Rezoning request still on hold

By Kim Lewicki
highlandserin@aol.com

Still no answer on rezoning the corner lot at U.S. 64 east and Hickory Street.

At the public hearing preceding the May 18 Town Board meeting, commissioners heard for the first time from several adjoining property owners who are against the potential multi-family project.

“We feel this will negatively impact the value of our property,” said Steve Pat Griffin at 526-2418.

• See REZONING page 2

New life – a sure sign of spring

Miss Kitty and her little man Flash in their pasture on Webbmont Road. Flash was born about three weeks ago. Photo by Kim Lewicki

WWTP expansion underway

By Erin Brown
highlandserin@aol.com

The much talked about expansion of the Highlands wastewater treatment plant has officially begun.

“They started mobilizing their equipment yesterday,” said Town Engineer Lamar Nix. Operator in Responsible Charge, (ORC), Mike Houston said excavation for the enlargement will begin heavily by Friday.

Total cost for the expansion including legal/administrative/engineering fees and contingency funds is $5,148,710. The contract for expansion is $4,710,200 and runs for 325 days. Engineers expect to complete the job by March 21, 2006.

• See WWTP page 11

Chief Cook retiring after 31 yrs.

By Kim Lewicki
highlandserin@aol.com

His dream of becoming a police officer started at 12-years-old, when his neighbor, Franklin Chief of Police C.D. Baird let him ride around in the police car, even be his eyes and ears in the community.

Law enforcement has been his reality for 31 years, but now Chief Jerry Cook, 55, is ready to retire.

“I’d like to thank the people of Highlands and its Town Boards for allowing me to serve as chief of police

• See COURSES page 8

School board OKs expanded course options for students

By Kim Lewicki
highlandserin@aol.com

As a proponent of technology, Macon County Schools is embracing the 21st century.

“We are meeting the needs of our students by offering more course opportunities,” said Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell “Living in the 21st century, we now provide a 21st century educational opportunities.”

During the April 26 school board meeting, the board finalized a "Correspondence and On-Line Course Credit" policy to accommodate students overseas or those at home due to sickness or disabilities.

The acceptance of this policy represents the board’s encouragement of expanded curriculum development,” said Tammy Tisdale, director of accountability for the school system.

Shotwell took months to investigate on-line “schools” and likes two in particular but there are several available.

“This will give students an opportunity to recover lost credit due to failures, sickness, or other family situations,” said Shotwell. “There are some students who study abroad and would like to keep up on their math, science, social studies, or English during their semester or year away from school.

He prefers two sites in particular. “The Web Academy in Cumberland County offers a lot of courses for students,” he said. “The other site is the Learn NC website that is under the di-
Local recipient of scholarship

Christopher L. Metrick, son of Lenny and Andrea Metrick, of Highlands, has been awarded a $22,000, two-year scholarship from the North Carolina Association of Rescue and Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

He plans to attend Southwestern Community College and major in Emergency Services and to earn his Paramedic licensures.

Chris currently attends Franklin High School and is a Junior Fireman with Highlands Fire & Rescue Department.

Obituaries

Ray Newton Vanhook

Ray Newton Vanhook, age 76, of the Clark’s Chapel Community, Franklin, NC died Friday, May 13, 2005 at his home after a courageous battle with cancer. He died in peace, surrounded by his loving family.

A native of Macon County, Ray was a son of the late Charlie Bunn and Addie Angel Vanhook. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his brothers, Clarence Randolph, Lewis Franklin, Charlie Zeb, and Thomas Fredrick Vanhook, and a sister, Mary Louise Dowdle.

Ray retired from Burlington Industries in 1992 after 35 years of employment. He also worked for E. S. Purdon and Van Raalt. He loved farming and was a gifted woodworker.

He was a lifelong and devoted member of Clark’s Chapel United Methodist Church, where he served as a member of the choir, Sunday School superintendent, Sunday School teacher, treasurer, and the chairman of the administrative board. He was also an active member of the Clark’s Chapel Community Association.

Ray is survived by his wife of 58 years, Emma Louise Guffey Vanhook; daughter, Nancy of Franklin, NC; son, Tommy and his wife Deborah of Mars Hill, NC; two great-grandchildren, Damon and Dawson; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 16, 2005 at Clark’s Chapel United Methodist Church with Pastor Al Beck officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Daniel Wagoner, Tony Allen, Duane Vanhook, Brandon Vanhook, Dennis Johnson, and Ronnie Vanhook. Honorary pallbearers were the older adult Sunday school class.

Memorials may be made in Ray Vanhook’s memory to Angel Home Health and Hospice, 170 Church Street, Franklin, NC. 28734, the Clark’s Chapel Cemetery Fund, c/o Mrs. Jean Sutton, 1822 Clark’s Chapel Road, Franklin, NC 28734, or to the American Cancer Society, 120 Executive Park, Building 1, Asheville, N.C., 28801.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

... REZONING continued from page 1

Ham. “Please consider the investment of the current owners before you rezone.”

Beth Ham presented the board with a petition against the rezoning with 60 signatures. “A potential of 18 families will be going into a place where there is woods now,” she said. “I realize people have the right to sell their property and do with it what they want, but you’re considering a high-density multi-family project in a R2 neighborhood.”

Signers of the petition requested the plot either remain zoned as it is or rezone the entire thing R2.

Ham said with R2 zoning, eight houses could be built on the four-plus acre plot instead of 18 living spaces – four in four buildings, one single family home, including the current house.

The plot is currently zoned R2 and B4. The potential buyer wants the entire plot rezoned R3.

Neighbor Rick Siegel said he would rather see a high-end multi-family project on the corner than what could be built on the B4 portion of the property.

Commissioners want to hear the planning board’s verbiage concerning the particulars of the 40-ft. buffer area along U.S. 64 east before they vote on rezoning.

The planning board meets Monday, May 23 at 5:30 p.m.

The sale of the property is contingent upon the developer’s rezoning request.
Margaret Sarah Gilbert Hall

Margaret Sarah Gilbert Hall, age 93, of Highlands, N.C. died Friday May 13, 2005 at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center in Highlands, N.C.

Born in Atlanta, Ga., she was the daughter of the late Elbert Roscoe and Bessie Isabel Hall Gilbert. She was the first Realtor, along with her husband, in Highlands. She was a founding member of the Highlands-Cashiers Garden Club and the Highlands-Women’s Club, and was a genealogist. She was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, where she served on the Vestry, was Past President of the ECW, and was head of the Western Deanery.

She is survived by a daughter, Meta Isabel Hall Chambers and her husband Oterson of Highlands, N.C.; a son John Tucker Hall and his wife Judith “Judy” of Bristol, Tenn.; 12 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Tudor Norton Hall; a daughter, Sarah Margaret Hall Paxton; and a son, Tudor Gilbert Hall.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 16, 2005 at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation with Rev. Brian Sullivan and Rev. Alan Hetsel officiating. Burial was in Highlands Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, 250 Hospital Drive, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

See story on Margaret Hall pg 9.

Mary Alice Hoxie Duncan

Mary Alice Hoxie Duncan was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 21, 1920. She died Sunday, May 15, 2005 at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center in Highlands, NC.

She was the daughter of Frederick Stickney and Elsie Mae Hoxie. She graduated from Tulsa Central High School in 1937. She taught two years at a country school in Kansas. She attended Chanute, Kansas Junior College. She also attended Oklahoma State University where she was a member of the Orange and Black Quill, the freshman honor society. She finished her degree work at the University of Colorado in Boulder. She graduated there with a degree in Romance Languages in 1942. She was a member of Kappa Delta Pi, Honor Society in education. She married North Carolinian Horace G. Duncan at St. Martin’s Chapel in St. John’s Cathedral in Denver on December 17, 1942.

She was a teacher in the Denver Public School system for 12 years where she taught parent education and pre-school, which was a model and forerunner of the Head Start program. In 1958, she conducted this program on KRMA television in Denver for which she was also its director and producer. It was the first parent education and pre-school program on educational TV.

In Denver, she was a member of St. John’s Episcopal Cathedral where she was a founding member of St. Monica’s Guild for young married women. She was also a choir mother for the youth choir. She was a member of the Alliance Francaise and the French Club Savigne.

She moved with her family to Gaithersburg, Maryland in 1971 where she taught for 14 years in the Montgomery County Public School system. She was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension and a teacher in the Sunday School. She also served on the board of directors of the Gaithersburg Public Library.

In Highlands, NC, where she resided since 1988, she was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

She is survived by her husband, Horace G. Duncan; her daughter Meredith Duncan Bowen and son-in-law Randy Bowen of Fairfax, Va.; and a son, David Duncan of Aurora, of Colorado; Her son, Fred, and her sister, Jimmie Jeanne Hoxie Wenige, preceded her in death.

She had eight grandchildren, Kris Martinell, her husband Bill, and Scott

See OBITUARIES page 9

Beetle Ball
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Highlands Conference Center
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Music • Games • Food • FUN!!

For tickets, call the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance at 526-9938 ext. 320

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I stared at her with great determination and she glared back. No one blinked. I had decided this was not going to be another of those “Mexican standoffs” where I lose because nothing happens. I am going to win this, one way or another. I mean, who does she think she is, anyway?

Finally, I spoke. “OK, let’s talk trash. No more pussy footin’ around. You either do what I tell you or there will be....trouble. Take off your clothes. I am bigger and stronger then you. You’re not allowed to take Tums. I’m going to tell mommy you offered me Tums and gave me ice cream.”

Just then I heard the front door open and in walked by daughter. Relief poured over me. “She didn’t get her bath yet! What have you two been doing?” Honey, go take your bath, right now. “OK, mommy.” Obeyingly, she headed for the bathroom, peeling off clothes along the way.

Moments later I passed the bathroom and looked in to see my granddaughter sitting in the tub. She smiled at me and whispered, “Poppy, I like talking trash with you.”

Fred Wooldridge

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**• MOVIE PIX •**

**Enemy at the Gates**

The 2001 historical action drama, based on the book of the same title by William Craig, directed by Jean Jacques Annaud (Two Brothers, Seven Years in Tibet), starring Jude Law, Ed Harris, Bob Hoskins, Joseph Fiennes, Ron Perlman and Rachel Weisz. Very powerful and dramatic music by James Horner.

The Storyline: It is 1942, during the siege of Stalingrad, the scene of one of the most deadly and brutal assaults in the history of war. The Nazis correctly see the capture of the city as a major strategic and symbolic objective, the Soviets correctly see defense of the city, named obviously after Joseph Stalin, as vital in their fight against the invasion. When both armies are brought to a stand still, the battle becomes one of attrition that neither side can afford. This sets the stage for the remarkable story of Vassili Zaitsev (ably played by Jude Law, seen in Alfie, Closer), an unremarkable man who became one of the premier sniper fighters in that deadly arena. Part as propaganda and part as news, political commissar Danilov (by Joseph Fiennes) builds up the story of the country boy turned hero in order to inspire the largely civilian defenders of the city. Real life drama continues as Vassili Zaitsev draws the attention of the German military, and also a female Soviet soldier (Rachel Weisz is both beautiful and believable in this role). A German sniper specialist, Major Konig (played by Ed Harris, who does his usual brilliant job, like in Apollo 13, Hours, and Pollock) is brought to Stalingrad to draw out and kill Zaitsev. A truly absorbing story unfolds as these characters interact and play out their roles in the battle and in history.

A reasonably accurate portrayal of the Stalingrad siege, cleaned up a bit for the movie going public, and the story of the three Russian principals is apparently very accurate. Law as Zaitsev is strong in his role, comes across as an ordinary guy in extraordinary circumstances, Harris, of course, is brilliant as always, Bob Hoskins plays Nikita Khruschev, just as playful and lighthearted as you would assume jolly old Uncle Nicky would be. Strangely absent is anyone portraying Chuikov, the commanding Soviet General.

The film is rated R, because the death and destruction involved in the siege is graphically shown, but it is by no means just a battle gore film. It is a very compelling drama, well acted, dark in story and dark in filming, not for the kiddies, and not for the squeamish, but a must see for those interested in true military drama. A few others like it are The Good War, Saving Private Ryan, Patton, Alamo, and Escape from Sobidor.

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**Franklin, NC**

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**May 19-26**

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- rated PG-13
- Weekdays: (4), 7, 10
- Sat & Sun: (1), (4), 7, 10

**KICKING AND SCREAMING**

- rated PG
- Weekdays: (2:05), (4:05), 7:05, 9:05
- Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:05), 7:05, 9:05

**MONSTER-IN-LAW**

- rated PG-13
- Weekdays: (4:10), 7:10, 9:10
- Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:10

**KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**

- rated R
- Weekdays: (4:15), 7:15
- Sat & Sun: (4:15), 7:15
Students get ‘on the job’ experience

By Erin Brown
highlandererin@aol.com

Several Highlands High School students played hooky from school Tuesday to try their hand at “real” jobs, as part of a job shadowing program for high school juniors.

The idea behind the program is to give some real life experience in fields that students are considering as career choices. Juniors participate as a part of their planning for post secondary education.

“It is not uncommon for students to decide not to pursue a career after shadowing, which is very valuable in itself,” said Patricia Catchings, Highlands School guidance counselor. The job shadowing handbook states: “The student will be exposed to the specific nature of a particular career area. There is no better way to learn about an occupation than to experience it firsthand. As a result, important decisions can be made about future career goals and plans.

Matt Chenoweth worked with Keven Gabbard, golf pro at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club, trying his hand at running a golf course.

“He’s going to follow me through the day,” Gabbard said. “He’ll watch me give golf lessons, clean the carts and help club members load and unload their bags onto the carts.”

Chenoweth was asked to pick from a list of possibilities and he said working at Wildcat Cliffs was the choice which reflected his interests the most. “I’m anxious to see what I’m going to be learning out here.” He said he plays golf occasionally.

Nicole Barnes helped out with the Highlands United Methodist Church preschool.

“I’m having so much fun,” Barnes said. “They are so cute.”

One of the assistants, Doris Chenoweth, taught Barnes in Head Start and it really brought back memories for her.

Picklesimer said that she taught Barnes in preschool.

April Hicks shadowed her current boss, Bill Aaron, owner of Southern Hands.

Hicks said even though she doesn’t particularly want to own a small business, it has been an excellent learning experience for her.

“April is very personable and she works very well with people,” Aaron said. “She takes time to learn the products and gives a lot of background information to the customers. She would be very successful in a career with people.”

Aaron said Hicks watches and listens to what he and his wife, Nancy, have to say and that she has been a joy to work with.

Callie Rawlins got some hands-on experience with local photographer Cynthia Strain.

“We met at the biological station this morning and shot pictures of the wildflowers,” Rawlins said. “I got to use a manual camera and that’s something I haven’t done before.”

Strain said she explained exposure control and taught Rawlins how to set shutter speed and aperture settings.

“This is a great way to get some experience because you don’t really know a lot about photography until you actually try it,” Rawlins said.

Strain also showed Rawlins how to frame, mat and hang the perfect photograph.

“It’s made me kind of sad that I didn’t go into teaching,” Strain said.

The shadowing experience took place during the school day, and the students were counted as present. Transportation to and from the shadowing sight was the responsibility of the student or parents.

Brian McClellan and Rick Segal, as part of their Highlands Rotary Club Vocational program, contacted the individuals and businesses who agreed to participate in the job shadowing program.
Highlands School Athletic Banquet

It’s that time of year when students, administrators, volunteers, coaches and teachers are honored for a “job well done.” On May 16, Highlands Rotary catered a barbecue banquet at the Rec Park for student athletes and coaches.

Above, the Girls Varsity Volleyball team made it to the second round in All Conference. Coach Rick Rawlins got Conference Coach of the Year. All Conference Team Captain, Angela Aspinwal; All Conference Leader in Assists, Callie Rawlins; and Smoky Mountain Conference Volley Ball Player of the Year and Highlands MVP of the Year, Kayla McColl. School awards included Sportmanship Award to Maggie Dearth, Coaches Award to Becca Wyatt, Highlander Award to Ramsey Ashburn and Honorable Mention All Conference Most Improved Player, Anna Trine.

Below: Girls Varsity Soccer played a good year. Awarded for Most Assists, Callie Rawlins; Most Goals, Angela Aspinwall; Best Defense, Claire Frederick; Sportmanship, Iyali Ruiz; Highlander Award, Kathryn Coppage; Coaches Award, McKenzie Thompson and Claire Frederick; and Highlands MVP, Amy Crook.

Men’s Soccer, made it to the second round playoffs of the Big Smoky Mountain Conference and ranked fifth in the state. MVP Lucio Trazzi; Sportmanship Award, Mat Keener; Coaches Award, Andrew Kerhoulas; All Conference Players, Ryan Perkins; David Parrish, Alec Schmitt, Matt Keener, Lucio Trazzi and Andrew Kerhoulas; Honorable Mention, Allen Shearl; Highlander Award Tyler Wavra; and Most Improved Player, Jake Hefington. It was the team’s third year undefeated in their conference. They made 83 goals with only three scored against them. Lucio Trazzi made 43 goals.
School volunteers honored at breakfast

Volunteers at Highlands School were honored with an appreciation breakfast Monday, May 16 in the school cafeteria. The breakfast was sponsored by the PTO, faculty, staff and students of Highlands School. Volunteers were thanked for their commitment, encouragement, involvement, and investment in the school.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Volunteers at Highlands School were honored with an appreciation breakfast Monday, May 16 in the school cafeteria. The breakfast was sponsored by the PTO, faculty, staff and students of Highlands School. Volunteers were thanked for their commitment, encouragement, involvement, and investment in the school.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

... COURSES continued from page 1

Students receiving credit for correspondence or on-line courses must be enrolled in the school accepting the credit; the on-line course must be approved in advance by the principal; a current member of the high school faculty must supervise the student in the on-line coursework; credit granted for on-line work can’t result in the student receiving additional credit he or she would have received in the available course of study at the “home” school; only coursework completed in the chosen course of study offered at the school the student attends will be considered in computing grade-point average or any honor where other students following the same course of study have not chosen to enroll in and complete on-line courses; and a transcript must be provided from the on-line school to get credit.

Students residing in Highlands and attending Highlands School can also take on-line classes through Southwestern Community College as part of Macon County’s dual enrollment program. Those courses as well as SCC courses taught through TVI and at the Highlands School campus are ways a small school can expand course opportunities for its students.

The website for the Web Academy in Cumberland County is http://www.cswebacademy.net.

The website for Learn NC is http://www.learnnc.org. LEARN NC is a program of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Education which “finds the most innovative and successful practices in K-12 education and makes them available to the teachers and students of North Carolina — and the world.”

Another site is the United Star Distance Learning Consortium (USDLC), Inc. at http://www.usdlc.org. USDLC partners with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Illinois State Board of Education, and Western Illinois University. Instructional providers include Education Service Center, Region 20 in San Antonio, Center for the Application of Information Technologies (CAIT) at Western Illinois University, LEARN NC, and Michigan Virtual High School.
Remembering when she wielded her ‘divine’ rod

By Nancy Welch
Contributor

Margaret Hall sits in her chair, a faux mink fur throw across her fragile shoulders. Her wide blue eyes sparkle as she tells tales of your younger years. The 92-year-old still has the regal bearing she inherited from her family.

“A silver tea service sparkles on the sideboard in the dining room of her small apartment. Her collection of tea pots dot the room. On a nearby chair are two tools of her trade – forked sticks – her divining rods – her water seekers.

Since she was a young girl, Hall has helped the people of Highlands find water on their land, carefully using the rods to pinpoint the exact spot to drill a well, bringing life-saving water to the surface.

One forked stick, made of stripped peach, bears the marks of the many wells she located for homes and businesses in the Highlands area. Some locations and dates are noted in red ink, some in black and some appear to be recorded in pencil. “Knight Mtn.; “Buck Creek, 8-1-72”; “Brummel, 6-1-90”; “Barnes, ’80.”

“I’ve been doing it for as long as I can remember, back into the 50s,” Hall said. “Water has always been very important to this area. Many years ago when my husband was on the town council, they called in a dowser from Bermuda to find a well for the city. He was here a very short time, but he found a place to drill a well under the old, old post office. I went to watch him and then to read about it.

Hall said, with her husband Tudor Hall’s encouragement, began her career as a dowser, or water seeker.

“I had watched the man who came here and I began to learn how to find water. I think it came from the German side of our family, perhaps from my grandparents.”

She said she never cut a divining rod. “I was very young and I was not allowed to have a knife,” she said.

Her husband was in real estate (first of her family now has the Chambers Agency in Highlands.).

“My husband encouraged my ability to find water,” she said.

Hall married at 16 and had the first of her four children at 18.

“I think any of them could do it (find water). I especially think Isabel (her daughter) could do it if she would just try,” Hall said.

Isabel Chambers disagrees. “I am told it is passed from father to daughter, to son, to daughter,” she said, laughing. “I don’t fit the lineage.”

While Hall doesn’t remember exactly what she charged for her water seeking services, Chambers remembers her mother made sure each check (usually for $50) for the work was made out to the local Episcopal Church.

“She always gave to charity. She never took a penny for herself,” Chambers said.

At Christmas, well drillers and property owners who had benefited from her talents sent gifts.

“Do you remember, Isabel, the year I received a bag of pecans?” Hall asked.

“Mom, every year you received gifts from the many people you had helped,” Chambers said, laughing.

“Oh, yes,” said Hall. “There was the time that lovely lady sent me all that face cream.”

Hall said she slowed down in the early 90s. “I wouldn’t go unless one of the family went with me,” she said.

Hall said one of the problems, once modern technology took over, was the well diggers wouldn’t follow her directions.

“If I gave them a point to drill, it had to be right there, pointing straight down,” she said. “If they drilled to the right or left or at an angle, they would miss it (the water).”

Hall loves to point a picture of rich history in Highlands and while she may forget details of her dowsing years, she cherishes her memories of families and friends.

“You know,” she said her blue eyes twinkling, “I wanted to be a dancer, but I ended up being a dowser.”

Interment will be at Highlands Memorial Park in Highlands, NC. The family will receive friends from 10-11 a.m., one hour prior to the service, at the Church.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Mary Alice Duncan Rotary Foundation Scholarship Fund, PO Box 1741, Highlands, NC 28741, or The Church of the Incarnation, PO Box 729, Highlands, NC 28741. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Catey, all of Dell, Mt.; Heather Duncan Rabin, of Lake Elmo, Minn.; Katchen and Jessica Duncan, both of Key West, Fla.; Evan, Lindsay, and Alexandra Bowen, all of Fairfax, Va.; and four great-grandchildren, Shelby, Skylar and Justin Martinell, all of Dell, Mt.; a; and Olivia Elizabeth Duraine of Lake Elmo, Minn.

Funeral services will be conducted at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, NC at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 20, 2005 with Rev. Brian Sullivan and Rev. Alan Hetzel officiating.

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... OBITUARIES continued from page 3...
W

When Highlander Deborah Berlin was shopping in Joliet's last fall, she heard owners Ralph and Jackie Stephens talking about their upcoming trip to France. She asked them to visit Sarlat and to take a picture of a monument erected on the spot where her father and his American and French captains parachuted into the country during WWII to help the French Resistance.

Berlin had not seen the monument since its dedication some years before and wanted to share her father's story with them.

In the town of Sarlat, Stephens had some trouble locating the monument, but finally received some assistance in a pub from a local Frenchman.

"It was a beautiful monument," Ralph said. "These men were the forerunners of special ops."

The following is the story of Deborah's father, Sergeant Jack Berlin's an ordinary man made extraordinary by the times in which he lived.

A Hero for a Father

In 1943, most had their eyes cast across the Atlantic to the battlefields of Europe, and in New York City it was no different. With gasoline unavailable, cars were placed on blocks, fine cuts of meat were scarce, Spam was the delicacy of the day. Many weddings were "usher less" because all the men were overseas fighting. Big band music swelled over the radio waves and from the USO canteens.

Citizens were kept informed of the war via newspapers and newsreels which were played at the beginning of movies. Most felt a tremendous amount of patriotism for their country and many, by 1943, were knowledgeable of the slaughter of millions of European Jews at the hands of a madman.

With a Russian Jewish background, Jack Berlin enlisted in the Army after hearing of the Holocaust and its innumerable concentration camps. This was the catalyst that took him from the gritty streets of New York to the lavender covered fields of France.

Although he had not grown up with any particular religion, he was repulsed by the racial genocide and couldn’t quite grasp how any one person could target an entire race of people. So he did the only thing he could, he enlisted in 1943. Initially Berlin tried to enlist in the Marines at the age of 17, but couldn’t

because he wore glasses, so volunteered for the Army the following year. Berlin was immediately singled out by military recruiters as "extra intelligent" and was recommended for a brand new branch of the Army called the Office of Strategic Services or OSS. The OSS, established in 1942 specifically for WWII, was initiated by General William Donovan.

During the war Donovan founded and then led the OSS, which is the predecessor of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Special Forces Division. Donovan earned the Medal of Honor for service in World War I, where he earned the nickname "Wild Bill." Donovan is the only American to have received the nation’s four highest awards: The Medal of Honor, The Distinguished Service Cross, The Distinguished Service Medal and The National Security Medal.

The OSS was split into several different sections of training. Berlin became a member of the "Jedburghs." With his cunning intelligence for radios, Berlin became a Jedburgh radio operator. He was placed with another two men, Captain McDonald Austin and Lieutenant Raymond Lecompte, who was a Frenchman. Each man was trained in strategic areas and teamed up based on the skill of each man.

Many teams were multi-national, including British, French, Belgian and American and most knew how to speak several languages. Each team had a different code name for anonymity from the enemy; Berlin's team was Team Ammonia.

Berlin was also trained as a paratrooper in England and trained to handle the direst circumstances in any situation.

Hiding with the French Resistance

After two aborted attempts, June 7 and 8, on the night of June 10, 1944, Team Ammonia dropped into the fields of France to stop Hitler's 2nd SS Panzer Divisions from moving farther north. By the third attempt, the men were anxious to get on the ground and forced the pilot to drop them. Following signals on the ground sent by a member of the Resistance, the men were finally successful. However, the pilot was very nervous this third time around and dropped the soldiers at a low altitude making the jump very hazardous. Captain Austin, the leader of the group, landed in a tree and had to disentangle himself.

Once on the ground, local French men and women came to their aid. A teacher from La Boetie junior high school repaired Berlin's radio, which was damaged in the landing.

After the drop, Team Ammonia was immediately taken to their hiding place, a secret compartment behind a wall in the Lagueze family farmhouse. The space was cramped -- wide enough for one human body. Berlin, Austin and Lecompte stood side-by-side during the day and led raids against the Germans at night.

For several weeks, the commando team organized sabotage operations along the Paris-Toulouse railway to slow down the Nazis' advance toward Normandy, taught members of the Resistance how to use explosives, and transmitted information to London. They then moved on to another French town, Lot-et-Garonne, for sabotage operations on the Bordeaux-Toulouse railway, Berlin carried a valet with his radio equipment inside. If he faced a checkpoint, he dismantled the equipment and left it in a safe place where he could return to it later. Holding his breath and expecting the worst he passed many checkpoints successfully this way.

Most of the French people who worked with the soldiers were from the tiny village of Sainte Nathalène in the Black Perigord area, which is famous for its truffles.

The star on the map above is the village of Sarlat.
to the territories it owned in North Africa. This was opposed by his vice-premier, Henri-Philippe Petain, and the supreme commander of the armed forces, General Maxime Weygand. They insisted that the government remain in France and seek an armistice. Outvoted, Reynaud resigned and President Albert Lebrun, appointed Petain as France’s new premier. He immediately began negotiations with Adolf Hitler and on June 22 signed an armistice with Germany.

The terms of the agreement divided France into occupied and unoccupied zones, with a rigid demarcation line between the two.

The Germans directly controlled three-fifths of the country, an area that included northern and western France and the entire Atlantic coast. The remaining section of the country was administered by the French government at Vichy under Marshal Henri-Philippe Petain. Other provisions of the armistice included the surrender of all Jews living in France to the Germans. The French Army was disbanded except for a force of 100,000 men to maintain domestic order. The 1.5 million French soldiers captured by the Germans remained prisoners of war. The French government also agreed to stop members of its armed forces from leaving the country and instructed its citizens not to fight against the Germans. Finally, France had to pay the occupation costs of the German troops.

France after German occupation

In occupied France, the Gestapo began hunting down members of the Communist and Socialist Parties. Most went into hiding, and the obvious place to go was into the forests of the unoccupied zones. Escaped soldiers from the French Army also fled to these forests. These men and women gradually formed themselves into units based on political beliefs and geographical area. Eventually these people joined together to form the Maquis. As the organization grew in strength, it began to organize attacks on German forces. They also helped to get Allied airman, whose aircraft had been shot down in France, back to Britain. The brave men and women who fought and sometimes paid with their lives represented the resistance against German rule.

In late March of 1944, the German Army began a campaign of repression throughout France, which included a policy of reprisals against civilians living in towns and villages close to the scene of attacks carried out by members of the French Resistance.

Then on June 5, 1944 General Dwight D. Eisenhower asked the BBC to send out coded messages to the Resistance asking them to carry out acts of rebellion during D-Day landings in order to help Allied forces establish a beachhead on the Normandy coast. This included attacks on the occupied garrisons in the towns of Tulle and Gueret. In revenge for the French attack on the German garrison, 120 men were hanged in Tulle on June 9 and later that day another 67 were murdered in Argenton.

These armed Resistance groups slowed down the attempt by the 2nd SS Panzer Division to get to the Normandy beaches. It was decided by the Germans that a revenge attack was necessary and would frighten the French people into submission. On June 10 a group of SS soldiers led by Major Otto Dickmann, entered Oradour-sur-Glane, a village in the Haute-Vienne region of France. He ordered the execution of more than 600 men, women and children before setting fire to the village.

Berlin saw the fires coming from that village, but was unaware as to the annihilation that was taking place.

Despite these atrocities the French

Resistance continued to take up arms against the German Army. After the war, General Dwight D. Eisenhower asked:

“Throughout France the Resistance had been of inestimable value in the campaign. Without their great assistance the liberation of France would have consumed a much longer time and meant greater losses to ourselves.”

In Memoriam

For all of their efforts during the war, a memorial was built to honor the three men who risked their lives to support the French. The monument was designed by Alain Carrier who was a French teenager during the war. The townspeople are responsible for the memorial, which was built over a natural sprig just outside the town of Sarlot. Captain Austin was from the Savannah, Ga. and Hilton Head, S.C. area and there is another memorial in his honor at the Air Force Heritage Museum in Pooler, Ga.

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... COOK continued from page 1

of this community,” said Cook. “It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity. It’s been a rewarding career full of friends and people I’ve met over the years.”

Not counting his days at Franklin High School as a Safety Patrol Officer, Cook’s law enforcement career started as a Macon County Sheriff Deputy. After about 10 years, he headed for Highlands where he’s been for 21 years.

He says crime in general has decreased in Highlands during his tenure but he said it’s not because of him, just smarter policing all the way around.

“Thanks to the Sheriff’s Department, we have more patrolling outside Highlands and we’re smarter about patrolling in Highlands,” said Cook. “We listen to people when they tell us what’s going on in the community. In a small community like Highlands, we try to do community-style policing where you work with the community.”

He said the biggest change in law enforcement over the years is the technical and training aspects. “But all that is good,” he said. “It was a long time coming. A lot has been mandated by the state. Now officers must graduate from Basic Law Enforcement Training.” But Cook says the future will see fewer people entering the law enforcement field.

“There’s not enough money and there’s a lot of danger,” said Cook. “Plus the alienation you face with the general public is hard.” Not too many people want police officers around, he said.

“When we enter law enforcement, many of us dream of changing the world. And we do, but it has to change through us as we become better citizens,” said Cook. “By being better human beings, we change the world we’re in.”

Cook said retirement is definitely going to change his life, but he said it’s time. “The time is right to move on and enjoy life while I still have my health. I’m going to do a lot of fishing and traveling.” Though he’s been planning to retire for some time, the recent death of his sister finalized his decision.

His last day at work is May 28, but after being in law enforcement for 31 ½ years, he admits it will be hard to put it away.

“Part of me will always be a law enforcement officer,” he said. “You can’t just stop after a lifetime commitment. I’ll always want to jump in there and help, and I will, rather than see someone hurt.”

Cook is in the National Police Hall of Fame in Miami, Fla., for being wounded in armed combat, shot in the line of duty when he was a deputy sheriff in 1981. He was shot in his left side of the head and was paralyzed from below the neck.

“I always knew police work was difficult, but I didn’t know how hard it was until I tried to keep up with Chief Cook,” said Mayor Buck Trott. “He has done a great job.”

Cook said several retirees in town have saved him a spot on Loafer’s Bench.
Lyrics in books, and even advertising copy are examples of human expression and illustrate how deeply rooted the idea of Spirit is in our religious and secular understanding. Spirit is a contemporary metaphor for wisdom, enlightenment, personal power and our experience of the transcendent. In our increasingly virtual world, far removed from natural rhythms, many of us hunger for just such a powerful spirit in our lives.

In the Bible, wind and fire are familiar images of God’s spirited presence in the Hebrew Scriptures are found also in Luke’s description of Pentecost in the Book of Acts.

The ancient scriptural images of the Holy Spirit are remarkably close to current secular ideas about Spirit. Following the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples in Acts are transformed from fearful to fearless preachers, their relationships with others.

In John’s gospel, Jesus promises a Holy Spirit who will enable believers to know and speak the truth. Each example is of an alive, active and almost touchable Spirit, not a bit like some of our ideas about the Spirit being in the sky or off preparing a place for us to go after death.

The Holy Spirit, given the feast of Pentecost, is at work in our lives right now – not in some future time after death. At your baptism, you were possessed by this Holy Spirit. At your Confirmation you yourself accepted the work of the Holy Spirit in your own personal life. This Spirit has transformed all of us who are baptized for all of the rest of eternity.

It is this Holy Spirit that has made us into the Holy People of God. It is this Holy Spirit which has changed us from our animal nature into a Sacred being forever in complete and intimate union with God our Creator.

This Holy Spirit advises us and teaches us how to achieve peace and justice in our world now. It is the Holy Spirit which enables us to love really imperfect human beings like ourselves now. The Spirit gives us the power to shun self-destructive behavior and attitudes. The Spirit enlightens us to the presence of our God and in the wonder of what we can feel and do now. The Spirit enables us to pray and to seek out the transcendent now.

**PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU**

- **BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**
  Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
  Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
  Sunday night services every second and fourth Sunday at 7 p.m.
- **BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
  Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
  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 ANGLICAN CHURCH**
  743-9370
  The Rev. Thomas Allen
  “Traditional Episcopal Worship”
  Worship and communion: Sundays at 4 p.m. at the Community Bible Church in Highlands.
  Monday Bible Study: 6 p.m. Parish House
  Tuesday Noon Bible Study: noon Parish House
  Pot Luck Dinner: Last Sunday of the Month.
- **CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
  Pastor Everett Wilson, (828) 743-3379
  Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
  Prayer – 6:30 p.m.
  Evening Service – 7 p.m.
- **COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**
  (Evangelical Presbyterian Church)
  Steven E. Kerhoulas, Senior Pastor
  www.cbchighlands.com
  526-4685
  3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
  Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
  6 p.m., “The Rock” for highschoolers
  Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Women’s Bible Study
  Wed: 5:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting; 6:15 p.m. Supper;
  7 p.m. Teaching
- **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 Curillo Group [library] – 4 p.m.
  Tuesdays: Men’s Curillo in Jones Hall – 8 p.m.
  Wednesdays: Liturgy Mtg. – 4 p.m.; Christian Education – 5 p.m.;
  Supper & Program – 6 p.m.
  Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.
  Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14
- **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**
  Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
  Sun.: Worship – 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15;
  Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.;
  Prayer – 6:15 p.m.; Choir – 7:30 p.m.
- **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
  Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175
  Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; School – 9:30 & 9:45.
  Wednesdays: Children’s Devotions – 9:30 a.m.;
  Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.
  Thursdays: Bible Study – 10 a.m.
  Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m. & 5
- **HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
  Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street
  Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
  Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7 p.m.
- **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 a.m.
  Wed: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study & activities – 6 p.m.
- **HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA**
  Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,
  2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
  Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30 a.m.
- **MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**
  8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satulah
  Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
  Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
  Choir – 6 p.m.
  Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.
- **MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**
  St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
  Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
  For more information, call (706)745-1842.
- **OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**
  Rev. William M Evans, Priest
  Parish office, 526-2418
  Wednesdays & Fridays: Mass – 9 a.m.
  Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m.
  Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.
- **SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**
  Rev. Clifford Willis
  Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.
  Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.
- **SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD**
  290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Szemore
  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**
  Pastors Rev. Wayne Price
  Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
  Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7 p.m.
- **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**
  Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769
  Parish office, 526-2418
  Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.
- **WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**
  Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon
  Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby
  Sundays: Fellowship & Worship – 11 a.m.
- **WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
  Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
  Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.

**See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 16**
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Service Directory ads - $17 per week. Call 526-0782
Friday at Instant Theatre

Singer/songwriter Annalyse McCoy will be the Instant Theatre Company’s special guest for their Friday May 20 performance of “Evenings of Little Entertainments.” Annalyse weekly “late night talk show” has attracted a large following by featuring some of the best talent in the region performing all styles of music, improv and scripted scenes.

McCoy recently released her debut album Movin’ On for New Colony Records. With a voice often compared to a young Bonnie Raitt and the looks of Natalie Portman, the Kentucky native has performed all over the southeast as a singer and as a musical theatre actress. Local audiences may remember her from the 2003 Highlands Playhouse season, where she played “Dorothy” in The Wizard of Oz and “Ginger” in The 1940s Radio Hour.

McCoy will perform two original songs as well as a musical theatre piece by the composer of Paradise, Jason Robert Brown, in her appearance with Instant. Copies of Movin’ On will be available for purchase at the show.

Next week McCoy returns to Kentucky to begin rehearsals at Jenny Wiley Summer Theatre where she’ll star as “Belle” in Beauty & the Beast and “Shelby” in Steel Magnolias through August. Having recently shot a musical video for the track “Read My Lips,” she’ll continue to promote her album in between rehearsals and performances.

To see McCoy in her return to Highlands, call (828) 342-9917 for reservations. Tickets are $15 in advance and $20 at the door and that will get you complimentary wine/Soda, snacks and entertainment that will find you returning week after week.

“Evenings of Little Entertainments” is every Friday at 8pm. The Instant Theatre Company is located at 310 Main Street, across the street from The Methodist Church and above Shiraz Rugs and Sports Page Restaurant.

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Highlands Upcoming Events

- **May 20**
  - Highlands School Academic Banquet at the Conference Center. 6 p.m.
  - Vocal Instrumentalist Genevieve Schiele at The Pizza Place, 6-10 p.m. Ranges from classical to contemporary
  - Live Music at The Pizza Place from 6-10 p.m. featuring old fashioned mountain music with Wildcat William.
  - Mirror Lake Improvement Association litter pick-up, 9 a.m. from Thorn Park.
  - Auditions for The Highlands Playhouse production "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" are set for May 21 from 3-5 p.m. at the playhouse.
  - "Bartram's journey through the Cherokee town of Nikwasi, present day Franklin, 230 years ago will be celebrated at Taratan Hall in the First Presbyterian Church of Franklin. Speakers and hikes are planned. Call Dan Pintillo at 828-293-9661.
  - Georgia ForestWatch is sponsoring a native plant sale and wine tasting at the Tiger Mountain Vineyards, Tiger, Ga., 4:30-7 p.m. The public is invited to attend this annual benefit ($20 per person minimum voluntary contribution), which serves as the organization’s key fundraiser for the year. Contact James Leitess at 706/635-8733 or at info@gawf.org.

- **May 21 & May 22**
  - The Bel Canto Children’s Choir and Youth Chorus of Franklin’s spring show, "Moments of Magic – An Evening of Theater Music," is loaded with music and dance to delight both children and adults. Two performances are scheduled for beacon – at the Rearden Theater – located on the campus of the Rabun Gap Nacoochee School. Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

- **May 22**
  - Live music at the Pizza Place from 1p.m. until featuring old-fashioned mountain music with Wildcat William.

- **May 23**
  - A film, "The Future of Food," by Deborah Koons Garcia, Monday through Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Dr. Ray Semlitsch will give a talk entitled "Beyond the Edge: Extending the Boundary of Wetland Management." Center. Dr. Ray Semlitsch will give a talk entitled "Beyond the Edge: Extending the Boundary of Wetland Management." Center.

- **May 24**
  - On-going Annual Spring Town Cleanup the week of May 23. Residents may arrange for the collection of white goods, such as old washing machines or refrigerators, during that week by calling the Town Office at 526-2118 during business hours, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
  - The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will kick off its 2005 season on Thursday at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Library. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and the speaker is Roger Lowe, professional guide, tyer and owner of Lowe’s Fly Shop in Waynesville. Roger will discuss “Nymphing Strategies in Mountain Streams.” A raffle will follow the presentation. New members are welcome! Call Giff Hampton at 743-2078 with any questions.

- **May 27-30**
  - Memorial Weekend at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Centers will be a time for honoring and remembrance, celebrating and peacemaking with inspiring programs and activities. Special youth program Saturday morning. To register call 828 526-5838, ext 203 or e-mail us at info@mountaincenters.org.
  - The Mountain Garden Club’s Annual Plant Sale this year at the Highlands Ball Park at U.S. 64 east and Hickory Street. All proceeds benefit the Highlands School Scholarship program of the club. Offering mountain-friendly plants such as hostas, shrubs, trees, perennials, seed packs and new this year – books on plants, stained glass garden stakes, whimsical scarecrows and beautiful container gardens.
The Spirit has made us Sacred human beings. That is why the commandment “Thou shall not kill” is for us an absolute commandment. We are absolutely forbidden to kill that which God has made Sacred – a human life. There is only one instance in which we may take a life: in self-defense.

We do not have to wait until some future time after death to benefit from the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is truly alive and well within the Body of Christ and each member of the Body of Christ. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit that makes us Sacred. That’s why the feast of Pentecost is aptly called the birthday of the church. For in this feast, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit which enables each member of the Body of Christ to be baptized and have the potential to be baptized, to act fully in the will of God and do the work of God upon this earth.
CLASSIFIEDS

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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 with 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 EOE/Drug free workplace.

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

MEDICAL RECORDS CLERK AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Part time; 8 am - 4:30 pm; Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Must have knowledge of Medical Records Department procedures. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

LPN / PHYSICIAN’S OFFICE AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Performs various patient care activities and technical skills necessary in caring for patients under the direction and supervision of the physician. Position is full-time, Monday-Friday, benefit eligible after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call 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.

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.

CNAS - 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.

PRN 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.

RECEPTIONIST/SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR/CASHIER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. This job-share position is part time, 24-hours per week, fluctuating days. 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

REAL ESTATE - RENTALS

REAL ESTATE - SALES

HOUSE FOR SALE – 737 Many Road. Two-bed, one-bath, fireplace, hardwood floors. Full basement. Private. Walk to Town. 526-2617 nights. $325,000. 6/10

HOME FOR SALE NEARLY NEW – 3 bed, 2 bath – King Mountain Club, Atlanta side of Highlands. Immaculate. 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. 5/27

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.

CHROME & GLASS COMPUTER TABLE – Almost new. $125. See at All Highland Hiker Shoes.


NOTICE TO CREDITORS and DEBTORS of EMMA LOU BARROW

Any persons, firms, or corporations having claims against Emma Lou Barrow, Deceased, are notified to exhibit them to Jane Barrow Tracy, Executor of the Deceased’s Estate, at the address of the Estate’s undersigned attorney, on or before August 15, 2005, or be barred from their recovery thereafter. Debtors of the Deceased are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Executor at the same address.

DATED: May 3, 2005

John R. Mayer
Attorney at Law, PLLC
Attorney of Estate
511 Smallwood Avenue
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Highlands, N.C. 28741
(828) 526-3731
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5/27

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Mountain Garden Club’s Annual Plant Sale in new location this year

The Mountain Garden Club’s Annual Plant Sale this year at the Highlands Ball Park at U.S. 64 east and Hickory Street, May 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday, May 29, 1-4 p.m.)

All proceeds benefit the Highlands School Scholarship program of the club. Offering mountain-friendly plants such as hostas, shrubs, trees, perennials, seed packs and new this year – books on plants, stained glass garden stakes, whimsical scarecrows and beautiful container gardens.

Jeannie Chambers and Beth Crisp show a few of the stained glass garden stakes for sale this year.

Highlands School students create artwork to epitomize Festival theme

On Friday, May 20, members of the HIFF committee and notable Highlands personalities will judge original works of art created by more than 20 junior and senior high school students from the school.

Working with art instructor Sally Taylor, the HIFF committee challenged the students to create an original work of art inspired by the Festival theme: Bringing film to a higher elevation. From the works presented, three prizes will be awarded.

The first prize of $500 will be awarded to the student whose work is selected to be the central design theme for this year’s Festival. This artwork will be featured on the poster, and the cover of the Festival program. Two runner-ups will also be selected and each will receive a $250 cash prize.

Horst and Margaret Winkler generously provided the funding for prize money through their Presenting Sponsorship. Other sponsors for this year’s Festival include Presenting Sponsor Old Edwards Inn and Spa, and corporate sponsors Macon Bank, The Highlander newspaper and The Cashiers Chronicle.

The second annual Highlands International Film Festival is set for Tuesday, August 23 through Saturday, August 27 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands. For additional information on, please visit www.highlandsfilmfestival.com or call Sue Gail directly at 954-463-5300.

Arts Alliance calendar available

Recently the Arts Alliance of Highlands published its spring and summer calendar of arts events taking place in Highlands from May through August.

It covers the full range of arts events including exhibits, lectures, concerts, classic film screenings, workshops etc.

Pick one up at Peggy Crosby Center, the Bascom Louise Gallery, the Summit One Gallery, the Visitors Center, and the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center.

The next edition of the calendar will cover the fall and winter months, September through December. To be included, submit your calendar to the Arts Alliance of Highlands by June 25.

For more information call 828-526-9938, extension 400.

Calling all dulcimer players

A casual group of dulcimer players meets Sunday afternoons at The Lake Toxaway Community Center two Sunday afternoons at month from 3-4:30 p.m. beginning May 29. Stephen Seifert’s book “Join the Jam” is used. The book and accompanying CDs cost $26 plus postage and can be ordered on line (http://www.stephenseifert.com).

If you are interested in learning more about this new group, and for directions to the Lake Toxaway Community Center, call Mary Sherwood at 966-9628 or e-mail us at sherwood@citcom.net.
Highlands Playhouse presents artistic director and first show, too

Like many Southern singers and musicians, Robert Ray began his musical career in a small church, singing in the choir and playing whatever was in the Broadman Hymnal for Sunday School classes, and later church services.

Although Palmetto, Ga., was only 25 miles south of Atlanta, it lived life in its own world at its own pace. Atlanta was somewhere “up there” (pointing north). And New York City...well, you saw that in movies and maybe on one of the four TV stations available. It was another century, but it was little more than four decades ago.

Ray, now based in Atlanta, has traveled many miles and venues since then and for the summer has now settled in as Artistic Director for the Highlands Playhouse. During the coming three months, he will, at various times, direct, sing and play piano depending on the production onstage. The lineup includes “Too Marvelous for Words: The music of Harold Arlen, Hoagy Carmichael and Henry Mancini with Lyrics by Johnny Mercer; “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat;” “Jerry’s Girls;” and “Driving Miss Daisy.”

Ray and Joseph Litsch conceived and wrote “Too Marvelous for Words,” which debuted in October. Ray also directed “Jerry’s Girls” for Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC. The show also played for two nights at the Playhouse three months later. “You know, getting to this point in my career is a lot like what it was like to be just starting out — in Palmetto. Other people with their careers. I have not forgotten opportunity and I am happy to be here. I’ve always loved directing...finding new talent and helping other people with their careers. I have not forgotten what it was like to be just starting out — in Palmetto.

He has — among other things — written, directed and performed in numerous cabaret shows; performed for Britain’s Prince Charles during his American visit; musically directed three versions of “Heartstrings,” an AIDS benefit which toured 26 major U.S. cities and raised millions for AIDS research and prevention; wrote, directed and starred in his own cabaret musical, “Trailer Park U.S. A;” written and directed two musical revues at Charleston’s Piccolo Spoleto (2003 and 2004); and produced and recorded three CDs — not necessarily in that order.

Robert Ray, Highlands Playhouse artistic director with cast of “Too Marvelous for Words,” which runs June 24-July 10 at the playhouse. Above performing “In the Cool, Cool, of the Evening.” Call 526-2695 for tickets. Highlands Playhouse presents artistic director and first show, too

What are his highs from a list of highs? “I have three,” Ray said without hesitation. “The Heartstrings shows. Because they raised so much money and I got to work with such people as Sandy Duncan, Tommy Tune, Marlo Thomas, Christopher Reeve. The 75th anniversary Fox show because I love playing on that stage. And, being in a Broadway show.”

But Ray says there is no desire to return to any of those. “I am doing exactly what I would like to be doing — directing. Getting to direct four shows at a place like the Highlands Playhouse is a great opportunity and I am happy to be here. I’ve always loved directing...finding new talent and helping other people with their careers. I have not forgotten what it was like to be just starting out — in Palmetto.