Town feels rise of stormwater surge  
By Erin Brown  
highlandserin@aol.com

It is difficult to imagine something as innocuous as stormwater causing damage to streams and wildlife, but with the amount of rainfall the plateau has sustained in recent months, it is a definite factor in determining Highlands’ water quality.  “We’ve had so many catastrophic storms in the past year and all that water collects on the plateau,” said Highlands Watershed Administrator Larry Gantenbein. “The short-term volume and velocity of water that has been coming down

Commissioners against Supreme Court ruling  
By Erin Brown  
highlandserin@aol.com

Last month the Supreme Court cleared the way for local governments to give their power to seize private property through eminent domain to private entities.

At the July 11 Macon County Commissioners meeting, the board passed a resolution against the Supreme Court ruling and agreed to send it to Raleigh.

“Tf this particularly distressing,” said Commissioner Jim Davis. “As a matter of standing, we are always reluctant to condemn property for any reason, and I am totally opposed to this for private reasons.”

Davis said he has no delusions regarding Raleigh’s reaction to the resolution. “I’m sure it won’t change anything, but unless we scream about our rights, they will gradually be taken away.”

He said condemning private property for private purposes goes against what America stands for. “I hope this never happens here.”

Chairman Allan Blyson said the idea is “just plain wrong.”

Highlands Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein said he doesn’t think the Town Board would let such a thing happen here, but the law does allow an independent municipality to delegate eminent domain to private developers to supply jobs or raise property values for tax purposes.

“I’m appalled at the decision,” said Gantenbein. “It goes to the foundation of private ownership of property in this country. It lowers the bar for a government’s right to condemn property for the public good.”

Gantenbein said private property owners still have to be compensated and the property value has to be decided

County’s high-impact ordinance done  
By Kim Lewicki  
highlandsseditor@aol.com

By Highlands’ standards it doesn’t sound like much or rather it’s much to do about the obvious, but the county now has an ordinance regulating high-impact land uses in Macon County.

Over the years, attempts at a comprehensive land use ordinance for the county was reduced to only “high-impact” uses when the planning board and its ad hoc committees came up against the “Citizens Against Zoning” wall.

But finally, 22 months and 1,500 manhours later an ordinance has been drafted and was accepted at the Macon County Commissioners meeting July 11.

Sexually-oriented businesses targeted  
By Kim Lewicki  
highlandsseditor@aol.com

Macon County Commissioners have followed the Town of Franklin’s lead in adopting an ordinance to regulate sexually-oriented businesses but it’s a bit stricter.

After the public hearing concerning the ordinance and following Commissioner Bob Simpson’s suggestions about changes to hours of operation and fees, the board adopted the ordinance.

“I’m appalled at the decision,” said Gantenbein. “It goes to the foundation of private ownership of property in this country. It lowers the bar for a government’s right to condemn property for the public good.”

Gantenbein said private property owners still have to be compensated and the property value has to be decided

•See SUPREME COURT page 13

See  HIGH-IMPACT page 10

See SEXUALLY ORIENTED page 13
Car seats inspected and replaced for free

Studies show most parents install car seats incorrectly. With that in mind, MC Public Health, MC EMS and the Highlands Police Dept are inspecting car seats and replacing them with new free ones, if necessary. The seats are provided by NC Dept. of Insurance and the NC Safe Kids Buckle Up Program. On Monday, parents of children at the Highlands Community Child Development Center had their car seats inspected. Kim Saunders, administrative assistant for EMS gave Seth Staffelbach’s a new car seat. He was the second recipient at the development center.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's about love, not relationship with God

Dear Editor,

In Pastor Bill McCutchen’s Spiritually Speaking column in the July 8 issue of Highlands’ Newspaper he said, "...What matters most is who you are rather than what you do...not the good deeds you perform.... (but) who you are in relation to God."

To me, this is ethereal. I do not understand what he is talking about. In my opinion, he completely negates the teaching of Jesus. The teachings of unconditional love, not about a relationship to a god. Love teaches compassion and concern for our fellow human beings in absence of any selfish interests about me and my relationship to a god.

Pastor McCutchen’s rigid view of the bible does not leave any room for other people’s religious expression and it is that kind of rigidity that creates tension and which starts wars in the name of a god.

Andrew LaTorre
Ottobar

Flamingos here for a reason

Dear Editor,

This is directed to whoever it is that isn’t amused or happy about the flock of flamingos that recently flew into Highlands. First of all, most birds will migrate, so give it a rest!

Secondly, anything on earth we can do to help eliminate cancer by whatever means, we should. And the participants in our Relay for Life will do nearly anything to raise money for this cause and we don’t care how ridiculous it may seem to you or anyone. If it raises money, BINGO, we will do it.

I challenge you to find anyone who has not been touched by cancer in one way or another, a friend, a loved one, a neighbor, a co-worker.

Don’t be stuffy and prudish, join in and go with the flow. The flamingos are funny and attract a great deal of attention and that’s what fighting cancer is all about.

We want to be noticed to raise money to fight this terrible illness. Come join us August 26, at the Rec Park at 6 p.m.

Pat Griffin
Relay for Life, co-chair

Littlejohn’s got a plan

Dear editor,

I enjoyed Fred Wooldridge’s column (as usual) about the county dumps. I agree with him that it must be very confusing to visitors what to do with their trash and the town might consider setting something up in town as a more convenient location for dumping trash.

Fred suggests that Littlejohn be appointed trash czar to provide some new ideas, and I wanted to let everyone know about one of Littlejohn’s brilliant schemes to eliminate trash on the side of the road. Littlejohn suggested that last year during the presidential election we could have some targets with Bush’s face and some with Kerry’s face and the amount of trash under each would be a form of political polling. Even if those who litter missed the barrel all the trash would be concentrated in one place!

I’m sure Littlejohn has more good ideas so I second Fred’s nomination.

Katie Brugger
Highlands
**MILESTONES**

**Change of command**

On June 17, 2005, Lt. Col. Luther S. Turner III (Trey) assumed command of the 17th Reconnaissance Squadron, 57th Operations Group, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. The 17th flies the MQ-1 Predator (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) which is responsible for armed reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition. Trey will lead the squadron in its support of the global war on terrorism. Trey is with his commanding officer, Col. Mark A. Morris in front of the predator.

**Door to Highlands’ history now open**

The Highlands Historical Society’s Historical Village on N. Fourth Street officially opened July 8 with a ribbon cutting performed by Irene Picklesimer James, who turned 100 June 12. Picklesimer roots run deep in Highlands and since Irene has seen the area evolve from that of one-room schoolhouses, self-sufficient farm living, and a summer resort for well-to-do lowlanders to what it is today, it seemed fitting she should open the door to Highlands’ past. Highlands own historian, Ran Shaffner, spoke of Highlands’ history Friday night, recounting interviews, diaries and humorous anecdotes of Highlands’ personalities and characters. The society is hoping residents of the town will dig through their attics for memorabilia befitting the village. Irene’s late sister Almetta Picklesimer Brooks “Aunt Met” donated Highlands’ first piano which came up the mountain in a wagon pulled by oxen.

**Country Club Properties**

This remarkable new home will allow owners and guests ample space to enjoy the view of Whiteside and a mountain stream. Scheduled for completion summer 2005. The attention to detail is obvious from the entrance to the lower level living area. Complete with glass elevator, 2 kitchens, oversize 2-car garage, wood, Travertine & tile coloring, 3 fireplaces and more. All in Highlands Point. Offered at $3.5 million. Lots also available from $239,000.

Call Pam Taylor at 526-9027, 342-6988 or 526-2520, anytime.

**COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES**

**OPEN HOUSE**

**Wed., July 20**

**4-6 p.m.**

NC 106 south at Highlands Point.

**Madison’s**

**RESTAURANT AND WINE GARDEN**

**JULY WINE DINNER**

**THE FARM AT OLD EDWARDS INN**

**THURSDAY, JULY 21ST, 2005**

**6:00PM RECEPTION, 6:30PM DINNER**

Featuring The Hess Collection Winery
Located in Napa Valley, California
Our presenter will be Henri Ferrier
$149 Per Person Inclusive

For reservations or more information please call 828-526-9319 ext. 2609

445 MAIN STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC  28741  828.526.9319 Ext. 2028  WWW.OLDEDWARDSINN.COM

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Profile of a condo commando

I write with great authority on the subject of “Condo Commandos,” something Highlands is thinking about adding to our already nightmare of expansion and growth. I am an authority because I spent the better part of 30 years of my life policing and living in a vertical city. Miami Beach has more condominiums than Highlands has Realtors, if you can believe that. Since the word “condominium” has a bad reputation for reasons I am about to tell you, we now call them multifamily facilities. Isn’t that nice?

Read my lips, Highlands does not want condo commandos in our mix. Forget for a moment that cramming people together in one building creates problems for police, garbage, sewage, water supply, schooling, etc. I am sure our town board is capable of dealing with those growth headaches. What they will not be able to deal with is the very scary “Condo Commando.”

When you create a condominium, you create a Commando. He is the person in charge of the rules and regulations for the building. He is the police chief for the premises. If you don’t think so, ask any policeman when was the last time he patrolled inside a condo building.

The condo commando is self appointed because he is the only person who showed up for the meeting to pick a president. He is always male, retired, 5 foot 3 inches tall, obese and smokes cigars. When he worked, he was an underling who always got pushed around by the boss and was in charge of nothing, even his own life. He is divorced, maybe twice, because no woman could ever live with him. He drives a Lincoln Continental and once he’s in the driver’s seat the only thing you can see is his horn rimmed glasses and his bald head, when his hat is off.

Otherwise, you will be able to spot him by the white boat captain’s hat with the sweat stains around the brim. Regardless of the subject, he has an

*See WOOLDRIDGE page 9
Babe, the 1995 G rated, comic family adventure, starring James Cromwell, Christine Cavanaugh, and a cast of hundreds of real and animated actors, animals, and robots. Directed by Chris Noonan, and music artfully done by Nigal Westlake. It is absolutely, far and away, the best talking pig movie of all time. Based on the novel by Dick Kingsmith.

The Storyline: Babe is a pig (no, I’m not being derogatory, I mean he IS a pig), about to meet his destiny. After a less than brilliant start in life, he meets up with Farmer Hoggett, a match that will prove fortuitous for them both. Babe is a talking pig, indeed all the animals in this film are talking, or singing, or reciting poetry nearly all the time, in hilarious ways, and also occasionally very touchingly. Adopted by a family of sheep dogs, and not having a lot else to do with his time, Babe learns to hear sheep, and while he may not be the prize pup in the pack, he does well for himself, mostly cause he’s a likable guy (I mean pig). A cast of well written characters inhabit the farm, and they are all priceless. Most of the humans play nearly invisible parts, but kindly old sheep, comic mice, and paranoid ducks all make their appearances. Farmer Hoggett (Brilliantly, laconically played by James Cromwell, of such diverse films as I, Robot, Murder By Death, and Green Mile) is a bit of an odd duck himself, and takes a liking to the pig, and encourages him in his shepherding efforts, and eventually enters him in the National Sheepdog Trials, with results that are not entirely unexpected. There actually is a real edge and tension to the film, but you kind of get an idea that some how, some way, things are going to turn out all right in the end.

OK, it is a talking pig movie, but it is extraordinarily well done, absolutely a kid suitable film, but really very entertaining for the big grown up kids as well. The filming, done on location in Australia, is stunning, and the various special effects that animate the farm animals is frankly brilliant (the film was nominated for a total of 6 Academy Awards, but surprisingly won only Best Special Effects), and the music is cute, funny and even dramatic, in all the right spots (the soundtrack is made up of, among other pieces, a dozen or more variations of Camille St Saen’s Organ Symphony). And there is a message in the story, as well. I mean, not a whole lot, it is, after all, a talking pig movie, but it remains cute, funny, and sweet, without getting saccharine or smalty. Some interesting technical details (well, I found them interesting, at any rate), 48 actual pigs and one robotic pig were used in the filming, none of whom, we hope, made to the cast party dinner. Jim Henson’s Creatures made most of the puppet and/or robots (many were compilations of the two techniques) and very little actual drawn or CGI animations were used in making Babe and his buddies talk and interact.

If you like this one, and how could you not, give a look to a few others like Watership Down, Ice Age, The Point, and Homeward Bound.
While journalists and political analysts divide the country into red and blue states, or conservatives versus liberals, or left against right, a third force is beginning to emerge which may define the politics of the future. This movement, alternatively called the "radical center" or "radical middle," is a thoroughly practical, solution-centered, non-ideological, loosely connected group of writers and organizers who are trying to come up with practical ideas for governing America. At the very center of this network of innovators is a lawyer-journalist, former activist named Mark Satin, who edits the monthly newsletter Radical Middle, which gave the movement its name. Recently the newsletter suspended print publication and went strictly on line (www.radicalmiddle.org). But its lofty goal has remained the same: the transformation of American politics from divisiveness to the articulation of common goals, from tired old arguments to the genesis of new ideas. Satin has delineated this transformation in a book published in 2004, also called Radical Middle, winner of an "outstanding book award" from the American Political Science Association.

For example, many radical center health professionals, including doctors, nurses, nutritionists and others recommend resolving our current health care crisis by creating a single payer system administered by the federal government. But the government's only other role would be to subsidize insurance payments for those who could not afford them. Everyone, regardless of income, would be required to buy basic health insurance from private companies, just as they are now required to buy auto insurance when they drive.

Additional health insurance, beyond the basic level, could be purchased by those who wanted it. Enforcement might be through tax penalties or other non-draconic means. In foreign policy, radical middle thinkers want to do away with the current dichotomy between "idealists" and "realists" that has dominated much recent deliberation. They favor American involvement in settling disputes between nations through diplomacy; American intervention in horrific acts of genocide; proactive efforts to prevent other countries from acquiring WMDs; encouragement of civil groups, like the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines or the Climate Action Network, in taking on...
... STORMWATER continued from page 1

is humongous.”

The Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association’s (UCWA) Mirror Lake gauge registered just over 10 inches of rain from Hurricane Dennis over July 10 and 11.

“We came in at a record 31.32 inches in June, at UCWA’s Mirror Lake rain gauge,” said UCWA Director Katy Calloway. “That is the most rain we’ve had in June, in more than 100 years.”

Calloway agrees with Gantenbein that huge water volume means high velocities and the movement of more sediment as well as flooding for Highlands.

“High velocities can be very damaging to propery, eroding streets, sidewalks, and building foundations,” she said.

Stormwater runoff is the precipitation that flows over impervious surfaces, like parking lots, roofs and sidewalks, then down storm drains into the nearest stream. This rushing water carries with it oil, antifreeze drippings, brake dust, and other harmful pollutants from those impervious surfaces and not only affects water quality, but can also change the very nature of a stream.

People who have lived in Highlands all their lives say the lakes don’t freeze like they used to, and they swear it’s not just because of warmer winters. It’s because of what’s washed into the lakes these days, they say.

“The stormwater accumulation in town is not from more impervious surfaces, though,” said Gantenbein. “It’s due to an infrastructure that is too small to handle the volume of water coming into town. What was once a 10-year rain event has become an annual event in Highlands and the storm drains just can’t handle it.”

Directing the runoff will prove to be very difficult for the town because of the possible seven- to eight-figure expense of an engineering study and implementation.

“We need a major engineering study
to see if the town could be retrofitted – if it could even be done,” said Gantenbein. “My concern is I’m not sure an engineering study would help because I don’t know where to put the water.”

Gantenbein said in major metropolitan areas holding ponds are created to corral the excess water until it can percolate into the soil, but in Highlands there just isn’t enough room and there’s bedrock to consider.

“The perfect solution would be some sort of duct system to channel stormwater into Lake Sequoyah to take it down the Cullasaja,” he said.

Precipitation falling on impervious surfaces doesn’t have a chance to soak into the ground and recharge groundwa-

ter. Rather, it flows into a stream all at once, dramatically raising the level of the stream, eroding the streambed and possibly seven to eight-figure expense of an engineering study and implementation.

SOWF benefits children of heros

The 3-day events in June of the Special Operations Warrior Foundation were a great success because of the generosity of the many merchants of Highlands and the overwhelming support of many volunteers. Due to the loss of 20 Special Operations Warriors in recent weeks, we have added 22 children of fallen heroes to our list. This is what makes the committed volunteers return every year to help raise money.

A “special thank you” to the following merchants:


We are grateful for the support of all above. You have helped to lighten the load of children whose parent paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. Thank you all!
By Mercedes Heller

Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau

With the advice and council of Dr. Kenneth McCaskill, Director of the NC Cooperative Extension Service, the Town of Highlands, Land Stewards, and the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association have resolved to rid the town and its corridors of Japanese Knotweed. It is quickly crowding out our native wildflowers and native plants, decreasing wildlife habitat, and causing damage to the entire ecosystem of the Highlands Plateau, including our waterways.

To date, seminars have been held to inform the community; newspaper articles have been written; and Dr. McCaskill will soon be addressing the problem with the two Rotary Clubs. Help has been sought from experts in eradicating exotic invasive plants, and two agencies have provided financial estimates of the cost to eliminate this destructive plant. The Land Stewards requested financial assistance through grants to pay for those services.

Volunteers have “mapped” the areas affected by Japanese Knotweed, and those maps have been entered into the town GIS system. Pictures were taken of 10 sites and entered into the town computer to assist with evaluating the progress in ridding the community of this invasive species. Since it will take more than one growing season to rid the area of JK, close monitoring and repeated treatment will need to be done for at least two years, according to McCaskill.

Japanese Knotweed is a non-native, semi-woody perennial that grows in large clumps reaching heights of 3-10 feet. The stout, hollow stems are reddish brown and the nodes are swollen giving them a bamboo-like appearance. It is commonly found near water sources, such as along streams and rivers, in low-lying areas, waste places and utility rights-of-way and around old home sites. It reproduces by seed and by large rhizomes and their root system may reach a length of 40 to 60 feet. These rhizomes are even able to penetrate asphalt paving. In riparian areas, it can survive severe floods and rapidly colonize scoured stream banks downstream.

A native of Asia, this species was introduced in the U.S. as an ornamental garden plant in the 19th century. Since that time it has invaded most parts of the country and is deemed a threat to the environment in over half of the contiguous states. Many areas have recognized the problems associated with the noxious weed and have established eradication programs.

Updates on this project will be shared with the community as the program progresses.

Area Japanese Knotweed eradication

Annual ‘Walk in the Park’ coming up

The Sixth Annual ‘Walk in the Park’ is set for July 15-17 at the Highlands Memorial Park, with rain dates the following week-end. Shuttles will run from the Conference Center each of the three days. Friday and Saturday performances are at 6 p.m., with the last shuttle leaving at 7:30 p.m. The Sunday performance is at 4 p.m., with the last shuttle leaving at 5:30 p.m. Eight Highlands “characters” will be depicted this year Dr. Alexander Anderson, Ella Hudson, Margaretta Ravenel, Joe Webb, Margaret Randall “Ted” Wilcox, George Masa, Helen Wright Wilson, and Herman Wilson. Tickets are $15 at the Conference Center the performance days or at Cyrano’s Bookshop, DJ Express Mart, and The Old Rangoon in advance. Left, Dr. Rebecca Schilling portrays Ella Hudson.

Annual ‘Walk in the Park’ coming up
Pancake breakfasts raise needed funds

Joe and Becky Simmons, owners of Cabe Realty in Scaly Mountain, present a donation to Faye Bellwood and Karen Muns, chairmen of the Scaly Mountain Women’s Club series of monthly pancake breakfasts. Those attending the June event were guests of Cabe Realty. “Because of this most generous donation and that of those coming to the breakfast, we raised more than $1,500,” said Muns. The money will be given back to the Scaly Mountain community in donations to area human service agencies and scholarships for local students. The next breakfast is July 23 at the Scaly Ski Lodge from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Cost is $5 for adults, $2.50 for children and includes a full seated-breakfast.

...WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

opinion and will tell you, whether you want to hear it or not. He can’t wait to get his hands on Highlands and tell us how to run things. In short, he is obnoxious.

Slugfests are common at condo meetings. Police arrive to find two 85-year-old women rolling around on the floor with their dresses pushed up around their hips, (Is that gross, or what?) trying to choke each other out. I am not making this up. The condo commando, known as the cc, watches with glee because he was able to pit these two residents against each other, which is the main function of a cc.

If the town board thinks they have problems now with sorting out how to control growth and remain fair, they haven’t seen what two or three condo commandos can do to a board meeting. These people show up for everything, especially if there is free coffee. Police will eventually escort these characters from the meeting while they shout insults to the board. The only thing they will agree on is to agree on nothing.

Heart attacks are very high at condo meetings. People get all worked up and the next thing you know, the ticker shuts down. The heated meeting has to stop temporarily until the body is removed. Then the issue of who put the nasty note on the car windshield about improper parking continues.

Amy Patterson and Hank Ross are my two very favorite commissioners. I am convinced both of them want what is best for Highlands. But on the condo issue, I gotta go with Amy on this one. We will regret the day we begin to create multifamily dwellings on the plateau. These dwellings will, in time, degrade Highlands, something no one on the board wants to see happen.

To give the town board a taste of what they might be in store for, I will offer them the phone number of a senior condo commando I know who was in charge of his building for over 30 years. His name is “MO.” He was king of his building and no one messed with him. He was the man.

MO eventually pushed a fellow board member/resident from her fourth floor balcony and is doing 20 to life at Raiford State Penitentiary. He is the commando for cellblock S. Call me for his number.

Pancake breakfast July 23

The Scaly Mountain Women’s Club will hold the third in its summer series of seated pancake breakfasts July 23 at the ski lodge on U. S. Highway 106 from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Guests will get a full breakfast of orange juice, coffee, pancakes, patty sausage and plenty of warm syrup and butter. Members of the club will serve the food at tables, or you may order take-out if you choose.

Proceeds from the events are used to fund scholarships for Scaly area students and to assist local human service agencies.
Bring all Offers!

Sellers Must Move!
350 Queen Mountain Road, Highlands, NC
Open House: July 15th, 16th and 17th 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Buyer Will Receive Cash Back at Closing (1% of Purchase Price)
All Offers Must Be Submitted by July 22, 2005
Buyer Will Receive Cash Back at Closing (1% of Purchase Price)

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Two local offices to serve you:
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Photo workshop at Mill Creek Gallery

Photographer Cynthia Strain of Mill Creek Gallery, will conduct a workshop on using filters for special effects or to balance colors for a natural look; controlling exposure to lighten or darken images or to give waterfalls a milky look; composition techniques for pleasing and compelling images; and use of flash.

The workshop is from 1-4 p.m., July 24. It’s $25 and class size is limited to 8. Call 787-2021 to make your reservation.

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HiGH IMPACT continued from page 1

"We tried to use a common sense approach to this," said Ronnie Beale, head of the ordinance committee. "Obviously some people wanted more in the ordinance, others wanted less."

The High-Impact Land Use Ordinance will apply to all unincorporated areas of the county lying outside the corporate limits and the extraterritorial jurisdiction of any municipality.

Its purpose is to promote health, safety and general welfare of citizens by diminishing the impacts of certain land uses which by their nature, produce noise, odors, vibrations, fumes, light, smoke, dust and other impacts which interfere with the quiet enjoyment of adjacent lands and disturb the peace and dignity of the county.

The following high-impact uses are addressed in the ordinance: airfields/airstrips, asphalt plants, bulk inflammables, chipmills, commercial incinerators, concrete suppliers, helicopter sightseeing operations, mining and extraction operations and quarries, motor sports activities, sawmills, slaughtering and processing plants, and solid waste management facilities.

"We tried to use a common sense approach to this," said Ronnie Beale, head of the ordinance committee. "Obviously some people wanted more in the ordinance, others wanted less."

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With location, screening and mitigation stipulations such business are allowed in the county but with specific setback and buffering requirements.

The ordinance also deals with existing high-impact businesses which will be considered non-conforming once the ordinance is adopted, but the existing businesses will be unaffected as long as they stay in business and don’t shut down for renovations or repairs more than six months. If an existing high-impact business temporarily closes longer than six months for renovations or repairs, it must come into compliance as per the ordinance.

Included in the ordinance is a variance process, an appeal process and a penalty process.

Before the High-Impact Land Use Ordinance is put on the books, a public hearing must be scheduled and a final vote taken of the Macon County Board of Commission Board.

Next up for the county’s land use ordinance committee — a subdivision ordinance.

... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 6

certain governmental activities; building of strong Great Power alliances; using our power with restraint and magnanimity; fostering trade and economic development; and, not so finally, picking and choosing among some of the many good ideas being generated by creative minds all over this country.

Other actions strongly favored by the radical middle include liberating the U.S. from oil dependence, promoting values such as greater democracy at home and abroad, and repairing our creaky, inefficient electoral system. On issues like abortion and gay marriage, hot topics in much of the nation, the radical middle favors compromise, comity, and compassion—in other words, national dialogue and respect for differing opinions.

Most people are probably unaware of this nascent movement. It is spreading quietly among academics, policy makers, and even some members of Congress. Senators rated high on the radical middle scorecard include Richard Durbin (D-IL), Susan Collins (R-ME), Charles Grassley (R-IA), and Joseph Lieberman (D-CT); some of the Representatives are Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Jim Leach (R-IA), Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), and Chris Shays (R-CT). [No one from North Carolina was within striking distance].

I don’t mean to suggest that I agree with everything this undertaking stands for.

Several of the ideas may be too idealistic or liberal for some, too conservative for others. But what I do like about it is that it eschews the old European-centered notions of left and right, authoritarian and anarchic. It is an inherently American movement: straightforward, pragmatic, and democratic.
... STORMWATER continued from page 7

stream banks, and increasing the likelihood of flooding. Also, the water flowing over a hot parking lot can change the temperature of the stream it flows into, impacting aquatic life. Poor water quality and increased potential for flooding also threaten human health and safety.

“The water coming down stream into Highlands is basically pure. Our rivers and streams are impaired because they lack the micro invertebrate stream life. The stream life is lacking not due to contaminants, but due to the velocity of water rushing through the stream. The stream life is literally blown away down stream,” Gantenbein said.

But watershed ordinances have been implemented to aid and limit the amount of runoff that runs down the mountain and with appropriate building regulations in the watershed areas runoff can be limited.

Presently there are three watershed overlay districts — WS-II-CA, WS-III-CA, and WS-III-BW — where building is strictly regulated within the watershed’s critical areas.

A common solution to the water runoff problem has been cluster housing, which in the WS-II-CA allows one single family unit per two acres.

In the WS-III-CA district only one “dwelling unit” per acre and no residential lot can be less than one acre, except within an approved cluster development.

In the WS-III-BW district single family residences can’t exceed two houses per acre, and no residential lot can be less than half an acre.

Built upon limits for the three districts vary; in the II-CA, six percent is allowed; III-CA, 12 percent and in the III-BW, 24 percent built upon is allowed. Built upon limits correspond with the amount of impervious surface area on the lot and the less that is allowed the more critical the water run-off is to the watershed areas.

The section regarding built-upon limits for lots in the critical area of the watershed areas states "for the purpose of calculating built-upon area, the total project area shall include total acreage in the tract where the project is to be developed."

As with multi-family developments, cluster developments in the watershed are also required to have vegetative buffers, but within the watershed district’s critical area the buffer area is even greater at 50 feet in the critical area and 30 feet in the balance of the watershed.

These strict regulations are enforced to protect Highlands’ water quality, but even with them in place stormwater runoff is still a major issue.

Stormwater is one of the greatest environmental quality issues facing the region, yet there are definite ways of controlling it. Through development ordinances, local governments have a great deal of control over how stormwater is addressed.

For municipalities of a certain size or population density, stormwater is regulated under the Clean Water Act, which considers it a point-source water pollutant and requires a permit for its discharge.

“The current regulations are sufficient, if we could only figure out how to retrofit our current infrastructure and bear the cost of it,” Gantenbein said.

Calloway said there are a multitude of solutions to manage stormwater runoff. Ideally, stormwater would be able to naturally infiltrate into the ground, but Highlands continues to create an abundance of impervious surfaces, such as rooftops and pavement, and nearly all of the stormwater collected from these surfaces is piped in to either Mill Creek or Munger Creek.

“There is no place for water to sit,” Calloway said. “Unfortunately the streams through town have been channelized over the years, and they are not designed to hold the growing amount of

*See STORMWATER page 12
Cyrano’s will open from MIDNIGHT
Friday, July 15th
until 1:00 a.m. Saturday, July 16th
for
HARRY POTTER

Children of all ages welcome!

Opening This Summer
The Suites –
26-bed, fully licensed,
Assisted Living Center
providing quality assistance with daily living activities for residents.

Laotian weaving to adorn OEI offices

Master weaver, Aout from Lao Textiles in Vientiane, Laos, and Carol Cassidy, American weaver who has helped revive Viet Nam’s weaving industry, presented Molly McKim with Old Edwards Inn & Spa, a weaving which will be displayed in OEI offices on S. Fourth Street. Also pictured is Mac Ramsey, owner of The Old Rangoon, who with OEI sponsored Carol’s visit to Highlands this year. Many of Carol’s weavings are for sale at The Old Rangoon. Photo by Jim Lewicki

STORMWATER continued from page 11

runoff that we are imposing on them creating flooding and bank erosion.”

She said creating gentler bank slopes and allowing a floodplain is one of the ways to help minimize damage to the stream and its property. Also, permeable pavement, bio-retention areas and rain gardens are other ways to help manage stormwater runoff. An example of a rain garden is at the corner of Spring and Second streets near Warth Builders.

“It would be great if people didn’t mind a little water sitting in their front yard for a few hours, but it seems that everyone wants to get rid of it as quickly as they can, so they pipe it somewhere else.”

The rushing water comes down from previously undeveloped areas the town initially thought would never be developed, like at the tops of the surrounding mountains. When it rains and the water hits impervious surfaces it travels down the mountains gaining velocity and volume. “The lower the altitude the more havoc it wreaks,” said Gantenbein.

Two such scenarios were discussed at the July 6 Town Board meeting, one, involving water traveling impervious surfaces high on Satulah Mountain down to Worley Road. As it rushes toward town, it is eroding driveways and walkways of the homes along the way.

Elizabeth Glass, a resident of Worley Road, wrote a letter to Highlands Mayor Buck Trott sharing her concerns regarding the paving of the drainage ditch along the side of the road.

Glass said, “As I’m sure you are aware, paving of drainage ditches is an engineering option of current professional dispute, since the results are less stormwater absorption on site and an increase in the flow and velocity of stormwater, thereby creating problems downstream,

...
... STORMWATER continued from page 12

which includes downtown, where we have noticed an increase in stormwater ponding.”

Another example of rampant stormwater runoff is the culvert running under Horse Cove Road to Trillium Place.

In an email to Commissioner Alan Marsh, Steve Foster, a professor with North Carolina State University in biological and agricultural engineering, shared his trepidation following a visit to the stormwater drain.

“At the time of our visit, the water in Satulah Branch was flowing at almost the top of the channel upstream of Horse Cove Road with very little channel capacity remaining. There was great capacity remaining in the channel downstream of the road while the culvert under Horse Cove Road appeared to be running full,” reads the email.

Foster feels strongly that a steady increase in impervious surface associated with continued development of the watershed, combined with the general lack of on-site stormwater detention in the community has lead to a significant increase in the peak discharge associated with storm events.

“UCWA is conducting an evaluation, monitoring the current stormwater runoff systems to determine what’s in the stormwater.

... SEXUALLY ORIENTED

property values, among other adverse consequences...”

The ordinance applies to all unincorporated areas of the county lying outside the corporate limits of any municipality but will also apply to extraterritorial jurisdiction of any municipality and within a municipality if the county’s ordinance is stricter than the municipality’s ordinance, otherwise the municipal ordinance controls.

The ordinance applies to adult arcades, adult bookstores and adult video stores, adult cabaret, adult model, adult

Calloway said historically there has been no means to measure runoff in Highlands, but UCWA, along with NC State University, has recently installed anISCO automatic sampler just below the storm drain into Mill Creek at the corner of Fourth and Maple streets. This storm drain collects approximately 70 percent of the town’s runoff, the other 30 percent goes into Munger Creek at Spring Street. The monitoring equipment will measure flow rates and pollutant levels.

“Since Highlands is an urban area we don’t expect to find anything different from any other city, though our flow rates will be much higher since we receive so much rain,” Calloway said. “We hope to have the monitoring equipment up and running within the next few weeks.”

Calloway said contaminants in Highlands stormwater are likely to be the same as other communities. “The problem is, what to do with it,” he said.

Highlands’ stormwater problem will likely be escalated with weather trends indicating more rain is in the future. UCWA is working with leading stormwater experts from NC State University to address these issues.

“I would like to see more responsible land use management practices to help protect our waterbodies and streams,” Calloway said.

Proper erosion control methods on construction sites, including proper silt fence installation and maintenance, innovative stormwater controls on properties including bio-retention and detention and less clear cutting of lots would help eliminate the water runoff. Calloway said there are many ways to help reduce stormwater runoff.

“Responsible storm management, which means if you have a stream on your property create a vegetative buffer around it to help absorb and treat the stormwater before it enters the stream,” Calloway said. “Don’t try to change the flow pattern, in other words don’t channel the stream, you will do more harm than good. Water is an element that seems to go where it wants to despite human efforts to direct it.”

Highlands Newest Stars

On Friday, July 8 the children who participated in the Highlands Playhouse Drama Camp put what they learned during a two-week camp to the test as they performed a delightful musical for the public. The musical was set in a zoo, and... it was the “wackadoo” part that made the show such a treat. The story was narrated by Mary Siliman while the animals were played by Isabella Lupoli, Gardner Davis, Kalob Payne, Tatiana Schmitt, Johnny Lupoli, Holden Parris, Alyssa Cutshaw, Juliette Lupoli, Georgia Whitehead, Benny Gulasy, Isabella Williamson, Alex Bronaugh, Day Harmening, Miranda Gulasy, Samuel Craig and Gabe Miller.

... SUPREME COURT continued from page 1

through litigation.

“It will be a question for a jury,” he said. “The last thing a private developer would want in this case is for a jury to decide property value.”

The Supreme Court result lets New London, Conn., the town which spurred the decision, replace a faded residential waterfront neighborhood. City officials condemned the neighborhood near a Pfizer Corporation medical research center to make way for a private developer to build a massive hotel, office and residential redevelopment.

“As a long-time constitutional lawyer, I’m amazed at the decision,” said Gantenbein. “You can’t constitute public good by going into cahoots with private property owners. The idea subsidizes poor towns to bring jobs into an area and increase property values -- for instance this makes it easy for a Wal-Mart to come in,” said Gantenbein.

Whether this works particularly in Macon County will depend on the people and how committed the bulk of the people are to protecting rights of the citizens Gantenbein said.

“The decision is derived from the opinion that the promise of increasing property values and the creation of new jobs is a leap of faith,” said Gantenbein. “Taking as fact that a project will produce jobs and raise property values just so a private person has the backing of a municipality to take personal property, is silly.”

In his dissenting opinion, Justice Clarence Thomas called the decision “far-reaching and dangerous.” He pointed to a number of studies showing that urban renewal, or “slum clearance” as he called it, disproportionately affected lower-income minority residents.

In a blistering dissent Justice Sandra Day O’Connor said the decision catered to the rich and powerful and would hurt the average citizen.

In the past, when claiming eminent domain the people involved had to show a discernibly obvious reason for the public good or public health.

“In this case, to meet the public good requirement, all a developer has to show is that the project will create more jobs and increase the property taxes,” said Gantenbein. “The Supreme Court obviously had a preconceived agenda and decided what to rule, without regard to property law. It’s bad law written to further political agenda.”
Andrew Lloyd Webber was virtually unknown to American audiences until 1971 when "Jesus Christ Superstar" burst onto Broadway, stunning critics and puzzling religious fundamentalists as "how to love him" — him being Webber. The young British writer, lyricist, composer and his co-writer Tim Rice, had hit upon a new way of telling old tales, and in the process, was reaching a very young, seemingly-uninformed yet very receptive audience.

What followed is a very successful show business legend: "Evita," "Cats," "The Phantom of the Opera," and "Sunset Boulevard." Each production one a proven success able to stand alone, but when combined onto one resume, an astounding body of work. But, the beginning was rather unauspicious at a private boys school in the suburbs of London Town.

The school needed a concert and Webber obliged with a musical presentation — 15-20 minutes in length — retelling a Biblical tale from the Book of Genesis about Jacob and his 12 sons. Webber and Rice did not realize at the time that the show would be their personal genesis. They figured it would get one performance, maybe a couple more, but nothing more. However, timing is everything, and in the audience that evening was a London reporter who loved the show and gave it a rave review. Word spread.

"It's just such a wonderful tale of.....well, of life," said Robert Ray, Highlands Playhouse Artistic Director. "I love the story of the way the brothers, Jacob's 12 sons, grew up and finally realized they loved each other, and they were a family. Redemption is the theme, and I don't think anything is any more important that that."

For those who don't remember, brotherly love is kept to a minimum early on and 11 brothers turn against Joseph and actually sell him into slavery. But before "the end" and "amen" are said, the family has been reunited, with forgiveness all around.

"I chose 'Joseph' because we needed something for the whole family, especially for children and teenagers, but something sophisticated enough that adults would enjoy it, too," Ray said. "And, it's just such a good story — not just in Sunday School, but daily life."

"I also had recently been exposed to some really excellent talent that is perfect for this show," Ray continued. "To have so many good, young voices is really a privilege, and to have a show that gives them such a good opportunity is really rare."

The writers employ country western, calypso, soft rock ballads, and a number featuring a singer much like the King of Rock 'n' Roll. Joseph's two big numbers, "Any Dream Will Do" and "Close Every Door" were hit singles for the writing duo.

"I am very excited about this show," said Ray, "and I hope our audiences will enjoy it as much as I have enjoyed putting it together. We are off to a really good start with 'Too Marvelous for Words,' and I hope we can continue it."

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" opens at the Highlands Playhouse, Thursday, July 14, and continues through Sunday, July 31, with shows at 8 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are $35 for adults and $12 for children 12 and under. Most credit cards are accepted and tickets can be ordered over the phone. Advance purchase is recommended. Call: 526-2695.
**Mozart at Wolfgang’s** Enjoy the Vega Quartet performing Mozart and a gourmet meal at Wolfgang’s Restaurant and Wine Bistro, Thursday, July 21 at 6:30 p.m. They will also appear at Buck’s July 14 from 8-9 p.m.

The members of the Vega String Quartet first attracted international attention as prize winners at the Prague Spring International Music Competition in 1987. Since then the group has performed extensively throughout Asia, Europe and North America and been broadcast live on NPR’s Performance Today (USA), the National Radio of China, Shanghai TV, Radio France, and the National Radio of the Czech Republic. While studying at Shanghai Conservatory, the group soon won the conservatory’s Chamber Music Competition.

In February 1998, the Vega String Quartet won first prize at the National Society of Arts and Letters String Quartet Competition, followed in rapid succession by first prize at the Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition and first prize at the Carmel Chamber Music Competition in California. They have appeared for several years at the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival which kicks off its 24th season. For more information on the HCCMF season, please call 526-9060 or check out the website at hccmfestival.org.

**Mountain communities organize to fight new interstate highway**

Civic and conservation organizations and hundreds of individuals across the mountains of north Georgia and Western North Carolina have organized to counter a proposed new interstate that would cut through the heart of their farms, homes and businesses.

The website – www.StopI-3.org – represents a growing confederation of local county groups and interested citizens who have grave doubts about the value of the new interstate proposal winding its way through the halls of Congress.

"Unfortunately, our Congressmen and state officials have cooked up this interstate deal behind closed doors in Washington and Atlanta with nary a thought to how destructive it would be to mountain communities and our mountain economies," said Elizabeth Wells, spokeswoman for the organization.

"This is a bad idea, wrong for the mountains and wrong for the country," she said. "I can hardly believe any of our usually fiscally conservative elected officials are supporting the billions of dollars that these roads will add to a mushrooming federal budget deficit.

"To date, www.StopI-3.org has assembled support from many residents and groups across the entire tier of the Southern Appalachians, including Stephens, Habersham, White, Rabun, Towns, Union and Gilmer counties in Georgia; Macon, Jackson, Clay, Cherokee, Graham and Buncombe counties in North Carolina; and Oconee County, in South Carolina’s Upcountry. Individual members of this Stop I-3 coalition are concerned about the detrimental effects of a huge highway. They cite enormous negative impacts on recreational tourism, historical and archeological sites, national forests, wildlife — an entire way of life that works in harmony with natural resources and relies on these resources for its economic base.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Wells at ewells@georgia-research.com
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3 miles from Main St

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Ongoing**
  - Camp activities for the entire family at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center. Adults can enjoy the summer camp days and children develop an appreciation of the outdoors; you can learn new skills, meet new friends, and experience the joy of summer. Whether it's reading a book or playing field games, we have something for everyone! Call 526-5838, ext 203 or email info@mountaincenters.org.
  - **Joseph’s Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** at Highlands Playhouse through July 31. Call 526-2695 for ticket information.
  - **Music and dancing at Fressers** in Helen’s Barn the third Thursday of each month, 8-12 p.m.
  - Live Music at Buck’s Coffee Café Thursday-Saturday, 8-11 p.m.
  - **Plano Bar at...on the Verandah** and seven nights a week accompanied by jazz guitar Tuesdays and Thursdays all at 7 p.m.
  - Live music at Wolfcreek’s Restaurant and Wine Bistro, Mon., Wed., Thurs., 6-10 p.m.
  - **This Week at Highlands Win...with a Trim** and $7 to sample. Visit www.northlandcabletv.com for more information.
  - **HealthTracks** offers a Pilates class on Monday and Tuesday at 9 a.m. Call HealthTracks at 526-1348.
  - HealthTracks currently offering two yoga classes per week, both taught by certified instructor Carole Mackey. "Gentle Yoga" is held each Tues. at 5:15 p.m. "Hatha Yoga" is offered Wed. at 5:15 p.m. in the fitness studio on the first of the level of the Jane Woodruff Clinic. Cost is $12 per session or 10 sessions for $100. Call HealthTracks at 526-1348.
  - HealthTracks offers a Pilates class on Monday and Wednesday at 4 p.m. Classes are taught by certified instructor Sandie Trevethan in the fitness studio on the first level of the new Jane Woodruff Clinic. Cost is $10 per session or $80 for 10 sessions. Call HealthTracks at 526-1348.
  - HealthTracks is offering a special toning class on Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m. Cost is $6 per session for HealthTracks nonmembers. The classes are held at HealthTracks. Call HealthTracks at 526-1348.
  - **Adult Drawing** with Kathy Evans at B-L Gallery Tuesdays from 10-12 through July. Take one class or take them all! This beginner level class will provide instruction on various techniques along with aspects of design and composition. Call 526-4949.
  - **Independent Study Art Class** with Kathy Evans at B-L Gallery Tuesdays from 1-3 through July. This adult class offers independent study in a medium of your choice at the Intermediate and Advanced level. Call the gallery at 526-4949.
  - **Improvisation Classes** for high school and college students Mondays at 6 p.m. at Instant Theatre's Studio on Main, 310 Main Street. 526-1687. FREE.

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**July 13-14**

- **Chef from Carpe River Trading Company** at the Hen House on Main Street demonstrating the use of some of his cooking items from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**July 14 & 15**


**July 15-31**

- **At Highlands Playhouse, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**. Call 526-2695 for ticket information.

**July 15**

- **Instant Theater at 8 p.m. features Brian Stuart, Cindy McConnell and New York actor Max Vogler. $20 in advance $25 at the door at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call (828) 342-9197. Saturday specials: $15 adults, $7 students. All proceeds benefit children and children's FREE acting classes.

**July 15-16**

- **At Acorns – Steven Dweck Fine Jewelry Trunk Show 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**July 15-17**

- A "Walk in the Park" where actors portray people from Highlands' past. Leaves from the Conference Center.

**July 16**

- **Instant Theater at 8 p.m. features Songwriters-in-the-Round: George Reeves, Jon Zachary, Billy Dalton, John Roman and Wanda Lou. $20 in advance $25 at the door at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call (828) 342-9197. Saturday specials: $15 adults, $7 students. All proceeds benefit children and children's FREE acting classes.

- **Family Night Hike Saturday at 9 p.m.** at the Nature Center, ages 7 to adult. Cost for this event is $2 per person, and pre-registration is required due to limited space. Call 526-2623 to sign up.

- **Oliver Rice and the Blue Ridge Mountain Band** will perform at Highlands School gym from 7:30-9 p.m. A Poor Man’s Supper will be served in the school cafeteria from 6-7 p.m. Donations will be received for Relay for Life by the Just-for-You Team.

- **Mirror Lake Improvement Association** will have an outing on at 4 p.m. at the south pavilion at the Rec Park. Hotdogs and soft drinks will be provided, bring a dish and lawn chairs. There won't be a regular meeting in July nor a litter pickup in July.

- **At the Bird Barn – Steve Turpin who creates face jugs and other pottery will be turning pots outside from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

- **The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike to two waterfalls, Spoon Auger and King Falls, with the option of hiking an additional three miles to Hidden Falls. Meet at the Highlands Bank**
of America at 9 a.m. Call leader Doug Dean in Greenville, 864-718-9265, for information.

**July 18**
- The "Summer Colors Fine Art Show" at the Highlands Rec Park, will feature Shaun Moss’s Sparkle Magic Show at 1 p.m. The Children's Craft Table is well supervised and will be available both Saturday and Sunday from 10-4. There will be crafts and also a chair to paint and decorate which will then be donated to the Arts Alliance of Highlands for their autumn fundraising.

**July 19**
- Auditions for nine adult speaking parts and choral singers ages 12 up for the Liturgical Chancel Christmas Drama, "The Mystery of Christmas" at 8 p.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church on Wayah Street next to the Franklin Library. Call 369-9050.

**July 20**
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, with car shuttle, from the Fish Hatchery to Burrell's Ford along the Chattooga River. Drive 40 miles round trip. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Call leader Mo Wheeler, 526-3956, for information.

**July 21**
- At Acorns – Lilly Pad Shoes Trunk Show 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**July 22**
- Instant Theater Little Entertainments features guests Mt. Quartet, John Williams and Max Vogler $20 in advance $25 at the door at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call (828) 342-9197. Saturday specials: $15 adults, $7 students. All proceeds finance adult and children FREE acting classes. 

**July 24**
- Auditions for nine adult speaking parts and choral singers ages 12 up for the Liturgical Chancel Christmas Drama, "The Mystery of Christmas" at 8 p.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church on Wayah Street next to the Franklin Library. Call 369-9050.

**July 25**
- At Acorns – Franchesca Roman Fine Jewelry Trunk Show 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**July 26**
- Auditions for nine adult speaking parts and choral singers ages 12 up for the Liturgical Chancel Christmas Drama, "The Mystery of Christmas" at 8 p.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church on Wayah Street next to the Franklin Library. Call 369-9050.

**July 27**
- The Scaly Mountain Women’s Club will hold the third in its summer series of seated pancake breakfasts July 23 at the ski lodge on U.S. Highway 106 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Guests will get a full breakfast of orange juice, coffee, pancakes, patty sausage and plenty of warm syrup and butter. Members of the club will serve the food at tables, or you may order take-out if you choose.

**July 28**
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, with car shuttle, from the Fish Hatchery to Burrell's Ford along the Chattooga River. Drive 40 miles round trip. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Call leader Mo Wheeler, 526-3956, for information.

**July 29**
- Instant Theater Little Entertainments features guests Brian Reese & Uncle Bob. $20 in advance $25 at the door at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call (828) 342-9197. Saturday specials: $15 adults, $7 students. All proceeds finance adult and children FREE acting classes.

**July 30**
- Instant Theater Little Entertainments features guests Brian Reese & Uncle Bob. $20 in advance $25 at the door at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call (828) 342-9197. Saturday specials: $15 adults, $7 students. All proceeds finance adult and children FREE acting classes.

**August 3**
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, with car shuttle, from the Fish Hatchery to Burrell's Ford along the Chattooga River. Drive 40 miles round trip. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Call leader Mo Wheeler, 526-3956, for information.

**August 4**
- Instant Theater Little Entertainments features guests Brian Reese & Uncle Bob. $20 in advance $25 at the door at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call (828) 342-9197. Saturday specials: $15 adults, $7 students. All proceeds finance adult and children FREE acting classes.
Father Tien was born in Saigon (South Vietnam) in 1963. He is a sibling to seven brothers and two sisters. In 1974, he entered into the minor seminary in Thu Duc; however, as history has recorded, Communist North Vietnam took over South Vietnam and the seminary was closed.

Desiring to become a priest and with limited religious freedom in Vietnam, he tried to escape twice by boat with one of his seven brothers. His first attempt to escape was in 1982 with his brother who is currently a priest at Saint Benedict Church in Greensboro, N.C. However, due to overloading of the boat and storms, they were unsuccessful and were put into jail with 119 other individuals.

Seven years later, knowing the risks involved in attempting to escape, he set out again with his younger brother and 59 other individuals to freedom. After three days and four nights at sea, they landed on a small island in Indonesia. They sought refuge after one month at the Galang Refugee Camp. After two and a half years in the refuge camp, Father Tien and his brother came to Charlotte to see his family who had arrived just two months prior to his arrival.

He worked in the Charlotte area for two years before pursuing his call to become a priest. He then joined the Diocese of Charlotte and was ordained into the Sacred Priesthood of Jesus Christ in 2001 along with his brother at Saint Gabriel’s Church in Charlotte, N.C. His first assignment as a priest was at Saint Gabriel’s and he later went to Saint Mark’s Church in Huntersville for six months. These two assignments were much larger parishes than his current assignment here in Highlands.

Father Tien’s hope is that the Highlands community will open its arms wide to welcome him and his ministry at Our Lady of the Mountains and Saint Jude in Sapphire Valley.

“My efforts are to try to bring people, particularly people at Our Lady of the Mountains and Saint Jude Catholic Churches, who are under his care, closer to God, mainly through the Sacraments, prayers and other religious activities,” said Father Tien.

Father Tien said he’s glad he’s in a small parish and he hopes he will be able to bring people closer to God.

“I know it’s a bit ambitious for me, but it is my goal,” he said modestly.

He said he wants to encourage people to learn more about their faith and to attend as many activities in the church as possible, especially Holy Mass and the sacraments.

“I think I will stay here for a while,” he said. “I will adjust myself to wherever I go.”

Father Tien wants to say “hi” to everyone and said he hopes they will welcome him.

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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
**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.
**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**
Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding, Pastor
Church: (706) 746-2999
Pastor’s residence: (706) 746-5770
Sundays: 9 a.m. - choir
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service
**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
**CHRIST CHURCH**
743-9370
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Sunday Worship and communion at 4 p.m.
Tuesday Noon Bible Study: noon Parish House
Thursday worship and communion at 10:30 a.m.
Pot Luck Dinner: Last Sunday of the Month.
All services at the Community Bible Church
**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH**
526-2830 • Corner of Spring & Third Streets
Come hear the healing message of the Christ Sunday at 11 a.m.
Wednesday at 7 p.m.
**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, Senior Pastor
www.cbcbhighlands.com
526-4685
**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
Wednesdays: Liturgy Mtg – 4 p.m.; Christian Education – 5 p.m.; Supper & Program – 6 p.m.
Thursday: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.
Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 11
**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 – 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Sunday School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Wednesdays: Children’s Devotions – 9:30 a.m.; Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.
**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
Rev. Scott Holland, 526-6026, 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
Sun: School – 9:30 & 9:45 a.m.; Worship – 8:30 & 11
Wed: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study & activities – 6
**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 Satoloh
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.
**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOUGE**
St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
For more information, call (706)-745-1842
**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Rev. Tien, Priest
Parish office, 526-9741
Rent: School – 8:30 a.m.; Mass – 9 a.m.
Wednesday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m.
Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.
**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Clifford Wilkes
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
**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
**Police & Fire**

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of July 10-13.

**July 10**
- A little after midnight, officers gave a motorist a warning citation for a headlight violation.
- At 11:20 a.m., a resident reported an incident of vandalism.
- At 3:30 p.m., a resident reported being assaulted.
- At 3:45 p.m., a resident found a wallet and turned it into police.
- At 8:50 p.m., officers received a call of a runaway juvenile.

**July 11**
- At 8:25 a.m., officers responded to an alarm activation at Old Edwards Inn & Spa. All was secure.
- At 4 p.m., officers aided a stranded motorist.
- At 4:30 p.m., a suspicious person was reported at D&J Express Mart. It was unfounded.
- At 5:40 p.m., officers responded to an alarm activation. All was secure.

**July 12**
- A little past midnight, officers gave a motorist a warning citation for an expired registration and inspection sticker.
- At 8:20 a.m., officers responded to an alarm activation at Rosenthal's. All was secure.
- At 7:55 p.m., a wallet found earlier in the week was returned to the owner.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for July 6-12.

**July 6**
- The dept. provided mutual aid to the Scały Fire & Rescue Dept. The call was cancelled en route.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Horse Cove Road. There was no transport.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fire Dept. The call was cancelled en route.

**July 11**
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Falls Drive East. There were two victims, but they drove themselves to the hospital.

**July 12**
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Horse Cove Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

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**Highlands Eateries**

**SPORTS PAGE**

**Sandwich Shoppe**

*Soups • Salads • Loaded Bake Potatoes • Desserts*

Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Open for its 15th Season

Main Street • 526-3555

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**Cajun festival poster contest**

The Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center will be holding an old fashioned Cajun dance fund raiser on Sunday, September 4th, beginning at 6 p.m. We are inviting artists of all ages to enter the Cajun Music and Dance Festival Poster Contest. All entries will be displayed at the dance.

The winning entry will receive two tickets to the festival, including dance lessons given by Carolina Cajun Dancers, some great Cajun cuisine from Don Leon's Deli Cafe and Holly Does The Cooking, as well as a Cajun gift basket from The Toy Store (fun for both adults and children). Total prizes are valued at $100. Entries may be any size, but must be turned in to The Toy Store or the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center by July 31.

For more information contact Janet Wilson at 526-1552.

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**THE PIZZA PLACE!**

**Sandwiches, Cajun & European Specialties**

Corner of Main St. & N.C. 106

Hours: 11-4 Tues.--Sun
526-1600

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**Buck's Coffee Cafe**

Sun-Thurs. 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Fri & Sat. 7:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Live music Fri & Sat

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**BRICK OVEN PIZZA**

Made-to-order pizza, calzones & salads.
Open for lunch & dinner
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**High Country Cafe**

Working Guys Breakfast
$3.25
Two pancakes, 2 eggs with bacon or sausage.
New menu items for summer!
526-0572
Open 7 days • 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
Cashiers Road next to the Community Bible Church
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Units Available
Call Ricky Bryson at
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From laundry to dishes; from bedrooms to bathrooms; no job is too big or small. So give us a call!
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(828) 787-8281
mikewilson1@uw.net

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Call:
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HELP WANTED

CURVES – Part Time Is accepting resumes for Manager Trainee position. This is a flexible part time position. If you have an enthusiastic personality and love to work with people, send resume to PO Box 1332, Highlands, NC 28741 or fax to 828-526-9226. Perfect opportunity for retirees or someone returning to the work force.

PART-TIME BILINGUAL OFFICE ASSISTANT POSITION – Available immediately. Help local organization improve harmony and understanding between international residents and the community. Must write and speak English and Spanish fluently, excellent interpersonal skills, computer literate. Ability to work with people of varying backgrounds and socio-economic levels. Send resume to International Friendship Center, 348 S. Fifth St, N.C., or call 526-9938 ext. 290.

RECEPTIONIST, PHYSICIAN’S OFFICE at HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Monday-Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm. Significant computer knowledge and minimum of two years’ experience working in automated physician’s office or clinic are required. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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

COOK at HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full time, various hours/days. Two years’ experience in volume cooking required. Will be trained in diets and consistencies. Excellent benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

RNS, FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER at HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Two positions open; one day shift and one night shift. Three 12-hour shifts per week. Excellent benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

DIETARY AIDES - HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Duties include working patient tray line and cafeteria line, stock kitchen, wash dishes. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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

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

REAL ESTATE - RENTALS

ON OAK LANE – Two Bedroom, 1-1/2 bath house, W/D, dishwasher. Utilities included. Walk to Town. 706-212-0055.

FURNISHED APARTMENT. One bedroom and bath, kitchen, living room and outside porch. Call 526-2561.

VACATION HOME FOR RENT – Long range mountain view, spectacular sunsets, private road, large deck, sleeps 6, MRV, King, BR-Queen, Den-Queen Sleeper Sofa, fireplace. $1,200/week, Call Charles or Loma at 526-3233.

RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT – Highlands Plaza. Call 864-630-0808.

STORE FOR RENT – on 4th Street. Call 864-630-0808.

REAL ESTATE - SALES

FRANKLIN – Creek and pasture with view. Purchase 81.82 acres or any size parcel. Call owner for pricing and website. 1-800-640-5495.


HOUSE FOR SALE – In HIGHLANDS, yet private. 0.6 acre borders creek, walk to Main St. 4-bed, 2-bath. $450,000. (828) 226-6123.

HOUSE FOR SALE – Lake Glenville/Cashiers. 2-bed, one-bath on 1/2 acre. Views, carports, studio. $135,000. Call: 802-272-4740.

HOME FOR SALE NEARLY NEW – 3 bed, 2 bath– King Mountain Club, Atlanta side of Highlands. Immaculate. Large lot borders USFS – Creek on back of property. View of Scary Mt. 2-car garage, wood-burning fireplace, gas furnace - stove, large kitchen, wood floors, all on one level. Year-round caretaker, pool, tennis court, stocked trout pond. Asking $399,000. Easy to see Call Sandy at (TLC Assoc.) 828-526-5632.

SERVICES


BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

PIANIST NEEDED – At Holy Family Lutheran Church. One Service weekly. Call Marian at 526-8305.

MUSICIANS WANTED – Call Charissa at The Pizza Place. 526-5660.

THE ULTIMATE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY! – Hot product (powerful anti-aging cream). Big residual profits. Turn-key marketing system (International). Full details: www.unlimitedwealthalliance.com/rep/rsc
Folkmoot a ‘must see’ in Highlands

Many Highlanders have made the trip to the Folkmoot headquarters in Waynesville to view the dancers in the past.

Now for this one night the extraordinary dancers and musicians from these three countries will be available close by at the Performing Arts Center.

The swirl of colorful costumes; the beat of live music played on authentic instruments; the perfection of dancers who know how to dance.

What’s this? A Highlands version of “Dancing with the Stars?”

No it is Folkmoot, the North Carolina Official International Folk Festival. And it’s coming to Highlands for a one night appearance on Wednesday, July 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands.

Now in its 22nd Season Folkmoot brings folk dancers and musicians from countries around the world to western North Carolina. After an absence of nearly 15 years the Folkmoot dancers and musicians in authentic costumes from three countries will be performing again in Highlands. Tentatively scheduled to appear are participants from Turkey, Germany and Spain.

Tickets for this must see event are $15 for adults and $7.50 for children under 12. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the PAC office on the second floor of the PAC building or by calling 526-9047. Tickets sales are by cash or check only.

Folkmoot has been listed as a Top 20 Event in the Southeast for the past 17 years.

Golf tourney just for women

On Aug. 22, there is a Women’s Invitation Golf Tournament at Highlands Falls Country Club.

Club Professional Allen Chandler has designed an interesting format that combines nine holes of Captains Choice with nine holes of 1 Best Ball of Four – just for women.

There will be hole-in-one prizes on all par 3s throughout the course, including a Club Car donated by Appalachian Golf Cars.

Prizes for the winning foursomes include spa treatments from the Old Edwards Inn and Spa, merchandise from The Old Rangoon, Acorns and other merchants as well as certificates from restaurants and rounds of golf at area clubs.

Cost is $125 per person and includes breakfast, lunch and Tee gifts. To sign up, call Christy Kelly at the Peggy Crosby Center, 526-9938, ext. 110.
Sixth Annual “Walk in the Park”
July 15-17. Rain dates the following weekend.
Fri. & Sat.: 6-7:30 p.m.
Sunday: 4-5:30 p.m.
Shuttles leave from the
Conference Center.
Tickets are $15

<<< WATERFALLS
Cullasaja Falls 9 Miles
Bust Your Butt Falls 7 Miles
Cliffside Lake 6 Miles
Dry Falls 3 Miles
Bridal Veil Falls 2 Miles

<<< FRANKLIN, N.C.
Franklin Rd. Hwy 64w 18 Miles

Cashiers Road, Hwy 64e
Whiteside Mt Hiking Trail 7 Miles
High Country Cafe 5 Miles
Skyline Lodge & Jack’s 4 Miles
Highlands-Cashiers Hosp. 4 Miles
Good Year Tire & Repair 3 Miles
Highlands Outdoor Tool 2 Miles
TWIGS & Fibbers 1/4 Mile

Highlands Playhouse
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for the Whole Family!
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CULLASAJA COTTAGE
This 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath home is nestled on a beautiful wooded lot in the Cullasaja Club. Totally renovated, this wonderful home showcases beautiful hardwood floors throughout, great room with large picturesque windows and a stone fireplace, upper and lower screen decks overlooking a small waterfall, granite countertops and more. Must see! Offered at $748,000 MLS# 55043 View a Visual Tour at our website Tour# 287447

CULLASAJA CLUB VIEW
Watch the sunset, walk to the club-house with kids, grand children and family. This spacious five bedroom, five bath home offers a great room/dining combination on the main level with master suite. Family Room, Guest Rooms and Sauna make the downstairs almost too inviting for guests. You will have to encourage them to leave! A great view home offered at $1,495,000 MLS# 54378 View a Visual Tour at our website Tour# 285583

IN TOWN HOME
Great Location, walking distance from downtown Highlands. Wonderful home located just past Harris Lake in the quaint Sunset Hills subdivision. This nice 3 bedroom, 3 bath home has a large workshop space in the finished basement. Enjoy the stone faced fireplace in the living room, a wood stove downstairs and a covered deck overlooking this beautiful lot. This special home is situated on two lots and includes an additional wooded lot for future expansion. A great deal at $389,000 MLS#55972 View a Visual Tour at our website Tour #395259

Local Area Information
www.highlandsinfo.com

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Highlands Historic Village Now Open