

Highlands School Newspaper PULL-OUT – INSIDE

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

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Volume 3, Number 4

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Jan. 28, 2005

WWTP expansion on hold pending funds

By Kim Lewicki

Bids are in, but plans to expand the wastewater treatment plant are on hold until engineers decide if any "fat" can be trimmed from the job.

The lowest of three bids opened earlier this week, came in about a million and half too high.

Haren Construction from Etowah, Tenn., bid \$5,071,500 to expand the wastewater treatment plant from its current .5 million gallons a day (mgd) flow to 1.5 mgd.

The town budgeted for the job based on estimates from W.K. Dickson, the town's engineering con-

sultants, given 18 months ago.

At that time the total job, including engineering and environmental permitting studies, was estimated around \$4.2 million. The Town Board expected the actual construction cost to come in around \$3.69 million. The

See WWTP page 8

- The Instant Theatre Company's free Improvisation classes for adults meets every Wednesday evening (weather permitting) Feb. through May at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the ITC's Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square. Call the ITC office 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 remodeled 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.

Jan. 27

- Financial Aid meeting at Highlands School for seniors and their parents. Meet in the Elementary computer lab at 6 p.m.

Jan. 29

- Substance Abuse Forum "Let's Talk About It" at Tartan Hall in the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin at 6:30 p.m.

- Voluntary Simplicity – First session 10-11:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin at 85 Sierra Drive. Learn how your life may be enriched through the practice of knowing how much is enough. How much do we really need? Call 706-746-9981.

Jan. 30

- Hymn-Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. Pianist Angie Jenkins will accompany a song leader. Participants can select hymns from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal.

Feb. 1

- "The Gathering Storm" 7:30 p.m. at PAC. The film is sponsored by the Bascom-Louise Gallery. It's free, but donations are accepted.

Feb. 3

- There will be a memorial gathering for Jack Chambers who recently passed on. The memorial will be at the Cyprus Restaurant on Wednesday, at 7 p.m. \$25 per person. Open bar. Call John Baumrucker at 526-3605 for reservations.

Finally – car wash coming to Highlands

By Kim Lewicki

For two reasons, things are changing for the better at Highlands Plaza.

An eyesore at the corner of Third and N.C. 28 will soon disappear and plans for an automatic car wash are in the works.

At the Jan. 24 Appearance Board meeting, members OK'd plans for a two-stall, automatic, touch-free car wash on the corner of the plaza near the entrance and N.C. 28.

"It's very nice-looking," said board members. "You wouldn't see a cedar-shaked car wash anywhere but Highlands."

When it's finished, the building will be reminiscent of Regions Bank with river rock facing, cedar shakes, and a dark green roof.

Ingress and egress will be off the plaza with a U-shaped driveway leading in and out.

If all goes as planned, not a tree will fall — about three small "landscape" trees will hopefully be transplanted elsewhere on the lot.

Martin Murray, who has been using the corner of Third and N.C. 28 as a construction storage and staging area will soon close up shop.

"That will all be leveled out and planted so there will be 54-ft of green space there," said Bolt. "A small part of that area will be used for turning

See CAR WASH page 8

Students go to inauguration

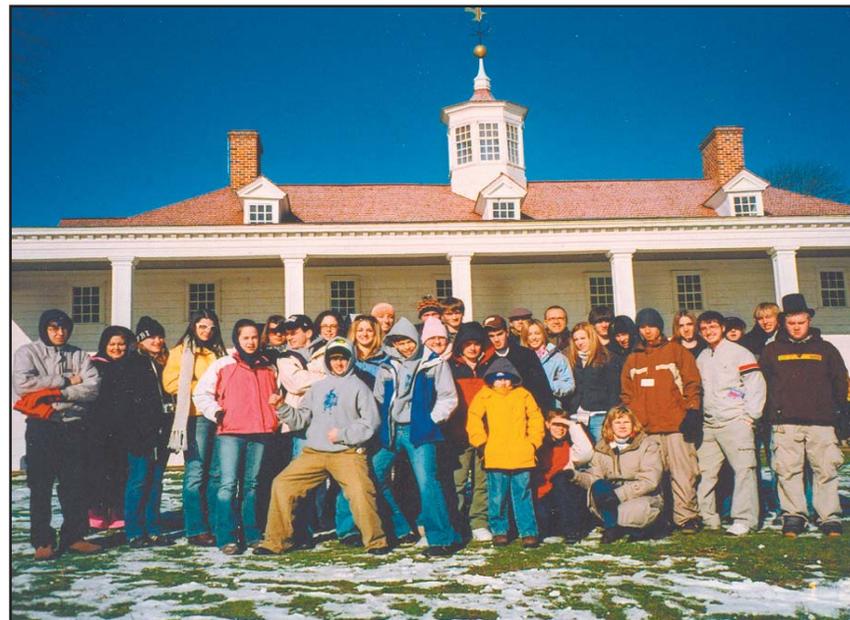


Photo by Judy Smart

High School students knew they were in for a treat when civics and world history teacher Chris Green offered to take them to Washington, DC for the 2nd presidential inauguration of George W. Bush. He and four other faculty members chaperoned 30 Highlands students on the 3-day 4-night trip. The group departed from Highlands School late Tuesday evening, Jan. 18 and returned early Saturday morning, Jan. 22. They are pictured here in front of Mount Vernon. See the complete story in the school newspaper.

Time for paid help at F&R Dept?

By Kim Lewicki

Life is changing in Highlands. More people live here year round, second-home owners are staying longer and this year, tourists have come to town most weekends in January.

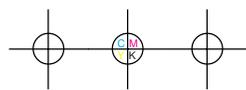
What does all this mean? More calls for the Highlands Fire & Rescue

Department, for one thing – and that translates to more volunteer man-hours at the department.

The total number of calls for 2004 increased by 38 — from 320 in 2003 to 358 in 2004.

Calls are categorized as "fire &

See PAID HELP page 17



\$1,000 REWARD

for information leading to the capture & conviction of the two men who stole a life-sized, carved bear from outside TWIGS, Thursday, Jan. 13, around 5:30 p.m. They drove a dark green, small Subaru-like stationwagon with a luggage rack on top.

Call Highlands Police
at
526-9431, 526-4131
or dispatch at 369-3369.

Highlands' Newspaper

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Final school calendar meeting Jan. 27

Thursday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m. is the final Community Forum to talk about scheduling for the 2005-2006 school year.

The first portion of the meeting will be devoted to discussing the proposed school calendar options. A committee of parents worked with Mrs. Bomengen and Mr. Thomas to develop a "compromise" calendar, which includes short breaks between each grading period and a full week at Thanksgiving.

The second portion of the meeting will be for parents of rising 8th-12th graders to discuss block scheduling for the high school, a possibility under consideration by Mrs. Bomengen and Mr. Thomas.

Interest in 'drink' sales at area restaurants is renewed

By Kim Lewicki

Now that Old Edwards Inn & Spa and its affiliates are serving mixed drinks, wine and beer, some restaurant-owners in Highlands want at least the option to do the same.

And state officials say it could be done, easily, if the citizens want it.

Assistant Administrator with ABC Commission in Raleigh Doyle Allen said it takes one of two things to take it to the polls – the Town Board can call for a referendum on its own motion or the citizens can call for a referendum if 35 percent of the town's registered voters sign a petition.

"I'm open to discussion," said Mayor Buck Trott. "I'm open to anything that's good for the business climate in town."

Trott said he doesn't want to see a bar on every corner and some restaurateurs said they don't want to see "box" restaurants like TGI Friday springing up in town, but there's a wide gap in between.

As it stands now, state law says businesses which fall under the category of "sports facility" and can get permits to sell alcoholic beverages. That's how OEI and all the country clubs did it.

The reason only wine is served in

restaurants in town is because that's what the citizenry wanted back in 1978.

At that time the town voted to allow an ABC store to open up and for restaurants to sell wine and beer but only off-premises — but nothing else, said Allen. "North Carolina employs a local option whereby communities can determine local standards and that's what Highlands did," he said.

In 1992 the subject of selling more than wine in restaurants went to the polls again and lost by something like 42 votes, said Trott. But times have changed.

"Now there is a place in town serving mixed drinks, wine and beer," said Nick Moschouris of Nick's Restaurant. "The door's already open."

Though not all restaurant and eatery owners want to sell more than wine or alcohol beverages at all, they don't want to stop it for someone else.

"I'm not dead set against it," said Arthur Paoletti of Ristorante Paoletti. "I haven't given it much thought, but I might sell beer, maybe cognac."

"There's not a night that goes by when a customer doesn't ask why beer and mixed drinks can't be sold at restaurants in Highlands," said Chris Gilbert of Cyprus Restaurant. "Now

See DRINK page 21

• OBITUARY •

Edna Amanda Houston

Edna Amanda Houston, age 89, Highlands, N.C. died Tuesday, January 25, 2005 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late William Harley and Bertha Alice Garner Roper. She was married to John Walter Houston (J. Walter) who died May 8, 1997. She was a homemaker, dedicated wife and mother. She was a member of the Highlands First Baptist Church.

She is survived by two sons, Walter Eugene (Gene) Houston and his wife, Emily of Rabun Gap, Ga., and Charles Bobby Houston and his wife, Sammie of Highlands; three sisters, Agnes Calhoun of Morristown, Tenn., Helen Presta of Philadelphia, Penn., and Evelyn Evans of Warner Robins, Ga.; two brothers, Max Roper of Fairfax, VA and Joseph H. Roper of Franklin, NC. Six grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services were held Thursday, January 27, at 11 a.m. at the Bryant Funeral Home Chapel in Highlands with Rev. Baker Crane officiating. Burial was in the Highlands Memorial Park. Grandsons served as pallbearers, Steve Houston, Boone Houston, Tim Houston, Tommy Chambers, Joe Potts and David Keener.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospice or Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, PO Box 190, Highlands, NC 28741. Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



Photo by Jim Lewicki

Macon County School Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell and Macon County School Board Vice Chairman Donnie Edwards discussed the school system's budget at the Jan. 20 PTO meeting.

PTO gets lesson in budgeting

By Kim Lewicki

The school system is starting to work on the 2005-2006 budget so at the Jan. 20 PTO meeting officials explained the budget process from start to finish.

Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell and Macon County School Board Vice Chair Donnie Edwards explained how budgeting for each school year starts the spring of the previous year and involves the juggling of monies at the federal, state and local level.

"I don't sit in a smoke-filled room and come up with the budget by myself," said Shotwell. "It all comes in from the local needs assessments presented by each principal. And it's all about how much we can spend and where the money comes from."

The largest amount - about two-thirds of the budget - comes from the state. For 2004-05 it was \$19,896,971.

The next biggest chunk comes from the county - \$7,471,697 -

See BUDGET page 6

• OBITUARY •

Dusty Rhodes

Dusty Rhodes, age 81, of Dillard Road, Highlands, NC died Monday, January 24, 2005 at his residence. He was born in Bartow County, Ga., the son of the late Paul Houston and Juanita Morris Rhodes. He was married to Manila Reese Rhodes who passed away in 1994. He was owner of Rhodes Superette and was a member of the First Baptist Church in Highlands.

He is survived by a daughter, Kitty Schultz and her husband, Lou of Otto, NC and a son, Dusty Rhodes, Jr. of Highlands, NC; one brother, Paul H. Rhodes, Jr. of Columbus, OH. Three grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services were held Thursday, January 27 at 2 p.m. at Highlands First Baptist Church with Rev. Dan Robinson officiating. Burial was in the Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospice, PO Drawer 190, Highlands, NC 2874

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Important 'Financial Aid' meeting at school

Highlands School seniors and their parents are urged to attend a financial aid informational meeting on Jan. 27.

Melody Lawrence, Financial Aid Officer at Southwestern Community College will discuss details of financial aid applications and address questions from the audience.

School counselor Patricia Catchings will discuss scholarship applications. The meeting will be held at 6 pm in the Elementary Computer Lab.

Highlands' Newspaper Weekend Weather Forecast by Meteorologist Tim Root

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
HI 40 LO 21	HI 38 LO 29	HI 43 LO 32

How You Can Help the Tsunami Effort

The Rotary Foundation/Solidarity in South Asia. The Rotary Foundation is accepting contributions earmarked for Solidarity in South Asia. For more information go to: www.rotary.org/newsroom/solidarity_south_asia.html.

The Shelter Box is a large green heavy-duty plastic box containing a 10 ft x 20 ft three-room 10-person tent, 10 sleeping bags, water purification equipment to support the needs of 10 people for six months, a multi-fuel cook stove, cooking equipment, eating utensils, tools, and assorted other survival items. A single, complete Shelter Box is supported by a tax-deductible donation of \$900. For more information, go to www.shelterboxusa.org

AmeriCares has mobilized emergency response teams and airlifts into Sri Lanka and India and Indonesia. Reportedly \$99 of every \$100 donated goes to the relief effort. For more information, go to www.americares.org/

- **USAID**, the U.S. Agency for International Development, has an extensive listing of non-profit organizations providing assistance to the victims. Go to www.usaid.gov/locations/asia_near_east/tsunami/ngolist.html

- **Churches in Highlands.** Just about every church in Highlands has an Tsunami Relief Campaign in progress. Call your local church.

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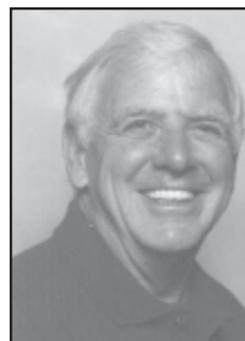


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• **LAUGHING AT LIFE** •

Judith Mackie was so... 'Rappelling'
(In Memory)

Writer's note: I have purposely waited to write anything about my friend, Judith, mostly because others, who knew and loved her more than I, should have their say first. Now it's my time.



Fred Wooldridge

I was just finishing up my ushering duties in the back of the church when I felt a slight tug on my coat jacket. Before I could turn to see who was pulling at me, I heard Judith's very distinctive British accent, "I want to learn to rappel. Do you think I could do that?" I turned to face this smiling, middle-aged, somewhat overweight lady I had come to know only through church.

Years ago, when I was still running a rappelling school in Highlands, I spotted Judith mowing the lawn at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church and did a double take at seeing a woman pushing a mower on the slopped lawn. The next time I saw her, she was on the altar, playing the base fiddle, in accompaniment with the organist at Sunday mass. "Strange," I thought, "a lady who mows grass is also a talented musician." That didn't fit the mold I had put her in. I reminded myself, once again, not to label people so quickly.

Surprised by her question, I stammered for just a second before responding. "Well, sure you can learn to rappel. When would you like to go?" I asked. With a wide grin and a sparkle in her eye, she said, "Well, I'm not even sure I can afford you. How much is it?" After hearing the price, Judith's smile fell away as she dropped her head ever so slightly. "Oh, I can't afford that, so maybe some other time ... when I get rich." She raised her head proudly and smiled as she walked away.

Several days later I ran into Judith landscaping a piece of property right in town and stopped to talk. "How about a trade, Judith? I have just bought a home and it's in

need of landscaping. I'll teach you to rappel and you landscape my yard."

Three days later, Judith stood proudly in my class with a family of tourists at "Bust Your Butt Falls" and listened intently to the safety instructions and hands on demonstration. I knew that her challenge would

not be the learning part, but that she would struggle with the physical-end of this sport. Getting to the top of this beginner's cliff is not easy. Graciously, she volunteered to go last so as not to hold up the group. Finally, Judith arrived at cliff's edge, breathless.

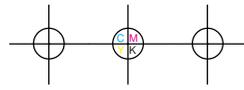
"Sweet Mother of God, it's so high. I can't do this." I had heard this many times from others, maybe not so profoundly, but the remark was common. "Sit over there and catch your breath. You'll know when you're ready."

Judith watched intently as each student practiced their newly learned skill and seemed to be having fun. Finally, Judith jumped to her feet and said, "I'm ready." She rigged herself perfectly and backed toward the edge of the cliff. "Don't forget to breathe. Stop holding your breath," I commanded.

I was only inches away as Judith slowly stepped off the top. Two more steps and POW, she lost her footing and was now dangling upside down from the very top of the cliff. "I'm sure this is not what you had in mind," she quipped. Following instructions, she righted herself and continued her descent. I thought I had seen the last of her and kissed my landscaping good-bye.

But moments later, she was back. "Let's see if I can do better this time." I was surprised to see her. As she moved near the edge of the cliff for the second time, she leaned over and whispered, "In all my life, I have never been so terrified as I was while hanging upside down." Then with a smirk to hide her fear she joked,

■See WOOLDRIDGE page 17



• MOVIE PIX •

Big Fish



Stuart Armor

The 2003 sort of comedy, sort of fantasy, but mainly a father-son story, directed by the brilliant Tim Burton, starring practically everybody, including Albert Finney, Ewan McGregor, Billy Crudup, Jessica Lange, Danny DeVito, Steve Buscemi and many, many more talented actors, some known, some not.

Based on the novel Big Fish, a Novel of Mythical Proportions, by Daniel Wallace

The Storyline: Ed Bloom (brilliantly, flawlessly played by both Finney and McGregor) is a big guy, with a big imagination, and very big, oversized stories. His son (good but nondescript performance by Crudup, from Hi Lo Country, Everyone Says I Love You) feels that Dad's tall tales have kept him from getting to know his father, and he resents it.

A lot. And spends a good deal of the beginning of the film carrying a big chip on his shoulder. But news of Dad's impending death brings the snotty little son back home, and he hears, once again, the Saga of Ed Bloom, complete with giants, werewolves, Siamese twins, bank robbers turned Wall Street execs, deeds of daring do, and stories of forever enduring love. And, of course, a Big Fish. And maybe, just maybe, the son might slowly soften and learn a bit about his father and maybe something about life, if he will listen to his tales, which may or may not be tall tales, but they ain't exactly short.

Ed Bloom the elder is played by Albert Finney, a wonderful actor, as seen in films as diverse as Annie, Miller's Crossing and Breakfast of Champions, and he gives his usual

talented performance. His character is big, fun, full of life even as he faces its end, and above all, a showman. McGregor (Brassed Off, Star Wars) plays Ed Bloom as a young man, and plays it bright, goofy and bold, as the epic story unfolds. And it is an

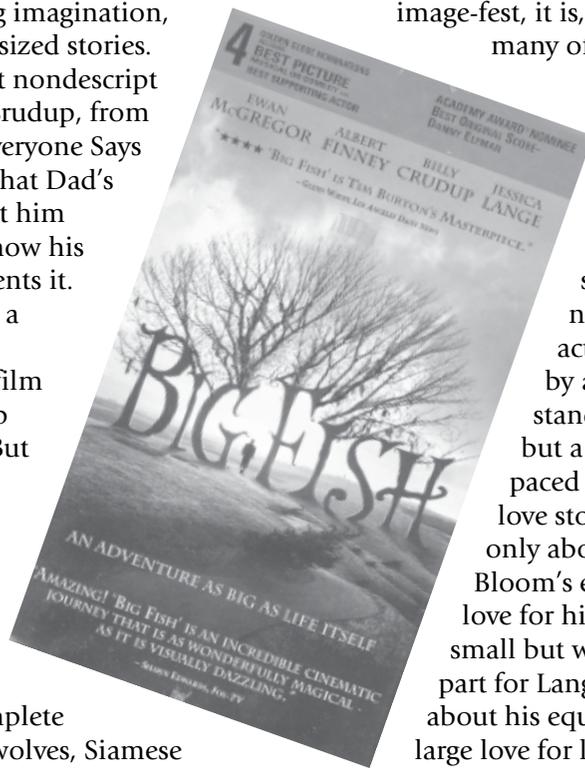
epic story, Bloom's epic at any rate. Tim Burton, a master at visual art, brings his mix of comic and dark imagery, as he has done so well before in Edward Scissorhands, Batman, and one of my favorites, James and the Giant Peach.

The film is not just an image-fest, it is, like many of

Burton's films, a touching sweet/funny/sad story, not an action film by any standards but a fast paced one, a love story, not only about Bloom's enduring love for his wife (a small but well done part for Lange), but about his equally large love for life. And mostly it is a

father/son story, showing just how impossible it is for a child to ever really know a parent and indirectly asking if it is even necessary.

If you like this one, others to see are Forrest Gump, Smoke Signals, Gray's Anatomy and Secret of Roan Inish for great story telling, and for sheer stunning imagery (as opposed to special effects) give a look to Moulin Rouge, Brazil, Amalie, and City of Lost Children, you won't be disappointed.



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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.

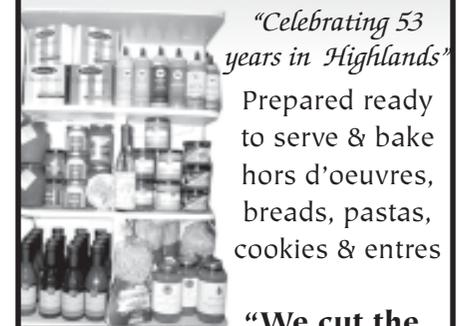
The weekly Theatre Games class for 1st through 4th graders is held every Monday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at The Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square.

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.

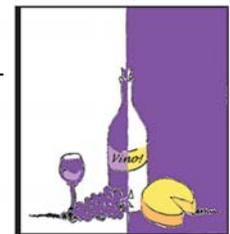
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Matinee (Before 5 p.m.)
Adult-\$5, Child - \$4
Seniors get \$1 off "After 5"
Showing Feb. 3
HIDE AND SEEK rated R
Fri: (4:15), 7:10, 9:15
Sat (2:10), (4:15), 7:10, 9:15
Sun: (2:10), (4:15), 7:10
Mon - Thur: (4:15), 7:10

THE AVIATOR rated PG-13
Fri: (4), 7
Sat: (1), (4), 7
Sun: (1), (4), 7
Mon - Thur: (4), 7

RACING STRIPES rated PG
Fri: (4:10), 7:05, 9:10
Sat: (2:05), (4:10), 7:05, 9:10
Sun: (2:05), (4:10), 7:05
Mon - Thur: (4:10), 7:05

MEET THE FOCKERS PG-13
Fri: (4:20), 7, 9:20
Sat: (2), (4:20), 7, 9:20
Sun: (2), (4:20), 7
Mon - Thur: (4:20), 7



Girls learning needlepoint



Doris Long and Teresa Heard, members of Highlands Needlepoint Society are teaching members of The Girls' Clubhouse how to do needlepoint. When they are finished each girl will have a needlepoint Christmas Tree ornament.



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Chris Cutshaw

... BUDGET continued from page 3

which covers current expenses, capital outlay and in 2004-2005, the Highlands gym.

The least amount comes from the federal government – in 2004-05 it was \$2,331,250 – and it usually comes with lots of strings attached like using it for the “No Child Left Behind” program.

The Macon County School system budget amounted to \$29,699,919 for 2004-05 — covering it all – salaries for all the personnel, capital expenses, and instructional materials.

There are 617 full time personnel employed by the school district and that includes teachers, guidance counselors, psychologists, media personnel, teacher assistants, clerical personnel, principals, assistant principals, central office administrators, service workers and IT technicians.

There are 312 teachers in Macon County where a starting teacher's salary is \$25,420 for 10-months employment. The average teacher's salary with 15 years experience is \$36,920 for 10-months employment.

Salaries for principals, vice principals, and the most expensive teachers come out of state funds because that's where most of the budget money comes from. The next group of teachers is paid for out of federal Title One and At Risk funds. The remainder – the least experienced and therefore the least expensive teachers are paid out of local funds.

“We do it that way so our county funds aren't eaten up by salaries,” said Shotwell. There are 16 locally paid teachers in the Macon County School system.

It costs \$7,122.29 to educate each student in Macon County where 4,170 students are currently enrolled in the system.

Due to budget shortfalls, state funds have been cut over the last several years, which has put more of a burden on the county.

“The county commissioners don't think they should have to pick up the state's slack, but they do because they don't want the kids' education to suffer,” said Shotwell.

Going into each budget year Shotwell and his principals are told to keep their budget increase to just 10 percent. “That's been hard to do with the state withholding funds and cutting back,” he said. “Luckily, the

county has come through whenever asked by the school board when funds are lacking.”

Allocations for teachers and curriculum are paid out of state and federal funds are calculated per student head count at schools. This always leaves small K-12 schools like Highlands and Nantahala in the lurch.

“But we know we have to take care of Highlands and Nantahala,” said Shotwell. “where they get a lot more money than the head count generates.”

He said Highlands get 9 ½ more teachers than should be “allowed” on the books because he thinks it's important to keep classes small and make education equivalent to students attending schools in Asheville or other school districts in North Carolina.

“There are only five K-12 schools left in North Carolina and unless one knows the complexities of running a comprehensive curriculum, it is hard to convey the need for special funding. This is one of the reasons I think the state funding formula for these schools should be adjusted accordingly. Until this occurs, we, as a county, must ensure our students at Highlands and Nantahala receive a quality education and lower class sizes.

“In order to offer a challenging and rigorous curriculum at Highlands, there have to be some equalizing effects – the most important ones are quality staff and a diversified offering of courses. If a school is fewer in number, then funds from local current expense and state at-risk money have to be used to ensure the appropriate teacher/student ratio that bigger schools are able to achieve. Highlands receives more local current expense money to balance this ratio.”

He said if the school system went by state allocations there would be more combination classes like first and second grade together or second and third grade together in Highlands.

He also said a lot more “free” money could come Highlands' way if 35 percent of the school population signed up for the free or reduced lunch program. But it's a pride thing, he said. “The fact is though, no one has to use the free and reduced lunch program, but if enough people sign up for it the school could qualify for special funding.”

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First day of school in Macon County still up in the air

By Kim Lewicki

Macon County Schools still haven't heard back from the state board of education concerning the Aug. 10 start-up date for the entire county.

Officials listened to Dr. Rodney Shotwell's reasons for wanting to start school Aug. 10 — to correspond with Southwestern Community

College's schedule — but they only gave the OK for Franklin High School, Highlands and Nantahala.

"It's just not reasonable to put the burden of funding two calendars on local funds," said Shotwell at the Jan. 24 School Board meeting.

If the state board doesn't approve the same start-up date for the entire

■ See **FIRST DAY** page 18

... **W/WTP continued from page 1**

rest of the money was spent on mandatory engineering and environmental studies.

"It took DENR 18 months to issue the construction permits and in that time costs have skyrocketed," said Mayor Buck Trott. "The cost of steel has gone up 100 percent as has the cost of fuel."

The town can't accept the \$5 million-plus bid because it doesn't have the funds to back it. Footing the \$5 million bill would mean raising taxes or passing a bond to finance the expansion.

"And no one wants to do that," said Trott.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix and engineers at W.K. Dickson are going over the construction plans with a fine tooth comb to see if anything can be trimmed to lower the price.

"We could go to coated steel instead of stainless steel, but the lifespan of stainless is indefinite

whereas coated steel is 10-years," said the mayor.

For several years the wastewater treatment plant capacity has hit 80-90 percent capacity which makes expansion mandatory as per state law. The town opted to increase capacity to 1.5 mgd — tripling the capacity rather than just doubling it — to ensure capacity over the long term.

"Besides, doubling instead of tripling wouldn't save that much money anyway," said Trott.

He said expansion plans included several top-notch additions. The third stage of treatment, known as tertiary treatment, involving ultraviolet rays was factored in as was special valves to withstand freezing weather.

Engineers will also go back to the vendors to see if anything can be trimmed from that angle.

Findings and alternatives will be discussed at the Feb. 2 Town Board meeting.

... **CAR WASH continued from page 1**

radius."

If the Zoning Board of Adjustment issues a Special Use Permit for the project at the Feb. 9 meeting, Bolt is set to start construction immediately. "We hope to have it completed in six months," he said.

He estimates the price of an automatic touch-free wash to range from \$5-\$9.

Bolt is leasing the .62-acre lot from his mother, Margaret O'Donnell who owns Highlands Plaza. He said plans for the plaza include a exterior remodel and possibly the building of stores along the perimeter as his grandfather originally planned. But those plans are a couple years down the road.

Highland Hiker

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at the Crossroads
Cashiers

Highland Hiker Shoes
The Falls on Main
Highlands



MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Volume 2, Number 4

Highlands School News

Friday, January 28, 2005

Coming Up... Social studies classes experience inauguration

Friday Jan 28- 5:00 p.m. Varsity Basketball vs. Rosman (Rec Park)

Saturday Jan 29- 10:00 a.m. Interact Club Road Cleanup; meet at Peggy Crosby Center

Tuesday Feb 1- 5:00 p.m. Varsity Basketball vs. Swain County (New Gym)

Friday Feb 4- 5:00 p.m. Varsity Basketball vs. Hiwassee Dam (new gym); Interact meeting

Saturday Feb 5- 3:30 p.m. Varsity Basketball vs. Tallulah Falls (new gym)

Monday Feb 7- 4:30 p.m. Varsity Basketball vs. Tamassee-Salem (new gym)

Tuesday Feb 8- 3:00 p.m. Driver's Ed Test; progress reports mailed home

Thursday Feb 10- 1:30 p.m. Asheville Jazz Quartet (Grades 4-7)

Friday Feb 11- 6:30 p.m. Varsity Basketball vs. Blue Ridge (new gym)

Tuesday Feb 15- Conference Tournament at Nantahala. 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. Varsity Women's Basketball. 5:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. Varsity Men's Basketball.

Thursday Feb 17- Conference Tournament at Nantahala. 6:30 p.m. Varsity Women's Basketball. 8:00 p.m. Varsity Men's Basketball.



Krystal Cutshaw, Highlands School sophomore, proudly stands in front of the United States Capitol Building January 20 during George W. Bush's second presidential inauguration. The proceedings are protected on the monitor behind Krystal at right.

Photo by Ian Marsden

Allie Roman and Alex Osteen 12th Grade

High School students knew they were in for a treat when Civics and World History teacher Chris Green offered to take them to Washington, DC for the second presidential inauguration of George W. Bush.

Green organized a trip with World Strides, a company that organizes student tours. He and four other faculty members chaperoned 30 Highlands students on the 3-day 4-night trip. Tours in the capital included a trip to the Smithsonian Institution, the Holocaust Museum, the World War II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and the Vietnam Memorial among many other sites. The group departed from the Highlands School late Tuesday evening, January 18 and returned early Saturday morning, January 22.

See INAUGURATION page 4

Students to visit Fabulous Fox

Michelle Dendy 12th Grade

Art Club students are in for a keen treat on Saturday, February 26. Students are traveling to the "Fabulous Fox Theatre" in Atlanta to see a live production of Hairspray based on the New Line Cinema film.

Art Club's sponsor Sallie Taylor will be taking fifteen members along with eight faculty members to the theatre. Taylor is taking the Art Club to the play to enhance the cultural education of the students. In the past years the Art Clubs purpose is to raise money for art supplies, this year the club has decided to organize an Art Museum Club. The club will

focus on going to museums to see various exhibits. This is Taylor's first trip to see a production with students.

The film, written and directed by John Walters in 1988 focuses on a rather large girl, Tracy Turnblad, in the early 60's. This robust girl has a passion for dancing and wins a spot on a local TV dance show, "The Corny Collins Show."

The production is much like the film and follows the transformation of big haired, big hearted Tracy from outcast teen to hopping celebrity overnight, it is a production the students are eager to see.

Valentine's Day Sales

~Sponsored by Highlands School Junior Class~

February 1-10, 2005

Candy Bags: \$3.00

Carnations: \$3.00

Red Roses: \$5.00

Order forms will be sent homes with students

Contact Highlands School Office @ 526-2147



Highlands School senior Allison Waller helps senior Amy Crook drink her juice, after having her blood tested.

Photo by McKenzie Thompson

Highlands students, faculty donate blood

Stephanie McCall
11th Grade

Many students and faculty members at Highlands School along with some parents took pride in donating 56 units of blood on a rainy January 13. Senior Erin Munger said "I feel giving blood is for a good cause. Anything you can do to help anyone else out you should because it's beneficial not only to them but to yourself. It really makes you feel great!"

Greg Johnson, spokesperson for Anderson Medical Health, visited English class to inform seniors and juniors about the blood drive held Thursday, January 13, explaining requirements and rewards for donating blood. The reward in donating blood is the wonderful feeling that is achieved from helping some one else, and of course a free t-shirt.

The requirements are that donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and not have donated blood in the last 56 days. If donors have a piercing or a tattoo, then they must wait 12 months from the time it was done to give blood. Greg Johnson also recommended that students eat a big breakfast and drink plenty of water the day they give blood. Donors also must be feeling well in all aspects, or medical personnel will ask the donor to come back another day.

According to Johnson, every three seconds someone in the world needs blood. That's 34,000 pints a day. Yet only 5% of Americans donate blood.

Each time blood is drawn, the blood is separated into 3 packets. So every time donors give blood they're helping 3 people. The red blood cells are used for accident and surgery patients. The plasma is used for burn victims and the platelets are used to help cancer patients.

Before donors give blood, medical personnel prick their finger and run the blood through numerous tests to make sure the blood is safe. They will also test the donor's temperature, blood pressure, and red blood cell level.

Donating blood takes about 10 minutes. There is a slight prick as the medical personnel insert a sterile needle into the vein in the arm.

About one pint of blood is drained from the body's approximate nine pints. The body replaces the lost fluids within 24 hours and the lost blood cells within six weeks. When the process is over, donors are treated with a snack such as juice and cookies.

After the blood is drawn it is taken to a laboratory where it is tested extensively. From there it will be used in hospitals, cancer treatments, accidents, surgeries, and much more.

- Movie Reviews -

Meet the Fockers

Director Jay Roach (*50 First Dates*, *Meet the Parents*, *Austin Powers in Goldmember*) does it again in the lively Universal Pictures Comedy *Meet the Fockers*. The movie hit theaters everywhere on December 22 and rolled in \$166,884,000 at the box office.

Focker is the family name of Greg Focker, Ben Stiller (*Zoolander*, *Dodgeball*). Greg's parents are Bernie and Roz, a loose and liberal Florida hippie couple still living in the last century and enjoying every minute of it. Dustin Hoffman, (*Hook*, *Finding Neverland*) as Bernie shows amazing talent for over the top comedy. Fitting perfectly with Hoffman's Bernie, is Barbra Streisand (*Hello Dolly*) as Roz Focker, remindful of the "zaftig" Lainie Kazan. Bernie is a retired lawyer who has not practiced in a very long time. Roz is a sex therapist to the elderly.

Greg is not too eager to reveal his parents' true nature to his fiancée's parents when they all come to visit and get to know each other better. Teri Polo, (*Domestic Disturbance*, *The Unsaid*) plays Greg's fiancée, Pam. Robert De Niro, (*Godsend*, *City By the Sea*) and Blythe Danner (*The Invisible Circus*) play her stiff and straight parents, Jack and Dina Byrnes. Coming along on the trip with the Byrnes is Little Jack, played by two adorable twins, Spencer and Bradley Pickeren.

Greg and Pam are planning their wedding together, and the only thing left to do is for the in-laws to spend a weekend getting to know each other. Things start off well, but that's before Jack discovers that the lawyer and doctor Greg said his parents were, are really a stay-at-home dad and a sex therapist to the elderly. Then there's the RV toilet episode, the overly zealous game of touch football, the Cuban caterer with a secret, the incident with the toddler and the glue, and much, much more.

I found this movie to be quite humorous. It was PG-13, and I think that's accurate due to sexual implications, adult language, and a brief drug reference. I recommend this movie for anyone, especially if you think *your* parents are embarrassing.

Stephanie McCall
11th Grade

Spanglish

Paz Vaga, Téa Lioni and Adam Sandler star in the silver screen flick, *Spanglish*. A Mexican mother, Flor (Vaga), and her daughter move to Los Angeles, California in order to seek out a better life.

Successful chef and devoted husband, John Clasky (Sandler), his high-strung wife, Deborah (Lioni), their two children and Deborah's mother hire Flor as nanny. Flor recognizes the plentiful problems of the Clasky family, and attempts to extend help to them through more than just house cleaning.

Over the summer, Flor and her daughter, Christina, must move in with the Claskys at their beach house. At her young age and in a hard way, Christina must learn about the importance of family. The entire story is told by Christina in a college essay to Princeton University.

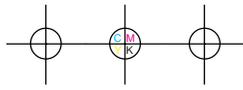
Comical drama fuses with real-life problems to create a touching, meaningful, yet witty story of Mexico meets America. This movie is highly recommended for people who would enjoy a combination of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* and *Stepmom*.

McKenzie Thompson
12th Grade



A publication of Highlands School Journalism class

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Elementary students read their way to the top

By Catlin Huitt
12th Grade

Students from Kindergarten to fifth grade were presented with awards on January 19 for achieving their individual growth goals on Accelerated Reader (AR) tests. AR is a computerized program that tests the students reading comprehension and memory.

These young readers had to meet varying criteria to earn these awards.

Students worked to improve their individual reading levels. Another personal goal for readers was to earn more points from the AR tests. Readers must earn a grade of 80 or higher on a reading test in order to earn points in grades K-2. Students in grades 3-5 must score an 85 or better to earn points. The administration showed their appreciation for the hard work of students who achieved their goals by awarding them.



Photo by Carol Bowen

Mrs. Chalker's Great Beginnings AR Awards:

Front Row, left to right: Brenna Wilson, Maddie Schandolph, Alexa Reese, Hayley Hawkins, Wesley Hedden, Benjamin Miller, Sierra Nylund, Cecelia Schmitt, Dylan Vinson

Second Row, left to right: Kyle Gabbard, Remy Adrian, Chance Gilbert, James McMann, Jacob Calloway, Courtney Henry, Gavin Johnson, Jordan McGillvray, Adam Schiffl

Not pictured: Rachel Billingsley, Ryan Houser, Mykenzi Potts



Photo by Carol Bowen

Mrs. McClellan's Kindergarten AR Awards:

Left to right: Danielle Mathis, Wayland McCall, Dillan Medlin, Eden Ingate, Erica Barnes, Emily Mathis, Tucker Johnson, Bethany Shuler, Sandra Garcia, Emily Crowe, Katlin Moss, Abigail Gilbert, Natalie Thompson, Amber Reese, Megan Vinson, Kate Pistol



Photo by Carol Bowen

Mrs. Baker's First Grade AR Awards:

Front row, left to right: Michael Beck, Sarah Henry, Katie Potts, Tasha Thurmond, Jamie Grace, Hannah Tiddick

Second row, left to right: Carrie McClure, Katie Deal, Demi Pistolis, Bryce Henry, Ally Sackman, Allie Wilkes, Ketzazetli Gonzalez, Carter Potts, Jared Walker, John Iannacone

Back row, left to right: Ahzah Kennemore, Whitney Billingsley, Robbie Calloway, Antonio Delgado, Jacob Watson, Collin Weller



Photo by Carol Bowen

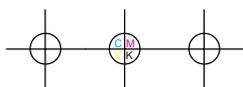
Mrs. Hedden's Second Grade AR Awards:

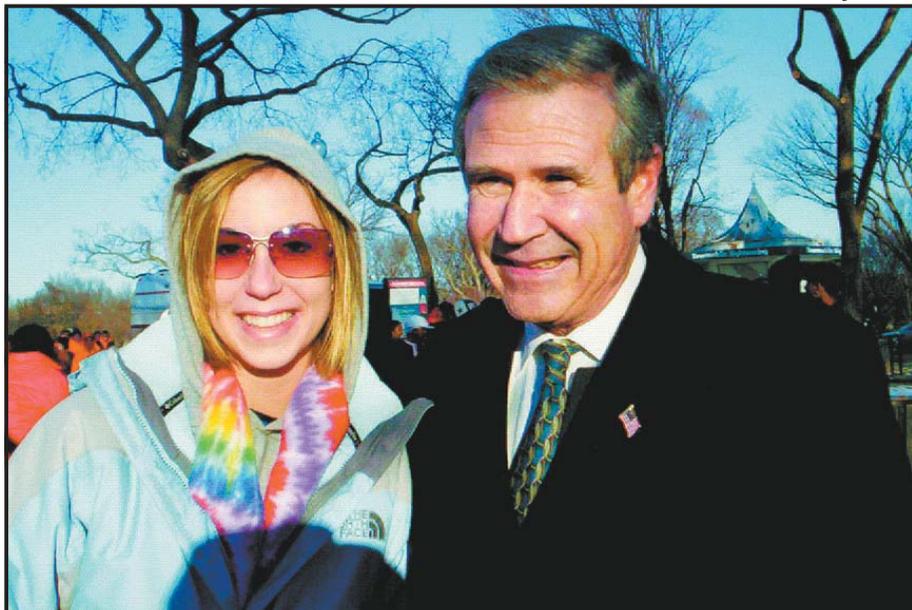
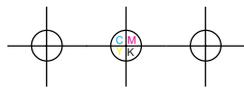
Front row, left to right: Allie Bolt, Preston Chastain, Kyle McMann, Meredith Garren, Amber Welch

Second row, left to right: Taylor Schmitt, Soren Christiansen, Veronica Garcia, Elizabeth Houston, April Moss, Desiray Schmitt

Not pictured: Melissa Estrada

See **ACCELERATED** page 6





Toni Schmitt poses with President George W. Bush impersonator during the field trip to the presidential inauguration.

Photo by Keli Baer

INAUGURATION from Pg 1

After attending the inauguration of President George W. Bush on January 20 and watching the inaugural parade, students were treated to the World Strides Inaugural Ball before commuting back to their hotel in Herndon, Virginia, for the evening.

On day three, the group toured George Washington's Mount Vernon then returned to the DC area once again, this time visiting the White House, Ford's Theatre, the Lincoln, Jefferson and FDR Memorials and the war monuments.

Before the trip, Green said, "I am very excited about this trip. I think students will come away with an interest in politics and American history."

Senior Matt Keener was also excited about the trip. He said, "I just can't wait to do it because I think it will be a great experience. I mean a small town boy like me seeing the President up close, I think it's freaking awesome!"

Student Government president and former foreign exchange student Alex Osteen kept a journal during the trip. Following is his account of the inaugural week field trip.

When the journalism class asked me to cover the Washington DC trip, I grabbed my notebook and camera and dashed towards the bus. I love DC, and even though I've been before, its magnificence once again captured my patriotism and enthusiasm for history.

Once we stepped off the bus at

Arlington National Cemetery, our first stop, two things happened. One, it started to snow. Two, time began to fly. The security and weather throughout were unpleasant, but it wasn't unbearable.

We covered so many landmarks in so short a time that we were left nearly spinning when it was all over.

All the memorials and monuments were interesting, but I suppose the highlight of the trip was the inauguration and the subsequent parade. We stood in the fourth section, about nine blocks away from the Capitol Building (after the dignitaries on the steps of the Capitol Building, the invitees sitting directly in front of the speaker's podium, and the guests with tickets standing behind the invitees).

Even though snipers and cops and the press were everywhere, we could still enjoy the patriotic and enthusiastic environment. People were generally in a good, snowball-throwing mood it seemed. I sort of felt like part of the third class on the Titanic, close to the "important" people, but far enough away to have a good time.

Our group arrived in Highlands at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 22. Cracked lips, numb toes, and tired legs were a small price to pay for the wonderful experience we had. The chaperones were great and I appreciate Mr. Green's organization of the trip. We were given sufficient freedom to get out into the meat of the city and feel the pulse of it first-hand.

Middle School Events

By Marlee McCall

6th Grade

Middle school students are busy and excited about starting the New Year. Here are some of the upcoming events;

- The Highlands School Science Fair is to be held in March. All Middle students are required to participate in this event.
- Middle school students also have a choice to participate in the Western Carolina Science fair to be held on February 12. If the students choose to go to Western Carolina they can use that project for the Highlands Science Fair as well. For more information on the Western Carolina Science Fair see Ms. Stephanie Smathers.
- The Junior Beta club has held a small outside clean-up around the Middle school building to raise money for a larger outside clean-up.



Senior Holly Conard demonstrates cake decorating to the Advanced Foods class. Jackie Reed (left), Lauren Dalton, Keri Raby watch Conard putting frosting on a cake. Ramsey Ashburn (not pictured) said that Conard was a "very good instructor and the demonstrations was useful". The cake decorating techniques they learned during the demonstration will help them when they make their own Valentine's Day cake.

Photo by Michelle Dendy

National Assessment of Education Progress administered January 25

By Catlin Huitt

12th Grade

Twenty-five Highlands students in eighth grade took the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in math, reading and science on January 25. NAEP, often called The Nation's Report Card, is a continuing assessment of American students' knowledge and ability in various subject areas.

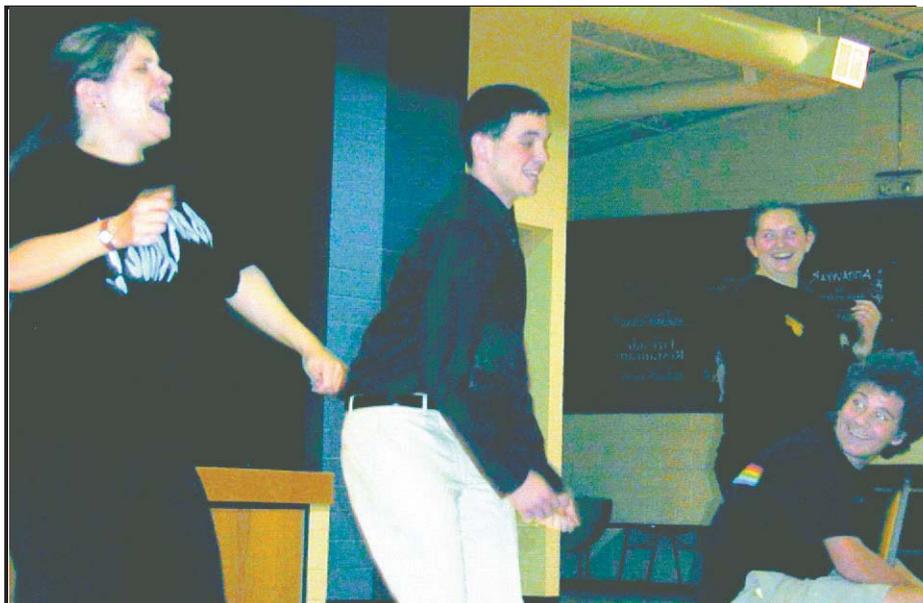
Schools and students around the nation are selected at random for test administration. According to school counselor Patricia Catchings, "These tests

are great because they [allow educational leaders to] compare scores throughout the nation and not just our state."

Highlands NAEP test results will be compared to those other schools all over the country. Results will assist test makers in the development of higher testing standards.

State end-of grade and end-of course tests only tell how our students are performing in comparison to other students in North Carolina. The NAEP compares students and schools statewide.





Poetry Alive's! Beth McFayden uses Ryan Bears, Buddy-Boy Parrish, Maggie Dearth as props in one of the famous poems that the couple recited to the high school.

Photo by Matt Keener

Traveling actors bring Poetry Alive!

By Stephanie McCall
11th Grade

Live action poetry performances were a treat for Highland School students on January 5. Students gathered in the gym for an hour with Poetry Alive! performers Rodney Bowling and Beth McFayden, who acted out different poems for the students. The pair performed a repertoire of poems including Carl Sandburg's "Little girl, be careful what you say," Paul Laurence Dunbar's "We Wear the Mask," Langston Hughes' "Daybreak in Alabama."

Other poetic presentations included Alfred Lord Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade," Shakespeare's "Sonnet 18," Elizabeth Barrett Browning's "Sonnet 43," Nikki Giovanni's "The World is Not a Pleasant Place to Be," and Emily Dickinson's "A Word is Dead."

Students and teachers from the audience also got to act out the poems. Ryan Bears, Andrew Willhide, Rebecca Wyatt, Maggie Dearth and David Parrish took part in acting out "We Real Cool" by Gwendolyn Brooks. The audience was filled with laughter as different students volunteered to participate in some of the performances. Teachers Dave Cashion and Anne Porter were also asked to participate as the visiting artists recited love poetry to them.

Founded in 1984, Poetry Alive! held its first show in a music hall called McDibb's in Black Mountain. The audience was made up of about 100 people. One audience member was a teacher who saw the educational potential of the show and asked Poetry Alive! to

visit her classes. The organization now sends five two-person teams to schools throughout the US and several foreign countries.

Their presentations reach an audience of over 7,000,000 in all states as well as the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, Saipan, South Korea, China and Peru. Each year Poetry Alive! conducts 2,000 plus performances with over 700 classroom follow-ups and 100 teacher workshops for an estimated 600,000 students nationwide.



Shorty Billingsley, Highlands School custodian, has her blood pressure measured during a health screening January 26. Volunteers for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital weighed and measured school staff members to determine blood pressure, height, weight and blood oxygen levels. Participants also had their body fat and lean muscle measured during the screening and received vouchers for free laboratory tests at the Hospital. Lab tests will include a lipid profile and glucose test for everyone as well as a PSA blood test for prostate cancer for men over 50. The screenings and free lab tests are a part of a health and wellness partnership developed between HCH and Highlands School. School counselor Patricia Catchings spearheaded the screenings.

Photo by Kathryn Coppage

Highlands School World of Science Tour Set for March

By Erin Munger
12th Grade

World of Science Tour, formerly known as Highlands School Science Fair, will be held in March. Students may participate in the Regional Science Fair and Festival at Western Carolina University February 12. The Regional Science Fair and Festival is an all day Saturday fair in which students enter projects that meet specific guidelines.

Projects will be judged at the school on March 7. Parents and community members may view the projects from 6-8 p.m. following a PTO chili or Mexican dinner on Tuesday, March 8 starting 5 p.m.

To participate in the World of Science Tour, students use the scientific method or conduct research in scientific fields such as physics or chemistry then present their findings to the public. Past projects include studies of the techniques of waves, the incubation of baby chicks and the effects of sewage on the eco-system.

All students in grades K-12 are encouraged to participate in the World of Science Tour. Students in grades 6-8 are required to enter a project as part

of their third semester science grade. All projects must have a hypothesis. Students in grades 6-8 must use the scientific inquiry method of research.

Students who are entering projects in the science competition will receive guidelines for their projects outlining criteria the judges will use for evaluating the projects. This year, each grade may be "representing" a different area of science.

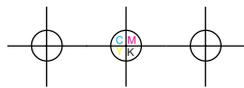
Students in grades K-5 will develop projects that reflect specific themes. Fifth grade students may create inventions while fourth grade students may be required to develop projects involving the theme of electricity. Teachers may select themes that directly relate to the North Carolina Science curriculum for their grade levels or do a scientific method project.

Judging will be held for projects from grades 6-12 with ribbons awarded for first, second, and third place winners. All participants receive a certificate and participation ribbon. Projects from grades K-5 will not be judged his year.

Smathers' feelings about the World of Science Tour are very positive, "I feel the Science Fair is a fun thing for students who do all the work and get to show what they have learned. It is so cool to see the kids bring in their projects, set them up and know that they have done something special." Science project guideline sheets go home with students on Wednesday.

Teachers and parents have always been supportive of the Science Fair and feel its something good that parents and their children can do together. All students who participate in the fair should consider themselves winners just for completing a project and having fun with science.

For information on the Regional Science Fair and Festival, students should see seventh and eighth grade science teacher Stephanie Smathers no later than February 1. For information about the World of Science Tour and student projects, parents may contact Smathers or their child's teacher at Highlands School at 526-2147.



Students read to earn Accelerated Reader awards

ACCELERATED from page 3



Photo by Carol Bowen

Miller's 2nd Grade

Front row, left to right: Andrew Figel, Kassie Vinson, Jessica Tilson, Josh Wolfrey, Jacob Walker, Kirsten Owen

Second Row, left to right: Craig Dalton, Billy Brennan, Grace Brassard, Ann Marie Crowe, Katie Ingram, Tanner Stephens



Photo by Carol Bowen

Harris' 3rd Grade

Front row, left to right: Sydney Harris, Kayla McMann, Emily Shuler, Ryan Vinson, Cara Hedden, Olivia Dendy

Second row, left to right: Emily Gabbard, Nadya Rogers, Alexa Ternes, Max deHoll, Emily Dorsey, Autumn Houston



Photo by Carol Bowen

Archer's 5th Grade (Pictured below)

Front row, left to right: Emily Munger, Tim Fogle, Clayton Dunn, Logan Schmitt, Danielle Shomper, Cody St. Germain

Second row, left to right: Shelby Houston, Matthew Stallings, J. J. Rodriguez, Tyler Ternes, Felipe Ruiz

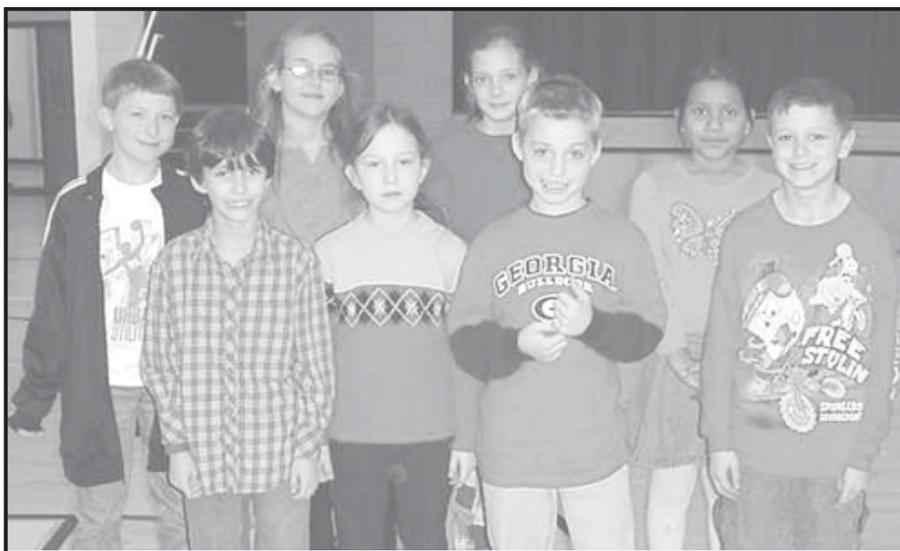


Photo by Carol Bowen

West's 4th Grade (Pictured left)

Front row, left to right: Will Araujo, Summer Lawson, Dax Lloyd, Clay Tuccicaselli

Second row, left to right: Chase Flowers, Rebecca Johnson, Anne Richardson, Cristell Ruiz

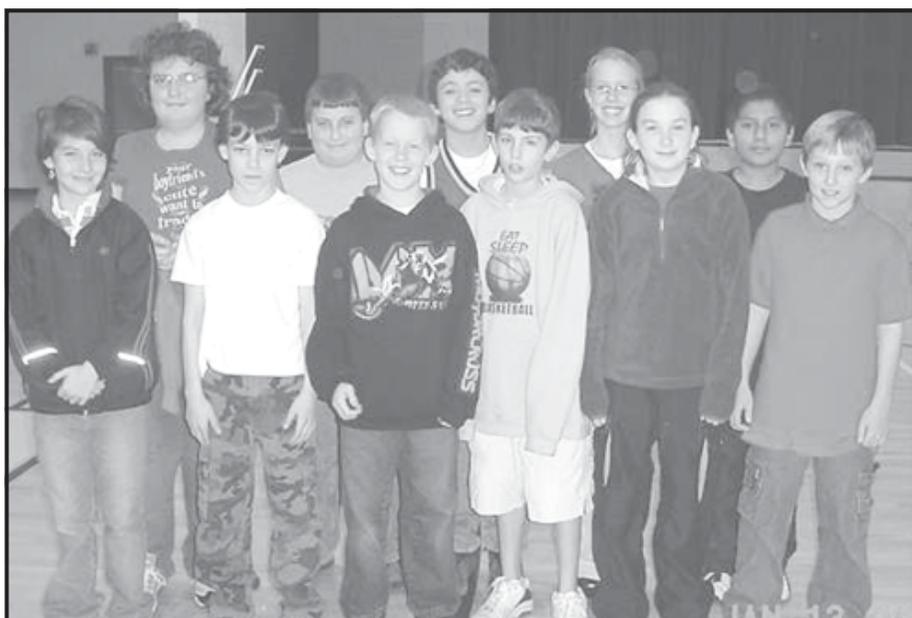
Congratulations!

Photo by Carol Bowen

Cox 5th Grade (Pictured below)

Front row, left to right: Yanet Rangel, Stephanie Smart, Delaine Webb

Second row, left to right: Kimberly Machucca, Cai Roman, Gabrielle Tilson



Highlander boys, girls keep first place in LSM conference

By Allen Shearl
12th Grade

Highlanders gained another exciting conference victory on January 18 as the varsity boys soared over the Nantahala Eagles 80-44. Senior Jeremy Keener said, "We played as a team, and when we play as a team we will usually come out with the victory."

Andrew Kerhoulas, with 18 points was leading scorer for the Highlanders. Allen Shearl added 13 points.

The win against Nantahala makes the Highlander boys 4-0 in conference play and strengthens their undefeated first place position in the Little Smokey Mountain Conference.

The Lady Highlanders played an

exciting game against the Eagles keeping the score within a few points throughout the game. Changes kept fans on the edge of their seats.

Kayla McCall and Rebecca Wyatt led the Lady Highlanders in scoring with 10 points each, but the Ladies sadly lost their valiant struggle against the Eagles 40-38.

The Lady Highlanders are now 3-1 in conference play and still hold first place in the Little Smokey Mountain conference.

Senior Andrew Kerhoulas pulls up for a jump shot over a Nantahala defender in Tuesday's win over the Hawks.
Photo by McKenzie Thompson



Senior Kayla McCall shoots over four Nantahala defenders in Tuesday's game.
Photo by Stephanie McCall

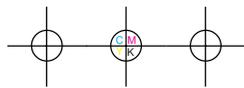


Name: Angela Aspinwall
Age: 17
Height: 5'7"
Weight: 115 lbs
Position: wing and post (2,3,4,5)
Average points per game: 7.8 ppg
Favorite game this season: Hiawassee Dam
College plans: Carson Newman
Why do you play? I love the game!



Name: Matt Rice
Age: 17
Height: 5' 10"
Weight: 168 lbs
Position: forward
Average points per game: 7.5 ppg
Favorite game this season: Hayesville
College plans: UNC-Charlotte
Why do you play? I love it.





Artattack After school art class for students in grades 4 - 8

Wednesday 3:15-4:15

This is a class designed for students in grades 4 through 8 who want to "do art." The students will work in mixed media including: painting, printmaking, graphics, cartooning, clay, 3-D design, fabric and textile. There will be an emphasis on the purpose of art in society, a focus on some of the different forms art takes, and how the visual art affect us. Each student's individual creativity and style will be encouraged. Bus transportation from Highlands School to the Bascom-Louise Gallery will be provided for this class.

High School Art Workshops Tuesdays 4:30-5:30

This is a class designed for high school students who are interested in discovering, exploring, experimenting and stretching their creative abilities. The emphasis of this class will be personal growth. Whether you "can't draw a straight line" or are working on portfolio submissions for college, this class is designed to stimulate your personal creativity and ability to communicate artistically through the visual arts. Students will be introduced to a medium, given a subject matter, and then be encouraged to work through the process of self-expression.

It's Masterful! Art classes for home-schooled students. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays from 1 - 3

This class will be held during the school day. Its purpose is to enhance the academic educational process through art, working closely with the foundational principles of home school education. The use of the Bascom-Louise Gallery's art educational facility and library will help to enhance the student's artistic experience. The heart of the curriculum will be centered on the influence of "The Masters." This class is open to students from first grade through high school. Class size and age grouping will be determined by need. Each class will have a short lesson on a specific artist followed by a creative project. Instruction and experimentation with different mediums will be the core of this class. Each student will be encouraged to work independently at his or her age and experience level. There will also be a take-home portfolio that the students will work on, independent of the actual class time.

Artventure Art for Children in Kindergarten and First Grade

Tuesdays 3:15 - 4:15

This class is for kindergarten and first graders, and is designed to inspire joy, confidence and pride in the art that is produced. The child will have the fun of learning about paint, paper, scissors, glue, crayons, pastels, papier-mâché, fabric, and clay. They will be taught that these products can be manipulated to produce a desired two- or three-dimensional effect. Not only will their work be inspired by their personal experiences, observation, or imagination, this class will also include an awareness of environment and the influence of other cultures that are around them. Bus transportation from Highlands School to the Bascom-Louise Gallery will be provided for this class.

Little Stars Art for Preschool children - Starting Sept. 28

Tuesdays 10:30-11:30

The Bascom-Louise Gallery is excited to be offering a new art program for preschool children. This is a wonderful opportunity to broaden the children's experience by a hands-on, age appropriate introduction to the visual arts. The children will be acquainted with the Gallery's permanent and temporary exhibits. This will be a chance to experience personal observation and expression and to learn how artists communicate thoughts and feelings through art. They will then make their own inspired special art. The children will have the chance to work with mixed media, learning the artistic process of using paints, pastels, fabrics, and clay.

Parent and child Wednesdays 11-12

Wednesdays 11-12

This is a delightful time for pre-school children, age 2 to kindergarten, and parents to "play" together. Parent and child will enjoy the creation process of a start-to-finish project, which will delight the eyes and heart. The child will also begin to learn how to use the "tools of art," safely and with respect. This is a fun mixed media class that will bring out the child in everyone.

Each class is \$5 • Call the Gallery at 526-4949 to register
Scholarships available



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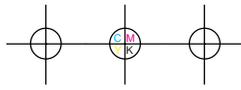
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... PAID HELP continued from page 1

related," and "rescue & first-responder."

In 2004, the department made 194 fire & related calls - 85 in town and 109 outside the town limits.

Fire and related calls include fire alarms, wrecks with hazardous conditions, mutual aid to other fire & rescue departments, investigations of smoke or odor, structure or chimney fires, controlled burns, brush or woods fires, and vehicle fires.

Rescue and first-responder calls increased by just one call - 164 in all - 78 in town and 86 outside the town limits.

Rescue and first-responder calls include assisting EMS, wrecks other than fire calls, calls related to storms, hiker and waterfall falls and injuries, standby and animal calls, and searches for missing people.

"Our calls just keep going up," said Bobby Houston, part-time administrative assistant. He's been with the department in one capacity or another for 41 years.

At the Jan. 19 Town Board meeting, commissioners accepted the Fire & Rescue Department's annual report for 2004 noting department discussions about hiring at least one but possibly two full-time firemen for fiscal year starting July 1, 2005.

Trott said it's something the department's been talking about for a while and it might be something the board will have to act on soon.

Of the 10 fire and rescue departments in the county, two have one or two paid firefighters. Franklin Fire & Rescue employs the chief and one fireman; Clarks Chapel has one paid firefighter.

"The size of a department is based on the number of calls," said

Houston. "If you go by that, Highlands is second in the county, Franklin is first."

He said it's also getting harder and harder to keep up with state and county regulations with just a volunteer staff. "We have to keep the equipment in order and maintained and be on hand to respond to calls, too," said Houston.

For instance, the state fire marshal requires fire hydrants to be checked once a month. "The town said its crews could do it for now, but it's probably something we need to be doing," said Houston.

Training and certification requirements increase each year, too.

In 2004, 14 firemen completed 516 man-hours of certification and training at 20 area fire & rescue schools and community colleges.

The number of man-hours spent on increased fire, rescue and first-responder calls amounted to 1,758.

With training and certification requirements mounting as well as the number of calls, it's getting harder to recruit and keep qualified volunteers, said Houston.

Highlands Fire & Rescue's First Lt. Jody Zachary recently accepted a paid position with the John's Island Fire Department near Charleston, S.C.

At a volunteer department, responding to calls means calling volunteers off their jobs. "Sometimes it's just a matter of checking on something," said Houston.

He said it would be great to have one or two people on staff to check calls about "a smell of gas or smoke," or "a visual sighting of smoke."

The ultimate decision to employ firemen rests with the Town Board.

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

"The river looks different when you're hanging upside down, doesn't it?"

Judith went on to rappel the rest of day and got better each time she descended. Not only did she perform well, but agreed to take stage two, which was much more demanding than the beginner's cliff. I have never had a more determined student and she was so much fun to teach. She had overcome her fear of heights and mastered her body weight and control on the cliffs.

So on summer evenings, just

before dusk, I sometimes pour a glass of wine and stand in my front yard to admire her handy work. The ivy she was so concerned about "taking hold" finally did and now covers the large mound next to the house. Her day lilies, the Hosta, the wild iris and plants I can't even pronounce, return each spring in great abundance.

But this spring, my yard will have a special meaning for me and shall be a continuing reminder of Judith and the small window in her life when we were friends.

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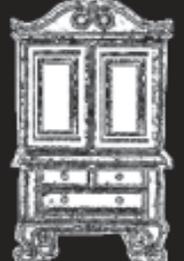
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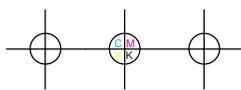


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... FIRST DAY continued from page 8

county then school will start on Aug. 25. "In addition to the funding issue, it would place a hardship on many families with children in different schools to run two different schedules," said Shotwell.

To offer a challenging and rigorous curriculum for highschoolers at Highlands and Nantahala, the district has been making use of SCC's ITV course offerings. Through the program students not only get courses otherwise unavailable at the high schools but they can earn college credit, too.

"Through SCC's ITV program we can offer a more diversified offering

of courses," said Shotwell. "This is particularly important in Highlands and Nantahala where head count doesn't justify state funding for extra courses and teachers."

Raleigh lawmakers listened to parents and businesses who lobbied for longer summers and later start-up dates. In Macon County that date would be Aug. 25.

Shotwell said snow days notwithstanding, a school start-up date of Aug. 10 would give students and parents a 10 1/2 week summer. "If Macon County schools started Aug. 10, the last day would be May 19 and that's a long summer."

Bolivia bound in March 2005

Dr. John Baumrucker

The youth mission to Bolivia will be having a spaghetti dinner Sunday, Jan. 30 following church at 12:15 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.

The youth will be going to Montero Bolivia again this year during spring break, but the mission will begin on Feb. 15 when I, Joanna Baumrucker and Robbie and Jennifer Forrester leave for Montero to teach CPR and the use of defibrillators, ultrasound teaching and to begin a family planning clinic and AIDS education and testing.

A second group will come on Feb. 23, including Dr. San Ho Choi, Gwen Kelly, Coleman Buchanan, Eugenia Green and Delia Fredricks to bring laparoscopic equipment and teach the surgeons there how to use the equipment. We have been blessed to have donations from Angel Hospital of their old, but very fine, laparoscopic equipment. Bought new, this would be worth more than \$100,000.

Several suppliers are donating, or selling other parts for cost or reduced prices. At the same time, the Baptist Hospital system in Tennessee has donated two monitors useful with this equipment, and nine defibrillators, so all the hospitals in Montero will have a functional defibrillator in several areas of the hospital where needed.

On March 4, a group of volunteers from Highlands, Sapphire, Minnesota, Sylva and Australia will

arrive to build a playground at the foster home, and begin to build houses for the poor. The construction will continue when a group of 15 honor students arrives from the University of Mississippi, headed by Robert Wicks who was on the mission last year.

They hope to complete one house for the Guarani Indians, and one in the town of Montero.

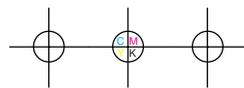
The Highlands-Cashiers youth group arrives on March 24 to continue the building of houses, one of which will become the Methodist Church parsonage.

Martha Rodenbeck will bring her amazing talent for spreading the gospel, and Dr. Fred Rodenbeck and Patricia Kirby will bring much needed dental care and teaching to the several clinics where they work.

We give much thanks and praise to the people of Montero with whom we work for their help, including the Andean Rural Health Care clinics headed by Dr. Dardo Chavez, The General Hospital, Alfonso Gumucio Reyes, and the Rotary Club of Montero. Without their help, little could be accomplished.

We are anxious to see how Easter is celebrated in South America, and how our group can be involved with the churches to make this Easter a memorable event both for us and for them

The supper is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children, and donations are always welcome.



• **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** •

The most powerful weapon



The Rev. Brian Sullivan
Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

These are helpless times, the hurricanes that came through our backyards, the mudslides in California, the tsunami in Asia. Of course, these are only some of the *natural* disasters. What about all the political disasters, like the genocide in the Sudan, unrest in Israel and Palestine, the war in Iraq? A common question I hear is, "What in the world is going on?" which is followed by many of the age old questions, one of which hopefully being, "What can I do?"

Well some of us turn to the opinion editorials for answers, or to our government, or we might even decide to get creative and think for ourselves. It all depends on how helpless we become in the face of so much senseless destruction and violence. So I ask you, the person reading this article, presumably somewhere in Highlands, "What are you doing in the face of all this?"

Well if you are like me, nothing comes to mind, because that's typically what we humans do when we are faced with the impossible, helpless task of "changing the world" or even changing that which we cannot explain or control or understand. We do nothing.

Well here is one answer, pick up the most powerful weapon you possess and fight. Yes, a religious leader is telling you to fight! Fight with a weapon we all possess, the most powerful weapon in our arsenal, prayer. If all of us would turn to prayer as a weapon to fight not only helplessness, but our enemies both exterior and interior, imagine how different the world would be. However, do not misunderstand; prayer is not an excuse to do nothing. It is actually a means to action. In prayer, our connection to God connects us to the creative power that sustains us all. By connecting to that power, we empower ourselves to act, and by acting we change the world.

So as you read this article, take a look around. If you see something that doesn't seem right, or doesn't fit, or needs to change, pray about it. REALLY PRAY. And see if the very change you seek is not right around the corner waiting for you to do something about it.

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

Clear Creek Baptist Church

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

Evening Service – 7 p.m.

Community Bible Church

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Steven E. Kerhoulas, Pastor, 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east

Sundays: School – 9:30 a.m.; Worship – 10:45;
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
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
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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

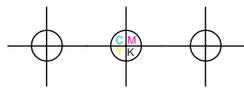
Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon

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





Weekly land use committee work continues at Town Hall

By Kim Lewicki

Slowly the Land Use Committee is working its way toward the finish line.

At the Jan. 24 meeting, members fleshed out remaining updates to the residential portion of the 1989 plan and moved on to the commercial section.

Extending a tree ordinance into the residential code ranked high on the committee's list, as did dealing with

multi-family scenarios. The committee thinks it's important to consider multi-family structures on a site specific basis regardless of the zoning label. For instance, they said there are areas in town zoned B3 which might be conducive to duplexes, condominiums, townhouses and such.

They started working on commercial aspects just as they did for residen-

tial - listing the strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats scenario.

Strengths in the commercial district include a consolidated business district, strong village appearance, good pedestrian access, underground utilities, strong sign ordinance and a strong commercial tree ordinance.

Weakness in the commercial district include insufficient storm water runoff

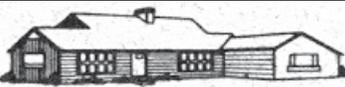
controls, lack of seating, lack of public restrooms, inconsistency of streetscape, lack of green buffers, and the absence of an upkeep or maintenance ordinance.

Threats include a big litter problem and the possibility of "big box" stores coming to town.

The committee will work on the commercial aspect of the plan for the next several meetings.

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BY OWNER

STORE FOR RENT – on 4th

... DRINK continued from page 2

that OEI is selling it all, it's more important than ever to level the playing field for other restaurant-owners. You can't kill the entrepreneurial spirit. The option should be open to everyone."

Gilbert said not only would restaurants benefit, the town and school would, too. Through the ABC Commission, the town and the school receive proceeds from the sale of alcohol in Highlands.

But Stuart Armor of the Brick Oven feels differently. "If they allow the sale of beer and mixed drinks, restaurants like Ruby Tuesdays and TGI Friday will come to town and that will be the end of small mom-and-pop eateries," he said.

But state officials say if a referendum passed, it would only be for the corporate limits of Highlands where there aren't large parcels of land to develop not outside the town limits.

The mayor said to keep bars away,

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the referendum could stipulate just restaurants or eateries.

The North Carolina ABC Commission lists a restaurant as "an establishment substantially engaged in the business of preparing and serving meals with gross receipts from food and nonalcoholic beverages at not be less than 30 percent of the total gross receipts. A restaurant must also have a kitchen and have an inside dining room with seating for at least 36 people.

Permit fees to sell wine or beer are \$400 each; for mixed-beverages it's \$1,000 with renewal fee and permit required each year.

It can go to the polls via referendum anytime as long as it's not less than 60 days and not more than 90 days from the decision to do so – with a price.

But Trott says if it goes to the polls during an election year, it won't cost the town anything.

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of Jan 19-26. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

Jan. 19

- At 1:37 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Bruner Lane. It was false.
- At 6:33 p.m., officers responded to one-vehicle accident on N.C. 28. There was one injury.

Jan. 20

- At 7:20 p.m. and 8:05 p.m., a motorist at N.C. 106 and Cobb Rd. was cited for driving without a license.
- At 2:45 p.m., officers responded to a vehicle fire on N.C. 106. There were no injuries.

Jan. 21

- At 3:20 p.m., officers responded to a call of a "loud noise" at a building site on Big Bear Pen Road. All was secure.
- At 1 p.m. officers responded to a call from a resident on Raoul Rd. who said a workmen cashed a check without doing the work.
- At 2:45 p.m., officers responded to an alarm on Fourth Street. All was secure.
- At 3:37 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Old Edwards Inn. All was secure.

Jan. 22

- At 8:30 p.m., a breaking and entering with larceny was reported at a home on Sequoyah Drive where \$8,000 in household goods was reported stolen. The case in under investigation.

Jan. 24

- At 3:02 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Memorial Park Drive. All was secure.
- At 3:30 p.m., officers told children ice skating on Harris Lake to leave.

Jan. 25

- At 8:45 a.m., improper use of a credit card was reported at the Highlands Biological Station. The case is under investigation.
- At 1:45 p.m., a generator was reported stolen from a residence at Shelby Place. The case is under investigation.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the week of Jan. 20-26.

Jan. 20

- The dept. responded to a vehicle fire on N.C. 28. The car was destroyed, but there were no injuries.

Jan. 22

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Lower Brushy Face. It was false.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers for a structure fire.

Jan. 23

- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital. It was false.

Jan. 24

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

Jan. 25

- The dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on N.C. 106. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Jones joins Highlands police force

As of Jan. 20, Officer Dereck Jones makes officer number 10 at the Highlands Police Dept. job training with radar which he is doing now."

As a 2000 graduate of Franklin High School and a 2004 graduate of SCC's BLET program, Jones is a N.C. certified police officer who is radar certified and qualified with a .40 calibre hand gun.

"He is starting out his law enforcement career with us and we're glad to have him on board," said Chief Jerry Cook. "He only lacks 16 hours of on-the-

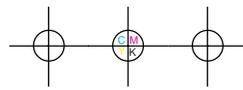
Jones says as a police officer he "wants to help society."

Cook said it will take him a couple of weeks to learn the streets and the "10-codes" and then the dept. will "turn him loose."

There are two openings at the department – one parking enforcement officer and one law enforcement officer to replace officer Tippet who has accepted a job on the WCU campus police force.

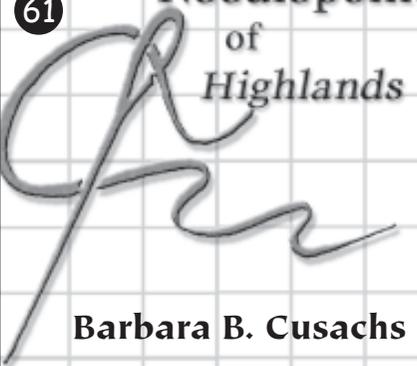


Dereck Jones



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Happy 20th Anniversary Bascom-Louise Gallery

Kay Gorecki
Director

As a part of our 20th Anniversary celebration we are beginning our exhibit series in 2005 by recognizing the regional artists that inspired the beginnings of the Bascom - Louise Gallery.

Twenty years ago, the Hudson Library received a bequest from the estate of a long-time Highlands resident, with the stipulation that it fund the establishment of the Bascom-Louise Gallery "to be used as a permanent art collection for the display of works of art pertaining to Highlands and its surrounding areas or created by resident artists..." Today we are still supporting our regional artists through a greatly expanded variety of programs and opportunities.

In 1999 the gallery separated from

the library and established its own not-for-profit status with a new and exciting vision. Mobilized by this new vision the gallery now aims to foster appreciation for the arts through visual arts exhibits, a permanent collection of art, and outreach programs that build skills and knowledge of the visual arts for students of all ages. The Gallery also aims to provide a social gathering place for area artists, and for other community members and tourists who are interested in the visual arts.

Since its founding as a regional art showcase in 1985, the Bascom-Louise Gallery has been housed at the Hudson Library. In our 20th year we are mobilized again to begin building our new home. The Bascom-Louise Gallery and Hudson Library have thrived and outgrown our small building we have shared. The Gallery has evolved into an arts center that promotes visual arts for the region. We look forward with great enthusiasm and anticipation to our next 20 years of serving this region in visual arts.

Macon County Art Association

The Macon County Art Association, whose purpose is to stimulate community interest in drawing, painting,

photography, and visual arts, was formed in 1962. The members support and operate the Uptown Gallery located at 30 East Main Street, in Franklin, NC.

The nonprofit association sponsors instructional classes for adults and children. They have monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month at the gallery. The meeting highlights include guest speakers and demonstrations in a variety of media.

Association members exhibit and sell their original artwork through the gallery and during the summer months hold outdoor shows in Franklin and Highlands. A large share of the association's sales goes into a scholarship fund for a deserving university art student from Macon County.

Art League of Highlands

The Art League of Highlands was established by a group of 17 artists who in the words of Lucien Harris needed to "band together and organize." He and his wife Mary Jane, a fiber artist, were pivotal in the first "Affair of the Arts" event in July 1980. Later that year the first juried show took place in "The Barn Gallery" of Helene Sparks.

Over the years student scholarships have been awarded and league artists have volunteered their skills in art education, most recently in assisting the efforts of the Jackson Macon Conservation in managing the eradication of the hemlock woolly adelgid by working with children on art projects. As the league looks back on 25 years of growth in artistic talent as well as community service, we are proud to have been a part of projects such as the creation of the needlepoint scene hanging at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, which was designed by Susan Bauknight, Nancy Crawford and Lorraine Harris and stitched by the Sapphire Valley Needlework Guild.

The "Summer Colors" and "Fall Colors" Fine Art Shows are intended as an outlet for original fine art but are also geared to children through hands on art activities and special events of interest to the young.

Current president Robin Swaby, a multi-talented artist, has brought her enthusiasm to a revitalized Art League that is eager to serve the community and provide stimulating activities for its members. A significant factor in the provision for various programs is a working relationship with the Bascom-Louise Gallery, which, although a separate entity, has been a key to the success of the league over the years.

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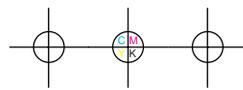
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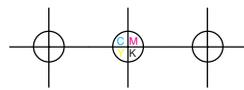


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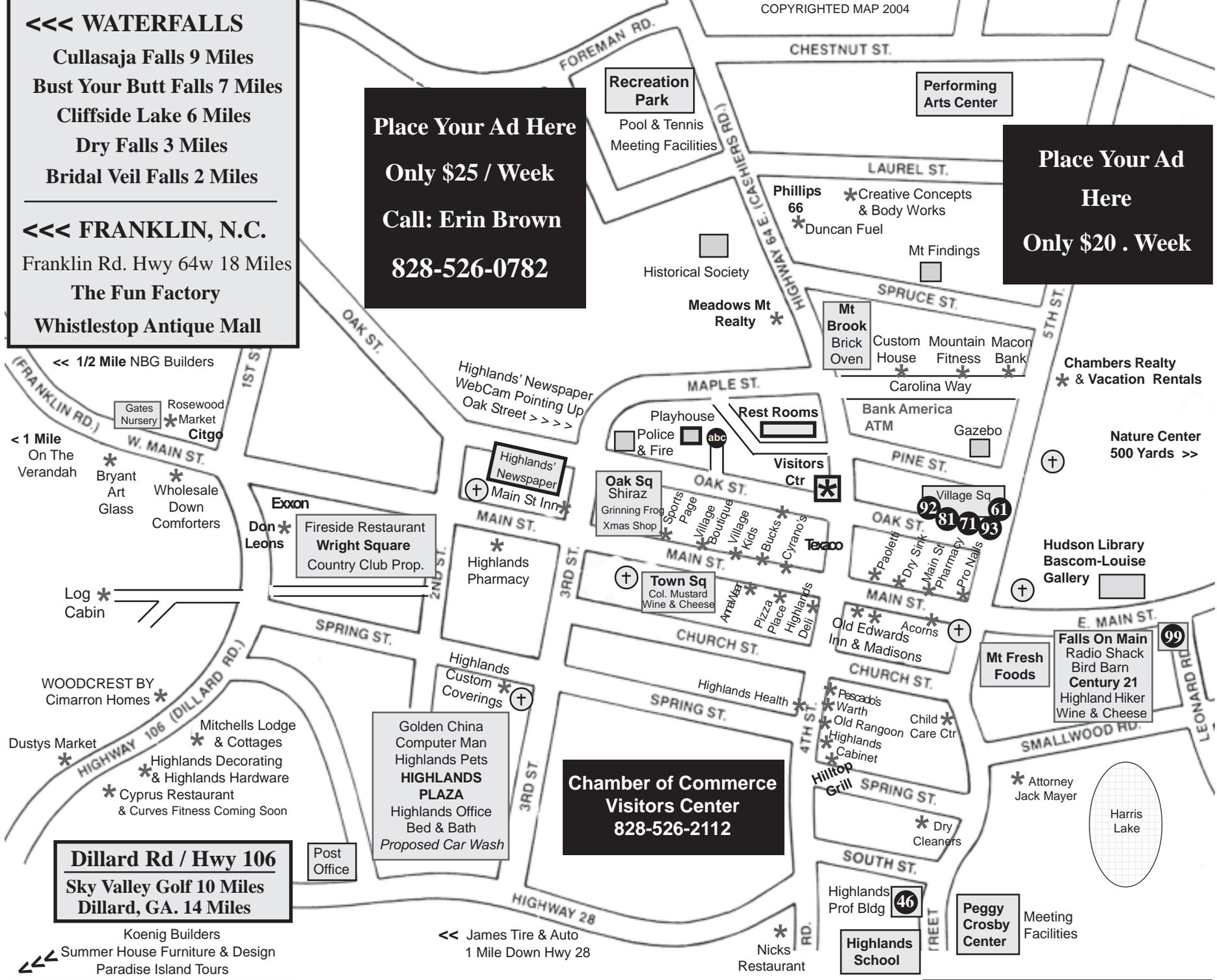
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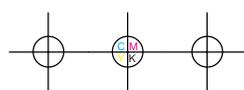
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

- 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.

- 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.

Jan. 27

- Financial Aid meeting at Highlands School for seniors and their parents. Meet in

the Elementary Computer Lab at 6 p.m.

Jan. 29

- Substance Abuse Forum "Let's Talk About It" at Tartan Hall in the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin at 6:30 p.m.

- Voluntary Simplicity - First session 10-11:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin at 85 Sierra Drive. Learn how your life may be enriched through the practice of knowing how much is enough. How much do we really need? Call 706-746-9981.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike on the Ridge Trail in the Coweeta Hydrolab area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 10 a.m. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for more information.

- Friends of the Library Sale & Open House at East Franklin Shopping Center 9 a.m. -6 p.m.

Jan. 30

- Hymn-Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. Pianist Angie Jenkins will accompany a song leader. Participants can select hymns from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike on the Terrora Trail at Tallulah Falls, Georgia, along the old railroad bed and the Tallulah River. Meet at the Smoky Mountain Hosts Welcome Center on 441 at 2 p.m. or call leader for alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands or Cashiers. Drive 60 miles

round trip. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820 more information.

Feb. 1

- "The Gathering Storm" 7:30 p.m. at PAC. The film is sponsored by the Bascom-Louise Gallery. It's free, but donations are accepted.

- Deadline to sign up for May 22-28 Senior Games Niagara Falls/Toronto Bus Tour is Tuesday, Feb. 1. The 7-day, \$525 per person trip is a fundraiser for the Macon County Senior Games. Tour is open to all, not just seniors. Some seats available. For complete details, call Teresa Holbrooks at the County Recreation Department, 349-2090.

Feb. 3

- There will be a memorial gathering for Jack Chambers who recently passed on. The memorial will be at the Cyprus Restaurant on Wednesday, at 7 p.m. The cost of the dinner will be \$25 per person. There will be an open bar, as Jack would have wanted. Since seating is limited, make reservations by calling John Baumrucker at 526-3605. Please join us in the celebration of this kind, generous and wonderful man.

Feb. 4

- Angel Medical Center in conjunction with the Scrapbook Station at Whistlestop Mall in Franklin is having a Scrapbook Crop on Sat-

urday, from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. in the AMC cafeteria. Cost is \$20 per person. All proceeds benefit Relay for Life. Lunch and snacks will be provided throughout the day. Classes will be given during the day on paper piercing, mini books, a beginner's class and much more. A mini store will be available to purchase items throughout the day for your scrapbook needs.

Feb. 5

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to moderate 5-mile hike (with an elevation gain of 300 feet) in Panthertown Valley to three waterfalls and the base of Big Green Mountain. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 9:30 a.m. Drive 12 miles round trip, returning 2-3 p.m. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765 for more information.

Feb. 6

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2.5 mile hike on the Standing Indian Campground loop trail. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2:00 p.m. Drive 30 miles round trip. Reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information.

Feb. 11

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