

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 3, Number 47

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Nov. 25, 2005

On-going

- At ...on the Verandah through the Nov. 26, live music — Chad Reed, piano player — on Friday and Saturday nights.

- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

- Cy Timmons at Fressers at Helen's Barn every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. until close.

- Live Music at Buck's Coffee Cafe Thursday-Saturday, 8-11 p.m.

- Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4:30-6:30. Saturday, complimentary samples 12:30-4.

Nov. 24 - 25

- The Highlands Civic Center and grounds will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holidays.

Nov. 25

- Highlands United Methodist Youth are selling Christmas wreaths available at the church. Profits from this sale will be used toward the mission trip to Bolivia in the spring of 2006. Call 526-3376.

- The Instant Theatre Company's popular series, Songwriters-In-The-Round, Friday at 8 p.m. Special holiday ticket prices for this day after Thanksgiving are \$10 for adults and \$5 for 17 and under. Call the 342-9197 to purchase tickets.

- Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival presents its Fall Concert, Friday, 5 p.m., at PAC. Franz Schubert's Winterreise performed by Daniel Cole, accompanied by William Ransom. Call 526-9060.

Nov. 26

- Classically trained pianist Anna Dolga is a student from Ukraine, appearing only at SweetTreats. Join us from 7-10 pm.

- Pumpkin Cream Cheese Roll-ups, pecans, peanuts, jellies, jams and other baked goods FOR SALE, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the corner of Second and Main streets between the Masonic Lodge and HUMC and on the corner of Fifth & Main streets near the Presbyterian Church.

- Annual Highlands Town Lighting, 6:30 p.m.

- Photographer George Humphries, will autograph his new "Images of the Blue Ridge Parkway," Saturday, 1 to 3 p.m. at Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street.

Nov. 29

- 2005 ECO Film Series at Instant Theatre on Main Street in Oak Square. "The Green Zone." Doors open at 6:30 p.m., Film begins 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Call 536-5999 for info.

- HS Basketball at home against Robinsville. Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys, 8 p.m.

FRI	SAT	SUN
43-25°F	45-27°F	47-29°F

Planning Board says 'no' again

Like a boomerang, the Werder property project keeps coming back to the Planning Board.

At the Nov. 18 meeting board members once again voted to recommend against the new plan which calls for commercial buildings on the B-4 part of the

property accessed off U.S. 64 east and residential buildings on the back portion of the 4.72-acre lot which is zoned R-2.

Developer Chuck Simmerson came before the board once again to hopefully get a final recommendation on the

•See PLANNING page 7

Town crews tackle ball field drainage

It may not seem like big news, but to Highlands' die-hard ball players, it means a lot because come Spring 2006 they're ball games won't be called off due to a soggy baseball field.

Several months ago, the Town Board voted to budget \$132,000 to drain and upgrade the baseball field at U.S. 64 east and Hickory Street. The bid was based on an underground French drain system – a typical procedure used to drain areas.

But when the low bid came in at \$239,468, commissioners asked Town Engineer Lamar Nix to go back to the drawing board to see if he could devise a less-expensive but equally efficient system.

By using a relatively new multi-flow drainage apparatus, Nix believes he has the drainage problem licked at the ball-field. Five one-inch plastic pipes are stacked on top of each other and covered in a black plastic mesh which is set horizontally in scores of ditches and held in place by little stakes.

Water flows into the pipes and is channeled via a small shaft-like pipe that runs through the "stacked pipes" to a large drainage pipe that carts the water off the field.

"This stuff is amazing," he said. "We set it in the ditch, covered it in with coarse sand and turned the hose on it and the water just disappeared," said Nix.

Town crews have striped the field with a series of 12-inch deep by six-inch wide ditches. Two sets of typical drainage pipes have been set in deeper wider ditches cart the water into the town's system in two directions – the field next door along Hickory Street and out to U.S. 64 east.

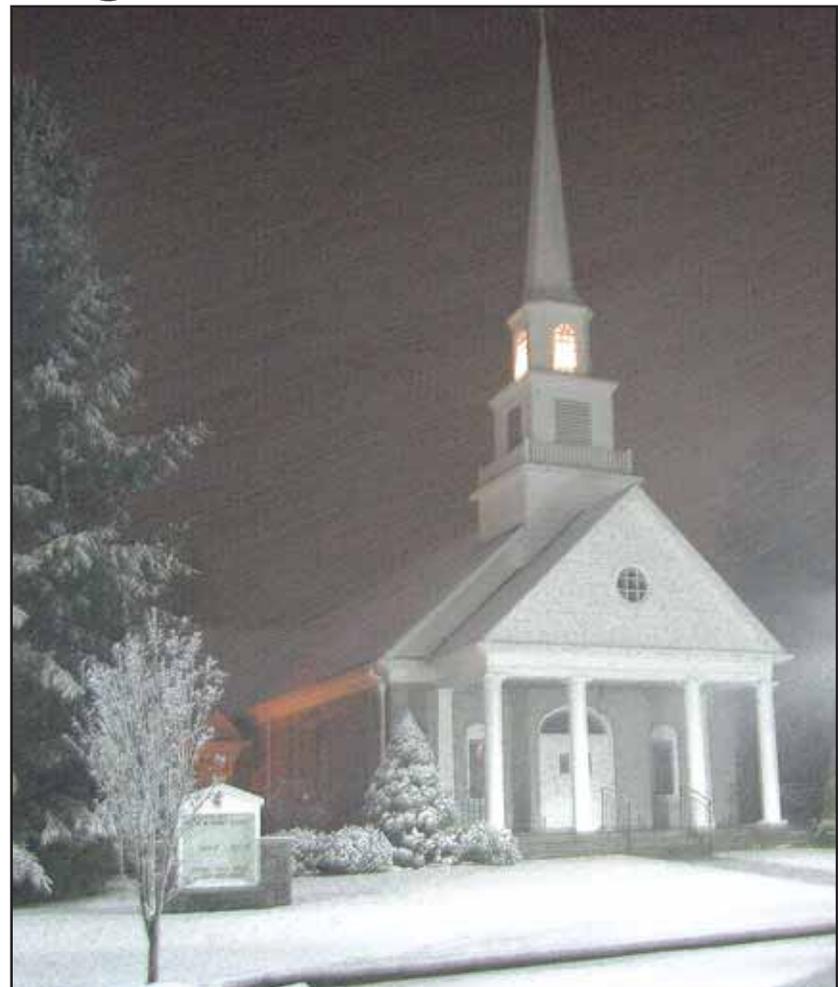
"We are way under budget with this,"

•See DRAINAGE page 7

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Highlands first snowstorm



The first snowstorm of the season fell Monday night, Nov. 21. By 10:30 p.m. about 1 1/2 inches had fallen in town. Above is the Highlands Methodist Church on Main Street.

Photo taken by Jim Lewicki

Interior changes at Town Hall

Now that the Chamber of Commerce has found new digs on Main Street, the Town offices will be expanded to take over the vacated space.

The offices will be rearranged to alleviate the cramped quarters Town personnel have endured for a long time.

"We are re-arranging all the offices," said Town Administrator Richard Betz.

GIS technician Matt Schuler will move into the office currently occupied by Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein. Gantenbein will move into Betz's current office and Betz and one other person will move upstairs.

"Renovations will be around \$10-\$12,000, from funds already budgeted,"

•See TOWN HALL page 7

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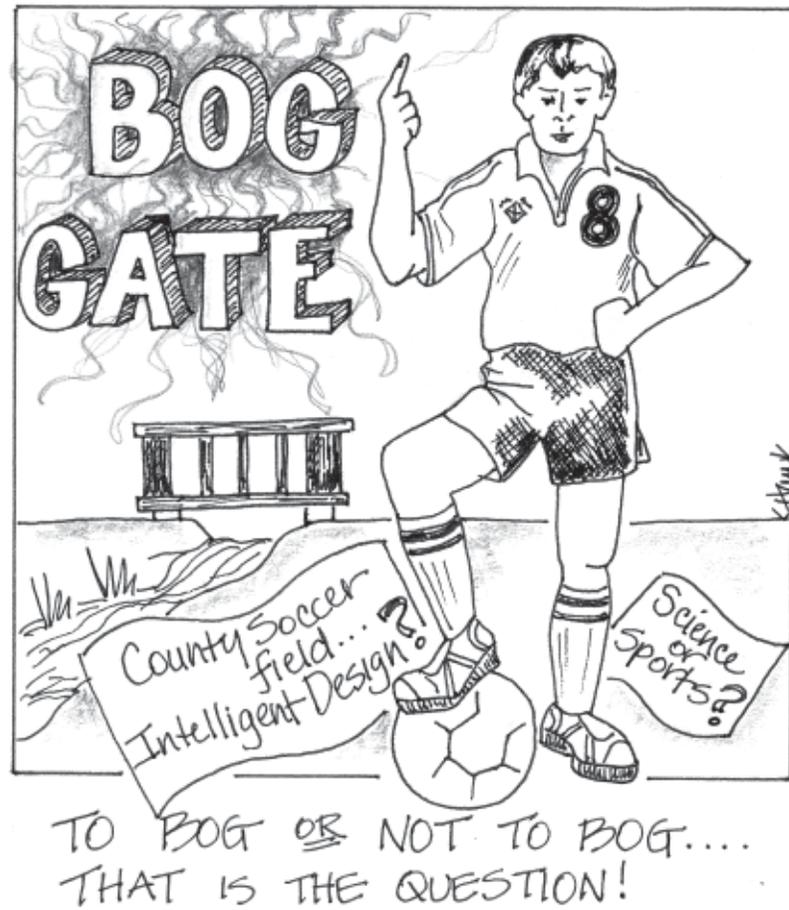
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• A HAWK-EYE'S VIEW •



• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Commissioners didn't listen

Dear Editor,

How very disappointing to see how the Town Board voted at the meeting following the ETJ hearing. Unlike the Town Board in 1989, which actually listened and acted upon the comments of the people attending the hearing, this board clearly felt no responsibility to represent its constituency. It's like several people said at the meeting—their minds were already made up and they weren't going to change them, even if 99% of the people there were very much opposed to ETJ.

I live in a subdivision with restrictive covenants as well, but I wasn't as privileged to be excluded from the ordinance as Highlands Falls Country Club or Cullasaja Club. Now I am subjected to ETJ, but I can't even fantasize about voting all of them out of office when they're up for re-election, because I don't live in town and I have no right to vote in ETJ. I only get its restrictions and no privileges.

What's even more frightening to me than undesirable commercial development is elected officials who don't feel bound to represent the will of the people. It's an interesting situation. The people in ETJ were not eligible to vote for the commissioners and therefore didn't elect them, yet they have the authority to make decisions which greatly affect our lives. Something about this just isn't right...or fair. I wonder how far out of town I would have to move now to get beyond the dictatorial powers of a Town Board I didn't elect?

Betty Holt
Highlands

Sign petition to stop I-3

Dear Editor,

The proposed Interstate-3 may never come to Macon County, but it would certainly affect us. In an effort to show solidarity between the mountain areas that the interstate could potentially affect, the Stop I-3 Coalition has set as its goal obtaining 11,674 signatures in Macon County (half the registered voters). We desperately need your help to accomplish this task.

U.S. Senators and Representatives sponsoring the Interstate 3 proposal, state

•See LETTERS page 3

Artists win money for designs



Lindsay Wagner, 10, won \$50 for her poster design for the "HollyDays in Highlands" contest. Donna Rhodes won \$100 for her sweatshirt design. The sweatshirts will be sold during the Town Lighting, Saturday, Nov. 26 at 6:30 p.m.

• OBITUARY •

Mark Stewart Hoppen

Mark Stewart Hoppen, son of Jack and Dottie Hoppen, died August 28, 2005, at the age of 54. His memorial and burial service will be held at 11 a.m. Nov. 25 at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Highlands, NC. A reception will be held after the service in the parish hall. All are invited. In lieu of flowers gifts can be given to the Church of the Incarnation for the Memorial Garden where Mark will be interred.

Mark was a kind and gentle person who served his church as an acolyte up through his teen years. He often adopted and nurtured stray animals. Mark, his brothers and sisters and their five cousins bonded growing up into a family of 10 children whose antics bemused (and sometimes angered) their parents. He was a talented athlete and an avid golfer and fisherman.

Aside from his parents Jack and Dottie Hoppen, formerly of Highlands, currently of Atlanta, Mark is survived by his sisters Fran Gray of Ketchum, Idaho and Leslie Hoppen of West Palm Beach, FL, brothers David Hoppen of Lake Mary, FL and Andrew Hoppen of Atlanta, GA.

He is also survived by his five cousins, Barbara, Larry, Gail, Wendy and Billy.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

and local officials, DOT personnel and indeed the public are closely watching public response to the Interstate-3 proposal. U.S. Rep. Norwood, of GA, sponsor of bill, as well as many other officials claim that they will "do the will of the people." If the people are opposed to this interstate, they say they will prevent it from becoming a reality. We need to hold these officials accountable and let them know how great the opposition is.

There are several things you can do. Letters and phone calls to your state and local representatives are very effective. Or you may sign the Stop I-3 petition. Here is the text of the petition.

Please contact me at 526-9172 to get a copy and begin collecting signatures NOW. You may also contact Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance at 526-9938 ext. 320. Petitions are located at Mill Creek Gallery, The Toy Store, and the Whole Life Market.

If you treasure these mountains and our way of life in Macon County, take action to Stop I-3.

Edna Foster
Highlands

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- Pam Taylor

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Convoluteds...Who, me?

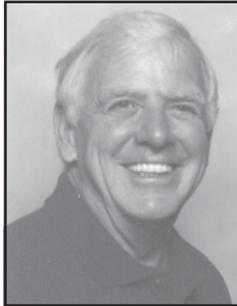
Is Jesus up or is Jesus down? Convoluteds, like myself, say "down."

Highlands Rotary exchange student Rachael Power went to Arica, Chili, climbed El Morro and saw Jesus with outstretched arms. Rachael went up to see Jesus but I went down to see Jesus. The results were different.

Off the coast of Key Largo, Florida, standing in 75 feet of Atlantic Ocean is a similar version of Jesus, arms outstretched. He is about twenty five feet tall, standing upright on the ocean floor.

It was a scuba diving trip with my kids and we found the surface marker right away. Gray skies made visibility poor as we descended and, at first, I thought we had missed our target. Then, in the dim light I saw His right hand, outstretched and beckoning me down to where I could be closer. I looked at my kids and pointed.

I knew it was only concrete, a movie prop, put there by the James



Fred Wooldridge

Bond film people, but my heart began to speed just the same. I drew closer to see His face and the other outstretched arm. He was looking straight at me and I was looking back. Oh, why didn't I own an underwater camera? We were only a few feet apart when, suddenly, without warning, the sun came out above and the water lit up

as only it can in the clear waters of the Florida Keys. I was startled; it was a happening I have never forgotten.

Highlands, North Carolina, early November. "Slow down, honey, look at that maple over there... sooooo beautiful. And look over there... that oak. Slow down some more so I can take it all in." "I can't go any slower, I think the guy behind me wants me to pull over 'cause he's 6 inches off my bumper and making hand gestures." Palm Beach, Florida, early November. "Slow down, honey, look at the damage to that house over there, the whole roof is missing...sooooo

devastating. And there, look at that tree sitting right in those folk's living room. Slow down some more so I can take it all in." "I can't go any slower, I think the guy behind me wants me to pull over 'cause he's six inches off my bumper and making hand gestures."

Leaf lookers, damage lookers, the results are about the same, but for six month folks, like myself, there is no relief.

Back in my era, profiling is what we cops did most of our careers. Profiling made it easier to catch the bad guys. It hadn't been labeled back then, so we called it aggressive police work. Just as I was retiring, someone decided to make profiling unlawful. After that, things didn't go as well for the cops.

Then a bunch of terrorists blew up the World Trade Center, killing over three thousand Americans and suddenly profiling in America didn't seem so bad after all. Making judgments strictly on race or origin was back in.

Well, things aren't completely back to where they were. If a cop spots a black man with a large TV propped on the handlebars of his bike, leaving an all white neighborhood at three in the morning, he still can't stop him if part of the reason for the stop is that he is black. Oh well.

But if four Arabs are whispering

and looking suspicious in an airport, authorities can legally stop them for questioning just because they are Arab and looking suspicious. Is whispering and looking suspicious against the law? Is being Arab against the law? Nope, but I just love profiling because that is when law enforcement works at its best.

Anyway, it's sure good to be retired.

When I stare at the front page of a newspaper and read that FEMA is handing out \$600 dollar checks for the purchase of generators like they were candy, convoluted thinkers, like myself, wonder if everyone in that line really needs a generator and why is government responsible for supplying them. In fact, why is government responsible for any of this? Was Wilma their fault? Who is paying for all of this?

I don't need a generator, but because my power was out for more than five days, I could show them my receipt and they would cut me a check. Actually, I was in Highlands when Wilma hit, but FEMA doesn't care, they'll give me a generator just the same.

Is this a great country, or what?

• Fred Wooldridge's new book "I'm Moving Back to Mars," is on sale at Cyrano's Book Shop.

A Call to Action!

If you believe that the Town of Highlands has acted improperly with regards to ETJ, please read on. Without doubt, the people who live in the communities surrounding Highlands are some of the finest on the planet. Most of the folks would never choose to be in a conflict of this kind and many believe that they (we) are responsible to a much high power than the Town of Highlands in relation to the care of the property that we have been entrusted with during our time here.

However, this challenge has been brought to our very doorstep and while we could allow this injustice to divide us, it could even better serve to be the unifying agent that speaks to the American spirit in a clear call to right a terrible wrong.

At least two (2) options come to mind as we face the possibility of even more government intervention into our private lives and property.

1. We can accept this injustice, as we have so many others, and spend the rest of our days hiding in defeat. Or,
2. With God's help, and in the spirit of our ancestors, (true Highlanders) we can say "Enough is Enough" and this is just too much!!!

I choose option number 2! If you are effected by ETJ or not, and if you believe that we can no longer be silent, please contact me at (828) 526-3850. Please leave a message; I will return your call. Or, email me at bscrane@hcgexpress.net. May God Bless You.

Respectfully,
Baker Crane

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Thanks for the first

As Thanksgiving 2005 lurks nearby, I feel obligated to express my gratitude in this column for something, anything. All too often I've come off as critical and unappreciative of what this country stands for—or rather, how we fall short from what we stand for.



Dr. Alex Redmountain

I of course feel enormously grateful for my wife, my children, my friends. I am thankful for my comfort and relative prosperity, even though I'd be happier if the prosperity were spread around a little more evenly among my fellow citizens and others.

I'm also thankful, as an immigrant, for having found safe haven here when my life was in danger.

But perhaps my deepest gratitude, at least politically, is for the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which, among other wise axioms, guarantees freedom of speech. Without it, I'd be sitting in some jail by now or worse. Or, God forbid, I would be cowering at home with my big mouth sealed shut.

When I was a child living abroad, my parents only discussed politics in whispers. "The walls have ears," they would tell me. No matter how long I searched, I couldn't find any ears, but I certainly learned to keep quiet.

After the Nazis came, speaking out about anything was punishable by death. In fact, just being me, a Jewish kid, was punishable by death.

Later, in Cuba under the dictator Batista—who, incidentally, was backed by the U.S.—I knew of college students who were murdered for criticizing the government. Attending protests and rallies was cause for arrest.

In the 1950s in the United States, government workers in our nation's capital were intimidated into silence by the red-baiting of Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin, and a climate of ugly fear permeated the country. Even the media succumbed to the pressure [with one or two exceptions; see the current George Clooney motion picture, "Good Night and Good Luck."]

We have had many other periods in our history when free speech was threatened or curtailed. The usual reason given was a risk of giving

comfort to some enemy. The usual *real* reason was the discomfort it gave our own government or senators or president.

Unfortunately, the public is often ambivalent about the virtues of free discourse. Most people seem to want the free speech they like protected, and the free speech they dislike or find offensive, banned.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) takes a lot of heat from all sides of the political spectrum for its absolute commitment to freedom of speech, whether it be the right of neo-Nazis to march in Skokie or Communists to speak at the University of Alabama.

Some young people are confused about the issue altogether. In 2004, the University of Connecticut polled 112,000 high school students across the country. 36% thought the press should get government approval before publishing a news story; 32% believed the press had "too much freedom;" and 74% felt that it should be illegal to burn or deface the American flag, a sentiment that apparently has strong support in Congress as well.

Even the Supreme Court has had difficulty coming to terms with what constitutes free speech, or just what *is* speech, for that matter. Is pornography speech, and should it be protected? What, in fact, *is* pornography? Is it the same as obscenity? Justice Potter Stewart said he couldn't define obscenity, "But I know it when I see it." Others have chosen to define as obscene anything they didn't like: sexual language, sexual portrayal, erotica, and even romance novels.

Free speech can be threatened in the public realm where no legal restrictions exist. If someone is labeled a "pinko" or "Jew-hater" or "fag-lover" it can endanger his life, uproot his livelihood, undermine his standing in the community. Shame, in fact, can be a greater deterrent to the exercise of free speech than any governmental decree.

Sometimes, extra-legal but powerful pressures can be brought to bear. When I was in college in Washington, D.C., I wrote a weekly column for the student newspaper

•See ANOTHER VIEW page 6



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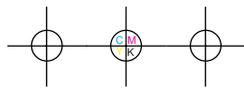
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Jerry Hermanson, new Director of the Community Care Clinic

Clinic to open Dec. 8 at Zachary Field

The Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers announced today that it has hired a Clinic Director and will open its doors for medical services on Thursday, Dec. 8.

"We are very pleased that we have found a highly qualified, experienced person in Jerry Hermanson to be the Director of the Community Care Clinic," said Board Vice-chair, Don Mullen. "Jerry has a long history of medical management and consulting. He brings to our new free clinic an articulate and competent person who will represent us well in the community, in addition to having a heart for the disenfranchised in our area."

"I am proud and excited to be part of this important undertaking," said the new Director, Jerry Hermanson. "I look forward to helping promote first

class medical services to all those in our area who are uninsured and not able to afford care."

With the assistance of volunteer physicians, nurses, and community residents, the Community Care Clinic will provide free primary health care to all uninsured individuals who live or work in the Highlands-Cashiers area with incomes at or below 150% of poverty level. Medical services will be provided between the hours of 5-9 every Thursday evening. The clinic is located in the Macon County Health facility off Buck Creek Road next to the soccer field.

Anyone interested in making an appointment for medical services or for offering volunteer or financial support to the clinic is asked to contact Jerry Hermanson at (828) 526-1991.

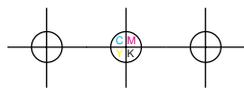
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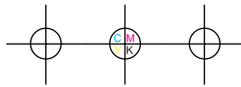
(some things never change). I've already mentioned the atmosphere of fear that pervaded the city during the McCarthy era. One of my columns concerned a McCarthy henchman at the State Department who was causing havoc there by conducting a witch-hunt, using sleazy investigative methods and crude enforcement of political correctness. As it happens, my father was a mid-level employee there who had not given me any of this information (my dad was very conservative, politically right of Jesse Helms). The day the paper came out, my father was fired as a security risk. He didn't speak to me for a year.

The very same private college, in 1954, was massively resisting racial integration. A friend of mine, a woman named Dora, one of the few blacks admitted that year, applied for a place in the women's dorm. At first the administration tried to talk her out of it, but when she persisted they cleared the entire top floor of the dormitory and placed her there alone.

When a number of us protested publicly, we were threatened by the dean of students, then followed by men who said they were FBI agents (J. Edgar Hoover sat on the university board and was a close chum of the school president). There were other repercussions, too numerous to mention.

These were but a few free speech controversies I've experienced. Others have gone through much, much worse, including the Hollywood blacklist incidents, harassment by the House Un-American Activities Committee, and even jail for espousing unpopular views. Nevertheless, I am deeply grateful that a standard exists in the United States, the First Amendment, against which all speech and some actions can be measured—a standard which allows me to freely criticize my president, my senators, and even the Justices who will ultimately determine whether I have the right to keep my big mouth wide open.





... DRAINAGE continued from page 1

said Town Administrator Richard Betz. "Estimated cost is \$51,000 for materials and the town crew is doing the work."

Nix said more than half of the \$51,000 is for a chain-link fence that had to be dismantled to accommodate a ditch along the back perimeter of the field but will be erected when the job is finished.

"We dug a ditch along two-thirds of the field to channel surface water off the field when it rains," he said. The multi-flow piping will handle the water that seeps down.

It'll take about 9,000 linear feet of the piping to do the job and a few more months to complete but in the end it will be worth it, said Nix. "This needed to happen," he said. "The field is just too wet."

Recreation Director Selwyn Chalker said this past season games were postponed even when it was sunny due to standing water on the field from rains days before.



Town Engineer Lamar Nix hold the multi-flow piping which is being set on edge in scores of ditches across the baseball field.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

... PLANNING continued from page 1

project.

Stephen Ham, whose property backs up to the residential portion of the Werder property, was at the meeting and told board members he would prefer the most recent scenario over the scenario pitched to the town's various boards over the past year.

"I am an immediate neighbor. We all bought our property based on the current zoning and I would prefer this over the other."

The "other" involves the Town Board granting a zoning change from the mixed B-4/R-2 to R-3 for the entire parcel. If rezoned, Simmerson proposes building high-end multi-family housing.

The Planning Board is still split on multi-family housing issue. Some members think multi-family housing within the town limits will promote a "walking environment" consistent with the land use plan. Others believe multi-family housing will bring more congestion.

But what the board doesn't want is commercial development on the Werder property.

The planning board has told the Town Board three times it's not for the new plan. "Let's send it to them and tell them we're not in agreement with this new proposal because isn't consistent

... TOWN HALL continued from page 1

said Betz.

Current requirements for getting a building permit for an older building is to spend money on making the building "more accessible."

"That means we will be putting in a modest public address system in the board room," said Betz. Attendees at Town Board meetings have long complained about the inability to hear commissioners during meetings.

Betz said the renovation project is

with the land use plan," said members. "We're not in favor of the plan as it's now drawn for commercial purposes."

They also said curb cuts to the road grade of U.S. 64 would be both unsightly and unsafe. "There's a safety component and an unfavorable environmental impact," said member Clem Patton.

Simmerson said he had already met with N.C. DOT and they were working out the curb cuts. "They said they would allow it," he said.

Chairman John Cleaveland said Simmerson had the right to do what he is proposing. "Let's let the Town Board hash it out. They know it's not what we want there."

At the Nov. 16 Town Board meeting, Commissioner Dennis DeWolf acknowledged having received the Planning Board's recommendation about the property several times. He said he was waiting for a conditional zoning ordinance to be finalized before commenting further on the Werder tract. With conditional zoning, the Town could have guarantees concerning development once an OK is given.

At Friday's Planning Board meeting, Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein said the conditional zoning ordinance was nearing completion.

currently under budget.

At the Nov. 2 Town Board meeting, commissioners agreed to formulate a "request for a proposal" from an architect to advise them on major renovations to the building.

"What we are doing now is merely a renovation while long term plans are formulated," said Betz. "We need to put this in a Capital Improvement Program and be ready to do something in five years.

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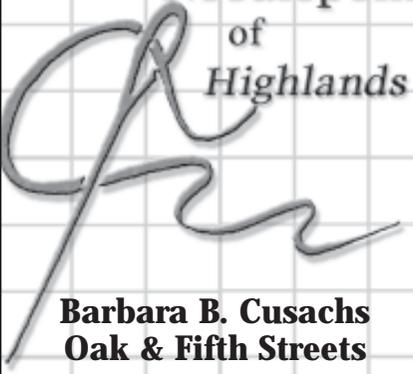


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• TIMES REMEMBERED •

The banishment

By Nancy Welch
 Contributor

As children, we
 always looked
 forward to
 Thanksgiving.

Yes, it was "Over the
 river and through the
 woods"

Okay, it was really
 left on Ingleside Drive,
 right on Vineville
 Avenue and right at
 Stanislaus Circle - to
 Grandmother's house
 we went. Off to a
 sumptuous dinner - and
 banishment.

My father's parents lived in and
 English Tudor home not five blocks
 from our rowdy, noisy, three-
 bedroom tract house on a dead-end
 street full of happy, squealing
 children. Their house might as well
 have been in London. Situated on
 one of the oldest and most sedate
 streets in town, even the streetlights
 were stylishly understated. And there
 were sidewalks - a wondrous
 invention for my brother and me and
 our bicycles.

We would arrive at our
 grandparents' house about 12 noon,
 starving and dying to get outside and
 play with our cousins.

There were two problems. One,
 the Thanksgiving feast was never
 served so early and two, the
 youngsters were banished to the
 "children's table."

Each year we moaned and
 groaned, begging for some scrap,
 some morsel, to ease our hunger
 pangs while the turkey finished
 roasting to a golden brown. We
 learned early to sneak around to the
 back door to cajole Estelle, our
 grandmother's cook, to dole out one
 of her famous biscuits to ease our
 discomfort.

I should say, at this point, that
 there was never any doubt that my
 grandmother was the matriarch of
 the Jenkins family and was not to be
 crossed at any cost. The one
 exception to that rule was Estelle. She
 really ran the household and was the
 only one who could keep my fiery-
 eyed Irish grandmother in line. My
 grandmother knew which side her
 bread was buttered on, if you will
 excuse the pun.

After what seemed like an
 eternity, dinner would be announced.
 and those of us below the age of 12
 reported to the breakfast room, as my
 grandmother felt children should not
 be allowed at the formal dining table



Nancy Welch

where we might very
 well threaten the china,
 crystal, and, most of all,
 the adult conversation.

We saw it as a cruel
 banishment.

We little ones
 longed for the day we
 would graduate to the
 dining room.

Ah, the magical
 Thanksgiving table with
 its sumptuous velvet
 drapes, immense
 mahogany furniture and
 the little button under
 my grandmother's end

of the table, the magic little buzzer
 which announced to Estelle at her
 post in the kitchen when it was time
 to refill glasses or clear the table for
 the next course!

Meanwhile, we youngsters sat out
 our sentence at the unclothed
 breakfast room table and ate our
 turkey and dressing from every day
 dishes. While the grown-ups sampled
 such delicacies as Charlotte Russe
 and chocolate mousse, we were
 served hot gingerbread and pound
 cake. We dutifully placed our paper
 napkins in our laps and proceeded to
 talk with our mouths full.

Estelle was our overseer and her
 philosophy was that children should
 eat until they were about to pop,
 drink all their milk and then eat
 more. We happily obliged.

My cousin, Andy Bunch, was the
 first to graduate to the sacred dining
 room. He immediately got the big
 head and I don't recall that he ever
 communicated with any of us again
 until he was grown and married.

I was the second to make the big
 move. It was six years after Andy had
 "moved up." By the time I made it,
 he had gone on to Georgia Tech
 where he stayed for the holiday and
 the big Georgia-Georgia Tech football
 game.

The day of my "graduation" I
 dressed more carefully than ever. I
 brushed my hair until it shone and
 scratched my neck where my well-
 starched blouse rubbed me raw. I
 thought it was more than worth it
 because this was my big day.

As usual, we arrived at my
 grandparents' house just before
 noon. I was good-natured about all
 the harassment I received from the
 poor babies who would, once again,
 be banished to the lower table. I was
 even so adult that I didn't go sneak a
 biscuit from Estelle.

The big moment finally arrived. I

•See BANISHMENT page 12

• ARMCHAIR TRAVELER •

Amsterdam's tulips, canals, cheese and more

By Phyllis Pickelsimer
Contributor

Even though it began with my riverboat destroying an on-shore restaurant, "it's all well that ends well" proved true.

Although I had previously visited Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Belgium, I had never been there during its spring tulip season. A river cruise along the Dutch and Belgium waterways and canals seemed the perfect way to experience the glorious "blooming" season.

A morning canal boat ride through Amsterdam's charming neighborhoods of narrow gabled houses, cobbled streets, and decorated houseboats moored canal side had my fellow cruisers and myself excited about our coming

leisurely journey.

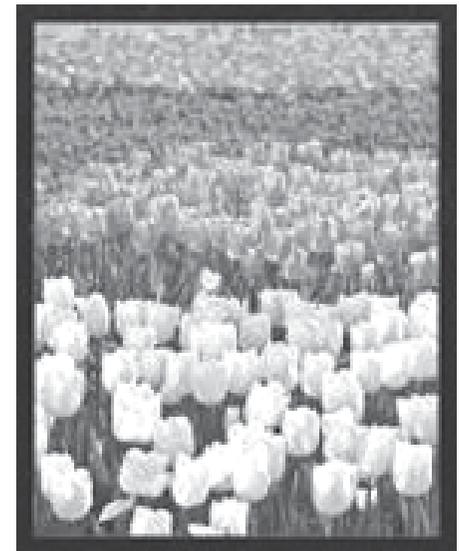
As our riverboat was departing Amsterdam harbor, I was on the roof deck ready to observe and photograph the city as we got underway. When we were broadside across the waterway, there was a sudden thud, a moment of having to shift to stay on my feet, and the running of the crew to the prow of the boat. We were now drifting slowly backwards with me holding on to the railing.

Those of us on the top of the boat made our way to the front of the boat. We were amazed to see we had run into a solitary restaurant on the shore. A restaurant that on a beautiful sunny Sunday at lunch time must have had many people on its terrace and in its dining room. Our

boat's prow had certainly put an end to anyone's eating there for some time. Luckily no one at the restaurant or on the boat had been injured.

Since it was also lunchtime on the ship with its tables set with dishes and glassware, the jolt had created a major glassware problem there and in the bar. After an investigation by the authorities, it was determined that a failure of a part in the steering mechanism of the boat had caused the problem and it was replaced.

All of this caused a change of plan that required that we take a bus rather than the boat for the first day of touring. We began with Zaanse Schans, an open-air museum. There we visited its many working windmills, saw cheese being made and had a taste, and observed how



the traditional wooden shoes are hollowed out and shaped. Of course,
•See TRAVELER page 11

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• ALL ABOUT WINE •

Slow down! Smell, then taste

Wow, it's Thanksgiving already. I thought summer just ended, but I look around and Christmas decorations are already up. Old Father Time seems to be running a 100-yard dash and we have to somehow keep up. Throw in a turkey and a few family members for a day, go back to work for a couple of weeks and then we're doing it all over again. Shop a bit, sing a carol, put up a tree, take down a tree, sing "Auld Lang Syne," rest for a few weeks. And then it's Spring. Get out the lawn mower and plan a trip to the beach.

Whew..... I can't keep up. And I'm not sure I want to keep up. When I used to teach high school, we were required to develop a syllabus each semester. Each day had its own purpose and focus as the weeks slipped by. And it used to drive me crazy: the "tyranny of the syllabus," I called it. When you needed to stop and dwell on something meaningful, plow into the depths of the subject—not just the cursory skim over the top—the syllabus kept staring back, whispering and sometimes screaming, "You're getting behind. You gotta keep up. Move it, buddy."

Life's the same way, badgering us: "You gotta keep up. Get going, buddy, or else." And even as we approach the holidays when, idealistically, we do have some time off, some time to rest and perceive and enjoy, we are in a trap. Finish up the project at work so you can take a day or two to drive eight or twelve hours to spend a hectic day or two with people who, even though you love 'em, tend to drive you crazy. And then you have to drive back home and get to work again, too exhausted to see straight, knowing that you've got to do it all over again in a month.

We need time to dwell, contemplate, assimilate, rest: but the pace of this life does not accommodate. Faster. Better. Higher. Stronger. Longer. More

I realize that people are wired differently, that some type-A personalities thrive on the constant GO GO GO. At least that's what we're supposed to believe. But I'm not sure I buy it. I think even the most motivated and driven people on the planet need the down time, and if

they say they don't, then not only are they fooling themselves, they're denying themselves the fullest life they could live. I subscribe to the old supposition that "the unexamined life if not worth living."

There's the rub. How do we have down time when Time moves so fast, when the tyranny of everydayness and busyness sap us of perspective? How do we (to use a cliché) "stop and smell the roses"?

This is a column about wine, I know. I'm getting there.

I don't get to smell too many roses. I'm in the wine business; I'm not a florist. But I do get to smell a lot of wine.

Tasting is pretty nice, too,

but a large percentage of what we taste is olfactory. Our nose can tell us a lot. The moment of opening a bottle, pouring, swirling the juice to the rim of the glass, enabling it to breathe and bloom. We can look at the color, appreciate the glimmer of light and the complexity of tone.

Ah, but then we take the whiff. A deep inhale. A series of short, intense sniffs. The moment of determining and identifying. Of valuing and appreciating, relishing.

If we do it right, Time slows down. We are granted the grace of a moment, invited to be wholly present, senses attuned to detail and texture. The rest of the world relinquishes its tyranny—if only for a moment. But that is an important moment: a few seconds to sense and feel and experience something at a deeper level. It's not just a glass of wine; it's a portal to another level of living.

As Thanksgiving approaches, and then Christmas and New Year's and Valentine's Day and Easter and Memorial Day and the Fourth of July and Labor Day and Thanksgiving and Whoa... slow down. One at a time....

As this Thanksgiving approaches, maybe the glass of wine served with a feast can help us slow down our crazy lives long enough to, for a moment if no more, relish how much texture we have in our world, how many layers of beauty and complexity and simplicity we can appreciate.

And then we get to taste.....



Bert Mobley
Highlands Wine & Cheese

'Open House' at Historical Village set for Dec. 3

On Saturday, Dec. 3, there will be an "Open House" at the Highlands Historical Village on N. Fourth street next door to the Rec Park from noon to 4 p.m.

Come see the recently restored old Hudson Library, the oldest public library building in North Carolina, which now serves as the Highlands Historical Society's Archive/Museum. On exhibit are many artifacts from the early days of Highlands.

For a sampling of the items on display, there are: geological and legendary stories of the creation of Highlands; the diaries of Samuel Kelsey, the town's founder; the office and library of Prof. Thomas Harbison, founder of Highlands' first school; photographs of early Highlands by John Bundy, Henry Scadin, George Masa, et al.; road maps from before

Highlands' existence until now; the first traffic light in Highlands; photographs of Highlands' schools and the students who attended them; family diaries and genealogies; books by and about Highlanders; interviews with many of Highlands early citizens; various kitchen utensils used in early Highlands' homes; and computer access to all the historical records that have thus far been catalogued

The Archive/Museum is located at the Highlands Historic Village, located where Spruce Street meets the Cashiers Highway, just two blocks north of town.

If you have something of old Highlands that you consider worth preserving, please bring it with you, and we'll consider adding it to the Archives' collection of Highlands history.

...TRAVELER continued from page 9

we all needed a pair. Later we visited the cheese-making town of Edam with its cheese-weighing house. The cheeses are only brought outside to be weighed with fine spectacle in the summer months. Our final and bittersweet visit of the day was the wonderfully picturesque village of Hoorn. This charming seaside town with a packed harbor was to have been our overnight destination pre-restaurant incident.

We returned to the boat and the next morning got back on our schedule. It was relaxing cruising along watching the quaint towns and bustling cities go by. We stopped at several, but the main purpose of our visit was the Keukenhof Gardens and its bulb fields.

The tulip was brought to Holland from Turkey around 1590. In the early 1600s, tulips were in such demand that one bulb could be used to buy a house.

Dutch bulb growers got together in the 1940s and decided they needed a place to display their products. Land was secured and a garden with lakes, streams, grassy areas, shrubs, and paths for viewing its beauty was laid out. Some permanent buildings would be required to show less hardy plant life. Today, the garden is only open from the end of March to the end of May and is planted differently each year.

I was visiting in early April. The previous week had seen some very warm (for Holland) sunny days, so I was hopeful I would see a

brilliant display of color. At that time of year not only were the early tulips in bloom, but also hyacinths, daffodils, narcissi, and crocuses. There was a riot of red, yellow, orange, blue, pink, with dashes of purple and many variegated combinations in the color palate. Everywhere one looked were bulb groupings that complimented each other.

So there will be tulips in bloom during the whole time the garden is open, the bulbs are planted one on top of the other -late blooming on the bottom, middle season blooming, and then early blooming ones on top.

At the end of the garden, it is possible to climb a windmill with a balcony that allows views over the main reason for the garden's existence, the bulb fields. Long stripes of color stretch as far as the horizon. When in full bloom, it must be breathtaking.

Bulbs may be purchased while in the garden. They are shipped in the fall at their planting time. October found me trying to find places in my sun-challenged yard to plant 200 various tulip bulbs. It's hard not be carried away after viewing all the beautiful varieties available in Keukenhof's displays and I was no different from any other visitor.

We all survived the riverboat crash to have a wonderful voyage with interesting sights. The tongue-in-check words of the restaurant owner says it all, "Ship happens."



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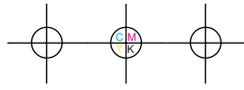
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... BANISHMENT continued from page 8

was seated between my mother and father at the long table twinkling with crystal and silver. I was in. I had made it. This was great.

No, it wasn't.

Guess what? At the grown up table you had to drink coffee. No cold glass of milk. At the gown up table, I soon learned, it was considered rude to interrupt adults who were carrying on a conversation. (BORING conversation, at that.)

At the gown up table you had to sit quietly for what seemed like hours, as no one was allowed to leave the table until my grandmother stood and invited everyone into the parlor for a small glass of port.

I sat in shock, listening with envy to the giggling coming from the other side of the dining room door. I cringed as I heard my brother and

cousins run down the main hall and out the back door to play without me.

One look from my mother told me this was no time to ask to be excused. I sat in misery while the grown ups droned on. My blouse seemed to grow stiffer and itchier. If this was heaven, I preferred earth.

It was a lesson learned. And my children, as well as my nieces and nephews, never suffered the banishment. When we all gathered at my house for Thanksgiving, everyone, no matter what age, was invited to the dining room table. Everyone had access to the same menu, but no one was forced to sample everything. Everyone had a place setting of my fine china, silver and crystal, and, when they were finished with their meal, the little ones were welcome to excuse themselves and go play their little hearts out.

I doubt my grandmother, God rest her soul, would approve. But I bet Estelle would be on my side.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone.

'Paving Over Paradise' film showing Nov. 29

The Macon Chapter of the WNC Alliance, a regional grassroots environmental organization, will be showing "Paving Over Paradise" on Nov. 29, Tuesday, 7p.m. at the Macon County Library in Franklin.

This informational public meeting will highlight a DVD video developed by the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, which shows the potential impacts of a proposed Interstate-3 between Savannah, Ga. and Knoxville, Tenn. to the Southern Appalachian mountains, public lands, and natural resources.

Potential I-3 corridors through or around the mountains will be identified, including two routes that will impact Macon County via US 441 North.

There will be further discussion of local strategies to defeat this proposal. Three counties in NE Georgia have passed official resolutions against I-3.

About \$1.3 million has been appropriated by Congress for a "feasibility" study. It is estimated that each mile of mountain road construction will cost \$25 Million.

For further info: call Roger at 349-1549 or 524-3899 (VOICE).



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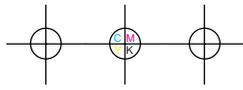
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Keller Williams Realty is taking donations for those victims affected by Hurricane Katrina. Our Franklin KW office has made their moving truck available for the transfer of collected goods. This will be the third trip made to the affected Mississippi area. The following items are needed: cleaning supplies, toiletries, baby supplies & food, house ware items, clothing and non-perishable food items. Donations are being accepted at the following Keller Williams Realty offices:

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- 96 Hwy 107 South - Cashiers (743-2484)
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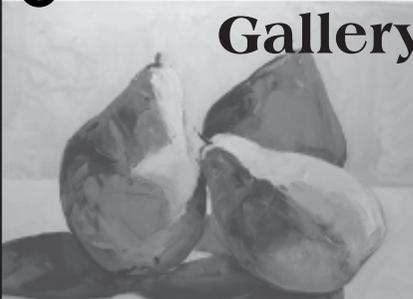


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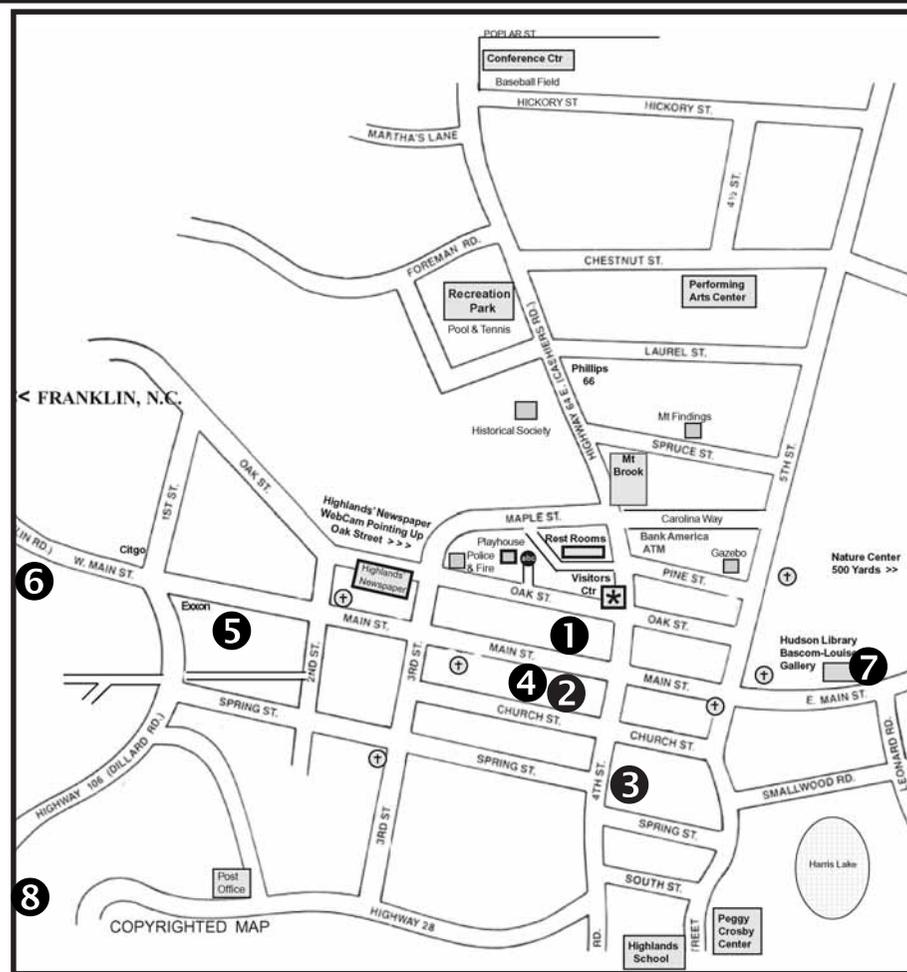
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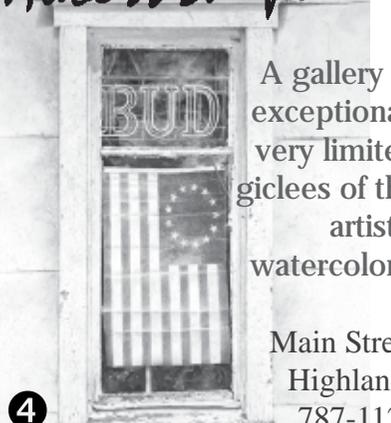
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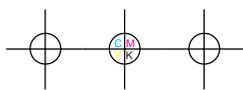
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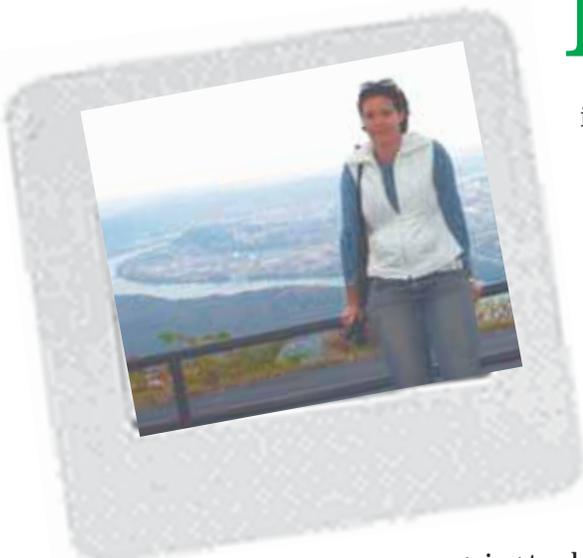
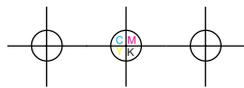
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Friday, Nov. 4

Today I set off on my big journey from my home in the mountains of North Carolina to my new life in Seattle. After a nearly tearless farewell to the folks, I was off down U.S. 64 west to Tennessee! I am so tempted to just take U.S 64 all the way across the country, as it stretches from coast to coast and goes right through Highlands, but I tried to do that on the drive home from Chapel Hill once. It didn't work out so well. I was on the twisty, narrow road for all of 15 minutes before I

I've been planning this for awhile. Hasn't everyone always thought to themselves, "One of these days I'm just gonna do this great country really has to offer?" After years of exploring whatever foreign lands I could manage to get myself to, that I would not pursue another international adventure until I discovered the grand U.S. of A.

So here I am. Unemployed. Not enrolled in any academic program. No scholarship or payroll checks coming in. I'm in 10 weeks on \$20 a day. What follows is a series of excerpts from my journal, some rants about what I hate, and some things I adore, enjoy, tolerate or don't. - Claire Young

From Highlands to Seattle on \$20

I got restless and hopped back on the Interstate. Hopefully I'll do a better job avoiding the Interstate on this trip!

We didn't think the leaves were ever going to change in Highlands, but of course they finally did the day I left, making for one of the most beautiful drives I've ever experienced right along the Ocoee River.

Day 1 —

Chattanooga and Nashville

I stopped for gas just shy of Chattanooga, Tenn. and was ready to make the final two-hour push to Nashville when a sign for Lookout Mountain on I-24 caught my eye. It's going to be that kind of a trip. I even paid \$3 to enter the Point Park on top of the mountain for three minutes to take pictures.

My first host, of hopefully many to come was Gail Rogers Johnson and her husband Terry — big Georgia fans. Gail went to high school with my mom in Atlanta. We got along great! She's a jock, like me. They took me to dinner downtown, and then we went to this dive bar called Tootsies. Gail and Terry have a great set-up in Brentwood on the

golf course. Everything they need in life is within a mile of their front door - they kept saying how simple their life is and how much they love it.

Some additional thoughts on Nashville...It's a beautiful, clean, contained city. The downtown area is lovely, with lots of cool bars and restaurants, speckled with various professional sport facilities. It's absolutely fabulous for people watching. The leather! The boots! Awesome.

As much as I loved the stimulation of living in Chapel Hill, or the allure of bigger cities like D.C., Cairo, or Paris, there is something to be said for simplicity, too... just not yet! I really wish I had scheduled more time for Nashville, but Memphis — and more importantly, Graceland — awaits!

Day 2-4 —

Memphis, Tenn.

Almost as soon as I got to Mills Ramsey's place (a friend from Highlands), we jumped in his car - a jeep. We went directly to Graceland.

Mills has lived in Memphis for five years and he has NEVER been to the King's Memphis mansion. A catastrophe. I'm still not sure if it was worth the \$28 entrance fee, but it was pretty cool. Not to be missed in a lifetime... but no real need to do it again.

Highlights of the driving tour included Rhodes College, the

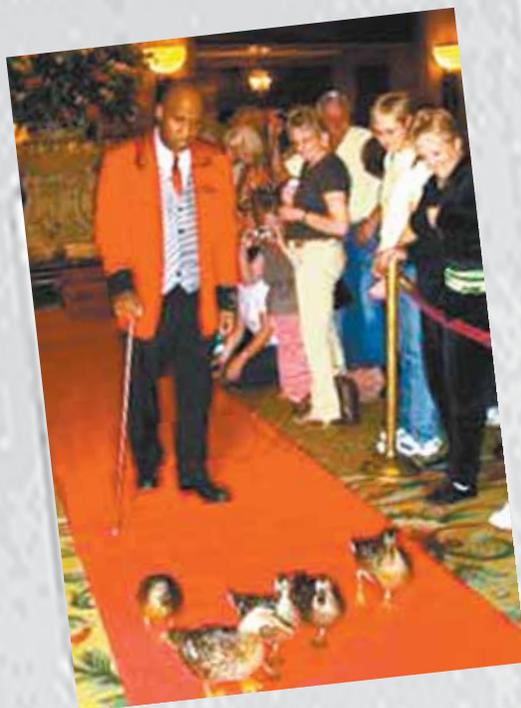
downtown pyramid, and the dilapidated old Sears building that was once the headquarters for its booming catalogue sales industry... Mills wants to buy it and renovate it into upscale apartments and office space. I also highly recommend Shelby Farms where we went for a sunset walk. So beautiful.

We went out on Beale Street Saturday night and ended up at this bar called Pat O'Briens, an exact replica of the one on Bourbon Street in New Orleans that we all went to at Mardi Gras in February of this year.

The next day it was Sunday brunch at the Peabody Hotel and it was DIVINE! \$30 for all you can eat (and drink) of sausage, omelettes, veggies, fresh fruit, sushi, pork loin, dessert, mimosas, bloody Mary's - WOW! I bet we spent close to 2 hours just eating, digesting, and eating some more.

The Peabody Hotel is the driving force behind my three-day sojourn in Memphis. I know it sounds cliché, but the whole point of this trip is to focus my various stops on people who I don't get to see nearly enough and on places that have a personal meaning to me. The Peabody is definitely that. My grandparents met at this hotel, a downtown Memphis institution in the 1940s and now. It's a beautiful hotel, but the most famous part about it is... drum roll please... the ducks. Yes, ducks.

They are trained by the



days I'm just gonna take off. See what
 manage to get myself to, I finally decided

checks coming in. Trying to get to Seattle, WA
 what I hate, and some raves about what I

on \$20 a day

Duckmaster. (I'm not kidding... that's his official title.) This guy is the single-most important employee of the hotel. He was found through an extensive, nation-wide search. He not only trains and cares for the ducks, but also serves as a PR person for the hotel so he must be personable, articulate, good with kids, and somewhat of a showman. The day we were there, there was a camera crew there doing a documentary on them... they really are VIPs!

I had heard a rumor that the ducks are released into the wild once they outlive their star-studded purpose, so I asked the Duckmaster about it. He told me that the ducks will only live at the Peabody for about 90 to 120 days before being released.

The Peabody is known world-wide for the ducks that spend all day frolicking in the fountain in its lobby and all night in their own home built on the rooftop. Everyday - at 5

o'clock tea - they are paraded through the lobby, into an elevator, and up to their bedchambers. It's quite the spectacle. We got there an hour early just to get a good spot on the red carpet.

On Monday, I went to play with new cousins who I had never met - Linton and Kathy - while my friend Mills went to work. They took me to Sun Studios, "Where Rock 'n' Roll Began." Elvis was first discovered there, as was Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, even Roy Orbison. The tour was actually pretty good, even though they didn't have as much to see as Graceland. Our guide was "El Dorado," and he had the absolute burliest sideburns I have ever seen.

Hitting the road...more later.
 - Claire Young



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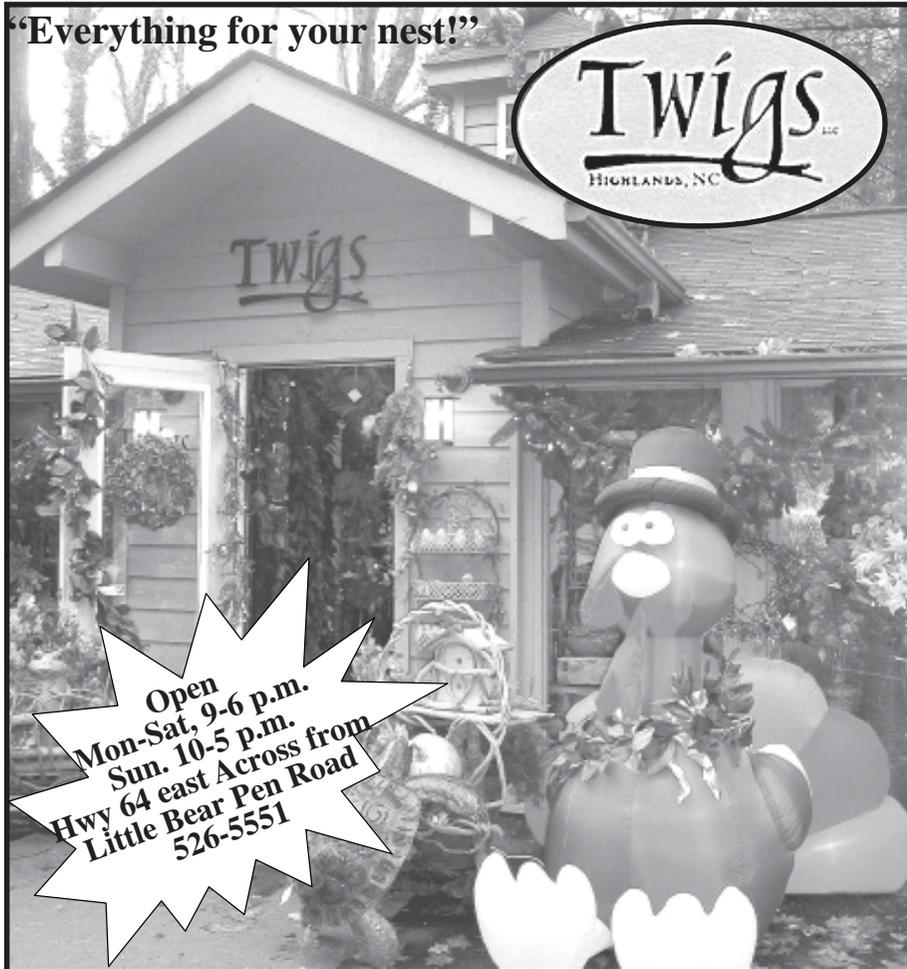
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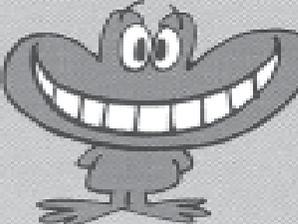
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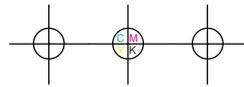


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Nature Photographer To Sign at Cyrano's

Local author George Humphries will sign copies of his beautiful new coffee-table book, *Images of the Blue Ridge Parkway*, at Cyrano's Bookshop Saturday afternoon, November 26, from 1:00 to 3:00. The public is invited to meet this celebrated photographer of the natural beauty of the Southern Appalachians.

For more than 30 years, visitors to the Southern Highlands have marveled at the splendid mountain images captured by Humphries' landscapes. His previous works have included *North Carolina: Portrait of a State*, *North Carolina Wildflowers*, *North Carolina: Images of Wildness*, *Great Smoky Mountain Impressions*, *North Carolina, Tennessee*, and several series of calendars and note cards.

In his latest offering, *Images of the Blue Ridge Parkway*, Humphries shares his passion for the Southern Highlands in which he was raised as he opens a door to the spectacular mountain scenery through which this winding route meanders from the Shenandoah National Park to the Great Smokies.

The book is filled with more than 200 dramatic photographs of the mountains, distant vistas, pastoral landscapes, and summit sanctuaries punctuated with rare evergreen, wildflowers, and wildlife. Equally stunning are the purple and orange autumn sunsets and the close-up shots of spring wildflowers beside a fence post.

Mary Best, editor-in-chief and associate publisher of *Our State Books*, provides the poetic text that accentuates these photographs of the world's oldest mountains, even as the Blue Ridge Parkway is currently celebrating its 70th anniversary.

As a landscape photographer, Humphries sees himself more as an intuitive photographer than a technician with the camera. He claims his work derives "more from feeling than seeing—the less technology, the better." He didn't start a career in photography until he was 30 years old, when shooting pictures for him became the sheer exhilaration of trying to capture a fleeting moment that would never exist again. He suddenly felt like a child in a candy store.

Strongly influenced by Ansel Adams, who came along after most of our great forests had been logged and showed us what we had lost, Humphries shares Adams' environmental concerns but focuses almost exclusively on the unspoiled wonders of what we have not lost. He feels that a lot of people who appreciate the natural habitat take it for granted, whereas for him, "all this is a miracle" and worth protecting.

• BOOK REVIEW WITH KATIE BRUGGER •

Zoro's Field: My Life in the Appalachian Woods, by Thomas Rain Crowe (B Crowe)

This is a book about a man who spent four years living outside Saluda, North Carolina in a cabin without electricity and running water, raising all of his own food, being (almost) completely self-sufficient.

If you have any interest in what it would be like to live a simple life in the woods, there is plenty of interest here in the first half of the book. His descriptions of learning to chop wood and farm, of learning how to take care of the tools these jobs require, of digging a root cellar and making homebrew, of fishing for trout and having time to daydream are interesting. In the second half of the book he tries to get serious and this is where the book falls apart in my opinion.

This new book is written in the present tense; you imagine him out there doing this astonishing thing as you read. But as the book proceeds time anomalies become apparent. Things don't add up—his age for instance, and then certain things he makes a big deal about—overpopulation for example, are no longer the issue they once were. Finally it is revealed that this experiment took place 25 years ago and certain problems I had with the book became clear: for someone living this kind of life there was a lack of detail in his descriptions of the natural world, and there was a strange absence of his thoughts and feelings about his daily life. This book was written from notes after a long lapse and the detail and thoughts and feelings were long gone.

I also felt like I had no understanding of why he undertook such a difficult life. He gave me no sense of what he had learned about himself, humanity, or the world at large for that matter. About the only reason I could find was a desire to best Henry David Thoreau, author of *Walden*, to live in a cabin longer than Thoreau did. "Trying to complete what Thoreau started 150 years ago, I want to take his experience of the body and its toil of work and reflections deeper into the heart and soul of the woods... It is my goal to live at least twice the time he did at the edge of Walden Pond and to give myself a realistic opportunity to take the Walden experience and a life of relative seclusion a step further."

This is not to say there is nothing intellectual in this book. Other than the overpopulation discussion, he also addresses the problem of humanity's future; will we make it if we stay on our current industrial over-consumptive

path? Some people advocate a return to the rural past, a "reinhabitation," where everyone gives up their cars and suburban homes and becomes self-sufficient farmers. In fact, living like Mr. Crowe did during those four years. Crowe thinks this is a bad idea, that instead we should become truly modern: "Not modern in a postindustrial sense, but modern in reference to the creative ways we manifest new designs of living that make us participants with rather than competitors against the natural world." He doesn't have any idea how to do this, and doesn't even have any idea who or where the ideas will come from. He calls this ideal future person the "new native" and has this

"Trying to complete what
Thoreau started 150 years
ago, I want to take his
experience of the body and
its toil of work and
reflections deeper into the
heart and soul of the
woods..."

confusing description: "Hypothetically, it produces total beings whose values and sociosexual politics are more in harmony with the psychosexual balance of their watershed-ecosystem and with the planet and the universe." I have no idea how a watershed-ecosystem has a psychosexual balance.

Mr. Crowe is also a poet and each of his short chapters ends with a poem that relates to the subject of the chapter. I am no judge of poetry so I will leave it at that. His mentor is Gary Snyder, a poet, Buddhist, and environmentalist who established a back-to-the-land community in the Sierra Mountains in California. Mr. Crowe spent a number of years there living in a teepee and working the community fields which gave him a lot of experience in self-sufficiency.

I decided to read *Pilgrim at Tinker's Creek* by Annie Dillard again, as I remembered it fondly as a book that mixed keen observations of the natural world with fascinating observations on what it means to be a human being. I was surprised to find that it disappointed me for the same reason *Zoro's Field* did: neither of the authors shared themselves as human beings with their readers. Ms. Dillard never

materializes; she is just a disembodied brain with eyes. Mr. Crowe lived this unbelievably difficult life but seemingly had no real struggles to speak of, even the obvious ones that jump to mind when you imagine yourself living in such a circumstance: in a passing thought he mentions he has an outhouse, but where was the resentment on a cold morning? Where was the fear that he wouldn't be able to make it through a winter because a crop failed or he was hurt? Where was the struggle with self-imposed celibacy?

I tried out of duty to read Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* while writing this review but I have to admit I found it extremely boring and put it down in chapter 2. Perhaps it was the effect of the two previous books, both of which I found tedious—it is rare for me to skim books and I did in both *Zoro's Field* and *Pilgrim*.

Or perhaps it is that I am fed up with the whole liberal-hippy worldview. This began last fall when it became clear that George Bush was going to win re-election (I'm speaking of September 2004). Not only has the Democratic Party completely run out of ideas, it is totally corrupted by our sick political system built on influence and graft. The real issues confronting our nation aren't the social ones we are distracted by: abortion, gay marriage—most of us agree on a relatively liberal position on these—they are the issues of graft: the decisions Congress and the President make are almost completely decided by lobbyists for major interest groups and corporations. Laws are written to please interest groups; they are not based on what is best for the people or the nation as a whole.

Our current Republican administration is just more obvious about their devotion to the wishes of the business world; Cheney's secret meetings with energy company officials to craft the nation's energy policy (with a verbatim quote from a corporate memo embedded in the resulting legislation) is the easy example. But the Democrats are corrupt in the same way.

I'm looking for new ideas. I am absolutely uninterested in a return to outmoded ideas that went nowhere 25 years ago. Here's a liberal talking about going back-to-the-land. The conservatives are currently torturing the country with 25-year-old Reaganomics and a 15-year-old obsession with Iraq.

If this country doesn't stop arguing over the past and look to the future we are in trouble.

• Look for my next review, *The World is Flat*, for the reasons why.



Playing for the Highlanders this year are Ryan Bears, Jason Aspinwall, Alec Schmitt, Nick Kerhoulas, Adam Hedden, Michael Lica, David Parrish, Eric Chen, Andrew Billingsley and Ezra Herz. Photo by Kim Lewicki

This year's Highlanders on fire

The Highlanders are clearly on fire this year. They creamed their first two opponents – Blue Ridge on Nov. 18, 71-38. The next night, Nov. 19, they did it again, this time against Rabun County – 102-94.

With no down time between soccer and basketball, it's a wonder the team is performing like it is, but Coach Butch Smart isn't surprised.

"In anticipation of the soccer team doing well and going into the playoffs, we suspected we wouldn't get a great deal of practice time in," he said. "That's why we had our basketball camp this past summer where we played eight games and 14 practice games."

That explains the team's obvious compatibility. Each member appears to anticipate what his team mate is thinking and acts on it. They know their plays cold and for the most part complete the plays at the basket.

"I am very, very pleased," said Smart. "It's definitely a carry-over from

the summer camp because we only had one practice game with a full team before the Blue Ridge game."

Smart said they have five experienced players and five who are developing well. At this point he's setting his sights on developing the depth of the team.

Top scorer for both games was Ryan Bears with 17 points against Blue Ridge and 24 points against Rabun County; Nick Kerhoulas scored 21 against Blue Ridge and 8 against Rabun; Alec Schmitt scored 15 against Blue Ridge and 13 against Rabun; Jason Aspinwall scored 13 against Blue Ridge and 15 against Rabun; Adam Hedden scored 12 against Blue Ridge and 6 against Rabun; Eric Chen scored 7 against Blue Ridge and 2 against Rabun; David Parrish scored 5 against Blue Ridge and 3 against Rabun; Andrew Billingsley scored 5 against Blue Ridge and 2 against Rabun.

The next game is at home against Robbinsville, Tuesday, Nov. 29.

Kalie Buras scores a point for the team, Friday, Nov. 18 against Blue Ridge.



Photo by Kim Lewicki



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Team learning to play hard & smart

The Lady Highlanders won their second game of the season Friday, Nov. 18 against Blue Ridge 47 to 33. They are still learning to play as a team and Coach Brett Lamb expects a lot of them. "I want them to play hard and smart," he said. But coaches expect more from their team than their fans do.

Top scorers at Friday night's game were Allison Winn and Toni Schmitt with 10 points each; Katie Bryson and Kaylie Buras each scored 7 points; Keri Raby scored 6; Maggie Dearth scored 4 and Becca Wyatt and Bailey Buck each scored 2 points. Wyatt suffered a severe sprained

ankle but it didn't stop her from playing against Rabun County, Saturday, Nov. 19.

The Lady Highlanders lost their third game 30 to 58 Saturday, but Highlands fans are behind them all the way.

Top scorer was Toni Schmitt with 8 points; Becca Wyatt with 6; Katie Bryson with 5; and Ramsey Ashburn and Bailey Buck each scored 2 points.

Keri Raby lead the team with 15 rebounds, Toni Schmitt followed with 8 and Katie Bryson had 7.

The next home game is against Robbinsville, Tuesday, Nov. 29.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Dinner seating etiquette



Pastor Eddie Ingram
Highlands United Methodist Church

Memories of Thanksgiving circle in my head as we enter into the week inaugurating "The Fat Season."

The season kicks off on Thursday with my Granny's turkey, my Aunt Donnie's famous potato salad, my mom's yeast rolls, and my Aunt Dodda's pumpkin pie. We have gotten older but our traditions have stayed just about the same.

Growing up in our family, we had three tables - all of which symbolized your rank in the family tree. First there was the dining room table. All young eyes dream of a day when they will have their place there. When you made it to the dining room table, you had arrived.

Fully decorated with white table cloth, cloth napkins and candles, it was the most prestigious and coveted place to sit and enjoy Thanksgiving dinner. The dining room table was reserved for grandparents, for aunts and uncles, based on age and number of years earned attending Thanksgivings over the years.

After the dining room table, the next table on the pecking order was the kitchen table. The kitchen table was not decorated so nicely. It was more casual with plastic place mats and a ceramic turkey as the centerpiece. The kitchen table was in the fray of the heavy kitchen traffic experienced on Thanksgiving Day. But it was a real table and was close to all of the food. The kitchen table was where my older cousins had earned a place - those waiting for the one day when they would graduate from the kitchen to the dining room to enjoy the meal.

And finally, tucked away in the corner of the family room, was the dreaded kiddie table. The kiddie table was an undecorated card table set up to provide those of us on the low end of the totem pole a place to eat. The kiddie table was in the far reaches of the house, so far away from the kitchen that refills and second helpings required a lot of time and effort to attain.

When I got old enough to know better, I realized I didn't want to sit at the kiddie table. For years I was forced to endure Thanksgiving with the younger, food-throwing, bib-wearing, drooling younger cousins. I was in the predicament of being the "oldest of the youngest". I am happy to report that I finally graduated from the kiddie table when I got into my twenties, but have since returned to it by being the parent of two children who are forced to sit there each Thanksgiving.

In ancient Jewish tradition, table etiquette was serious business. Your place at the table was about

•See SPIRITUALLY page 21

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Sunday at 7

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BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 9 a.m. - choir
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy
Communion each service

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST CHURCH

743-9370

The Rev. Thomas Allen

"Traditional Episcopal Worship"

Sunday Worship and communion at 2 p.m.
Tuesday Noon Bible Study: noon Parish House
Thursday worship and communion at 10:30 a.m.
Pot Luck Dinner: Last Sunday of the Month.
All services at the Community Bible Church

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Wilson, (828) 743-3379
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Prayer - 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service - 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)
Steven E. Kerhoulas, Senior Pastor
www.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: Holy Eucharist - 8 a.m.; Sunday School - 9
a.m.; Choir - 9:45 a.m.; Holy Eucharist - 10:30 a.m.;
Youth Group - 5 p.m.
Mondays: Women's Cursillo Group - 4 & 5:30
Christmas Chorale - 7 p.m.
Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall - 8; Staff Mtg. -
9:30 a.m.; Flying Solo - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays: Supper & Program - 5:30 p.m.; Choir
Rehearsal - 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist - 10 a.m.; Gulf Coast
Support - 10:30 a.m.; Women's Cursillo - noon.
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.; Sunday School - 9:30 &
9:45.

Wednesdays: Childrens Devotions - 9:30 a.m.;
Supper - 6 p.m.; Choir - 7 p.m.
Thursdays: Bible Study - 10 a.m.

Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia - 10 a.m. & 5

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
Sun: School - 9:30 & 9:45 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wed: Supper - 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study & activities - 6

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

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

Sundays: Worship/Communion - 10:30

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Choir - 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
For more information, call
(706)-745-1842.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Tien, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Wednesdays & Fridays: Mass - 9 a.m.
Saturday Vigil Mass - 4 p.m.
Sundays: Mass - 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth - 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

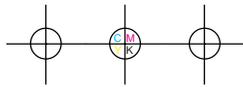
Pastor Rev. Wayne Price
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769
Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby
Sundays: Fellowship & Worship - 11
WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11



... SPIRITUALLY continued from page 20

your place in society. Gathering around the table to share a meal was a reflection of religious and social life for the Jewish people.

Where a person sat at a banquet determined one's social standing. The closer you were to the head of the table, the higher you were in social and religious prestige and position.

In the 14th chapter of the Book of Luke, the Pharisees watched Jesus closely as he went to the house of a religious leader to share in a wedding banquet. Jesus was watching them, too. He noticed how the guests took the places of honor and prestige around the table, as was their custom. And so Jesus took this opportunity to teach them something new about their place at the table. He told them, "when you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host....go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'friend move up higher...'"

This must have puzzled the guests. After all, who could possibly be more deserving and prestigious than the wedding party and special guests? Who could possibly be more worthy than the religious ones? Hadn't they earned their seat of honor, and deserved it more than anyone who could possibly show up? But Jesus tells them in verse 12-14 who might show up. "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid, but when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind."

How rude! The gospel is offensive because it upsets our rules of what is proper. I am concerned about the trap into which we fall - thinking somehow we deserve what we have. The danger of believing we have earned what we have received.

But looking in my own life, what do I really have that I deserve? Healthy, beautiful children? Living in Highlands, North Carolina? Being a pastor at Highlands United Methodist Church? Good health? Being born an American citizen and enjoying the bounty of this country?

I haven't been good enough to deserve any of this. I could never be good enough to earn these things. It is all a gift to me. In fact, I can't really think of anything that brings joy in my life that I really deserve. It is all mine just because God is good. It is God's grace, completely undeserved and that which cannot be earned. If I can somehow grasp the depth of this truth, perhaps I may have room at my table for those I have deemed unclean and undeserving. You and I both know the people we think are "worse sinners" than us. If we as people may grasp this truth of those whom God honors,

perhaps it would cure some of the ills of race and class in our society.

In some regions of the Appalachian mountains, it is tradition that families leave an empty chair at their table on Thanksgiving Day. They set a place at the table as they gather to

sit and enjoy the meal. As the tradition goes, just in case someone shows up at your door, hungry, and in need, the place at the table is set so that they know they are welcome and belong. It is my prayer that the truth of God's grace may open the door for you to

rethink your perception of someone and welcome them into your presence. But here is the catch - not at the kiddie table, but at your place in the dining room. White tablecloth, cloth napkins, candles and all.

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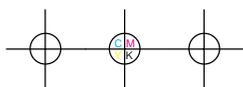
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NH

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Through Dec. 16

• Signups for Macon County Boys Basketball for boys ages 7-18. Applications are available at the Highlands Civic Center. The cost is \$30. Birth certificates are required. For more information contact Michelle Munger at 526-8029 or 342-3551.

On-going

• On Mondays, from 4-6 p.m., The Food Pantry is open for anyone needing provisions – canned goods and nonperishables – at Highlands United Methodist Church building on Church Street Alley.

• Anyone interested in officiating basketball this upcoming season should contact the Southwestern Officials Association. Officials are needed for all levels of play in WNC, including middle school and high school. For more information contact Lori Jones, Booking Agent, at 828-507-4404.

• At ...on the Verandah through the Nov. 26, live music — Chad Reed, piano player — on Friday and Saturday nights.

• At Bascom-Louise Gallery: Tuesdays, Art for pre-schoolers, 9:30-10 a.m.; Tuesdays, Kindergarten-first grade, 3:15-4:15 p.m.; Wednesdays, Home-schooled students, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.; Grades 6-9, Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m.; Grades 2-5, Wednesday, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

• At Paoletti's Raffle Tickets for sale to support the New Orleans Humane Society, Habitat for Humanity and for Thanksgiving dinners for the parishes affected. Raffle tickets are \$50 with seven winners. The drawing will be November 21.

• GULF COAST SUPPORT GROUP — Anyone displaced by Hurricane Katrina who would like to get together come to a group meeting at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Thursdays at 10:30.

• Cashiers Quilters Guild meets at the United Methodist Church in Cashiers, every Wednesday at 12:30.

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

• Cy Timmons at Fressers at Helen's Barn every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. until close.

• Live Music at Buck's Coffee Cafe Thursday-Saturday, 8-11 p.m.

• Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4:30-6:30. Saturday, complimentary samples 12:30-4.

• HealthTracks, at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, offers special fitness classes Monday through Thursday. HealthTracks at 526-1348 for details.

• Each Thursday – Open House at Chestnut Hill of Highlands, Highlands-Cashiers only senior residential community. Refreshments and tours of the model home and Clubhouse.

• 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 sanctuary, Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wednesdays and Fridays at noon.

Nov. 24 - 25

• The Highlands Civic Center and grounds will be closed Thursday and Fri-

day for the Thanksgiving holidays.

Nov. 25-26

• Christmas Arts & Crafts Festival indoors at Sapphire Valley Community Center, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Be photographed with Santa each day, too. Quality artisans, quality work. Free parking and admission. For more information, call 743-1163.

• Mountain Makings 3rd Annual Christmas in Brevard Art & Craft Show inside the Gym at the Brevard College on Hwy. 64 in Brevard (located between Cashiers & Hendersonville, N.C.) Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. both Friday & Saturday. Food and art and craft demonstrations. For more information, call Kathie Finley at 828-526-3181.

Nov. 25

• Highlands United Methodist Youth are selling Christmas wreaths available at the church. Profits from this sale will be used toward the mission trip to Bolivia in the spring of 2006. Wreaths are 24-inch diameter and crafted from locally grown Fraser fir, decorated with pine cones and a bow. To help us determine the quantity to order, please place your order in advance if possible. Call 526-3376.

• The Instant Theatre Company's popular series, Songwriters-In-The-Round, will have its fourth performance of the year on Friday at 8 p.m. at the Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square. Songwriters-In-The-Round features both local and out-of-town musicians, singing and playing their own music, and trading stories back and forth about what inspired each of their songs. Special holiday ticket prices for this day after Thanksgiving treat are \$10 for adults and \$5 for 17 and under. Seating is limited and reservations are strongly suggested. Call the ITC Box Office at 342-9197 to purchase tickets.

• Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival presents its Fall Concert, Friday, 5 p.m., at PAC. Franz Schubert's Winterreise performed by Daniel Cole, accompanied by William Ransom. Call 526-9060.

Nov. 26

• Saturday, The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4 mile hike to Turtleback and Rainbow Falls on the Horsepasture River, 11 miles from Cashiers. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:30 a.m. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Drive 20 miles round trip. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Walker Taylor, 743-6977.

• Classically trained pianist Anna Dolga is a student from Ukraine, appearing only at Sweet Treats. She has delighted crowds throughout the season with her talent of old classics and personal compositions. Join us from 7-10 pm.

• Pumpkin Cream Cheese Roll-ups, pecans, peanuts, jellies, jams and other baked goods FOR SALE, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the corner of Second and Main streets between the Masonic Lodge and HUMC and on the corner of Fifth & Main streets near the Presbyterian Church. Proceeds fund Highlands Chapter of the Eastern Star charitable programs.

• Annual Highlands Town Lighting, 6 p.m.

• Photographer George Humphries, will autograph his new "Images of the Blue Ridge Parkway," Saturday, 1 to 3 p.m. at Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street.

Nov. 29

• 2005 ECO Film Series at Instant Theatre on Main Street in Oak Square. "The Green Zone." A stream and its riparian zone are really a single entity. Film shows how protecting a stream or restoring a river requires preservation of this vital green zone. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., Film begins 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Call 536-5999 for info.

• HS Basketball at home against Robbinsville. Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys, 8 p.m.

Dec. 2

• HS Basketball at home against Walhalla. Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys, 8 p.m.

• Highlands PTO and Pescado's will host a fundraising dinner the evening of the home basketball games against Walhalla. Dinner will be from 5:30 until 7:30 in the cafeteria (games begin at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.). Please join us for a tasty dinner and stay to cheer on the teams!

Dec. 3

• On Saturday there will be an "Open House" at the Highlands Historical Village on N. Fourth street next door to the Rec Park from noon to 4 p.m. On exhibit are many artifacts from the early days of Highlands. It's free.

• BBQ at the Bascom-Louise Gallery at the Hudson Library on Main Street, noon, right after the parade.

• Highlands United Methodist Youth are selling Christmas wreaths available at the church. Profits from this sale will be used toward the mission trip to Bolivia in the spring of 2006. Wreaths are 24-inch diameter and crafted from locally grown Fraser fir, decorated with pine cones and a bow. To help us determine the quantity to order, please place your order in advance if possible. Call 526-3376.

• Annual Highlands Christmas Parade on Main Street, 11 a.m.

• A Holiday Gift Show & Sale by the Highlands Plateau Craftsmen and Bascom-Louise Gallery, after the parade, Saturday, from noon-6 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center. Featuring artists who have exhibited at the Bascom-Louise Gallery.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take two easy short hikes for a total of 2.5 miles in Blue Valley to the amethyst mines supposedly operated by Tiffany's years ago and to Picklesimer's Rock House, where a waterfall drops over a huge overhanging rock shelf under which prehistoric people once sheltered. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. Bring a drink, a lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Drive 25 miles round trip. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations.

• Pumpkin Cream Cheese Roll-ups, pecans, peanuts, jellies, jams and other baked goods FOR SALE, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the corner of Second and Main streets between the Masonic Lodge and HUMC and on the corner of Fifth & Main streets near the Presbyterian Church. Proceeds fund Highlands Chapter of the Eastern Star charitable programs.

Dec. 4

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take

an easy 1.5 mile hike on the Tennesse Farm loop. Meet at the Riverside Road picnic area off Hwy. 441 S. in Otto at 2 p.m. Drive 3 miles round trip. Reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820.

• Friends of the Library Christmas Party, Sunday in the Macon County Public Library, 108 Wayah St., Franklin. Guest speaker: Kathryn Stripling Byer, poet laureate of North Carolina. Holiday musical entertainment by The Carolines, the county's popular women's chorus. Free to the public. Refreshments available. For more information, call 524-2201

Dec. 6

• HS Basketball at home against Franklin. Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys, 8 p.m.

• HIARPT's Dialogue at Civic Center, 10-11:30 a.m. Topic: Tom Friedman's *The World is Flat*. Bill Martin—coordinator.

Dec. 8

• This annual event of the Christmas season has been the Highlands Community Players' gift to the community for the past 10 years. On Thursday evening at 7 p.m. in the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, HCP actors will again present a program of readings appropriate to the holiday season, some humorous, some serious and informative, some heart-warming and sentimental—all entertaining—interspersed with live music by community performers. It's free.

Dec. 10

• Highlands Community Chorus presents its Annual Christmas Chorale lead by Fletcher Wolfe at the Episcopal Church a 7 p.m. It's free.

• HS Basketball at home against Hayesville. Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys, 8 p.m.

• Pumpkin Cream Cheese Roll-ups, pecans, peanuts, jellies, jams and other baked goods FOR SALE, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the corner of Second and Main streets between the Masonic Lodge and HUMC and on the corner of Fifth & Main streets near the Presbyterian Church. Proceeds fund Highlands Chapter of the Eastern Star charitable programs.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate five-mile hike to Siler Bald with an elevation gain of 900 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9:30 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Reservations are required. Call leader David Sapin, 369-2628 for reservations.

Dec. 11

• Highlands Community Chorus presents its Annual Christmas Chorale lead by Fletcher Wolfe at the Episcopal Church a 4 p.m. It's free.

Dec. 12

• HS Basketball at home against Rosman. Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys, 8 p.m.

Dec. 13

• HIARPT's Dialogue at Civic Center, 10-11:30 a.m. Topic "Dark Side of American History," with a selection from Howard Zinn's "Peoples' History of the United States." Alex Redmountain—coordinator.

Dec. 14

• Highlands Plateau Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count.

Dec. 16

• HS Basketball at home against Talulah Falls. Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys, 8 p.m.

Dec. 17

J. C. Honeycutt and Wanda Lu Paxton appear at ITC Nov. 25

J.C. Honeycutt and Wanda Lu Paxton are coming to town for one night only! These unusual and entertaining songwriters will sing and play their own music on November 25 at 8 p.m. at The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square. This is the fourth in the ITC's popular Songwriters-in-the-Round series.

J.C. Honeycutt is best known for her humorous and satiric songs and has been called "the love child of Tom Lehrer and Minnie Pearl." J.C. grew up in rural Iredell County, where her parents, both singers and lovers of traditional music, taught her everything from mountain gospel to murder ballads. She took a side track by studying classical piano for ten years, worked as a church organist, and studied fiction writing with Reynolds Price at Duke University.

Ms. Honeycutt entertains a theory that there is no subject impossible to address with humor and she has demonstrated this with songs addressing everything from our obsession with body image to aging. Her job as an insurance fraud investigator doesn't leave her as much time for music as she'd like, but she's found time to open for Cheryl Wheeler at Charlotte's Neighborhood Theatre and for Christine Lavin at the Sylvia Theater in York, SC. She also serves on the Board of the Charlotte Folk Society where she has booked a house-concert series for several years, and handles bookings for the Folk Stage at Charlotte's annual Festival in the Park, as well as a songwriter showcase co-sponsored by NSAI/Charlotte and Borders Books & Music.

Audiences have said that Wanda Lu Paxton sounds like Mary Chapin, while others insist she is more like Joni Mitchell, Judy Collins or even a female Jimmy Buffet. Her music was forged on Elvis' 78 rpm records and being happily thrown on stage at the age of four. The result is music that is an intuitive mirror of what life is really about. Wanda Lu has been a performing songwriter for over thirty-three years. She has received airplay

on both public and commercial radio stations nationwide, several stations in Europe, and continues to be aired on DISH-CD via satellite.

Ms. Paxton (Greene at the time) may be best known as former News Director at WNCW Public Radio 88.7 FM, Spindale, NC. She has opened for Chet Atkins, Tom Paxton, Mike Cross and Greg Brown and shared the stage with Claire Lynch, Doc Watson, David Holt and David Wilcox. Her first CD, Mechanicsville, was released in 1995, and her second, Telling Lies, was released nationally two years later.

Host, and organizer, of the Songwriters-in-the-Round series, Jon Zachary, is an award winning songwriter whose work has earned the praise of writers as diverse as John McCutcheon, Steve Seskin and Guy Clark. Through his songs, Jon is a master storyteller and explorer of the human heart. He keeps the distance from tears to laughter short and believable. J on grew up in Cashier, NC and has recently returned to live in the area.

Special holiday ticket prices for this day after Thanksgiving treat are \$10 for adults and \$5 for 17 and under. Seating is limited and reservations are strongly

suggested. Call the ITC Box Office at 342-9197 to purchase tickets.

The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main is located at 310 Main

Street, across the street from The Methodist Church and above Sports Page Restaurant and Shiraz Rugs.



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



Coffee, tea, wine, pastries, sandwiches
384 Main Street



J.C. Honeycutt and Wanda Lu Paxton are coming to town for one night only These unusual and entertaining songwriters will sing and play their own music on November 25 at 8 p.m. at The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square. Special holiday ticket prices for this day after Thanksgiving treat are \$10 for adults and \$5 for 17 and under. Seating is limited Call the ITC Box Office at 342-9197 to purchase tickets.





Now serving light fare (all day):

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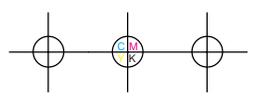
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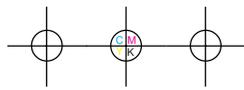
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Must be proficient in Microsoft Office Professional. Club Connect software experience preferred. Duties include preparation of financial statements, payroll, budgeting, and human resources for club and related companies. Responsibilities include supervision of bookkeeper and oversight of accounts payable and receivable.

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GENERAL MANAGER FOR PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

– for a private country club community in Highlands, NC. This is a 350-home community with a 24 hour security force. The ideal candidate will have progressive management experience coupled with 5 years operational management experience in property management, construction or related fields. The General Manager will supervise 9 to 11 people and will work closely with a Board of Directors. Candidate must be able to develop and manage a budget, effectively implement Board policies, liaison with community government officials, provide guidance and leadership to an es-

tablished group of employees and members while marketing homeowner's services to existing and new members. The position is available immediately. The salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Retirement and health benefits are available. Please send resume to: General Manager, P. O. Box 220, Highlands, NC 28741.

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Candidate must be licensed for laboratory work and have a minimum of two years' radiology experience. This position is full time, temporary. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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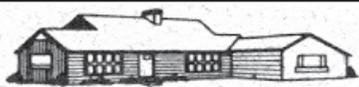
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COOK – at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. One year experience in institutional or volume cooking necessary. Must have knowledge of proper sanitation practices. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

DIETARY AIDE – Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Duties include working patient tray line and cafeteria line, stock kitchen, washing dishes. Full time position, 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., flexible days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar at 828-526-1301.

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REAL ESTATE SALES

THE COACH CLUB, CHESTNUT STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC. Lot # 4 Oversized, well landscaped private lot with 10 X 16 coach house and large patios. Located inside private gated 9 –Site Park in the city of Highlands. Restaurants, theater and fine arts are all within walking distance of the park. At an elevation of 4118', the average summer temperature is 780. Some of the finest activities to also include are hiking, golf, tennis and of course, shopping, in a town full of unique shops. One of the finest parks in the country, truly. \$260,000. Call 828-526-1029 or 4363 e-mail: bobnancy@brmemc.net

THE COACH CLUB, CHESTNUT STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC. Lot # 5 Oversized, well landscaped private lot with 10 X 16 coach house and large patios. Located inside private gated 9 –Site Park in the city of Highlands. Restaurants, theater and fine arts are all within walking distance of the park. At an elevation of 4118', the average summer temperature is 780. Some of the finest activities to also include are hiking, golf, tennis and of course, shopping, in a town full of unique shops. One of the finest parks in the country, truly. \$240,000. Call 828-526-1029 or 4363 e-mail: bobnancy@brmemc.net

INCREDIBLE WHITESIDE VIEW – 2.5 gentle acres, 3/2, \$450 K.. Call 743-1947. No Realtors.

LOT FOR SALE – Highlands, close to town. 1.5 acre lot with 300-ft. creek front and long view. Only 2.8 miles from Main Street, Highlands. Lots of large rhodies, hardwood trees and Mountain Laurel. Easy building site with community well, telephone, electric and septic in place. Dramatic waterfall at entrance. Community will be gated. Priced to sell @ \$290,000. Directions: From Main Street in Highlands, Take N.C. 106 (Dillard Road) south 1.8 miles, turn left on Mountain Laurel Drive, take first left on Moonlight and first right on Owl Gap, pause to enjoy the waterfall view. Continue on paved road to intersection, turn right, take next right. Lot sign on property. Call 828-526-9622.

BY OWNER – Two blocks from Main Street. Remodeled 2-bed/2-bath second floor condo with fireplace and glassed-in sunroom. Extensive use of mirrors. Must see to appreciate. 526-4874.

BY OWNER-SAPPHIRE VALLEY – A unique "Timberpeg" Post & Beam home. Three levels: Upper Level, lofted bedroom, full bath and bed room with its own deck. Main level: Open living room w/fireplace, dining room and kitchen, 2 full baths, master bed room, and a large deck with a spectacular view. Lower level: large family room w/fireplace, full bath, laundry room and an outside patio. A fully finished room with full bath over a 2 car garage. Also a separate roomy workshop. All this located on +/-2 acres, on a private cul de sac. The entire property backs onto a green area. By appointment 828-743-2567

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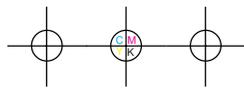
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HIGHLANDS COVE

Fantastic views grab you immediately, but once you are inside the home this spacious 4 bedroom, 4-1/2 bath offers you so much more. Vaulted ceilings, stone fireplace, hardwood floors, outside decking and spacious kitchen. If you like to golf or just relax and take in the view, this home perched on the high ridge is just the one.

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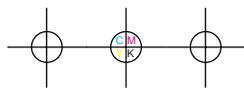
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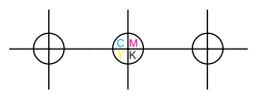
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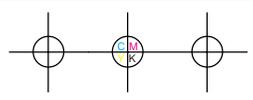
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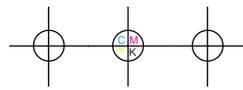
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VIEWS CONDO AT HIGHLANDS COVE 3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 2 Fireplaces, Professionally Furnished & Decorated. Offered at \$795,000.



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