

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

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On-going

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese at the Falls on Main, wine flights Friday & Saturday from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Artist Helena Meeks on site this weekend.

- The Instant Theatre Company's free Improvisation classes for adults meet Wed. evenings (weather permitting) Feb. through May, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the ITC's Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square. Auditions for musicians and singers are held 7:30-8 p.m. also on Wednesdays. Call the ITC office (828) 526-1687 to register.

- Pilates classes are Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. at the Rec Park. The cost is \$8 per class, but the first class is FREE.

- Al-Anon Group meets at noon on Thursdays in the Community Room at First Presbyterian Church.

- The Mountain View group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the basement room of the Presbyterian Church sanctuary, Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wed. and Fri. at noon.

Feb. 11

- The 8th grade at Summit Charter is performing a Tsunami relief benefit concert at the Methodist Church in Cashiers at 5:30.

Feb. 12

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike (with car shuttle) along the Chattooga River from Nicholson Ford road in SC to Hwy. 28 at the GA/SC border. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9 a.m. Reservations are required. Call Doug Dean, 864-718-9265.

Feb. 14

- Untie/Unite, a progressive and educational group will hold its next meeting at 3 p.m. at the Main Street Inn in Highlands. The agenda will include a short film by George Lakoff a renowned linguist, concerning current issues and the art of reframing them. Everyone is invited. Call 526-3363 for more info.

Feb. 15

- "Escape from Sobibor" (1987) Inspiring true life tale of the largest prisoner escape from a Nazi death camp, with a superior cast led by Alan Arkin. All are welcome!! Contributions to the Bascom-Louise Gallery accepted.

Volume 3, Number 6

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Feb. 11, 2005

Results in on proposed school changes

By Kim Lewicki

The ballots are in — parents, students and teachers have had their say.

Now it's up to the Macon County school board to decide what will happen at Highlands School next

year. Will the day begin at 8 a.m. or 9 a.m.? Will the calendar be traditional, compromise or balanced?

"The parents, faculty and staff votes will determine our recommendation to the board of education for the school calendar

year and start and end times of the day," said Principal Monica Bomengen. "Vice Principal Mark Thomas and I will make the decision regarding high school scheduling which doesn't need board of

▪See VOTES page 8

Pawn shop way to help 'working poor'

By Kim Lewicki

Just about every community has one, but since this is a first for Highlands, people are a little wary — but there's no need to be, says Fred Bowers.

Since the Pawnbrokers Modernization Act of 1989, the face of pawn shops has changed. Strict regulations mean they're not likely to be fronts for illegal activity or places to fence stolen property just places to get a loan.

"A lot of people in town have a hard time getting through the week this time of year and this is a way for them to get some extra cash," he said. The Bowers operate the Highlands Quick Mart and Texaco station and plan to open a pawn shop in the space previously occupied by the Wine Cellar.

According to General Statute, "The making of pawn loans and the acquisition and disposition of tangible personal property by and through pawnshops vitally affects the general economy of this State and the public interest and welfare of its citizens."

But, because it's such a new idea for Highlands, the town doesn't know what to charge for the business license and that's why it's on the Feb. 16 Town Board agenda.

"We've never had a pawn shop in

▪See PAWN SHOP page 13



Highlands School Principal Monica Bomengen, parent Gina Billingsley and PTO President Pat Hedden count parents' ballots in the Highlands School Library, on Wednesday. There were 178. Photo by Jim Lewicki

Big changes OK'd by Zoning Bd.

By Kim Lewicki

If cases heard at the Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting are an indication of growth in Highlands, then Highlands is definitely growing and changing.

Old Edwards Inn & Spa is ready to start work on the locker room addition to the inn on the site of the old Highland Hiker/McCulley's building. Since the Special Use Permit issued March 2004 ran out, OEI re-submitted its plans.

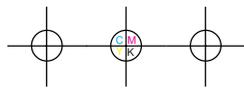
"Special Use Permits expire in six months if the work hasn't started," said acting Zoning Administrator Richard Betz. "That's why they've come back."

Since the plans were the same, the board approved the SUP. OEI plans to start work immediately and will finish by February 2006, said CEO Mario Gomes.

Since Joe Green want to expand Wolfgang's on Main restaurant, an SUP is needed. OK'd by the appearance commission and without any setback or parking requirements in the B1 zone, the Zoning Board OK'd that, too.

The current pavilion will be extended to the sidewalk on Main Street which will make the newly named "Sidewalk Bistro" more accessible to pedestrian traffic. Seating capacity will

▪See ZONING BOARD page 13



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● LETTER TO THE EDITOR ●

Honest, decent people do live in Paradise!

Dear Editor,

Wrong Fred (like your thinking Kudzu doesn't grow in the Highlands altitude).

Thursday I was "Stupid Woman of the year." I left my purse in the shopping basket in the BiLo parking lot in Franklin. I hate carrying a purse and don't as often as I can carry what I need in pockets. After I loaded my purchases in the car, with car keys in hand, I got in and drove away never realizing I had left it behind.

While sitting in the Doctor's waiting room, my husband called on my cell phone and asked if I was missing a purse. "Not me," I said - and then whoa! Yes I was! A very honest person had turned it in to security in BiLo after she had called my husband to see if it was the right person. Need I say any more.

Every pore in my body is oozing gratitude as my credit cards, drivers' license, even my safe deposit key to say nothing of my money (including my mad money).

Now, I am not saying that things are as they were 30 yrs ago when we moved to Highlands. I don't recommend leaving your purse in the car with the car keys in the ignition or your house doors unlocked when you went to visit Aunt Minnie in New York, but I think it worth mentioning that there are still a lot of honest and decent individuals living here in these here mountains to continue to believe we do live in Paradise!

Wish my savior had left her name as I would not only like to thank her, but meet her and face-to-face tell her what a wonderful person she is.

**Dottie Hoppen
Highlands**

Highlands still about 'love & support'

Dear Editor,

The family of Stevie Potts would like to thank everyone for their prayers, the wonderful food, flowers and the time given to us with calls, cards and visits. All have meant so much as we have struggled with the loss of Stevie.

People say our community has changed so much through the years, but one thing that hasn't changed; the love and support shown to one another in times like these. We feel very blessed to call this community home.

The Potts Family

● OBITUARY ●

Dora Lee Stewart Nix

Dora Lee Stewart Nix, age 84, of Cashiers, passed away Saturday, February 5, 2005 at her residence. She was born in Oconee County, SC, the daughter of the late Jack and Arleca Brown Stewart. She was a homemaker and a member of Yellow Mountain Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Henry Nix; three daughters, Shirley Chastain and her husband, James of Knoxville, Tenn., Glenda Moss and her husband, Junior of Cashiers, NC and Thyra Chapman and her husband, Lester of Lake Toxaway, NC. Seventeen grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by a son, Dale Nix; one grandson, Eddie Moss; five sisters and three brothers.

Funeral services were Monday, February 7 at 2 p.m. at Cashiers Baptist Church with Rev. Johnny Norris and Rev. Walter Wilson officiating. Burial was in the Stewart Cemetery. Grandsons and grandsons-in-law served as pallbearers.

The family received friends Sunday, February 6, from 6:00-8:00PM at Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands, was in charge of arrangements.



Ready for occupancy!



On Monday, Feb. 14, the Highlands Community Child Development Center on the corner of Church and Fifth streets will open its doors. The multi-room age-appropriate facility can school 56 children ages three months to five years.



It's not too late to get flu shot

Vaccine available at the Buck Creek Road clinic on Wednesday, February 9 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 and Wednesday, February 16 from 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Suddenly the flu has hit Macon County but there's still time to get the vaccine, say officials.

"It's not too late to get a flu shot, said Stan Polanski, physician's assistant with the Macon County Public Health Center. "The influenza virus is circulating in Macon County this week and I would not be surprised if we see cases of influenza into March. Therefore, the flu shot is still a good way to protect you from influenza."

Influenza symptoms start suddenly and may include: fever (usually high), headache, tiredness, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, and diarrhea and vomiting. There are several other illnesses, such as a common cold, that may have some of the same type of symptoms.

If you think you might have the flu, get plenty of rest and drink lots of fluids. You can also consult your health care provider, who may recommend an antiviral medication to help treat the flu.

Some other steps that individuals can take to prevent the spread of the

flu or other respiratory illnesses include: cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze (throw away tissue), wash your hands often with soap and water, and try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.

The Macon County Public Health Center still has a limited supply of influenza vaccine.

There are no restrictions on the flu vaccine. All vaccine will be given on a first-come, first-served basis and appointments will not be accepted.

As long as supplies last, vaccine will be available at the public health center on Lakeside Drive in Franklin Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.; in Highlands on Wednesday, February 9 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 or Wednesday, February 16 from 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the clinic located off Buck Creek Road; and in Nantahala on Friday, February 11 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. at the EMS building on Junaluska Road. Persons who are on Medicare Part B should bring their card with them.

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Highlands' Newspaper Weekend Weather Forecast by Meteorologist Tim Root

FRI	SAT	SUN
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Valentine's Day – Bah, Humbug

I know, I know, you think I'm getting old and grumpy. Well, maybe, but I didn't like Valentine's Day even before I was old and grumpy, even way back in the third grade. I only got cards from the ugliest girls in my class and the "hotties" sent me dirty looks when they opened my card. This definitely had a life-damaging effect on my ego.



Fred Wooldridge

this day to the god Lupercus. On Lupercalia, a young man would draw the name of a young woman in a lottery then would keep the woman as a sexual companion for one year. Today we call this "marriage." If I had lived back then, I would surely have draw the name of Fanny Farkel, a girl who could eat corn off the cob through a picket fence.

This was the same year my parents made me take saxophone lessons because they thought I may have a shot at being president someday. I stood outside Carol Meek's house (now there was a "hottie") on Valentine's Day and played "Cruising Down The River" which was the only song I knew. I was the only kid in my school to be arrested on Valentine's Day for disturbing the peace. So excuse me if I say "BAH, HUMBUG."

Besides, this whole celebration was cooked up by Hallmark to make money, I'm convinced of it. Back in the third grade, cards were only a penny a piece, but now you can buy a card that plays music and sprays rose scent into your nostrils for about four bucks.

To top it all off, this event is religious by nature and offends pagans. Because it is a Christian event, it also offends Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists and Islamic fundamental radicals who want to kill us. It stems from an ancient incident where a Catholic priest named Valentine got his head cut off on February 14th for performing marriages of Roman soldiers. Why do we celebrate people getting their heads cut off? Is this Iraq?

In 1969, the Catholic Church wisely dropped the practice of honoring St. Valentine for losing his head because no one is sure what really happened. I wish they had done it before I got in the third grade, then I wouldn't have a rap sheet.

For you pagans out there, the roots of Valentine's Day lie in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, which sounds like a skin disease. For 800 years the Romans had dedicated

After 800 years of this wild, fornicating conduct, Pope Gelasius, pronounced "jealous," condemned the practice and spoiled everyone's fun by changing the lottery to something more mundane which, of course, is anything where sex is not involved.

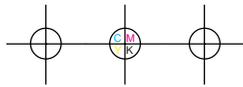
Oh, I almost forgot about this little tidbit. Most birds choose their mates in February, giving added support to my belief that Valentine's Day is "for the birds."

So there you have it. This Valentine's Day celebration is not cracked up to be what you thought and I haven't even mentioned the flowers and candy thing yet. How did all that get started, you ask? By Whitman Sampler's and F.T.D., of course. Let's see, \$4 for the card, \$60 for roses, \$12 for candy and then there's dinner to the tune of \$60 or more, depending on the wine you choose. I'm telling you, this is a right wing conspiracy.

Fortunately, I am married to the little missus, who doesn't see much value in celebrating this funky event of cutting off Valentine's head. For her, a box of Whitman's candy translates into an extra half inch on the waist. (Is this country fat enough, or what?) The roses will be dead in several days and the money could be spent on something much more fun.

A simple, personalized "I Love You" computer generated card will suffice and dinner will be celebrated on the floor around the coffee table with Schwarzenheimer's bagels and tuna salad while watching reruns of "Friends."

Sound boring? Not for us. Now if I could only persuade her not to make me drag out the sax and play "Cruising Down The River" in front of the house.



• MOVIE PIX •

First Daughter

First Daughter, the 2004 light comedy, starring Katie Holmes, Marc Blucas, Michael Keaton, cameos by Joan Rivers, Jay Leno and more. Directed by Forrest Whitaker, written by Jessica Bendinger and Kate Kondell.



Stuart Armor

The Storyline: Samantha Mackenzie is an ordinary girl, going off to college, just trying to deal with all the ordinary stuff involved, roommates, professors, frat parties, leaving Mom and Dad, all that ordinary stuff. But this ordinary girl's ordinary parents happen to be the President and the First Lady, and she has a few big, bad secret service agents hanging around 24/7.

Samantha Mackenzie (Katie Holmes, from Wonder Boys, Dawson's Creek) is the First Kid, doing her best to be a regular college kid, trying to fit in. And, with effort, she gets close. Under a media spotlight, and surrounded by her secret service detail, she does end up meeting a guy, who just might have a few secrets of his own.

OK, so we don't have an art epic here, but it is a cute, fun, sometimes touching film, a bit far fetched, but it actually does make one think a bit

about how being a First Kid could make being a kid all the harder. Michael Keaton (Speechless, Batman, and many others) does a good job in the role of First Dad, comes across as a decent, not to distant guy, Marc Blucas (Alamo, View From the Top) plays the love interest well, if a little stiff, but most of the

humor is provided by the guys playing her body guards, Tuff Guys Turned Accidentally Cute, which always comes across as funny.

Billed as a modern day fairy tale, but really more romantic comedy/coming of age story, this PG rated film is good family fare, not to saccharine, funny but not slapsticky, and actually does make a quiet statement about the private lives of public people.

Forrest Whitaker (Good Morning Viet Nam, Ghost Dogs) as director and narrator does a really good job with this, I think it's his directing debut, hopefully the first of many. He also wrote much of the sound track, so this is a guy with a myriad of talents.

More along this theme are Princess Diaries, Chasing Liberty, American President, First Kid, and one of my favorite presidential films, Guarding Tess.

Anyone missing an emu?



This lone emu wandered into the yard of Dr. Michele Mangum and Jim Stiles in Horse Cove Monday, Feb. 7. It was tame and wasn't frightened. It let them come within several feet of it. With neck extended, it was about about six feet tall. No collar or tag was evident. Eventually it wandered out of the yard and continued up the mountain on a neighbor's lane. Call 787-1221.

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Feb. 11-17

HITCH rated PG-13

Fri: (4:15), 7:05, 9:15

Sat: (2:05), (4:15), 7:05, 9:15

Sun: (2:05), (4:15), 7:05

Mon - Thur: (4:15), 7:05

POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE
rated G

Fri: (4:10), 7:10, 9

Sat: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:00

Sun: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10

Mon - Thur: (4:10), 7:10

BOOGEYMAN rated PG-13

Fri: (4:20), 7:15, 9:20

Sat: (2:15), (4:20), 7:15, 9:20

Sun: (2:15), (4:20), 7:15

Mon - Thur: (4:20), 7:15

THE AVIATOR rated PG-13

Daily: 7

RACING STRIPES rated PG

Fri: (4)

Sat: (2), (4)

Sun: (2), (4)

Mon - Thur: (4)

Openings in ITC's FREE acting classes

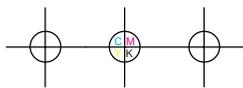
The Instant Theatre Company's free Children's Performing Arts Program currently has openings for students in the 1st through 4th grades.

The weekly Theatre Games class for 1st through 4th graders is held every Monday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at The Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square.

These classes will continue to meet through the Winter and Spring school semesters.

Students are accepted on a first come first serve basis. The classes for 5th-8th and 9th-12th grades are fully enrolled. Instant will again offer a theatre camp for students of all ages this summer.

For more information please call the ITC office at (828) 526-1687.





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Highlanders & Hiwassee Dam tied in Little Smokey Mountain Conference

By Matt Keener
12th grade

Hoping to remain undefeated, the Lady Highlanders faced Hiwassee Dam last Friday night. Highlanders hit the floor with the whole community behind them but it wasn't enough to topple the Eagles who gained a 51-45 victory.

Captains Kayla McCall and Angela Aspinwall led the points totals with 17 and 12, respectively.

Highlander boys knew they had a tough battle ahead of them when they saw Sam Morrow, Hiwassee Dam's leading scorer from last year, stroll onto the floor.

Before the game Highlands' assistant coach Brett Lamb said, "We're out-sized, but I believe that our quickness will wear them down."

The boys fought with every ounce of strength they had but came up short as Hiwassee tied Highlands for the lead in the Little Smokey Mountain Conference with a 68-48 win over the

Highlanders.

Andrew Kerhoulas (10 points) and Ryan Bears (8 points) led all scorers.

The Highlanders had about 18 hours of rest before their game, against Tallulah Falls on Saturday. They were more than ready after losing to a conference team.

The Lady Highlanders got an easy win as Tallulah Falls, having only three healthy players, was forced to forfeit.

The Highlander boys were anxious to get out on the court following their unsettling tie in conference play against Hiwassee Dam. They were determined to show Tallulah Falls no mercy and came out with a lot of intensity.

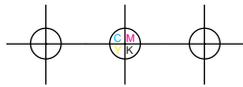
Tallulah Falls stayed with them the whole game, but in the fourth quarter Highlands opened up the scoring to come out with the win, or "the big 'W,'" as senior starter Matt Rice would say.

The final score for Highlands vs. Tallulah Falls was 59-52. Jason

▪See HS BASKETBALL page 8



Senior Andrew Kerhoulas tries for a lay-up, but is stopped by the strong defense tactics of Hiwassee Dam during the game. Photo By: Catlin Huitt



Macon & Jackson counties settle landfill dispute

By Kim Lewicki

The hatchet has been buried. Jackson and Macon counties have come to an amicable agreement concerning their Franklin landfill contract.

Back in 1995, the two counties entered into a contract to operate the garbage landfill in Franklin. About 1 1/2 years ago, Jackson County broke the contract and decided it could save money by hauling its garbage to Homer, Ga., said officials.

Since that time, Macon County has been trying to get Jackson County to pay its fair share as contracted.

On the brink of going to court, the two entities came to an agreement.

At the Feb. 7 Macon County Commissioners meeting, commissioners when into closed

session to finalize the agreement with Jackson County.

Jackson County agreed to pay Macon County \$250,000 in three installments beginning July 31, 2005.

In addition, a baler purchased for the landfill operation at the state's suggestion, will be sold with each county receiving half of the sale proceeds.

"The trouble with that is the number of potential buyers is very limited," said County Manger Sam Greenwood. "But it's in good shape and still functional." The use of the baler at the Franklin landfill became obsolete when state requirements changed.

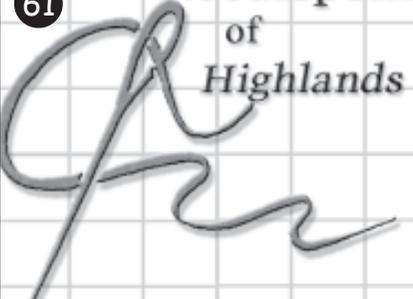
"We needed to bring this to an end to prevent long drawn out court costs," said Chairman of the Macon County Board of Commissioners

Allan Bryson. "Macon County and Jackson County need to work together and turn their eyes to the east." Lawmakers seem to think the state ends at I-77 and Charlotte, he said.

Both Greenwood and Bryson said entering into an amicable agreement saved both counties thousands of dollars.

"Court costs would have escalated to at least three times what was agreed upon," said Greenwood. "In court, the lawyers win."

61 Needlepoint of Highlands



Barbara B. Cusachs

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Technology upgrades at schools

By Kim Lewicki

At the Jan. 24 School Board meeting, members voted to ask Macon County Commissioners if the school system could transfer funds from one account to another to upgrade technology.

At the Feb. 7 Macon County Commissioners meeting, the answer was "yes."

So, \$180,750 will be transferred from the public school building capital fund into the school system's technology fund and 10 schools will get new computers and more.

By Fall 2005, 152 old beige Dells in all the Macon County schools will be replaced by new black Dells and just about every computer will get additional RAM.

By Fall 2005, Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell hopes to have the NC WISE student information system on line. "Teachers will be conducting attendance from the computers in their classrooms and logging grades,"

said Shotwell. "To make this all work, we have to have upgraded computers and more bandwidth."

In case the BalsamWest Fiber Loop takes longer than expected to reach Macon County Schools, Shotwell has ordered two more T-1 lines to be installed by Fall 2005.

He said it's likely Macon County schools in Franklin and even Nantahala will be on the loop before Highlands. "They said they would have to run a separate line either up from Cashiers or Franklin," said Shotwell. But the final word is not out on that yet.

Meanwhile, with two more T-1 lines, there won't be a traffic jam on Highlands School's information highway and even Southwestern Community College ITV class transmission will benefit.

Beth Graham, with SCC's Cashiers campus, said upgrades at Highlands School will help the college expand offerings there.

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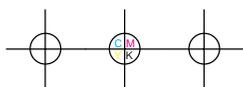
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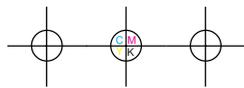
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Highlands





... CALENDAR continued from page 1

NOTE: 82% of rising freshmen through seniors say they work in the summer; 7% of the faculty & staff voted for a 6-period day with a write-in on the ballot.

	#BALLOTS	START TIME			CALENDAR			SCHEDULE			
		8 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	9 a.m.	Traditional	Compromise	Balanced	Block	7-P	6-P	No pref.
STUDENTS	112	68%	24%	8%	37%	60%	3%	65%	35%		
FACULTY	45	62%	29%	9%	49%	40%	11%	36%	44%	7%	13%
PARENTS	178	69%	24%	7%	44%	45%	11%	39%	40%		21%

education approval."

Ballots were mailed to every parent in the school and parents with rising kindergarteners. The community was educated by a month-long series of forums set up to explain proposed changes at Highlands School for the 2005-2006 school year.

Across the board, the 8 a.m. start time and 2:50 p.m. end time won with 68% of students, 62% faculty & staff and 69% of parents opting for no change.

Proposed calendar changes included the Traditional Calendar as it presently stands, with three days off for Thanksgiving, two weeks off for Christmas, and 10 weeks off for summer; the Balanced Calendar, dubbed year-round school, which involves three-week breaks between

the four grading periods and five weeks off for summer; and the Compromise Calendar which has four-day weekends between the four grading periods, a full week off for Thanksgiving, a week and a half off for Christmas, and 10 weeks off for summer.

Students and parents were in favor of the Compromise Calendar - 60% of students; 45% of parents voted for it. Faculty and staff at Highlands School indicated they prefer the Traditional Calendar with a vote of 49%.

Highlands High School is one of only two schools west of Buncombe County that isn't on the block schedule. Called 4x4, it enables students to take four courses each semester instead of seven courses over two semesters. "That means they can

earn eight credits instead of seven," said Bomengen. With more time for courses, comes more course choices, she said.

Students voted 65% for the Block Schedule; faculty and staff and parents voted in favor of the current seven-period day - 44% by faculty and 40% by parents, but 21% of

parents polled had no preference.

"The participation in this process tells me that people care about how we do school," said Bomengen.

Proposed changes at Highlands School will be on the next Macon County School Board agenda. The March 28 meeting will be at Highlands School at 6 p.m.

... HS BASKETBALL continued from page 6



Senior Angela Aspinwall tries for a jump shot against the Hiwassee Dam Lady Eagles. The Lady Highlanders lost to Hiwassee 51-45.

Photo By: Catlin Huitt

Aspinwall dropped in 13 points for the Highlanders while Andrew Kerhoulas put in 12.

Highlands was expecting another physical game from the Tamassee Salem Eagles on Monday, but the girls were ready for it. Three of the Eagles fouled out in the fourth quarter, and that let the Highlanders open up the lead and keep it until the end of the game.

Highlands won with an impressive 62-23 victory. Becca Wyatt and Kayla McCall led the way for the Highlanders with 12 and 11 points.

The boys' team was pumped up and ready to be out on the court, but the Eagles came out stronger and

harder. The Highlanders, who had lost in a physical game against Hiwassee Dam last week, did not want that to happen again.

During the second half, with three of the starters for Highlands sitting on the bench in foul trouble, the "go team," which includes Ryan Bears, Nick Kerhoulas, Jason Aspinwall, Matt Rice, and Andrew Kerhoulas, went on a 10-0 run to boost the Highlanders' confidence and kept it going until the final buzzer.

The Highlanders came out with a huge win, 72-44. Seniors Matt Rice and Andrew Kerhoulas had amazing games scoring 19 and 11 points.

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• MARRIAGE TIPS •

The Language of Love

Does your spouse disappoint you on special occasions by not getting you a gift? Are you frustrated that he spends more time on the golf course than with you? Do you wish she would hug you more often or offer to rub your neck? How often have you just wanted a little help from him with the laundry? Does it bother you that she never thanks you for anything? Well, maybe the two of you aren't speaking the same language. Maybe your marriage partner is trying to say I love you, but needs a little linguistic lesson.

As a marriage counselor, Dr. Gary Chapman listened for many years to the complaints of spouses in his office. Time and time again he heard people in counseling tell him that they no longer felt loved by their spouse. Their spouse however, would profess great love and could not understand how their mate failed to comprehend the depth of this love. Dr. Chapman discovered that there is indeed a unique language of love and within it, five distinct dialects. He proposes that people feel loved the most when one of five things happens; they are given a gift, someone spends quality time with them, offers them words of affirmation, gives them physical touch or performs an act of service for them. He chose to call these actions *The Five Love Languages*.

Love is felt and expressed best by people based on their own love

language. The problem with the fact that there are different love languages is that too many couples can't understand what their partner is saying. Remarkably, seldom do couples marry someone who speaks their same love language. They



Greg and Deborah Brock

didn't notice a barrier when they were dating because they were "in love" and blinded by it. Also dating couples tend to be multi-lingual. Both might have spoken a little of each

of the love languages during their courtship to impress each other. However, after marriage people tend to settle into their primary tongue. If this is not the love language of their spouse, then they could be speaking love loud and clear but their partner does not understand. If I said, "O ;N1;N 20A" unless you speak Russian you have no idea of the meaning (It means "I love you").

To bridge the language barrier, Dr. Chapman encourages spouses to concentrate less on their own love language and become a student of their loved one's dialect. If one wants to express love to another, the message has to be given so that it can be understood. If both partners are working to do this, the love will be communicated. If you have already figured out your spouse's love language then start working to say that you love them in the way they will best understand. If you are not sure, try asking them which of the five they like the MOST. Use this review table for assistance.

Greg and Deborah Brock lead marriage enrichment conferences all over the Southeast. They often coordinate weekend retreats and workshops for churches through South and North Carolina.

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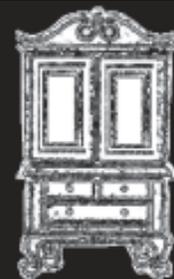
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• BOOK REVIEW WITH K

The Looting of Social Security by Allen W. Smith

I am deeply concerned about the future of Social Security, not because I believe it is in "crisis" but because I believe the Republicans want to destroy it. I planned on writing this book review in a month or so but when President Bush misled the American people in last week's State of the Union speech I was so shocked I had to act.

In his speech President Bush said, "Thirteen years from now, in 2018, Social Security will be paying out more than it takes in... For example, in the year 2027, the government will somehow have to come up with an extra \$200 billion to keep the system afloat, and by 2033, the annual shortfall would be more than \$300 billion. By the year 2042, the entire system would be exhausted and bankrupt."

Ever since the day Social Security was implemented in 1935 the Republicans have opposed it and tried to find a way to eliminate it. But the program has been so popular politicians have been wary of touching it. However, conservatives have spent a lot of time and money researching ways to convince the American public that Social Security is in crisis.

One way they have tried to manipulate opinion is by calling Social Security and Medicare "entitlement programs" as if SS is something the government "gives" us. SS is *completely* funded by the payroll taxes each and every one of us working stiff pays. What the conservatives don't like is that it is progressive: the rich don't get as much as the poor in ratio to the amount paid in. But this is the philosophical underpinning of the program: our collective security is enhanced by ensuring that all of our citizens are ensured a comfortable old age.

To foster a sense of crisis the conservatives are throwing around a lot of misleading figures, such as those in

Bush's speech. The true facts are easily available. Here are some that I have assembled:

1. In 1983 Ronald Reagan's Social Security Commission, convened to plan ahead for baby boomer retirement, proposed that Social Security taxes be raised to create a "trust fund" that would build up to cover future shortfalls in revenue.

2. This proposal was enacted and every year there has been an increasing surplus in the Social

Security revenue. The surplus is invested in U.S. treasury bonds. In 2004, the trust fund totaled \$1.5 trillion (official Social Security website: www.ssa.org).

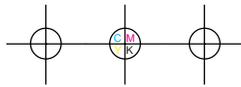
3. The trust fund will keep accumulating until approximately 2018 when expenditures will exceed revenue for the first time since 1983.

4. The trust fund Treasury bonds will then be cashed in to make up the shortfall. When

In 2000 we heard a lot about a "surplus." That surplus was the Social Security trust fund. Mr. Smith writes, "Bush took the position that the alleged budget surpluses were the result of overtaxing the American people and claimed, 'The surplus money belongs to the American taxpayers—not to the government—and it should be returned to the people in the form of a tax cut.' Bush was wrong on both counts." There was no surplus (as we all know now, and the reason why is explained in this book). The money belonged to the Social Security trust fund. Bush's tax cuts gave our Social Security trust fund away to the wealthy. The reason Bush could get away with it is because we as a nation are economically illiterate.

— Allen W. Smith

President Bush says the government will have to borrow money after 2018 he is misleading you. Social Security was legally required to invest the surplus in Treasury bonds. This money was then spent on general government expenses because the President and Congress could/would not balance the budget. (see more on this below) The U.S. Government borrowed our money, spent it, and now the president is acting like the government might not pay it back! Those bonds were bought with *your* Social Security tax dollars and the U.S. government owes that money to you just as much as it owes any purchaser of U.S. Treasury bonds. Would President Bush threaten to

**WITH KATIE BRUGGER •****Security by Allen W. Smith, Ph.D. (368.4S)**

default on other Treasury bondholders, such as Japan and China?

5. The Social Security accountants say that the trust fund will cover the entire anticipated shortfall in revenue until the year 2042. But this is only a guess, based on projections of the economy's performance. The SS accountants are understandably pessimistic (to avoid under-anticipating needs): in 1997 the agency projected that the trust fund would run out in 2029. Using the same numbers, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projects that year to be 2052.

6. Whenever the trust fund runs out, Social Security will not be "bankrupt." This was President Bush's biggest deception. The truth: at that point Social Security will be able to pay about 70% of currently promised benefits.

7. When the shortfall in Social Security revenue is projected out 75 years (the standard time-span for projections), the total needed to bring benefits up to 100% is approximately \$3.7 trillion. When you hear conservatives bandying about the figure of \$10.4 trillion in unfunded liabilities, they are engaging in deliberate deception. That figure results from projecting SS needs into "infinity" (an impossible task). No one has ever gone beyond the 75 year projection before this administration. This tactic has been devised solely for propaganda purposes and is condemned by national accounting organizations such as the Association of Actuaries.

8. To put the \$3.7 trillion shortfall in perspective: "The cost of making Bush's tax cuts permanent is roughly *three times* the size of the Social Security shortfall over the next 75 years. Rolling back Bush's tax cuts just for those Americans who earn more than \$350,000 a year would come close to covering the shortfall, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities." [E.J. Dionne, "Feeding the Crisis," Washington Post, 2/04/05]

9. President Bush's idea for private accounts is a completely separate issue from the needs of SS and I won't address it here but there are great dangers for the average person in this idea.

10. Conclusion: There is *maybe* a problem in long-term Social Security

funding (depending on the future health of the economy), but the scope of the problem most definitely does not qualify as a "crisis." There are many options, including raising the retirement age, changing the way benefit increases are calculated, raising the cap on SS taxes (currently \$90,000), and raising the payroll tax, that could relatively painlessly take care of any problem.

In my research on Social Security, I checked out the only book in the library system on Social Security, *The Looting of Social Security* (book is at Jackson Library so must be requested.). The title tells you a lot.

Mr. Smith has a Ph.D. in economics and taught the subject for years. He is waging a personal campaign against what he calls "economic illiteracy." His thesis is that the average person's ignorance of economics—and he includes successful businesspeople and politicians in this category—threatens the future of this country. We have allowed massive deficit spending that imperils our economy because we don't understand how the economy works.

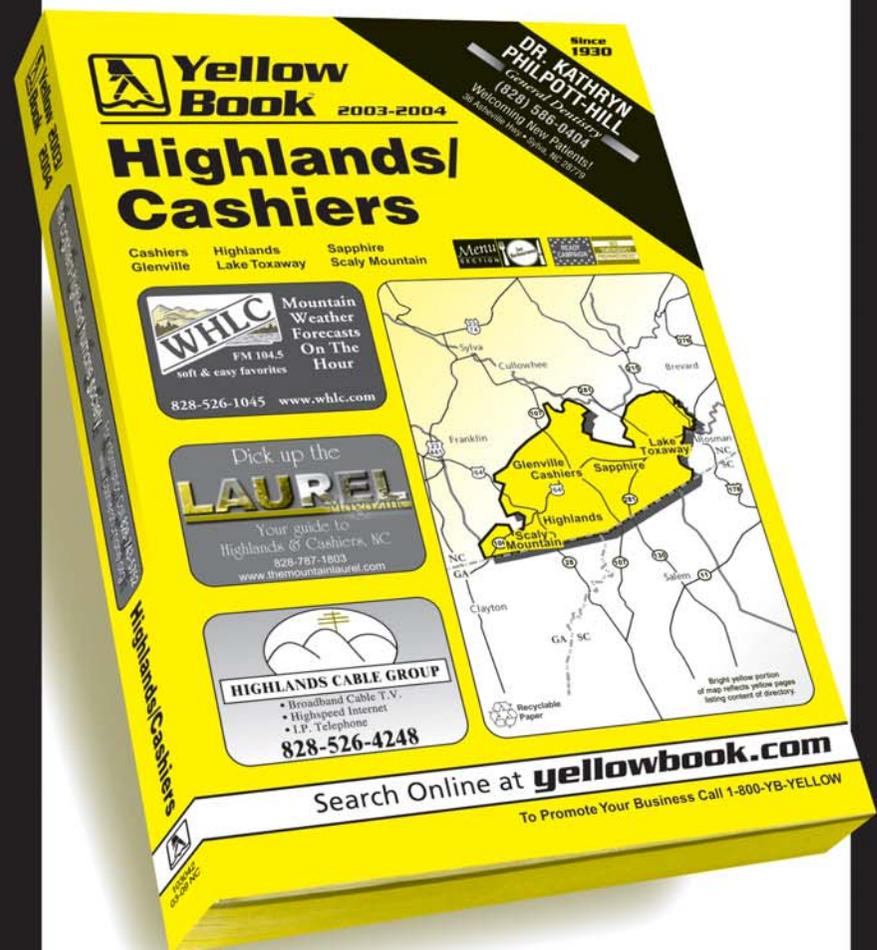
Mr. Smith badly needed an editor—he repeats himself to an annoying degree—but this may have been because he believes his reader will be so ignorant that he had to say things five or six times to ensure they sink in.

What Mr. Smith tackles in this new book is the general misunderstanding of the federal budget. Social Security is a completely separate entity from the federal budget, paid for by separate taxes. By law, the government is supposed to keep the accounting of these two funds separate. But ever since the Social Security trust fund started to accumulate a surplus, politicians of both parties have used it to hide the fact that they are spending more than the government takes in.

Reading this book will make you feel sick. In 1981, the total federal debt was \$995 *billion*. In the 12 years of the Reagan-Bush administrations, that debt exploded to \$4 *trillion*! In little more than a decade we took on three times the debt it took 200 years to accrue! President Clinton reversed the deficit spending habits of his two predecessors and through tremendous commitment brought the federal budget into balance by the year 1999.

So what did we do as a nation?

•See **BOOK REVIEW** page 13

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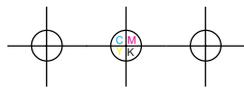
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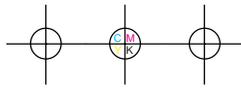


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New Model Now Open



**... BOOK REVIEW continued from page 11**

Mr. Smith gasps in astonishment at our collective stupidity in returning to the disgraced tax-cut theories of the Reagan years which have returned us instantly to massive deficit spending. In Clinton's eight years in office, the federal debt increased just \$1.4 trillion, and that increase was mostly in his early years as he got the budget under control. In Bush's first term alone, the debt increased (approximately) \$2.4 trillion! [Easy to read tables at government printing office website: www.gpoaccess.gov/usbudget/fy05/sheets/hist07z1.xls]

The massive Republican tax cuts of Ronald Reagan greatly decreased general government revenues so every year the government had to borrow money to pay for programs. The government borrowed money from the SS trust fund and spent it on programs like defense and education. This is happening again under Bush. Now these same Republicans are telling us that there is no money in the SS trust fund. They are literally trying to steal our money!

In 2000 we heard a lot about a "surplus." That surplus was the Social Security trust fund. Mr. Smith writes, "Bush took the position that

the alleged budget surpluses were the result of overtaxing the American people and claimed, "The surplus money belongs to the American taxpayers—not to the government—and it should be returned to the people in the form of a tax cut." Bush was wrong on both counts." There was no surplus (as we all know now, and the reason why is explained in this book). The money belonged to the Social Security trust fund. Bush's tax cuts gave our Social Security trust fund away to the wealthy. The reason Bush could get away with it is because we as a nation are economically illiterate.

Mr. Smith concludes, "So what is the real reason for the huge Bush tax cuts? I believe the tax cuts are a deliberate effort to put the finances of the United States government in such dire straights that Congress will be forced to dismantle the social safety net."

This issue affects us all, and I urge everyone not to just passively watch the politicians fight this out but participate by researching for yourself and contacting your representatives in Congress and in the White House.

LUC finishes business district

By **Kim Lewicki**

A clear plan is beginning to emerge for the residential and commercial districts of Highlands.

At the Feb. 7 Land Use Planning Committee meeting, members finished talking about the good, bad and ugly in the Highlands business district and tied it all up with a goal statement:

"Promote the village character of the town's business district by enhancing the condition and appearance of buildings, improving the pedestrian access, adding residential uses and improving compatibility of adjoining land uses."

By breaking aspects of the business community into strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats, the group can see more clearly what is worth keeping, what needs improving and what stands to threaten Highlands.

Monday afternoon, the committee wrapped up discussion about the commercial area and listed several opportunities for improvement: prioritize the implementation of the master sidewalk

plan by using amended ordinances; review appearance and design guidelines to see if they are strong enough; review grandfathering as it pertains to nonconforming uses and premises; and review parking requirements and need in the downtown district.

Members also said they would like to speed up implementation of the master sidewalk plan, preserve historic buildings, spruce up the look of downtown buildings while incorporating residential units, and discussed perhaps amortizing "grandfathered nonconforming buildings and uses in the district.

The groups also discussed the need for good cell phone coverage in Highlands and wondered if there will also be enough commercial activity to perpetuate Highlands.

"To compete in the global community, it's imperative that we have good electronic communications in Highlands," said member Pat Taylor.

The next Land Use Planning Committee meeting is Feb. 14 at Town Hall.

... ZONING BOARD continued from page 1

increase from 120 to 150 which the fire marshal OK'd for Wolfgang's years ago, said Zoning Administrator Larry Gantentain. "They've never used the 150 seats they were allowed, but they plan to now," he said.

The complex will be re-landscaped "mainly rearranging and using what's already there," said landscape architect Hank Ross.

Next up was Bob Carlton who is expanding SweeTreats in Mountain Brook Center by pushing out his current space to take over the space previously occupied by Silver Eagle. No exterior changes are being made to the building. The fire marshal OK'd 50 seats. Parking requirements were met, but board members said assigned parking for the complex is pretty much maxed out, now.

Rather than just ice cream and candy, SweeTreats will be a coffee house serving coffee, desserts, a light lunch and wine. Wireless Internet will also be available and evening entertainment is planned. Only ice cream desserts will be made on the premises, all other food items will be purchased and assembled and heated on the premises. The board granted the SUP.

The board deliberated the longest over the proposed carwash at Highlands Plaza. Members were concerned about how traffic flow in and out of the carwash would affect traffic flow in the plaza. "Traffic flow in the plaza is a complete disaster now.

... PAWN SHOP continued from page 1

Highlands so we don't have a category to assign a license fee," said Town Administrator Richard Betz. "The Town Board needs to set up a category and assign a fee." Most business licenses cost around \$30 but they can top out at \$275.

By General Statute 91A, pawn shops have a close relationship with police departments.

"Consecutively numbered records of each pawn transaction which correspond to a detachable pawn ticket must be available for inspection and pickup each regular workday by the sheriff of the county or the chief of police of the municipality in which the pawnshop is located," reads the statute.

"Chief Cook has already told me he will assign an officer to come by at the end of each day to collect records of all my transactions," said

This would make it even more so," said member Jimmy Tate.

After much discussion, the board OK'd the SUP for the carwash contingent upon a revised and improved traffic plan, a site plan of both the plaza and the carwash parcel and proof of a written lease. All four items must be presented at the March zoning board meeting.

Al Bolt, who is leasing the spot for the carwash from his mother, Margaret O'Donnell who owns the plaza, said removal of a T-shaped parking isle in the plaza opposite the proposed car wash exit would not only eliminate a potential traffic bottleneck but would clean up general traffic flow in Highlands Plaza.

"I'd sure like to see that," said Gantenbein. "That would make the traffic flow in the plaza a straight line out."

Board members were also concerned about potential noise at the 24-hour carwash. But Gantenbein said any noise problem would be self-limiting. "If operating 24 hours creates a noise problem, we can curtail hours of operation and the Town Board will do just that," he said.

The board quickly denied a request for a setback variance for a proposed carwash at the 64 Stop and Shop on the grounds that the property owner can still make reasonable use of the property without the variance.

Bowers.

Bowers actually sees pawn shops as a deterrent to crime. "Instead of writing a bad check for food, people can come here and get cash," he said. "It's a way of getting some extra help until pay day."

Anyone who wants to pawn an item must have show a state-issued ID or driver's license which is attached to the pawn ticket stub and record of the item.

With the help of computer software – a sort of 'Blue Book' to determine fees – and gold and jewel testers, Bowers will figure out how much the item is worth, what he'll loan against it and how much interest to charge.

He said the item will be stored as long as the interest is paid on the item or until the person returns to buy it back.



• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese at the Falls on Main, wine flights Friday & Saturday from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Artist Helena Meeks on site this weekend.
- The Instant Theatre Company's free Improvisation classes for adults meet Wednesday evenings (weather permitting) February through May, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the ITC's Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square. Auditions for musicians and singers are held 7:30-8 p.m. also on Wednesdays. Call the

ITC office (828) 526-1687 to register for the free Improvisation class, or to schedule a music audition.

- Pilates classes are Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. at the Rec Park. The cost is \$8 per class, but the first class is FREE. Participants need to bring a mat if possible.
- At the Bascom-Louise Gallery - Open Studio with a Live Model 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the gallery. All participants bring their choice of art medium and \$10 to pay for the model and facilitator. This class is for artists 18 yrs.

and older or under 18 with written parent permission.

- At the Bascom-Louise Gallery - Art Leagues of Macon County exhibit at the Bascom-Louise Gallery. This exhibit features the Art League of Highlands and the Macon County Art Association.
- Al-Anon Group meets at noon on Thursdays in the Community Room at First Presbyterian Church.
- The Mountain View group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the remodeled basement room of the Presbyterian Church sanctuary, Mondays in Highlands at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wed. and Fri. at noon.

Feb. 11

- The 8th grade at Summit Charter is organizing a Tsunami relief benefit concert at the Methodist Church in Cashiers at 5:30.

Feb. 12

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike (with car shuttle) along the Chattooga River from Nicholson Ford road in SC to Hwy. 28 at the GA/SC border. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9 a.m. Reservations are required. Call Doug Dean, 864-718-9265.

Feb. 14

- Untie/Unite, a progressive and educational group will hold its next meeting at 3 p.m. at the Main Street Inn in Highlands. The agenda will include a short film by George Lakoff a renowned linguist, concerning current issues and the art of reframing them. Everyone is invited. Call 526-3363 for more info.

Feb. 15

- "Escape from Sobibor" (1987) Inspiring true life tale of the largest prisoner escape from a Nazi death camp, with a superior cast led by Alan Arkin. All are welcome!! Contributions to the Bascom-Louise Gallery accepted.

Feb. 18

- "Evenings of Little Entertainments" at The Instant Theatre Company's studio at 310 Oak Square, 8 p.m., pre-show music begins at 7:45 p.m. Admission \$15, adults only, sold at the door. No admittance after the show begins. For reservations call 342-

9197. This will be on-going through May. Enjoy music, improv, storytelling, one-act plays, monologues and more. No two evenings are the same.

Feb. 20

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5 mile hike on the Tessentee Farm loop trail through woods and farm fields. Meet at the River Road picnic area off Hwy, 441 S (about 1-mile south of the Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center) at 2 p.m. Reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

Feb. 21

- The Literacy Council is sponsoring a fun and inspiring creative writing class Monday nights, from 5 to 7:30, under the instruction of Sadie Rowe, a published author from this area. The class is free and is for 6th through 12th grades. For more information, call the Literacy Council at 526-9938 ext 240.

Feb. 21-23

- Tickets go on sale for Highlands Community Players "Stepping Out." Season Subscribers - Feb. 21 & 22; General Public, Feb. 23 at PAC. Call 526-8084.

Feb. 25

- Feb. 25 is the deadline to register and pay for the American Red Cross Adult CPR with AED and Infant/Child CPR course Tuesday, March 1, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Macon County Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Drive. For info call 349-2439.

March 3-6 & 12-13

- Highlands Community Players presents "Stepping Out" at PAC. Call 526-8084.

March 5

- Chili CookOff and Salsa Contest at the Highlands Conference Center from 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$20 per person for chili, salsa and beer. Tickets available at the Visitor Center. For more info, call 526-5841.

March 10 & 12

- Beekeeping School for Beginners sponsored by the Macon County Beekeepers Assoc. will be held two days - Thursday from 7-9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the N.C. Extension Office in Franklin. To register, call at 526-2385.

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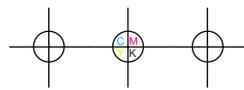
Creative writing class begins Feb. 21

Beginning Feb. 21, The Literacy Council is going to be sponsoring a fun and inspiring creative writing class. These classes will be on Monday nights, from 5 to 7:30, under the instruction of Sadie Rowe, a published author from this area. The class is free and is for students grades 6-12. The class will take these creative minds and let them explore the awesome world of literary involvement.

With the help of Adam Heffernan,

of the Instant Theater Company, the class will carry over into the theater, converting the stories into readings on the stage. The combination of the love for writing, the inspiration of the imagination, and the reward of seeing their accomplishment enjoyed by others will create a passion that we hope will encourage them in their everyday lives.

For more information, call the Literacy Council at 526-9938 ext 240.



• **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** •

**Are emotional conflicts
keeping us from God's word?**



David Bee
Worship Pastor of CBC

Have you ever noticed that we often tend to respond to God based on how we feel rather than basing our faith on His Word and then letting feelings flow? I would like to examine a common hindrance that can keep us all from enjoying God's presence: dependence on our feelings rather than God's Word.

Unlike our rolling tide of emotions, praise is a decision, an act of the will. A change in your circumstances does not change God and His Word. David said in Psalm 34:1, "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth." The Bible says in Isaiah 61:3 we can put on "the garment of praise instead of a spirit of fainting (heaviness)." We can choose to praise God regardless of our feelings. Hebrews 13:15 says, "Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name." But, often we let our emotions determine if we will praise God.

Let's say it's Wednesday evening, about an hour before your Bible study meets, and you've had a pretty good day. You've had a few neighbors over for dinner. You helped one of your fellow employees through a difficult situation at work and you agreed to head up a community blood drive. All in all, you're at peace with the world. That evening at the Bible study, it's the easiest thing in the world for you to sing out the praise and worship songs heartily and to know you're entering God's presence.

Next Wednesday, however, things look different. The employee whom you've helped at work steals petty cash, and your boss blames you. You chew out one of the kids at dinner unfairly. And you realize that the community blood drive is the same day as your daughter's tenth birthday party. Suddenly you're not feeling very spiritual. That night at the Bible study you mumble your way through the songs and God seems light years away. He's not. He's right there, and He wants you, and commands you to praise Him, even on difficult days.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "in everything give

▪ See **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** page 16

• **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
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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;
Youth "The Rock" meeting.

Tuesdays: Women's Bible Study – 9:45

Wed: Supper – 6 p.m.; Bible Study – 6:45 p.m.

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968

Sundays: Choir – 9 a.m.; Adult Sunday School
classes – 9:15 a.m.; Holy Eucharist – 10:30 a.m.;
Children's Chapel – 10:30 a.m.;

Mondays: Women's Cursillo Group (Library) – 4

Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8

Wednesdays: Liturgy Mtg – 4 p.m.; Christian
Education – 5 p.m.; Supper & Program – 6 p.m.

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.

Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14

First Baptist Church

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

Sun.: 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

Sun.: Worship – 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 – 8:30
& 11 a.m.

Wednesdays: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study &
activities – 6 p.m.

Holy Family Lutheran Church – ELCA

Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Wednesdays: Lenten Services at noon followed by
a simple meal.

Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

Macedonia Baptist Church

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (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: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

For more information, call
(706)-745-1842.

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

Rev. William M Evans, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

Wednesdays & Fridays: Mass – 9 a.m.

Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m.

Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

Scaly Mountain Baptist Church

Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Scaly Mountain Church of God

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

For more information call 526-3212.

Shortoff Baptist Church

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time)

526-9769

Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

Westside Baptist Church

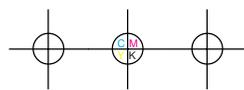
Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon

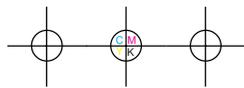
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby

Sundays: Fellowship & Worship – 11

Whiteside Presbyterian Church

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





... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 15

thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." If you do this - if you give thanks to His name, praise Him, and do it on a continual basis, regardless of what you feel - ultimately your feelings will line up with your words, and you will experience God's manifest presence.

Imagine a train. The engine

pulling the train is God's Word, the fuel is faith, and the caboose, at the end of the train, is your emotions. If you put your faith (the fuel) in God's Word (the engine), the train will move forward and your feelings (the caboose) will follow. However, if you put your faith (the fuel) in your emotions (the caboose), you

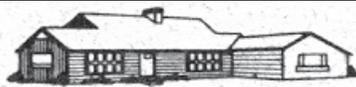
will go nowhere. God's Word is true whether we feel like it is or not.

Sometimes praising God will be a real battle. You'll have thoughts in your mind that will run directly contrary to thanksgiving. Or, there will be distractions around you while you try to concentrate on the Lord. You must deliberately move

your focus onto God and His greatness, and away from yourself and your circumstances. Remember Romans 8:6, "For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace." Set your mind on God and praise Him and your feelings will ultimately fall in line.

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The Instant Theatre Company opens its novel new show, "Evenings of Little Entertainments" on Friday, Feb. 18, in the studio on Main at 310 Oak Square every Friday night through May.

Evenings of Little Entertainments feature a wide divergence of comical, lighthearted entertainment. During the spontaneous evenings look for music, skits, new works, open mic, one-act plays, story telling, monologues and special theme evenings.

Curtain time is 8 p.m. Pre-show music begins at 7:45 p.m. Admission is \$15, adults only. No admittance after the show begins. Tickets are sold at the door, if available. Make reservations at 342-9197.

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of Feb. 4-9. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

Feb. 4

- At 2:18 a.m., officers responded to a call of a possible prowler at a residence on Split Rail Row. But it was unfounded.

- At 3:16 p.m., a student at Highlands School reported her Jeep vandalized while parked on campus. A window was slashed.

Feb. 5

- At 11:30 a.m. officers responded to an alarm on Fifth Street. All was secure.

- At 5:2 a.m., a motorist on Main and N.C. 106 was cited for driving without a license, insurance, tag or registration.

Feb. 6

- At 1:15 a.m., officers were called to help with a mental patient.

Feb. 8

- At 8:20 a.m., officers responded to a accident at Dog Mountain Road. There were no injuries.

- At 10 a.m., a piece of jewelry was found at Wright Square was taken to the police department.

Feb. 9

- At 7:45 a.m., a motorist at Sassy Lane was cited for speeding 60 mph in a 35 zone.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the week of Feb. 4-9

Feb. 4

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

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Chestnut Hill. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Feb. 7

- The dept. responded to an alarm at Highlands Pharmacy. It was false.

Feb. 8

- The dept. responded to an accident on U.S. 64 east by Highlands Falls Country Club where a vehicle had gone off the edge of the road and rolled over. There were no injuries.

Highlanders arrested on various drug charges

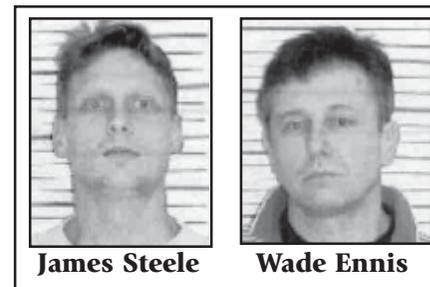
By Kim Lewicki

Two Highlanders were arrested after a routine traffic stop in Franklin led to a search of their vehicle and home and the seizure of various drugs and drug paraphernalia.

On Feb. 4, Macon County Sheriff officers stopped Wade Thomas Ennis, 46, for reckless driving on U.S. 64 east in Franklin.

A search of the vehicle and subsequent consented search of his home at 462 Mirror Lake Road in Highlands, resulted in the arrests of both Ennis and passenger James Douglas Steele, 31, also of 462 Mirror Lake Road.

Steele was arrested and charged with the possession of 6.20 grams of



James Steele

Wade Ennis

amphetamines/methamphetamines for the purpose of selling and manufacturing, the possession of schedule IV and schedule II prescription drugs, marijuana and extasy.

Charges are one felony count for possession with intent to sell and manufacture, two misdemeanor counts for drug violations, equipment

and paraphernalia and one misdemeanor count for simple possession of schedule IV substance.

Ennis was arrested and charged with driving without a license, possession 6.20 grams of amphetamines/methamphetamines for the purpose of selling and manufacturing, possession of marijuana, other narcotics and schedule II and IV prescription drugs.

Charges are one felony count for possession with intent to sell and manufacture, one felony count for possession of a schedule I substance and one misdemeanor count for possession of a schedule IV substance.

Each man was released on a \$30,000 bond.



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● BUSINESS NEWS ●

Old Edwards Inn and Spa selected by Condé Nast Johansens as a 'recommended hotel for 2005'

The Old Edwards Hospitality Group is pleased to announce that it has been selected by Condé Nast Johansens as a Recommended Hotel to be included in the publication's 2005 Guide. The internationally acclaimed "Guide to Recommended Hotels, Inns and Resorts" covers North America, Bermuda, the Caribbean, Mexico and the Pacific.

"This is an immense honor," said Mario Gomes, CEO and general manager of the Old Edwards Inn and Spa. "We hope it will be the first of many accolades and awards in 2005 for the Inn and Spa." The Old Edwards Inn and Spa opened in July 2004 as a luxury destination spa resort after more than \$40 million and two years of renovation, restoration, and expansion.

Accommodations at the Old Edwards Inn consist of 30 individually designed guestrooms, suites and cottages, which have period antiques, Frette linens and the finest contemporary amenities. The 10,000

square-foot spa features an exclusive collection of the world's finest products and an extensive menu of signature body, skin care and relaxation therapies in a luxurious European setting. Madison's Restaurant and Wine Bar, the resort's fine dining restaurant, offers seasonally inspired Carolina High Country cuisine and an exceptional wine list.

Condé Nast Johansens publishes its Guides for discerning travelers who seek quality service and facilities. It makes hotel recommendations based on a property's excellence of service and cuisine as well as their unique style, diverse or exceptional location.

Lesley O'Malley-Keyes, Conde Nast Johansens Vice President and Publishing Director North America commented, "We are very pleased to be recommending Old Edwards Inn and Spa in our 2005 edition. It is truly a reflection of its impressive hospitality."

McKim named special events/ activities manager for OEI

McKim's responsibilities will include planning, implementation and marketing of special events, activity programs and packages at the resort. Additionally, McKim will help with on-site management of key resort events and coordinate a weekly activities calendar outlining resort and area happenings for guests.

With a solid background in hospitality, culinary arts, and event management McKim brings enthusiasm for special events and a high level of commitment to the guest

experience to her position at the Inn and Spa.

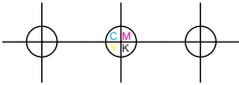
McKim is a graduate of Heritage Academy and the Advanced Training Institute of America. Hailing from Texas, she has traveled extensively both nationally and internationally and served as a United States Educational Ambassador to Russia. A Highlands resident for more than 10 years, McKim most recently helped to open Acorns at the Shops at Old Edwards Inn as the Merchandising Specialist.

Work on B-L Gallery future home begins

Clean up has begun! Our first step in beginning work at our future home on Oak Street was removing the debris from the property.

The old green house has also been removed. After numerous inspections and much discussion it was determined that it was beyond repair. The old Crane Stable however will be restored. The barn holds a special place in many Highlander's hearts from childhood memories of horseback riding.

The Art Center hopes to restore the old barn and use it for community and art center events! Watch the news for more information on our "Art Barn" project. – **Kay Goreki, director**



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Good Year Tire & Repair 3 Miles
Highlands Outdoor Tool 2 Miles
TWIGS 1/4 Mile ↑

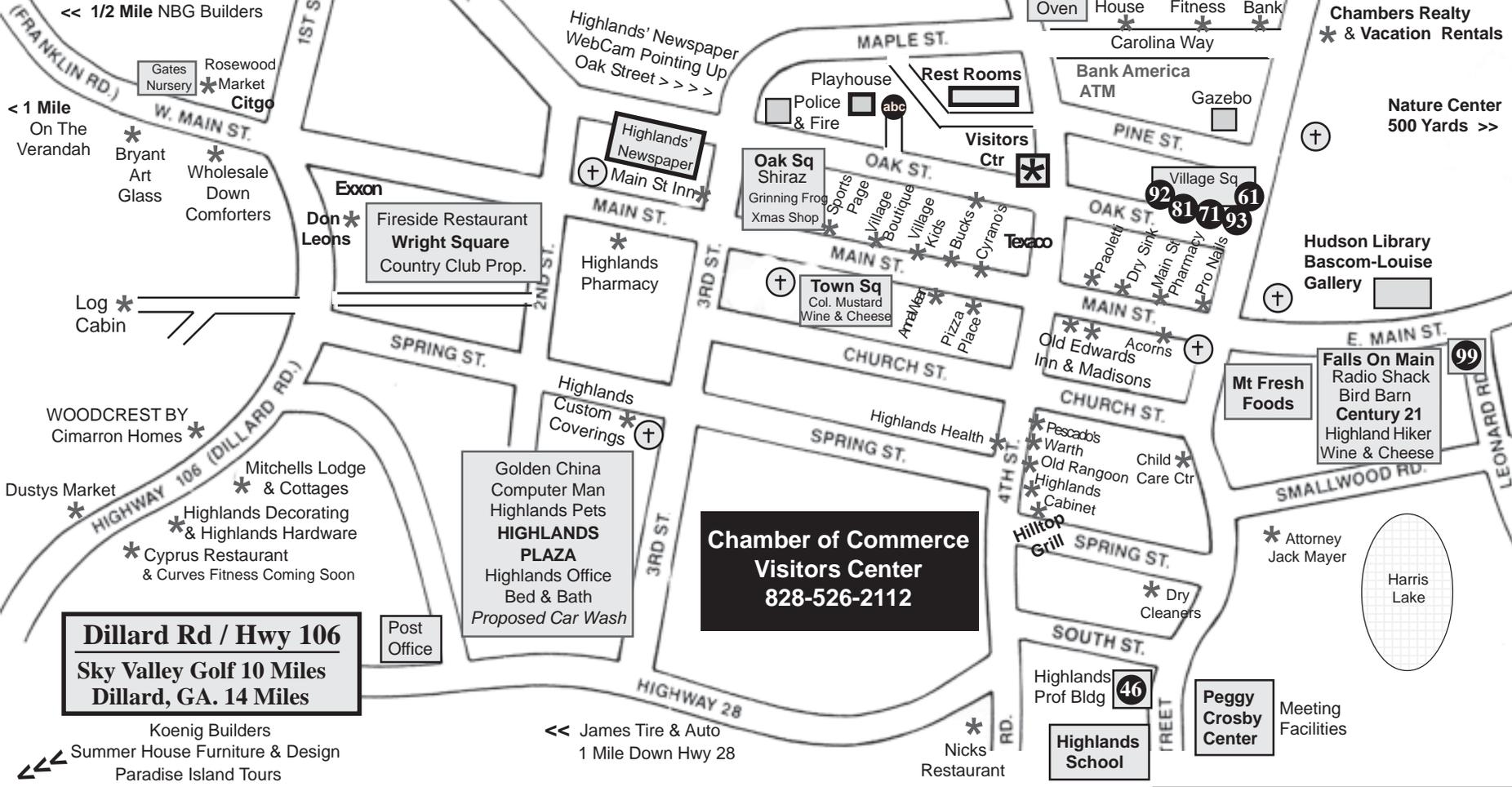
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 Bust Your Butt Falls 7 Miles
 Cliffside Lake 6 Miles
 Dry Falls 3 Miles
 Bridal Veil Falls 2 Miles

<<< FRANKLIN, N.C.
 Franklin Rd. Hwy 64w 18 Miles
 The Fun Factory
 Whistlestop Antique Mall

Highlands Playhouse
 June 24 - July 10
 Too Marvelous For Words
 Oak St., Highlands, N.C.
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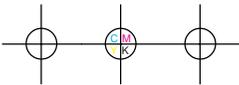
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Dillsboro 20 Miles
Hwy 441

Franklin Highlands 18 Miles

Whistle Stop < Fun Factory >

Ruby > Cinema



Cullasaja Falls

Hwy 107n

Lake Glenville

< Marina Gas & Store >



Lake Glenville

Local Area Information
www.highlandsinfo.com

Cashiers To Highlands 10 Miles

< Gem Mine >

Highlands Cove

HOSPITAL

Cliffside Lake

Hwy 64w & 28n

Bridal Veil

Dry Falls

Hwy 106

Bartram Trail

Glen Falls

Chinquapin Mt Trail

Hwy 28s

Scaly SnowTubing

Sky Valley, GA. Golf & Skiing

Dillard, GA Highlands 14 Miles

Chattooga & Bartram Trail

Whiteside Trail

Hwy 64e

HIGHLANDS

Giant Poplar

Iron Bridge

Chattooga Trail

Sapphire Mt Golf

Sapphire Golf, Skiing & Tubing

BP Gas & Stores Maps & Information

Hwy 281

Silver Run Falls

Lake Toxaway

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