$39 million budget passes

By Kim Lewicki
highlandseditor@aol.com

The new Macon County Commission Board Room on floor three in the Court House was christened by scores of citizens Monday night, there to hear mainly about the county's 2005-2006 budget.

The $39 million budget, up 12.8 percent over last year, was the topic of conversation during the public session.

*See BUDGET page 8

It's summer time and living is easy

By Erin Brown
highlandserin@aol.com

The pool at the Highlands Recreation Park is a popular place once school is out. It's open to the general public from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 1-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Adult Lap Swim is from 8-9 a.m. Monday through Friday and Day Care and Swim Lessons are from 10-11 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Teacher supplements topic at board meeting

By Kim Lewicki
highlandseditor@aol.com

A large percentage of the citizens who crowded into the Macon County Commission Board Room Monday night were either teachers or those affiliated with the Macon County School system.

With passing the Macon County 2005-2006 budget high on the agenda – which includes a two percent teacher supplement and allocations for capital improvements in the school district – citizens and commissioners spoke their peace.

During the public session, Darlene McDowell thanked commissioners for backing education in Macon County.

"We need to support education," she said. "These are our future leaders of tomorrow, and we are teaching our children and grandchildren. The school system needs resources, talent and wisdom for the education system so we can raise productive and intelligent citizens."

County Manager Sam Greenwood said unfunded mandates coming from...
Open letter to the H-C Hospital Board

Dear Editor,

Are we correct in thinking that the Highlands-Cashiers hospital board will expect the Cashiers Valley citizens to contribute to a new medical office facility in the Cashiers area that the local doctors will not be allowed to use and to continue to support a hospital that one of the doctors is no longer welcome to send patients to?

As a former Highlands-Cashiers hospital board member (Sarah - two terms) and a 34-year resident and supporter of the hospital, we join the other residents of the community who are outraged at the callous attitude the Board has taken in regard to Dr. Heffington and the Cashiers Community.

Ladies and gentlemen of the board, I urge you to rethink your position and find a solution that will return the hospital to a cooperating effort between two communities.

Since it appears that the hospital is rapidly becoming the Highlands Hospital, our interest in supporting this facility has extremely diminished.

V. C. and Sarah Smith
Highlands

Letter author misinformed

Dear Editor,

In response to Jodie Zoellner’s letter to in the June 3 issue of Highlands’ Newspaper, I would like to point out that Ms. Zoellner did not attend the showing of the film, “The Future of Food,” and what she feeds her family is her choice. However, I think it is important to define some terms that she was misinformed about.

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are not simply “seeds.” GMOs are defined as “A genetically modified organism where the genetic code from one organism is inserted into another organism to create one or more traits.” (College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, University of MO). Seeds come from nature. GMOs come from a laboratory.

The two most prominent GMOs in the US are Bt corn and Roundup Ready soybeans. Since the end of the 1990s, over half of all US crops are GMO. Roundup Ready soybeans have an added gene that inhibits the effects of the quick-degrading pesticide, allowing farmers to spray their entire field without harming the growing crop. Bt corn has a gene that kills the European corn borer, allowing farmers to reduce insecticide applications.

Ms. Zoellner is correct that there is no hard evidence that the human race is harmed by GMOs. However, there are several popular, public oppositions to GMOs, ranging from human interest to environmental concern.

Dr. Michael Antonio, a senior lecturer in molecular genetics at King’s College Medical School, London conducted a study in 2002 on the antibiotic marker genes that are inserted into all GMOs to easily detect the foreign DNA. His research suggests that antibiotic marker genes could spread around the human stomach and compromise antibiotic resistance. If this were to happen, a person could be immune to beneficial antibiotic medicines. I’m sure readers are aware of the current decline in the effectiveness of antibiotic treatments for human illness. Dr. Antonio’s research suggests that GMOs are not helping the crisis.

Harvard geneticist Dr. Richard Lewontin was quoted in a New York Times Magazine article in 2003 saying, “There’s no way of knowing what the downstream effects will be or how [genetic engineering] might affect the environment. We have such a miserably poor understanding of how an organism develops from its DNA that I would be surprised if we don’t get one rude shock after another” (emphasis his).

The European Union and several Asian countries have banned US GMO imports. They base their prohibition of GMOs on the Precautionary Principle: the view that when science has not yet determined whether a new product or process is safe or unsafe, policy should prohibit or restrict its use until it is known to be safe. The US has not yet accepted the Precautionary Principle as a basis for judging consumer product safety.

The problem with GMOs is not that they are determined to be unsafe, but that they haven’t been proven to be safe or beneficial to humans. And more
Madge Etta Frances Shope Dowdle

Madge Etta Frances Shope Dowdle, age 89, of Coweeta Church Community, Otto, NC, died Wednesday, June 1, 2005. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late Julie Mashburn Shope. She was married to Arthur "Buck" Noel Dowdle who died in 1973. She was a homemaker, a loving mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She was a member of Coweeta Baptist Church.

She is survived by three daughters, Nancy Lowe and her husband, Jimmy, of Highlands, NC, Gail Pitman of Otto, NC and Julia Heston and her husband, Greg, of Otto, NC; three sons, George Dowdle and his wife, Kathy, of Asheville, NC, Ronnie Dowdle and his wife, Ruth, of Otto, NC, and Jerry Dowdle of Otto, NC; two sisters, Betty Brown of Otto, NC and Ruth Holbrooks of High Point, NC; one brother, Bill “Judd” Shope of Otto, NC. Fifteen grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son, Lonnie Ray Shope and one grandson, Jay Shope.

Funeral services were held Saturday, June 4 at 11 a.m. at Coweeta Baptist Church with The Rev. Davis Hooper and The Rev. Radford Penland officiating. Burial will be in the Rush Cemetery. Cam Dowdle, Brandon Penland, Damon Crawford, Scotty Ray Shope, Shawn Cobb, Bobby Baby, Bobby Holbrooks and Larry Shope served as pallbearers.

The family received friends Friday, June 3 from 7-9 p.m. at Bryant Funeral Home where the body remained until placed in the Church thirty minutes prior to service.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.
Driving a ‘duh’ car?

Save Your Beer Cans

If you are a person driving around in one of those stupid little box cars that look like something Fred Flintstone would drive, don’t get your shorts in a wad over what I am about to write. Better still, don’t read the article and save your shorts. I call them “duh” cars.

Very intelligent design engineers have gone to great lengths, spending countless hours of overtime, trying to figure out how to make the ugliest car on the planet. After days and days with no sleep, the winner is... the Toyota Scion xB. The letters xB are a secret code for the term “butt ugly.”

The next time you see one of these babies, picture ole Flintstone behind the wheel. Better still, when you pull up alongside an xB and the person looks over at you, give them your very best “duh” look. They’ll get the idea.

Unbelievable as it may seem, these little cracker boxes are selling faster than Cialis. You can get one for about 12k, get awesome gas mileage and because it’s made by the Japanese; it lasts forever. Looking duh in this car is the tradeoff you must cope with to own one.

My son, who has so many kids he no longer has a place at the dinner table, drives a Ford Expedition which is so big he needs walkie talkies to speak to the people in the last row of seats. He shells out sixty bucks for a fill up and new tires are about $150 each. But he is a happy guy and wouldn’t have it any other way. Of course, the only time they can afford to use it is when he has worked lots of overtime. He could have bought three xB’s for the price he paid for the Expedition. I guess they are not into the duh look.

Why can’t design engineers make sexy looking cars that get dynamite gas mileage without making them look dumb? Or maybe it’s just me. I call them “duh” cars.

Fred Wooldridge

Highlands Fine Dining

The Highlight of Highlands

FABULOUS
breakfast
buffet on the
weekends

A Great Place to Stay. A Great Place for Breakfast

Hand-Cut & Grilled to Order
Prime Steaks –
Fresh Seafood – Wild Game
Pasta – Chicken

“Family-owned &
operated since 1995”
526-3380
Behind Hampton Inn off Hwy 106

FIRESIDE DINING
“As Seen in Southern Living Magazine”
Brown Bagging Permitted

Lunch Buffet:
Thurs-Sat 12-2 $9.95
Dinner: 5-10 nightly

Regional Menus & Extensive Wine List

Wine Spectator Award Recipient since 1987
Gourmet Food in a Casual Atmosphere

Lunch • Mon-Sat 11 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Dinner • Thurs.-Sat. 5 – 9:30 p.m.
Sunday Brunch 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Closed Wednesday

Jack’s at Skyline Lodge
Breakfast, Lunch, Sunday Brunch & Dinner
FRANK LLOYD Lounge – Full Bar available

Highlands Mountain Top Dining with a View

Flat Mountain Rd.
Call 526-2121 for reservations

Highlands’ Most Scenic Dining Overlooking Lake Sequoyah
Now in our 25th Season
Wine Spectator Award Recipient since 1987
Open 7 days a week. Seating from 6 p.m.
Sunday Brunch seating from 11 am - 2 pm
Highway 64 West 828-526-2338 otv1@ontheverandah.com

Open for its 22nd season. Fine Italian dining since 1984,
OPEN for dinner 7 nights from 5:30 p.m.
Reservations recommended
Call 526-4906
440 Main Street
Wine Spectator’s “Best of Award of Excellence”
Artists donate work for B-L’s art & wine auction

The Fine Art Center-Bascom Louise Gallery is readying for its annual art and wine auction – Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. All proceeds go toward the operating budget of the Fine Art Center. Artists’ work will be exhibited in the gallery the week preceding the auction. Artist Laura John donated “Sitting Bear II” – an example of her desire to capture the whimsical being of wild creatures in their natural surroundings.

UCWA gets grant to study non-pointsource pollution

By Erin Brown
highlandserin@aol.com

Much conjecture has been made about contaminants from area roadways ending up in area waterways. Old-timers claim area lakes don’t freeze like they used to and that warmer winters aren’t the culprits.

Now scientists plan to find out exactly what is in road water run-off and how much of it does end up in waterways.

The Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association recently submitted a grant to the Environmental Protection Agency for $585,741 to study non-point source pollution.

Funds from the EPA 319 Grant will be over the course of two years beginning in December 2006.

UCWA Executive Director Katy Calloway gave a memo to the Town Board at their last meeting “letting them know what’s going on.”

With the grant UCWA can further develop the 2004 Watershed Strategy and Action Plan to meet EPA planning guidelines. The grant will also provide funds to implement at least three water quality improvement projects within the Mill Creek and Cullasaja River sub-basins.

“This will give us some hard data as to what is coming off properties,” Calloway said.

The projects will have measurable effect on water quality by potentially effecting sediment loads, oil and grease loads and temperature within the two impaired streams of Mill Creek and the upper Cullasaja River.

“This also gives UCWA a baseline to measure other projects,” Calloway said.

Two of the three projects proposed include retrofitting the paved parking lot to manage storm-water runoff in the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center and installing permeable pavement and creating post-construction storm-water controls at the Bascom-Louise Gallery Fine Art Center.

The third project has yet to be defined, but may include a storm-water management project proposed for the new gymnasium and adjoining property at Highlands School.

Steinway Artist Piano Concert cancelled

The Literacy Council of Highlands regrettably announces the cancellation of the Steinway Artist Piano Concerts scheduled for June 18th at 7:30 p.m. and June 19 at 2 p.m. Both concerts were to be held at the PAC.
am a fifties guy who loves Corvettes, Firebirds and Mustangs. Make me a car that gets 40 miles to the gallon of gas and looks expensive for 12k and I’ll buy it. Isn’t the design of the car just the way they decide to bend the metal? Couldn’t the Scion look like a Corvette if they just bent the metal differently? Remember, you look like what you drive.

When Chrysler came out with the PT Cruiser, I took a hard look at that car and decided I would look like Fearless Fosdick behind the wheel. (I do have the hole in my head.) If I owned a Cruiser, I would buy those fake bullet holes, put them all over the car and ride around wearing a black suit and fedora. Next time you pull up next to a PT Cruiser, fashion a gun with your thumb and index finger and put several shots through the driver’s window.

So what’s a mother to do? Searching the Internet for something really innovative, I ran across hydrogen cars. These abominations run on water..... well, kinda. Looking over the selection, I realized they must have come in second in the ugliest car on the planet contest.

Anyway, one form of hydrogen is made from empty beer cans and salt water, something that got my attention right away. I found a web site that explains how to build your own hydrogen car engine right at home. It does require the use of many, many empty (the key word here is empty) beer cans which I am currently working overtime on. When my engine is complete, I will slide it under the hood of an old Ford Mustang and head out. My new design will use both Atlantic and Pacific salt water and I’ll keep a six pack in the trunk, just in case. So why are we doing business with Saudi Arabian terrorists when we can get our fuel from beer cans and salt water?

That’s my take on driving “duh” cars, which may cause you to wonder what I personally drive. Ha, I’m not telling, but my daughter will not get near it, calling it a “shoe skate” and other things I can’t put in the paper. When she sees me in it she shouts “duh.”
... LETTER continued from page 2

significantly, Americans are not being given the choice. A portion of the film, The Future of Food, was devoted to the consumer’s right to know what they are eating and thereby empowering them to exercise freedom of choice. Corporations and lack of government policy are keeping GMOs from being labeled in the marketplace, in the same way that irradiated food need not be labeled. Frankly, I would like to be assured that the tomato I’m buying involves neither.

In addition, the threat of proliferation within the plant communities is huge. As the film pointed out, a modified piece of car equipment can’t get up and impose itself on someone else’s car. Plants, by their very nature, spread their genetic material through cross-pollination. There is no safe method for keeping GMOs from cross-pollinating with non-GMOs and the devastating consequences of this natural process, to farmers and their crops, were illustrated in the film.

Ms. Zoellner failed to differentiate between organic and non-GMO. I always check to see that the product I buy is labeled organic as well as non-GMO. They are not the same. USDA guidelines for certified organic means that the product is 95% organic. According to the USDA, “Organic food is produced by farmers who emphasize the use of renewable resources and the conservation of soil and water to enhance environmental quality for future generations. Organic meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy products come from animals that are given no antibiotics or growth hormones. Organic food is produced without using most conventional pesticides; fertilizers made with synthetic ingredients or sewage sludge; bioengineering; or ionizing radiation.” While USDA certification is a step, it is not necessarily the model in the organic standard. USDA certification allows for the use of “approved” synthetic herbicides and pesticides. (That list can be found on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances, section G, 205.601). It also allows for the seeds to be non-organic or genetically modified. There are several independent certifying groups with higher standards and I think one should compare their standards before investing in their authenticity. Just because Matlock Creek Farm isn’t registered as organic, doesn’t mean that they don’t farm their land with the integrity of a bio-dynamic farmer. The food that I grow in my backyard isn’t certified either but it is safe, sustainably and responsibly produced.

I choose to eat organic as much as possible. I have no chemicals in my home, (cleaners, disinfectants, or pesticides) and I try not to eat chemicals in my food. Matlock Creek Farm is one of several local resources. I shop around for high quality food that is produced with respect to the environment. I belong to a CSA in Athens, Ga. That means that every two weeks, I drive to the farm, look the farmer in the eye, and pick up my produce. For my family it’s worth it because anything that we can do to help insure a long and healthy life for ourselves and our environment is critical to our existence. And I’m just glad we have the choice.

Katie Calloway
Highlands
At the June 6 Macon County Commissioners meeting in Franklin, Chairman Allan Bryson and Vice Chair Charlie Leatherman presented Richard Jones, Jr., county attorney, with a plaque and a painting of appreciation. "It has been a privilege to maintain a professional relationship with a governing body for so long," said Jones.

part of the meeting, both by those opposed to budget increases and those who thanked county commissioners.

Some factions believe the increase is uncalled for - an unprecedented $39 million, said Norm Roberts.

Others see it as the cost of doing business in Macon County.

"I have come to thank you for backing quality teachers, technology and unfunded mandates," said Jerry Arnold. "I thank you for being progressive."

Happily for property owners, the current property tax rate of 37 cents per $100 of valuation (37¢ per $100) will remain the same.

"This budget and tax rate reflects the effects of a continued healthy local economy and conservative budgeting," said Macon County Manager Sam Greenwood. "The weak point in the whole process of local government budgeting and financial management continues to be the vagueness in State finances and the continuation of old State habits in passing costs to local government through a variety of measures all lumped under the general heading of unfunded mandates."

Despite continued negatives at the state level; locally, Macon County continues to deal with the stress created by growth and increased demands for improved services.

"An increase in county health insurance of 24 percent must be addressed," said County Commissioner Jim Davis. "I understand we have to attract and keep better employees, but perhaps we should look at those with high-risk lifestyles and suggest they pay the higher premiums."

Other increases are due to the Southwestern Community College Campus and Macon County Library Construction. Macon County will issue up to $5,500,000 in certificates of participation (COPS) to support the project. Debt Service funding is budgeted for this fiscal year.

There were major mandated increases in Social Services with a $200,000 increase in Medicaid match.

The county will fully fund a joint Town of Highlands/County recreation program at up to $500,000 in certieificates of participation (COPS) for the South Macon Recreation complex and improvements to the Community Facilities Building.

Commissioner Bob Simpson said Macon County just has to buckle down and find the money it needs.
... SUPPLEMENT continued from page 1

the state and federal government, the county is holding it's own.

"This budget contains a recommended operations allocation of $300,000 more than the current year for Macon County Schools with an additional $100,000 increase in operating capital expenses," he said. The two percent teacher's supplement was included for the second time.

Macon County Commission Chairman Allan Bryson said that comes out to $8 per taxpayer. "As long as I'm sitting on this board, I will support education and the supplement," he said.

Commissioner Jim Davis voted for the budget as presented, but made it quite clear he thinks teacher salaries, including supplements, should come from Raleigh, not from the local level.

"I'm not opposed to the supplement I'm opposed to the county paying the bill. The problem is with Raleigh not Macon County," he said. "We have low taxes and a high collection rate plus a golden goose up the mountain that sends us lots of money. We have $1 million in unfunded mandates that have come down from the state and federal government and Macon County is making up the difference."

He said county employees don't get a bonus, so why should teachers. "Law enforcement officers, fire and rescue people, none of them get paid enough, either," he said.

Commissioner Charlie Leatherman explained to the crowd in detail the daily duties of an average teacher, a litany that went on for some time and illustrated just how over-worked and underpaid teachers are in general. "Society has placed many roles on teachers, roles expanded beyond just showing a student how to learn. Teachers do much more than teach," he said. "They are social workers, counselors, police officer, guards, detectives, responsible for conflict resolution and the children’s safe environment."

He said 94 counties in the state and 23 municipalities provide teacher salary supplements, and he's proud Macon County finally does it, too.

"I'm disappointed there's not more of a supplement for school teachers," said County Commissioner Bob Simpson.

"The country is losing 10,000 teachers a year to the private sector. We're giving them the supplement not because the state took it away, but because they deserve it."

Other 2005-2006 county budget expenditures for education expenses include initial funding for site purchase and associated site development costs; engineering, environmental, soil testing and architectural is budgeted ($1,020,000) for the north Macon school, currently scheduled for construction to start in FY 2006-07.

In addition, the schools have secured a no interest allocation of up to $2,000,000 tentatively allocated for Phase II and III renovations at East Franklin Elementary. The debt service for this project is not yet budgeted. The Macon County Board of Commissioners and Macon County Board of Education are to meet in the new fiscal year to update the schools capital facility plan.
Beetle Ball raises $20,000 for cause

The community was presented with all sorts of ways to raise money for the plateau’s fight against the Woolly Adelgid at Saturday night’s Beetle Ball at the Highlands Conference Center. Polaroid shots in front of exciting backdrops like the Egyptian Sarcophagus as well as in front of John, Ringo, Paul and George. For $20 folks could dig a “goodie” package from the sands of Egypt or from the arms of a hemlock tree. A silent auction also helped raise funds. Cyprus International Restaurant catered the affair. Photos by Jim Lewicki

Wolfgang’s ‘bistro’ grand opening

On June 7, the doors opened to Highlands’ newest wine bar and bistro experience – at Wolfgang’s on Main. David and Susan Young enjoyed the outdoor experience.

2005 Historic Home Walking Tour of 4 Homes

presented by
Highlands Historical Society
June 25 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tickets $45 per person (students free)

2005 Historic Home Walking Tour of 4 Homes presented by Highlands Historical Society June 25 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets $45 per person (students free)

Upcoming June Audubon events

On June 11, there’s an Audubon Birdwalk in Highlands habitats for local breeding birds. Meet at Highlands Town Hall Parking lot at 7:30 a.m. to car pool.

On June 14, “Africa: A Sampling of Birds and Other Critters,” an Audubon slide program, will be presented by Romney and Bill Bathurst, 7 p.m., Highlands Civic Center.

On June 21, there is a field trip trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway to identify summer resident birds. Bring a lunch. Meet at Highlands Town Hall Parking lot at 7:30 a.m. to car pool.

On June 29, The Owl Prowl, sponsored by the Highlands Nature Center and Highlands Plateau Audubon Society at the Nature Center, 7:30 p.m.

For further information, contact the Nature Center at 526-2623.

• ANOTHER VIEW •

None of us will come out of this “war” unsullied

A nother outrage has surfaced in this outrageous “war” we are mired in. Army Ranger Patrick Tillman, who gave up a $3.6 million contract with the NFL Arizona Cardinals to volunteer for active duty, died in an Afghanistan mountain skirmish in 2004. He was hailed as a hero, publicly mourned, and awarded the Silver Star by the Army.

Now it turns out he was killed accidentally by his own troops, who mistook him for a Taliban warrior. Days after his death, the Army learned the truth, but withheld the information from his family and the public for many weeks. Evidence was destroyed. There was a cover-up at the highest levels. Finally, “The Washington Post” broke the story, necessitating an admission from the Army command.

There is nothing particularly shocking about the military lying. In my own experience in Korea, two things were Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): If the Army was caught in a mistake, the first thing officers would do is try to pretend it never took place, or try to cover it up as quickly as possible; the second was to assign the blame to the lowest available ranks and exonerate the officers.

This is what has happened with the Abu Ghraib and Bagram investigations into abuses, sometimes culminating in homicide, committed by guards and interrogators of detainees. A few enlisted men and women have been slapped on the wrist, but their superiors (in rank, not morality) have escaped unscathed, all the way up to the Secretary of Defense. The media, for the most part, have indolently allowed these stories to fade away like a child’s discounted nightmare. The anesthetized public simply slumbers on.

“Realists” like to point out that this is the unavoidable price of war. Collateral damage, the phrase of the day, justifies unlimited civilian killing in the theater of operations, which now encompasses the entire world: terrorists, after all, can be found everywhere. And since our president has declared that pre-empitive war is justified, in the “war on terror” all official killing, including that of non-combatants, is therefore permitted.

Critics once pointed out this kind of thinking inexorably led to a slippery slope. I think we’ve already hit bottom. And there is no way these ideas have failed to negatively impact the interrogators, the sergeants and corporals who ran the prisons and mistreated detainees.

How did this happen to our America, the land of the free and the home of the brave? I don’t think the blame can be fully assigned to any one administration or military service. There has also been a general erosion of individual and collective responsibility, simultaneous with widespread religiosity and alleged righteousness. The bitter truth is: None of us will come out of this “war” unsullied.

Alex Redmountain

2005 Historic Home Walking Tour of 4 Homes presented by Highlands Historical Society June 25 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets $45 per person (students free)

Tickets also available the day of the tour from departure point at the Highlands Conference Center. 787-1050


2005 Historic Home Walking Tour of 4 Homes presented by Highlands Historical Society June 25 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets $45 per person (students free)

Tickets also available the day of the tour from departure point at the Highlands Conference Center. 787-1050

Community turns out for ‘Living Well’ fair

Folks learned how to live better, look better, and feel better at the free Living Well Fair that was hosted Saturday, June 4 by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The health fair offered lectures and demonstrations by area physicians, fitness experts, nutritionists and others on a variety of topics on everything from acupuncture to yoga.

... LUP continued from page 1

Richard Betz and Town Engineer Lamar Nix along the way.
"They built a slow momentum for seeing the town not as it is now, but how it will be," Willet said.
The group also took into account the historical aspects of the town and how it has changed over time.
"The bulk of the time was used in SWOT analysis which shaped the recommendations that you see before you now," Willet said to the Town Board. SWOT analysis involves taking the strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats of a situation and coming up with four ways to solve that particular problem.
"They turned every stone they could," Willet said. "I can’t think of anything that was left out."
Willet said this Land Use Plan, which will be revisited in five years, is a set of goals with a shorter set of actions used to achieve a long term goal.
"There is no specific language to adopt, this is really a work plan," Willet explained to the Board. "All you’re committing to is a direction – the specifics of what it actually means is on the table right now. This plan is not just about ordinances and regulations."
With regards to ETJ and annexation the LUP committee suggested “ETJ-ing” as soon as possible to the north and west of the town, which would include Highlands Falls Country Club and basically everything to the Jackson County line and then seeking voluntary annexation and eventually annexing the rest of the plateau.
The town is only obligated to provide comparable services and with no sewer outside the central business district the town would only be responsible for police and garbage pick-up right away.
"The town has to be very cautious as to what we do with regards to this," said Mayor Buck Trott. "When the town takes something over it has to reach municipal standards at once."
Most Commissioners asked a few general questions but none save Commissioner Hank Ross expressed any excitement about the grueling work the committee had done.
"I really want to vote on some of these things before November," he said. "I want to keep this momentum."
The Mayor suggested the updated LUP be looked at during the second monthly meeting of the Town Board and the Commissioners agreed.
The next Town Board meeting is set for June 15.

The Town of Highlands invites everyone to Police Chief Jerry Cook’s retirement party June 17 from 5-7 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center.
A flood of memories sweep over me as I remember teaching seventh- and eighth-grade language arts to 25 of you...

Words of Wisdom:

“Remember to have patience and be optimistic while you search to uncover your natural talents and find out what’s best for you...

“There is nothing better than to have passion for your career and nothing worse than hating it...

“I challenge you to be true to yourself and to be true to your family and friends, you will need them during the rough course of life...

“You began high school under the shadow of 9-11. Now decide what you think the world should be and then work to make it that way. Inspire yourself and others to make a difference. Don’t merely exist. Most of all, be happy, smile and have a sense of humor especially about yourself.”

– Cathy McIntyre-Ross, commencement speaker

There are few schools where you can know something about everyone. We need to stay strong, make wise decisions regarding the paths we take and the friends we make. Don’t be afraid to look back home for help.”

– Salutatorian Kayla McCall

Don’t forget where you come from and those you’ve left behind. Remember, you will always be mountain girls and mountain boys. Don’t ever forget that and take it with you.”

– Principal Monica Bomengen

Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell and Highlands School Principal Monica Bomengen present Rotary Exchange student Andre Crupé from France his diploma. Assistant Principal Mark Thomas called the graduates to be recognized.
Community awards 2005 graduates $224,400 in scholarships

**Angela Aspinwall**
- Town of Highlands, $1,200, Renewable, $4,000
- Rotary, $1,000, 1x
- CBC, $1,500, Renewable, $6,000
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Kristi Billingsley**
- Town of Highlands, $200, Renewable, $400
- Scaly Mountain Women’s Club, $350, Renewable, $1,400
- Episcopal Church, $1,000, Renewable, $2,000
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Holly Conard**
- Town of Highlands, $500, Renewable, $2,000
- Episcopal Church Harrington, $1,000, Renewable 1 yr, $2,000
- Highlands Women’s Club, $1,000, Renewable, $4,000
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Kathryn Coppage**
- Town of Highlands, $600, Renewable, $2,400
- Liberty U. Pastor, $2,000, 4 yrs.
- Liberty U. Alumni, $2,000, 4 yrs.
- Liberty Scholarship, $1,500, 4 yrs.
- Academic Scholarship, $8,000, 4 yrs.
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Amy Crook**
- Town of Highlands, $500, Renewable, $2,000
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Michele Dendy**
- Town of Highlands, $400, Renewable, $1,600
- Rotary, $1,000, 1x
- Lewis Edward, $500, Renewable, $2,000
- Highlands Women’s Club, $1,000, Renewable, $4,000
- New Century Scholars, Full Tuition
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Brooke Fowler**
- Town of Highlands, $500, Renewable, $2,000
- Heffington Scholarship, $250, Renewable, $1,000
- First Baptist Church, $250, gift
- Cashiers Baptist Church, $500, Renewable, $2,000
- Liberty U. Pastor Scholarship, $2,000, 4 yrs.
- Alumni Scholarship, $2,000, 4 yrs.
- Liberty Champion-Incremental, $6,000, 4 yrs.
- Early Deposit Award #1, $1,000, Renewable
- Academic Scholarship, $1,500
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Jenna Greene**
- Town of Highlands, $500, Renewable, $2,000
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Hannah Hendricks**
- Town of Highlands, $600, Renewable, $2,400
- Rotary, $1,000, 1x
- Heffington, $500, Renewable, $2,000
- Community Bible Church, $1,300, Renewable, $5,200

**Catlin Huit**
- Highlands Women’s Club, $1,000, Renewable, $4,000
- Liberty U. Champion-Incremental, $1,000, Renewable
- Early Deposit Award #2, $750, Renewable
- Academic Scholarship, $2,000, Renewable
- LaFaye Student Center, $350, Renewable
- Room and Board Scholarship, $1,000, Renewable
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Chris Houston**
- Rotary Stacey Russell, $1,000, 1x
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x
- Town of Highlands, $600, Renewable, $2,400
- High Point U Presidential Scholarship, $5,000, Renewable
- North Carolina Legislative Tuition Grant, $18,000, Renewable
- NC State Contractual Scholarship, $7,184, Renewable
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Jeremy Keener**
- Town of Highlands, $500, Renewable, $2,000
- Rotary Stacey Russell, $1,000, 1x
- First Baptist Church, $1,000, Renewable, $4,000
- Highlands Women’s Club, $1,000, Renewable, $4,000
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Matthew Keener**
- Town of Highlands, $500, Renewable, $2,000
- Rotary Stacey Russell, $1,000, 1x
- Highlands Roadrunners Club, $500, Renewable, $2,000

**Kathryn Coppage**
- Town of Highlands, $600, Renewable, $2,400
- Liberty U. Pastor, $2,000, 4 yrs.
- Liberty U. Alumni, $2,000, 4 yrs.
- Liberty Scholarship, $1,500, 4 yrs.
- Academic Scholarship, $8,000, 4 yrs.
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Kathryn Coppage**
- Town of Highlands, $600, Renewable, $2,400
- Liberty U. Pastor, $2,000, 4 yrs.
- Liberty U. Alumni, $2,000, 4 yrs.
- Liberty Scholarship, $1,500, 4 yrs.
- Academic Scholarship, $8,000, 4 yrs.
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**New Century Scholars, Full Tuition**
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**McKenzie Thompson**
- Town of Highlands, $500, Renewable, $2,000
- Rotary Stacey Russell, $1,000, 1x
- Heffington, $600, Renewable, $2,400
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Remington Veteto**
- Town of Highlands, $300, Renewable, $1,200
- Rotary Stacey Russell, $1,000, 1x
- Heffington, $1,000, Renewable, $4,000
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Robert Wilson**
- Town of Highlands, $500, Renewable, $2,000
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Stephanie Murray**
- Town of Highlands, $300, Renewable, $1,200
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Alex Osteen**
- Town of Highlands, $1,500, Renewable, $6,000
- Rotary Stacey Russell, $1,000, 1x
- Heffington, $800, Renewable, $3,200
- Wake Forest U, $16,900, Renewable
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $5,000, 1x

**Matthew Rice**
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x
- Rotary, $1,000, 1x
- Heffington, $2,000, Renewable, $8,000
- Clyde & Mildred Wright, $5,000, Renewable, $20,000
- Highlands-Cashiers Board of Realtors, $1,000, 1x

**Brittany Sackman**
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Kelsey Schmitt**
- Town of Highlands, $600, Renewable, $2,400

**Allen Shear**
- Town of Highlands, $600, Renewable, $1,600

**Janice Talley**
- Town of Highlands, $400, Renewable, $1,600

**New Century Scholar Full Tuition**
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Robert Wilson**
- Town of Highlands, $500, Renewable, $2,000
- Art & Angela Williams, OEI, $1,000, 1x

**Kathy Ziebarth**
- Town of Highlands, $600, Renewable, $2,400

Principal Monica Bomengen welcomed guests to the June 3 ceremony at Highlands School. Parents, students, and presenters gathered to learn just how lucky Highlands School graduates are to be living in Highlands. This year 35 seniors got a foot up the education ladder to the tune of $224,400 in renewable scholarships for the 2005-2006 year.
Miss Priss is located above Acorn’s on Main Street
Quadrille Coutour Clothing
Trunk Show at Acorns
June 9th ~ 11th • 10am ~ 6pm Daily
465 Main Street, Highlands • (828) 787-1877
Monday through Saturday
www.acornsonline.com
® OWNED AND OPERATED BY OLD EDWARDS HOSPITALITY GROUP, LLC

SPECIAL OPERATIONS WARRIOR FOUNDATION

Silent & Live Auction
June 23 • 5:30 p.m.
Conference Center
To benefit the children of Special Operation Warriors
Killed in Action

“Too Marvelous for Words” director Robert Ray on stage.

When the Highlands Playhouse board saw Robert Ray last October in “Too Marvelous for Words,” which he co-wrote, staged and directed, they realized they had found a three-in-one remedy for their upcoming season. Not only could Ray sing and play piano, he could also stage direct and musically direct.

Ray got his feet wet as a professional musical director when he took on the 1981 production “On the Right Track,” a huge benefit for Atlanta mayoral candidate, the late Sidney Marcus. More than 20 soloists and 100 choir members were all on the Fox Theatre stage singing under Ray’s direction. Soon after, that show’s producer hired Ray to musically direct “Heartstrings,” a benefit to raise money for AIDS research. There was a second “Heartstrings,” both in Atlanta, but the third edition, toured 25 major USA cities and included celebrity performers — such as Marlo Thomas, Christopher Reeve and Tommy Tune — three choirs, totaling more than 1,200 voices. For many of the numbers, Ray himself was playing piano as well.

Highlands Playhouse’s 2005 opening production pretty well showcases Ray’s multi-faceted talent: he co-wrote the show; he is one of the three singers; he plays for himself a couple of times; he oversaw the arrangements; and he directed the whole thing. “This show (TMFW) is already put together,” he said. “We’ve been performing since July, 2002, and we done it so many times, all we have to do is tighten it sometimes.”

Onstage, pianist Damon Goff directs the other four musicians, and he is featured on a couple of numbers, too. Goff, who has a masters in music, is one of the most sought after pianists/singers in Atlanta, with more than 25 years professional experience. He also teaches piano — in his spare time.

The guest pianist/conductor for Jerry’s Girls is Michael Fauss, a name in Atlanta synonymous with musical theater. If there’s a musical onstage, Fauss is usually in the pit. He was pianist for the Atlanta Lyric Opera production of Jerry’s Girls, which Ray directed last April. Fauss also orchestrated and played piano for the original production of Aida, which was written by Elton John and Tim Rice and was originated at Atlanta’s Alliance Theatre. Among his other New York credits for orchestrating and playing are Peter Pan and Quilters. Fauss has also done several national and international tours.

PAC brings top-notch artists

Jazz guitarist Pete McCann has been an integral part of the New York City scene for over 15 years. He is one of the first-call sidemen in New York.

He works with several groups including the New York Nonet, Dan Willis Sextet and Dave Pietro’s group. Pete’s playing encompasses a wide variety of musical styles and genres – Straight-ahead, Post Bob, Avant-Garde, Latin, and Jazz-Rock Fusion.

McCann is one of several nationally know artists appearing at Jazz at the PAC, Saturday, June 11 at 3 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscombe Performing Arts Center, Chestnut Street in Highlands.

Tickets for the Festival are $15 for adults and $8 for students and can be reserved by calling 828-526-9047. Tickets will also be on sale beginning at 2 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on the date of the concert.
The fire behind the foundation

By Erin Brown
highlandererin@aol.com

Twenty-five years ago a group of the Marine Corps flew over the jet-black desert to ensure the freedom of a group of American hostages. Although the group failed and the mission was aborted, the memory of those lost remains.

When President Carter gave the go-ahead for Operation Eagle Claw — a decision that surprised many of the troops — three Air Force EC-130s took off from Oman’s Masirah Island.

The aircraft carrier, USS Nimitz, steaming about 50 miles south of Iran, launched eight RH-53 Sea Stallions helicopters, two of which were later forced to turn back before reaching the rendezvous point.

At least six Sea Stallions were needed to lift the 53 American hostages and their rescuers held in Tehran to an abandoned Iranian air base where C-141s would pick up the whole group.

On the first day of the two-day mission, the six C-130s and six remaining RH-53s converged on a spot code-named Desert One about 260 miles southeast of the Iranian capital.

On that dark night the rescue force snuck in undetected. Each EC-130 carried fuel bladders filled with jet engine gas. On the ground, the bladders were used to refuel the helicopters.

When it was discovered that one of the six remaining RH-53s backup hydraulic systems had failed, the mission was scrubbed by on-scene commanders. Five Sea Stallions were not enough to lift both the rescuers and hostages to safety.

The calamity, which killed the eight servicemen, happened as the force prepared to evacuate in the early morning hours of April 25, 1980.

The Sea Stallion parked behind an EC-130 which had to “air taxi” out of the way so the Hercules could take off. It was carrying five Marines and two full fuel bladders in its cargo hold.

The helicopter’s rotor churned the desert sand causing a brownout. Blinded by the cloud, the Marine pilot drifted forward and hit the Hercules’ tail with his blades. The Sea Stallion then moved away from the EC-130 but again drifted forward. This time, the helicopter hit the EC-130’s left wing.

The plane was nudged from impact. Moments later the night turned to day.

In his account with the Northwest Florida’s Daily News, J.J. Beyers recounted how he got out of his burning EC-130 in the desert. Beyers suffered severe burns on his hands and arms. The then-staff sergeant also survived breathing superheated air, which partially destroyed his lungs.

But he lived. Five fellow Hurlburt Field airmen, along with three Marines, did not.

“I’m still trying to figure out why I didn’t burn up,” Beyers said.

Beyers was the only member of the refueler’s flight deck aircrew who survived. The other five, all based at Hurlburt Field, died in the fire.

Operation Eagle Claw started the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, which dedicates itself to providing college educations and financial support to the children and families of fallen special operators.

Beyers and a number of others celebrated the foundation at an anniversary dinner held in Fort Walton Beach, Florida recently. At the dinner, former presidential candidate Ross Perot was presented with the foundation’s Spirit of the Warrior Award.

Highlanders Nancy Horwitz, Luther Turner and Mayor Buck Trott with Ross Perot at a foundation anniversary dinner held in Fort Walton Beach, Florida recently. At the dinner, former presidential candidate Ross Perot was presented with the foundation’s Spirit of the Warrior Award.

Highlands SOWF is holding their annual Special Operations Adventure Race this year which includes an adventure race and a sprint race. The race includes canoeing, mountain biking on mountain trails, running and rappelling.

Horwitz said he thinks there is a 250-foot drop, but the location of the course is kept secret from the runners.

The sprint race is a “shorter” six-hour race as opposed to the adventure race which is 10-12 hours.

Teams can only consist of one or two members. There is also a master’s division for those over 40 and it is made up of the four different legs, but is also shorter. All proceeds benefit SOWF.

Editor’s Note: This is a multi-part series on the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, its origins and the Special Operations Adventure Race. Two races – an adventure and a sprint race – are set in Highlands for June 25, 2005. A silent and live auction are set for June 23, 5:30 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center. All proceeds from both affairs go toward the SOWF goals. Raffle tickets are also on sale around town for Oriental rugs from Shirza Rugs and leather jackets from Jolie’s of Highlands.

Learn how to take great shots

Cynthia Strain, owner of Mill Creek Gallery & Framing, has been photographing the area for 20 years. Based on her experience, she has designed the workshop to help participants in several useful areas: using filters for special effects or to balance colors for a natural look; controlling exposure to prevent subjects from being too dark or to give moving water a milky look; composition techniques for pleasing and compelling images; use of flash and fill flash.

The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Sunday, June 12 at Mill Creek Gallery in Village Square behind Wolfgang’s restaurant. The cost is $10, and class size is limited to 10.

Call 787-2021 for reservations.
Soloists to be featured with male chorus at PAC

Thursday, June 16 the Highlands Male Chorus will appear at 8 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. The program planned has been described by Choral Director Orville Wike as one of “feel-good music,” including patriotic music and songs from Broadway hit shows.

One of the soloists to be featured is Wayne Coleman, a retired business executive from Atlanta, who is now a year-round resident of Highlands. Upon becoming a Highlands resident, Coleman joined the choir at the First Presbyterian Church. He sang in the choir of the Dunwoody Baptist Church for 25 years and sang in numerous stage shows at professional theaters in Atlanta.

Other soloists to be featured in the June 16 performance include popular Highlands baritone Stell Huie and soprano Hope Hollingsworth. Tenor John Green will sing a duet with his daughter, soprano Kathryn Green Heeney.

Tickets are $8, with children under 12 admitted free. Call 526-9047 for reservations.
On Saving Stuff

The Rev. Dr. Delmer Chilton, The Lutheran Church of the Holy Family

My son Joseph is 19. He just finished his freshman year at Montreat College. He is spending the summer on the farm family outside of Mount Airy, NC. He works for my brother, who is an architect and “gentleman farmer,” running horses and growing hay where we used to grow corn and tobacco and huge gardens. Joseph grew up in Atlanta and Nashville, so life on the farm is a new experience for him. He has been surprised at the isolation, the repetitiveness and drudgery of the labor, and the beauty of a clear night under the stars.

He called me the other day to check-in. Told me the rain had put a hold on haymaking, so he and his cousin Andrew had been put to cleaning out the basement at Aunt Mildred’s. Mildred died in February. She was 85. She was a classic Southern eccentric.

Joseph told me they got more than 800 glass jars out of her basement. They had to close the “clear glass” section at the recycling center in Mt. Airy because her jars over-filled it.

That’s just the beginning. Aunt Mildred never really threw away anything. “You never know when you might need it.” Her nephews’ protests that you had to be able to find “it” in order to use “it” when you needed “it” fell on deaf ears. She was confident that she knew where all her “its” were; and to tell you the truth, I think she did.

You would ask her about a letter or a magazine and she would direct you to the back bedroom, in the back corner of the closet, third shoebox from the bottom, on the left side and there it was. It was uncanny.

Eugene Peterson in his translation of the Bible called [THE MESSAGE] renders Luke 12:6-7a like this: “What’s the price of two or three pet canaries? Some loose change, right? But God never overlooks a single one. And he pays even greater attention to you, down to the last detail—even numbering the hairs on your head!”

Now admittedly, numbering the hairs on MY head has become something less than a miracle, it is still quite comforting to know that God cares enough to do it. When I think of Aunt Mildred and her prodigal passion for saving everything and her awareness of everything she has saved; I can’t help but think of God.

For God is a bit like Aunt Mildred, if not Southern, at least eccentric. God doesn’t do the expected normal thing and condemn useless and unholy trash to Gehenna, the fiery garbage heap outside the walls of the Holy City. Instead, where others see rubbish, God sees something save-able, something worth hanging onto, something worth taking a risk for, something worth dying for.

And God knows where all that saved stuff is. Like Aunt Mildred, God cares about that which God has saved. And it is God’s will that it all be saved, because God made it all, and God does not make junk. Thanks be to God.
• SPECIALTY FOODS •

Catering all your event & dinner party needs.
(Next to D&D Express Mart)

Jams, Jellies, Preserves, Relishes & Gourmet Treats
Mon-Sat • 10-5
787-2473

WILD THYME GOURMET
• Specialty Condiments
• Fresh Breads
• Preserves
• Gourmet Dressings
490 Carolina Way
526-4035

Corner of 5th and Main

The Kitchen
of Let Holly Do The Cooking
Carry Away - Wed-Sat 12-6
Catering by Special Order
The Lower Level of the Peggy Crosby Center on S. 5th Street.

DUSTY’S RHODES SUPERETTE
Prepared ready to serve & bake hors d’oeuvres, breads, pastas, cookies & entrees
“Celebrating 53 years in Highlands”
“We cut the BEST steaks in town!”
Mon-Sat • 493 Dillard Rd.
526-2762

On-going
• Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop. Wine Flights Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoon from 4:30 until 6:30. Special Guest Friday, June 10, from 1 until 3: David Adelsheim of Oregon’s Adelsheim Vineyards. Also, Wednesday, June 15, from 4 until 6: the national sales rep for Epicure Imports, featuring an array of fine value-priced Australian wines. Complimentary samples during both of these special events.
• Films at PAC every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Free but donations accepted.
• Adult Drawing 101 with Kathy Evans at B-L Gallery Tuesdays from 10-12 through July. Take one class or take them all! This beginning level class will provide instruction on various techniques along with aspects of design and composition. Call the gallery at 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
• Open Studio with a live model at B-L Gallery on Tuesdays from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Cost is $10 per evening. Please call the gallery by Monday evening if you will be stopping by on Tuesday night, so that we may coordinate with our models. Call the gallery at 526-4949
• At Mill Creek Gallery in Village Square – art exhibits and for sale, classes, too. Call 787-2021 for more information.
• Improv Classes for high school and college students Mondays at 6 pm at Instant Theatre’s Studio on Main, 310 Main Street. 526-1687. FREE.
• The Scaly Mountain Women’s Club presents its Saturday Pancake Breakfasts the fourth Saturday of the month from May through October at the Scaly Ski Lodge on NC Highway 106. Guests will get a full breakfast of orange juice, coffee, pancakes, potato sausage and plenty of warm syrup and butter from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Cost is $5 for adults, $2.50 for children.
• Cashiers only senior residential community. Complimentary refreshments and tours of the model home and Clubhouse.
• Yoga classes are offered at the Scaly Mountain Community Center Mondays at 5:45 p.m. and at Jane Wooduff Clinic, on Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. Cost is $12 per class or 10 classes for $100. Certified instructor is Carole Ann Mackey.
• “Heart of the High Country” on Channel 14 Northland Cable Television, “Celebrating life in the mountains today,” airs daily at 8 a.m., 12 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 10 p.m. and midnight.
• Pilates classes at the new Women’s Center at the Hospital. The classes are Tuesday and Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. for $10, or $8 if you purchase a package of 10. Instructor: Sandie Trevathan.
• Al-Anon Group meets at noon on Thursdays in the Community Room at First Presbyterian Church.
• Mountainview Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the remodeled basement room of the Presbyterian Church sanctum, Mon. at 8 p.m., Tues. at 5:30 p.m.

Episcopal Church concert series begins
Robert Henry, award-winning pianist, will be presented in concert at the Highlands Performing Arts Center on Sunday, June 12, at 5 p.m. by the Concert Series of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands. A reception will follow the performance. Tickets are available at the door for $27, or by sending a check for $25, made out to the Church of the Incarnation Concert Series, to the church at R.O. Box 729, Highlands, NC 28741-0729. Call 526-2968 ext. 208.
color journaling and palette knives. Each day will include demonstrations and discussions, individual critiques and problem solving, a group critique, much painting time and interaction with other painters. Call the gallery at 526-4949

**June 11**
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike to Whiterock Mountain on the NC Bartram Trail. Call leader Mo Wheeler, 526-9561, for reservations.
- The annual JAZZ AT PAC concert has been set for Saturday at 3 p.m. This year’s artists include two nationally known jazz stars: John V. Brown, bassist, and Pete McCann guitarist. Tickets are $15 for adults and $8 for students. For reservations call 526-9047. Tickets available at the door the day of the concert at 2 p.m.
- Audubon Birdwalk, Chestnut Hill for local breeding birds. Meet at the Town Hall Parking lot at 7:30 am to car pool. Call Edwin Poole, 526-2775.

**June 13**
- The Macon County League of Women Voters will celebrate its 15th anniversary on Monday at 7 p.m. at the Tar- tan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. The public is invited, to learn about the League, to meet and talk with local officials, and to share birthday cake. Call Maethl Shindelman at 524-5192 for more information.
- Acting and Improv for children ages 10 to 13 instructed by Instant Theatre Artistic Director, Adam Heffernan. $175 per session. Scholarships available. Call (828) 526-1687.
- Highlands Rec Park Summer Camp for children ages 5-10. Monday-Friday 9-5 p.m. May attend by the week or for all six weeks. Call 526-3556 for reservations and pricing.

**June 14-17**
- “NatureWorks” day camp at the Highlands Nature Center 10 am – 2 pm daily. Learn about the workings of “mother nature” through interactive play and nature activities. Ages 7-11. $40 per child, pre-registration required. Call 526-2623.
- Genetic Anthropology with CLE 10 a.m. to noon, at the Conference Enter. $15 for CLE members, $25 for non-members. Call 526-9938, ext. 120 to register.
- High Mountain Square Dancers, Big Dance at the Macon County Community Bldg. on 441 south with JERRY BIGGERSTAFF, Marion, NC.
- The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will meet on Thursday at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Library at 7 p.m. Marty Jones, local Realtor and former area fishing guide will present “Tales From The Laurel”, and sharing tips and techniques for fishing local waters. There will be a raffle for a Orvis 7 piece, 5 weight rod. Call 743-2078 for information.
- The Highlands Male Chorus performs at PAC at 8 p.m., on June 16. The group will present their rendition of several Broadway favorites as well as patriotic songs. Tickets are $8, under 12 free. Seating is limited. Reservations required. Call 526-9047.
- The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series for 2005 continues on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Nature Center. Amy Blackmar will give a talk entitled “Where trails Converge: the Scientist, the Writer, and the Passion to Conserve.” It’s free.
- Live entertainment at SweeTreats, Bobby Sullivan, pianist, singer, songwriter, recording artist, 7-10 p.m.
- Police Chief Jerry Cook’s retirement party is set for 5-7 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center.

**June 17-18**
- Colorist Painting workshop with Julie Hanson, at B-L Gallery. This two-day workshop is for all levels. Oil is the primary medium, but acrylic and pastel artists are welcome. Call the gallery at 828.526.4949.
- The HCP perform vignettes from “Parallel Lives” at the Highlands Inn on Friday, and Saturday. It’s a dinner theater. Call 526-9380 for reservations.
- Christ Church two-day forum on prayer and meditation, gender issues facing the church and culture, and various other topics pertinent to Christian living in the 21st century. For more information, contact the Reverend Thomas Allen: 743.9370 or email: Tallen@wnclink.com.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6.5 mile hike from Earl’s Ford to Sandy Ford along the Chattooga River. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298.
- International Friendship Center’s EL MERCADO rummage sale on at Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street, 9-5. Come early for the best buys. There will be Mexican food as well as coffee and soft drinks. All proceeds benefit the International Friendship Center.
**HIGHLANDS SERVICE DIRECTORY**

**Hunter Douglas**

Window Fashions at Highlands Custom Coverings

Mark Harris
271 Spring Street
Ph: 828-526-4226
Fax: 828-526-4255

Birds Eye View

**NBG BUILDERS, INC.**

Custom Homes • Remodeling • Additions
Unlimited License • Insured
Bud Neidrauer 526-4780 • 349-9354

**The Computer Man!**

But you can call me James

Computer Sales
Mail Order Pricing
New & Used

Computer Parts & Accessories
Tutoring Available

Larry Holt
“The All ‘Round Handyman”
Cleaning Services • Yardwork • Caretaking • Security
Call:
526-4037 (home)
or 828-371-1982 (cell)

**Hall’s Window Cleaning**

Residential & Commercial
369-9662
Insured

**Runaround Sue**

Pet Sitting

Your pet is guaranteed to receive lots of love & attention in the comfort and safety of its own home!
Sue Laferty 526-0844 staferty@aol.com

**YOUR CUSTOM “BUILDER OF CHOICE”**

(828) 526-4953
www.koenighomebuilders.com

**Edwards Electrical Service**

216 Keener Road
Highlands, N.C. 28741
(828) 526-5147

**FURNITURE South, INC.**

CORNER HWY 64/106
P.O. BOX 1418
HIGHLANDS, NC 28741
(828) 526-2133
FAX: 526-2135

**JAMES COLLISION, INC.**

65 Brooks Road Highland, North Carolina 28741

Heather Stewart
Owner
Larry W. Wooten
Manager/Estimator
Free Estimates

Collision/Auto Body Repair Restoration & Detailing

(828) 526-1506
(828) 526-9113

**Kiln-dried FIREWOOD**

Enjoy your fire - Don’t fight it
828-342-4681 • 828-526-3724
Highlands • Cashiers • Scaly
- Delivered - Bucky Meredith

**CASHIERS MORTGAGE SERVICES INC.**

Joe and Vickie Pearson
828-743-0075

“We make mortgages easy for you”
Specializing in 2nd home market mortgages
Serving Highlands and Cashiers Area
cashiersmortgage@aol.com

**Highlands Storage**

Units Available
Call Ricky Bryson
at 526-4925

**J & K Cleaning**

From laundry to dishes; from bedrooms to bathrooms; no job is too big or small. So give us a call!
526-4599 421-3931

**The Laundry and Dry Cleaners at Old Edwards Inn**

Full Service Laundry & Dry Cleaning
Open
Mon-Fri -- 8-5
Sat. 9-1
459 Spring St. • 787-2597

**THE LAUNDRY**

**And Dry Cleaners**

**AT OLD EDWARDS INN**

Full Service Laundry & Dry Cleaning

Open
Mon-Fri -- 8-5
Sat. 9-1
459 Spring St. • 787-2597

**Highlands Storage**

Units Available
Call Ricky Bryson
at 526-4925

**J & K Cleaning**

From laundry to dishes; from bedrooms to bathrooms; no job is too big or small. So give us a call!
526-4599 421-3931

**The Laundry and Dry Cleaners at Old Edwards Inn**

Full Service Laundry & Dry Cleaning
Open
Mon-Fri -- 8-5
Sat. 9-1
459 Spring St. • 787-2597

**Rand Soellner**

Architect

Mountain Architecture

828.743.6010 Phone 828.269.9010 Cell
randsoellner@earthlink.net NC Lic.9266 FL Lic.AR9264

Service Directory ads – $17 per week. Call 526-0782
HELP WANTED
IT SYSTEMS AND TECH SUPPORT
– Needed in Highlands for the Old Edwards Hospitality Group. Ability to support end-users on a variety of applications, hardware, networks, and communications platforms. Duties will include on-going support and installation of software, troubleshooting hardware and software issues, working w/system vendors to resolve issues. Knowledge of interfaces, telecommunication protocols, preferable. Strong project management and interpersonal skills a must. Great benefits. Some weekends. Salary range based on experience. Send resume to: P.O. Box 1499, Highlands, N.C. 28741, email to hr@oldedwardsinn.com OEE/Drug free workplace.

EXPERIENCED PART-TIME FLO-RAL DESIGNER
Top pay, great atmosphere. Flexible hours. Call Debbie Mon., Wed., or Thurs., at 526-0490 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

RNS, FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL
(Chief of Nursing, Fidelia Eckerd Living Center (B) at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital) Now hiring for PRN positions. If you want to join a team whose focus is on excellent elder care with a low staffing ratio, above average wages, and shift differentials, call. Pre-employment substance screening. Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

HOUSEKEEPER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND THE FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER
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.

HOUSE FOR SALE NEARLAKE EDELL– Lake Glenville/Cashiers.
2-bed, one-bath on 1/2 acre. View of Lake Edeerl. 2-car garage, fruit trees. $159,000. 828-526-5632.

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

REAL ESTATE - SALES
VIEW LOTS – 1.8 miles from downtown Highlands. Located on Eastern Continental Divide. Outstanding views, city water, septic approval, borders Highlands Country Club. $420,000-$480,000. Call 526-9393.

HOUSE FOR SALE – 275 Foreman Road. In-town on .87 acre-wooded lot. 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, study, large workshop/studio, stone fireplace, oak floors, hemlock paneling. Quality construction, mature landscaping, exterior stonework. Asking $425,000. (828) 342-2624, Broker/Owner.

HOUSE FOR SALE – Lake Glenville/Cashiers. 2-bed, one-bath on 1/2 acre. Views, carports, studio. $135,000. 828-743-0733. 7/15

HOUSE FOR SALE – 737 Many Road. Two-bed, one-bath, fireplace, hardwood floors. Full basement. Private. Walk to Town. 526-2617 nights. $325,000. 1 ACRE VIEW LOT. Unbelievable view over National Forest, located top of mountain, 2 miles from downtown Highlands. $550,000. Call 404-323-9444. 6/10

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 Scaly Mtn. 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.

ITEMS FOR SALE
CUSTOM CABINETS FOR SALE. Cherry finish, glass and raised paneled doors plus tops. Also, 5-ft high white vanity with cultured marble top. $2,000 for all. 828-524-9830 after 7 p.m.

REAL ESTATE - SALES
STORE FOR RENT – 4th Street. Call 828-630-0888.

STORE FOR RENT – 4th Street. Call 828-630-0888.

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.

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

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

Certified Nursing Assistant Classes through Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital
Classes run from July 11 through September 19. Work three 12-hour shifts at the Living Center while attending school. Bonus of $200 and salary raise upon graduation. Call for information and to enroll, Judy Miller, 828-526-1317.


GARAGE SALE
3-FAMILY MOVING SALE; house & garden items, furniture, golf clubs & balls, cameras, yard art, jewelry & more. Sat. June 11 – 9 – 3; 10 Talley Ln., across from Mitchell’s Lodge. No early birds!
This spring Mrs. Janet Osteen’s sixth grade class at Highlands School raised over 30 Painted Lady butterflies from larvae (caterpillars).

The project, sponsored by the Mountain Garden Club, helped students learn the life cycle of butterflies.

Starting from tiny larvae, about half an inch long and as thin as pencil leads, the caterpillars quadrupled in size, then formed chrysalises, papery thin sacks suspended from the ceiling of their tower of netting.

The first adult butterfly emerged from its chrysalis on May 27, one day after the sixth-graders emerged from their classroom for the summer.

On May 30, Stephanie Smart, a rising sixth-grader, and Maricia Owens, a rising eighth-grader, helped Mrs. Osteen release the adult butterflies in the butterfly garden at Highlands School. Joining them were Helen McGaughy, age 6, of Atlanta, with her parents, Sheri and Mike McGaughy, and members of the Mountain Garden Club.

Students learn from butterflies

Dear Editor,

Oh Fred, dear Fred! The summer’s here,
Are you ready to rumble?
I submit a verse or two,
Be they oh! So humble.

Oh Fred, dear Fred, your secret’s out,
I thought you were impartial;
I come to think you’re one of the,
The militant and martial.

O Fred, dear Fred, please lighten up,
I thought you were a comic;
Your discourse on the Bowery Road
Leaves me catatonic.

Now Fred, Sweet Fred, please listen up;
Amidst the ballyhoo,
We’ve changed the name from Bowery Road
To Place de Parvenu.

In honor of those upper folk,
From city and suburb,
Who do not like our dusty road
With potholes that pertub.

So Fred, dear Fred, Miami man,
You’ve shown us your agenda;
Along with all the parvenus
Awaiting our surrender.

---

Highlands School’s student team is forming for Relay For Life. Any interested students should call the school at 526-2147 and ask for Mr. Thomas.

---

Time & money donated

Jack Philpot, “Jacpot,” recently donated a five-gallon jug of pennies to the Highlands School Media Center. Caden Brown, a New Century Scholar, is rolling the pennies as part of his volunteer time. The Eighth Grade class also donated a jug of change to the Media Center that will be rolled. Mrs. Cathy McIntyre-Ross presented this money on behalf of the eighth grade. Pictured are two eighth grade students, Caden Brown and Levi Owens.

---

Above from left, Helen McGaughy, Maricia Owens, Janet Osteen, and Stephanie Smart carefully release the butterflies in the Highlands School Butterfly Garden.

Left: Mrs. Janet Osteen’s sixth grade class at Highlands School raised over 30 Painted Lady butterflies from larvae.

Photos by Sheri McGaughy
**Fantastic Views in Highlands Cove!**

Fantastic views grab you immediately, but once you are inside the home this spacious 4 bedroom, 4.5 bathroom offers you so much more. Vaulted ceilings, stone fireplace, hardwood floors, outside decking and spacious kitchen. If you like to golf of just relax and take in the view, this home perched on the high ridge is just the one. Offered at $1,795,000 MLS# 55037 See a Visual Tour at our website Tour # 296840

View Visual Tours at www.highlandsproperties.com Phone 828.526.1717 Fax 828.526.1711

**Charming English Cottage!**

This wonderful 5 or 6 bedroom, 7 ½ bathroom house is located in Highgate on a beautifully wooded lot. It warms your heart to see this professionally furnished open floor plan, outside screened porch with fireplace, stone siding and great kitchen which are only a few of the amenities that grace this cozy cottage. Offered furnished at $1,550,000 MLS# 54402 See a Visual Tour at our website Tour # 285863

Meadows Mt. Realty
Big View & Waterfront
Highlands # 828-526-1717

Print-Out This Map @
www.highlandsinfo.com
Copyrighted Map 2005

Local Area Information
www.highlandsinfo.com

Highlands & Cashiers
Realty Buyer’s Guides
www.highlandsinfo.com

SENT TO YOU FREE
Over 125,000 People On
Our Website This Year