\$250).

To make a donation, call Bill Horwitz at 526-0224.

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Inside:	
Features	pg. 10
Police & Fire	pg. 16
Book Review	pg. 6
Healthy Living	pg. 8
Forum	pg. 2
Florist Tips	pg. 12

FREE Highlands' Newspaper

Volume 1, Number 2 Locally Owned & Operated Friday, July 25, 2003

The week of July 25-Aug. 1

• The Macon Aeromodelers will hold an "Old Timers" fly-in at the flying field on Tennessee Road in Otto on Saturday, July 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with other models flown afterwards. Spectators of all ages are invited.

• Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church is holding its annual yard sale on Saturday, July 26 at 9 a.m. Items for sale will include books, old records, toys, kitchen items and linens.

• Miller-Talley Reunion is Saturday, July 26, 11 a.m. at the Rec Park. Drink and paper goods will be furnished. Please bring a dish of food. For more information, call 526-2588.

• Wright Family Reunion is Saturday, July 26 at 11 a.m. at the Rec Park. Ms. Ellen Greenwald will portray the life of femina Norton Wright.

• Sunday, July 27, from 2-3 p.m. Scudder's Gallery will be

Hospital water line funding in place

By Kim Lewicki

The financial pieces are finally in place for the hospital water line, but the target start-up date of November 1 still looms on the horizon.

"There is a lot of work to do in a short period of time," said Town

Engineer Lamar Nix.

McCill Associates, of Asheville, is the engineering firm responsible for designing the project, surveying and completing the permitting process, but as lead agency the town is concerned with the timetable.

"DOT wants to resurface U.S. 64 east during the next paving season so they want to know when the water line project will be finished," said Nix. "A lot is hanging on the permitting process and no one has much control over that

•See WATER page 3

Friends across the seas



Rainy weather-blast from past

By Kim Lewicki

Slowly but surely, Highlands is molding over.

People new to Highlands in the last five years say they've never seen so much rain.

People who have lived here forever say "Welcome to the real Highlands."

Over the last five years, drought

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• ARMCHAIR TRAVELER •

Mongolia

By Phyllis Picklesimer
 Contributor

As an eight-year-old drawn to the excitement of Roy Chapman Andrews' discovery of dinosaur bones and eggs in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia, I would not have believed that I would one day stand in the spot where he made his great finds.

Mongolia today is smaller than it was when its fierce warriors and Khan leaders were the scourge of neighboring countries and beyond. Famous for their horsemanship, a trait passed down to its men today with their herds of sturdy horses still seen riding across the plains, their brutality was legendary. Today it is approximately twice the size of Texas, as Russia and China have in the past taken bits and pieces of it for themselves.

The Gobi Desert makes up almost one-third of the country and extends itself into China. The desert is a living entity and continues to stretch itself further south each year. There are also high mountain areas, but much is covered in grasslands or by pebbly flats, generally treeless.

Ulaan Baatar is the capital. Flying into the airport can raise adrenaline levels, as your aging Mongolian Airlines' Russian-made propeller plane descends between a gap in the surrounding mountains. The wing tips seeming to be only a few feet from bare rock and the slopes beneath the plane look close enough to touch.

The city is mostly modern with its Russian-railroad-station influence architecture, utilitarian with its straight lines and grandiose size. There is the requisite sweeping main square with mounted general statue fountain and large areas conducive to past Russian military pageantry.

Even though most of the city is modern, steps have been taken to preserve some architectural and historical treasures. The Gandategchinlin Khiid Monastery in Ulaan Baatar is the most

important Buddhist monastery in the country and well worth a visit. Mongolians practice Tibetan Buddhism with its lamas and prayer wheels. The Gandan (for short) Khiid is home to a school for educating young monks some of whom seem to be only seven-to eight-years-old. In the mornings, they chant their prayers to Buddha, still, notwithstanding their shaved heads and dark crimson and saffron robes, acting like young boys anywhere, always moving and watching their friends.

The most important feature of the monastery is its Migjid Janraisig Stature (Opener of Wisdom Eyes.) It is 75 feet tall, weighs 20 tons, is gilded, and decorated with more than two thousand precious stones from Mongolian soil. Inside it were placed 27 tons of medicinal herbs and junipers, 334 volumes of Buddhist sutras, two million mantra books, a whole ger (yurt) with furniture, and rare clothes of well-known Buddhist saints among other things. It is most definitely a sight to behold.

To really experience the Mongolia of most of its inhabitants, travel outside the city is necessary. Karakorum, selected by Chinghis Khan as his capital, is one such place. It contains the restored Erdene Zuu Khiid that was the first Buddhist monastery in Mongolia and is today its second most important after Gandan Khiid.

Hotels, as we know them, are non-existent in Karakorum. For an "experience," try one of the ger camps. Made of compressed wool felt supported by a round wooden frame, the gers usually contain two or three beds, a table with stools, a stove for heating (in a mostly treeless country fuel is often dried animal dung), and rugs or linoleum. The facilities are in a separate bathhouse.

The gers can be put up or

•See TRAVELLER page 15

Hay rides at Carpe Diem Farms

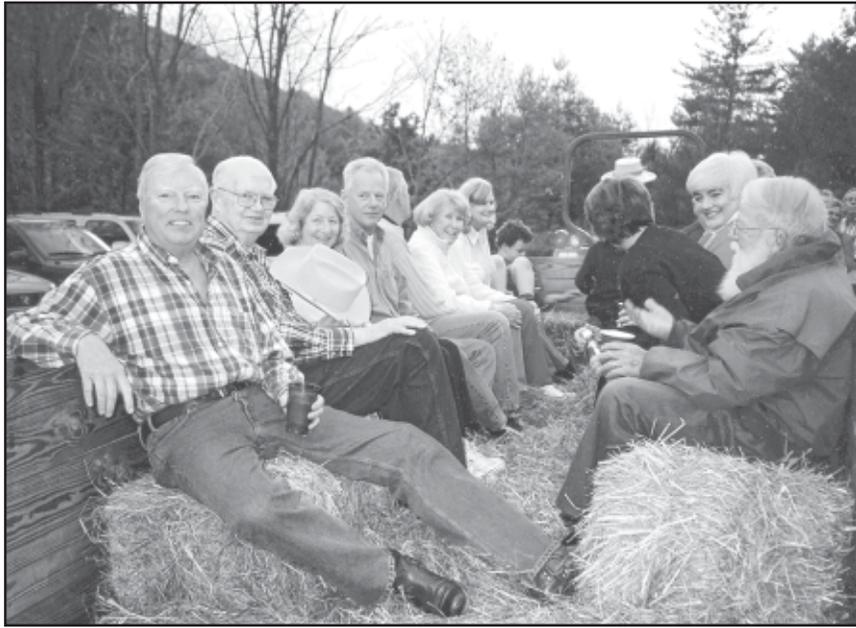


Photo by Barbara Lawrence

Rotarians and their families enjoyed a "day on the farm," at Carpe Diem Farms Saturday, May 15. Instead of Rotarian business, it was all just for fun – a time for socializing, supper and a hayride.

... TRAVELLER continued from page 14

taken down in just a few hours. This is the main housing of most of the Mongolian people. The disassembled ger is packed onto their truck along with their furniture and other belongings. Next the sheep and goats are transported to a new grazing site in the truck. Their Bactrian (two humped) camels and horses are usually herded to the new area. Land is not owned in Mongolia so everyone is free to move at will to any new location that suits.

Spending a week traveling through the Gobi Desert and staying in the various ger camps is fun, even for the traveler who thinks Motel 6 is camping out. Ger stays are popular with many sojourners; even the President of Mongolia spent one night in our camp. One drawback my six feet two inch husband discovered regularly was entering the ger with its approximately four and a half feet tall doorway. Luckily wearing a hat cut down on some of the damage.

While in the Gobi Desert, visit

the site of Roy Chapman Andrews' discoveries and even find some small pieces of bone for yourself. To tell if you have dinosaur bone or only a rock, touch it with your tongue. Dinosaur bone is sticky.

Also in the Gobi, Yolym Am is a spectacular narrow valley surrounded by craggy mountains. It is home to the elusive snow leopard, ibex, wild yaks, and several species of birds. Khongoryn Els, another park, is an area of towering sand dunes. In the evening, they seem to glow and pulse from within in the golden desert sunset.

The Mongolian people have been fired in the kiln of life to emerge with a sure strength and a glaze of Buddhist acceptance and inevitability of what life holds for them. They meet the challenges of their daily life and climate with a stoic grace. Mongolia and her people had played their siren song to me for over 50 years. Accepting its call, I found it as enthralling as the eight-year-old me expected it to be.

Phyllis and her husband are seasonal residents of Highlands. Her husband comes from a long line of Picklesimers here in Highlands. Phyllis works as a travel agent.



28

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Christ's foundation will get you through life



Eddie Ingram - HUMC

I looked at the graduates during the baccalaureate service last Sunday and I realized one thing - life is SHORT. This is not a dress rehearsal.

We only have one chance to get this thing called life right. We don't have time to mess around. May 29 is the Highlands School graduation, and it will never come this way again. Our graduates have their whole life ahead of them and so many options, but they only graduate from high school once.

The foundation that we build our life upon is critical. Jesus said that the person who hears these words of mine - but not just hears them - but puts them into practice - is like a man who builds his house on a rock and when the rain comes, the creek rises, the hurricane comes, the house will stand because of what the foundation is built upon. And everyone who hears these words - and does not act on them - is like a foolish man who builds his house on sand. When the rain and floods come, the winds blow and beats upon the house - the house falls - and what a mighty fall. Foundation is critical. It is up to our young graduates to decide what the foundation of their life is going to be. Who will they serve? Where will their life devotion be? They have room in their life for ONLY one devotion. Jesus said "no one can serve two masters." They will be known in their lives for their one thing. That's the way life is. Their life devotion will be revealed. It's their foundation.

Like the house on sand, our graduates lives will sink if it is not built on the solid foundation. They've got to get it right to start with.

Later on in the gospel of Matthew, Jesus turns to his friend and follower Peter and says, "Who do people say that I am?" And Peter responds, "Some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or a prophet." And Jesus says to Peter, "Now that you've told me who everybody else thinks I am, who do you say that I am?" And Peter responds, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." As our graduates all go their separate ways, this is a foundational question for all of us. There are lots of people who have their opinion about this man named Jesus. Many people would agree that Jesus was a good teacher, a good example, a good man. But for we who follow the man named Jesus, it goes much farther. The man Jesus has to do with the very foundation upon which our life is built. I have had plenty of positive role models in my life. But those people are not the rock foundation that I build my life upon. Because no matter how good people are, flesh and blood will fail us. Being good is not good enough. A good teacher cannot change me and save me from my own mistakes. A good example cannot live my life for me. Lots of people can help me and walk with

▪ See SPIRITUALLY page 22

• 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

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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.
Women's Cursillo Group (Library) - 4
Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall - 8
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist - 10 a.m.
The Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14

First Baptist Church

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
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

- 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/hiblio/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 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.

- Parents or coaches interested in starting a Soccer Challenge Team, call Charissa Robinson at 526-9915.

May 27

- There is a Songwriter's Circle at Buck's Coffee Cafe at 8:30 p.m.

May 27, 28 & 29

- Highlands' Happy Hour from 4:30-6:30 p.m. each afternoon. This weekend it's "An Eclectic Connection," featuring the Burgandies of Joseph Drouhin on Thursday, Penfolds on Friday and Renwood on Saturday – all at various prices.

- At Bascom-Louise Gallery, Introduction to Soap Carving – This workshop is for students 8 to 14 yrs. of age. Soap carving will take place from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the gallery. The cost is only \$35 and includes all materials and tools. Sign up your child or grandchild now the class is filling fast!

May 28

- Thea & the Green Man with guest fiddler will perform at Buck's Coffee Cafe at 8:30 p.m.

- Monte Carlo Night at the Conference Center at 5:30 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Highlands Literacy Council. Tickets are \$35 and include gaming chips worth \$15. For

tickets and more information, call 526-9938, ext. 240.

- Wine tasting at Buck's Coffee Cafe from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Taste zinfandels and other style wines. A representative from Renwood in California will be offering a selection of wines. \$10 per person including appetizers.

May 29

- Mountain Garden Club's annual plant sale at the Gazebo on Pine Street from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Highlands School graduation practice is at 9 a.m. The real thing is at, 7 p.m. at Highlands Civic Center.

- Mountain Makings Springfest Art & Craft Show at Dillard City Hall grounds next to the Dillard House off Hwy. 441. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy arts and crafts, live music and food.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous, 5-mile hike (with car shuttle) up Shortoff Mountain and down Cowee Ridge, involving a steep, short ascent of elevation gain of 800 feet and an even longer descent. Meet at Highlands Nations Bank at 9:30 a.m. or at the trailhead on Buck Creek road at 9:45. Call leader Mo Wheeler, 526-9561, for reservations.

May 30

- Zorki will perform at Buck's Coffee Cafe at 8:30 p.m.

- Mountain Makings Springfest Art & Craft Show at Dillard City Hall grounds next to the Dillard House off Hwy. 441. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy arts and crafts, live music and food.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 4.6 mile hike from Rock Gap along the Appalachian Trail and down Long Branch Trail. There will be an elevation gain of 900 feet. Meet at the Westgate Shopping Center in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for info.

June 1

- It's movie time at PAC featuring The Man From Snowy River sponsored by the Bascom-Louise Gallery at 7:30 p.m. Donations appreciated.

June 5

- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will host a field trip at Chestnut Hill featuring local

breeding birds, including Red Crossbills. Meet at Town Hall parking lot at 7:30 am to carpool. Contact, Brock Hutchins, 787-1387, or Edwin Poole, 526-2775.

- This year, the Highlands Historical Society's annual fundraiser is called "Swinging on Satulah" because it's at the Elliot House on Satulah Mountain. 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

- The Audubon Society is hosting a field trip at Chestnut Hill featuring local breeding birds. Carpool at the Town Hall parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Call 787-1387 or 526-2775 for more information.

- Herb Fair at East Palmer in Franklin from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featuring culinary and medicinal herb plants, organic produce, naturopathic on site; wreaths & baskets. For more information call Darlene at 349-3024.

June 6

- Second Annual Meeting of the Rustic Falls Homeowners Association at the home of Barry and Debbie Boher at 3 p.m. Call 787-1164.

June 8

- The Audubon Society is presenting a program on Backyard Gardening for Birds & Butterflies, presented by Dr. Richard Poole & Neta Villalobos-Bell of Longwood, Fla., at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. For more information, call 787-1387.

June 8 – 11

- "Amazing Animals" at Highlands Nature Center. Ages 8 – 10, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. daily. Cost \$75 per child. Campers will learn about different animal groups such as insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians through hands-on activities, games, and field observations.

June 12

- Carpe Diem Farms "Be A Star for a Child," extravaganza. There will be a silent auction, food and music with all proceeds benefiting children's programs at Carpe Diem Farms. For more information call 526-2854.

June 15

- The Audubon Society is hosting a field trip on Flat Mtn. Road. Meet at the Town Hall parking lot at 7:30 p.m.

Call 787-1387 or 526-2775 for more information.

June 16

- Retired homicide detective turned author of "On My Father's Grave," Marshall Frank, will talk about the craft of writing, converting true events into fiction and discussing criminal justice issues at 2 p.m. at Hudson Library.

June 15

- It's movie time at PAC featuring "Jeremiah Johnson" sponsored by the Bascom-Louise Gallery at 7:30 p.m. Donations appreciated.

June 15 – 18

- "NatureWorks" at Highlands Nature Center. Ages 8 – 11, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. daily. Cost \$75 per child. Campers will learn about basic ecological concepts such as predator/prey adaptations, wildlife habitat needs, competition for resources, and life cycles through interactive games and hands-on activities.

June 19

- Reese Family Reunion from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Brng family, friends and food.

June 22 – 25

- "Junior Ecologists" at Highlands Nature Center. Ages 11 – 14, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily. Cost \$100 per child. This camp provides a more scientifically-advanced look at the natural world.

June 29

- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will host a field trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway from Balsom Gap to Graveyard Fields. Meet at Town Hall parking lot at 7:30 am to carpool. Contact, Brock Hutchins, 787-1387, or Edwin Poole, 526-2775.

July 19-23

- Macon County Soccer Camp. For more information or to sign up, call 524-1928 or email ewood@dnet.net.

July 24

- Seeking donations of rare books for its first-ever book auction the Friends of the Macon County Public Library has issued a "call for books" to add to a collection of valuable works that has been growing for the last several years. Deadline for donating books is July 1. For further information, call Wallace at (828) 524-3600.

• HOME DECOR & FIXTURES •

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Stephanie Nieuwendijk, owner of Dutchman's Designs and Weddings by Design, can take that task for planning for a wedding and turn it into a blessing.

Growing up in Sydney, Australia, Stephanie has traveled Europe and the USA for more than 20 years developing her craft and signature floral design style, expressing an international flair in all her creations.

She has always loved flowers and the spectrum of color surrounding them. Some time in the Deep South reinforced this love and began a new direction for Stephanie, in the dried flower business. She noticed that dried flowers made extraordinary arrangements for homes and offices, and from there, found herself developing a natural talent to coordinate them in various styles.

Stephanie also designs floral arrangements for the home. Whether it's a breathtaking centerpiece for the dining room table, a fresh addition for the kitchen or bath, or a finishing touch for the mantle, Stephanie can design and create the perfect addition to your decor.

Stephanie's shop, Dutchman's Designs, also offers a unique collection of decorative lamps, furniture, dried flowers, and an eclectic assortment of home accessories. For eight years, Dutchman's has made shopping for that certain arrangement a pleasure, whether it's a custom order or in the store, ready to go. From the classic requirements to extraordinary accents, Dutchman's Designs can create the atmosphere you desire.

The personal element of Stephanie's store are Jim Collins, Lois Collins and Wanda Halyburton. Be sure to stop in as the seasons change, for home accessories and accents to take you from fall relaxation to holiday celebration in fabulous and unprecedented style. Drop in or call (828) 526-8864.



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Yvonne Smith

New faces at HealthTracks

By Skip Taylor
Contributor

Cashiers area resident Yvonne Smith, MHS, RD, LDN, CDE, has been named to head HealthTracks, the healthy lifestyle and fitness program at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital that is also one of the region's outstanding cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation centers.

With an extensive background in fitness and nutrition, Smith will replace Bonnie Powell, BART, who managed the HealthTracks program from its inception six years ago until she recently accepted a position as director of fitness activities at the Country Club of Sapphire Valley.

A Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator in addition to having a masters degree in Health Sciences, Smith has been the Clinical Dietitian for acute care patients and the residents of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center for the past five years. She also managed the hospital's dietary department for the last four years. Lesley Madden, RD, LDN, a lifelong resident of Cashiers who has worked with Smith on a part-time basis for the past two years, will now assume the role of Clinical Dietitian for both in-patients and Living Center residents. Smith will remain as manager of Clinical Nutrition Services.

"We are very fortunate to have someone with the necessary knowledge and credentials already on the hospital staff to head this popular

... SMITH from pg 8

and successful program," said Administrator Jim Graham. "As part of her duties as hospital dietitian, Yvonne Smith has been part of the HealthTracks team providing exercise and nutrition counseling, and she is in a unique position to bring both continuity and expertise to her new position."

HealthTracks offers a wide variety of exercise, diet, and healthy lifestyle programs to the general public, most without a physician referral. The program grew out of the hospital's cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation program, expanding to offer monitored and independent exercise programs to the general public, along with yoga, stress reduction, smoking cessation, and weight loss programs. The cardiac rehab program is one of only a handful of nationally-certified programs in North Carolina.

In addition to maintaining the standards and certification of existing offerings, Smith says she hopes to expand HealthTracks services to an even wider audience in the future. For example, classes in Pilates will begin in June and will be open to the community. Yoga classes will resume in June as well. Personal fitness and wellness programs are offered year around and include one-on-one personal training to meet individual needs. Private consultations for weight loss and diabetes management and education are also available.

Smith and her husband Bud operated a private Nautilus fitness center in Glenville for five years in the 1980s, before she returned to school, earning a bachelor's degree from Western Carolina University in Sport Management with a concentration in exercise sciences and a minor in nutrition.

She was fitness director at the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching in Cullowhee for four years before returning to the classroom to earn a masters degree in Health Sciences, specializing in nutrition.

Smith was employed at Jackson County Health Dept before joining the staff of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Mill Creek Gallery

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• Pre-employment substance screening •

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

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R.N.

Operating Room, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. five days a week, plus. Call.

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Full time, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Friday-Tuesday.

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LEGAL SECRETARY. Highlands law firm needs legal secretary. Send resume with letter of introduction to Jack Mayer at P.O. Box 750, Highlands, N.C. 28741.

HOUSEKEEPING POSITION now available at Cullasaja Club Inc. Seasonal position, competitive wages, limited benefits. Applications available at the Cullasaja Club Security Gate on U.S. 64 east.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY - At Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Part-time. Book-keeping/accounting experience. Familiar with Quick Books preferred. Call 526-2968. Ask for Treasurer or mail resume to P.O. Box 729, Highlands.

BY OWNER

VACATION RENTAL - Charming Highlands home. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, furnished. 4 1/2 Street location. Walk to Town. \$950/wk. \$3,000/mo. Call Ty (772) 215-5896.

FOR SALE. Beautiful heritage quilts by former MACO CRAFTS quiltmakers. Follow signs on the Highlands Road at Peaceful Cove. 524-0576 or 369-8643.

FOR RENT IN SCALY MTN. Large home with 3 plus bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 kitchens, many extras. Will rent to multiple families, many individuals or single families. First and last deposit required. Pets OK with extra pet deposit. Call 828-526-8745.

NEW HOME. Beautiful 3/3 with great room, stone fireplace, wood floors, great kitchen, ponds and private wooded lot. Golf/tennis for a fee to the club. Monthly/Yearly. 828-526-8360.

YEAR-ROUND APARTMENT FOR RENT. Furnished, one bedroom/one bath apartment. Two miles from Main Street. Includes water/electricity/gas/premium cable. \$750/month. Call 526-1566.

YEAR-ROUND HOUSE FOR RENT -

Mirror Lake area. Newly remodeled 2-bedroom, 2-bath home with new appliances. Wood-burning fireplace. Lots of extras. \$1,200/month. Call Gloria at 526-3889 or 342-2302.

VACATION RENTAL. Quiet 1 bedroom, 1 bath housekeeping apartment. Walk to town. Wooded back yard off deck. Three day minimum. Also by week or month. Non-smoking. Call owner at 828-526-3217 for info.

CLIMATIZED STORAGE for rent. Secure space with heating, air and fire sprinkler system. Several large spaces available. Reduced rate and preference given to non-profit organizations. We also have limited office space available. The Peggy

Crosby Center 526-9938, ext 110.

FOR SALE. Authentic schrank wall unit from Germany. H6'9" L11' W22" A beautiful piece. Contact Brad and Donna Nelson 524-9204.

RETAIL SPACES for rent on 4th Street and also in Highlands Plaza. Call 864-630-0808 or information.

SERVICES

SHIPPING SERVICES - UPS, FedEx & furniture shipping. Stork's Wrap, Pack & Ship. Corner of Hwy 107 N. & Slab Town Rd. Cashiers - (828) 743-3222.

● POLICE & FIRE REPORT ●

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of May 20-26 The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

May 20

- At 1:35 a.m., officers responded to a breaking and entering at James Tire & Auto on N.C. 28 south.
- At 1 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two drivers at N. Cobb and Cobb roads. There were no injuries.
- At 12:35 p.m., officers responded to a breaking and entering and larceny at Elite Threads on Main Street.
- At 4:10 p.m., a hit and run of a parked vehicle was reported at Kelsey Hutchinson Lodge.

May 21

- At 3:17 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Many Road. All was secure.
- At 1:30 p.m., a larceny of jewelry at a residence on Potter Lane was reported.
- At 6:30 p.m., a motorist was cited for littering and driving left of center on U.S. 64 west.

May 22

- At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Old Edwards Inn. It was secure.

May 23

- At 10:26 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge.
- At 2:20 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Big Bear Pen.

May 24

- At 2 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles on Pine Street and one driver was cited for driving without a license.

May 25

- At 6:35 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 west and Hickory Hill was cited for speeding 51 mph in a 35 zone.
- At 9:30 a.m., officers made a residence check on Hickory Hill Lane.
- At 3:30 p.m., officers took a report of alleged threats made at a workplace.
- At 3:30 p.m., a resident at Village Square reported a lawn care service blowing debris into her shop.
- At 2:08 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Many Lane. It was secure.
- At 11:50 a.m., officers escorted Highlands School seniors through town.
- A little past midnight officers found an open kitchen door at ...on the Verandah.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the week of May 20-25

May 20

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

May 21

- The dept. provided mutual aid to assist Cashiers with a structure fire.
- The dept. responded to a two vehicle accident at the hospital entrance. There were no injuries.

... SPIRITUALLY continued from page 16

me and support me but it is only a Messiah who can change me.

If Jesus Christ is not foundational, I am bound for trouble. My problem is I try to make my faith in Jesus OPTIONAL. I don't mind being a Christian, as long as it doesn't interfere in my social life, or my career pursuit, or my night life. I like options. In college I loved the elective courses. It made me feel like I had control. We are an options kind of people. And when we have so many options, we accommodate. The things that are most important we try to make into options. But once again, there is only one thing that can be foundational for our house.

A good foundation requires discipline. Believe it or not, the world doesn't exist for us. We exist for the world. Life is wonderful. But this thing called life gets hard. It means being a disciple - it means doing the things you really don't want to do in order to become the person God created you to be.

This thing called discipleship is not just an extra thing if you have time or if the mood hits you. It is what your life will be built upon and what you will be known for. We're not supposed to lose Christian disciples when soccer season begins, or when basketball season begins, or when it gets warm enough to

pull your camper to the lake on weekends. Remember, you are known by your one thing!

For our graduates going to college, the test of how foundational Christ is in their lives will come on that first Sunday morning of their freshmen year. For those not going to college, what will they do when the seventh day of the week comes, what will they do? Discipline.

To be the person God created you to be requires making tough decisions. This is where it gets hard. If we base our life on what we feel like doing, we are bound for trouble. If we don't set our priorities, the world will set them for us.

I believe there is enough God-given potential in the class of 2004 to change the world. They are being sent out into a world that is so much more complex, so pressure-filled, more difficult to be faithful, than many adults today have experienced. But it's funny how God works. God has given them enough gifts, enough potential, to change the world - even this world. If they lay the foundation upon the rock - the solid rock - that will last - and what God will accomplish in and through them will be unlimited.

'Melt' at PAC Friday & Saturday

By Adam Heffernan
Contributor

Last weekend I had the pleasure of attending a performance of "Melt" a dance show presented by Dance Centre of WNC at the Huey Auditorium in Cullowhee.

I strongly urge everyone to attend this production when it arrives in Highlands this weekend at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center.

Featuring an incredible cast of area high school students (including Highlanders Russel & Sherri Marling) I was blown away by the amazing talents of these dancers.

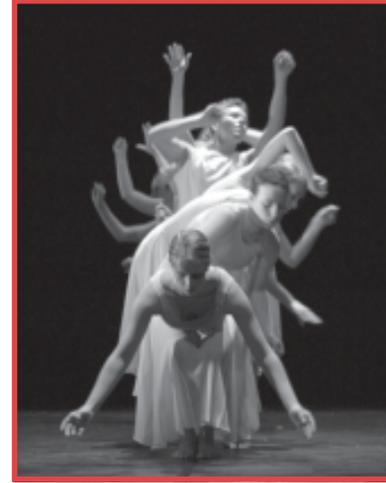
A collection of different dance styles, including ballet, modern and jazz, "Melt" is a brilliant two hours to spend at the theatre.

As someone who is not a dancer, I enjoyed the show immensely. It was funny and beautiful and poetic and so many other wonderful adjectives. I cannot recommend it enough.

The highlight of show for me was a modern number titled "Popeye" done to the music of Dave Mathews. I kid you not, it was deeply moving.

Kim Luzzi and her team have done outstanding work and it deserves an audience. Please, please do not miss

this. If you support children-in-the-arts programs, if you love modern, jazz and ballet, or even if you've never been to a dance concert, you must attend this show Friday or Saturday at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the PAC box office on Chestnut Street.



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- Whistlestop Antique Mall

Cashiers Road, Hwy 64e

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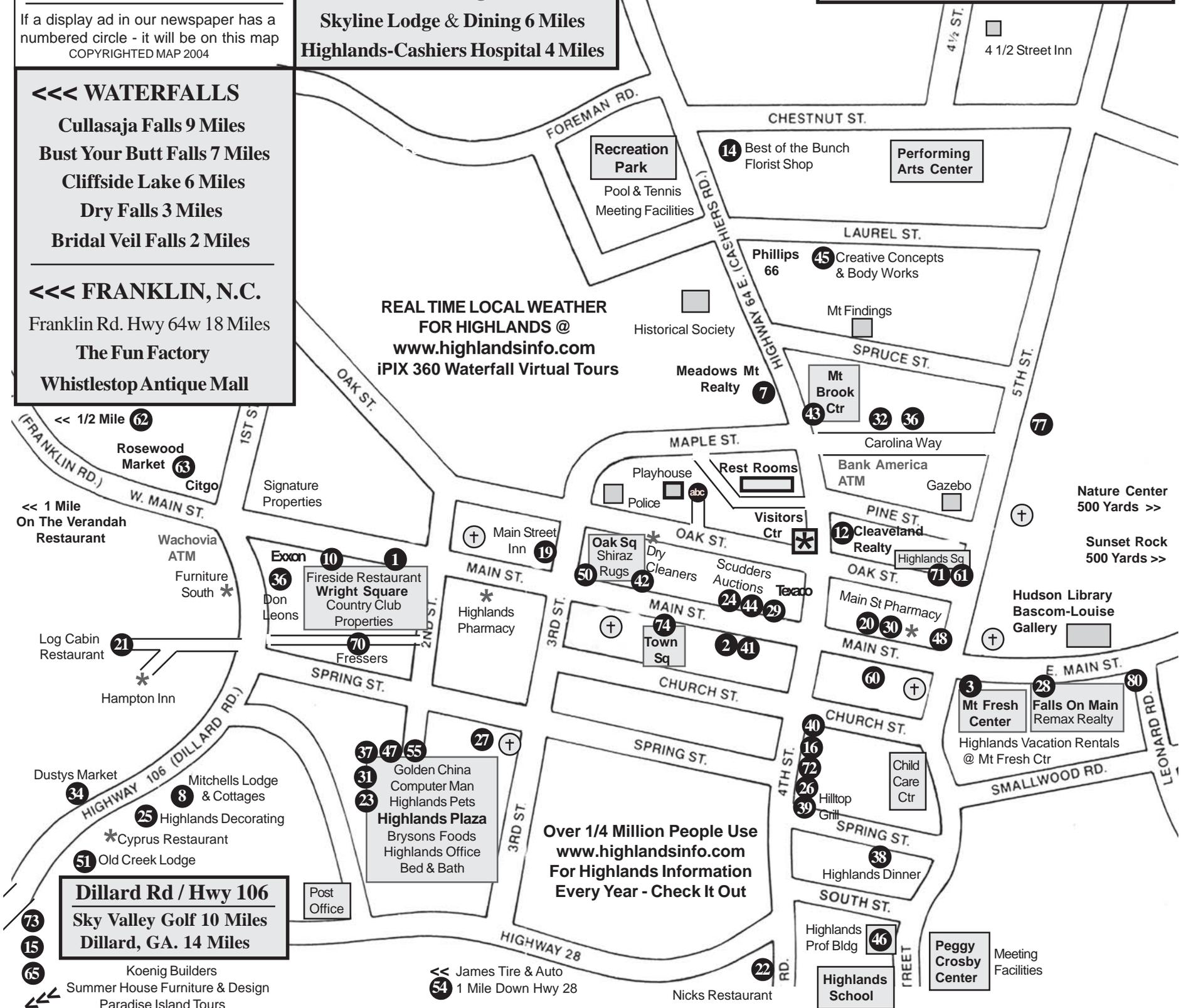
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- Highlands-Cashiers Hospital 4 Miles

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Bear Pen Mountain Lane

Located on over 1.8 acres and at the end of a mountain lane, this 3-bedroom, 3-bath home features antique heart of pine floors, 10-foot coffered beamed ceilings, split bedroom plan, custom kitchen with Corian countertops. Master bedroom opens onto a glassed sunroom. The sunroom and living room open out to a massive deck with a lovely view of Whiteside and Highlands Falls Country Club. Plenty of parking and great privacy. Offered at \$1,200,000. MLS# 52753.



Highlands Walk

Located walking distance from Main Street, this 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath is on a corner lot on a quiet cul-de-sac of six homes. Master bedroom on main level, large living room with gas logs fireplace, huge rocking chair porch. Offered at \$450,000. MLS# 52966.



Attractive Home

Located on Talley Lane, this lovely home sits on a knoll with a gently sloping yard. A large foyer opens into the vaulted living room with large fireplace. Main level master with huge master bath, kitchen with new appliances, breakfast nook, separate dining room and large 2-car garage on the main level. Upper level has three bedrooms, two baths plus an office or den. Excellent condition and a great home for year round or second home living. Offered at \$725,000. MLS# 53002.



Multiple Decks

This home has 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, and multiple decks. The main level consists of the family room with a floor to ceiling stone fireplace, vaulted ceilings, kitchen, dining room and the master bedroom and bath. There are 2 additional bedrooms and a bonus loft room on the upper level, as well as a lower level game room/family room with a 2nd fireplace that would be a great area for guests and children. This home has a one car garage and sits on just over 1/2 acre near the top of Mt. Lori. Offered fully furnished for \$385,000.



Great Starter Home with Level Yard

There are two bedrooms and two baths with an extra room that could be an office or den. Enjoy the deck off the master bedroom or the porch off the living room. This home was built in 1947 and has been thoughtfully improved and maintained over the years. Bring your updating ideas - there are wood floors under the carpeting and a chimney for a wood stove. You even have a great garden space in the backyard and a one-car detached garage. Offered at \$329,500. MLS# 52988.



Winfield Farms

Inside the gates of Winfield Farm artisans and craftsmen have come together to recreate a charming European farmhouse. Totally renovated with a mountain flair make this four bedroom, 3 1/2 - bath home a must see! A slate entryway invites you into the living area with stuccoed walls, wormy chestnut, massive beams, a vaulted ceiling and stone fireplace. All of which overlooks the pastures, pond, winter sunsets and long range view at the farm. The family kitchen, with granite countertops, stainless steel Kitchen Aid appliances and large eating area view the dressing ring. The master bedroom and bath are an escape all of their own. Downstairs offers a family room and a bedroom and bath. 1.9 plus or minus acres boasts a gazebo and tasteful landscaping with an equestrian environment. Offered at \$1,195,000. MLS# 53036.



Commercial Location on Hwy 64 West

This 3-bedroom doublewide sits on a level lot fronting Hwy 64 west. There is also an additional lot that may be an additional building site or adds to the functionality of the commercial property. A great package offered at \$139,000. MLS# 52347



Cullasaja Club Cabin

Conveniently located to the yacht club and lake on a very quiet cul-de-sac. This cabin features three bedrooms and three baths, large open great room with fireplace and wood floors. Large screened porch off living room for dining and entertaining. Offered at \$525,000. Club membership available at market rate an subject to club approval. MLS# 52543.



Ridgewoods

Four bedrooms, four baths, complete renovation. Oak floors and knotty pine paneling. Great mountain view. Offered at \$499,000. MLS# 52168

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