Sewer policy still on hold
By Kim Lewicki

The town’s mandatory sewer connection policy continues to hang in the balance.

Commissioners are juggling the town’s cost of sewerage with the fees and stipulations they feel they can

project onto Highlands’ citizens to do it.

At the Oct. 19 Town Board meeting, Commissioner Dennis DeWolf, who has pondered the proposed amendments to the sewer connection policy and fee schedule at length, suggested the town come up with a long-term sewer collection

• See SEWER page 8

Watershed project could be a win-win for school
By Kim Lewicki

The chance that a free $250,000 earmarked for Highlands School could be tossed away sent concerned PTO members and parents to Monday night’s Macon County School Board meeting.

For more information, UCWA Director Katy Calloway, Highlands School gym architect Donny Luke, and Highlands Watershed Administrator Larry Gantenbein have been discussing “repairing” school property in the vicinity of the soccer practice field and the bog area along the stream that runs through the playground.

At the August school board meeting, Calloway presented a preliminary Highlands School Watershed Restoration Project proposal. It was tabled pending

• See WATERSHED page 7

Bear ‘family’ helping hurricane victims

Who would have known that a picture taken of a bear family at Community Bible Church would raise more than $2,000 to aid in Hurricane relief? Thanks to the Highlands Newspaper and enthusiastic bear lovers from all over, money continues to pour in to support World Relief, said church officials. “When the Sept. 23 paper came out with the bear picture, we were flooded with phone calls. People have even come into our office holding the clipping from that paper,” they said. The “Bear pictures” are still available at CBC. Call 828-526-4685. All proceeds go directly to World Relief to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Board targets priorities

The Land Use Planning Committee now has a path of priorities to follow toward the eventual implementation of the Land Use Plan.

At the Oct. 10 Town Board meeting, commissioners looked over a list of land use plan priorities they had previously requested from the planning board.

Though the land use plan is pages thick, priorities were reduced to three pages regarding commercial areas, natural environment and residential areas.

Town Planner, Larry Gantenbein said there were several priorities which involved simple tweaking of the current

• See PRIORITIES page 9

Curious black bear scares local
By Kim Lewicki

Bear encounter or not, Alaina Rastelli will continue to hit the trails.

About 5 p.m. Monday she settled on a small rock outcrop on top of Bridal Veil Falls to enjoy the view. Two minutes later she heard twigs and branches snapping on the trail behind her. She looked up and was face to face with a 250-pound black bear with no obvious escape route except over the falls.

His initial reaction was to paw the ground and huff and puff at her.

Hers was to curl up in a ball and play dead – exactly the wrong thing to do when confronted with a black bear, said officials.

“That’s what I always heard to do when approached by a bear,” said Alaina.

“I kept quiet and acted like I didn’t see him.”

But instead of leaving the area, the bear curiously approached her and rolled her over, leaving marks on her neck and upper arm.

• See BEAR page 7
Dear Editor,

Thank you Planning Board for unanimous approval of the River Walk subdivision concept at the Oct. 11.

Our family could have chosen any developer to tackle this project but since we currently live on the property and have for 28 years and plan to continue to live here with children in the future, choosing the current developer was very important.

We picked a developer after months of thought, as we did not want to sell to multiple developers which could destroy all our pristine environment. Since we live in the middle of the property and could have been impacted mostly, we chose Tom Turrentine for obvious reasons. We have known Tom and his family for more than 26 years and are very familiar with the quality of his other projects, his attention to detail and his deep concern to protect the environment as well as all the beautiful trees.

We have worked diligently with him to create a plan that will leave approximately 88 percent of the land in its natural state forever. Our plan exceeded our wildest dreams in achieving this goal. We were always concerned with the impact after the build out of the ¼-acre Laurel Terrace subdivision. We now can spread this density over the entire 34 acres and place each house among the trees and natural surroundings while maintaining the privacy we currently enjoy.

Our family was also very concerned with protecting our neighbors who surround the property. Under current zoning, Mr. Turrentine could start 80 houses which only needed a building permit, and at that point the total amount of green space would be in the hands of the 80 individual home owners. Mr. Turrentine has agreed to build 10 less homes than zoning allows and put the remainder of the land (88%) into a trust never to be disturbed and enjoyed by all of us.

With our family living there and concern for fellow adjoining property owners, we look forward to the Town Board approving Mr. Turrentine’s plan and we thank the Town Board in advance for their vote and keeping this beautiful property as close to its natural state forever.

The Scudder Family
Al & Frank Scudder, Highlands

• See LETTERS page 2
• BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS •

John Hayes Shaheen
John Hayes Shaheen was born on September 3, 2005, weighing 8 lbs. and 6.5 oz. and 22 inches long. He was welcomed home by parents Jon and Gibby Shaheen and his big sister Savannah. Maternal grandparents are Gilbert and Susie Beck, great-grandfather Fred Green of Highlands. Fraternal grandparents are Bill (Pops) and Ruby Shaheen of Scaly Mountain.

Brionna Ann Potts
Ryan and Keeshia Potts of Marion, N.C., announce the birth of a daughter, Brionna Ann Potts. She was born on Oct. 10 and weighed 8 pounds 8 ounces and was 22 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Willie Ann Turbyfill of Heaton, N.C., and great-grandmother is Beulah Turbyfill.

Paternal grandparents are Terry and Karen Potts of Highlands; great-grandmother is Velamae Potts of Naples, Fla.

• OBITUARY •

Jean H. Woodsby

Jean was born in Spartanburg, S.C., and was a member of First Baptist Church of Orlando. She was a generous benefactor of many Christian organizations including, “The Jesus Film Project,” Global Harvest Mission, Campus Crusade for Christ, Samaritan’s Purse (Hurricane Katrina Fund), and Edgewood Children’s Ranch. She also sponsored many children from Honduras.

A celebration of her life was held at 1:00 p.m. on October 17, 2005 at First Baptist Church, Jim Henry Chapel in Orlando with Pastor Jim Henry presiding.

Memorial donations may be made to Arthritis Foundation, 125 South Swoope Ave., Suite 107, Maitland, Fla.

... LETTERS continue from page 2

Article warms hearts
Dear Editor,
Just a quick note of thanks for the incredible coverage of Sara’s article in the Oct. 14 issue of Highlands’ Newspaper. Ordinarily, as a father, I would never want my daughter anywhere close to a “centerfold,” but I’ll gladly make an exception in this case! And as the parent of a previous exchange student, you can certainly identify with the joy of seeing your child making the most of this fantastic opportunity. If circulation appears higher than most weeks, you can blame us as we grabbed a few extra copies. Thanks for the great coverage of such a wonderful program.

Thomas Bates, Cashiers
• See LETTERS page 20
**LAUGHING AT LIFE**

What were they thinking?

I admit I am not the brightest person on this planet, but I am smart enough not to pitch my tent next to a creek or build a city in a big hole. Whatever possessed the French to build New Orleans 12 feet under sea level goes far beyond my comprehension. When I ask my French friends, they just stare at me.

Now I know why they called them the “Coonass,” which means “French rednecks who build cities in holes.” Didn’t they know water runs downhill? Maybe it was greed or the heat that caused this lapse of common sense. Please, do not write in with corny French jokes ’cause I know them all. Besides, I like the French, as long as they are not building a city for me. Here’s how it all happened.

La Salle, René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de... or is that René-Robert Cavelier La Salle, Sieur de? (Let’s just call him Rene, the Coonass) arrived in Louisiana and said, “Let’s build a city right here in this big hole in the ground with that big lake above us on one side and that mighty river above us on the other.” “Splendid, René,” others said. The “others” were obviously “Coonass” also. TA DA, New Orleans was founded in a big hole. It’s OK to insult these particular Coonass’ because they are dead and can’t defend themselves.

It gets worse. Read the history. Shortly after construction started, the river swelled and flooded the town. “Hmmmm, did we make a mistake? Nah, keep building,” they commanded. Then it happened again and again, but instead of admitting their mistake and moving elsewhere, they decided to pile dirt up around the town and compound their mistakes. This dirt, of course, came from the hole, making it even deeper. Because electric pumps had not been invented, all new home sales came with free wading pants for the occupants.

Finally, someone thought of concrete and they built a levee, which

*See WOOLDRIDGE page 12*
Managing diabetes, bereavement are topics shared with area doctors

Once again area physicians were afforded an opportunity to hear two of the nation’s leading medical experts as Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and the Highlands-Cashiers Senior Physicians group held their final medical symposium of the season here recently.

Nearly 30 area physicians and others attended the breakfast event on Oct. 8, which featured presentations by two authorities on widely different areas of medicine.

The opening lecture was given by a national past president of the American Diabetes Association, John Colwell, MD, PhD, professor of medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina at Charleston, and Director of the Diabetes Center, spoke on managing the many health factors associated with diabetes.

He was followed at the podium by J. Richard Williams, Jr., MD, CPE, FACPE, one of the nation’s leading experts on Hospice care and bereavement. Williams is the former National Medical Director and Vice President for Medical Affairs of HospiceCare, Inc., and a member of the board of directors of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

“The reputation of these speakers and the quality of their presentations were indicative of the outstanding level of medical knowledge and expertise that we have been able to bring to area physicians during the course of these symposiums over the last several years,” said Donald C. Mullen, MD, retired cardiac surgeon and organizer of the Highlands-Cashiers Senior Physicians group, “This continuing series has provided a wonderful opportunity for both retired and active physicians to learn about a wide range of medical topics, including cutting-edge techniques from some top people in the field.”

Dr. Colwell, who has authored three books, 40 individual book chapters on diabetes, and nearly 150 peer-reviewed and other articles on the subject, stressed that recent research has reinforced the importance of aggressive management of both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes in order to minimize the damage the disease can cause to various parts of the body and to significantly reduce the risk of death from cardiovascular disease.

Type 1 diabetes is usually diagnosed in children and young adults, and was previously known as juvenile diabetes. In Type 1 diabetes, the body does not produce insulin. In Type 2 diabetes, the most common form of diabetes, either the body does not produce enough insulin or the cells ignore the insulin.

Insulin is necessary for the body to be able to use glucose, which is the basic fuel for the cells in the body.

The potential of damage to organs such as the eyes and kidneys associated with diabetes can be reduced by as much as 50-75 percent with aggressive management, he said, while the risk of death from cardiovascular disease in those with diabetes can also be substantially reduced, though the rates differ for each type of diabetes.

The incidence of Type 2 diabetes is increasing, but Dr. Colwell said that may be due to the fact that it is age related, and Americans are now living longer than ever before.

Although a topic only recently coming to the forefront of medicine, Dr. Williams told the group that a number of studies have shown a clear link between bereavement and the increased risk of death for the surviving partner, particularly in the elderly.

Some studies have shown that the surviving spouse may be twice as likely to die within 12 months of a loved one. Nearly a third of elderly survivors experienced clinical depression within that year period, and depression has shown to be associated with an increased risk of death from cardiovascular disease, even in survivors who have had no previous history of heart disease.

Dr. Williams cited one large study that showed 30 percent of men and 15 percent of women age 65 or older will die within 7-10 months after the death of their spouse.

However, Dr. Williams added that those who receive some type of becomes support, such as counseling or interaction with a support group, fair far better. Those who have spiritual belief or participate in religious activities are also less likely to suffer either physical or mental illness as a result of grief.
The race for Town Board
Every week prior to the Nov. 5 election, candidates have agreed to answer questions.

Question #8:
In your opinion, what, if anything, is wrong with Highlands today? How would you recitify the "problem?"

Highlands’ major shortcomings right now is its relatively small area that has city sewer connections available. Presently the town has only 20 percent of its area with sewer lines installed. The current state-of-the-art sewer plant is being tripled in capacity to handle present as well as future growth. This is a major challenge since sewer line construction costs in a stone surface is terribly expensive.

The other challenge is meeting the demand of drinking water. The present water treatment plant can be enlarged by one third in the current building. The primary water source, Big Creek Arm of Lake Sequoyah, experienced tremendous siltation during the Fall of 2004 hurricanes, Frances and Ivan. If this siltation is not removed before it’s declared wetlands, the town’s two Big Creek intake valves will have to be relocated into Lake Sequoyah’s deeper waters.

Both of the above situations demand attention and planning to meet the ever changing increased quality standards forthcoming from EPA.

Highlands is at a major crossroads in its growth process, and its character as a pleasant mountain village for quality family life is being threatened. We are becoming a town of more permanent residents, but also a town of increasing numbers of second homes. This is all fine because Highlands is a place where people come to enjoy the beauty and serenity of our wonderful outdoors in a peaceful and enjoyable way, whether they are part time or permanent residents.

However, in the downtown area high-priced, Aspen-like resort development has interfered with the village character we have cherished for so long. There should be a moratorium on this rapid and uncontrolled development until we can have a better overall plan for expansion of the business area.

Fragmented decision-making that doesn’t take into consideration the cumulative impact of those decisions has overwhelmed our town planning process and the enforcement of its ordinances.

Land values have escalated so fast that many local people have trouble making ends meet in our town. Tax relief for the elderly and the long term residents should be investigated and strongly considered if we are going to continue to maintain our vision of a family friendly town of hardworking industrious people. Most second homeowners can absorb tax increases, but it has become a burden for many of our working residents. We do not want to become simply a playground for the wealthiest of our society.

It is more important to preserve our remaining green space and quality of life than it is to develop more homes, businesses and condominiums. If we are not careful, we are going to overdevelop the area, making it unattractive and unfit for enjoyment of the village character and
... QUESTIONS continued from page 6

Commissioner Candidate
Hank Ross

Problems?
To me this is a wonderful place to live. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else.
The problem with Highlands is that too many other people feel the same way.

... BEAR from page 1

“That's when I screamed, which startled the bear and gave me the chance to jump up. I crossed the stream and started bushwhacking my way through the woods,” she said.

Alaina has since learned that black bears react to noise and the flailing of arms. “It was a very humbling experience,” she said. “I don't feel this was an attack. I know he let me go. He was just curious.”

That night NC Wildlife Resource Commission officers from Franklin visited the area but only found evidence of the bear having been there. “We found bags of garbage and tracks,” said Edwin Grant. “We believe he left the area that night.”

He said someone reported almost hitting a bear on U.S. 64 west as it crossed the road at Dry Falls that night. “That could have been him,” he said.

Though the incident occurred on Federal land, animals are the State’s responsibility, said Steve Waldrop, law enforcement officer with the USDA.

Officials and Alaina say the bear's behavior indicates he was more curious than aggressive and “we don’t want this blown out of proportion,” they said.

Nor does Alaina. “I just want people to be educated about what to do. Don’t do what I did. Don’t roll up in a ball and play dead. Make noise. When hiking, take a whistle or an air horn, something that will startle the bear.”

Waldrop said 20 years ago bear sightings were a rare thing but nowadays people are seeing them everywhere.

One State official on the job more than 20 years says he’s only heard of one other time that a bear got that close to a person.

“When Alaina saw the bear pawing at the ground an huffing, it might have been looking for grubs or some other...

... WATERSHED continued from page 1

more information. Since August, it has blossomed into something with much more potential, at no expense to the school or the county.

“Funding for phase I has been secured through Highlands Cove mitigation funds,” said Calloway. “And I just got word that the rest of the funding has been approved through EPA a Water Quality Cooperative Agreement.”

Phase I involves restoring 802 linear feet of stream habitat from the channel ditch running along the back side of the soccer practice field between the elementary and middle school wing to a more natural meandering channel design.

Phase II involves restoring about 4,500 sq. ft. of wetland habitat in the vicinity of the old slide to treat stormwater runoff from the new gym.

Phase III involves building a boardwalk and covered classroom with the wetland environment to encourage hands-on learning and the building of an “interpretable recreation area,” or playground, said Calloway. “These playgrounds typically have a theme but the point is this funding will cover all expenses.”

Concern arose at the Oct. 13 PTO Board Meeting when attendees said Principal Monica Bomengen announced that she had made an executive decision to scrap the UCWA project and move forward with expanding the soccer field behind the school into a regulation-sized soccer field.

“What concerned us was she said it wasn’t appropriate for parents and faculty to be involved in decisions as to how school property is used,” said PTO President Susie deVille Schiffli. “We simply wanted the school board to allow more time for the Highlands community...

See BEAR page 26

See WATERSHED page 9
... QUESTIONS continued from page 7

Actually, Highlands today is in pretty good shape. The problem, I think, is that we aren't looking far enough ahead to plan for tomorrow. If you believe that Highlands today is pretty good and want to keep it that way, then we have to put forth more effort to anticipate what is coming next.

Every question asked in this series has had a future component: growth, planning, recreation, ETJ, fire department employees, etc. Presently, in my opinion, we're just reacting to these issues, frequently after the fact. We need to pay more attention to where we are going, and how to get there, rather than just letting it happen to us.

What would I do? More input from citizens. For instance, the long range planning commission is required every 10 years, but it could be more often. We don't really have much "public information" put out. Town meetings are required to be open to the public, but I think often the issues aren't fully explained or explored. And a little creative thinking saying "no" to anything new will preserve the present, but not necessarily make the future better.

... SEWER continued from page 1

He said it's true that neither the state or the county has a follow-up system in place to check on septic systems over the years, "but to say septic systems don't work in the mountains is just not true."

Commissioner DeWolf suggested hiring an independent consultant to define a failing system. Commissioner James suggested using the consultant to pinpoint potential problem systems in sensitive areas in town. "I don't think it's necessary to ask a consultant to look at the whole town," he said.

DeWolf is also concerned about the cost burden for those who have failing systems and must hook on to adjoining sewer lines but final adoption of the proposed requirement of hooking onto sewer lines but final adoption of the proposed requirement of hooking onto the sewer. "We need to establish a plan, understand potential costs of installation and figure it all into a timeline," he said.

"For too long we've had people in town paying for the wastewater treatment plant without having a collection system available," DeWolf said. Commissioners agree that all new construction must connect to adjoining sewer lines but final adoption of the amended ordinance is hung up on the proposed requirement of hooking onto an adjoining sewer line even if the home is serviced by a working septic system.

"If residents can prove their system is proper and functioning, it seems unfair to make them tie in," said DeWolf.

Even though Commissioner Herb James has said several times that the majority of taxpayers in town are paying for something they're not using and may never use, he agreed saying if a septic system is good, it makes no sense to require someone to hook on to the sewer.

Commissioner Hank Ross said every septic system has a lifespan and if people are required to hook on to town sewer when their septic system fails, eventually everyone will be hooked up. "We have to look at this as a long range plan," he said.

DeWolf said with a master plan in place citizens will know that in a period of time the town will have a sewer collection system in place. "The problem is we're going outside the town and on the fringes with this and we need to be connecting in town," he said.

Resident Rick Siegel said he has a functioning septic system, but would like the town to sewer his street so that if his system fails he can hook on.

But Commissioner Amy Patterson said the town can't put the lines in without users to pay for it. "So we need people to hook up," she said. Siegel suggested a non-subscriber fee where taxpayers would pay a fee for not hooking on if sewer is available.

Commissioner Patterson said in the mountains it's hard to determine what "working fine" means when it comes to septic systems.

"The fact is we don't have the soil for adequate percolation. Just because it's not bubbling up doesn't mean it's working fine," she said.

But resident Bob Wright disagreed. He said it's true that neither the state or the county has a follow-up system in place. "But to say septic systems don't work in the mountains is just not true."

Commissioner DeWolf suggested hiring a consultant to define a failing system. Commissioner James suggested using the consultant to pinpoint potential problem systems in sensitive areas in town. "I don't think it's necessary to ask a consultant to look at the whole town," he said.

DeWolf is also concerned about the cost burden for those who have failing systems and must hook on to adjoining sewer lines but can't afford it.

"We need to look at low-interest loans to help, look at funding for those whose income status demonstrates a need, and look into programs to help finance failed systems," he said.

Resident John Cleaveland and suggested asking the county to be the lead agency in procuring funds. "They run water and sewer all over the town of Franklin. Start asking the county to be the lead agency for any grant you want. They have more clout than the Town Board and they surely do it for Franklin," he said.

In the end, the board sent the ordinance back to the Public Works Committee to hammer out a plan hitting the points outlined in Wednesday's meeting.
... WATERSHED continued from page 7

to review and discuss both the proposed UCWA project and the proposed expansion of the soccer field.”

At Monday’s meeting it was disclosed that the soccer field behind the school never has been, nor can it ever be a regulation-size soccer field due to geographical constraints which dictate the width — namely the granite outcrop behind the school. But the soccer practice field is desperately needed so board members want to make sure that the new plan still has room for the existing field.

“The Buck Creek field isn’t a regulation-size soccer field either and there are too many teams using it for different sports,” said school board vice chair Donnie Edwards. “There just isn’t enough flat land in the area for fields.”

Edwards wants to make sure the meandering part of the natural channel which will replace the ditch that runs along the back side of the soccer field and collects run-off from Satulah Mountain won’t stick too far into the area needed for the soccer field.

Calloway said since this is a voluntary project without mandates from the state, the design can be basically “whatever people want.” “I’m sure we can design it that way,” she said. Since the land is flat, the meanders (curves in the channel) don’t have to be severe. “Meanders are meant to slow down water, but the velocity isn’t that great there because it’s flat,” she said.

The only area under state scrutiny and Clean Water Act stipulations is the perennial stream that runs through the playground. Gantenbein said the ditch along the back of the soccer field is man-made but it is developing into a stream. “But until it has sufficient year-long flow it doesn’t have to be protected because it’s not considered a perennial stream.”

“I think a win-win situation can exist,” said Schiffli. “I hope we can look at all the ramifications benefiting all parties involved. It’s important for Highlands parents and the community to have a say even though the final decision rests with the Macon County School Board.”

Edwards agreed. “I want the best of both worlds,” he said. “But I don’t want to give up one thing to get the other.”

The board tabled the proposed project until the November meeting at which time Calloway said she could have detailed plans with buffer and meandering dimensions delineated between the stream and the soccer field. Schiffli said she is pleased with the outcome.

“I am delighted with the response from the school board, in particular Donnie Edwards’ comments. While he is interested in seeing more information on the stream restoration phase (specifically how far the proposed buffer would move into the practice field), he stated he supports the UCWA project. He is seeking to find a win-win solution that will serve the greatest number of students. This, of course, is what we seek as well.”

Chairman of the school board Kevin Corbin said that parents and other Highlands citizens do have a voice and input as to how school property is used. “He made it clear that we do have a place at the table and an opportunity to be a part of a meaningful discussion. I am most grateful to Chairman Corbin for clarifying that,” said Schiffli.

At Monday’s board meeting, Schiffli said perhaps land could be donated to the school from landowners in town for off-campus fields. The board had no problem with the notion.

... PRIORITIES from page 1

Ordnance. “Some of this we can do all at once and quickly,” he said. “Other parts will take a lot more time.”

Commissioners asked the planning board to dispense with those aspects quickly and then move on to ordinances and ordinance revisions that will take more time.

In the Commercial section, commercial buffering and “big box” development will be dealt with quickly. “Everyone agreed that the business district needs a little help,” said Planning Board Chairman John Cleaveland. One quick fix is sufficient buffering like fencing and landscaping around commercial areas. Cleaveland said “big box” stores with large parking lots will be prohibited, as will the over-development of existing commercial properties.

In the Natural Environment section, natural buffers to protect streams and lakes rather than landscaped green areas and requiring highway buffers will be quickly stipulated, as will the prohibition of high impact or incompatible development.

In the Residential Areas section, controlling development on steep slopes will be dealt with quickly by limits on structure footprints, the removal of vegetation and required topographical information prior to building.

Priorities that will take a bit longer to formalize include the zoning map revision, imposing impact fees, reviewing business zones for incompatible adjoining land uses, prohibiting ridge top construction, and view cutting.

“Right now a 70-house subdivision has no impact fees for the effect it will have on town roads,” said Gantenbein.

Cleaveland agreed. “Also, during construction a lot of roads are destroyed and someone should help pay for those.”

He also suggested imposing fees if a house isn’t finished by a certain date. “The owner should pay something for disturbing others’ peace and quiet.”


Pumpkin contest at RBC Centura Bank

RBC Centura Bank and Highlands School 2nd graders will celebrate Halloween once again with a pumpkin decorating display and competition for a week starting Monday, Oct. 24 through Monday, Oct. 31.

Local residents are invited to come by the bank and vote for their favorite pumpkin decorated by the 2nd graders. Refreshments will be served on Halloween day in the bank lobby located at 225 Franklin Road Highlands.

The winning students, one from each of the second grade classrooms, will receive a goody bag of assorted candies and other holiday items. Call Sue Gorski, Manager Personal & Business Banking, RBC Centura Bank at 526-0066 with any questions.
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The annual Highlands School Fall Festival this year at Highlands School in the old gym from 5-9 p.m.
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5-mile hike up Saly Mountain, starting at Hickory Knut Gap and ending at...
the Osage Mountain Overlook on Highway 106, with car shuttle. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or at Osage Mountain Overlook at 9:50. Drive 12 miles round trip. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Mo Wheeler, 526-9561, for more information.

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 11-mile hike up Mt. LeConte, approximately 6-7 hours. The hike will be rescheduled for Oct. 29 if rained out. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 7 a.m. Bring a drink, lunch, snacks if you wish and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes, preferably boots. Drive 100 miles round trip. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leaders George and Carol Fritz, 369-0047, for more information.

Oct. 23
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike in Black Mountain State Park in Georgia on the Tennessee Rock loop trail to a viewpoint. Drive 30 miles round trip. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. or call leader to arrange an alternate meeting place. Share $2 per car parking fee. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coneli, 369-6820, for more information.

Oct. 24-31
• RBC Centura Bank and Highlands School 2nd graders will celebrate Halloween once again with a pumpkin decorating display and competition for weekend starting Oct. 24. Local residents are invited to come to the bank and vote for their favorite pumpkin decorated by the 2nd graders. Refreshments will be served on Halloween day in the bank lobby located at 225 Franklin Rd. Highlands. The winning students, one from each of the second grade classrooms, will receive a goodie bag of assorted candies and other holiday items. Call Sue Gorski, Manager Personal & Business Banking, RBC Centura Bank at 526-0606 with any questions.

Oct. 25-27
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will hold its fall campout at Davidson River campground in the Pisgah Forest near Brevard. Hike Tuesday to Skinny Dip Falls, and Thursday to Mirror Lake Improvement Association’s Osage Mountain Overlook on Highway 211. Parents are encouraged to participate. Call George Gover, 349-1509, for more information.

Oct. 29
• At … on the Verandah Restaurant, live music with the Trio Locomo from 8:30 - 12 midnight. Also, live music every other night. For more information, call 743-2052 or 526-2112.

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eventually proved to be another mistake. Fortunately, there was not enough room to build the entire city in the hole, so builders, much to their chagrin, were forced to build some of it above sea level.

Modern day engineers have known for years New Orleans could not withstand a major hurricane. Much has been written on this. They knew the levee would break, the pumps would fail and the town would be flooded. They knew the devastation would be immense, yet year after year went by and “The Big Easy” just let the good times roll.

Then, hurricane Katrina proved the engineers right. So long, “Big Easy,” hello big muddy hole of death. This would be comical if it weren’t for the fact that, because of government’s lack of initiative, hundreds of innocent people are now dead. Even the mayor of New Orleans told his people prior to the strike to take a last look at their city as it would never look the same again. Is that an understatement, or what? Everyone knew the potential for destruction. Everyone did nothing. It’s mind boggling.

Even more mind boggling is the desire to rebuild the city back in the big hole, which, of course, got the French excited. Hello, is anyone catching on? Building a city in a big hole is a bad idea.

According to current dreamers, New Orleans will be built “more better” than ever, with a “more better” levee and a “more better” pumping system to pump the drains. How noble. Have they forgotten Katrina was only a category 4 hurricane and did not hit their city directly? With 15 or 20 more years of active hurricane seasons ahead, this could all happen again, and soon. That’s why all the smart people (and money) are moving to Texas and Florida.

Insurance companies took a major financial hit and rebuilding an entire city back in the hole is something they may not be willing to insure. Is anyone out there thinking? Living in Highlands is comforting. Even Florida homes are somewhere between seven and 50 feet about sea level, high enough to keep the sea out of most living rooms. But could I sleep easily in New Orleans, knowing all that water is above me? Nope! It would be like sleeping under a dam that engineers say will fail if hit by a storm. Sleep tight, Highlanders, and count your blessings.
**BUSINESS NEWS**

Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles Top Producers

Elizabeth Matej
Gary Garren
Sherman Pope

The following CENTURY 21 Mountain Lifestyles agents were top producers for their office during the month of September: Elizabeth Matej, broker associate in the Cashiers office was both Top Sales Agent and Top Listing agent. She was also the Top Sales by Units agent for her office in 2004, as well as a recipient of the Masters Ruby award for her production last year.

In the Highlands office, Gary Garren was top Top Sales Agent and Sherman Pope was Top Listing Agent.

Gary Garren is the Managing Broker for the Highlands office. CENTURY 21 Mountain Lifestyles is comprised of six Broker/Owners and over 140 agents located in nine offices in Buncombe, Henderson, Jackson, Macon and Transylvania counties.

Highlands Goes Thai with ... on the Verandah and Taste of Thai

...on the Verandah and Atlanta’s Taste of Thai restaurant are collaborating on Thursday, October 20, 2005 to offer the first of ... on the Verandah’s theme dinners that will feature guest chefs from some of Atlanta and Miami’s best ethnic restaurants. Future dinners in 2006 will include Vietnamese, Indian, Moroccan and Chinese.

Andrew Figel, OTV’s partner-executive chef, and Chuck Sunyapong, Taste of Thai chef, are creating a menu that will include twist on some of TOT’s favorite dishes. The five-course dinner will feature beef, lobster and duck and will be paired with white wines from the Verandah’s Wine Spectator award-winning cellar. “We want to wow our customers’ taste buds while re-introducing them to the sheer pleasure of white wine. The menu that Andrew and Chuck have developed will do just that,” said Marlene Alvarez, GM/co-owner of ... on the Verandah.

Tommi & Tu Kanjanampa, who started Taste of Thai 14 years ago, have been multi-year winners of the prestigious “Best of Atlanta” award.

On the Verandah, Highlands’ most scenic dining overlooking Lake Sequoyah, in Highlands serves a contemporary American fusion menu with an Asian and Latin American influence.

Executive Chef/co-owner Andrew Figel and his sister, GM/co-owner, Marlene Alvarez operate this world-renowned restaurant that was successfully established in 1981 by their parents Marta and Alan Figel.

On the Verandah is open seasonally, from mid-March through New Year’s Eve. Reservations for the dinner or Sunday brunch at ... on the Verandah can be made at 526 2338, www.ontheverandah.com/...

Rejuvenation and relaxation for the holidays

The Spa announces special packages

The Spa at Old Edwards Inn is pleased to announce a lineup of special treatments and gifts created just for the Holidays. Unique treatments offer a relaxing getaway for the body, mind and spirit during this busy season while lavish gift boxes allow the luxurious spa experience to linger long into the cold winter months ahead.

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This Divine Massage focuses on individual needs and begins with a ritual

• See BUSINESS NEWS page 27

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The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation has elected new officers for the coming fiscal year, including a new chairwoman from Cashiers.

Cassandra W. Manley will head the Foundation board during the 2005-2006 year (which began Oct. 1), filling the shoes of William W. "Bill" Gaston, of Highlands and Spartanburg, S.C., who retired as chairman but who will remain on the board.

Other Foundation officers are C. Clement "Clem" Patton, of Highlands, who will serve as secretary-treasurer, and Hugh S. Spruill of Highlands and Duluth, Ga., who is vice chairman.

"I am looking forward to working with the other Foundation board members and the hospital administration to do some great things in the year ahead," said Manley. "I am particularly excited about the hospital plans to bring a new, modern medical office facility to the people of Cashiers. This will certainly be one of the top fundraising goals for us in the year ahead."

While still in the planning stages, that project is budgeted at $4.5 million. It will provide space for a number of physicians, including future physicians, as well as shared ancillary services such as x-ray and laboratory.

The Foundation has a number of other challenges in front of it as well, including finding the funding for a new magnetic resonance imaging unit ($2.5 million) and another $3.5 million for new equipment needed to replace technology that is reaching the end of its effective life.

"The Foundation board certainly has work to do, but with the continued generosity of the people of the Highlands-Cashiers area, I believe we can work together to meet the health care needs of all area residents," she added.

New officers of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation include from left, Clem Patton, secretary/treasurer; Cassandra Manley, chairman; and Hugh Spruill, vice chairman.

H-C Hospital Foundation elects new officers

Manley and her husband Jim came to Cashiers from Houston, Texas, where she was a restaurant critic, food editor, and cooking teacher. A graduate of Sullins College and the University of Texas with a degree in journalism, she has been active in a number of civic organizations, both in Cashiers and Houston. She co-chaired the silent auction for the Church of the Good Shepherd and the Fall Fling Festival, and has edited Color the Mountains, since coming to Cashiers. She has served on the Village Green board and the Cashiers Humane Society board.

While in Houston, she participated in the Junior League, the Post Oak Garden Club, the Houston Food Bank, the End Hunger Network, the Public Relations Board of St. Joseph's Hospital and several national advisory boards for hunger and health care organizations.

Clem Patton has a long history of service to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, both on its board of directors and as a member of the Foundation board. He is a retired vice president for BellSouth, Corp. A native of Arkansas, he graduated from Vanderbilt University and later attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he earned a master's degree. He is a former member of the Highlands Rotary Club, and former deacon and treasurer of the First Baptist Church of Highlands, and has served a number of local civic organizations, including the Little Tennessee Watershed Association, and the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association.

Hugh Spruill is also a veteran of the hospital Foundation board, who is very active in many church and civic groups both here and in the Atlanta area, including his alma mater Georgia Tech. Before his retirement, Spruill owned and operated several businesses and also developed property in the Atlanta area.
Highlands School Sports

Fighting Highlanders stack up the ‘wins’

By Claire Young
JV Volleyball Coach

The JV and Varsity Volleyball teams had a tough schedule last week with away matches against Blue Ridge (Oct. 3; Varsity only) and Rosman (Oct. 4) and its final home match of the regular season against Swain (Oct. 6).

The Varsity team secured its title of regular season champions by finishing off Blue Ridge in 3 straight games (25-12; 25-14; 25-11), but then came back to win the match in the next 3 games (25-16, 25-10, 25-13). Outside Hitter Anna Trine broke her hitting record for the season with 21 kills in a single match, and Setter Callie Rawlins had a great game with 22 assists, her season high. The JV team also lost its first game of the match (19-25), but then came back to win the next 2 (25-20, 15-4). The Varsity finished its season as undefeated conference champs, and the JV is tied for first place in the conference.

Excerpts from the home match against Swain are currently being shown on Highlands’ local television show, Heart of the High Country. The JV championship game between Highlands and Hiwassee Dam is Thursday, Oct. 20 at 5 p.m. immediately followed by the Varsity championship game.

Upcoming Soccer Games:
Monday, Oct. 24, 4 p.m. at Blue Ridge
Wednesday, Oct. 26, 6 p.m. home against Swain County
Wednesday, Nov. 2, time to be announced, first round of State Finals

Volleyball varsity team secures title of regular season champs

Allison Winn had 9 digs, Danielle Puclachaz had 3 kills, and the team had a nearly perfect serving record.

Both Varsity and JV teams won their match this week against Hiwassee Dam. The Varsity lost the first game (17-25), but then came back to win the match in the next 3 games (25-16, 25-10, 25-13). Outside Hitter Anna Trine broke her hitting record for the season with 21 kills in a single match, and Setter Callie Rawlins had a great game with 22 assists, her season high. The JV team also lost its first game of the match (19-25), but then came back to win the next 2 (25-20, 15-4). The Varsity finished its season as undefeated conference champs, and the JV is tied for first place in the conference.

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Directions:
From Hwy 107 turn off on Bee Tree Road, go .4 mile to Cedar Creek, turn right, go .8 mile turn right at Mountain Waterfalls sign (keep left of sign). Go down the hill turn right before bridge – sign on property.

828-526-9622
By Rachel Power
Highlands Rotary Exchange Student

Wow! So much fun in one week! Starting September 15, activities just started to happen out of nowhere. On Thursday I went to a Rotary meeting for my monthly allowance and to meet the District Chairman of the Youth Exchange Program in this District, Juan Mangili Godoy. The dinner meeting lasted from 9:30 p.m. until 12:30! We ate dinner there with the members. There were two other exchangees there, Sonja my cousin, and another girl Maya, from Germany. Maya goes to another school, but I know her from the Centro Español.

The members asked us questions, where we were from, how we liked Arica, and Chile, did we miss our family. When Señor Mangili Godoy made his speech I didn’t really understand it, but I tried! It was mostly about reaching out to people to encourage them to become active in Rotary, and invite people who you think are eligible to be Rotarians. The president of the club also gave the Rotary Exchangees a gift – it was sheet of Rotary rules! Since the meeting ended so late, the next morning my parents let me sleep in and skip a little bit of school.

During the festivities, children tried to catch guinea pigs. They put a guinea pig in a circle of boxes, and numbered. People bet on which box the guinea pig will go into. A person puts the guinea pig into a shoebox, then spins the box, and then the rodent walks into whatever box it wants to go into. I didn’t like that game very much.)

There was also the Cueva dance contest. Cueva (Quay-ka) is the national dance of Chile. There is a lot of clapping and going around in circles. But it looks fun. Students dressed into costumes of flowing dresses with floral patterns, and clothes for the typical huaso. A huaso (wa-so) is the typical Chilean farmer, with a poncho, cowboy boots, spurs and dark jeans. My class came in third at the Cueva contest. The seniors won. But there is always next year.

Later that night I went to a birthday party for a friend named Patrick. Some of us chipped in and bought him a new volleyball and signed it, and others bought volleyball related stuff. He loves volleyball. It was a good day.

On Saturday, I went to Centro with Sonja and we saw a parade of dancers dancing in different costumes to represent the different regions of Chile, and watched them dance cueca in the streets. It was really busy and fun. Later that day I ate lunch with my family and grandparents at Lo Nuestro (Ours) a restaurant is in front of the beach. The grandparents are from my dad’s side of the family. They flew in from Santiago, the capitol of Chile a few days before. The restaurant belongs to the boyfriend of one of my aunts, Marie Gloria. It has a buffet and an open barbeque spit. It is really good, and right in front of the beach, so if you want you can walk on the beach after lunch.

Later that night, I went to the ramadas that they had in Centro. There were booths for games, and booths for Chilean food. The food from Chile is not like Mexican food, it is not spicy at all, and there are no tacos, or burritos here. At the food stands there were empanadas, asados, anticuchos, and churros with manjar inside. There were also candy apples and cotton candy. Empanadas are little baked pastries, with things like cheese inside or pino; the mixture of beef, onions, half a boiled egg, and an olive or two. They are really good. Asado is a barbeque grill, with whole chickens, steak, and chorizo (a type of sausage). Anticuchos are shish kabobs with steak, chicken or chorizo. Churros are like donuts in Chile. They are fired, and coated with sugar, and eaten at breakfast sometimes. At the armadas, the churros had manjar inside them. The whole place was filled the smells of grilled meat, the sounds of cueca music, and lots of laughing and running around. It was a really fun atmosphere that made everyone happy. The best part was Saturday – the final day until the actual date of Chile’s independence day!

After the ramadas I knew that the next week would be filled with so many great events! Turned out I was right. Later that night, I went to the Club de Huaso in Azapa Valley. It is a place with a huge field of grass, and a place for dancing surrounded by huge cement walls. That night I danced with my friends and sat in the grass talking to everyone. Lots of teenagers were there. Since everyone has to pay to enter, lots of kids jumped over the walls to avoid paying. It was really funny to see. You would see kids walking near the wall, check for cops, and then jump over. Some made it over, and others fell back down on the ground. Trust me, I paid!

On Sunday I woke up and got ready to go to the Centro Español to eat with my family and family friends. As the day before, I ate empanadas, and BBQ. My sister also taught me the basic steps of cueca. You pretty much go around in circles and figure eights, clap, and wave a handkerchief around. I have seen my parents dance cueca and other parents, too. Pretty much all of Chile knows how to dance cueca. When I told my family and friends that the States doesn’t have a national...
ch chickens let loose in the yard.

dance, their eyes got big and some jaws dropped.

They said that on TV, their president dances cueca with his wife — I’d like to see Bush dance on TV.

There were activities such as the potato sack race, and a race were you had to blow up a balloon, pop it, run across a field, then find a piece of gum in a plate of flour. And a Chicken chase! Poor chicken! Watching little kids chasing a chicken for 30 minutes was so funny!

Later there was soccer and tennis. That night I went to the Club de Huaso again. There were so many people from different schools there. Some I recognized from the gym or Centro Español. But I made some new friends that night. The whole weekend was fun. And for the next week — to celebrate Chile Independence Day there was no school.

On Monday, My whole family ate in my house in Azapa Valley. Again, empanadas and BBQ (here, there is no BBQ sauce for the ribs or grilled meat just salt, avocado and salsa and salad. It was all good food. I ate so much!

Later that day, Sonja, Alejandra, Miguel, Alfonso, and Fernanda went up behind the house, and behind the olive tree groves to climb a huge hill of sand (acerro is hill in Spanish). It was hard going up! We had to climb loose sand with just a few rocks to grip onto, but even those weren’t that stable! But we all made it up, out of breath.

When we turned around to see Azapa Valley, the view took my breath away. It was gorgeous! In front of us were the crops of Arica — olive trees, corn, tomato and cucumber fields. … It was all so green and vibrant compared to the background of tall mounds of sand. The light blue sky complemented it all. I wanted to see it all day, but Alejandra wanted to show me another cool thing.

The top of the hill was flat, but scattered across the bare sand were rocks of all sizes. A few yards ahead of me, I could see a huge pile of rocks. But as we got closer, I saw the rocks were arranged into names of my cousins, and siblings. My sister had taken Sonja and me up there to put our names up there too. She told us that now we are a part of their family, and have a place to put our names with the rest of our family. I was so excited! I spent about 25 minutes finding rocks and making sure my name was recognizable.

You have no idea how happy and welcomed I felt to have my name with my other family members. The sun was going down and we had to walk back down the hill but going down was a blast! We slid down the hill, like snowboarding. My shoes were full of sand.

The week was full of family-related activities. On Saturday morning, I went to the beach with a friend, and watched the waves crash against the tetrapoders, and the rocky coast of the Playa de Lachou (playa is beach), beneath EL Morro. We tanned at the beach and had lunch in El Centro. To really know a city or a new place, it’s best to get a local who loves his or her city to show you around. The person will show you what his or her home is really about. I love Arica more because of the sight-seeing.

On Sunday, I went to eat my last almuerzo with my dad’s parents before they returned to Santiago. I have three cousins from that side of the family, all girls. They go to school in Azapa Valley. The oldest has a horse and invited me to go riding with her one day. I hope so! She said that she rides her horse up on the aceros (hills) of Azapa. There is so much to do here in Arica and I can’t believe I’ve experienced so much in two months. To know that I am going to be here for a year still amazes me!

Well, off the experience more, chao!
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Celebrating Fall in Highlands
Dear Editor,

Preservation of 88 percent of green space in a development is, quite simply, rarely heard of in the development world today. However the plan for the River Walk development that has been unanimously approved by the Planning Board would do exactly that.

Although I do not know Mr. Turrentine, I met him at the Planning Board meeting and have had the opportunity to discuss this project with him at great length. After this discussion and a study of the plat, I concluded that he has worked diligently to preserve the inherent beauty of Highlands, while also acknowledging the inevitable growth of our precious little town.

As far as the development goes, Mr. Turrentine presently owns the adjoining Laurel Terrace and its already existing plat – which can be acted upon immediately with no approval necessary. Instead of going in that direction, Mr. Turrentine, a long-time resident of Highlands himself, has sought to create a different, more protective plan. This plan would keep Laurel Terrace forever preserved for posterity as natural forest.

As my home adjoins where the Laurel Terrace subdivision would be, I have had deep concerns as to the outcome of the entire development of the area. I have been coming to Highlands since the early 50s so I am well acquainted with the good and the bad of developers who have come through our fair town. I have watched with dismay, sometimes, disgust, as areas have often been cleared for the developer to get the most for his money, showing little regard for the beauty that makes Highlands unique.

Even as I reflect nostalgically however, I know that change has been and continues to be inevitable in our town. Sadly, the area around me and my three neighbors is going to be developed, whether it is today or tomorrow and whether we like it or not. Period.

I feel that Mr. Turrentine’s proposed plan has shown aesthetic gentility and land responsibility with the least amount of disturbance done to the natural areas. With the present existing Laurel Terrace plat, he has the right and the capability of immediately placing 31 houses right next to me. Obviously, this would be terrible for me and my neighbors.

However, this development would also impact all of Highlands with the obvious outcome being houses lining Fourth Street (U.S. 64 east) – absolutely destroying the beauty of the only drive into town from Cashiers. The entire green space would be eliminated with each homeowner having carte blanche as regards to forest preservation.

I congratulate the Planning Board for its approval of the least invasive plan. With this plan we can bow, albeit grudgingly, to growth, while still having the opportunity to try as best we can to preserve some of that beauty and taste that has made Highlands unique for many, many years.

Anna Comer, Highlands and Alabama
The Community Care Clinic is located in the Macon County Health Department office on the lower level of the recreation building at Zachary Field on Buck Creek Road.

Clinic to be open for business by end of October

The Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers announced that construction of its office, located at Zachary Field on Buck Creek Road is now scheduled for completion by the end of October.

The clinic will be the first in the Highlands-Cashiers area to provide free health care to local residents without insurance or other resources. Until now, the nearest has been the Good Samaritan Clinic in Sylva, more than an hour away.

“We began raising funds for the clinic two months ago, and are already halfway to our $80,000 goal,” said Board Chair, Ginger Slaughter. “Since all our medical staff are volunteers, we can provide important health care services at extremely low cost.”

In planning for the clinic, organizers drew from the experiences of many others in the Carolinas, particularly Good Samaritan in Sylva. Judith Hallock, Executive Director of Good Samaritan, said, “There is a definite need for a clinic in the Highlands-Cashiers area. Sylva is just too far away for many to get to, especially those who may have little access to transportation.”

Anyone interested in supporting the clinic is asked to contact Ginger Slaughter at (828) 526-1991.

First place gross round team in Southwestern Community College’s 17th Annual Fall Foursome Golf Tournament were, from left, Gary Ramey, Steve Peek, Sue Bumgarner and Gary Peak.

Tournament raises money for SCC student scholarships

The Captain’s Choice event was held on the links of Highlands Cove and raised more than $10,500 for scholarships for students attending SCC.

Although no one won the 2006 Chevrolet Colorado hole-in-one prize donated by Allison’s Inc., winners in other events included Steve Peak, longest drive-men; Myrna Campbell, longest drive-women; Robert Hooper, closest to the pin-men; Barbara Putman-closest to the pin-women; Mark Isabeli, Charles Frederick, Dan Anderson and Ben Swafford, first place net round; Jim Moore, Russell Hoyle, Michael Smith and Si Simmons, second place net round and Will Madden, Tony Potts, Steve Chenowith and James Bryson, second place gross round.

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...ON THE VERANDAH

Highlands Most Scenic Dining Overlooking Lake Sequoyah
Wine Spectator Award since 1987

Live Music with the Trio Lococo
October 22, 29, Nov 5
8:30 pm to midnight
Open for Dinner Nightly from 6 pm
New Bar Menu from 5:30 pm
Sunday Brunch - 11 am - 2 pm

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Twilight Specials: 1 pm $49, 3 pm $37 • Replay Rate: $25
Call 743-1174 to reserve your Tee Time today
Dr. William Rawlings, Jr., author of top-selling southern thrillers The Lazard Legacy and The Rutherford Cipher, has just released his third novel, The Tate Revenge, which he will autograph at Cyrano’s Bookshop this Saturday afternoon, Oct. 22, from 1-3 p.m.

A multi-layered tale of suspense with a distinctly southern twist, the plot launch-es in Paris, leaps to Savannah and leaves a trail of intrigue from south Georgia to Atlanta.

Rawlings, a masterful storyteller with a penchant for detail and authenticity, traveled to Paris to become familiar with the streets and locations where the novel kicks into action.

“In addition to Vidalia onions,” he remarks, “the story involves the travel industry, art stolen by the Nazis during WWII, the Eiffel Tower, the Port of Savannah, war criminals, terrorists, racists, and the antiques business.” It promises plenty of plot twists and page-turning entertainment.

A lifelong resident of Sandersville, Ga., Rawlings earned Phi Beta Kappa at Emory, Alpha Omega Alpha at Tulane, and both a MD and a Master’s in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Johns Hopkins. Returning home, he set out to become a “country doc” rather than a “real doctor” with a large car and a country club membership.

He spent more than a decade involved with medical research and has authored or co-authored approximately two dozen scientific papers. He was the moving force behind the investigation into kaolin related pneumoconiosis, popularly known as the coal worker’s “black lung disease.”

When he’s not practicing medicine, Rawlings is a world traveler. He has visited 50 countries and his favorite destinations are remote. He has been a guide and translator in Bolivia and trip doctor on numerous expeditions to the Amazon.

Rawlings is also a collector. In the 1980s, he acquired a lot of Outsider Art but eventually sold the collection and now amasses eclectic items of interest ranging from Oriental export porcelains to Hogarth prints. His interest in the gold of the Confederate Treasury showed up in his second novel The Rutherford Cipher, the movie rights for which were recently purchased by Hollywood producer David Hyman.
Box office opens for HCP's ‘Second Time Around’

Take a trip, man, right back the '70s, when the Highlands Community Players present the comedy “The Second Time Around,” opening Thursday night, Oct. 27, at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (PAC) on Chestnut Street in Highlands.

Set in the 1970s, the play concerns an older couple, Sam, a widower, and Laura, a widow, who plan to live together without benefit of matrimony. When they announce their intentions, Laura’s son and Sam’s daughter, are shocked even if it is the '70s.

The daughter enlists the help of her husband, a loud and opinionated psychoanalyst, to persuade the elders of their folly. The son’s wife arranges to lecture on unhealthy eating and voice her objections. But the older couple is not to be deterred.

But, the play is a comedy after all and demands a happy ending. The way in which it is achieved includes many laughs and a surprise at the end. The cast includes several talented newcomers as well as some tried-and-true regulars.

Ralph Stevens, last seen in HCP’s production of “Proof,” returns to the stage in the role of Sam. Shirley Williams, recently seen in “Dearly Departed,” plays the part of Laura.

Jennifer Royce (Suzanne in “Dearly Departed”) plays Sam’s daughter. Her husband, the psychoanalyst, is played by Wayne Coleman, new to HCP, but with an extensive background in acting and musical theater in the Atlanta area. HCP regular Stuart Armor plays Laura’s son; his wife is played by Kathryn Cochran, who has performed with HCP and also in musicals for the Highlands Playhouse. Sam’s grandson, is played by John Howard, who is new to theater. His girlfriend is played by Autumn Walton, a student at Summit Charter School, who has performed in school plays.

“The Second Time Around” runs Thursday, Oct. 27 through Sunday, Oct. 30, and Friday, Nov. 4 through Sunday, Nov. 6. The box office at PAC is open for season subscribers Oct. 20 and 21 and for the general public starting Monday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. Call 526-8084 for information about subscriptions or individual tickets.

The play is sponsored in part by The Laurel Magazine. Proceeds from the production will be donated to for the relief of Katrina/Rita hurricane victims.

... MULLEN from pg 6

outdoor life we once had. To prevent this, firm, disciplined and consistent leadership will be necessary.

We need to provide more wholesome activities for our youth in Highlands. A task force of youth, parents and teachers should be formed to come up with a plan for giving our young people alternatives for activities that will have a positive impact on their development.
Home is a relationship

Pastor Kim Ingram
Highlands United Methodist Church

Recently I preached the annual Homecoming Service at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Shelby, NC. In trying to determine a text for the sermon, it seemed only fitting to find scripture that related to home. I chose John chapter 14, verses 1-3 and 18-23.

For most persons, this is a familiar text as it is often preached at funerals. We hear it as a reassurance that Jesus has gone to heaven ahead of us in order to “prepare a place” and we will one day go to be with him there.

Though that is true Christian belief, it is not actually the correct interpretation of this text, at least according to many biblical scholars. The Greek word *kato* is used in verse 2 (in English, “dwelling places”) and verse 23 (in English, “home”) (New Revised Standard Version). The verb means “remain” or “to dwell.” Jesus is actually making the promise that though he is about to leave them physically, he will remain with them.

God and Jesus live together in the “Father’s house” and the many “dwelling places” make it possible for all of us to be included in that relationship. That is good news! Home is not a place. Home is a relationship. We are invited to make our home with God. The disciples were welcome in the Father’s House, here and now. The invitation is for us as well.

For those who grew up in a difficult home situation, it is good news to know that you are invited to a new home, a relationship with Jesus Christ, that is full of love and welcome. If you leave home to go to college, to marry, to take a job, or for whatever reason, it is good news that “home” goes with you. The presence of the risen Christ is in our midst in all places. The relationships with Jesus and with others are sacred. The proximity or location is not what makes it home.

Jesus prepares a place. A place of home. We are invited to a relationship with God that is to be found and nurtured through the community of faith. Each of the churches in Highlands welcomes you. We want you to be a part of our “church homes” so that together we can experience the love of God and neighbor and go to serve the world.

When community is “home” there is room to accept differences and to be united through the love of God. Henri Nouwen described community as “that place where the person you least want to live with always lives.” In community, we breathe together. In an article in Christian Century Magazine.

See SPIRITUALLY page 25

PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU

**BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Sunday night services every second and fourth Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting - 7 p.m.

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

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

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**
NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

**CHRIST CHURCH**
743-9370
The Rev. Thomas Allen
“Traditional Episcopal Worship”
Sunday Worship and communion at 4 p.m.
Tuesday Noon Bible Study: noon Parish House
Thursday worship and communion at 10:30 a.m.
Pot Luck Dinner: Last Sunday of the Month.
All services at the Community Bible Church

**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 Monday; 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: Children’s Devotions – 9:30 a.m.;
Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.
Thursdays: Bible Study – 10 a.m.
Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m.& 5

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
Rev. Scott Holland, 526-6026, Sixth Street
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

**HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**
Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
Sun: School - 9:30 & 9:45 a.m.; Worship – 8:30 & 11
Wed: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study & activities – 6

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA**
Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S at Sataloh
Pastor Jamie Pasmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11;
Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**
St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
For more information, call (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 Szemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

**SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH**
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
The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Oct. 13-19.

Oct. 13
- At 11:38 a.m., a motorist was cited for exceeding a safe speed on Hapholt Drive.
- At 11:40 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 49 mph in a 35 zone on Cook Road.
- At 11:10 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 49 mph in a 35 zone on Cobb Road.

Oct. 15
- At 7:30 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 49 mph in a 35 zone on Cook Road.
- At 11:40 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 49 mph in a 35 zone on Cobb Road.

Oct. 16
- At 3:45 p.m., while investigating a hit and run collision which occurred in another jurisdiction, officers arrested Robert Drew Houston, 27, of Highlands, for possessing less than 1/2 ounce of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. He was released on a $750 secured bond.

... SPIRITUALLY from page 24

(Breathing Together, Peter W. Marty, Aug. 23, 2005), John Courtney Murray is quoted as having once described the early church as a “conspiracy.” “By that he meant that ancient believers “breathed together” (con: “with” and spire: “breathe”). It wasn’t sinister behavior, of course, that held these Christians together. It was their shared sense of grace, their breathing together as the people of God. When God’s people breathe together, they model a common way of life that is good for the world.”

So you are invited to come home. You don’t have to wait until you die. In this life, Christ has prepared a home for us in relationship with him. It is a relationship that is lived out within the body of Christ, the church. Come home and breathe with us!

Understanding the expanding role of corporations

Profits over People? Corporate Culture vs. Freedom! Want to do something about it?

Come participate in Untie/Unite’s Playshop on corporations, their expanding role in undermining our freedoms, and what you can do to stop the trend.

It’s set for Saturday, Nov. 5 at The RootCellar 3-7 p.m. followed by a participant pot luck dinner.

Call 782-9676 by Monday, Oct. 31 to reserve your place, indicate what you want to bring for the Pot Luck, and arrange to pick up your pre-reading materials Nov. 3

In Village Square

Call ahead for quick take-out service
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Now serving light fare (all day):
• Soup, Salad, Sandwich
• Full Coffee and Wine Bar
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Now Delivers!
Youth excelling at gymnastics

Cara Hedden, of Highlands School, (front row left) is a member of the Level 4 and 5 New Vision Gymnastics Team. This team is sponsored by many Highlands merchants.

Max Vogler appears in Instant Theater’s production of ‘The Turn of the Screw’

In The Turn of the Screw, unspecified, unidentified evils are presented against an isolated background haunted by demons and spirits and unexplainable actions. These are the ingredients of Henry James’s pot-boiler of horror, adapted to the stage by Jeffrey Hatcher.

“The play is a tour de force in dramatic technique, requiring the fine skills of two superb actors, which we are extremely fortunate to have in the talents of Max Vogler and Madeleine Davis,” Collin Wilcox Paxton, director of the piece, said recently during a break in rehearsals. “The Turn of the Screw is an allegory that dramatizes the conflict between good and evil. In this play the beauty of light and innocence is contrasted with the ugliness and darkness of evil. Audience members cannot help but be drawn into this brew of horror and mystification. We could not have found a more appropriate theater piece to produce for the Halloween season.”

If you want to be wonderfully terrified make plans now to attend The Turn of the Screw, five performances only, Oct. 25-Oct. 29. Call the ITC Box Office at 342-9197 to purchase tickets - $20 for adults ($25 at the door), $7 for students 13-17 ($10 at the door). Complimentary wine and soft drinks are served. Advanced ticket purchases are strongly suggested as seating is limited to 65. Curtain is at 8 p.m. and no one, ticket or not, will be admitted after the performance begins.

The ITC is very grateful to its corporate sponsors, Nell’s Communities, Country Club Properties and Signature Properties for making this production possible.

‘I’m sorry, what did you say?’

Hearing loss plagues many

After hypertension and arthritis, hearing loss is the third most prevalent chronic condition in older Americans and it poses a significant impact on physical and mental health.

Despite these effects most of the 30 million Americans with hearing loss are not assessed or treated.

Diminished hearing not only creates a communication barrier, but compelling evidence suggests a link between hearing loss and social isolation, poor self-esteem, and depression. One report indicates a strong correlation between hearing loss and Alzheimer’s disease.

The symptoms of Alzheimer’s Disease are depression, anxiety, disorientation, reduced language comprehension, Impaired memory, inappropriate psychosocial response, loss of ability to recognize, denial, defensiveness, negativity, distract regarding others’ motives.

Symptoms of untreated hearing loss are strikingly similar: depression, anxiety, disorientation, reduced communication ability, reduced cognitive input, inappropriate psychosocial response, reduced mental scores, denial, defensiveness, negativity, distract and paranoia.

The 1999 study by the National Council on the Aging surveyed 2,069 hearing-impaired individuals and 1,710 of their family members, and found that hearing instrument users were likely to report improvement in their physical, emotional, mental and social well-being.

Additionally, hearing instrument users were on average more socially active and avoided extended periods of depression, worry, paranoia, and insecurity than were non-users with hearing loss.

... BEAR continued from page 7

sightings will be reported.

“They’re in people’s backyards, and in town which is indicative of what’s happening elsewhere in the country,” said Waldrop. “As their habitat continues to shrink and more homes and developments go up, the bears don’t have anywhere to go.”

He said the bear that approached Alaina was obviously in the area and scented her but was more curious than aggressive.

Alaina said she had a grapefruit soda and was covered with a sweet-smelling Victoria’s Secret body spray. “Maybe he thought I was a sweet treat,” she said.

Grant asks homeowners, specifically in the Webbmont area, to call his office if they see a bear. “We want to know if he comes back,” he said. “Usually once they’re scared off they don’t return, but just in case.”

Meanwhile, he asks that Highlands homeowners stop “feeding” the bears. “Don’t put garbage out overnight, and take in bird feeders,” he said.

If a bear is spotted in the Webbmont area, call Grant at 828-421-0222.
foot washing and an application of a very special massage cream by I Coloniali. The pleasantly perfumed Healing properties of Myrrh sooth, purify and revitalize the skin.

Cranberry Delight Pedicure, $80, plus gratuity, 60 min

This treatment is an essential for relaxation and will make you feel like the holidays are here without the stress. We will exfoliate with a cranberry sugar scrub. Your legs and feet are massaged with a wonderful cranberry lotion and your nails are polished to perfection. It is well known that cranberry is an anti-aging agent.

Delicious seasonal teas and house-spiced cider are available to further enhance the spa experience before, during or after treatments. At the Spa Apothecary, holiday gift boxes are available laden with exclusive products for the skin, hair and bath. Choose from one of our clever combinations, or let the Spa Concierge customize a gift collection just for everyone on your shopping list. Gift certificates are also available.

$99 Spa Gift Box Oasis
(Green Tea) Tea Forte—A selection of Davies Gate products including creamy shower gel and walnut scrub; Luxurious talc-free powder wands for the body and linens; Garden Made soy wax candle; La Natura aromatic bath soak; 100 percent Chenille bath mitt for application of all the products included in this festive parcel.

$175 Spa Gift Box Twin pack of "Oasis" Tea Forte with complementing tea trays; Davies Gate soothing and smoothing Garden Made lip balm, harmonizing soy wax candle, velvety shower gel and talc-free powder wands; Harmonizing Soapstone soap "rock" enriched with vitamins A, C, D, E, B1, B2, B6, B12; Two Dresdner Essenz herbal bath soaks; La Natura aromatic bath soak.

Ahava hand and body cream for the most sensitive and dry winter hands.

The Spa located at 445 Main Street, Highlands, NC. (828) 526-9887. Hours are 9AM to 9PM daily. Customized Spa experiences are available at other times. Please contact the Spa Concierge for availability and reservations.

Highlands School Fall Festival
Oct. 22 - 5 -9 p.m.
at Highlands School in the Old Gym
Food, fun, and games.

Sky Valley Tour of Homes
October 22 & 23
Open Houses - 10 am to 2 pm
Interested Buyers, Guests & Agents Welcome!

Tour Begins at Ed West Realty Office in Sky Valley
Homes Represented Start at $350,000

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**CLINIC DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITY CARE CLINIC,** that provides free health services to medically underserved in Highlands-Cashiers area. Qualifications: strong management background and minimum of five years experience working in health or non-profit public assistance organization. Thirty-hour week position with benefits. Salary commensurate with background and skills. Mail resume to Community Care Clinic, PO Box 43, Highlands, NC 28741.

**EXPERIENCED RN** to assist non-interventional cardiologist with office patients, echo and stress tests in new clinic. Email resume to pbarrett@ngheartcenter.com or fax 770-538-7872 and indicate “Highlands.”

**MEDICAL FRONT OFFICE PERSON** needed for new cardiology clinic. Check in / Check out, claims, billing and insurance follow up experience required, office management skills a plus. Email resume to pbarrett@ngheartcenter.com or fax 770-538-7872 and indicate “Highlands.”

**PART-TIME EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NEEDED FOR A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IN HIGHLANDS.** Duties include recording minutes, bookkeeping, maintaining member database and class registrations, staffing office 10-2 (May-Aug). Quickbooks, Excel, and Word knowledge necessary. On site training available immediately. Send resume to CLE, P.O. Box 2046, Highlands, NC 28741.

**REGISTERED DIETITIAN AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL,** must have N.C. license. CDE preferred, but not required. Manage nutritional services for 24-acute care and 84 long-term care beds, and Dietary Department. Full benefits available after 60 days for this full-time position. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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**Rand Soellner Architect**

828.743.6010 Phone 828.269.9046 Cell randsoellner@earthlink.net NC Lic.9266 FL Lic.AR9264
-housekeeper at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Fridays through Tuesdays. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

registered dietitian at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Must have N.C. license. DCE preferred, but not required. Manage nutritional services in the Medical Center. New 1.22 acres on HWY 106. Existing building, 3,000 sq. ft. heated, 600 sq. ft. garage, new interior, new electric, and new septic with capacity for another commercial building. Design and build exactly what you want. Ample parking possibilities. Option on adjacent property, too. Call 526-9393, evenings.

SCENIC VIEW HOME SITES. Turtle Pond area. Views; private. 828 257-2759 marbago@directway.com. Available for viewing Fri/Sat/Sun from noon-5 p.m.

highlands-rv lots-walk to town – Rare offering. 28 RV lots, some with RV vacation homes and porches in place. 2 1/2 blocks from Main Street. 7 creek-front lots available. Lots from 95K-129K. Only 10k upon signing contract. Close by mid-April, 2006 in time for season. These won’t last. Call 706-613-1438, 706-202-5292 (cell) or 828-526-9493.


house for sale – 275 Foreman Road. In-town on .8 acre wooded lot. 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, study, large workshop/studio, stone fireplace, oak floors, hickory paneling. Quality construction, mature landscaping, exterior stonework. Asking $425,000 (828) 342-2624. Broker/Owner (706) 746-3657. North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida.

highlands shuttle service – Atlanta Airport Shuttle, Drive- Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.

business opportunities – work from home and build international business opportunity. Top growth company – just expanded into Germany. Who do you know? Looking for leaders. Contact 828-787-2212.

yard sale – october 29 at 9 a.m. Miscellaneous items. No clothes. At the Wilson’s at 200 Queen Mountain off N.C. 28 south. Will be cancelled for rain.

IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT THEM. OR US.

It takes an experienced professional to deal with cardiac arrest.

It takes a highly-trained technician to diagnose serious head trauma.

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In big emergencies and small, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is proud to work along side of the EMTs of Highlands to save lives. Selfless, compassionate, caring – the medical professionals you know, making a difference you can rely on...

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Thank you to our neighbors, the men and women who partner with Highlands-Cashiers Hospital to provide the emergency care you need.
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Fressers - Thur.

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

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FLAT MOUNTAIN, 2 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, fireplaces, nice back yard, 3 level home on a lot size of .95+/- acres MLS# 53871 Offered at $385,000.

MOUNT LORI, In town home. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 fireplaces, 1 car garage, .56+/- acres. Nice decks. MLS# 52936 Offered at $359,000.

KING MOUNTAIN CLUB, 3 bedrooms & 2 full baths, lower level is a private two room guest suite with full bath. This one won't last long at $595,000.

TRILLIUM PLACE - East Main St., Condo/Townhome/Co-Op Property, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, fireplaces. MLS# 54475 Offered at $349,900.

GREAT LOCATION IN TOWN! Exudes old Highlands Charm and is in excellent condition with a recent renovation. Inquire for more details

BEAUTIFUL MIRROR LAKE 3-bed, 2 bath home completely renovated. Hardwood floors and tile; stone fireplace. Ready to move into! $499,000.

TWO BEDROOMS, 2 baths, screened in covered porch, wood deck, wood floors, in town, public water. MLS# 53596 Offered at $269,000.

MIRROR LAKE AREA - 2 bedrooms, covered deck, ridgeline view, gas furnace. Offered unfurnished at $285,000 or furnished at $299,000.

HIGHLANDS FALLS COUNTRY CLUB. Approximate lot is 1.48+/- acres, wooded, MLS# 52291 $469,000.

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB, Approximate lot is 0.87+/- acres, wooded, MLS# 52210 $439,000.

NORTON RIDGE, Approximate lot is 4.12+/- acres, Waterview, MLS# 50259 Offered at $425,000.

GREAT MOUNTAIN VIEW. 4 bed & 3.5 baths. Double garage. House sits on 4.0+/- acres. Master bedroom on main level. Priced at $849,000.

MIRROR LAKE AREA - Approximate lot is .61+/- acres. Utilities present: Public water supply. MLS# 56650 Offered at $289,000.

THREE BEDROOMS plus large den and loft, 3 full baths & 2 1/2 baths. Laurel Falls at Skyline. Offered unfurnished at $750,000.

GREAT VALUE with 4 bedrooms, 4-1/2 baths on a corner lot with a pleasant view of Fodderstack Mtn. 2 car garage & Apartment. $895,000. #56231

JUST LISTED AND PRICED TO SELL This 3 bedroom, 3 bath plus den, game room and oversized 2 car garage with workshop. $549,000. #56613

CHARMING MIRROR LAKE home sits at the top of the dam giving the wonderful sound of a waterfall. 3 bed, 3 bath, completely furnished at $945,000.

CULLASAJA CLUB - 3 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, Fireplaces, Wood Floors, .68+/- acres. Offered at $740,000.