Positive changes at Police Dept.

By Kim Lewicki
highlandseditor@aol.com

The look and feel of the Highlands Police Department is changing inside and out.

The tiny space the department occupies on Oak Street is getting a much needed face-lift with new flooring and rugs, a fresh coat of paint and lots of reorganizing and renovations. Structuring within the department is

The race for Highlands Town Board

Mayoral Candidate
Mayor Buck Trott

Mayoral Candidate
Zeke Sossomon

Mayoral Candidate
Don Mullen

Commissioner Candidate
Amy Patterson

Commissioner Candidate
Eric Pierson

Commissioner Candidate
James Manley

Commissioner Candidate
Larry Rogers

Learn about them on page 2

Town Board candidate lineup

It looks like this year’s Highlands Town Board race will be an interesting one.

Three candidates are running for mayor – incumbent Mayor Buck Trott, Zeke Sossomon and Dr. Don Mullen.

Five candidates are running to fill two seats on the Town Board – incumbents Dr. Amy Patterson and Hank Ross, Eric Pierson, James Manley and Larry Rogers.

Terms for both the mayor and commissioners are four years. The terms alternate so every two years there is an election for either two commissioners and a mayor or three commissioners. Alternating off the board means the board is never made up of all new people.

Election Day is Nov. 8. Precincts open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Highlands’ polling place is the Highlands Civic Center.

The deadline to register to vote in Macon County is Oct. 14 at 5 p.m.

Absentee voting by mail begins Friday, Oct. 7 at 5 p.m. The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is Tuesday, Nov. 1 by 5 p.m. The last day for absentee ballots to be returned is to the Macon County Board of Elections at 5 West Main Street, Franklin, N.C. 28734, is Nov. 7 at 5 p.m. – the day before the election.

For more information call 349-2034.

Work to start on Bowery Rd. Mon., Aug. 15

By Kim Lewicki
highlandseditor@aol.com

Work on Bowery Road is set to begin Monday, Aug. 15.

NC DOT originally scheduled the job for mid-September but when supplies for another job failed to come in, the department decided to pull it and move on to the Bowery Road project.

Wesley Grindstaff, with NC DOT said a “promised” pre-construction meeting will take place Friday, Aug. 12, 11 a.m. at Town Hall.

“We’re actually going to be mobilizing on Monday, but we want to talk to the residents in the area so they know what to expect,” said Grindstaff.

NC DOT accepted the recommendations of Mary Pope with DOT’s historical commission branch, as to how construction should progress through the designated area. The first seven-tenths of the road are listed on the National Register as the Playmore/Bowery Road Historic District.

She recommended an 18-ft. road built without curbs, that the roadway be covered with a chip and seal surface to maintain its rural character and that clearing along the road be kept to a minimum.

“Some areas won’t have to be cleared to the edge of the right-of-way,” said Mayor Buck Trott. “Some curves will have to be adjusted, but bank slopes and crews will keep clearing to a minimum.”

Work on Bowery Road culminates years of legal battles between the town which has opted to improve Bowery Road and then turn it over to DOT and residents along the first-seven tenths who wanted the road to remain as it is.
Why should I be the next mayor of Highlands?

Mayor Buck Trott
When the Highlands voters make a decision as to who will be their mayor for the next four years, consideration must be given to past performance.

I honestly feel that during my eight years as mayor the record of successful accomplishments will withstand the most critical review. Each success reflects improvements for the total community.

Why should I be the next mayor of Highlands?

Zeke Sossonmon
Highlands’ Mayor needs several things: Some history — to remember where we came from to get to where we are; Some vision — to have an idea of where we can go from here; Some common sense — to learn what’s best for all of us, and what can really be done to accomplish this; Some ability — to explain the choices we have and why we do what we do in a way that everyone can understand:

Why should I be a Town Board Commissioner?

Dr. Don Mullen
As a seventh generation western North Carolinian I have a deep love not only for this area but for the people of our area of this state. With my experience in international (medical missionary activities in many developing countries for the past 25 years), national (both medical and religious organizations), and local (board membership on several not-for-profit organizations) activities I think

Why should I be a Town Board Commissioner?

Dr. Amy Patterson
The job of town commissioner has practical and philosophical components that are both important.

A good commissioner does her/his homework and takes the time to learn and digest the facts. Consistent, logical decisions are necessary. The Highlands and the surrounding area is growing and will continue to grow. We must respect the rich traditions of our town and the people who live here by better managing this growth. We should have only the growth that enhances this town.

Why should I be a Town Board Commissioner?

Hank Ross
Highlands and the surrounding area are growing and will continue to grow. We must respect the rich traditions of our town and the people who live here by better managing this growth. We should have only the growth that enhances this town.

Why should I be a Town Board Commissioner?

Eric Pierson
I believe I will be a good commissioner for Highlands for several reasons. Being born and raised here and the fact that my family has lived here for many generations, I feel that I have a vested and true interest in the town. I want to see

Why should I be a Town Board Commissioner?

James Manley
I have lived in Highlands all my life. I have nothing to gain by being on the Town Board. I would just like to try to do what’s best for the town.

Why should I be a Town Board Commissioner?

Larry Rogers
Having been a lifelong resident of Highlands, I have seen it grow and change in a tremendous way. Since we all know that growth is a part of every town, I would like to be someone that the people can talk to if they have a question or

Why should I be a Town Board Commissioner?
Poster winners kick off festival

Many thanks to everyone who entered the Cajun Music and Dance Festival Poster Contest. We had two winners in the adult division. Brian Starr will have his original art appear on the poster designed by Bonnie Earman. It is a great poster and captures the flavor and energy of the festival. Corey Baldwin won in the children’s division and will receive two tickets to the festival and a gift basket from The Toy Store.

The Cajun Dance and Music Festival is a fundraiser for the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center and will take place at PAC on Sunday, September 4 at 6 p.m. The Atlanta Swamp Opera will be performing with dance lessons by Carolina Cajun Dance and some great Cajun cuisine provided by Let Holly Do The Cooking and Don Leon’s Deli Cafe. All of the art work of those participating in the poster contest will be on display for viewing.

Buy your tickets now at The Toy Store, PAC, Let Holly Do The Cooking or Don Leon’s Deli Cafe. Don’t miss the big fun this Labor Day Weekend!

• OBITUARIES •

Fern Wiley Reuter

Fern Wiley Reuter, age 87, of Highlands, died Monday, August 8, 2005 in the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was a native of Meridan, Miss., a daughter of the late William E. and Leona Chaney Wiley. She was married to the late Frederic Luther Reuter. She had worked for a collection agency. She attended Highlands First Presbyterian Church. She is survived by a special friend, Alice Gadilhe of Highlands and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, August 10, 2005 at 3:30 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands with Rev. Hunter Coleman officiating. Burial was in the Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Highlands First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 548, Highlands, N.C., 28741.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Martha W. Mangum

Martha W. Mangum, 79, a longtime Highlands resident, died after a short illness, August 8, 2005 at her home.

She was preceded in death by her husband Dr. C.T. “Mike” Mangum.

She was born in Eden, N.C., to Alice and Homer Wright and attended Greensboro College and Wake Forest University.

In Highlands, she was an avid bridge player, gardener, artist and reader. She regularly sketched scenes of the Highlands plateau.

She is survived by nine children and stepchildren: daughter, Alice Welden and her husband David of Powder Springs, Ga.; son Tim Kirkpatrick and his wife Anne of Chapel Hill, N.C.; son Michael Kirkpatrick and his wife Susan of W. Palm Beach, Fl.; son John Kirkpatrick of Louisville, Ky.; stepdaughter, Dr. Michele Mangum and her husband Jim Stiles of Highlands; stepdaughter Marsha Gunnel of Providence, N.C.; stepson, Geoff Mangum and his wife Anne of Greensboro, N.C.; stepson, Steve Mangum and his wife Beth of Marietta, Ga.; and stepson, Michael Mangum of Eden, N.C.

She is also survived by brothers Homer Wright and James Wright of Eden, N.C.

A memorial service was held Thursday, August 11, 2005 at Highlands Memorial Park. Pastor Eddie Ingram of Highlands United Methodist Church presided.

Memorials may be made to Highlands United Methodist Church’s Bolivia mission.
Yearly “They and Them” Gadfly Report

Yes, it’s that time of year again when I make a serious (ha) attempt to dispel rumors, make predictions and set the record straight on our many social and political happenings going on right here in Highlands. Here is my grand report.

Norma Rae Wellington arrived in town from Climax, Georgia and announced to all eligible males that she is looking for a beau. Mike Smith, of Highlands Hiker fame, couldn’t wait to meet her. He recommended a special they are running that comes with five arrows and a sheath.

There is no truth to the rumor that wannabe Mayor Zeke Sossomon, incumbent Buck Trott and newcomer Minister Don Mullen (who)! will mud wrestle in the social hall of a local church. I believe it has been moved to the Pig Pen Restaurant in Dillard.

Trott accused Sossomon of mud slinging and Minister Mullen is walking around saying, “Oh, Lord, what have I done.” Let’s see, a Lawyer, a Santa and a Minister in the same ring. Is there a joke there somewhere? More to come. Maybe a winkin’, blinkin’ and nod story is in order.

Whadyathink?

Prim and proper Sally Duncan Moore of Highlands has announced she will marry scoundrel Jeffrey Easley Now of Otto. The Now family submitted this for the newspaper, “Duncan Moore/Easley Now Wedding Announced.”

If Lenny Baer, our brave new lawyer in town, goes into practice with Franklin lawyer Michael Butts, it would be the Baer Butts Law Firm.

Bill Bassham, Director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, will have a ceremonial ribbon permanently grafted to his hand.

A Cherokee Indian burial ground will be uncovered during the paving of Bowery Road. The Indians will declare the land sacred and build a casino right over the site. Cars will drive between the slots and black jack tables and DOT will mark the area.

*See WOOLDRIDGE page 8
Play golf for Highlands School

By Misty Thomas
Staff Writer

That’s right, golf can be a giving sport. When golf enthusiasts think of mountain golf, Highlands is certainly on the list of “must do’s.” The breathtaking views, small town charm, and mild climate make for an enjoyable atmosphere. Now let’s throw in the fact that the courses have been designed by many greats, including Arnold Palmer, and that the legend Bobby Jones still holds records waiting for someone to break; well, you’ve got some golfer’s dream come true.

Did you know that by golfing in Highlands on August 29 you can help make many students’ dreams come true? Here’s where the giving begins.

The Highlands School Golf Tournament is an all-volunteer event that helps raise money for the Scholarship Endowment Fund. This fund was created in 1987 and now contains more than $625,000. Each year the interest earned by the fund is used to give many bright and needy students money for school. Last year that provided $25,200. The more the fund grows the more interest it earns, the more money that can be given, and the more students that can be helped. Golf is good.

Who gets theses scholarships? All graduates are eligible, regardless of GPA. Applications for the scholarship are reviewed by a committee appointed by the Town’s Board of Commissioners. Students can use this scholarship at any trade school, college or university of their choice, and the funds are paid directly to the institution. The cost of a child’s education is rising each year, making the family contribution even greater. One of the most awesome advantages to this fund is that graduates can reapply for the scholarship year after year to help with those expenses. The average scholarship awarded to each student is $500. Now, there are three other awards given. The Jack Taylor award, $1,000, is awarded to a top student. The Edith Joel Memorial Scholarship, $1,500, is donated each year by Richard Joel in memory of his wife, and given to an outstanding student.

Miranda Dotson, who was the receiver of the Jack Brockway award in 2004, attends Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC where her yearly tuition is around $42,000. Miranda recently reapplied for the scholarship and was awarded $300 to help with this year’s tuition. Miss Dotson intends to reapply each year, and agrees that the extra money definitely helps ease the squeeze that families feel when it comes time to pay the tuition bill.

Now here comes the golf part. The event will be held, for the first time, at The Cullasaja Club. This course is beautiful designed by Arnold Palmer with a No. 5 hole that Golf Digest put on its top 10 lists. The facility has recently undergone a $10 million renovation that is sure to delight and exceed expectations. David A. Call, General Manager, is looking forward to providing the venue for such a worthy cause. He very aptly put it as a way of thanking the future leaders of our community. A special thanks should be given to the Cullasaja Club members for graciously giving up use of their facility for the event.

The Club is also hosting the awards party, to begin at 5 p.m., and golfers may purchase an additional ticket for a guest. Attire for the event will be “came off-the-course-casual” look, where cocktails and heavy hors d’oeuvres will be served. If you are a sponsor then you will receive two free tickets to the awards party.

There are several different levels of contribution available — platinum sponsor of the 1st or 18th tee with a $1,000 contribution available — platinum sponsor of the 1st or 18th tee with a $1,000 dollar donation; Tee/Green Sponsor for $625,000. Each year the interest earned last year that provided $25,200. The $625,000. Each year the interest earned is awarded to each student is $500. Now, there are three other awards given. The Jack Taylor award, $1,000, is awarded to a top student. The Edith Joel Memorial Scholarship, $1,500, is donated each year by Richard Joel in memory of his wife, and given to an outstanding student.

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HS athletic practice going on

Boys Soccer
- Conditioning Practice has started. Anyone boys interested in playing on this year’s team, please contact Coach David Parrish at 421-5391 for more information on times and locations.

Varsity Girls Volleyball
- Practice with Coach Rawlins starts August 8 at 5 p.m.

Co-ed Cross Country
- Anyone interested in running meet with Coach Thomas every morning until school starts, at 8 a.m. at the track.

... POLICE continued from page 1

changing, too, for the better, hopes Chief Bill Harrell, all within the previously allotted budget.

By changing to 12-hour shifts from the six days on and three days off cycle, Harrell believes he can get more coverage with his 10 officers. "There will be two officers per shift at all times," he said. "With one of them a full-time School Resource Officer at Highlands School."

"We have the blessing of the Town Board, the Sheriff’s Dept. and the school on this," said Harrell. "I am passionate about protecting the young people."

Two familiar faces are leaving the department – Asst. Chief Willy Houston will retire effective Aug. 31 and Officer Tim Cook resigned Aug. 7 to take a position with the Virginia State Department of Corrections.

The previous hierarchy of Chief, and Assistant Chief, has been eliminated. Now there are two captains under the chief – one who will head up investigations and administrative work and one who will head up field operations.

Detective Todd Ensley, has been promoted to Chief Detective and Captain of Support Services. "He will be responsible for investigations, administrative duties and executive decisions, at my discretion," said Harrell.

Tony Carver, previously with the Macon County Sheriff Department, took over Aug. 10 as Captain of Field Operations. "I hope the community will be pleased with the changes and all I ask is that people be patient," said Harrell. "Good things are going to come of this."

He said what people will see is a very close relationship between the Macon County Sheriff Department and the Highlands Police Department. "It will be a marriage that will give us the best possible coverage and support," said Harrell.

The two most recent additions to the department have come from the Sheriff Department but Harrell said he’s not intentionally recruiting from there.

"But when law enforcement officers in the area hear we have an opening, particularly people in the Sheriff Department with whom I have a relationship and respect, they express an interest in working with me in this community."

The Doug Farmer, formerly a detective with Sheriff Department has also accepted a position with the Highlands Police Department and will be sworn in over the next few days.

All told, Highlands Police Department will continue to employ 10 sworn officers and one unsworn officer – Chris Allen, the “bike cop” will become a sworn officer when he completes the Basic Law Enforcement Test.

Harrell said the support he has received from the public since he took office July 11 has been outstanding.

"I am overwhelmed by the support," he said. "Actually, that’s an understatement."

... LARRY continued from page 2

Concern.

I have also served on the Town’s zoning board for more than 10 years and I am very familiar with the zoning ordi- nance. I also have a particular interest in the water and sewer distribution of Highlands, since this is a necessity for the people inside the town limits.
MULLEN continued from page 2

I have a deep understanding and ability to communicate with people on all socioeconomic levels.

As a cardiologist for more than 20 years and leader of a team in which life and death depended, I am very meticulous in organizational skills which result in success. As business manager for a large professional medical practice in Milwaukee with over 30 employees, I have the business sense and skills to be able to understand and supervise the business of the Town of Highlands. As Chairman of a multimillion dollar international organization for the last nine years (Philadelphia International Foundation), I am experienced in leadership and organization not only of people but money.

As Chief of Staff of one of the largest hospitals in the Midwest, I think I have “people skills” to manage efficiently and compassionately people working with me. My experience in moderating many different boards and organizations in many difficult situations will give me the ability to moderate the meetings of the Board of Town Commissioners in an efficient, appropriate and timely manner.

As an educator (Professor of Surgery) at two medical universities, I have a keen interest in education and activities of young people. Our future is in our youth and we must pay special attention to this most important part of our community in developing programs and places where the young people can congregate and will feel comfortable.

As a physician and minister I have a deep compassion for all people regardless of socioeconomic or religious background and intend to protect the interest of all people in a fair, even and reasonable manner. The overall business and well-being of the people of Highlands is very important to me as I look to lead the town into a new era.

HANK continued from page 2

Highlands, continuing to make it a great place to live and work. Along with this critical issue, I also have great concerns about the protection of our drinking water and natural resources, the improvement of our roadways and utilities in ways that reflect the quaint character of our town, and the upgrading of our recreation facilities to better meet the needs of our citizens, young and old.

The experience I have from my four years as a town commissioner will be a valuable resource to call upon during the next four years. Since Highlands is at critical time in its growth, I feel we need all of the knowledge and experience possible to help us deal with these challenges. Along with my experience on the town board, my land planning and construction background have given me the skills to do much of the commissioner’s tasks. My environmental design education gives my insight into protection of our natural resources and greatly helps in planning for the needs of the town.

I will work my hardest to bring people together to find solutions for all of these challenges in the next four years.

TROTT continued from page 2

For example, construction has started on the wastewater treatment plant and capacity expansion has been tripled and should satisfactorily serve the town for many years.

The Town recently adopted the required updated Land Use Plan. The plan will help control growth over the next 10 years.

The improvement of Bowery Road – which turned into a long and arduous task over several years — begins next week and will create a safe, usable road for our citizens.

The job of mayor involves considerable efforts beyond the physical limits of the town. Close involvement with other government entities is absolutely essential to successful government. Network development and contracts allows expedition of desired results.

Over the past eight years, I have served on the Board of Directors of N.C. League of Municipalities, the Legislative Action Committee, the Western North Carolina Caucus, Macon Program for Progress, the Southwestern Economic Development Commission, Smoky Mountain District and Healthy

See TROTT page 9

HS GOLF continued from page 5

a $500 dollar donation; practice putting green sponsor, practice range sponsor. These two will allow mention in the program and a sign. For a $250 donation patron sponsors will be mentioned in the event program. To be a participant costs $125 per contestant. All monetary donations are tax deductible.

JAMES continued from page 2

ing circumstances. I try to use a common sense approach to my decision-making in my leadership capacity and I would do the same if elected to the Town Board.
Blood drive for Relay for Life

Participants in this year’s Mountain Top Relay for Life will be asked to give some of their blood, as well as their sweat and tears.

For the first time, the AnMed Bloodmobile will be on hand for the local Relay for Life, which is scheduled for Aug. 26 at the Highlands Recreation Park.

The annual walk to raise money for the fight against cancer usually draws hundreds of walkers, cancer survivors, and onlookers. Organizers are hoping that will be the case again this year. And hospital officials are hoping that many of those who come out will take a few minutes to give “the gift of life.”

“At first glance, some might wonder what giving blood has to do with fighting cancer,” said Skip Taylor, director of Community Relations for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and organizer of the hospital’s blood drives. “However, there is a very direct connection, especially here. Nearly half the units of blood products used at the hospital each year go to transfuse patients with cancer or cancer-like diseases. Many of those patients are undergoing chemotherapy.”

The hospital is expected to use approximately 450 units of blood products this year, some 45 percent of which will be used for patients with cancer or cancer-like blood diseases, with their cute little orange flags.

Dictator Jack Calloway, of Highlands Hospital, will travel to Asheville to have a strange growth removed from under his armpit. He will wake from surgery to find Dr. Heffington has successfully transplanted the growth to his nose.

Dosie Mae Reynolds, of Orchard Creek, came to Highlands to visit with her family but found they had quickly moved without telling her. Dosie suffers from skin rash and uncontrollable bowel fluid. If anyone knows where Dosie’s relatives are, please call me at (828) GET-REAL.

The need for blood is especially critical this summer.

Anyone can come out and give the night of Relay, which begins at 6 p.m. that Friday. The blood mobile will be accepting donations until 9 p.m., though Relay will continue until 7 a.m. the next morning. Those who may not be able to get to Relay will have another opportunity to donate blood earlier that day. The AnMed unit will be in the front parking lot of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. that Friday.

No appointment is necessary to donate at either location. To be eligible to donate blood, one should be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in generally good health. If you have heart disease or other chronic illness you may still be able to donate. Bloodmobile staff will determine donor eligibility on a case by case basis.

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

With their cute little orange flags.

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The little missus and I attended a gala fifties dance at the Highlands Falls Country Club. Attempting to look like “The Fonz,” I wore my best white T-shirt, jeans and a black leather jacket. Just to make the event authentic, I picked a fight with John Cleaveland and he beat the tar out of me.

Highlands newest member of the clergy, Father Tien, held a special tea party just for the ladies of the parish; the event was called Tea “in” with Tien. After much study, the Macon County School Board will vote to have a small creek run through mid court at the new Highlands Gym. Students will be issued waterproof sneakers.

Even better, tourists will be charged a nominal fee to visit the gym to pan for gems (salted, of course) during off hours. Principal Monica Bomengen will name the building “The Gym Gem.”

Emperor Art Williams, of the OEI Kingdom, will ask the town for permission to build a skyscraper condominium at the end of 5th Street. The board will approve but angry Highlanders will rebel and Mr. Williams will be forced into hiding. They will call the structure the “Where Fore Art Thou Williams” building.

The US Forest Service final report on the Bridal Veil Falls disaster is finally in. There is no longer any doubt in their minds that the rock fell as the result of severe gravity. The report also dispels rumors that a missing tourist is buried under the rock. A spokesman stated that he didn’t think anyone would be strong enough to lift the rock and put someone under it. Good thinking, guys.

Finally, are you sitting down? Sweet little Miss Charlotte is sleeping with that scalawag, ole Dusty. What that poodle sees in that disgusting old bloodhound is beyond me.
Mary Lee Malcolm to sign at Cyrano's

Mary Lee Malcolm will sign copies of "Silent Lies" on Friday, August 12, from 1-3 p.m. at Cyrano’s Bookshop. Inspired by true events from the author’s family and based on actual historical occurrences between the two world wars, Malcolm’s novel tells the story of a young man caught in a tide of events beyond his control.

Born into poverty, Leo Hoffman is adopted by a wealthy Jewish family in Budapest, only to see his dazzling new life destroyed by the Communist takeover of Hungary in 1920. Relying on his amazing ability to mimic behavior and languages, Leo reinvents himself as circumstances require, eventually fleeing to Shanghai—the only place in the civilized world where, without a passport or visa, he could start over.

Fraught with intrigue, passion, and adventure, Malcolm’s book is both a romantic rags-to-riches tale and a suspenseful thriller, reminiscent of Susan Howatch and Jeffrey Archer.

Malcolm has won several awards for her short fiction, including special recognition in the prestigious Lorian Hemingway International Short Story competition.

After three years of practicing law in Atlanta, she determined that she and the law "were not meant for each other" and is now a self-described "recovering attorney" living in the Los Angeles area with her husband, John, and children, where she works as a freelance journalist.

Author to sign book at Shakespeare & Co.

Is there a restaurant where even the President of the United States and other world leaders will stand in line? According to Marda Burton and Kenneth Holditch, authors of the new book, "Galatoire’s: Biography of a Bistro" (Hill Street Press, July 2004), during their respective tenures, Franklin Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, and Jimmy Carter gamely stood in line at Galatoire’s, the famed 100-year-old New Orleans restaurant, but Gerald Ford and Charles de Gaulle refused.

Saturday, Aug. 20, 4-6 p.m. (4:30 reading and remarks by Burton) at Shakespeare & Co. in The Village Square at Oak and Fifth streets, there will be a book-signing party in the spirit of the famous Paris used-bookstore of the same name, where American visitors and expats often gather salon-style on weekends to share their talents and literary offerings.

Travel Editor of "Veranda" magazine, Marda Burton has spent the last few summers in Highlands working on the Galatoire’s book, which is full of quirky and ironic stories that epitomize New Orleans.

... TROTT continued from page 7

Carolinians.

Serving on these groups allows me to get projects focusing on our town underway. It involves considerable travel to both Raleigh and Washington, D.C. But such efforts lead to essential contacts and personal influence leading to legislation favoring Western North Carolina and our area specifically and gives me first-hand information about program development for our area at its earliest stages.

The role of mayor of Highlands is a demanding position involving hours of articulating the needs and requirements of our town. Locally, the role of monitoring town projects and supervisors is truly demanding; however, the oversight of budget activities is most essential.

I am pleased to say that the town has undergone many costly and necessary projects over the past eight years. Our town is solvent and has adequate reserves to face future unforeseen crises.

It has been a pleasure to serve the people of Highlands and I have the necessary time and energy to continue serving as mayor.
By Sara Bates

Highlands Rotary Exchange Student

As you are reading this, I am on the other side of the world and six hours ahead of your time in South Africa!

My name is Sara Bates, and right now I am into the second week of my one year Rotary Youth Exchange in King William's Town, on the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

After four flights and 40 hours from my departure in Charlotte to my final destination in South Africa, it feels wonderful to be here. I never thought all the clothing on my bedroom floor would fit into my two duffels, but with the help of my "vacuum pack storage bags" and my mom's very effective way of squeezing the air out of the bags by sitting on them, somehow it all fit with room to spare.

From shopping for a very strict British-style uniform, to my first bash (barbecue), and my first bash (party) life here is very new and interesting. My uniform consists of stockings, a sweater, and a blazer, all in navy, a white blouse (buttoned to the top), with a red-striped and a (sorry to say) tie and "Carolina blue" jumper.

While my friends back home at Highlands High School will be wearing American clothing, I will not be wearing jewelry or eye makeup to school, but my hair ties will offer some variety, red in the winter and white in the summer. So creative! Also, in the summer, the navy colored stockings will change to knee-socks! We will take a picture when my uniform is complete.

Just a few days into this experience and I already feel very comfortable. The people here have interesting British accents, which I have already picked up, and they are very warm and welcoming. Kingsridge High School is about 75 percent black and many of the rest are "coloured." There are 422 girls in KHS who all seem curious about how I am doing, if I like South Africa, and how many famous people I know back home. Coming from America means that you live with movie stars and famous musicians!

My classes at school will include English, Art, Biology, PE, Science, Math and Afrikaans as my foreign language. School starts at 7:15 everyday except for Monday, which begins at 8:30. The classes are challenging, but the teachers seem very willing to help me catch up. In any case, after morning "tea and biscuits" the day seems much more manageable!

King William’s Town is bigger than Highlands, (most cities are), but it is small enough that I am sure I will become very familiar with the city soon. My current home looks down onto the city and valley below, with the rugby fields and cricket fields within view. Most of my new friends play rugby, field hockey or water polo, and my host sister Lauren is at a tennis match at the moment. Everyone I have spent time with has been very friendly and welcoming.

Well, I must go. I already have a good amount of homework I need to work on! I hope everyone back at home in the mountains is doing well, and I promise to stay in touch. Many thanks to the Rotary Club of Highlands and all my family and friends that have made this experience possible.

So, as everyone here says, "Cheers!"

Note: Sara Bates is one of the two Highlands Rotary out-going exchange students. Like Rachel Power, who is now in Arica, Chili, Sara is jumping into school mid-semester. In the southern hemisphere, our summer is their winter. Their “summer break” comes at Christmas time.
**BUSINESS NEWS**

**Drake’s offers one-of-a-kind jewels**

On Saturday, Aug. 6, Wanda and Gary Drake officially opened their store, Drake’s Diamond Gallery, located on S. Second Street one block south of Main Street. They feature custom-made, one-of-a-kind designs as well as traditional settings. They are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 526-5858.

*Photo by Kim Lewicki*

**Annual open house draws crowds**

Families and children of all ages lined up for a ride on a fire truck and for a hot dog plate with all the fixings at Saturday's annual open house at the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department. The department raised $2,600 through donations. Last year they raised $1,950.

*Photo by Kim Lewicki*

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A Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Dr. Sherrer is the former head of GYN services at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta.

**With offices in Highlands and Clayton For appointments call 828-526-2817**

**... ERIC continued from page 2**

Highlands grow enough to remain viable while maintaining its character and charm.

I am a member of Highlands Fire & Rescue, have worked with Macon County EMS, served on the Town of Highlands Planning Board and Appearance Commission for eight years, served a stint on the Macon County EDC and I’ve been a member of the Macon County Planning Board for the last few years.

Through my board and commission affiliations, I have gained a good bit of knowledge about our town and citizens, and I have developed a solid working relationship with several members of the Macon County Board of Commissioners which I believe will be valuable for town and county relations.

And finally, I do not have a set agenda for the Town, so I am willing to listen to everyone’s suggestions or ideas and be open enough to decide what is right for Highlands and the majority of its citizens, made within both the context of the current situation and the framework of the future and long-range consequences for Highlands.

A commissioner must have clear, guiding principles that provide the litmus test for all decisions. A commissioner’s only special interest is Highlands. A commissioner must be part of the community on many levels and be empathetic to and approachable by fellow community members. A commissioner should understand and love the community in a visceral way. A commissioner needs to understand what is important to regulate for the good of the community and what does not need to be controlled.

These are the important qualities that make a good commissioner. I have always tried to adhere to these principles in my service as a town commissioner.

**... AMY continued from page 2**
Some courage — to try to lead the Town, even when the Town Board’s decision is not universally popular.

I’ve spent most of my life in these mountains, first in Cullowhee, then Sylva, and for the last 20 years here. All of these mountain towns have mostly similar histories and similar problems and growing pains. We’ve all gone from being pretty remote, when just a few people knew about us, to being pretty popular as more and more folks discover the mountain experience. It’s going to get worse, so we’ve got to plan for it and deal with it. I still work full time. That gives me daily contact with the things that are really going on here. It also gives me a pretty good idea of what others expect from us, and of what our citizens want for themselves. Being a lawyer in a small town puts you into contact with almost everybody at one time or another. You make your living explaining things to people, answering their questions, and trying to make sure they do things right.

I’ve served on both the Town Board and its Zoning Board. Neither is particularly glamorous, but I do know how the Town works, both the strong points and the weak.

The town has an enviable situation and we can only be thankful that, for whatever reason, we have what we have. The trick for the next Mayor and Town Board is to lay the groundwork to keep as much as possible of what made us. You can’t keep it all. Nothing stays the same for long. But if you do the job correctly you might wind up better than where you started. I think I can do that.

... ZEKE continued from page 2
In my coffee house discussions, I am always struck by the way people view God in the Old Testament in order to excuse certain cultural practices in the 21st century. You have probably heard good people say, “Why is God so angry in the Old Testament? I think it’s time we move on. The God of the New Testament is different, so loving.” Is that so?

We live in a time when people have a lot to say about God. However, once the surface is scratched the god which is exposed is usually not the Triune God. My lament is that most people pay little attention to God's self-disclosure (fancy term meaning: revealing) as it unfolds in the biblical story. Let me explain.

The early church father Marcion alluded to this apparent problem of a God who is angry in the Old Testament and loving in the New Testament. In other words, the God of the Old Testament was inferior to the God of the New Testament. Thankfully, the church’s response was to reject Marcion’s teaching as heresy and to affirm that all the books contained in our canon were inspired by the one and same God. Since we are humans and flawed, Marcion’s question remains with us today. Thankfully, God’s self-disclosure of himself is still with us too!

Upon listening to people and to their complaint, I always look for a way to speak the truth boldly and tenderly. The reality is, and this is when the deer in the headlight syndrome appears, there is no difference between images of God presented in the Old Testament and New Testament. St. John clearly states that “No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known” (Jn 1:18). What St. John is pointing out is that the very character of God the Father of the Old Testament is revealed to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. To meet one of them is to meet them both! How wonderful and amazing that our God is unchanging in his character. If he was, the church would be confused as to say who God is. You see, Jesus is no more loving than his Father. The Father is no more judge than Jesus!

There are three crucial points which we all must remember: 1. There is love in the Old Testament; 2. There is judgment in the New Testament; 3. The main difference is a difference between judgment within history (Old Testament) and judgment at the end of history (New Testament).

In the Old Testament, God presents himself first foremost as a God of love. Let’s look at Exodus 34: 6-7: “And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin.” We also see in the Old Testament God reaching out to Israel in their disobedience. Time and time again he calls Israel back to himself by sending prophets. When Israel kills the prophets, he sends more! That is love! That is mercy! In Hosea 11.8 God says to his people...
Town Of Highlands Scholarship Fund Golf Classic
Monday, August 29 at the Cullasaja Club

I/We __________________________ would like to make a donation and become a sponsor of this exciting event in the following manner:

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Please find attached a check made payable to the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund in the amount of $_________ or you may contact David Cull to make credit card payments for the Golf. Sponsor donations may also be made through David Cull.

All Monetary Donations are Tax Deductible

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Please attach your credit card information to this form and mail to

Highlands School
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info@mountaincenters.org.

Please call 526-5838 for further information.

Event Agenda
11 a.m. – Registration & Lunch Buffet in Clubhouse, Practice Range Open, Tee Gift Distribution, Complimentary Beverages on Course
12:30 p.m. – Shotgun Start – California Scramble
5 p.m. – 7 p.m. – Cocktail, Hors d’oeuvres and Awards Party

To become a Sponsor or make a gracious donation you may contact Helen Simmons at 508-2542. To make arrangements to play in the event you may contact David Cull at 526-3531. You may also fax this form to David Cull at 526-3560 after making credit card payment arrangements with him.

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New! HealthTracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, offering a special class fitness classes Monday through Thursday. HealthTracks at 526-348 for details.

- Various art classes held for children and adults at the Bascom-Louise Gallery throughout the week. Call, 526-2499
- Each Thursday – Open House at Chestnut Hill of Highlands. Highlands-Cashiers senior residential community. Refreshments and tour of the model home and clubhouse.
- Al-Anon Group meets at noon on Thursdays in the Community Room at First Presbyterian Church.
- Mountainview Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the remodeled basement room of the Presbyterian Church sanctuary; Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wednesdays and Fridays at noon.

Aug. 11
- Live music at SweeTreat, 7-10 p.m.; Bobby Sullivan, Keyboard and Vocals

Aug. 12
- Live music at Bascom-Louise Gallery, a lecture, “Collecting Wood Art Works” presented by Arthur and Jane Mason in the Gallery at 7 p.m.

Aug. 13
- Live music at SweeTreat, 7-10 p.m.; Kevin Bolick, Guitar and Vocals
- Mary Lee Malcolm will sign copies of Silent Lies at Friday from 1-3 p.m. at Cyrano’s Bookshop.

Aug. 14
- Live music at Al-Amigos, 7-10 p.m.; Caro Crimmins, Vocals and Jerry Lambert, Keyboard.
- 125th year Anniversary of Highlands’ Inn. Food, music and tours are planned.
- Highlands quilters guild quilt show from 10 - 4 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley Community enter (3 mi. east of Cashiers) on HWY 64 in Fairfield Resort area) Numerous quilts; boutique; silent auction of miniature and small quilts; door prizes; quilt raffle; demonstrations; vendors. Arts & Crafts Show in same area. Everyone welcome!!

Aug. 15
- Nantahala Hiking Club annual picnic at Cliffside Lake
- Audubon Annual Picnic, Highlands Rec Park, 5 p.m. All are welcome, please call 526-2775 and bring a dish to share. Meet at the South Picnic Shelter.

Aug. 18
- Live music at SweeTreat, 7-10 p.m.; Bobby Sullivan, Keyboard and Vocals

Aug. 19
- Live music at Al-Amigos, 7-10 p.m.; Bobby Sullivan, Keyboard and Vocals
- The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will meet at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Library in Cashiers. Alan Rogers, head guide for Smoky Moun-
UPCOMING EVENTS

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3.5 mile moderate-to-strenuous hike to Three Forks, where three waterfalls converge to form a fork of the Chattooga River. A swim in the river at your own risk is optional on this hike, which requires a river crossing and a scramble down a steep bank and over rocks. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or at the Scaly Mountain post office at 9:50 a.m. Call leader Mo Wheeler, 526-9561, for reservations.

Aug. 21
• On Sunday, the Highlands Ministerial Association will host the “Service of Blessing for the School Year.” This ecumenical worship service will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church. The service will offer a blessing and encouragement to faculty, staff, students, parents, volunteers, and the community who supports students and schools. A nursery will be provided. Please bring school supplies as an offering.

Aug. 23-27

Aug. 24
• On Wednesday, singer, storyteller, and folk-theologian, Ed Kilbourne, will perform at Highlands United Methodist Church at 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This musical poet is known for his collections of moving music, witty humor, and insightful monologues. He combines acoustic guitar, keyboards, and singing with a storytelling style that has been compared to Garrison Keiller. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. for $4. Call 526-3376 to make a dinner reservation. Reservations are not needed for the concert.


Aug. 26
• The Highlands Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike on the Cliffside loop trail from the Skitty Creek trail on Hwy. 64 between Franklin and Highlands. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m., or call leader for an alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-2860 for reservations.

Aug. 27
• On Monday, at 6 p.m., in the school cafeteria, the guidance office of Highlands School will sponsor "Junior Night" to discuss graduation requirements, NC Scholar requirements, financial aid and scholarships, PSAT, SAT and ACT exams, AP classes and SCC classes. On Monday, the Macon County Board of Education will meet at The Administrative Office Building in Franklin at 6 p.m. The public is invited to this meeting.

Aug. 28
• Women’s Invitation Golf Tournament at Highlands Falls Country Club. Club Professional Allen Chandler has designed an interesting format that combines nine holes of Captain’s Choice with nine holes of Best Ball of Four – just for women. Cost is $125 per person and includes breakfast, lunch and tee gifts. To sign up, call Christy Kelly at the Peggy Crosby Center, 526-9938, ext. 110.

Aug. 29
• On Tuesday, John Rosmond, family psychologist, author, and speaker will present a seminar on “The Three Keys to Effective Discipline,” at Highlands School. The presentation will be useful to parents, grandparents, and other adults who care about children, toddlers to teens. It will be at 7 p.m. It’s free. Supper will be served for a nominal fee beginning at 6 p.m. and childcare will be provided for a donation to the Junior Class.

Aug. 30
• On Wednesday, singer, storyteller, and folk-theologian, Ed Kilbourne, will perform at Highlands United Methodist Church at 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This musical poet is known for his collections of moving music, witty humor, and insightful monologues. He combines acoustic guitar, keyboards, and singing with a storytelling style that has been compared to Garrison Keiller. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. for $4. Call 526-3376 to make a dinner reservation. Reservations are not needed for the concert.

UPCOMING EVENTS
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NEEDED WIRELESS NETWORK ENGINEER AND WEB DEVELOPER. Must have experience on servers, both Linux and Windows 2000 or above. Three to four years experience in PHP, SML and .NET technology. Send resume to Highlands Computer, 22 Oak Street.

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HOUSEKEEPER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time position, Fridays - Tuesdays, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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MAMMOGRAPHY TECHNOLOGIST AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Perform mammography examination and associated mammography QC, perform general radiography and CT procedures. MRI experience a plus. Must have CPR. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

LPNS AND RNS - FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL: Now hiring for PRN positions. If you want to join a team whose focus is on excellent elder care with a low staffing ratio, above average wages, and shift differentials, call. Pre-employment substance screening. Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

CNAS - FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL: Now hiring for all shifts. If you want to join a team whose focus is on excellent elder care with a low staffing ratio, above average wages, and shift differentials, call. Pre-employment substance screening. Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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‘Dearly Departed’ opens Thurs. Aug. 18

Funerals can be funny—at least the when the Turpin family of Timson, Georgia, is involved. Widow Raynelle is having trouble deciding on a casket, elder son Ray-Bud is perturbed over rising costs. Younger son Junior is trying to placate a suspicious wife and deal with their two undisciplined children. Little sister Delightful is drowning her grief with undisciplined eating. Aunt Marguerite is criticizing everything, most of her lazy son Royce. Add to this a passel of other colorful characters, and you have a situation fraught with comic possibilities.

All this action takes place in the hilarious, outrageous comedy Dearly Departed which will open Thursday, August 18, at the Highlands Conference Center, as the Highlands Community Players celebrate their 10th anniversary season by reviving a play from their very first season—the play most often requested by audiences who saw it in 1996.

“I am so impressed with the marvelous characterizations the 15 actors in this play have come up with,” says director Virginia Talbot, “especially those performing for the very first time. Lee Lyons in her first role ever gives a touching, natural performance as Ray-Bud’s patient wife. Ron Leslie, also a first-timer, creates a very funny good-old-boy. Taylor Earman is amusing and believable as the beleaguered younger son, Derek Taylor. Mary Haratsaris plays a properly haughty Yam Queen; Jennifer Royce is perfect as the whiny betrayed wife; Sue Manning gives a strong performance as the feisty widow. Jenny King is hilarious as the yet-again pregnant mother of multiple children. Samantha Moore is delightful as Delightful, the family’s daughter.”

HCP regulars also give their usual professional performances: Jean Morris as the evangelistic aunt; Stuart Armor as her good-for-nothing son; Jody Read and Shirley Williams, alternating as Veda, the long-suffering care giver of Norval, played by Jim Schulte; Dean Zuch as the pious and proper preacher.

The “Joy of Life” singers, Donna Cochran, Dick Strain, Michelle Hott, Elaine Andrews, and Mary Ann Sloan will be adding some old time hymns to the production, accompanied on the keyboard by Chad Lucas, playing the role of the irascible Merline.

The fun begins on opening night, Thursday, August 18, with a complimentary catered reception for audience, cast and crew after the performance. The performances continue Friday and Saturday, August 19 and 20 at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, August 21 at 2:30 p.m. The play will also be presented Friday and Saturday, August 26 and 27, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, August 28, at 2:30 p.m. The play is rated PG 13.

This is the 4th and final play for 2005 season ticket holders. Individual adult tickets are $15; student tickets are $8, and tickets for groups of 15 or more are $12.

The Players’ box office will open for season subscribers on Thursday and Friday, August 11 and 12, in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) on Chestnut Street in Highlands. The general box office will open the week of August 13. For reservations, call 828-526-8084.

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 13

...who have been disobedient, “How can I give you up.” In Jonah 4.2 we read that God is a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love. We see clearly that God’s dealing with his people is to bring forgiveness, not judgment. Judgment comes when the erring party does not seek repentance. I’m reminded of my parents’ love and discipline for me as a child. They would warn me, hoping to bring me back to my senses. However, if I continued in my errors, my parents would punish me. Every parent knows how much it hurts to discipline their child.

“There is judgment in the New Testament,” I say to people. In the New Testament there are well over 100 verses that deal with judgment! Even more, Jesus is the one who warns us the most about judgment. In St. Matthew 5:29-30, we read Jesus is teaching about repentance and hell. He speaks of warning in St. Matthew chapters 7 and 25. There is judgment in St. John 5, 8, 9, and 12. 1 Corinthians 6 and Galatians 5 tell us of people who are doing certain things will not inherit the Kingdom of God. In Revelation 20 we catch elaborate pictures of judgment.

So, does the Old Testament reveal a God of judgment and the New Testament a God of love? Emphatically no! Both of the Testaments reveal a God of love who is also a God of justice. God offers men and women his love and forgiveness, urging us to repent and be baptized. This is God’s love. However, God is a god of justice, and he will also judge at the close of history.

The Book of Common Prayer captures the loving God we serve in the prayer of Humble Access: “We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy t+eed+d+cable. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy…”